

## Victor Borge

(Continued)

studio audience in such bedlam that Crosby threw out the script and turned Borge loose. He caught America's fancy almost overnight, and Crosby had him back for 53 consecutive weeks. By the time he left Crosby, Borge had become an American citizen and was working up the one-man show called "Comedy in Music."

He launched this show in Seattle "because I wanted to prove that even in a town where I never played before, I could do more than a 20-minute guest spot." It was an immediate success there—and everywhere else he put it on before he hit Broadway in 1953. "Comedy in Music" played nearly three years in New York, grossed more than \$2 million, and was still going strong when he closed it.

"I got tired of it, finally. It probably could have played almost indefinitely because a large share of the audience were repeaters. One reason, I guess, was that I tried something different every performance. But it isn't so much the material as the spontaneity of the delivery that's important—and that I always give them."

From Broadway, he captured London, then re-



While daughter and wife kibitz, unperturbed pianist prepares for show.

Borge fulfilled childhood dream when he purchased Danish castle in 1956.



Versatile Dane practices his kitchen art while namesake, Victor, looks on.

turned to Copenhagen for the first time since his wartime brush with the Nazis. This return to his native land gave him the warmest memories of all his travels—and though the United States is now home to him, he relishes his position as ambassador extraordinary.

Besides success, America has also provided Victor Borge with a wife and family. Mrs. Sanna Borge is a slim, dark-haired, dark-eyed former director of a Chicago art agency. She met Borge early in his American career and finds him just as funny now as she did when she first watched him at the Chicago Theater in his vaudeville days.

"I couldn't have married a better playmate for our children," she says of her husband. "Yet," she adds thoughtfully, "for all his clowning with them, they look on him as a father and not a chum. Whenever they do anything wrong, they always beg me not to tell Daddy. But best of all, they've inherited his wonderful sense of humor: this is the greatest legacy he could give them."

The Borge household is filled with five children: Sanna, 14; the twins, Janet and Ronald, 12; Victor Bernhardt, 4; and Frederikke, 3.

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