

Judy Tosses Monkey Wrench

By MARIE TORRE

The popular notion that "everybody loves Judy Garland" requires a bit of revision this week because the whole CBS network is cutting her out of its circuit in that way from her contract, has found some cause to regard Judy as no darling. Nothing personal, mind you.

It's just that CBS executives, acclimated though they are to the temperamental outbursts and idiosyncrasies of video luminaries, has run out of patience trying to get a straight answer from the little woman as to when she'll turn in a "spectacular" night's work.

Her night was earmarked for February, as per contract, but now that date's gone down the drain and the CBS men offer no hope that there'll be a Judy-Garland spectacular at all.



JUDY GARLAND

"It's a mess" was the way one network executive described the discord. "We've had half a dozen meetings with Judy and we tossed around half a dozen ideas, but she won't make up her mind about anything. We just think she doesn't want to work. As late as Tuesday was ready to forget the whole thing."

Sounds unbelievable, but Judy apparently is unaware of the nature of the network's toying take.

Her husband and business administrator, Sid Luft, calmly attributed the delay of the Garland show to the fact that "they're not ready at CBS" and he further explained that they're still "talking about the show. He advised that Judy possibly will leave her jump-in-a-theatrical songs on TV in March.

But that March show was news to CBS, where one spokesman was firmly convinced that Judy, who is known for a highly developed inferiority complex, doesn't "want to work because something is bothering her."

Asked to clarify the TV man's attitude, he nodded vaguely and said: "I don't know, but I wouldn't be surprised if it's because she thinks she's terribly fat."

Marie Torre

'They Took a Blue Note' Tells History of Jazz—On Odyssey

"Odyssey" today presents a jazz roots study of jazz evolution from the field "blues" of southern slaves to the bands that parade through the streets of New Orleans.

The program, 5 p.m. over WDRB-TV, has found a living museum to express the early days of Negro music which grew into the blues. Horace Spott, a 68-year-old direct descendant of African stock sold on the slave block, is a repository of the music of the South.

At one time, there were many men like Horace Spott. Now they're gone, and he alone remains. The old farmer, who works unquestioningly in the fields for two weeks in order to collect a hard-earned few dollars, has had time to do the battered wooden porch of cabin and recall the journey of a people and their music.

Horace Spott, along with the brass bands that are manned by generation after generation of backwoods Negroes and the railroads' gandy dancers, provides the spark which brings to life a museum display of the history of American music. "They Took a Blue Note" is the story of jazz development.

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Advertisement for Venetian Blinds, featuring 'Live' TONIGHT—Sunday, January 13—from New York the GILBERT SHOW starring DINAH SHORE with ART CARNEY, STUBBY KAYE, COUNT BASIE and his orchestra and special guest PERRY COMO. 9:00 P.M.—CHANNEL 10—WLSL-TV

Either Black or White Ralph Story's Success Tip: Answers, Card Must Agree

NEW YORK (NEA)—Ralph Story, MC of "The \$64,000 Challenge" believes he knows the secret of success in his new profession. "If the contestant gives me an answer that's on my card, he's right. If he gives me an answer that's NOT on my card, he's wrong. It's either right or wrong, black or white. That's all."

IT WASN'T THAT EASY for the tall, good-looking Story to decide whether or not he'd take the job in the first place.

The producers of the program had been after him for two years to come to New York and audition, first for "The \$64,000 Challenge" and then for the present show. "I kept explaining," Ralph says, "that I had a contract and a show. I didn't like New York. But they kept calling, every six months or so. I had a card drawn across their interest in his handling of a summer replacement TV show, a thing called "What Have You Got in Common" which he did for 13 weeks in 1954. That was the sum total of his TV experience before "The \$64,000 Challenge" (10 a.m. Sundays, WDRB-TV). But it was enough for the show's producers.

What made him give in? "They corrupted me by being nice to me," he smiles. They flew him (and his son) to New York. They auditioned him (and since he didn't care, he projected in the casual manner they wanted). They let him go back to California and hike through the Sierras for two weeks with his son. On the trip, he made up his mind. So far, he isn't sorry.



RALPH STORY

Doctor's Son Has Great Time Emceeing TV Cartoon Series

'Uncle Looney' A Lazy Jeter

By JESSE CHAPMAN

A low-slung sports car weaves through morning traffic in suburban Roanoke. It is school time and as the rooster nears a school zone youngsters lift a hand and exchange a greeting with the driver.

They call out merrily "Hi, Uncle Looney!" or "Hello Looney!"

Thomas J. Hughes Jr. describes this bit of weekday drama. "I have a warm acquaintance with children on my way to work."

For Tom, as many people know and many do not, is Uncle Looney from the country character who emcees the cartoon series on television 15:30 p.m. weekdays over WLSL-TV.

I leave the true identity of Uncle Looney up to the children," he says.

This means the program has done nothing to encourage viewers to think Uncle Looney is a character or out. It is something the program has had to do since its attempt to cover up or embellish.

When children write in to him Tom, in reply, tries to preserve their apparent desire to believe Uncle Looney is a farmer living in a mountainous area.

But, as with the waving children, the word has gotten around except for many of the very young.

TOM DOES A professional job in his "other act." His speaking voice, the dialogue, managements and costume add to the authentic ring of the part. Looney is designed to play.

There is no continuity written or memorized for the cartoon ad-libs through the 50 minutes except for notes on film titles or on the program.

One would think Tom is straight from the country. His expression and the authentic rural variety. But it belies his real background. He is a Roanoke native, son of a physician.

"I guess I picked up Looney while visiting my grandparents in North Carolina (farmer as a father-in-law) he explained.

But the real truth now is in the fact that Tom is an actor.

He says Uncle Looney came to "Tobacco Road," adding that Looney is a cleaned up version of the original character, the play's god-for-nothing male lead. "Looney is a lazy, tired jeter," Tom said.

Tom once had a part in "Tobacco Road" in a company playing on a Lake Michigan shore.

Disbelieving Looney's description, Tom explains Looney is an old man while he, Tom is 45. Looney is also somewhat of a pre-farmer with the show-in-through, such as the time he told his seven-year-old daughter she was saving from trees.

One would think Looney's dialect could not be "manufactured." Tom says he didn't know what the voice switch was going to be until the first show was on the air as he had not tried it out before going on camera.

A rubber sponge piece under his upper lip may help. The role he plays is easy, sometimes a bit monotonous, he says.

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR of WLSL-TV, Tom is not seen on television other than the Looney skit.

His career in entertainment began in 1935 when he went to New York to study for the stage. He worked at odds and ends, doing some radio work with Bob Barter (Theater's director of the time).

Tom played an elderly hillbilly on that show. His first job on the stage was a part in a little play, "Entre Nous," staged in Williams' Village. In the cast were Marian Butler, another Roanoke native, and Van Johnson, well-known stage and film actor. It was Van's first show.

Tom went with Barter for a while and returned to New York where he was cast in Orson Welles' "Julius Caesar" and had a bit part in "Marching Song."

The "Tobacco Road" run on the showboat came next but the vessel was wrecked by a Coast Guard cutter.

'Plink, Plank, Plunk' Add odd songs titles: Name of the theme used on Garry Moore's "Live On A Secret" program Wednesday nights is "Plink, Plank, Plunk," composed by Leroy Anderson.

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"UNCLE LOONEY TOON"

Guard ship, ending the play's run.

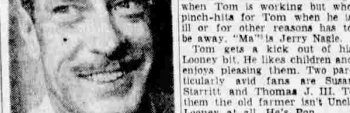
The young actor joined a studio in Connecticut, working with Hurd Hatfield, among others.

Back home in Roanoke in 1946, he joined WLSL, became news editor for radio and did some line jockey work. The former actor who emcees the cartoon series on television 15:30 p.m. weekdays over WLSL-TV.

Tom says makeup for the Looney role is easier than it appears. He combs his own moustache down, dons a wig, adds makeup, a checkered shirt and a pair of overalls. He slips in that rubber lip piece and he's ready to go.

HE GIVES credit to "Ma," mythical character backstage when Tom is working but who nonchalance for Tom when he is ill or for other reasons has to be away. "Ma" is Jerry Nagle.

Tom gets a kick out of his Looney bit. He likes children and enjoys pleasing them. Two particularly avid fans are Susan Sarritt and Thomas J. III. To them the old farmer isn't Uncle Looney at all. He's Pop.

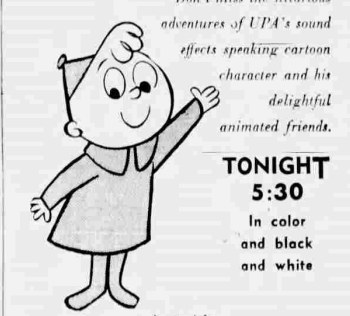


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See It On Seven THE BOING-BOING SHOW

Don't miss the hilarious adventures of UPA's sound effects speaking cartoon character and his delightful animated friends.



TONIGHT 5:30 In color and black and white

6:00 TELEPHONE TIME John Smith tells the story of Army Captain Raymond S. Holt who was engaged in an epic battle with World War II.

6:30 AIR POWER Using Air Force and captured German film, the dramatic attack "Schindler" is depicted.

7:00 LASSIE Lassie gets the full treatment at a canine beauty shop.

7:30 JACK BENNY Jack Benny and dogs to appear again in his show.

8:00 THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW Ed Sullivan gets off on star guests (including Ingeborg Berg, Fernando Carr, Professor Baskin, a Danish comedian and the Ballet School of Bernini).

9:00 ELECTRIC THEATRE "Gear" Gordon stars in "The Lizard," a story of blackmail.

9:30 ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS A feature story of a woman who brought attention to her beauty regimen, a corpse from her apartment was left "Nightmare In 4-D."

Radio Programs

Programs furnished by stations, are published as a service to readers as a check to broadcast schedules.

Table of radio programs including stations like WDRB, CBS, WVA, and various time slots from 5:30 AM to 11:30 PM.

TELEVISION KEY

WDRB-TV-CBS Roanoke, WVA-TV-NBC Roanoke, WVA-TV-CBS Roanoke, WVA-TV-CBS Roanoke.

Table of television programs including stations like WDRB-TV, CBS, WVA-TV, and various time slots from 5:30 AM to 11:30 PM.

Television Programs

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Out-of-Town TV Stations

Denotes Color Program

Table listing out-of-town TV stations such as WBY-TV-Charlotte, N.C., WBSB-TV-Bristol, Va., WISN-TV-Minnesota, Wis., and WDRB-TV-Richmond, Va.

Raid on Schweinfurt Retold on 'Air Power'

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—One of the major aerial targets of World War II, the raid on "Schweinfurt" is retold on "Air Power" today at 6:30 over WDRB-TV.

This is a story told of a single mission. The men, brave, they dress, they eat breakfast. They are briefed, get into their planes and fly to Schweinfurt. They take losses, bomb the target and return.

Copenhagen's botanical gardens will soon have a "coldhouse" where Arctic plants will be grown for study and research.

Better Work Greater Safety Faster Progress

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