

Public Likes TV Reviews Prior To Viewing Shows

By CHARLES MERCER
 NEW YORK (AP)—In a preview of "Harvey" last Monday I expressed some reservation over the wisdom of critics judging a TV show on the basis of a dress rehearsal before the public has seen the final version.

Herewith I withdraw that reservation. My reason for changing my mind is basically this: Everyone in the viewing audience with whom I've discussed the matter likes the idea of reading a critic's impressions before viewing an important TV show.

Oil International Nixes Tax Boost

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—A proposal to increase a per capita tax by \$1 was voted down by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union at its convention here Wednesday.

The measure, calling for a boost from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per capita, involved a constitutional change and required a roll call vote with a two-thirds majority for passage.

The 700 delegates, voting according to the membership each represents, voted 92,681 for and 68,849 against.

A proposal for increasing monthly dues from the present \$5-to-\$6 to \$5-to-\$8 is expected to be acted upon at the convention.

fore I see a show. If nothing else, you can make me think how foolish your judgment is."

The reason for bringing this case to public court is ironic. It appears that a majority of TV critics, both in and out of New York, don't like the idea. And it appears that their griping is in danger of causing the overly sensitive networks to ban further previews of live television shows.

It now seems probable that last Sunday's episode, in which the sponsor of the season's first "du Pont Show of the Month" invited critics to publish their opinions of a New York dress rehearsal of "Harvey," will be called a failure. Unless more people applaud this fine experiment, it's not likely to be repeated.

The basic reason why critics out of New York don't like previews seems to be that they feel the practice gives unfair advantage to critics in New York. I don't follow this. If their newspapers wish, they can ignore previews or publish the preview of a syndicated New York critic and follow it up with the local critics' reviews.

But the greatest irony of the preview push-back is that the experiment may have been destroyed by an element of the New York TV critics—the female element. I knew positively that there was not a New York TV critical fraternity, but until last weekend I hadn't realized there was a sorority.

In general the girls attacked the idea of previews with hatpins and etched their impressions in blood. Let's hope that sensitivity does not run so high at CBS that a complaint can destroy a significant innovation in television programming and reviewing.

Sinatra Likes Noon To 8 Film Schedule

By BOB THOMAS
 AP Motion Picture Writer

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Notes and comment on the Hollywood scene—

If Frank Sinatra had his way, he'd revolutionize the working habits of the movie industry.

For 50 years, the studios have operated the same as most businesses—from 9 in the morning until 6 at night. Sinatra is now doing his third film on a noon to 8 schedule, and he thinks it's the greatest. The picture is "Some Came Running," and Frank said it was over four days ahead of schedule.

"My system makes sense," he argued. "Most show people have learned to perform at their best in the afternoon and evening. Why should they be required to work in the morning just to follow the custom?"

"This way, you can get a good sleep and start work refreshed. It's especially great for the girls, who can get up at 9 instead of 5 a.m. to start their makeup and hairdressing. We have a break for a meal at 4 and eat right on the set. Very often we'll finish much before 8 because we move so fast."

Does he have any trouble convincing the studios of his shooting method? "No, we just tell them that's how I like to work, and that's that."

Frank's next objective: a four-day shooting week.

"That'll be the day!," Vincent Price has done 80 TV shows, mostly quizzes, in the past three years and says no one has slipped him a fix yet. "It would have saved me a lot of trouble," he says. "I had to memorize an entire encyclopedia of art."

The prequizz conversations are rehearsed, he admitted. "Otherwise you might have five minutes of silence."

The social whirl: June Allyson lighted up her hilltop estate to celebrate hubby Dick Powell's start of a third season with the Zane Grey Theater on TV. They have a fabulous 50-acre place overlooking Mandeville Canyon complete with private lake. Says June: "I like it so much I don't want to leave to make a picture."

Among those sampling antipasto on the terrace: Richard Egan and his bride, Pat Hardy; the Lloyd Nolans; Lew Ayres and Joanne Dru, a promising duo.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"THE LIGHT IN THE GARAGE IS BURNED OUT!"



"What's Bixley doing in the middle of the Mojave Desert?"

Situation Comedy Show Makes Debut On Television

By WILLIAM EWALD
 United Press International

NEW YORK (UPI)—ABC-TV's new "Donna Reed Show" bowed in Wednesday night. It's an orthodox situation comedy built around the family of a pediatrician. The series has one principal asset: Miss Reed, an actress who happily combines Hollywood sheen with corned wholesomeness.

Like almost all of TV's situation comedies, the new show is child-centered. Family comedies almost always pivot around the kids and with good reason: mother and father aren't very interesting people. Their world is limited, circumscribed by their homes and jobs and a tight circle of neighbors who also lead lives of homes and jobs. It's all a kind of well-adjusted desperation.

But the trouble with centering 30 plots each season around kids is that they are not that interesting. As a result, after you've watched half-a-dozen situation comedies — complete with backgags — you've seen them all. The only lure left is watching the personalities, Jane Wyatt or Robert Young or Harriet Nelson or Donna Reed, a form of entertainment akin to bird-watching, although not quite as invigorating.

Particularly good was a "September Song" number that featured the chanting of Walter Pidgeon and the dancing of Melissa Hayden. Too often on TV, production just clutters the delivery of music. But Wednesday night's camera and scenic effects reinforced the mood, adding another dimension. It's a show with possibilities.

A side note on Wednesday night's surprise tribute to Steve Allen was when he couldn't understand why he was unable to reach his wife, Jayne, in New York by telephone. The reason — Jayne had sneaked into a Hollywood hotel under the name, "Jane Courtney." Afraid Allen might get wind of the tribute, a phony long-distance call was set up in which Jayne pretended she was speaking from Manhattan. It was quite obvious from Allen's astonishment Wednesday night the ruse worked.

Solon Seeking Cooperation

PORTLAND (AP)—Sen. Richard A. Neuberger Wednesday called for cooperation between the United States and Canada on development of the hydroelectric resources of the Upper Columbia River.

The Senator was the principal speaker at a banquet here for some 200 engineers from the United States and 20 foreign countries. The engineers are in the Pacific Northwest to study the region's dam.

"In the upper Columbia Basin, Canada and the United States squarely face a choice between the alternatives of agreement on a program of development for maximum mutual benefit or two purely national programs that would produce lesser total benefits at greater cost, both in money and in mutual ill will," Neuberger said.

He said a Canadian proposal for diverting 15 million acre feet of the Upper Columbia in the Fraser River in Canada "would be disastrous, not only to the Pacific Northwest, but also to the unmatched record of international harmony and friendship on the North American continent."

Child Custody Case Pending Court Ruling

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (UPI)—This was to have been the day of decision for Lana Turner's daughter, Cheryl Crane, the tall, good-looking teenager who fatally stabbed Johnny Stompanato last April.

But it appeared that nothing would be changed in Cheryl's life—at least for the present. Lana, Cheryl and Crane were not expected in court.

Superior Judge Allen T. Lynch was expected to leave her in the temporary custody of her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Turner, and continue juvenile court consideration of the girl's future.

"My hands are tied," Judge Lynch said Wednesday.

He referred to a case filed by Cheryl's father, restaurateur Stephen Crane, objecting to a ruling last June making the girl a ward of the court until the court could decide on her future.

Judge Lynch said it appeared inadvisable for him to take any action in the case until a decision had been reached in Crane's appeal.

The restaurant owner, second husband of the blonde movie star, objected to Lynch's ward-of-the-court ruling for Cheryl on grounds that she should not be "punished" for the slaying of Stompanato, found to be "justifiable homicide" by a coroner's jury.

At the time of the June hearing, Cheryl was placed with her grandmother although Crane told friends he was "ready, willing and able" to care for his daughter.

A hot custody battle between Crane and Miss Turner became a possibility when the restaurateur decided to act in the case. Glimorous Lana was equally as determined to fight for Cheryl.

Cheryl's life became a matter of court concern and world headlines when she walked into the pink boudoir of her mother's Beverly Hills home and interrupted an argument between Stompanato and Lana.

The girl told officers she plunged a butcher knife into handsome Johnny because she was afraid he would make good a threat to maim her mother.

Group Fails To Make Pact

SANTA FE, N. M. (UPI)—A meeting of Upper Colorado River Basin states broke up Wednesday without common agreement on what plans to take in opposing California on controversial filling procedure for the Glen Canyon Reservoir.

Representatives from New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming decided to postpone action on a strongly worded Colorado resolution which urges quick filling of the reservoir on the Colorado River in Northern Arizona.

The resolution was prepared by former Colorado Gov. Edwin C. Johnson. He admitted the proposal might set off a legal battle with California.

California officials have indicated they would attempt to get an injunction against Interior Secretary Fred Seaton if he went ahead with plans for filling the reservoir, beginning in 1962.

Representatives left here with plans of meeting again in March. They did not say that they expected to reach agreement by that time.

California contends that early filling of the reservoir would jeopardize its ability to meet power commitments in connection with Hoover Dam, downstream on the Colorado River.

KIDS HOOP IT UP

SAYREVILLE, N. J. (UPI)—Madison Township officials Wednesday ordered children to leave their hula hoops home when they go to school.

School bus drivers and motorists complained the youngsters kept the hoops spinning while boarding buses and crossing streets.

The 'Voice Of Firestone' Abandons 30-Year Policy

By FRED DANZIG
 United Press International

NEW YORK (UPI)—"Next they'll hold a hula-hoop contest on the Senate floor!"

That was how one devoted follower of TV's "Voice of Firestone" series reacted to the announcement that Abbe Lane, animated disciple of Latin rhythms, will appear on the celebrated ABC-TV program next Monday night.

The program, which this season abandoned a 30-year tradition of classical and semi-classical music, booked Abbe and her band-leader hubby, Xavier Cugat, for its "Latin American Night" program of Sept. 29.

Now the sponsor has his fingers crossed.

Thus far, reaction to the jazzed-up version of the program has brought forth mail from unhappy viewers. "The majority of letters," said one program aide, "are from people who are upset. They want the program kept pure. The sponsor expected repercussions of this sort and he's getting it. But it's still too early to tell what the show's future will be."

Miss Lane, realizing what's at stake, says she'll be careful.

"A Rise Stevens can do an operatic bit with a dress slit up to the hip, practically, and nobody bats an eye. But Abbe Lane has to be careful. Really, they should

n't worry so much about me. I've never done anything that wasn't in good taste," said Abbe, now a honey blonde, but still measuring 38-23-36.

She said all her past TV appearances have involved special gowns.

"I've always had to tone down my costumes on TV, but I don't believe in changing my act or my personality. After all, I have a certain responsibility to my fans, too."

"The people on this show have expressed concern about what I'll wear and I told them not to worry. I'll be all covered up. You know how it is. If you want to be on TV, you can't be too sexy. And I have to conform. Let's face it, Abbe Lane is just too much for TV," she added.

As for reports that she would wear a sack dress, Abbe said: "Please! Let's not do away with my career on one program!"

Fear 5 Dead In Tragedy

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (AP)—One man drowned and four others were missing and presumed lost when a 40-foot fishing vessel sank late Wednesday in Clarence Strait, 30 miles southwest of here.

A late report Thursday revised earlier figures which said three had drowned.

The sole survivor, Howard Williams, son of the owner of the vessel Maxine M, was picked up by the fishing boat Homer. He was found clinging to floating wreckage on which he had placed the body of his father, James Williams, 65.

Missing and feared drowned were crewmen Alfred Dundas, Billy Dundas, Fred Fawcett and Henry Brendible. All the men were from Metlakatla.

The wreckage, the boat's turntable, was found about 25 miles north of the point the Maxine M rammed rocks and sank on Point McCarthy, Gravina Island.

The search for the missing men was resumed at daybreak Thursday by the Coast Guard.

The lone survivor was hospitalized here, suffering shock and exposure.

Water Power In PNW Ample

PORTLAND (AP)—There is enough water in the Pacific Northwest's reservoirs to meet the region's power needs this winter, the Columbia Basin Interagency Committee was told Wednesday.

A. F. Darland, a Bureau of Reclamation official, also reported the Columbia Basin's power output is down. He said an hourly kilowatt peak was estimated at 10 million kilowatts earlier this year. Since then the estimate has been reduced to nine million.

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