

Barney Glazer's 'HOLLYWOOD HOTLINE'

A recent JTA feature said that Edward G. Robinson plays violin - not as well as Yehudi Menuhin but better than Jack Benny. During the Beverly Hills premiere party for Columbia Pictures' "Oliver!" George Burns told me, "Eddie

doesn't play the violin. There he is. Ask him." So I did. Robinson smiled, when told about the item, shook his head and said, "Sorry, Barney. I wish I could play the fiddle but I can't." What the JTA writer probably meant: that in many of Edward G.'s pictures, some of the hoods carried their machine guns in violin cases. But that was a different tune.

Congratulations to Sophie and songwriter Harry Tobias on their 45th wedding anniversary . . . John Banner, who plays Sgt. Schultz on teevee's "Hogan's Heroes," will visit his 75-year-old uncle, David Treiber, who commutes between Lakewood, N.J., and Miami, Fla. Said Banner, "He's the only close relative those bastards over there left me."

Shimon Wincelberg will write the screenplay for Universal's film, "The Truck," based on Charles Einstein's original comedy set in Israel during the Six Day War. Wincelberg left recently for Israel for a four-week research chore.

Sol Lesser, 78, donated

his \$150,000 collection of cameras, projectors and lenses used during his 50 years in Hollywood, to the new USC library for the performing arts. Mr. Lesser produced 117 feature movies including "Oliver Twist," starring Lon Chaney and Jackie Coogan; "The Red House," starring Edward G. Robinson; 13 Tarzana features and many others. He won Oscars for "Kon Tiki" the best documentary in 1951, also the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in 1961.

Rom Moody, English star who plays Fagin in Columbia's "Oliver!", said during the Hollywood premiere, in reply to my query, "No, there hasn't been one word said in criticism of my role as Fagin, the Jew." After seeing the film, I can understand why. Although I squirmed slightly over Moody's scenes depicting greed and his Yiddish melodies, I found satisfaction in the complete absence of any ethnic identification and in the kindness of a father shown by Fagin to his boys.

Noted in the cast of boys: Jeff Chandler, but no relation. It would become a happy coincidence, however, should young Jeff win fame and perpetuate further the name of the late Jewish star who died following surgery in the prime of his life and film career.

Than Wyenn is speaking out on the pros and cons of violence in the performing arts. He's Drama Consultant for the Bureau of Jewish Education and has played in dozens of films and television shows. Than favors violence when it

rightfully belongs, as do love, lust, hate and envy, in the sphere of dramatic instance. He feels it cannot be ruled out anymore than passion. And since the inherited task of a playwright is to reflect all of human experience, he should freely encompass the gentle passions as well as the violent.

However, Wyenn does not believe that violence in films and tv should be manufactured for its own sake, without sufficient relevance to the basic plot or story. I'll drink and fight to that.

Writer-Producer Charles K. Peck, Jr. purchased the stage rights to the novel "Disraeli" by Robert Blake. He'll dramatize the book for a London West End production late in 1968, then follow it with a Broadway opening in early 1969. Naturally, we can expect a movie. The novel is on the best-seller list in 12 countries. It is also being serialized in 122 newspapers.

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