Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Roma



# Lend me your Ears

By RACHAEL BAUMEL

**SOUNDS OF WILDLY HONKING HORNS** and riotous people brought our ancient Roman Claudius Calperus back to his former home once again last night. And the second century wine merchant besought to know what was causing all the confusion. "The spot where the ancient stadium of Domitian once stood is jammed with people who look gay enough to attend a gladiatorial contest but are standing around eating candy, blowing toy horns and buying strange-looking colored globes. And everywhere I turn I see an apparition with a long white beard dressed in a bright red costume.

"Suddenly, too, the city seems to have acquired many more trees than on my last visit only about a month or so ago. I know that this modern civilization of yours is very advanced, but can they now grow whole forests in just a few weeks. What is all this? Can it mean another of these modern festivals or is it just some strange new idea?"

"No, Cladius," we explained soothingly. "This is the time of Christmas, and its observance dates from just after the time you left Rome for the Elysian fields. Actually it started even before you lived in Rome — with the birth of a Baby nineteen hundred and fifty-five years ago in one of the Roman colonies — Judea. For his religion spread, gradually conquering Rome, its Empire and much of the rest of the world."

"Are you talking about the Christians that we tried so hard to stamp out?"

"Yes, and it was just after your time, around 200 A.D. that the observance of Christmas — or Christ's Mass — started. It has changed a lot since then, especially the observance in America across the sea. The English (which you have heard of as the barbarians in the land of Britannia, which the Romans conquered) started the custom of giving gifts on this day, the Germans added the idea of the tree, the English in America adopted Saint Nicholas from the Dutch as Santa Claus, but the idea hasn't changed.

"It's an idea that even after almost 2,000 years hasn't completely come to pass — but the whole world hopes that 'peace on earth, good will to men' will some day soon become a reality." And with this Claudius nodded his head and disappeared, but he was saying softly "peace, goodwill" as he departed.

**ROMAN MEANDERINGS:** The influx of folks who've come to the Eternal City for Christmas just about balances the exodus of those who've left for other spots for the holidays. Among visitors here is **John Gordon**, editor of the London Sunday Express and a director of the Beaverbrook newspaper group. **Gordon**, who's here with his wife and a friend of his wife's, **Mrs Hilda May Salvesen**, said they decided that instead of having Christmas pudding, they'd eat some of the cake of Rome. Questioned about the situation with the Labor party now that **Hugh Gaitskell** has taken **Clement Attlee's** place, **Gordon** replied that he felt it was always a good idea when old men fade away and young ones come in. And when asked about **Aneurin Bevan**, he said that although **Bevan's** in the background for a bit, he'll pop up again. **Gordon**, incidentally, got a very good look at American politics in action in 1952, when he attended both the Republican and Democratic conventions in Chicago, found them very diverting. He even got used to Chicago's 102 heat, liked the town very much — felt it was good, exciting, rambunctious and dangerous . . . and speaking of Englishmen, novelist **Graham Greene** was in town briefly, left last night to spend Christmas with friends in the South, returns to Rome Wednesday or Thursday . . . **John Cameron Swazey** and the family slated to arrive here the end of the week . . . ditto **Jose Iturbi**, who's expected Saturday at the Excelsior . . . France's blonde bombshell **Martine Carol** will be at the Residence Palace the 10th.

**AROUND TOWN:** Rome Opera season gets underway tomorrow night at 9 with a gala performance of Handel's "Julius Caesar," featuring both **Boris Christoff** and **Fedora Barbieri**. We're willing to bet that, like last year, it'll not only be a good musical evening, but one of the best fashion shows imaginable as Rome society turns out in its most elegant best . . . add Christmas note around town: several fancy creches (manger scenes) well worth seeing. One is at Santa Maria degli Angeli (entrance on Via Cernaia) and has been set up for the benefit of orphans and abandoned children; another is at the Church of San Bernardino da Siena in Via Panisperna (behind the Bank of Italy on Via Nazionale), (this one spotlights a vast panorama of the Palestinian world at the time of Christ) and of course there's the traditional one in Piazza Navona . . . There's a new public relations-fashion service in the Eternal City, Gaby—S. R. L. of Rome. Set up by four Americans—**Gaby Corvissiano, Hugh Gallagher, Jack Geiger** and **Chris Hofer**, it's not only designed to handle all kinds of publicity and public relations, but will also publish a monthly fashion bulletin and will have available a model agency, photographic studio, an auto driver service and a general information bureau. Offices are at 1-B Salita di San Nicolò da Tolentino.

**HERE & THERE: Capt. Raffaello Cecconi**, former student in the English language course for Italian Army officers, sends Christmas greetings from Ft. Sill . . . **Col.** and **Mrs Emery Hyde** of NATO threw a real Christmas Eve at home party at their Naples apartment last night, complete with groaning board, Tom and Jerrys and carolers. The guest list included: **Brig. Gen.** and **Mrs Louis W. Truman, Mr** and **Mrs E. P. Maffit** and daughter **Binky, Royal Navy Capt. Raymond Hart** and **Mrs Hart**, British Consul General **G. E. Stockley** and **Mrs Stockley**, U.S. **Consul General** and **Mrs J. E. Henderson, Count** and **Countess Giuseppe Comola, Capt.** and **Mrs Otic C. Gregg** (USN) **Capt.** and **Mrs C. D. Simmonson** (USN), **Capt.** and **Mrs F. M. Gambacorta** (USN) and many, many other guests. Among those unfortunately not present were **Col. Hyde's** parents, **Mr** and **Mrs C.F. Hyde** of Eugene, Oregon, who are touring Europe and the Near East. The **Hydes** were held up in the Jerusalem area, where they're reported to be during the Christmas period . . . Universal-International vp **Americo Aboaf** and the missus, currently at the Flora, PAA to New York Tuesday . . . **Mrs Sim Christy** III, secretary of the Roswell Museum, Roswell, N.M., on her way to the States on American Export Lines' Independence . . . show of paintings by **Aldo Raimondi** opens at the San Marco Gallery Tuesday, continues through Jan. 7 . . . American composer **Lukas Foss** headed USward yesterday after playing a Bach concerto on RAI's Christmas concert. Was supposed to play his own piano concerto, but the music didn't arrive in time.


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**SLOE-EYED MAY BRITT waves as she boards SAS plane for Stockholm. She will spend Christmas in her native Sweden, where temperature was reported at 15 below zero.**

## ROME CALENDAR

### MUSIC

**TEATRO DELL'OPERA** — Opening of 1955-56 opera season, with "Giulio Cesare" (Julius Caesar), by Handel; Gianandrea Gavazzeni, conductor; tomorrow niht at 9.

**TEATRO ARGENTINA** — Santa Cecilia Orchestra symphony concert; Fernando Previtali, conductor (Perosi's "Transitus Animae"); tomorrow afternoon at 5:30.

### EXHIBITS

**EXPOSITION PALACE**, Via Nazionale — Seventh National Quadriennal of Roman Art. Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. To run till April.

**SCHNEIDER GALLERY**, 10 Rampa Mignanelli — Woodcuts and drawings by Pulitzer Prize winner James Wines; paintings by Hallmark Art Award winner Mario Toppi. Hours: 11-1; 4:30-8; closed Sundays.

**OBELISCO GALLERY**, 146 Via Sistina — "Trip Around the World," international group shop. Hours: 11-9; closed Sundays. Through Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS GALLERY**, 22/b Via Lazio — 2,000 Years of Chinese Art. Hours: 10:30-1:30; 3:30-8:30. Through Saturday.

**27 VIA FRATTINA** — Watercolors and oils by Bernard Le Clercq. Hours: 10-1, 4-8. Through Saturday.

**ASTERISCO GALLERY**, 14 Via Vittoria (off Via del Babuino) — Works by Mara Bartoli. Hours 10-1; 5-8:30 daily; 10-1 Sundays.

**GALLERIA D'ARTE SELECTA**, 2 Via di Propaganda — Sketches and lithographs by contemporary Italian and foreign masters (De Chirico, Guttuso, Modigliani, Matisse, Picasso, Miro, Chagall, etc.). Through Friday.

**GALLERIA LA CASSAPANCA**, 107/a Via del Babuino — Works by Trevisan. Through Jan. 3.

### FILMS

**FIAMMETTA THEATER**, 3 Via San Nicolò da Tolentino — "To Catch a Thief," with Cary Grant and Grace Kelly. Today at 5:30, 7:45 and 10 p.m. Telephone 470.464.

**ARCOBALENO THEATER**, Palazzo di Vetro, Via XX Settembre — "The Man from Laramie," with James Stewart, Arthur Kennedy, Donald Crisp. Today at 6, 8 and 10 p.m. Telephone 470.470.

### SPORTS EVENTS

**DOG RACES** — At Cinodromo Rondinella; every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday afternoon at 4.

**TROTTING RACES** — At Villa Glori; tomorrow and Thursday at 2:30.

### CLUB MEETINGS

**ROTARY CLUB** meets every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.; dinner at the Excelsior.

### ZOO

**GIARDINO ZOOLOGICO**, Villa Borghese — Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

### NIGHT CLUBS

**BOITE PIGALLE**, 77 Via dell'Umiltà, near Teatro Quirino. Night club, floor show. Telephone 62.274.

**FLORIDA**, 18 Via Fr. Crispi (Largo Tritone) — Nightly shows, dancing. Telephone 471.406.

**JICKY CLUB - RUPE TARPEA** — 13 Via Veneto — Night club, floor show, dancing. Telephone 470.481.

**KIT KAT**, 28 Via Liguria, near Via Veneto — Floor show, dancing. Telephone 487.242.

**LA BIBLIOTECA VALLE**, 9 Largo Teatro Valle — Night club, dancing, restaurant. Telephone 551.292.

**MILLELUCI**, 77-78 Via Nazionale — Floor show every night. Telephone 471.452.

**NIRVANETTA**, 27 Via Maroniti (Largo Tritone) — Nightly shows. Telephone 681.933.

**OPEN GATE CLUB**, 3 Via S. Nicolò da Tolentino — International floor show, dancing. Telephone 481.625.

# BROADWAY

By WILLIAM HAWKINS

NEW YORK, Dec. 24—The widely heralded Magnani vehicle "The Rose Tattoo," opened on Broadway as a particularly fancy benefit for the Actors Studio. Tickets were $50 for the picture, and a ball to follow. It was all very dressy, studded with front page names. In order to bait late customers with upstairs tickets, the Studio cannily seated Marilyn Monroe on one aisle there, and Marlon Brando on the other.

The picture was in every way a success. Miss Magnani does everything in the entire vocabulary of acting, and all of it superlatively.

"Rose Tattoo" on celluloid is overwhelming in its noise and violent action, a relentless evening that requires stamina to watch. Marisa Pavan is perfectly lovely as the star's daughter.

The opera has one outstanding peculiarity, in the performance of Burt Lancaster as the truck driving lover. This character is long on brawn and short on brain. Lancaster gives a strange imitation of a young Lon Chaney, grotesque and resourceless, but so strange that it is actually more remarkable than bad.

At the close of the film, police opened a channel in the Broadway crowd, so the audience could trip down the sidewalk from the Astor Theater to the Astor Hotel, and up to the roof for supper.

The food was a strictly Yankee style Italian dish, which baffled more people than it piqued appetites. The entertainment was also puzzling.

Magnani had not been able to stay for the premiere. On the bill were Mary Martin and her daughter, Heller Halliday, doing some duets, Hermione Gingold, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, and Abe Burrows.

A likely list, that. But it was rebutted by a recalcitrant mike, and the fact that in the long narrow room, the artists play facing a scattered few guests, while the bulk of their audience stretches out on each side of them as far as the eye can see.

Downtown, the Phoenix offered a one night stand of "Venice Preserv'd," and the Rooftop presented Aristophanes' "Thesmophoriazusae," in a high schoolish production which is unlikely to last much longer.

Behind the public scenes, along the street, Dr. Gaylord Hauser was catching up on shows, having returned from Taormina. Bandleader and Mrs Meyer Davis gave a Christmas party in honor of Shirley Booth, whose "Desk Set" continues to sell out. A fabulous informal floorshow featured Miss Booth, Katherine Dunham, and Ray Bolger, who has been away from Manhattan too long.


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## Santa's Pennies Pay Off For Kids

The shiny new pennies that Santa Claus used to put in the bottom of the stockings have gathered interest this season for the Italian youngsters who are aided by the Foster Parents Plan for War Children, Inc.

Mrs Elma Baccanelli Laurenzi, plan director for Italy, disclosed yesterday that by the time the holiday is over more than 18,000,000 lire (about $28,800) will have been distributed among Foster Parents' children in Italy.

The average cash gift is about $15, but there have been several of $1,000, and one boy will find a check for 1,250,000 lire under his Christmas tree to insure his college education in engineering. Another older boy will get 625,000 lire to open a small store in Southern Italy.

The cash has come from every state in the U.S., and from Alaska, Hawaii and Canada.

Other gifts include six new bicycles, eight new sewing machines and hundreds of dolls, all prepared and personally packed by American foster parents for their foster children in all sections of Italy.


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