

Heart Ails Claim Chico Marx At 70

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Leonard Marx, a tailor's son who wanted to be a businessman but instead became Chico of the Marx brothers comedy team, is dead at 70. Chico, oldest member of the impossibly irreverent brothers whose vaudeville and movie fans included low-brows and intellectuals alike, died of a heart ailment Wednesday. He had been ill for several months.

Chico and brothers Groucho (Julius), Harpo (Arthur), Zeppo (Herbert) and Gummo (Milton) transformed low comedy into high art for three decades—with their special brand of winks, whistles and wisecracks.

Their last movie was in 1948, entitled "Love Happy," and the cast included an obscure blonde actress, Marilyn Monroe, in her first film.

Their fans included the late Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw, who said they were "the world's greatest actors."

Others ranked them with masters of comedy—Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, W. C. Fields and Will Rogers.

Gummo and Zeppo entered private business years ago. Chico, who loved gambling, cards and golf, lived quietly in recent years.

Only Groucho, 66, is still an active performer. Harpo recently regained some prominence with "Harpo Speaks," an autobiography.

The brothers were born to an immigrant Jewish family in New York's Lower East Side. Their mother, Minnie Marx, was the daughter of a wandering magician and sister of Al Shean of the famed vaudeville team of Gallagher and Shean. And she raised the youngsters to be entertainers—although some of the brothers, including Chico, didn't like the idea.

Their first film was "The Cocoanuts" in 1929. Then came "Animal Crackers" (1930), "Monkey Business" (1931), "Horse Feathers" (1932), "Duck Soup" (1933), "Night at the Opera" (1935), "Day at the Races" (1938), "At The Circus" (1939), "Go West" (1940), "Big Store" (1941), "Night in Casablanca" (1946), and their last, "Love Happy" in '49.

Chico spent more than a day at the races—once he had to hitchhike home from Hollywood Park. And Groucho once recalled: "We never could accumulate anything in our house. As soon as we bought something new, Chico would hock it to finance himself at the pool hall."

"Once I remember when pop got a job making a suit for a 350-pound man. When it was finished, it was packed in a box and I delivered it. When the customer opened the box, there were no pants. Chico had got to the box first and hocked the pants."

State Board Of Health Okays Nurse Home Cash

SALEM (AP) — The State Board of Health put its stamp of approval Wednesday on hospital construction grants totaling \$1,720,664 and nursing home grants of \$36,268.

The hospital allocations, all subject to final federal approval, include \$50,000 to Salem General Hospital, \$359,563 to Salem Memorial Hospital and \$31,476 to Santiam Memorial Hospital in Stayton.

There was a \$379,930 grant to the Josephine General Hospital at Grants Pass provided the county can qualify financially. The county must determine by Jan. 15 if it can provide the required matching funds.

A \$133,521 allocation to the Lower Umpqua Hospital in the Reedsport area for a hospital portion of a combination medical facility was approved. The board approved another \$136,519 for the nursing home part of the same facility.

The board then prorated the rest of the available federal funds under the Hill-Burton act for hospital construction to three Portland hospitals which had requested money.

It gave Portland sanitarium \$570,009, Providence Hospital \$182,136 and Holladay Park Hospital \$14,099.

On nursing home construction fund applications, in addition to that for the Lower Umpqua facility, the board allocated \$226,703 to the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, Beaverton.

It approved a grant of \$193,049 out of \$207,000 requested by the Columbia Hospital District, St. Helens.

At the conclusion of the board meeting, the chairman, Dr. Carl Holm, made a plea for local support for hospitals.

"Hospitals," he said, "are badly in need of public support over and above Hill-Burton funds."

"Hill-Burton encourages construction of physical facilities but doesn't do it all. Areas of Oregon needing additional help in hospital construction should seek ways of aiding local financial campaigns."

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Top Plywood Year Viewed

PORTLAND (AP) — A record plywood sales year was forecast today by John Martinson, president of the Douglas Fir Plywood Association.

Martinson, speaking to some 200 executives of member firms at the association's annual fall promotion meeting, said:

"I think we'll sell 8.4 billion feet of plywood by the end of 1961. That would be an increase of 5 per cent over 1960."

Plywood prices are at a low for the year, but Martin said "expanded promotion will put new life into plywood markets."

He said, however, "this is a long-range promotion. It won't happen overnight."

Martinson said the industry has persisted in "unsound marketing practices. It's time we learned to turn a profit on rising sales. To do it we are going to have to adopt intelligent marketing procedures."

John Ritchie, the association's advertising director, said, "we are not just plywood manufacturers. We are in the business of enclosing space."

Camel Man Has Trouble

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Bashir Ahmad has sworn on the Koran before his wife and four children that he will not look at another woman during his visit to the United States.

But the 44-year-old camel cart driver is having trouble convincing other jealous members of his clan that he won't go astray on the trip he is making at the invitation of Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. And his good fortune has aroused considerable jealousy among his associates.

Armed police have been posted outside Bashir's hut since he reported receiving death threats.

Bashir is all set to leave by plane Saturday, but his relatives think he will come home with the big head. They fear that in the foreign land he will eat pork and ham and drink intoxicating liquor—all forbidden to Moslems. They threaten to ostracize him on his return.

Bashir's three sons and his daughter are excited about his journey—but not his wife. She's afraid he will marry a "maim"—a white woman.

"What will happen to my four children and who will support me and feed them if he brings a white wife with him?" she moaned.

French Film Trial Stalled

PORTLAND (AP) — A court hearing on an indictment against a Portland theater manager for showing a French film was postponed Wednesday after a witness for the prosecution failed to show up.

M. M. Mesher, manager of the Paramount Theater in Portland, and his projectionist, Floyd Robinson, have been indicted for showing the film "The Lovers."

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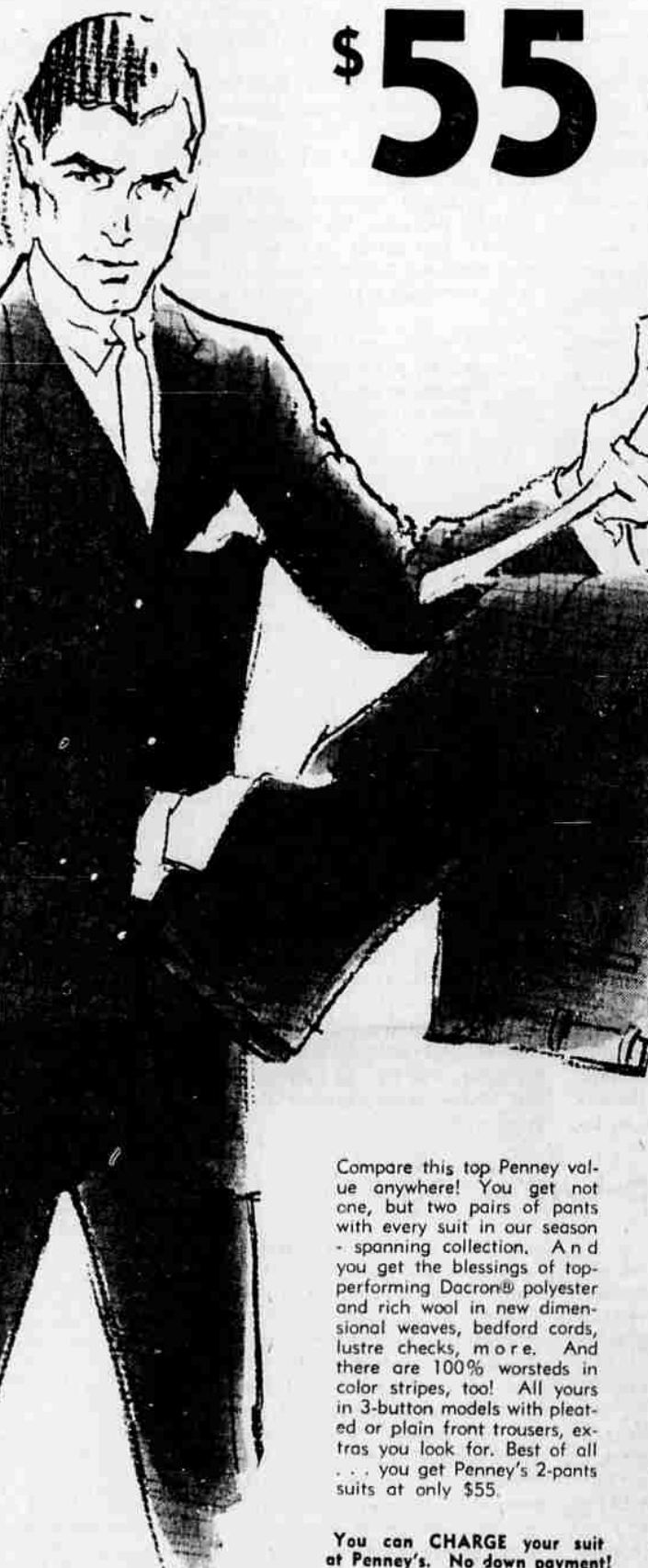
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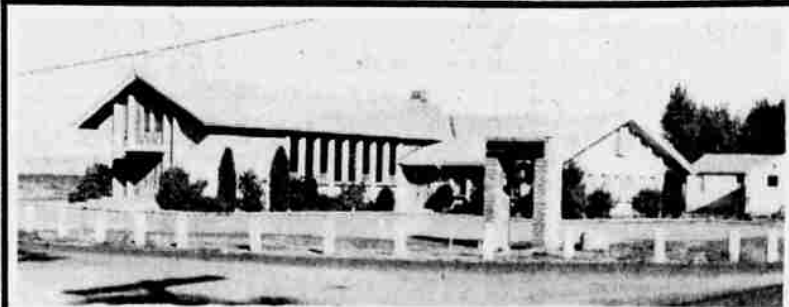
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