

La Rosa Didn't Understand Godfrey Term 'Swan Song'

By HERB ALTSCHULL

WASHINGTON (AP)—Singer Julius La Rosa prepared for a show-biz performance tonight and publicity ripples from his trip struck by Arthur Godfrey, whose calm good humor made him a television star, gave the young Brooklyn singer his sailing papers last night. That was a swan song, Godfrey told his morning viewers. La Rosa finished singing.

At first, La Rosa told a news conference last night through interpreters, "I didn't know what he meant. I had never heard the word before. But I understood later when he said something about wishing me goodspeed."

La Rosa said another thing he didn't understand is what Godfrey means by "humility," the quality Godfrey said La Rosa had lost.

"Ever since I was on his show, it was one of his staunch themes," La Rosa said. He never said exactly what it was. It was sort of an indefinable something.

But La Rosa emphasized he does not want to get into a battle with Godfrey, for whom he had worked 23 months to the day until sacked along with orchestra leader Archie Bleyer.

Nor, La Rosa said, does he see what all the shouting already is about.

"I wouldn't be disrespectful to him," he said. "He's older than I am and my father always taught me to have respect for people older than you."

"I didn't want any publicity because I felt it wasn't the right thing. Children should be seen and not heard and two wrongs don't make a right."

The 23-year-old baritone sings at a Naval Relief Society ball tonight at the naval gun factory. He was stationed there as a sailor for two years before Godfrey "discovered" him.

La Rosa said that "deep down in my heart I know that Mr. Godfrey had no bona fide reason for firing me."

But he acknowledged he had violated an agreement with Godfrey under which all the "Little Godfreys" said they would hire no independent booking agency to represent them.

The singer sidestepped questions about why he had contracted with the agency, General Artists Corp., but said he signed up four days before Godfrey gave him the ax.

"I tried to tell Mr. Godfrey about it, but I couldn't reach him," La Rosa said.

Godfrey told a news conference in New York Wednesday he fired La Rosa for signing the personal management contract. He fired Bleyer, he said, because Bleyer made a photograph record featuring Don McNeill of the rival American Broadcasting Co.

La Rosa's contract with the Columbia Broadcasting System still has five years to run and poses an ironclad hurdle to his cashing in on big money offers.

General Artists President Tom Rockwell said he hopes to negotiate changes in the contract, which CBS officials described as customary for new talent, yielding La Rosa an average of about \$1,000 a week with Godfrey.

"CBS is a fair organization," Rockwell said. "I'm sure we'll work something out."

In the meantime, he said, he is holding in abeyance such offers as \$7,500 a week for La Rosa to appear at theaters in New York and Chicago and \$4,000 for a one-night stand in Kalamazoo, Mich.

CBS said it plans to use La Rosa in other radio-TV appearances but was not sure just exactly where and when. His next scheduled TV performance will be on Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town" Sunday night.

And bullets front and rear have been winterized with wooden floors.

This is winter in Korea—1953 style.

Tommies To Man British Oil Trucks

LONDON (AP)—The government prepared today to call in troops if necessary to ward off complete paralysis of London traffic by a wildcat strike of 2,600 oil truck drivers. The walkout is now in its fifth day.

Unless the strikers go back to work, church and state Cabinet decided yesterday soldiers will be sent to man both the oil trucks and the 32 oil depots affected by the stoppage.

The strikers, who are demanding the firing of all nonunion co-workers and a weekly pay raise of 10 shillings (\$1.40) unanimously voted yesterday to disregard a back-to-work call by their union, the huge Transport and General Workers' Confederation.

LOVELY LAUNCH LOST

HONG KONG (AP)—Six Chinese armed with shotguns also posing as policemen Thursday seized a luxurious launch with an air-conditioned dancing room and bar. But the bandits fled when the launch propeller fouled in the anchor chain of a fishing junk.

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'U' Band Nearly Strikes Over Desire To Wear Spats

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Musicians in the University of Pennsylvania's marching band had a spat over time again.

Spats—they even threatened to strike—but now they're marking time again.

While spats, they said, are just what they need to give their uniforms a touch of dash. The university didn't see it that way.

The result was almost a musical mutiny on the eve of tomorrow's Penn - Navy game at Franklin Field. "No spats, no music," was the bandmen's ultimatum.

But Dr. Arnold K. Henry, dean of student affairs, talked to the ruffled musicians and restored harmony—for a while. An informal strike vote, taken earlier this week, was reversed 51-16 in a secret ballot after the meeting with Dr. Henry yesterday.

Spats were only one sour note in the discord. Others included the university's refusal to send the band to the only away game this year, next Saturday's contest with Michigan at Ann Arbor.

On the spats issue: "I had no idea you bandmen felt so strongly about it," the dean confessed. But he spiked a rumor that the university was committed to a no-spats policy and indicated the issue could be worked out.

On the Michigan game issue:

HOLIDAYS SUSPENDED

TOKYO (AP)—The U. S. Army has suspended rest leaves in Japan for American troops in Korea because of a transportation shortage, an Army spokesman said Friday.

The budget, he said, is open to any undergraduate for inspection. Most band members were satisfied. They picked up their tubas, trombones and glockenspiels and resumed rehearsals. "The main idea," one player said, "was to blow our own horns."

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