

Two Cities Sign Flood Agreement

Two additional cities have been added to the list of Fourth Supervisorial District communities included in storm drain agreements under the \$275 million county storm drain bond program. Added this week by the Board of Supervisors were the cities of Palos Verdes and Hermosa Beach, according to a report by Supervisor Chairman Burton W. Chace.

Parties to the pact with the County Flood Control District now include: Los Angeles, Signal Hill, Compton, Manhattan Beach, Lynwood, Rolling Hills, Palos Verdes and Hermosa Beach.

IN EACH INSTANCE, Chace said, the agreement calls for the individual city to prepare plans for storm drains to be located within its jurisdiction.

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors and the Flood Control District, bids will be sought.

The procedure is similar to that developed under previous bond issue programs, making cities responsible for preparation of design plans. Plan costs will be reimbursed from bond funds. The Flood Control District, headed by Walter J. Wood, will be in charge of construction, operation and maintenance of the facilities, Supervisor Chace said.

THE 1964 BOND undertaking calls for construction of 267 projects throughout the County, he added.

Earlier, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with Los Angeles which may lead to construction of 10 additional drain facilities out of project savings under the 1958 bond issue.

Supervisor Chace said nearly \$5.5 million will be available for this work, expected to include the \$285,000 Brighton Avenue drain near Sepulveda Boulevard and Vermont Avenue in the Torrance area.

APRIL 14, 1965

PRESS-HERALD F-5

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

Despite the deeply entrenched cult of mother-worship which runs rampant

through America, the Nation's favorite family is al-

male, motherless, and dominated by a father patterned after Henry VIII.

The show is "Bonanza" and the family is the Cartwrights—a father and his three sons by three different wives. Their domain is the Ponderosa Ranch and their fame is now being spread in 17 languages all over the globe where they rank in popularity somewhere between foreign aid and Coca-Cola.

The Daddy Warbucks of Virginia City's mythical Ponderosa is played by actor Lorne Greene, a towering, swaggering Canadian whose round face is the sort you see on sundials or as the North Wind in the corners of old maps.

I SPENT some time with this giant-Father-symbol vacationing in New York in his suite at the Waldorf Astoria. He had some outspoken things to say about his role, the producer of the series, and actors who complain about their parts. Not all of them complimentary.

"I was a dull son-of-a-gun for the first dozen episodes and at time the part was so poorly written I couldn't believe my eyes," Greene said. "They had me saying things like 'Jumpin' Jehosaphat' and 'Fire and brimstone' Looking back on it, it's a miracle I'm still on the air."

"I pleaded with them to give me some sort of a sense of humor. The writers had me going after trespassers with a gun, hollering 'What are you doing on the Ponderosa?' A man in his position would be more apt to welcome a stranger and ask him about the outside world, don't you think?"

"AND I DIDN'T want to be 65 years old, either. Sure, I've three sons in the script, but my father had me when he was 19. I asked, 'Why can't I be a man in his 50s, a man in the prime of life?' As you know, the first reviews were what we call mixed."

"Finally they made me into a human being. They changed Hoss from being dumb to being trusting—a big difference. And they let Little Joe, the big lover, make love to pretty young girls instead of older women."

The statements of Bonanza's producer-writer David Dortort in a recent TV Guide drew some particularly caustic comment from Greene. Dortort said, "Someday I'd like to go back to serious writing." Greene's reaction: "This is something we've all known for years because we have been rewriting his lines since the show started. Jumpin' Jehosaphat!"

"He once said, 'NBC wanted a big star to play Ben Cartwright but I wanted Lorne Greene because big stars aren't manageable.' How about that! Michael Landon (Little Joe) told Dortort, please, not to ever use his name in an interview again, and I don't blame him."

"ANOTHER THING, I sided with Pernel Roberts, who wants to leave the show because he's not getting meaty enough roles. It makes those of us who remain loyal to the show seem foolish."

"Look, I'm an actor and I signed to do a show and build a character. I don't complain if I get a lousy script. I set out to improve the words and do a good job. If you don't want to live up to the terms of the contract, don't sign the contract. After the series is over, you'll be worth a couple of million dollars and then you can do all those things you can't do now."

Greene was offered the part on the strength of a guest role he did on "Wagon Train." He signed after a 40-minute conversation and without seeing a script. "I knew it had a good chance because a drama based on a father and son relationship has never been unsuccessful."

"At first they didn't like us in Virginia City, but now, after thousands of tourists have asked them where the Cartwrights used to live, all the merchants got together and decided to designate a certain ruin as being the old Cartwright House on the Ponderosa."

That's how history is written on television.

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