

Charley Weaver, the old-fashioned grandpa from Mt. Idy, took over as host for six days on the Tennessee Ernie Ford Show. When Ern got back there were petunias in his pea patch.

While donning his rumpled tie and crushed hat under the hot dressing room lights, Charley mentioned that he had often been compared with Will Rogers. "I'm different from Will Rogers. Will said he never met a man he didn't like and I say I never met a woman I didn't like."

This rustic manner ad quick wit of his makes him a most remarkable quipster in the television hothouse. His homey, humorous yarns of the kin folks and letters from Mama delight audiences from coast to coast.

Charley Weaver's character was cultivated especially for television by Cliff Arquette and began to blossom about 10 years ago. "He is a combination of a lot of my relatives," explained Cliff. "I was asked by Dennis Day to create a character for his television show so I decided to do a character that could live a long time." When the Dennis Day show folded Charlie faded for a while until he was replanted again on the Jack Paar Show. \*

\* Cliff's frank and easy-going attitude toward life may well have been Charley Weaver's seeds for suc-

"I'm out to make people laugh," he explained, and about those wild tales, he says that most of them really happen in Mt. Idy.

"Don't forget, in Mt. Idy, my old home town, I'm Cary Grant, so you can figure what the others are like. Besides, the big city is no different from the small town. I've found that a big city is just a lot of small town folks that got together. Remember, at one time, New York was no bigger than Mt. Idy."

Charley Weaver is currently hoeing up some more ground on the new Roy Rogers-Dale Evans show starting this fall. He enjoys working on the show and stated that Roy treats him rather well. "While we were on tour Roy let me sleep in the same stall with Trigger. I didn't mind sleeping with a horse except that Trigger always keeps his shoes on."

His thoughts are not so revolutionary, but at least he's honest.

An example of his lack of concern, which few people would have the courage to admit, is seen through Charley's comments on the world situation.

"I don't think about it very much. Why should I? Everybody else seems to be doing it. Maybe that's what's wrong! Everybody wants what the other fellow has. Not me. I'm too busy having a ball!"

Why does the comical grandpa appeal to all ages? Possibly he's mastered the art of combining youth and old age. He's a rambunctious little boy. Santa without a beard, and a happy-go-lucky rebel in the television briar patch.

Director Bob Gist, who has been set to do six "Naked City" episodes and several "Routh 66" chapters next season has also been signed by a Japanese firm to direct a film with a kookie theme. It's about the effect on Japanese citizens when two whales get romantic on the beach of their fishing village . . . Did you know that Dick Van Dyke designs all those wild suits he wears on his CBS show? . . . Andy Williams says that part of the format of his fall NBC series will be to walk into the audience and chat with his fans. Just like his former boss Steve Allen used to do on the "Tonight" show. Incidentally, Andy will be supported at times by an all-guitar group of eight men and two women . . . Frankie Avalon has a date next February in Tel Aviv to dedicate a youth center sponsored by Italian-American Jewry. Avalon is Catholic.

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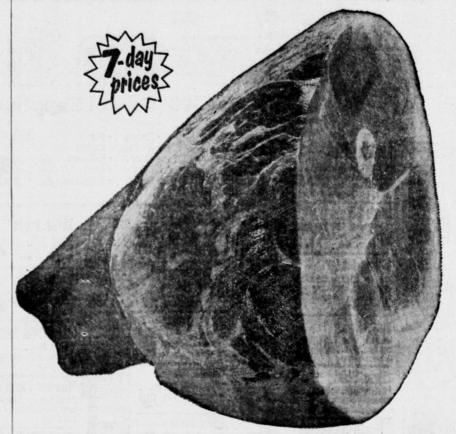
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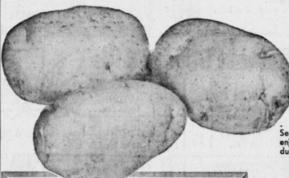
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