

**Barney Glazer's
'HOLLYWOOD
HOTLINE'**

You've heard of student drop-outs. Meet Warren Murray, 27-year-old son of comedian Jan, Murray. He's a teaching drop-out. Does Warren advise kids to drop out of school? He does not. Does he advise teachers to drop out? He most certainly does, provided, of course, that they have a natural ability, as he does, for writing television scripts. Warren spent five years as an American history teacher at Kariat Junior High School, Spring Valley, N.Y. He had a flair for writing so his dad phoned him repeatedly from Hollywood and urged in parental parlance, "Idiot! Come out here and write!" Accepting a two-in-one program that (1) father knows

best and (2) Horace Greeley knew best, the young school-teacher made his move. Shortly after his arrival in Hollywood, Warren accepted a teacher's assignment at La Crescenta High School, Glendale. In his spare time, he heeded the anguished cry of the television producer, "We need fresh young writing talent!" Making the studio rounds, Murray ran into the producer's cliché, "First, you must become a member of the Writers Guild." Then, he ran into the Writers Guild cliché, "Before we extend you a membership, first you must have a credit." Sound familiar? Yup, all dressed up in a new cap and gown, but basically the wanderer finds himself searching for the perennial answer to the same old maddening question, "What comes first—the egg or the chicken?" Warren Murray found his answer but, regrettably it won't help those of you Johns and Janes around the country who ache to journey to Hollywood and enjoy a producer's full embrace. You see, Warren obtained his first break at the home of Danny Thomas. That's compounding the problem. How does a talented young writer get into Danny Thomas' home? He has a father - in this case Jan Murray - who knows Danny. Sorry about that, kids, but if you can't produce the nepotism, you'll have to come up with your own celebrity. Don't get me wrong. Getting into an inner sanctum isn't the total answer. First, you must have what it takes. Warren Murray had the connections but he also had the justification for singling out the connections. When the Hollywood cuckoo sang out his hour, he produced.

Inside Danny Thomas' house, he met Bill Persky and Sam Denoff, creators and executive producers of "That Girl," and its star, Marlo Thomas. Persky and Denoff were nice enough to let Warren submit ideas. Then, they teamed him with an experienced writer, Ed Scharlach. "He taught me much about the mechanics of scriptwriting," said Warren gratefully.

The team fashioned ten episodes of "That Girl." On his own, Murray has done two Bill Cosby shows and is presently working with Melvin Franke on a movie, "The Tourist Season."

Currently, Scharlach is writing a variety show. "He likes them," laughed Murray, "but I love scripts. That's the only reason we're not collaborating at this time."

How does Warren compare script writing with teaching school?

"I loved teaching but if you have a family to support, that isn't the way to go. Teaching fails to provide an incentive. It pays on the length of a teacher's career, not on his capabilities."

"On the other hand, only the sky and one's personal drive limit a television writer's earning capacity."

Ready, youngsters? Okeh. Everyone meet bright and early tomorrow at the bus terminal.

First stop: Danny Thomas' house.

Actor Nehemiah Persoff's son, Dan, will be bar mitzvahed, as reported here, Nov. 1 at Temple Beth Ami, in Reseda, California. On the same day, Michael Lewis Rich will be bar mitzvahed at Temple Ramat Zion, in neighboring Northridge, also in the San Fernando Valley. His father, personal manager Bernie Rich, is now married to singer-filmstar ("Oliver!") Shani Wallis. His mother is Margie (Duncan) Rich.

While working as an Al-

banian general in "The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax," with Rosalind Russell, Nehemiah Persoff is reading the works of Chaim Nahman Bialik, great Hebrew poet. They're written in Hebrew and the English translation and Nicky peeks at both as he proceeds.

"The sad thing about the poet," said Nicky, "is that he wrote these following the pogroms of 1905 in Kishinev, Russia. We thought for a long while that pogroms were a thing of the past but the Soviet Union started them all over again."

The Israel Bonds organization chose Persoff in July as their Man of the Year at a rally that added to worldwide protest with the hope it will pressure the Soviets into releasing three million Jews. Persoff's mother was born in Israel. His father, born in the Ukraine, actually walked all the way to Israel, where Nicky was born.

Zev Bufman may star Cassius Clay (Mohammed Ali) in the Broadway production of "Big Man, Buck White" . . . If you've wondered what happened to Jack Kruschen, he's in London co-starring in England's version of the musical, "Promises, Promises."

That kid named Michael James, employed in producer Jerry Epstein's London office, is really Michael Chaplin, Charlie's son. What's he ashamed of? Probably dad's simpatico with the Commies.

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