

# Cohen Looking Forward To Long TV Writing Career

By CHARLES MERCER  
NEW YORK (AP)—While many television writers are looking to other fields because of the decline of live drama, Larry Cohen looks forward to a long career of writing for television. You can't beat youth.

A month ago Cohen was 21. Today he's 22. Tomorrow Kraft Mystery Theater (NBC-TV) will present his second TV drama, a thriller entitled "Night Cry." His first script for Kraft, "87th Precinct," an adaptation of an Evan Hunter novel, is being developed into a TV series for the coming season. Cohen is the first successful writer I've met who doesn't know how to use a typewriter. He's bought one, however, and is working at it.

But he's far from being the first successful writer who was told by his college professor of creative writing that he couldn't write.

"I felt real bad about it," he said reflectively. "He made me feel so sure I'd never be a writer that after I graduated I started looking for a job as an office boy."

He went the rounds of television offices trying in vain to get an office boy's job. The last office he visited one day last September was Talent Associates, the highly successful producer of heaven knows how many TV dramatic shows.

Nothing doing, the receptionist told him. At that moment, as in a Horatio Alger story, Al Levy, the president of Talent Associates, happened to step off the elevator,

happened to hear his request for a job, happened to like his appearance, happened to ask him, "What have you done, boy?"

"I told him the truth," says Cohen. "Nothing," I said, "but I like to write."

Levy gave him a story idea and told him to try a script. It surely was his lucky day. When he reached home he found that NBC had telephoned and finally accepted his application for a job as a page boy. So he went to work for NBC at \$42 a week while trying a script for Talent Associates.

When he finished the script, he took it to Levy, who told him it was all wrong. But he had talent, said Levy, and so Talent Associates would try to teach him some TV techniques.

Today Levy says, "Larry's TV scripts, when first submitted, show that he still has a lot to learn technically. But he has something much more important than technical know-how, which he'll pick up in time anyway. He's very inventive and creative. He has a talent for thinking up wonderful situations and ideas. He really is a writer."

Today, Cohen, who has quit his job as a page boy at NBC, feels a little lost. "I'm still living on a \$42-a-week scale," he says. "Who knows when I might be back earning the same salary? This is a funny business."

Total U.S. capital now invested in Cuba is about 825 million dollars.

# "DENNIS THE MENACE"



"I'M GONNA TRY TO CATCH A FALLIN' STAR!"

### ACTRESS AILS

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Movie actress Jane Russell flew into New Orleans yesterday and was promptly put to bed with flu. She had visited Monroe, La., to help launch a state campaign for a Louisiana chapter for homeless waifs.

# Elvis' Mother Dead At 42

MEMPHIS (AP)—The mother of famed rock 'n' roll singer Elvis Presley died in a hospital Thursday of an unexpected heart attack. She was 42.

Presley, home on emergency leave from the Army, was asleep at his \$100,000 mansion when she died. His father, Vernon Presley, 43, was dozing in her hospital room on a cot.

Elvis, called from home, sank to his knees beside his mother's bed and wept. His father also broke down. It was, a family friend reported sadly, "quite an emotional scene."

Mrs. Presley was admitted to the hospital last Saturday for treatment of jaundice and a liver ailment, hepatitis. She was not considered in dangerous condition.

Her soldier son, drafted into the Army a few months ago, was granted emergency leave from Ft. Hood, Tex., at the request of Mrs. Presley's physician.

Elvis was devoted to his mother. Early in his career, when the golden flood began, he insisted on his parents living in luxury and comfort.

Elvis is the Presley's only child. He was born a twin. His brother died in infancy.

# Comic Levels Beat Charge

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany (AP)—The U. S. Army says it is making a thorough investigation of an entertainer's charge that an Army major beat him up.

Timmie Rogers, Negro comedian and master of ceremonies for a troupe touring Army installations, made the accusation against Maj. Leonard Bailey of Salt Lake City, Utah, a veteran of 16 years Army service.

Rogers claimed that Bailey, on the night of Aug. 2, accused him of being late for a show at the officers club in Kaiserslautern and struck and kicked him.

The entertainer reported the incident to military police that night and later was treated at the Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden for broken ribs.

An Army spokesman said appropriate action would be taken when Rogers' charge had been checked fully.

"We want to see that justice is done, and if such a thing occurred we certainly regret it very much," he added.

Bailey could not be reached for comment.

# Actor's Wife Gets Divorce

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—As far as his wife is concerned, success has spoiled Rock Hudson. Mrs. Phyllis Hudson, 32, was granted an uncontested divorce from the actor yesterday. After he became a big box office star, she testified he grew sullen and sometimes wouldn't talk to her for weeks at a time.

"Sometimes he would stay out all night and when I asked him where he had been, he would say, 'None of your business,'" she said.

Mrs. Hudson and the 32-year-old actor were married in November 1955. She was once secretary to Hudson's agent.

Under a property agreement she will receive a \$35,000 home and \$250 a week for 10 years. She charged mental cruelty.

# Britain Dips Bank Rates

LONDON (AP)—The British bank rate was reduced today from 5 to 4 1/2 per cent.

The reduction, fourth in five months, will mean cheaper loans and free circulation of money in Britain. It is a further sign of confidence on the part of the Conservative government that it has inflation under control and that Britain's hard currency reserves are in good shape.

The new rate is the lowest since February 1955 and compares with a rate of 7 per cent imposed last September when inflationary pressures were at their peak.

The bank rate is set by the government-controlled Bank of England and represents the interest the bank charges on money it makes available to other financial institutions. Since the Bank of England is the keystone of the sterling bloc's banking system, changes in the rate carry over to other sterling banks. Reducing the rate makes money cheaper to borrow all along the line and is a spur to business activity.

# Alimony Payment Ordered Cut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Superior Court has ordered singer Allan Jones' \$1,500 monthly alimony payments reduced \$500.

Actress Irene Hervey divorced Jones last December after a marriage of 20 years. The singer then married Mary Florsheim Picking, shoe heiress.

Jones, behind in alimony payments, said his income from singing engagements has dropped recently.

Males have a higher death rate than females through all ages of life, the disparity being largely due to male susceptibility to accidents and heart ailments.

# Loretta Young Whirls Back Onto TV Screens This Fall

By VERNON SCOTT  
UPI Hollywood Correspondent  
HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—Loretta Young, her skirts twirling, whirls back onto TV screens this fall with one of the few surviving dramatic shows.

Part fashion show, part drama,

Loretta's program moves into its sixth year on the air.

When she began her series the video waves were loaded with dramas. Since then such stalwarts as "Robert Montgomery Presents," "Kraft Theater," "The Jane Wymann Show," "Schlitz Playhouse," "Cameo Theater," "Studio One" and "Climax" have disappeared, leaving only five or six survivors.

Sylphlike Loretta credits the "upbeat" quality of her show for its longevity.

"Downbeat, morbid stories are not wanted," she explained.

"We always have complete shows with answers to problems, not questions. There's usually a moral, too."

The actress has portrayed every type from slattern to saint during her five years on the air. But despite her fine performances, many feminine viewers tune in to see her extensive and elaborate wardrobe.

Thus far Loretta has made 180 trademark entrances, flaring her skirts and generally behaving more like a fashion model than an actress.

"It started by accident, just like Dinah Shore's big kiss at the end of her show," Loretta said. "On our first program the director thought my dress was so pretty I should show off the back of it as well as the front."

"Actually, I don't really twirl at the beginning of the show. I simply turn around and close the door."

"Some of the gowns are loaned to me, others I keep. Right now I have closets bulging with clothes. It's every woman's pipe dream to wear a new and beautiful dress every day of her life. They like my show because I'm able to appear in something spectacular every week."

"My entrance is a fortunate thing. After the audience has seen me well-groomed, I can wear horrible clothes, wigs, ugly makeup and false noses during the show without having people wonder whether I've aged overnight or something."

# Hubby Vetos Get Together

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Actress Wanda Hendrix was reported improving today after collapsing in her attorney's office.

Miss Hendrix was talking to her estranged husband, wealthy sportsman James L. Stack Jr., by long-distance phone yesterday when she apparently went into shock, her physician said. She was taken to Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.

Miss Hendrix's attorney Oscar R. Cummins said she had been trying to see Stack for weeks about their separation. A call was made between Stack and his attorney in Reno, Nev., and Miss Hendrix and Cummins here.

Cummins said the 29-year-old actress asked about a reconciliation, but Stack refused to discuss it.

Miss Hendrix screamed, clenched her fists and slumped in her chair, the attorney said. She was immediately hospitalized.

Her physician said she soon came out of shock and is "progressing very well."

In Reno, Stack's attorney Richard Blakey, said: "It sounds more like a case of bad histrionics than a bad case of hysterics."

Miss Hendrix and Stack, brother of actor Robert Stack, were married in 1954. Her marriage to actor Audie Murphy ended in divorce in 1950.

# Comic Ill

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Night club comedian Mort Sahl is undergoing tests at St. John's Hospital for possible infectious hepatitis.

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