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LEND ME YOUR EARS:

Asp Does Its Work--Cleopatra Is Dead

DEATH HAS FINALLY come to Cleopatra. Mrs **Eddie Fisher**, known to the trade as **Elizabeth Taylor**, was bitten on the bosom by an asp, succumbed, and her major scenes of the most expensive movie ever made were finished. The death scene was shot here in Rome, and Mrs **Fisher** has only a few more minor scenes to shoot. Then the picture will be completed — all $30,000,000 worth of it, and 30,000,000 words of publicity that attended Mrs **Fisher's** many illnesses, her friendship with actor **Richard Burton**, and her separation from **Fisher** will also come to an end.

With the news that the asp had done its work, a giant sigh swept over the 20th Century Fox organization—a sigh sighed by executives and stockholders alike.

Scores Triumph

Australian soprano **Joan Sutherland** Monday night did what no one has done since the days of the great Melba — scored an outstanding success in the Meyerbeer opera "Les Huguenots." The harsh critics at La Scala in Milan praised Miss **Sutherland** for brilliance and "matchless virtuosity" and acclaimed it as the season's greatest performance. In the most difficult role of her career Miss **Sutherland** as Queen Marguerite de Valois mounted a white horse backstage and was led out to sing the finale of the second act. She sang flawlessly, despite a recent back ailment and a few tense moments when the fractious horse had to be reined. Miss **Sutherland** had stopped the opera earlier, in the second scene of the first act, with her signing of the aria "O Lieto Suol." The audience recognized her art, bursting into a roaring chorus of "Brava, Brava," as the aria ended. The last time "Les Huguenots" was performed at La Scala was in 1899, with a young Arturo Toscanini directing. During the dress rehearsals last week two other great sopranos —**Maria Callas** and **Renata Tebaldi**— congratulated Miss **Sutherland** on her exploit. In July Miss **Sutherland** will give three concerts in the United States, including one at the Hollywood Bowl.

Who's Opening?

Enrico Napolitano opened at Giotto Art Gallery Monday evening . . . **Ligia Macovei** is showing at Galleria Penelope . . . **Carolo Caroli** at Galleria La Barcaccia . . . **Dubuffet** at Galleria Il Segno . . . **Maria Nini** at La Galerie Burckhardt . . . and two Peruvian artists, **Graciela Ureta** and **Angela Carella** are at Il Camino . . . **Frank Delle Donne** is opening June 1 at Galleria Anthea.

Church Luncheon

The Women's Auxiliary of St. Paul's American Church is having a Corporate communion today at 10:30 a.m. A luncheon will be held in the Parish Hall following the service. Those attending are asked to bring their own sandwiches. Coffee and cake will be provided.

Ceramics Show

Sara Sheftel and **Fausto Riganti**, with the assistance of **Eugene Walter**, have assembled an unusual exhibition at their gallery at 9/A Via della Croce, just off Piazza di Spagna. Under the title of "Le Théâtre des Gourmets" will be shown a collection of ceramics by Countess **Annie de Garrou Gnoli**, whose witty creations are included in many museum and private collections in Europe and America, but have never been seen in Rome. The show will open at 10 p.m. today, allowing the possibility to find parking places in Centro. Along with a marionette theater whose proscenium, puppets, and scenery are all modelled in ceramic, will be seen a group of twelve settings under such titles as "Luncheon in Arcady" (a dinner service made in squash, pumpkin, and leaf shapes), "After the Theatre" (covered dishes in the form of a pheasant, a fish, a cheese, etc.) and "Tea with the Mother Superior" (an elegant black service) and so forth. A large white vase and several nundred small pieces complete the show, which continues through June 9.



OFF TO LONDON — Actress Ingrid Bergman heads for PIA plane which flew her from Rome to London after a day in the Italian capital.

To Retire

Tomorrow Mrs **Doris H. Allen**, American Consul, will retire from the Foreign Service after 30 years of service. Prior to coming to Rome she served at the following posts — Constantinople, Naples, Montreal, Athens, Washington, and Palermo. Mrs **Allen** is the widow of **Charles E. Allen**, a Foreign Service Officer who died at Gibraltar in 1935. Mrs **Allen** is well known to the American community at Rome as the Citizenship Officer of the American Embassy. She is being replaced by **Everette Leonard Damron**, American Consul who arrival in Rome on May 20. **Damron** is a native of Kentucky and has served at the following posts — Washington, Reykjavik, Asuncion, Amsterdam, Vigo, Naples, Ciudad Trujillo, Mexico City.

Candidate Yields

Kurt Klinger, former president of the Foreign Press Club of Rome, has withdrawn his candidacy in the new elections for president being held today in favor of the Swedish candidate, **Agne Hamrin**, he announced yesterday. **Hamrin**, a successful author as well as a journalist, is a veteran of the Rome press corps and was once thrown out of Nazi Germany as an undesirable newspaperman.

In And Out

Sir **Alex Guinness** is at the Hassler for a brief look at Rome . . . **Joan Crawford** is at the Excelsior drinking Pepsi Cola . . . **Howard Duff**, American film-TV actor is here with his talented wife, actress-producer **Ida Lupino** . . . **Stewart Granger** has left Rome for Madrid to resume work on his film "Marcia o Crepa"

Farewell Twist

Misses **Sonya** and **Cissie Marcos Peblete**, daughters of Philippine Press Attaché, **Elizabeth Marcos Keon**, were hostesses to a farewell Twist party Saturday night for **Lamberto de la Cruz** and **Joe Monasterial** of the Philippine News Service. Sixteen-year **de la Cruz** is on a round-the-world trip as his first prize for an essay on aviation intelligence sponsored by the Philippine Airport Press Club and Air France. Among the undislocated Twisters were **Manuela Adeva, Arosemena Maruja, Lupe Sora, Arnoldo Fernandez, Antony Ygleseas, Ailso Kani,, Rachel** and **Emilio Colaci, Claudio Venturini, Luisa Artigosa, Maria Antoinette Simon, Sirgio Hojmark, Anni Schlore, Jochy Kiefuer, Cristofer Vengar, Anna Fenesco, Bossi Carnrs, MacRoy Lopez, Joe Monasterial, Luigi Pironti**, Mr and Mrs **Joresco**, Mr and Mrs **Serias**, Mr and Mrs **Murray, Tomy Bargos.**

Milan Boy Is Highly Praised By U.S. Veepee

WASHINGTON, May 29 (AP) — Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson has mailed to the Mayor of Milan, pictures and papers showing that a child recently from that northern Italian city is now a popular student leader in the San Angelo public school.

A package dispatched by the Vice President to Prof. Dino Cassinis, head of the Milan Municipal Government, included photographs of Maurizio Ricotti showing him posed as a member of the San Angelo High School Student Council.

Also included were two copies of the San Angelo Standard Times and two resolutions, one by high school students and one by the City Commission, commending young Ricotti for his civic leadership role in the year that he has been in this country.

Beauty Queens To Vie In Beirut

BEIRUT, May 29 (AP) — Fifteen European beauty queens arrived here yesterday for the Miss Europe beauty contest scheduled for Friday at the Casino Du Liban.

Hundreds of Lebanese swarmed to the airport, clapping and whistling as the girls stepped from the plane. Bouquets were presented as an Italian band played twist tunes.

At the entrance to the guest lounge at the airport, Miss Italy, Franca Cattaneo, danced the twist to the music of the Milano's Sandro Eilsuo combo orchestra. The Italian band has been engaged to work in the Casbah nightclub here.

$7 M. Rome Studio Gamble? David Niven's Interested

By BEN L. KAUFMAN, *Daily American Staff Writer*

David Niven was worrying about stock market fluctuations and talking about building an ultra-modern electronic $7 million film studio in Rome in his star's dressing room on the Maxima "The Captive City", set. "Mind you, it would be a tremendous gamble, but there's a crying need for up-to-date film studios," he said. "What we have or have planned are all too old . . . and half empty."

Niven, who is "terribly involved" in a company producing more than 300 films a year, was talking of ways to boost the film industry and cut production costs.

"The movie industry is the world's most resilient," Niven said, "and the policies governing it would have ruined most. Nothing's been plowed back in.



DAVID NIVEN ...a gamble

"If I had written my initials on the equipment when I started at MGM 25 years ago, I would be staring at them today," he said to underline the need for his proposed studio complex.

Niven said he was "one of a group considering" the studio's construction, but would tell no more. "That would be telling secrets," he said.

Niven touched on other facets of the film industry including pay television, Broadway, his plans and "Cleopatra."

"Pay television will come as sure as night follows day," he said. "It's wonderful. Plunk in a dollar and the family can all watch a first run film in their home. It will be the end of those hundreds of dreary little theaters with uncomfortable seats and wads of filthy chewing gum everywhere."

Broadway? "I hate it. I loath acting after the first night when the possibilities of disaster are so great. And I don't like going to work when other men are going home to dinner," family man Niven said.

Is there such a thing as "bad" publicity for a movie star? "Sure there is," Niven said. "You have a responsibility as sort of a family chum."

How has he avoided attention of the scandal hunters? "When I was in the 'wild oat department' there were no magazines such as Confidential," he said, recalling the days when interviews were censored by publicity men and Hollywood was held in awe. "I came through smelling like a rose.

"But today, any little man with a Vespa and camera can go into that business."

And about Liz Taylor and Richard Burton, stars of the "Cleopatra"?

"They're both great friends of mine and anything they do on their own is their own business."

When "The Captive City" is finished, Niven is joining his family in France and then will return to films in the States for the first time in two years.



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