



Lend me your Ears

By SAM'L STEINMAN

COALS TO NEWCASTLE: It takes the craziest people to succeed in this world. When we met a fellow named Harold Steinman who was bringing the "Skating Vanities" with a traveling company of 38 Americans to Rome, we listened.

When he told us the piece of resistance of the production was "Dancing Waters," a water display with a special fountain, we couldn't help feeling the man was a little off-base. The very idea of bringing a fountain to Rome! We went to the arena to scoff and we came away applauding; but more amazing the fountain-wise Roman audience was overwhelmed and it gave more applause to the fountain than to the live performers, who were plenty good on roller skates, on bikes, on trapezes and on trampolines — in their own right. Right handsome show and well-costumed but the fountain interested us.

Producer Steinman used to be a boxing manager but later Joe Louis knocked out his two most prominent clients, King Levinsky and John Paychek, he looked about for a new line of endeavor. Thirteen years ago he found it in the "Skating Vanities" and there has been a new edition every year — this is the fifth European tour and the first visit to Rome. On one of these tours in West Berlin he met Otto Prystawik who had invented a special kind of fountain. He obtained the world rights and now he has 19 of them all over the world. Presently 10 are in American sites and others in Rome, Copenhagen, Tokyo and elsewhere. The fountain is an expensive operation and it is in "Skating Vanities" only because the producer owns the rights. Usually it is shown at fairs in a tent as a single attraction.

It has grossed as much as \$35,000 in a fortnight. At the first Texas State Fair showing it took in \$80 the first day at half a dollar a head and on the eighth day the take had risen to \$6,000. Our guess is the same will happen in Rome as soon as word of mouth gets around.

The varied sprays, lights and music are controlled by a console. Frank Ventry of N.Y.'s Roxy Theater scored the music, Gae Foster planned the lighting and the presentation was worked out by Leon Leonidoff of N.Y.'s Radio City Music Hall where it has had two four-week engagements. The live orchestra joins with the recorded one in the finale, John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever." We told Steinman about Respighi's "Fountains of Rome" and he dashed off to look into it. It may be added to the score before they leave Rome for San Remo.

VIAWISE: Who's in Rome? Henry Morgenthau Jr., former secretary of the Treasury at the Flora; Dorothy Mitchum and her two children, without actor husband Robert, will go to Venice after a couple of days. Lone's team of Tom Morgan and Bob Lerner will make their TWAY to Bombay for their "Project India" series with UCLA study group; Playwright Harry Irving at Massimo d'Azeglio. Laura Kaufmann's visit here is half over but the trunk she shipped on May 2 has still to arrive. It was found in Rio de Janeiro whence it was sent by mistake. It's a practical European

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THEATER'S FIRST LADY — Helen Hayes leaves for America today after a two-day stay here following her appearance in the Paris production of "The Skin of Our Teeth." With her in Rome were husband Charles MacArthur and son James. Miss Hayes visited with author Anita Loos while in Florence.

honeymoon for the Allan Lubell — she's the ballerina Roberta Onigman of "Oklahoma!" is Sir Laurence Olivier and his wife, Vivien Leigh, are vacationing at San Vigilio on Lake Garda not far from Milan. Maxine Darland of WMT-TV, Cedar Rapids, and Del MacArthur of WRGB-TV, Albany, N.Y., are among a group of radio and Tvers who are touring Europe and taping interviews — in Rome they're doing an audience with the Pope, Fontana, Alfredo and Via Veneto.

ART: The summer salon of the Galleria San Marco is sort of a long look. It presents the work of most of the good contemporary artists who are not tied to particular galleries. The paintings are by 31 different painters and sculptors, most of whom work in Rome today.

IN THE ROMAN GLOAMING: Rossano Brazzi, who landed in Le Havre yesterday, has landed the prize plum in show business. He will be Emile de Beque, the French planter, in the film version of "South Pacific." He returns to Rome after a week in Paris. As soon as Pamela Britton completes her run in "Oklahoma!" here she returns to Hollywood to film the "Blondie" (see page 8) TV series for Hal Roach. Her husband, auto dealer Art Steele, who is with her, has been getting phone calls intended for Al Steele, Joan Crawford's husband, who was also here. Patrick Crean who did so well in the role of the detective in "Dial M for Murder" at the Playhouse of Rome has been added to the "War and Peace" cast. American actor Kevin McCarthy spent 24 hours in Rome last week to make a test for the same film before he flew to Johannesburg where he will make a series for American TV. John Presmont has delayed his plans for "Basin Street" to make a trip home which may keep him away for the rest of the year.

LET'S READ POSTERS: "Open-mindedness to the Left" shows caricature of Socialist leader Pietro Nenni opening a door as a bully boy labeled "PCI" (Italian Communist Party) enters. Text quotes communists: "The two parties recognize the necessity of agreeing on proper political initiative and the coordination of their respective activities. In this field they agree to seek a protective accord for all governmental activity — parliamentary and communal." It is issued by the Civic Committee. . . The Roman Committee of Peace, a Communist front, plastered the town with green pictures of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, stating "Rome salutes Pandit Nehru, representative of the Indian people, ardent opponent of atomic armed intervention, messenger of political peace and concord, from all the people." . . . Most colorful poster announced the nationwide Festival of the Mountains which took place last Sunday. It showed a blue and green mountain background.

Italian Storms Kill 13 In 5 Days

King-Sized Ancient Drinking Urn Discovered In Syracuse

(By The United Press)

Lightning brought Italy's weather deaths to 13 in five days by killing a man who was riding a motorscooter in front of a Napoleon memorial. The man, who carried no identification papers, was struck by lightning in the historical village of Marengo, Piedmont, as he was riding past a monument commemorating Napoleon's victory over the Austrians in 1800.

Violent storms raging all over northern Italy caused widespread damage, a number of houses collapsed in Cornellano D'Alba, 35 miles south of Turin, where 120 houses were flooded by a cloudburst. Damage in the area was estimated at 30,000,000 lire (\$48,000). A shipment of thirty tons of peaches was covered by a foot of mud.

SYRACUSE, July 12 — A huge drinking urn four feet seven inches high was found here in perfect condition. Archeologists so far have been unable to determine the exact date of the intricately worked urn.

Italians are growing unromantic. They are more interested in electronics than in the mysterious art of the ancient Etruscans. An eight-nation electronics exhibition which has just ended at Rome's international fair grounds drew 200,000 visitors in 16 days. A two-month Etruscan exhibition in Milan, the most complete display in the world of the art and civilization of the mystery people, also closed Sunday night. But although attendance was a record in this field, it was only 100,000.

ANCONA, July 12 — Angelini Chemical Works reported the theft of 1,140 grams of pure cocaine here.

ACQUI, July 12 — A polar bear ripped the arm of its woman trainer here last night to the frenzied excitement of an audience at the "Contino Show."

The bear's trainer, Loi Contin, was taken to hospital suffering multiple bruises and her right arm ripped by the bear which had suddenly jumped her during the performance. Her husband managed to calm the bear, otherwise she might have been killed.

A police non-com killed himself with a revolver shot to the temple in the Viminale Palace, the office of Premier Antonio Segni.

Police said Orlando Colletti, 43, committed suicide at his desk in the administrative office of police at the ministry of interior, housed in the same palace as the Premier's office.

Colleagues who heard the revolver shot rushed to the scene and found Colletti bleeding profusely from the head, but still alive. He died in hospital shortly afterwards despite an attempt to save his life through an operation.

Police said Colletti apparently killed himself because he was suffering from a serious heart disease, but they were investigating the possibility of other motives.

Forty Italian children left Italy for a vacation in Holland as guests of the Dutch Red Cross.

Four of the children left Rome on the Italian-Holland express. Six more boarded the train in Florence, 16 in Bologna and 14 in Milan.

The Dutch Red Cross invited the children to Holland to return the

hospitality given by the Italian Red Cross in 1953 and 1954 to children from flood areas in Holland.

PESCARA, July 12 (AP) — The horse finally has dominated the express train.

Passengers were standing at the station of Monte Silvano near here early this morning waiting for the express from Milan to come roaring in.

Instead they saw two horses snorting along the tracks at 30 miles an hour. A few minutes later the train rolled in, forced off schedule by the horses' refusal to leave the tracks. Police said the animals had been disturbed several miles up the line by the oncoming train, had hopped onto the tracks and run all the way to the station — while the train moved slowly behind them.

FLORENCE, July 12 (AP) — Two workmen died in hospital early today bringing the death toll from a

fertilizer factory explosion to five. Three victims were killed instantly at the time of the explosion late last night. Another four workmen were in grave condition.

LEGHORN, July 12 (AP) — A happy 17-year-old Italian mechanic has the money today for an operation he hopes will save his eyesight — thanks to a tangible demonstration of Italo-American friendship.

The youth, Benito Nota, works at Camp Darby, the U.S. Army base near here. He lost one eye in accident. Sight in the other began fading as a result of complications following polio. Doctors recommended an operation.

The base commander Col. Charles Williams of Trinity, Texas, heard of the case and started a fund-raising drive. Italian workers on the base raised \$60. The American Catholic Church raised nearly \$100 and the Protestant American Church raised \$150.

What's Going On In Rome

MUSIC

BATHS OF CARACALLA — Outdoor opera in spectacular setting of Roman ruins. "Norma," by Bellini; Gabriele Santini, conductor; tomorrow and Saturday nights at 9.

POLICA DI MASSENZIO — Symphony concert; Carlo Zecchi, conductor, pianist Eli Perotto (works of Schubert, Brahms, Franck, Tchaikovsky); tonight at 9:30.

THEATER

TEATRO QUATTRO FONTANE, 23, Via Quattro Fontane — "Oklahoma!" musical play by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, staged by Goubeau Mamoulian, choreography by Agnes de Mille, with a Broadway cast. Nightly at 9:15.

FORO ITALICO — "Skating Vanities of 1955," spectacle on roller-skates. Nightly at 9:15.

STADIUM OF DOMITIAN, Palatine Hill — Season of classical drama: "Coriolanus," by William Shakespeare, tonight at 9. To be followed by "Polyeucte," by Corneille and "Caio Gracchio," by Monti.

EXHIBITS

SCHNEIDER GALLERY, 10, Rampa Mignanello — Bronzes by Robert Laurent, sculptor in residence at the American Academy, and recent woodcuts by Adja Yunkers, Guggenheim Fellow. Hours: 11-1, 4:30-8; closed Sundays. Till July 20.

AMERICAN-ENGLISH FILMS
FIAMMETTA THEATER, 3, Via San Nicolò da Tolentino. Telephone 470.464.

SPORTS EVENTS

DOG RACES — At Cinesdromo della Rondinella, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday night at 9.

CLUB MEETINGS

AMERICAN CLUB OF ROME — Luncheon meeting; guest speaker: Gen. Giuseppe Mancinelli, chief of staff of the Italian Army; at the Grand Hotel tomorrow at 1. Members and guests.

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

ZOO

GIARDINO ZOOLÓGICO, Via Borgese — Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

NIGHT CLUBS

BELVEDERE DELLE ROSE, Via Cas-

American Club To Host Italian Army Chief

Gen. Giuseppe Mancinelli, chief of staff of the Italian Army, will be the speaker at the regular monthly luncheon of the American Club of Rome in the Grand Hotel at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

Ralph S. Fowler has urged all members to attend, not only to hear Mancinelli but to be present for a special event.

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