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SEEN AND HEARD AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN

Playboy Gets A Low Octane Rating

Via Venetopics: most embarrassing moment of the week—the local playboy who really ran out of gas halfway up the private road to Monte Cavo. His date still doesn't believe it . . . dance band in Victor's plays "Tea For Two" so well one can almost taste the lemon . . . songstress **Julie Andre**, who has sung and played her guitar in 23 countries, will give her first Rome concert the evening of Thursday, May 21, in the Teatro Arti, 57 Via Sicilia. Her program will include songs of South America, Spain, North America, France and Italy . . . playwright Prince **Rospigliosi** and Princess **Lady Rosenthal's** last-minute cable to friends in Rome before he took off from Paris wound up with the laconic plea, "ice martinis." He went from the plane to **Tony Pan-sera's** Cabala, precluding for one night at least any work on a new play . . . the remittance men on Via Veneto have a new dodge. On being served coffee during the hours of greatest confusion in the sidewalk cafes, they carefully tear the check in half and leave it exposed on the serving tray. This is a waiter's device for indicating the check has been paid . . . group of well known Italians have joined the New York committee of Boys' Towns to aid in the fund drive for Italian war orphans. **Countess Cleo-Morzoni** of Venice and Milan and **Count Ferdinando Sarmi** are among the Italian socialites who will help the campaign. The committee is sponsoring the opening of the new Italian film, "Ring Around The Clock," which takes place in New York next Monday night. Proceeds from the opening night will go to the Boys' Towns of Italy.

Pen Pal Time

Letters from Hong Kong and Fort Bombay, India, arrived almost simultaneously this week on the editor's desk, seeking correspondence with children in Italy.

"I shall be grateful if you will kindly furnish me with the names and addresses of high schools in your country," writer **An Kam Nin**, of 69 Hill Road, West Point, Hong Kong, "so that I shall be able to make contact with the heads of those schools to start a students' correspondence project between countries. The main purpose of this project is for promoting a better understanding among nations."

In the same vein writes **Mrs. C. A. Roch**, director of the International World Friends, 46 Cowasji Patel St., Fort Bombay, India.

"We have received hundreds of requests from Indian children for the names of young friends in other countries with whom they might correspond. We ask your cooperation to bring before the children of your country this appeal."

Names and addresses sent to the Indian address given above will reach an Indian boy or girl, who will correspond directly to his or her new pen pal.

They Come & Go

James S. Rockefeller, vice president of Pan Am and **Arthur Lanckton**, director of Socony Vacuum, arrived from New York via Pan Am . . . Hotel Hassler reports these visitors: **Philip (and Mrs.) Gersh**, artist, New York; **Charles (and Mrs.) Prevost**, Passaic, N. J.; **George (and Mrs.) Ridgway**, Mansfield, Ohio . . . registered at Hotel Flora: **French Loveland**, lawyer, New Gretna, N.J.; **George Dub**, New York engineer; **Paul Korody**, Los Angeles; **James Craig**, Canadian broker; **Harry Thom**, Chicago lawyer; **John Hoham**, farmer from Atcheson, Kas.; **Joseph Weix**, Beaver Dam, Wis. . . . Excelsior Palace Hotel at Perugia reports: **Dr. Eric (and Mrs. Gladys) Deutsch**, Lynwood, Calif., doing Franz Austria, Italy in their own car; **Mrs. Roy F. Cooper**, Lamar, Calif.; **Mrs. Belle B. Weil** and **Mrs. Margaret M. Sweet**, Los Angeles, on Mediterranean cruise . . . registered at the Ambassadors in Rome: **Isadore (and Mrs.) Kolodny**, Detroit; **John B. (and Mrs.) Hughes**, Richmond, Va.; **Theodore (and Mrs.) Goldfinger**, New York; **Delbert S. (and Mrs.) Prentice** and family, fruit shipper from Yakima, Wash.; **D. C. (and Mrs.) Kemp**, Hollywood . . . a delegation of 40 members of the Chamber of Commerce at Bangkok, headed by **Dr. Luang Chawengaak Songkram**, arrived by KLM plane, for a tour of Italy, following which they go to Paris for the international chamber meeting . . . the new Syrian minister to the Holy See, **Dr. Anuar Hatem**, came by BOAC plane from Damascus.

Cultural Notes

The British Council announces a talk by **Mrs. George Bridges** on "Christopher Marlowe," at the Council's headquarters, Palazzo del Drago, 20 Via Quattro Fontane, at 6 p.m., Friday . . . **Enrico Paolucci's** amusing paintings, described as "Momenti Sul Golfo Di Gaeta" (Moments on the Gulf of Gaeta), are being shown at Galleria dello Zodiaco, 18 Via Romagna, Rome . . . and **Giuditta Scalini's** first exhibit of his unusual works is announced by **Irene Brin** and **Gaspero del Corso** in their gallery, 146 Via Sistina.



NO SPECIAL REASON for this picture. It's just a photograph of quiet people enjoying the beauty of nature on the Quai des Tuileries in Paris—and it's difficult to stay behind a desk while the whole Continent is beckoning to everyone to come out and play in the spring sunshine.

Mrs. Luce Leaves On Southern Tour

Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce left Rome yesterday, the first time since she took up her duties April 22, for a three-day tour of Southern Italy.

Mrs. Luce flew from Rome to Bari in a U.S. military place accompanied by Robert Tetro, Embassy agriculture officer.

She will continue her trip from Bari by car and visit a number of housing and road projects and one of Italy's farm developments under the country's land reform program—(AP).

MILAN

By SYLVIA MANASSE

With all the transfers about town and many parties for "visiting firemen," the colony seems to be on one long toot, pouring gaily from one cocktail party in honor of somebody and on to another drinks and chips affair in farewell to someone else.

One of the nicer cocktail parties was given by U.S. Consul and Mrs. **Tom Bowie** in honor of a stateside friend **Miss Charlotte Read**, who is touring Italy and the continent. Arrived the time of the party however and **Miss Read** was stranded somewhere in Florence, having a broken tooth repaired. The party however went off according to schedule and among those who came to honor the absent **Bowie** guest were, **U.S. consul general and Mrs. Joel C. Hudson**, **U.S. consul Robert Tucker**, **Mr. and Mrs. Pugliese Norton**, **Franco Tufari**, **Mr. and Mrs. Corrado Golassi**, **Mr. and Mrs. Gillo Benello** and many others. The fun of it is that when **Miss Read** finally does arrive the **Bowies** are planning to have another party for her.

Friends are unhappy over the illness of former Milanese **Mary Conaly**, wife of USIS exec. **Philip Conaly**, now stationed in Rome. **Mrs. Conaly** is ailing at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Naples and is expecting a fourth child. Get well soon **Mary**!

The familiar face about town belongs to former MSA chief for northern Italy **Rick Ricciardi**, who is now a cotton exporter in Dallas, Texas. Here on a business trip, **Ricciardi** tells us that beautiful bride **Joe** and son, **Rickie**, will be here in June for the summer holidays.

The **Hill Jepsons**, he is the Cucirini Coates exec., feted what looked like three-fourths of Milan society at a very elegant cocktail party this week. The **Jepsons**, with wife, **Grace**, looking specially lovely in a new London model, hosted **Sir James and Lady Hendersons**, **Mr. and Mrs. A. Crawford Lockhead**, **Mr. and Mrs. Harrop**, **Mr. and Mrs. R. Hubbard Steve Crump**, **William Evans** and son, **John**, **Mr. and Mrs. Andy Anderson**, **Mr. and Mrs. McCarroll** (he is the Singer exec. in Monza), **Mrs. C. F. Baumann**, **Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Mayhew**, and many others.

THE NEW BOOK:

A Journalistic Stew Which May Prove Too Hot For Some

Substituting the typewriter for scalpel, Michael Stern deftly cuts away the tissue of legend surrounding some of the more notorious contemporary guys and dolls and probes for facts in **"No Innocence Abroad,"** newest book from the ex-crime reporter who nows leads the life of a foreign correspondent in a villa on the outskirts of Rome.

More often than not, Stern comes up with the facts. They are consistently harsh, frequently cruel and leave the reader with the impression that the reporter has used only a small portion of the supply at his command to flavor this journalistic stew.

Ever since Stern, while a reporter on the Middletown (N. Y.) Times-Herald in 1932, infuriated a plug-ugly named Joseph Quinn to the point where Quinn broke out of jail to try to shoot his chronicler, the threat has been part of Stern's daily routine. **"No Innocence Abroad"** is unlikely to make him a better insurance risk.

He moves away from the beachhead established by Lincoln Steffens to dabble in the affairs of Charles (Lucky) Luciano, the deported Italo-American racket chief; incredible and profane Virginia Hill, the petulant soubrette of the Kefauver vice investigation; Roberto Rossellini, the Italian film director, and Giuliano, the Sicilian Robin Hood, to name a few.

Pinned down by personal interviews and official police records, Stern's subjects squirm on his specimen board as the author tells their stories in terse, reportorial prose which veers sharply away from euphimism and platitude.

"No Innocence Abroad" is of more than passing interest to Rome, for the Eternal City is to come in for its share of attention in Stern's next effort—notes for which already have reached mountainous proportions.



MICHAEL STERN
. . . still a target

Severe critics may be tempted to tab the volume "Twice Told Tales," especially in connection with the chapters on Luciano and Rossellini, but none will deny that Stern has marshalled an impressive and prodigious collection of facts.

—E.H.

ON THE SCREEN

Triumph For Welles

By DINO NARDI

The film of the week is unquestionably *Man, Beast and Virtue*, derived from Luigi Pirandello's play of the same name; and it is precisely the defunct playwright's shadow that weighs heavily upon it.

It is generally known, of course, that the universality of a writer depends to a large extent on the steadiness with which he pursues one or more philosophical principles, the method of pursuance representing, more or less, his style and trade mark. Pirandello's perennial concern in life was Truth. What is Truth? That question is the inner thread of nearly all his works. In order to arrive at a relatively satisfactory conclusion (that the truth is what we believe to be the truth, that we are what we believe to be, etc.), he tackled the problem from innumerable angles, writing dozens of short stories, novels and plays.



WELLES

Man, Beast and Virtue is not an exception; only its theme is developed within the more obvious bounds of a caustic satire on human hyprocrisy as applied to adultery. This time, for the purpose, he has chosen two men and a woman as they could exist even today in any of the seaside towns near Naples. They are, with respect to the title, Lover, Husband and Wife, or, as it were, a provincial professor of a sort, a tough merchant marine captain and a timorous young mother—roles which in the screen version, now widely released, are respectively interpreted by comedian Totò, imposing Orson Welles and a demure Viviane Romance.

Whereas Pirandello used the grotesque aspects of the triangle as a peg on which to hang his philosophy and bitter humor, the movie all but dissolves the play's substance and makes capital of its plot only. This t exploits adroitly and to the hilt.

The captain is away on one of his long voyages and the weakling, the professor, has all but taken his place in his home—in every conceivable way. The latter, however, is hectically alarmed when the woman of the house reveals to him her conceptional condition. A way must be found to attribute to the woman's husband, the captain, the paternity of the expected child. The boiling question from then on being how to induce the lusty tar to use his matrimonial four-poster for at least one night when he returns to shore.

Inimitable Totò gives a zestful performance of himself, having utterly failed to grasp even the contours of Pirandello's character. Orson Welles, on the other hand, comes very near to reflecting the famous playwright's "brute." More than acquiring the latter's mere deportment and manners, he appears to have penetrated the character's coarse exterior with sheer psychological insight and carved out some of his humanity. Viviane Romance's characterization of the woman is acceptable.

THE NEW MOVIE

MAN, BEAST and VIRTUE (in Italian); a Paramount Film release; produced in Gevacolor by Rosa Film; directed by Steno; with Totò, Orson Welles and Viviane Romance. At the Fiamma Theater.

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