



Harry Golden's "Only In America"

I remember that the principal of Public School 20 on the Lower East Side of New York was a tall, bearded gent by the name of Colonel Robert Smith, who had lost an eye in the Civil War. What a thrill it was for immigrant boys to feel so close to American history! We did not realize then the proportions of Col. Smith's true heroism.

We did not know that we were part and parcel of the most successful experiment in the history of human relations, Smith and his trachers were turning immigrants into citizens and they were doing it within a single generation. Not Rome, not Greece, not Alexandria, no nation ever welcomed the stranger, let alone made the stranger at home. But the American public school system did this. True, they had for material the zeal of the immigrant himself, the stranger who wants so desperately to resemble the native, but there were the teachers, too.

Remembering these pioneers, Col. Smith and the teachers who taught with him, we must ask what has happened? Such pioneers deserve better from a nation with the greatest facilities ever developed.

We have many serious problems today. For one thing we must again regard the individual teacher as a person with an individual mind, an individual sensitivity.

A serious matter is this desperation concerning admission to college. Why should every high school graduate worry for two years whether an American college has room for him?

Twenty years ago when the veterans inundated the colleges at the end of World War II, we knew our higher institutions were inadequate. They are more inadequate than ever now.

More than 50 years ago Governor Aycock, known as the education governor of North Carolina, set out to conquer illiteracy in our state. Today North Carolina still has nearly one half million illiterates and, mind you, these are Tar Heels, many of them Covenanters, whose ancestors fought with Washington and whose ancestors later bled for the Confederacy. But schoolbooks still must be purchased, a terrible tax and poor punishment to the poor. We have no immediate solution and we have no kindergarten system at all. Over 50 years

ago Governor Aycock dreamt of a school system which can produce bi-lingual students within a decade. Today the first year of college is dedicated to teaching hundreds and hundreds of 18-year-olds how to write a simple declarative sentence.

Another serious problem is the invention of fear into the lives and careers of the teachers. When I was a boy the parents were frightened of the teachers. Today the teachers are frightened of the parents. Scared to death. And since the parents have become so tremendously involved with the public school something like 27 teachers have been assaulted in their classrooms, two fatally. And not a single one of the students has ever been wounded as far as I could discover.

HOLDING THAT HEMLINE

I seem to see more knees around town than ever before, although I haven't seen anything in the paper about the new look or the new style. Skirts are shorter than they have been since the 1920's. It's interesting that with all these exposed knees there hasn't been much publicity about it. No one pays any attention to it, really.

Somewhere in one of my books I tell the story about my friend whose father had a shoeshine place up near the Flatiron Building, where Broadway and Fifth Avenue meet at 23rd Street in New York. The trolley cars stopped there and it was a high step and the ladies gathered their skirts as they stepped up and you saw their ankles and my friend's father often laughed about the sports who sat up there watching this and saying, "Give me another shine."

HOOTENANNY TUES. YOUTH HOUSE

Everybody come to the hootenanny!

Folk singing as well as sons of protest and freedom will be open for public enjoyment Tuesday, June 22 at 7 p.m., at the Danny Kolod Youth House. The famous Rick, Joe and Joy Trio will head the list of performers.

All "the cool ones" attending will sit in an authentic-type atmosphere on top of hay. Refreshments will be served and there is free parking on the premises.

For the sing-along group, song sheets containing the top numbers will be distributed to all those attending.

Because the evening's entertainment isn't scheduled to end until 10 p.m., arrangements have been made with the Las Vegas Police Department and the Clark County Sheriff's Department to extend the curfew.

Sponsored by B'nai B'rith Girls, the evening promises to be more than entertaining! A small donation of 75¢ is asked to cover the production costs and other expenses.

REDS BACK ARABS

LONDON (WNS) Premier Chou En Lai of Communist China has pledged his country's "firm support" to Syria in its defense "against Israel's constant aggression" in the Jordan River area, according to a report reaching here from Damascus.

Disclosure of Red China's "firm support" was made by a Syrian Government spokesman who said the assurance had been given to Syrian President A. Hafez.

Barney Glazer's Glazed Bits



Hollywood, Calif.--A Riviera Hotel casino boss suggested to Eddie Fisher that he cut four numbers from his Riviera act so that the customers could leave the showroom earlier and give the tables more action. Known among dealers and stickmen for his tender relationship

mission. The ruling body will pay Fisher the supreme compliment if they officially approve his two-point ownership.

DINAH SHORE followed Fisher into the Riviera, where she wore gowns costing well over \$50,000 yet did her own hair and applied her own makeup for each performance. Was Dinah pinching pennies?

She was not. Neither was she suffering from kinks in her money hose. Her wardrobe expenditures proved that. The popular vocalist likes to do her own hair and makeup and is handy at anything a woman is supposed to be able to do.

Asked during her Riviera engagement, "Why the hand kiss?" Dinah said it first happened in 1951 when director Alan Handley signal that her initial NBC television show was about to end.

"I was so thrilled that everything had gone so well, said Nashville's price and joy, "I did what come naturally-I blew and enthusiastic kiss to the audience."

After receiving considerable mail from her apparently delighted viewing audience who threw back the kiss in their letters, Dinah decided to keep it in the act as her signoff trademark.

DURING REHEARSALS for "Pajama Game" at the Valley Music Theater in the San Fernando Valley, co-star John Raitt repeatedly rubbed while trying to pick up Muriel Landers, whose dimensions rival those of Jackie Gleason.

"Watch out, John," warned Muriel. "You'll get a kileh." Assuming at first that his life was in jeopardy, Raitt later laughed when Muriel explained, to the contrary, that the Yiddish word means hernia.

Which also explains why Mack "Killer" Gray, George Raft's celebrated confidant for many years, inspired fear in countless Hollywood cliff dwellers who regarded Gray as an ominous threat. Finally, the truth come to light when Gray confessed sheepishly that he could brag of no notches, as a matter of fact not even a gun.

It seems that during his more youthful and active days, Mr. Gray had suffered a hernia, prompting his friends to tag him with the medically descriptive "kileh." Thus, "Kileh" Gray, understandingly misinterpreted as "Killer" Gray.



EDDIE FISHER with the frolicking cubes, Eddie smiled and offered:

"I'll cut four of my numbers if you'll cut four of yours."

That should create an interesting dice game--no two's three's, twelve or sevens--instant garranty that the first player to hold the dominos could convert Las Vegas within 24 hours into a vast ghost town.

Incidentally, Fisher had been booked to open at the Sahara Hotel Christmas night but the date has been canceled by mutual agreement. Instead, Eddie will sing exclusively hereafter at the Riviera Hotel because, as he publicly announced, "I now own two points which makes me a Riviera executive."

Las Vegas gamblers know that nobody can own points in any unless that person is approved by the Nevada Gaming Commission. A recent check with that department shows nothing of record that Fisher has been approved for ownership of any percentage. Therefore, Eddie's announcement appears premature.

It was this same Gaming Commission that pressured Frank Sinatra into sale of his Nevada hotel percentages due to Frank's alleged associations with persons not approved by the Com-

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