

Barney Glazer's Glazed Bits



Hollywood visits Las Vegas. I dropped into Ben Goffstein's downtown Las Vegas quarters kissed his charming secretary Florence and yelled, "Surprise!" at Ben who doesn't surprise easily.

Big Ben, gruff but as tender-hearted as they come anywhere, looked out of his window and laughingly pointed to "the biggest hole in Las Vegas" but which actually marks the site of "The Four Queens," gambol town's brightest new hotel and casino with a tentative August debut date.

"I sit here and ride herd on construction," said Ben, one of the most popular executives in a town.

He chuckled, "People must like the name 'Four Queens.' We're getting requests every day for reservations from far and wide and I keep telling everyone, 'Do you mind phoning back in August when I'll be able to see what a room looks like?'"

Goffstein counted out the hotel's expenditure as six million dollars in its first phase with a possible layout of ten million before realization of its final plans.

He ordered 1,000 pounds of paper for the plans alone.

"We'll stop at 10 stories and eventually reach 21," he said with a far away look as if he was watching the building climb story by story.

In preparation and in view of the current coin shortage,

the executive has ordered one-half a million dollars in coins. "We have to start accumulating them now or we won't have an opening," he said with a chuckle.

Ben has the kind of chuckle that sounds like something that slipped through terra not so firma during an underground atomic blast.

KING AT THE FOUR QUEENS



Photo/Rama
BEN GOFFSTEIN

Goffstein claims a first for Las Vegas - a lounge that will be elevated so that its occupants can watch the casino action.

He also will introduce the first big French show in the downtown area. "You and I may not care for a nude show," he said (I asked him to speak for himself), "but

the public's taste runs along those lines so I'll give them what they want."

WHILE in Las Vegas, I met Sumner Arthur Long, author of "Never Too Late," starring Milton Berle at the Sahara, and learned that as children we lived only a few blocks from each other and went to the same synagogue.

Sumner joined the Navy at 19, experienced the Pearl Harbor attack, and after six salty years went to Provincetown, Mass., where he built a shack with squatter's rights and started writing.

"I had to sink my own pipes for water," he recalled.

Long has a cousin of the same name, a multi-millionaire who attended Brookline High School. As a result,

Cholly Knickerbocker failed to check his facts and assumed too much by writing that "Sumner A. Long, the famous multi-millionaire yachtsman, has written a new play."

"Everyone started calling me," said Long, "expressing surprise that I hadn't advised them of my buried treasure."

The author related how he got the idea for "Never Too Late," his first play, which relates about a frantic husband and his calm wife who learn that she is pregnant.

"I was walking along Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles," said Long, "when I saw an expectant woman obviously in her fifties who was so cheerful I had to turn and stare at her. She was the only one I passed on the entire boulevard who was smiling."

"I couldn't help but think what her husband said when she first told him the news."



Harry Golden's "Only In America"

FOR REAL INFLUENCE

No one, least of all my readers, needs me to set up as an authority on the worth of the late T.S. Eliot, poet, Nobel Prize winner, expatriate. The New York Times devoted almost two pages to a fast assessment of how important a man he was. I suspect the little magazines and the scholarly journals will never cease their assessments.

In the 76 years he lived he became an important English poet and perhaps the important English poet of the 20th Century. This is not necessarily to insist he was the best poet; but it is to insist his techniques set off reverberation after reverberation all of which will have a bearing on our language and on our attitudes after a time.

If you want a test of how profound an influence Eliot exercised, I suggest you visit an American college and try to remember what colleagues were like before T.S. Eliot began publishing poetry.

If I had to pick out the two men unrelated to the academy who most contributed to the change in curriculum of our colleges, I would say they were Max Planck and T.S. Eliot.

Planck of course was the theoretical physicist who developed the quantum theory. When it came time to assemble the atom bomb, it was the theoretical physicist who put it together, not the mechanic. One of the reasons today we have a division between what C.P. Snow calls the cultures is because Planck was able to isolate part of the universe into general theorems.

T.S. Eliot is the other great influence. His poetry not, say, Wordsworth's or even Shakespeare's, give students the idea and the thrill of what literature is about. It is from his works they got the idea, if they get it at all. I do not speak here of the professional student who will go on to graduate school and teach or who intends to write. I am talking about the boy who will go back to Dad's business and perhaps never read a poem again. His teachers taught him what little he remembers so he could peruse if not master "The Wasteland" before he was graduated.

I would doubt seriously if Eliot today had a vogue in any American college. But those writers who are in vogue owe some debt of gratitude to the vogue Eliot established in the 30's.

What Eliot brought to literature is what Planck brought to physics, namely

a theory. Things do more than add up. They own more than a history. They multiply. They divide. It was in theory that Planck found the future with all its bleak prospects and it was in theory that Eliot found the future with all its prospects.

DAVID BEN-GURION AND ISAIAH

There is a subtle difference between making history and creating situations for the sake of history. For many years, David Ben-Gurion was making history. He was, along with the late Chaim Weizmann, the founder of a Jewish homeland.

Then, in 1948, he became the creator of the modern Jewish State. And in 1956, in the Sinai campaign, he preserved Israel. All this was history in the making; deeds which put Ben-Gurion in the front rank of the great statesmen of our time. It also put him into the Jewish pantheon, shoulder-to-shoulder with Moses, King David and King Solomon.

But since he retired, formally at least, Ben-Gurion has not been satisfied to be in the company of kings. With his terrific sense for things Biblical, he wants to join the ranks of the Prophets, with Isaiah and Amos. And like all Prophets he is searching for the "truth." With the same single-minded devotion that inspired him when the Jewish State was only a dream, Ben-Gurion has walked through the streets of Jerusalem like Nathan of old demanding the truth. But following the pattern of all the Prophets this quest for truth has led Ben-Gurion into troubled waters. The stand he took on the so-called "Lavon Affair," turned his people against him and they repudiated him. He was left alone, because the Israelis don't want "affairs"; they do not care so much for intangible truth as they care for uncomplicated everyday lives like the rest of mankind.

But Ben-Gurion can take heart. The old Prophets of the Bible were repudiated too. Ben-Gurion can take inspiration from their tragic fate, because through their search for truth, they achieved immortality.

Timing is as much an integral part of good statesmanship as any of its other attributes. Ben-Gurion was once a master of the art. He proclaimed the State of Israel in May, 1948, at the only time the international constellation made it possible in a century. He led his armies in the Sinai campaign, at a time when the Russians were busy with the Hungarian revolution and the French and British were in-

terested in crushing Nasser. He basically accepted the nationalistic policies which he had once repudiated, and he embraced the ideas of his enemies at a time when those policies seemed to be in the Israeli interest.

But his intervention in the Lavon Affair was peculiarly ill-timed. Israel is still in grave danger. "Truth" is important, but not when it leads to internal quarrels, which could weaken Israel at a time of danger. Affairs are luxuries which Israel can hardly afford at this time. The people of Israel sensed this and rejected Ben-Gurion's stand.

One can only hope, that Ben-Gurion will relax. He has earned the fruits of great age and great achievements. His place in history is secure. And the Israelis yearn to love and admire him again. They will forgive him very quickly. The big question is: Will he forgive them? I am sure Isaiah would take it well.

EDWIN BOOTH'S LETTER

The editors throughout the country drew countless parallels between the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy. Indeed, some of these parallels were amazing. But in one respect there was no parallel. In the assassination of Kennedy there was no word from Oswald's family save recrimination. This is admittedly hardly fair since Lee Harvey Oswald didn't have much of a family at all. But John Wilkes Booth did.

In the Library of the Players, a club reserved for actors and other men associated with the arts, hangs the original letter authorized by Edwin Booth, one of the best actors America has ever produced. It was Booth himself who founded the Players at 16 Gramarcy Park, in New York, the last reminder of and age far more gracious than our own.

Last November 13, the Players celebrated Edwin Booth's 131st anniversary. The room he occupied at the club remains exactly as he left it, even to the page he was reading in a poetry anthology. The Players still has the costumes Booth wore in his great triumphs.

The letter he published, in the composition of which he was helped by John B. Murray appeared in the daily papers, April 20, 1865, a week after Lincoln's assassination by his brother, John Wilkes.

Addressed, "To the people of the United States," it reads in part:

"It has pleased God to lay at the door of my afflicted family the lifeblood of our great, good and martyred President prostrated to the very earth by this dreadful event. I am yet but too sensitive that other mourners fill the land. To them, to you, one and all go forth our deep, unutterable sympathy; our abhorrence and detestation for this most foul and atrocious of crimes.

"For the future--alas; I shall struggle on in my retirement bearing a heavy heart, an oppressed memory and a wounded name--dreadful burdens--to my too welcome grace.

"Your afflicted friend, Edwin Booth"

The letter proves something about Edwin Booth and even something more about the American people. The people have invariably proved fair. They can always be counted on to take a "second look." The people have made the right decisions since the country was founded. A year after publication of the Booth letter, part of which I have reproduced with the permission of the Walter Hampden Memorial Library of the Players, Edwin Booth came out of retirement by popular demand and fulfilled one of the great careers in the American theater.

Now Appearing!

LACK ENTRATTER presents a World of Comedy

JAN MURRAY



KAYE STEVENS

ANTONIO MORELLI AND HIS MUSIC

The Most Beautiful Girls in the West / Two shows nightly at 8:15 and midnight

LYDIA TOREA & COMPANY

For Reservations
Hotel 735-9111
Show 735-3464-5



In the Lounge:
Red Norvo & Betsy Duncan
Dave Burton
Bob Snyder & Pegge Kaye
Ernie Stewart Trio

PRE-HOLIDAY SALE!

CUSTOM TAILORED

SUITS from \$94.50 Usually \$110

FREE Xtra Slacks or 3 Custom Made

Shirts Worth \$29

Largest Selection of Finest Clothes

BALLAN'S

1304 LV. BLVD. SO. 384-1184

For Pictures That Count

PHOTO / RAMA

Bar Mitzvahs, Weddings, special occasions,

309 Las Vegas Blvd. So. 382-6505