

Wednesday, May 14, 1958

LEND ME YOUR EARS:

Famed Gubbio Festival Is Celebrated Tomorrow

TRAVELERS WHO WILL BE IN THE VICINITY OF Perugia tomorrow are urged to note the fact that one of the most colorful civic-religious festivals held in Italy will take place on that day in the town of Gubbio.

Every May 15, the eve of the feast-day of their patron, St. Ubaldo, the citizens of Gubbio celebrate the so-called "Festa del Ceri," a day-long carnival that awakens the town from its habitual torpid silence. It is a day of merrymaking and shouting and bell-ringing, in which the townsfolk's interest is focussed on three enormous tall towers of shiny black wood, the cherished "ceri" of Gubbio. About noon these towers are raised in the Piazza del Consoli and are then raced up and down the narrow streets on the backs of Gubbio's sturdy citizens. The climax of the Festa del Ceri comes toward sundown when the three heavy towers are borne, at three speed and amid great excitement, up the steep slope of Mt. Ingino to St. Ubaldo's basilica.

The festival goes back to Gubbio's distant Etruscan past, and it is thought that the towers were originally grain compartments to celebrate a rite of spring — hence the name "ceri," referring not to wax candles, which is what the word means in modern Italian, but to the goddess Ceres herself.

Told By The Tiber

Baby-sitting problems now lie ahead for Frank Guzzardo of Pan American's Rome office and wife Pauline, who yesterday morning at 4:30 became the parents of an eight-pound baby boy at Salvatore Mundi Hospital. Congratulations are in order. U.S. Ambassador James D. Zellerbach yesterday flew back to Rome from Paris — via Pan Am. Pope Pius XII on Monday received in private audience America's famous television preacher, Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, auxiliary bishop of New York. The Maharajah of Cochin-Bihar arrived in Rome Monday and found lodging at the Excelsior. Canadian artist-photographer Roloff Beny will leave Rome Friday for London and the launching of his long-in-preparation volume on the Mediterranean area, "The Thrones of Earth and Heaven," for which Rose Macaulay, Stephen Spender, Jean Cocteau, Freya Stark and Bernhard Berenson have written forewords. Thames & Hudson, his publishers, will throw a midnight champagne party or "Mediterranean festa" for Beny on the day of publication, June 5. Prince Nicolò Aragona Pignatelli Cortes, director general of Gulf Italia, will speak today at 5:30 on petroleum research at the Banco di Roma, 3 Via Lata, under the auspices of the Centro Italiano per la Riconciliazione Internazionale. There's music in the office: Capri citizens Gracie Fields and her husband Boris Alperovich embark at Naples today from the Independence. Joe Napoli, producer of the Jazz West Coast show, arrived in Rome yesterday in advance of the Platters — who'll perform at the

Teatro Sistina for two days only — Saturday and Sunday. "Nun's Story" news niblets: actress Miff Dunne, her chores finished, flew home yesterday via Sabena by way of Brussels. She'll do summer stock on the East Coast, thus exchanging her wimple for a straw hat. A new member of the film's cast is Britain's Jeannette Biedt, who'll play Audrey Hepburn's sister. She's due in today from Portugal with husband Keith Michell. And Paris couturier Hubert de Givenchy is due back this week with Miss Hepburn's new wardrobe of 17 dresses — including one sack.

Art Notes

Laurance P. Roberts, director of the American Academy of Rome, and Mrs. Roberts have sent out invitations to the opening of the annual spring showing of works in painting, sculpture and architecture — by members of the academy — to be held this afternoon at 5:30. The show will be open to the public starting tomorrow, and until May 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Irene Brin and Gaspero De Corso's Obelisco Gallery on Via Sistina an exhibit of paintings by Balhaus, Paris-born but of Polish extraction, whose full name is Balchazar Klossowski de Rola, most recently exhibited at New York's Museum of Modern Art. A show of portraits by Giberto Severi, whom Giorgio De Chirico has compared to Clouet and Holbein, opens tomorrow at Derna and Vittoria Frattina. Severi's sitters include such well-known folk as dancer Serge Lifar, guitarist Andres Segovia, actresses May Britt and Anna Maria Ferrero, poet Forze Gen, Giuseppe Casero. . . . another of this afternoon's openings is the exhibit of pastels and etchings — shown for the first time in Italy — by the famous German-born French abstractionist, Hans Hartung, at Segno Gallery on V.le Capo le Case. . . . still another new showing is that of Sante Monachesi — mostly paintings of Paris — at the Russo Gallery in Piazza di Spagna.

Vicenza Varia

Maj. Alfred J. Roth has been made new battalion commander of the 570th Field Artillery Missile Battalion in Vicenza, succeeding Lt. Col. Leslie O. Doan, who has been assigned to SHAPE. . . . new executive officer of the battalion is Maj. Vincent F. Luceri, whose last assignment in SETAF was supply officer for the Vicenza post. . . . newly elected officer of the Vicenza Officers Wives Club are Mrs. Ellen Hesse, succeeding Mrs. Leon Crenshaw as president; Mrs. Dolores Orr, vice president; Mrs. Priscilla Booth, treasurer; Mrs. Mo-

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RICE-THRESHING DANCE — Members of the Philippine Bayanihan troupe who have enchanted Rome audiences with their dashing and colorful presentation of their country's folk dances go

through (above) one of their gentler-tempored numbers, a rice-threshing dance. On their way to the Brussels World Fair, they will perform in a number of European cities.

Elizabeth Taylor Personally Answers Condolence Notes

Elizabeth Taylor, assistant treasurer; Mrs. Virgil Pickering, recording secretary; and Mrs. Betsy Stallman, corresponding secretary. . . . Brig. Gen. Harold K. Johnson, chief of staff of the 7th U.S. Army, last week addressed a Vicenza chapter meeting of the U.S. Army Europe Protestant Men of the Chapel, of which he is president. Col. Thomas D. Gillis introduced the general.

If you have any news for "Lend Me Your Ears," please telephone Rome: 587.115 between 1 and 5 p.m. or write to 8 Via Dandolo, Rome, Italy.

Israel Orders Ship

JERUSALEM, May 13 (UP) — A contract for construction of a 46,000-ton tanker was signed here yesterday by Israeli Transport Minister Moshe Carmel and representatives of the Urugu Shipbuilding Company of Yokohama.

American Club Lunch Will Be Held Today

The monthly luncheon meeting of the American Club of Rome will be held today at the Grand Hotel at 1 p.m. It is being held on Wednesday because tomorrow, Ascension Thursday, is a religious holiday in Italy. All U.S. Embassy offices will be closed for a half day holiday.

HOLLYWOOD, May 13 (AP) — Since March 22, when Mike Todd's private plane crashed in the New Mexico mountains, his beautiful widow Elizabeth Taylor has averaged about 2,000 letters of condolence per day.

Each is being answered by card or personal note from the British-born actress herself.

Liz, now immersed in work, spends almost all of her spare time on hand-written notes to personal friends who sent flowers or otherwise expressed sorrow.

Physically and mentally, she has bounced back from the tragic shock although she occasionally suffers a bad night reliving the horror of receiving the news. Her work in her current picture, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," is little help; it deals much with impending death.

Among the first scenes when she returned to work was one in which she went to an airport to meet Big Daddy (Burl Ives) as he returned in his private plane.

One visit that cheered her was an unannounced call from Greta Garbo, long an idol. Garbo recalled that the last time she had seen Liz was when both worked on the same lot. Liz was 12 at the time.

Liz has found much solace in her brother, Howard, and his wife, who live at La Jolla.

She had planned to retire from the movies within the next year, but Mike's death has removed the reason for that.

She and Michael Todd Jr. have held a series of business conferences about the future of the Todd enterprises. The decision was to carry on in the Todd tradition, even to the production of "Don Quixote," which young Todd first had wanted to forget.

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CLOSED SUNDAYS



THE WIND AND THE COIN — A frequent mistake in the drawing of sailing ships was the cause of the delay and re-coining of the Italian 500 lire (80 cents) scudo. On left is the original scudo coined last year showing caravels in full sail with the flags fluttering in a direction opposite to that of the wind filling the sails. When the error was detected, about 1,000 such coins had already entered circulation and are now considered rarities. In the new coin, shown at right, the flags flutter in the right direction. (UP photo)

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