

The Herald and News

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World Of Giants

BY HAL BOYLE — As if everybody didn't feel small enough already, we will be asked this autumn to look up to a hero only six inches tall.

He is Mel Hunter, star of "World of Giants," a new television series, and a lot of big money is riding on his tiny but muscular frame in one of the top duels of the 1958-59 video season.

CBS is gambling four million dollars that little Mel will be able to untrack "Wagon Train," the highly rated program that sets out every Wednesday night from the rival trading post run by Sheriff Bob Sarno of NBC.

It is to be a no-holds-barred contest for audience favor between TV's newest art form—the "fantastic"—and one of America's most durable literary culture vehicles—the horse opera.

Who is this rash unknown, Mel Hunter, who singlehanded has risen to challenge the long reign of "The Western"?

He is the brainchild of John Ziv, president of Ziv Television Productions, which puts out some 30 shows, and Richard Dorso, his program chief.

Mel is a strapping 6-foot secret agent who is exposed to rays from a deadly enemy missile fuel behind the Iron Curtain. His molecular system is affected, and he shrinks until he is only half a foot tall.

Instead of asking waivers on him or peddling him to a circus, Mel's superiors in a government department known only as "the bureau" decide to keep him on the job 'as a spy hunter.

The fact they now have a 6-inch agent is, of course, the bureau's top secret. He goes on his missions in a briefcase carried by his buddy, Bill Winters. The briefcase has air vents and contains an airplane type seat in which miniature Mel straps himself for comfort.

"Because of his small size, everything that happens to Mel is a matter of life or death to him," said Dorso, his co-creator.

"A spilled bottle of glue, a vacuum cleaner, a sudden rainfall that washes him down a sewer—these are terrible perils to him. Two of his biggest problems in the pilot show are how to outwit a hungry cat and how to get a telephone off the hook so he can call the bureau."

The question naturally arises as to whether Mel is on the payroll of J. Edgar Hoover, whose employment policies (so far as publicly announced) have been somewhat discriminatory toward midgets. Dorso is very clear on this point. The answer is no.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation screened the series and approved it," Dorso said, "as long as Mel wasn't identified as an FBI agent."

Dorso, a man vaccinated long ago with a Madison Ave. prose needle, believes "the little man" will become the hero of the year to both kids and grownups.

"There is no ceiling to this," he said. "We think it will go right through the roof. We're going for the long haul."

"This is going to be the year of the fantastic in television. Oh, there'll be a rash of fantasies—a real rash of them. All kinds of new backgrounds and different heroes—maybe even a two-headed hero from another planet."

A dreamy look overcame Dorso's face.

"We might even star him in a fantastic Western," he remarked.

How about that? Can't you just see a finch hero on horseback riding hard to head off the rustlers at Eagle Pass?

Don't say it can't happen here. It can.

being paid out to the increasing number of the retired, making for embarrassing red ink bookkeeping.

2. Congress is talking of increasing the amount of old age and disability payments, as it has in each election year since 1952. It is reacting to the impact of inflation on those with fixed incomes.

For many years the Social Security fund was increasing. But as new types of beneficiaries were added and the life expectancy of all increased, the outgoing payments finally outstripped the income tax receipts.

"The present tax rate schedule — set to increase gradually until 1957 when it would hit a permanent rate of 4 1/2 per cent — the fund would be in the red until 1965.

The next step up from the present 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 per cent was set for 1960. Congress now proposes to move this up to Jan. 1, 1959, hike the taxable wage base from \$4,200 to \$4,800, and move the date of the 4 1/2 per cent permanent rate up to 1969.

The amount deducted from your pay check for Social Security does not go into a special cash till. It goes straight to the U.S. Treasury, which treats it like any other tax receipt. But the Treasury gives the Social Security fund Treasury securities for the amount received. And it pays interest on these securities.

The fund's holdings of Treasury bonds had reached about 22 billion dollars when payments overtook receipts.

Those fearing that the increasing number of persons getting old age benefits — now more than 11 million — will drain the reserves have always been reassured that Congress will increase the tax as needed to prevent this.

The proposed increase now is part of this plan. It will pinch those now employed. But it will add more for those trying to make ends meet on a fixed income while the cost of living rises. And, its sponsors point out, it will insure the soundness of the Social Security fund.

Widening the base of the insured by taking in new elements of the population has put the current acute squeeze on the fund. But the long-term rise in life expectancy has done even more.

In 1950 there were about 12 million persons in the United States 65 years or over. The number has gone up steadily and the 1960 census is expected to count almost 16 million in that group.

And so the drain on the take-home pay will keep rising to meet the payments.

The Soviets started it last December with a letter to Eisenhower, proposing a meeting at the top. The administration thought it could brush it off by letting a press officer dismiss it as propaganda before the State Department released a translation of the Soviet note.

This cavalier treatment didn't work. Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles were quickly shaken out of that attitude by the reaction of American allies who wanted much more serious attention given the Soviet proposal.

Nevertheless, Eisenhower and Dulles dallied about answering it, giving the Soviets almost a solid month in which to parade before the world as unanswered peace-lovers.

And before Eisenhower finally got off his reply to the first Soviet note, the Soviets sent another. Even Dulles by then indicated the Soviets were beating us in propaganda. The administration decided to be a little quicker in the future.

Then began the rain of letters with the Soviets urging haste and Eisenhower taking the position there should not be a summit meeting until there had been adequate preparation for it and all sides agreed thoroughly on what they'd discuss.

Without such preparation, of course, a summit meeting could turn into a shooting gallery. But the whole idea seemed to collapse last month when the Soviets suddenly broke off negotiations with Western ambassadors in Moscow on preparations for a summit get-together.

They did this at a time when — for a reason still incomprehensible — they abruptly turned tough in all directions. For a time, they appeared not to care what the rest of the world thought. Whatever propaganda gains they had made were suddenly being thrown away.

But Khrushchev saw a new and golden chance to score on the West — and took advantage of it fast — when American troops were sent into Lebanon and British troops into Jordan at the request of the heads of government of both countries.

Khrushchev moved fast, but not in haste. The American troops went in July 15. Khrushchev waited until July 19 before issuing another call for a summit meeting, this time to avoid war in the Mideast.

Those few days' delay gave him time to see what world reaction was to the American move. It was far from universally good. Thus he was able to know for sure he was hitting a widely popular chord when he wrote his summit letter.

The Eisenhower administration still didn't want any part of sitting down with Khrushchev. But the British did. This left it up to Eisenhower to split with Britain or trail along behind her. He reluctantly agreed to a meeting.

But this meeting — perhaps within three weeks — will almost certainly be the kind Eisenhower never wanted: one without thorough preparation or agreement on what will be discussed.

I saw my normally black hair turn bright gold. I looked at the can. It was metallic gold paint, recommended for radiators.

I rushed to the art department for help. A sympathetic art director applied a solvent to my rapidly stiffening golden locks.

Since we acted quickly, most of the gold came out, without damage to the hair. But as he dabbed at my hair with a piece of cotton our art director said: "Funny thing. Almost the same thing happened to my wife this morning. Only she got hold of a can of pine oil disinfectant instead of the hair spray."

You can get almost anything in a spray can—house paint, air purifier, insect spray, DDT, dog spray (recommended for eliminating fleas), termite spray, garden spray, furniture polish, cleaning fluid and moth proofing compounds.

So you can see that if a girl isn't careful, she's likely to get disinfected, moth-proofed, painted, lathered or garnished with hollandaise sauce when she reaches for her spray can of perfume or liquid hair net.

Vets Mail Bag

A new drug for treating arthritis, rheumatism, and allergies is especially suitable for old people and others with heart conditions. Veterans Administration reported today.

VA said research at the VA center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, has produced definite evidence that triamcinolone, a newly developed drug of the cortisone family, can be used safely for heart patients.

Dr. Thomas H. McGavack, chief of intermediate service at the Martinsburg center, said triamcinolone can be administered even to oldsters with severe heart failure without doing harm.

Most of the anti-inflammatory drugs related to cortisone make the condition of heart failure patients worse by increasing retention of salt and water, Dr. McGavack said.

The finding on triamcinolone is one of the results of a long-pronged program of research into problems of aging conducted by Dr. McGavack at the Martinsburg center during the past year.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Q—I am eligible for War Orphans education, but I have just enlisted in the Army. Could I go to school under the program while I am in service?

A—No. Under the law, eligible persons in military service may not receive War Orphans schooling. You will have to wait until you are discharged before you enroll under the program.

Quotes

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), attacking administration-supported arguments that lower price supports would persuade farmers to cut production and thus reduce surpluses:

"That's the biggest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people. There's only one other place you can get that much official lying, and that is the Kremlin."

PITTSBURGH — Rev. Cyril P. Wagner, Roman Catholic priest who returned to the United States after five years in a Chinese Red prison, explaining how American captives communicated with each other despite a Communist ban against speaking:

"I remember asking one prisoner in sign language what he did to pass time. He showed me—by twiddling his thumbs, I asked him what he did after twiddling his thumbs. He motioned that then it was time to twiddle in reverse."

Spray Hazards

BY DOROTHY ROE
AP Women's Editor
Modern packaging is all very well, but it has its hazards.

Consider, for instance, the number of products that now come in spray cans, all of similar size and shape. This is the sort of thing that can happen, if a girl doesn't watch her step:

I was doing a quick makeup job in the office the other evening before going out to dinner. I reached in my desk drawer for the can of hair spray, and

Pogo



Legal Shrinkage

By SAM DAWSON
AP Business News Analyst
NEW YORK (AP)—The chances are good today that come New Year's there'll be another legal shrinkage of your take-home pay.

Congress is talking of increasing Social Security taxes then. The Social Security fund is running in the red, although it has sizable reserves to fall back on—carried as U. S. Treasury securities, not as cash.

The present maximum deduction from a paycheck is 9 1/4 per cent a year. The proposed maximum after New Year's would be 12 1/2. But there would be some increase for every employe at whatever wage scale.

And for business there would be an increase in operating expenses, since the amount the employe pays into the kitty would rise at the same time and in the same amount.

* The proposal is based on two factors:

1. Currently the amount workers are paying into the Social Security fund is running behind the sums

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



East, West Trade Pacts Told By Argentine Chief

BUENOS AIRES (AP)— President Arturo Frondizi, long a foe of foreign participation in Argentine oil development, announced last night agreements with U.S., Soviet and West European companies to help increase oil production.

The foreign companies will aid Argentina's oil monopoly YPF to triple domestic production, Frondizi said. Argentina now produces about 33 million barrels of oil a year and has a perennial shortage.

To ease the current shortage, contracts were signed for the Soviet Union to deliver 7,125,000 barrels of oil by next July and Colombia to supply 15 million dollars worth.

Frondizi was elected president last February on a platform that supported the strong popular feeling against allowing foreign capital to dominate the extraction of Argentine resources. The Argentinians, however, lack both the capital and technical know-how to develop their oil fast enough to keep pace with the demand.

Frondizi conceded in a radio-television speech last night that he would be criticized for his decision to deal with foreign companies but he said Argentina's sovereignty would not be affected.

The largest contract was signed with a group of U.S. and European companies, including the Atlas Corp., the Hidden Splendor Mining Co., Petro Atlas, Inc., Williams Brothers Co., Mid-Continent Exploration and Ferrostral AG of Germany.

This contract provides for: 1. 50 million dollars worth of equipment and machinery to be supplied YPF over three years, to be paid for in pesos and dollars.

2. Drilling of about 4,000 wells in the Comodoro Rivadavia area of Patagonia, about 900 miles south-southwest of Buenos Aires, within six years with equipment supplied by the foreign companies.

3. Installation of a five-million-dollar plant for local production of oil industry equipment.

4. Supply of a minimum of 18 million barrels of oil over a period of two to three years.

5. A study for construction of a new gas pipeline between Comodoro Rivadavia and Buenos Aires.

Frondizi said the group also committed itself to lend the Central Bank of Argentina 30 million dollars.

Pan American International Oil Co. has signed a separate contract to drill some 300 to 400 oil wells for YPF, Frondizi said. This investment is expected to total 60 million dollars.

A third agreement provides for Lane-Wells of the United States to invest 24 million dollars for oil well repairs, Frondizi announced, but this could be increased to 10 million.

A "letter of intentions" has been signed with the Belgian company Petrofina covering a possible contract for drilling 200 wells, Frondizi said.

"Just a few hours ago," Frondizi said, "the Russian government informed our government it

is ready to sell machinery for oil exploitation for 100 million dollars, to be paid for in Argentine primary goods in long installments.

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Rev. Hamme To Fill Pulpit

The Rev. H. Edward Hamme, pastor of Hope Lutheran Church, Klamath Falls, will fill the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church, at the 11 a.m. worship service, Sunday, July 27. Mrs. Jane Craig, soloist, will sing, "The Voice In The Wilderness."

The Rev. Robert C. Groves, Ukiah, California, where he filled the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church, will arrive here in the immediate future to become permanent pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls. He will fill the pulpit on August 3. Communion will be observed at the service. He will be accompanied to Klamath Falls by Mrs. Groves and three small sons. The new pastor will be installed in September.

ADLAI ON TOUR

ROSTOV U.S.S.R. (AP)— Adlai Stevenson is touring the hinterlands of the Soviet Union, oblivious of history-making events piling up in Moscow. He was at a Rostov theater Wednesday night and responded to the friendly applause of the audience in his honor. At the same time in Moscow Nikita Khrushchev was announcing his decision to go to the United Nations.

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