

Frustration Will End As Star To Sing At Met

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN
NEW YORK (AP)—By Thanksgiving morning, actor Walter Slezak won't be frustrated any more.

"I'm singing at the Met the night before," Slezak underbuds his psyche over a plate of shirred eggs. "My one frustration in life is that I never sang in opera. Never had a voice. And now here I am singing at the greatest of them all. Frightening, absolutely frightening."

A massive sigh rumbles down from his mountainous frame as he ponders the enormity of his courage in accepting Rudolf Bing's invitation to sing the role of Zsupan, the pig farmer, in Johann Strauss' "The Gypsy Baron."

This is the Met's big new production of the year and it is the moment Slezak has waited for all his life.

Just 50 years ago, almost to the day, his father, Leo Slezak, made his operatic debut on the same stage in Verdi's "Otello."

Leo Slezak went on to become one of the great tenors, a contemporary of Caruso.

Young Walter, who watched that night in knee pants from a balcony seat, went on to become one of the theater's great opera buffs, an enthusiast who played hooky from Shubert's Alley at every opportunity to catch an act or two at the Met.

His knowledge of opera is enormous. For the sheer joy of it, he has been a regular panelist on the "Metropolitan Opera Quiz of the Air," more than holding his own with the experts.

"You know as far as those quiz shows are concerned," Slezak confides, "I was lucky. They wanted me to go on the '\$64,000 Challenge,' but my natural greed interfered. I wanted to know how much was in it for me. After all, I'm not a bootblack or a butcher. I'm a performer. I get paid for performing."

"They said I might win \$1,000. I said 'not enough' and refused. Now I can see they were looking

for a name to knock off with an underdog. I'm not the underdog type. I wouldn't have lasted two programs."

Slezak's frankness about not having an operatic voice doesn't mean he can't sing. He has sung in dozens of Broadway musicals, Sigmund Romberg's "May Wine," Rodgers and Hart's "I Married An Angel," and just a few seasons ago in Harold Rome's "Fanny."

In "Fanny," he was costarred with the late Ezio Pinza, formerly of the Met, a lifelong idol and friend. But Slezak's hope of having someone who shared his hobby dissolved one Saturday afternoon. Slezak, as usual, spent his off-stage moments listening to the Met's weekly radio broadcasts. Excited by a particularly beautiful aria, he ran to Pinza's dressing room to discuss the passage. He found the great opera star bent over his radio in rapt attention, listening to the Yankee ball game.

Oddly enough, "The Gypsy Baron" is one of the few operas Slezak has never seen nor heard. The Met hasn't performed it for more than half a century.

"The music is far more beautiful than 'Fledermaus,'" Slezak says. "I get to sing two arias and a duet, mostly patter songs. It's a buffo (comic) part. Don't ask me what the plot is about. It's delightful but it's more complicated than an intercontinental ballistic missile."

When the great gold curtain ascends on "The Gypsy Baron," opera buff Walter Slezak will find himself sharing the stage with Lisa Della Casa, Regina Resnik, Laurel Hurley, Mignon Dunn, Nicolai Gedda and other great singers. He will be at once the happiest and the most frightened man in the house.

"You know," he muses, "there's something symbolic about opening on the night before Thanksgiving. This could turn out to be a big turkey, or else I could really have something to be thankful for."

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"DARN YOU DENNIS! I DIDN'T MEAN I WAS COLLECTING THAT KIND OF STAMPS!"

Astronauts Confident Space Try Will Succeed

Editor's Note: The Air Force's failure to recover space capsules from Discoverer satellites has not discouraged the seven U.S. astronauts. In the following exclusive interview they tell why.

By DARRELL GARWOOD
LANGLEY FIELD, Va. (UPI)—America's seven astronauts are convinced that if they were launched in a space capsule now they could bring it back safely from an orbit around the earth. They are not worried about failure of efforts to recover capsules from orbit but feel success will be attained once man is shot into space in such a vehicle.

These space pioneers involved in "Project Mercury" say you can't rely on automatic devices alone to do the job and that man himself will provide the reliability that has been lacking.

Every one of the astronauts is confident that even if all the automatic devices should fail he could operate manual controls to slow down the orbiting vehicle and bring it back.

"It's a misconception that you have to build a system that is perfect automatically before you can put a man in space," Air Force Capt. Donald K. Slayton told United Press International. "Actually, it's the man aboard that gives you reliability."

Slayton pointed out that automatic instruments are available to fly planes but that no commercial airline would think of relying on the instruments to the exclusion of human pilots.

It is no secret that each of the astronauts, who have been training at this base for six months, hopes he will be the first man to rocket into orbit.

But they are trying to de-emphasize "firsts." Each is training either to make the flight himself or to support in some special way the man who is selected for the space attempt.

Slayton believes that reliability in manned space flight may be about doubled as compared to all-automatic orbital recovery operations.

"I don't know just what the figures would be," he said, "but I can easily imagine that if a system were 50 per cent reliable automatically it might be 99 per cent reliable when you add a human pilot at the controls."

Slayton's statements were made

Cranberry Scare Recalls FDR's Thanksgiving Era

By CONRAD PRANGE
Staff Writer.

The Oregon Statesman
Distributed by the Associated Press

This Thanksgiving season may go down in history as the year of the great cranberry scare—but 20 years ago they almost made hash out of turkey day itself.

It was in 1939 that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt attempted a new deal in the nation's traditional Thanksgiving Day celebration date.

The result: For three years the nation observed two Thanksgiving days a year.

It all started on a warm day in August, 1939, when FDR announced

he planned to change Thanksgiving Day from its traditional last Thursday in November to a week earlier.

He proclaimed Nov. 23 of that year (instead of Nov. 30) to be Thanksgiving Day. He asked the states' governors to go along with him and proclaim their Thanksgiving Days on the earlier date.

He cooked up this turkey change, he explained, at the request of the nation's business and retail trade people. They had long complained, said the President, that the gap from Labor Day in early September to Thanksgiving was too long; and that the shopping period from Thanksgiving to Christmas was too short.

The extra week would help stuff more cash registers, the President told a nation still on WPA. Hardly had President Roosevelt finished talking turkey when politics, sentiment, tradition and human nature took over. Everybody, from governors to college students, took sides.

Confusion mounted as turkey growers hastened to fatten flocks a week earlier than anticipated. Twenty major college football teams with games slated for what they thought would be Thanksgiving Day tried to rearrange finely drawn schedules.

Transportation firms and manufacturers of calendars added their voices to the outcry.

"Thirty days hath September, April, June and November. All the rest have thirty-one. Until we hear from Washington," ran a poem of the day.

In Kokomo, Ind., a shopkeeper hung out a sign: "Do your shopping now. Who knows, tomorrow may be Christmas."

"Will Turkey Fuss Cook President's Goose?" asked one cryptic headline.

There were jokes about "Franksgiving." And radio comedies asked their straight men if they recalled when Thanksgiving came only

once a year. The tenor of thought in New England, where Thanksgiving originated in 1621 (on Nov. 19—a Monday), was voiced by Sen. Styles Bridges, Republican, New Hampshire, who inquired bitterly if the President was going to "abolish winter, too?"

The governors made their moves and 23 (including Oregon, Washington and California) lined up behind the President proclaiming Nov. 23 as their day of Thanksgiving. And 22 others firmly held for the traditional last Thursday of the month.

Texas, Maine and Colorado observed both days.

The Republican governor of Colorado held for the traditional last Thursday. But the Democratic mayor of Denver proclaimed the earlier date.

Palo Alto, Calif., home of former President Herbert Hoover, ignored President Roosevelt's proclamation. So did Clarkston, Wash., and Lewiston, Idaho.

With roughly half the state celebrating Thanksgiving one week and the rest the next week in a checkerboard pattern over the nation, it wasn't only turkey stuffing that got mixed up that year.

Many college students, for instance, who went away to school came home on Thanksgiving holiday to no Thanksgiving in their states.

Hotels, airlines and railroads suffered in trying to maintain holiday schedules.

One airline announced it would serve turkey to its passengers on all five Thursdays in November, just to be on the safe side.

Although it was the year of the big hatch for turkey growers, nevertheless Alton D. Hurley and Claude McKenney, Salem turkey men, fired off a stiff protest to President Roosevelt.

They said the week's difference in shipping time would down-

grade turkey prices, resulting in a loss of about \$766,000 to Oregon bird growers.

Oregon's Gov. Charles A. Sprague said he went along with the Presidential proclamation because "it would be folly" to observe Thanksgiving Day twice in Oregon.

Finally in 1941, after the anticipated increase in yule business did not pan out, President Roosevelt turned off the oven heat.

Beginning in 1942, he said, Thanksgiving Day would be permanently fixed on the traditional last Thursday in November.

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JERRY LEE LEWIS

Steps Taken By Las Vegas To Clean Up Resort Shows

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—Nelson Eddy singing "Shortnin' Bread" instead of Candy Barr stripping to the strains of "A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody," and a nearly nude chorus line ordered back into costumes.

That's a result of an official campaign to improve the moral tone of gambling casinos in this desert resort.

Both steps were taken Monday at one hotel. Another is fighting the county commissioners' demand that it fire its headliner—female impersonator T. C. Jones.

The commissioners included Jones with Miss Barr and bare bosoms in what they termed unsuitable entertainment. Jones is appearing at the New Frontier Hotel show producer Bill Miller said: "How can I fire him? (Jones). What's he guilty of? He's a great entertainer and has appeared at a lot of the country's top houses."

Owner Beldon Katleman of the El Rancho Vegas originally had refused to fire Miss Barr after authorities pointed out that she is appealing a 15-year prison sentence in Texas for possession of narcotics.

Her appeal bond was vacated while she was dancing at the hotel and she was jailed until it was re-instated. She is an ex-girl friend of Mickey Cohen, onetime Los Angeles mobster, and there were rumors he had a part in her adventures with the bondsmen.

County commissioners held a meeting Monday to figure out a legal way to get the 23-year-old blonde fired.

They told both hotels to show cause why they shouldn't lose their gaming and liquor licenses because of what the commissioners termed objectionable floor shows. Gambling and liquor sale profits are main-stays of the hotel business here.

Shortly afterward Katleman announced that "as a gesture of goodwill" he was putting costumes on his showgirls and firing Miss Barr.

Miss Barr tersely told newsmen she was getting out of town. She didn't disclose her destination, but said "I just want to get together with my family."

Aviation Chief Asks Divorce

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—James H. Kindelberger, chairman of the board of North American Aviation Inc., has sued for divorce and asked that his wife be barred from molesting him.

Kindelberger's complaint, filed Monday, said he has been in ill health and on occasions had been hospitalized because of "cruel and inhuman treatment" by his wife, Helen.

They were married Dec. 20, 1946, and separated last Sept. 18. There are no children.

Religions Join, Cite Tolerance

ST. MARY'S CITY, Md. (AP)—Protestants, Catholics and Jews joined hands Sunday around a historic monument commemorating the beginning of religious tolerance in America.

Representatives of the three major faiths extolled religious freedom and tolerance as a marker was unveiled dedicating St. Mary's City as a birthplace of these ideals.

The ceremony took place near the spot where Maryland's first settlers landed 325 years ago. These settlers were charged by the Catholic founder of the colony, Cecilius Calvert, Lord Baltimore, to practice their religious beliefs in peace and good will with respect for the conscience of others.

The dedication ceremony was sponsored by the Religious Heritage of America Inc., a national interfaith organization which emphasizes America's spiritual background.

Altamont Junior High News

Monday, November 9, marked the date of the end of Altamont's magazine drive. Fremont's total was \$5,058.01 and Altamont's total was \$4,856.98. Fremont beat us by \$201.13. They get to keep the bear until next year.

Wednesday, November 11, was a glorious day, since it was Veterans Day and everyone had a day off.

Thursday afternoon we had another National School Assembly. We had an interesting guest, a former American spy in World War II, Dr. Singer.

Altamont has ended its football season and soon will be starting its basketball season. We had a very good football season.

We lost only one game to the Henley freshmen and won all the others.

Roxie Bemington, News Reporter

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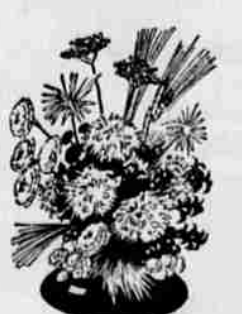


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