

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

The early summer television scene is rapidly shaping up as a battle between two night-time detergent operas. This month the soap hits the fan.

By now the whole Nation must have heard of "Peyton Place," which is seen twice a week on ABC. It was last season's most resounding hit. By February 25 this year the news of it eventually seeped through to CBS and the network announced "a unique programming experiment" which began last week.

You'll never guess what it turned out to be. (Or maybe you did.) It is a half-hour drama with continuous characters to be shown twice a week at 9:30 p.m.

By a curious coincidence, ABC's "Peyton Place" is also a half-hour drama with continuing characters shown twice a week at 9:30 p.m.

On closer inspection, the "unique programming experiment" is neither unique nor an experiment because CBS has chosen to take the plot from its own daytime soap titled "As the World Turns," which has been running for years and has been keeping millions of American women's minds off geriatrics for almost a generation.

NOW, HERE'S where the fun begins. CBS hired Chicago's Irna Phillips to write the new night-time show titled "Our Private World." Miss Phillips is known as the Queen of the Soap Opera and has been turning them out

Spartans Will Show Art Work

South High's fourth annual art exhibit, sponsored by the Art Club and the PTA, will be held in the school library today, Thursday and Friday. The exhibit will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. today and Thursday, and until 3:30 p.m. Friday. Special evening hours are 7 to 8 today.

Entries are being accepted in fine arts, commercial art, and crafts. All student work will be exhibited on new bulletin boards purchased by the Art Club.

Dr. James Craft and Dr. Charles Thompson, Long Beach State College, will judge the fine arts and crafts categories. Roy Alexander of the Art Center School is judge for the commercial art exhibits. Winners will be presented at a reception Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m.

The first place winner will receive a \$35 cash award from the PTA and the perpetual trophy. Works may be purchased by the public.

Series In First Aid In Session

Twenty-two Torrance residents are among 107 persons enrolled in a lecture series on "Immediate Care of the Sick and Injured" in session at South Bay Hospital, Redondo Beach. Lecturers are physician specialists in their lecture subject.

The course is designed for persons who need advance first aid information in their occupations as policemen, firemen, ambulance drivers and lifeguards.

Dr. Albert E. Ackroyd, Rolling Hills physician, is in charge of the series and information on future series may be obtained from the education department, South Bay Hospital.

almost since the invention of lather.

This old dear was hired by ABC last year to mid-wife its "Peyton Place" series but was sent home before the baby was born because of a clash of opinion over how much incest to allow in that show. Miss Phillips' feelings were said to be hurt less than her reputation and she took her pains and hot towels over to CBS to bring her own child into the world.

At the time she was dropped as a consultant to "Peyton Place" she was quoted as saying:

"It is difficult for any one who isn't in any way familiar with the mechanics of a serial drama to grasp the fact that essentially a serial is a story about people whose lives touch."

Her proposal at that time was to have Peyton's virginal Allison McKenzie's life touch that of a young doctor named Bailey who was to turn out to be the son of Allison's father, Elliot Carson. The show's producer, Paul Monash, immediately spotted the fact that the young lovers had been sired by the same man. The networks generally agree that American television is not yet ready for incest.

I SUSPECT that Monash had also spotted the fact that Irna Phillips was one of the lives he didn't want to touch backstage any longer himself. In the scuffle which ensued Miss Phillips was dismissed, Dr. Bailey never materialized, and Miss McKenzie's virginity remained intact.

At the present time Monash is happily anticipating an estimated annual take of \$300,000 from "Peyton Place" and Irna is over at CBS working on "Our Private World."

None of my spies at CBS seem to know much about Miss Phillips' private world but surely it will be a story about people whose lives touch—and touch and touch.

If she ever runs out of lives Miss Phillips can always run in a young doctor named Bailey who falls in love with his half sister. But anyone who knows the queen of the soaps knows that she isn't apt to run out of situations designed to set the glands of millions of American viewers a-tingle.

And she isn't apt to forget for a moment that her major competition is a sweet little town in New England that didn't want anyone from Chicago telling folks there how to make love and with whom.

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Low Turnout in School Elections Draws Fire

An alarming lack of interest by voters in recent school board elections in Los Angeles County has been cited by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Hahn pointed out that in some school districts as few as 8 per cent of the registered voters elected members of the school boards which administer multi-million dollar budgets and decide how the local schools should be operated.

For example, in the Torrance Unified School District, the leading school board candidate received 3,987 votes, only 8 per cent of the

50,070 registered voters in district.

In five other school districts the vote received by the leading candidates represented less than 11 per cent of the total number of registered voters.

"This is quite a paradox when you consider that in Alabama people are being killed over the right to register to vote, and in Washington, D.C., the Congress is debating and working just to insure this right to all Americans."

"Here in Southern California all citizens are encouraged to vote, and there is no

poll tax, but very few exercise their Constitutional right to vote, the percentage of voters was higher. How right," Hahn said. Hahn noted that in school districts where the school board election was held at the same time as the municipal election, the percentage of voters was higher. However, in the huge Los Angeles School District, the leading candidate's vote represented only 26 per cent of the registered voters.

Poem Wins Top Award

"Pacifica," a poem written by North High senior Maxine Malini, has placed in the top 20 in its category in the "Atlantic Monthly's" 44th annual creative writing contest for high school students.

The poem appears in the current edition of "Xanadu,"

North High's literary magazine.

Miss Malini, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ozier K. Malini of 13703 Van Ness Ave., also was a first place winner in the high school division of the Torrance Unified School District science fair, held at West High.

Jordan Will Participate In Institute

E. Melton Jordan, a teacher at Madrona Elementary School, has been selected to participate in the Summer Language Institute at Pomona College. Jordan is one of 56 teachers selected from among the 350 applicants.

The institute, sponsored by the U. S. Office of Education, is for elementary teachers of Spanish. It will meet from June 24 to Aug. 11.

Jordan, who resides in Torrance, will receive a weekly allowance during his participation in the institute.

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