

# TV CANDIDS

by Terrence O'Flaherty

It is a cruel truth in show business that the people who make the most publicity are seldom the best performers. Jayne Mansfield and others from the Zsa Zsa Gabor Hall of Ersatz Fame would bring in their own grandmothers over their shoulders in trade for a headline.

Even more guilty than the stars are the newspapers—and particularly the columnists—who put their names in print. We have all been part of the Great American Conspiracy to Elevate the Unworthy.

This situation makes it difficult for the young performers who have been working so hard they haven't had time to get in trouble. They just don't seem to make good stories.

Because of the economic factor, television adds another problem: Many of the "stars" of the TV series are newcomers and haven't yet earned their stardom. They are unknown when they are first introduced and even after several seasons they are often indistinguishable from the roles they play.

An interesting case in point is Robert Reed, who plays Kenneth Preston in the CBS series, "The Defenders," one of the best of the current courtroom sagas.

He is a good actor in a good series. He works hard at his craft, and he does not have a personal publicity agent.

He has studied at the British Academy of Dramatic Art, and he was a member of the resident company of the Studebaker Theater in Chicago in 1956-57.

In 1959, he had a small role in "Father Knows Best" and soon was playing guest parts in half the serials in Hollywood.

When "The Defenders" was being formed, he was recommended for the role of the junior member of the law firm of Preston and Preston by the producer of "Father Knows Best"—and got the job.

Reed was available for an interview recently. He's a fine young chap in his late 20s who still has a trace of Oklahoma in his voice. His parents operate a poultry ranch in Sallisaw.

He's 6-foot-2 and was raised on a horse, but never got a chance to star in a Western. "Hollywood prefers to take actors who have never seen a horse for such roles," he said.

"The Defenders" is one of the few television serials filmed in New York City.

"There's a great advantage in being near Broadway," explained Reed. "We can draw on the great wealth of supporting players."

"They're actors who have years of experience and yet aren't the same old faces that television audiences have seen over and over again."

In "The Defenders" (Saturday at 8:30 p.m. on CBS), Reed is the junior half of the father-and-son law firm, headed by E. G. Marshall, one of the most talented actors in show business. While Reed is not a very colorful person off-stage, next to Marshall he seems absolutely flamboyant. In a recent story in "TV Guide," Marshall said:

"I like to be alone. They say you're involved with everybody and everybody with you. It's philosophical, but not practical. He who travels alone travels faster. "I don't belong to any organizations. I wouldn't belong to a labor union if I didn't have to. I'd prefer not to . . . I'll never be a real star. I'll get billing, but that doesn't make a star."

Both Reed and Marshall are typical of the great majority of actors today. They are working too hard to make the gossip columns. Outside the television studio they're as anonymous as the servants of Zsa Zsa Gabor.

It may be bad for their careers, but it's a blessed relief for the public.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Price's vestment
- 4-Record duration of
- 8-Step, rugged rock
- 12-Swordman's dummy-stake
- 14-Aroma
- 15-Girl's name
- 16-Abated
- 18-Scorch
- 20-Reverberation
- 21-Perform high
- 22-In music, high
- 23-Chore
- 27-Aeriform fluid
- 29-Pronoun
- 30-Appellation
- 31-Indefinite article
- 32-Article of furniture
- 33-Algonquian Indian
- 34-Paros islands whirlwind
- 35-Indicate
- 37-Slack
- 38-Males
- 39-Tidy
- 40-Vessel's curved, blacking
- 41-Pronoun
- 42-Afternoon parties
- 44-Conjunction
- 47-Penitent
- 51-Young boy
- 52-Sandaroo tree
- 53-Arrow poison
- 54-Mature
- 55-Dampness
- 56-ETC.
- 57-Ma's nickname

DOWN

- 1-Simula
- 2-Ma's name
- 3-Mixes
- 4-Heavy volume

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## Southwest Residents Near Peak in Gas Consumption

Southwest residents, in the middle of Southern California's seasonal temperature decline, have contributed to a series of near-record natural gas usages throughout the Southland, according to local officials for the utility.

G. M. Babbe, manager of the Southern California Gas Co.'s Southwest Division, announced that gas used in homes and businesses throughout the Southland topped the 2.7 billion cubic foot mark Thursday, Jan. 11, for the first time this year, nearly equaling the all-time record usage of more than 2.8 billion cubic feet on Dec. 12 of 1961.

ACCORDING TO Babbe, usage of natural gas by residential customers during the Southland's cold season can be four to seven times greater than that of a typical summer day.

Heavier demands for natural gas as a space heating fuel resulted from a combination of penetrating northeasterly winds and a sharp temperature decline.

"Southlanders are in a rather puzzling position when the time comes for chilly weather," Babbe commented. "Unlike many other parts of the state and the nation," he added, "our thermometers rarely show freezing or near-freezing temperatures. We are blessed with a mild, sunny climate most of the year."

"WE DO, HOWEVER, have considerable temperature variation," Babbe continued, "which is reflected with a good deal of accuracy in increased gas usage."

"So, just as you need heavier clothing to retain body heat when you're out of doors during cold weather," Babbe said, "your home also requires more heat to protect you from the effects of that weather."

## Officers Named By Adult Club

Mel Wagers has been named president of the Torrance Adult Club, an organization of senior citizens.

Other new officers are H.K. Reynolds, first vice president; Jack Alcock, second vice president; Ora Donaldson, Fanny Tarpley, Clara Witmer, Henry Weaver and Cora Scheffer, board members.

Persons interested in joining the organization may visit the Torrance Adult Center at 1318 Cravens Ave., or telephone FA 8-9744.

## Garden Checklist

1. Strawberries may be planted now for harvest in a few short months.
2. When spraying shrubs and trees, be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendation as to strength.
3. Plant sweet peas this month. Dig a good trench; work manure into the soil in which you plant the seeds.
4. If soil is dry enough to work, manure and/or commercial soil conditioners may be applied at this time.
5. Plant the perennial vegetables — rhubarb, artichoke and asparagus.

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