

Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Dear Mike: I just pasted in my scrapbook that photo of Debbie Reynolds, my favorite star, putting her handprints in the cement at Grauman's Chinese. And I'm looking forward to my first trip to California this summer, and seeing all those star-prints in the theatre forecourt. Just for more info in my scrapbook, could you tell me how the custom started?—Mrs. Elinor Fraser, Louisville, Ky.

Dear Mrs. Fraser: It started in 1927, when the theatre was being built by Sid Grauman. He brought Norma Talmadge over to watch construction. She accidentally stepped into a block of newly poured cement, leaving footprints and starting one of Tinseltown's most renowned rituals.

Dead Beatle Fans (this is your columnist talking to all of you but especially to Shelia Gibbs and Arline Levitt of New York City, Carolyn Casey of Stockton, California, and Laurel Sercombe of Arcadia, Calif.): Thanks for flooding me with all those letters answering my aside to "A.B.F." of Peoria, Ill.—that other Beatle fan who told me to print something nice about the Liverpool lads but failed to provide the "something nice." And here they are, just a few of those nice things, supplied by all of you nice readers (I only wish I had room to run all of them)—1. The Beatles flatly refused to perform for a segregated audience during their U.S. tour. 2. They still work hard to improve themselves, despite all their money. 3. They would like to meet more of their fans but can't because too many of us "claw and tear at them." 4. They make us happy. 5. They are talented songwriters, as well as singers, and, while their music may not appeal to the older folks, the older folks' ragtime doesn't appeal to us younger folks! 6. The Beatles, in giving British show business a shot in the arm, have also given American pop music competition—and competition is healthy. 7. They are modest—George says, "We're rather crummy musicians." Paul says, "We can't sing, we can't play, we can't do anything." Ringo said of an imitating group, "They really weren't much like us—their music was too good," and John says, "We're just average musicians who are kidding you, ourselves, everybody." 8. Lennon wrote a book, "In His Own Write," that has been hailed as a pleasing mixture of James Joyce and James Thurber. . . . There's more, but that'll have to do for this week—and don't let anybody come around here telling me the Beatles don't have loyal fans!

Dear Mike: Will you please settle it once and for all—is that doll Yvette Mimieux married or isn't she?—Jake Kleiner, Silver Springs, Md.

Dear Jake: She was married to Evan Engber, an engineering student at USC, but recently divorced him.

Dear Mike: Does Dale Evans, Roy Rogers' wife, still write books I consider her writings among the most inspirational I have ever read and always look forward to them but haven't seen any lately.—Mrs. John L. Roshier, Ozark, Ark.

Dear Mrs. Roshier: Dale's next book, due off the press in the spring, is titled "Dearest Debbie." It is about Debbie Rogers, the little Korean girl who was adopted by Dale and Roy

and who died in a bus accident last August.

Dear Mr. Connolly: What ever became of little Freddy Bartholomew, who played in such great pictures as "Captains Courageous" and "Kidnapped"?—Mabel Hubbard, Chester, Pa.

Dear Mabel: Little Freddy (born Feb. 12, 1924) is now big Fred of the Benton and Bowles advertising agency. He is divorced from his first wife and has three children by his second wife, Aileen. And he does NOT like to be called Freddy.

Dear Mr. C.: A few months ago you wrote about an upcoming TV special on the late beloved Alan Ladd. What is new on it?—Erwin Mark, Philadelphia.

Dear Erwin: Sue Carol Ladd, his widow, is still working on it, digging up old movie film and stills on Alan, and has her original commitments from George Stevens to direct it and rock Hudson to narrate it. When it will beam is the big question. Knowing what a perfectionist Sue is, I would strongly suggest she let somebody else take over the writing job she's doing now—because, at the rate she's going, it'll never get on!

Dear Sir: As I type this, Trini Lopez's "Lemon Tree" is coming in loud and clear over my radio. It's a big hit and all I can say is, "Welcome back, Senor Trini—obviously you have shucked that slow-freight beat that backed your Basin Street East stand, and for this I am truly thankful!" If you see Trini, please tell him to make another album from P.J.'s so I'll know for SURE he has returned.—Mrs. A. L. Parry, Cooksville, Ont., Canada.

Dear Mrs. Parry: I have passed the good word on to the good Senor who says he's sorry and he'll try to see to it that it never happens again but sometimes, when you get slow-freight audiences, you have to give 'em the slow-freight beat!

(Mike Connolly will try to answer your questions in his column. He can give no personal replies by mail.)

War Orphan Aid Extended Reports VA

The War Orphans Education Assistance program is no longer limited to children whose fathers died as a result of disabilities incurred during military service, according to Mort Webster, manager of VA's Southern California Regional Office.

Children of living veterans totally and permanently disabled from service-connected causes may now participate in the program.

Assistance provides up to \$110 a month for full-time enrollment, proportionately lower for part-time study, for an eligible youth attending college or pursuing some non-college courses leading to gainful employment. Courses on the high school level are not permitted.

Marriage does not prevent participation in the program if otherwise qualified. Age limits are generally between 18 and 23 years, Webster said.

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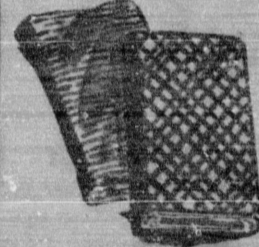
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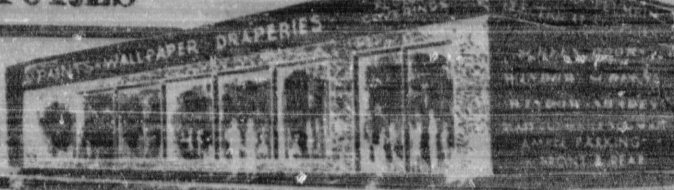
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