



BABY WELCOMED HOME—"Spotty", pet leopard of six Dedham, Mass., children who had been lost for more than a week, receives a big welcome from two-year-old Billy Stone, who was on hand with a heaping bowl of food after the cub was found and returned home. "Spotty" became the pet of the Stone children after their dad, a director of the Franklin Park Zoo, took the animal home to aid her recovery from an illness. (UPI Telephoto)

TV's 'Bat Masterson' in Las Vegas Play

By VERNON SCOTT
UPI Hollywood Correspondent
Las Vegas—Gene Barry, TV's "Bat Masterson," has tossed aside his cane and derby hat to star in the newest musical on the famed "Vegas Strip." It came as something of a shock when the hard-nosed TV hero made his appearance in "Destry Rides Again" carrying a birdcage and parasol. Gene's rough-and-tumble Hollywood crew would have held their sides at the sight.

But to Barry his starring role with Monique Van Gooren in the tabloid version of the Broadway hit is anything but humorous. "This is a career move for me," the actor explained. "I want to convince people I can do more than play Masterson. That I began branching out during the past year by guest appearances with Dinah Shore, Perry Como and Jerry Moore. My battle is to establish Gene Barry as a performer, not to become a go-to-bedly associated with Bat Masterson."

Capacity crowds at the Riviera Hotel, mostly composed of tourists, come in to see a TV star, but forget about Gene's video role when he gets rolling with the show's songs and dances. "I've never played a part in a nightclub act before," Gene said, "and I expected the dinner shows to be pretty noisy."

"We all thought the rattle of pots and pans, tinkling of glasses and dishes would interfere with the dialogue and music. Instead, the minute the curtain goes up the audience seems transfixed. I'doubt if they take time to finish their meals."

"Another surprise is the size of the stage here. It's larger than the Imperial theater in New York where the show played, and where we rehearsed. Almost all of the original cast except myself and Monique came along with us. We also brought along most of the scenery."

Barry is so determined to prevent being typecast as Masterson he accepted the eight week "industry" stand despite the fact that he won't be earning much money. Most of his salary goes for taxes.

He does realize, however, that the TV series made him a national celebrity. "When the show closes I'll head back to Hollywood," he concluded. "I've got another season of Masterson segments to film."

Bank Robber Takes Consolation Prize
Chico, Calif. (UPI)—When transient Gerald Gambrell, 33, tried to rob a bank Saturday, it was nearly but not quite a complete loss, police said.

As Gambrell broke into the bank through a window, he was spotted by a number of shoppers, who called police. Inside the bank, Gambrell discovered he couldn't open the bank's vault. So he went for a consolation prize.

Police found him in the employee's coffee room, eating crackers.

Hyannis Port, Mass. (UPI)—Democratic running mates John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson Saturday pledged their "full energies" to the August session of Congress and warned Republicans against advance politicking to block enactment of legislation.

New York (UPI)—Illegitimate births in the United States have tripled in the past 15 years, the Child Welfare League reported Sunday. It said 40 per cent of the unwed mothers were teenagers.

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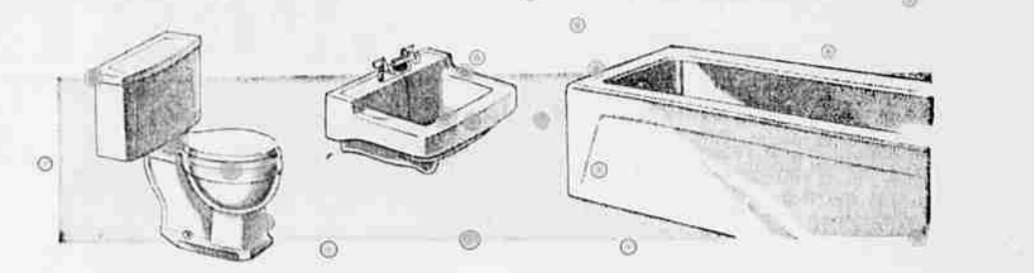
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