



# Harry Golden's "Only In America"

The first thought was a purely a selfish one-- what a friend to lose!

Adlai Stevenson was indeed a friend. In the most cherished of all his 79 letters to me, he wrote, "I am grateful to God that I have such a friend."

It began in 1952 when Bill Reddig of the "Democrat Digest" suggested my name to the Governor as one who could possibly help on campaign speeches to Jewish, Italian, and Negro audiences. After that Governor Stevenson and I became friends, good friends. I did not see him often, perhaps two or three times a year but that did not matter. The exchange of correspondence was uninterrupted across 12 years, right up to 16 days before his passing.

I had this with Stevenson, something of the influence the actor George Burns seems to have over Jack Benny. Burns has but to say, "Hello, Jack," for Benny to double up in laughter. I could tell Governor Stevenson the oldest, corniest joke, out of a Joe Miller book, and he would push away from the table to give himself lots of room to laugh--uproariously.

I had guessed right across the years. In each of my lengthy letters to him, telling of a trip to Israel, or Japan, analyzing a Walter Lippman or Max Lerner article, or perhaps an up-to-the minute report on the integration issue in the South, I always added a postscript of the latest joke I heard. And always the immediate reply from Stevenson, a reply full of warmth, generosity, and affection.

The Governor, indirectly, suggested the title for my first book. He had written, "...the press has just had its way with me..." He was too tired, he said, to do full justice to a scheduled Grid-iron speech.

I sent a few sentences, saying what a wonderful thing this is--to suggest English sentences to an Adlai Stevenson, and my own mother not able to speak a single word of that English, and I added, "Governor, I guess this could happen, Only in America."

First there was Virginia with Jefferson, Madison, and Mason, then Massachusetts with Emerson and Thoreau, followed by Illinois with Lincoln, Sandburn, and Steven-

son, our Renaissance men; and graduate students in our universities could do much with that idea.

They were our men of words, and this is precisely the imperishable contribution of Adlai Stevenson to what Sandburg has called "The American Dream." Stevenson won no battles nor does his name even bear identity with any legislation. But Stevenson reminded us that the machine is not supreme, that the human story remains the same today as it was a thousand years ago, and as it will be a thousand years hence; indeed that the human story remains one of the relationship of one to the other, that it rests only in the human spirit.

It is interesting that both Sandburg and Stevenson held close to their hearts the same few words--Sandburg in his Memorial speech before a Joint Session of Congress, and Stevenson, in his address at Harvard University--the same few words of their fellow Illinoisian, Abraham Lincoln, in his House-divided speech in 1858: "If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do, and how to do it."

## FUND RAISING PROCEEDS UP

NEW YORK (WNS) Some ninety-seven communities are currently running 9.1 per cent ahead of last year in fund raising, it was reported here by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds in a study by its campaign Services Committee.

## VEGANS ADOPT CHINESE GIRL



CHOI

Thirteen Las Vegas girls, all employees of Southwest Gas Corporation, recently became "foster parents" of a young Chinese girl who lives in Hong Kong.

Choi, by American standards, is ten years old; in her homeland she is 11, however, since Chinese consider a child one year old at birth. She has been described as a "polite and gentle little girl, very devoted to her younger sisters." During the past school year she placed ninth out of 46 students in the fourth grade, which repaid in pride her family's sacrifice of \$2.80 per month tuition.

The "adoption" of Choi was made possible through the Foster Parents Plan, Inc., a non-profit relief organization sponsored by Governor William Scranton, Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Helen Hayes, Bing Crosby, and others. Through the Plan, the Southwest Gas girls contribute \$15.00 per

## Barney Glazer's Glazed Bits



By Barney Glazer  
Hollywood, Calif. (TCNS)-As pianist and conductor for Eddie Fisher, Eddy Samuels added a new dimension by singing a duet of "King of the Road" with Fisher at the Coconut Grove. Samuels displayed a lyrically pleasing voice and proved that as a qualified musician, he knows how to stay on key. When the two finished another vocal pairing, this one "Do Re Mi," Dean Martin yelled from his ringside table at Fisher, "I like him better."

Martin consistently ribbed Fisher throughout his act, scoring heavy laughter with perfectly timed quips. At one point, when Fisher tried to

get off a serious explanation of an upcoming song, Dino asked with a complete air of innocence, "Will this take very long?" Later, when Fisher asked Martin, "Do you think we could work together?" Dino replied, "Sure, I had one Jewish partner."

Eddy Samuels' father, by the way, is Milton Samuels, noted composer of popular songs, who wrote some great ones including "Jim" and "Elmer's Tune."

Emotions ran their gamut at the Grove. Onstage, Dean Martin and Fisher kissed brushingly on the lips. At the

July 30, 1965  
celebrity party following the show, Gordon MacRae kissed Fisher on the cheek, Tony Bennett tapered off with an enthusiastic bearhug, while I felt completely effeminate by simply shaking Eddie's hand.

DURING Ethel Merman's opening in "Call me Madame" at the Valley Music Center (San Fernando Valley), one of the ensemble male dancers almost dropped his dancing partner. Seated next to me, Juliet Prowse leaned over and said, "That can happen to anyone. I've fallen right on my toosh many times."

PRODUCER Aaron Rosenberg piped the press as cruise members aboard the "S.S. Magic Isle" at Los Angeles Harbor for the west coast premiere of his film "Morituri" at the Casino Theater, Santa Catalina Island.

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