

ENTERTAINMENT TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

DICK MCJINNES
 Hollywood received a delightful Christmas present in the person of BARBARA BEL GEDDES appearing at the Ahmanson in "Finishing Touches", JEAN KERR's latest play. "Touches" may not be prime Kerr, but it certainly is prime Bel Geddes. She still can breath more life in lifeless lines than any other actress alive. She looks great and works very hard on stage. ROBERT LANSING co-stars and does a fine job. Rest of the cast didn't do too much for me or for the play for that matter. But truthfully, it doesn't matter. An evening with Bel Geddes is quite enough for any theatre gourmet.

MARTHA RAYE took off to do three weeks of "Everyone loves Mariha" night at UCLA. They were running a CHARLIE CHAPLIN Film Festival and that night it was "Monsieur Verdoux" in which Maggie costars and in fact, almost stole the picture. It's a delightful movie and the students flipped over the still glamorous Ms Raye dropping in to join them. Maggie had not seen the movie since 1948 and it was a whole new trip to her. She remembered that the scene in the row boat took over a month to film because Chaplin wanted the timing to be just right. It's a priceless bit of comedy. Can you just imagine anyone spending that much time today to shoot one scene?

TRIPPING AROUND.....LOUISA MORITZ, sexy bundle from Cuba who looks and talks like a young JUDY HOLLIDAY, signed to be a semi-regular on "Lotsa Luck". Show immediately brought Louisa lotsa luck because she is now working on a pilot film called "Happy Days" starring RON HOWARD & TOM BOSLEY. Louisa's days are now much happier since she plays the femme lead... CHARLIE RICH has just received a gold record for his Epic album, "Behind Closed Doors". He also struck gold with his single of "Behind Closed Doors" and it looks like his new single "The Most Beautiful Girl" which hit #1 this week in Record World and Cashbox is heading for gold too. One might say that 1973 has been a golden year for super singer Charlie Rich...DIANA TRASK, Australia's gift to



FOUR SONS OF THE OULD SOD, "THE IRISH BEGGARMEN," RETURN TO THE SILVER SLIPPER'S RED GARTER LOUNGE THURSDAY JAN. 3, FOR A FOUR WEEK ENGAGEMENT.

country western music, has been signed for not one but three guest appearances on NBC's mid-season replacement series, "Music Country, USA". She then goes into Frontier Hotel starting January 2 with none other than Super Picker himself, ROY CLARK. By the way, did you catch that sexy photo on Diana on her new album, "It's a Man's World"? -- Zoweeee.....Speaking of superpicker, ROY CLARK brought his family out to Hollywood to do a guest spot on The Flip Wilson Show and they also did a guest appearance at the Troubador with COMMANDER CODY. They brought down the house at the Troubador in spite of a few technical problems. It was their first live appearance and it was a hoot. Clark's family consists of his Daddy, Uncle Dudley, Uncle Paul, Cousin Kenneth and a friend, Bob Schodt.

A perfect Christmas gift for the Showman in your life is CHARLES HIGHAM's "DeMille". Higham is the only writer that had the full support of DeMille's daughter, Cecilia. He had full access to DeMille's files and it shows. The book is a very intelligent and interesting look at the #1 showman in films. Unlike many biographers, Higham maintains his respect for the man even when delving quite deep into DeMille's personal life. It's also nice to know that you're reading an accurate biography for a change. Higham is a busy writer what with a book on Warner Bros. coming out and a very secret project involving one of the giants of Hollywood next on his agenda.

This week will be a busy one but don't forget to take it easy when you can.

WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN
 ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

"I'd like to join you when you light the first Chanukah candle tonight," President Nixon told the rabbi. "You know, I believe in the peace and tranquility from within, and the light within man is quite strong...I get my Quaker strength from my mother..."

The President was chatting with Rabbi Baruch Korff of Rehoboth, Mass., Chairman of the National Citizens Committee for Fairness To The President. The orthodox rabbi was departing the Oval Office last week, after having led a delegation of eleven (only three of whom were of the Jewish faith) committee members to the White House. They had sponsored numerous ads supporting the President in leading newspapers across the country, and the President personally thanked them for their "active and energetic" support.

"I'm grateful for your faith in me," he told them.

The Rabbi showed the President copies of the recently published 7th full page ad, and said they are working on the 8th and 9th. "We'll persist and prevail..." the rabbi emphasized.

The President scanned the ad and then told the group: "We've made progress in Vietnam. We're having some difficulty in the Mideast now. But I'm in touch with Dr. Kissinger in Geneva, and it's only the beginning of the process in which the nations will talk to each other and work out a settlement."

The President asked the Rabbi how he happened to initiate the campaign.

"I was outraged at the attitude of the Ervin Committee and the electronic media in their coverage of the Watergate hearings," he responded. "As citizens, we thought we should do something. The campaign snowballed from our local community to over 100,000 members and more than 200 chapters from coast to coast."

Gen. James C. Fry, one of the delegates, said he first met the rabbi during World War II and hadn't seen him since. "But when I read about his campaign to support the President, I corresponded with him, and offered my assistance," Fry said. "I believe in the President, because he knows his way about the problems of the world and is doing a good job for the country..."

Later, in an interview at The Mayflower Hotel, Rabbi Korff said the President gave each delegate a special Chanukah present-- cuff links with the Presidential seal.

He added that the President seemed to be well informed about the spiritual meaning of Chanukah and the story of the oil, which though only sufficient for one day, miraculously kept burning for eight days.

Ever since, this has become a symbol of the tenacity of the Jewish people. Likewise appealing to the President as a Quaker must be the symbolism of the ever-spreading Chanukah light forcing the darkness to retreat...

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