

## Barney Glazer's "HOLLYWOOD HOTLINE"

For its 22nd annual "Man of the Year" award at the Beverly Hilton Hotel recently, the Beverly Hills Lodge of B'nai B'rith chose a woman - Louise Tracy.

She may not be the correct gender but the widow of beloved Spencer Tracy won the award by outmanning every potential male recipient with her 25 years of dedication as founder, director, and president of the John Tracy Clinic for deaf children and their parents.

As honorary chairman, Jimmy Stewart said,

"Louise Tracy has dedicated her life to the problems of those who are wrapped in perpetual silence."

Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin delivered the invocation, as he did at President Nixon's inaugural. "Louise Tracy is not the woman of the year," he said. "She's the woman of many years."

Director John Ford singled out Mrs. Tracy for making it possible for thousands of deaf children to skip rope, play baseball, kick footballs, and generally live like normal children. "In hon-



oring Mrs. Tracy," he reminded, "you honor yourselves."

Cary Grant wired his regrettable absence, addressing himself to a wonderful woman."

Mrs. Tracy's award marked only the fourth time since 1946 that Beverly Hills B'nai B'rith Lodge has honored a woman. Others were: Eleanor Roosevelt, 1956; Mary Pickford, 1960; and Dorothy Buffum Chandler, 1964.

Male recipients, to name

**LAS VEGAS CINERAMA THEATRE - Dr. Ruth Faber (Barbara Jefford) confesses her marital unhappiness to Pope Kiril I (Anthony Quinn) in MGM's adaptation of Morris L. West's best-selling novel, "The Shoes of the Fisherman".**

a few, included last year's winner Art Linkletter, Al Jolson, Miguel Aleman, Dore Schary, Walt Disney, Danny Kaye and Jack Benny.

Jacob M. Stuchen, President of the Lodge and for-

mer Mayor of Beverly Hills, said, "While it is true that there are discords in the world there are also sounds of joy, children, adults, music, laughter - sounds shared by 28,000 families in 105 countries as the result of Mrs. Tracy's legendary work as humanitarian and a woman of great compassion and steadfast dedication."

John Tracy, the Tracys' deaf son for whom the Clinic was named, sat in the audience with his wife, Susan.

Director George Cukor told how Louise and Spencer had taken their deaf infant son, John, to a doctor. "I can do nothing for him," the doctor regretted. "as for you two, you're blessed among parents because you will have an interesting life."

Director Chester Erskine said, "When Louise met and married Spencer, she was a young actress. By turning her back on the theatre, which is more obsession than profession, she showed the same courage and strength that won her this award."

Writer - director Garson Kanin, on hand with his talented actress - wife Ruth Gordon, explained that he and other members of the industry were acting as stand-ins for Spencer Tracy "who is really here tonight." Kanin recalled the thousands of hours of conversation he enjoyed with Tracy in all parts of the world but "no-

thing interested Spencer more than the work Louise was doing to help deaf children."

Beverly Hills Mayor George Slaff also recognized Mrs. Tracy's devoted work, as did actor Jesse White, comedian Allan Drake and vocalist Toni Arden.

Lodge President Stucher appropriately turned over the award presentation to Jack Freeman, explaining that Freeman's four-year-old grandson is a beneficiary to the John Tracy Clinic's work.

In accepting the plaque, Mrs. Tracy felt that the Clinic was the real Man of the Year.

"It is important that the Clinic reaches parents early so that they can reach their children," said Mrs. Tracy. "We take children only from birth to six years of age; the earlier, the better. There is no charge, although parents may contribute. Children may not hear their parents but they learn early to understand movement of lips and to associate ideas.

The honoree named as the Clinic's philosophies: "What you do for deaf children and their parents will help you;" and "what you get out of life you must give back."

With studied simplicity, President Stuchen summed up the evening's heartfelt tribute:

"Louise Tracy, you're an angel. We love you."

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