



WALTER BURRELL

Hollywood Happenings

WHEN NAVY Corpsman Ron Pinkard met actor Raymond Burr back in 1961 while the "Perry Mason" series was filming in Long Beach, Calif., and appeared in that segment as a bit player, he never dreamed he'd meet Burr again six years later in Hollywood and be signed on as the popular actor's dialogue coach, but that's just what has happened.

For after Ron was discharged from the Navy Medical Corp in '63, he entered the University of Colorado as a pre-med major, switching later to drama. When he first came to Hollywood "to look around" in the spring of this year, nothing exceptional happened.

However, he returned to Cinema City in June, when this writer took him by the set of the upcoming series, "Ironside." He was then introduced to Burr and things started to fall into place.

"I'd be the first to admit how lucky I was," says Ron, "but it took guts too. The first day I met Burr on the 'Ironside' set I sat in his dressing room and told him blankly: 'My name is Ron Pinkard. I'm a drama major from the University of Colorado and I want to act with you'.

"I bit down hard on my lip and waited for his reply, but he just stared at me. He was then called back before the cameras and told me to wait for him. I figured, 'well Ron, you've blown it now'.

"WHEN HE came back he said he thought he recognized me and I told him about the 'Perry Mason' segment back in '61. He then told me to choose a scene I'd like to read with him and return in a couple of days. I chose a scene from the play, 'The Clown In Three Rings', which was written by a fellow student of mine named Harmon Watson.

"Burr liked the reading, but pointed out that there weren't any acting roles available at that moment and offered me the position as dialogue coach in the meantime. Naturally, I accepted."

As coach, Ron proof-reads the scripts before Burr sees them, looking for character flaws and dialogue which might not be in character for Burr's role as a wheelchair-ridden detective. They then read the script aloud for several hours as Burr learns his lines.

If there's anything at all wrong with the script, Ron calls it to Burr's attention, they discuss it, and Burr decides to retain or omit the line or scene.

Though he's worked with the actor only two months, Ron's opinion of him is unwavering. "Burr is an amazing man," Ron enthuses. "He has a memory like no one I've ever met and is a wonderful guy to work with.

"AFTER MY contract was signed, he called my mom in Denver. He told her how nice it was to talk with her and what great expectations he had for me. He said he was going to be in Denver in the near future and hoped to meet her. He even invited her to come to Hollywood so we could show her around the studio."

Despite the fact that he's well on his way to a spiraling career in show business, Ron drifted into drama on a lark. "Up until the summer of '66 I was a pre-med major," recalls Ron. "Then I noticed a drama course in the catalog and it looked interesting, so I took it.

"Ed Rynolds, the class' instructor and a marvelous director, talked me into appearing in a Shakespearean play but I needed money to stay in school so I dropped out to work. The following year, however, I was to do about 15 plays, including the lead in 'Othello' and the role of the Jewish doctor in 'The Devil's Advocate'."

BY THEN the acting bug had taken a big bite and he was hooked. And at the moment, though he is Burr's dialogue coach, Ron is in

Burr And Employee-Fan



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS--Dialogue coach Ron Pinkard (left) and Raymond Burr, star of the new series, "Ironside," check script before upcoming scene.

Can't Win Department

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--Democratic and Republican plans for revamping this city's government agree on one thing: That the District's predominantly Negro population will not be allowed to govern itself.

The House Executive and Legislative Reorganization subcommittee is considering a plan by President Johnson that would replace the three-member board of commissioners with one single commissioner and a nine-member council, all appointed by the President.

The commissioner would be given broad powers not held by the present commissioners.

The Republican plan would retain the three-member board. Departments and agencies concerned with planning would be streamlined. The District possibly could get a non-voting delegate in the House, under the Republican plan.

The White House proposal will go into effect Aug. 11, unless either the House or Senate rejects it. The Republican measure would have to be okayed by the House, Senate, and President Johnson to become law.

Either way, D.C. residents remain without a voice in their own affairs.

Landmark Court Decision

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--Court decisions handed down on May 17 may turn the date into a "Freedom Day"--for students, construction employees, and Adam Clayton Powell.

May 17 is, of course, remembered as the day in 1954 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools are unconstitutional. That ruling remains to be fully enforced.

Two court decisions handed down on May 17 of this year could result in new freedoms.

One of them was a ruling by U.S. District Judge Joseph P. Kenneary in Cleveland that Gov. James A. Rhodes of Ohio could not sign contracts with construction companies for work on a \$12.8 million medical science building at Ohio State University.

Discriminatory hiring practices permitted by the contractors were given as the reason for the court ban. Judge Kenneary had ruled that the state had the primary responsibility for insuring that Negroes have equal job opportunity on all public works contracts.

ROY WILKINS, NAACP executive director, called the ruling a "landmark decision" that could result in equal job opportunity for Negroes across the country in public construction.

"It is a precedent for every state and for the federal government in all of its building programs," said Wilkins, who urged NAACP branches to make sure the decision's effects were felt nationwide.

Another May 17 court decision could release Adam Clayton Powell from "exile" in Bimini.

Powell's lawyers said the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court upholds their view that the courts can put the ousted Congressman back into office, despite the currently held notion that the judiciary cannot interfere in Congress' "internal" affairs.

The lawyers, in a brief filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals, noted that the Supreme Court had ruled, in *Dombrowski vs. Eastland* on May 17, that Congressional immunity did not protect Julian Sourwine, staff director for James O. Eastland's Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, from a damage suit.

James Dombrowski filed the suit against Sourwine for an allegedly illegal raid conducted by Sourwine and Louisiana authorities.

The lawyers were seeking to overturn the action of U.S. District Court Judge George Hart, Jr., who had ruled that the judiciary branch of the government could not tell Congress how to run its "internal" affairs.

This was a reference to Powell's exclusion by the House of Representatives for alleged improprieties.

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turn being coached in acting by Burr and will probably snare some roles in Burr's new series. Ron Pinkard is indeed a talented--and fortunate--young man and is but another of the bright, aggressive young Negroes penetrating the glitter and tinsel-shrouded world of Hollywood.

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