

Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

The return of Tallulah Bankhead was celebrated on the Andy Williams Show recently, even though there is considerable evidence that she never really left. It was a nerve-wracking experience, Miss Bankhead looked wonderful in a shining pink dress but I had the uneasy feeling that she might fall flat on her face at any moment. It never happened.

It is quite a remarkable experience to find one's self pulling for a performer, almost leaning toward the screen in an effort to help her along. It was apparent that she didn't need it. She was given the protection of a pre-recorded song ("The Hostess With the Mostes on the Ball") and managed to goof it up on only a few occasions. And you will recall that there were no close-ups, daahling.

Bankhead is a rare thing in show business — a character. She is also one of the handful of actresses who are naturally referred to by the last name — despite a most unusual first name. Others who enjoy a similar public compliment are Dietrich, Garbo, Garland, Bardot, and Bacall.

Part of the reason for this reverse-familiarity is a unique last name — one that is immediately identifiable — but there is something more to it, a kind of "good egg" quality, perhaps. Monroe and Harlow both had it. So does Streisand.

But no one ever calls Sophia Loren anything but Sophia Loren or Julie Andrews anything but Julie Andrews. The same goes for such favorites as Shirley Booth who is never called "Booth"; Lucille Ball who is never "Ball," thank heaven; and Shelley Winters who is never "Winters" — perhaps because she might be confused with Jonathan.

TELEVISION, the only entertainment medium which seems almost incapable of developing its own original material these days, has come up with another carbon copy: "Shane," the successful movie of 13 years ago, will be seen on ABC television next fall. Playing the Alan Ladd role will be David Carradine, son of John Carradine, who spent several years in San Francisco and is currently co-starring as the Peruvian sun god in Broadway's most spectacular play, "The Royal Hunt of the Sun."

The only other actor signed to the new Saturday night series is Tom Tully, long associated with "Lineup." He will play a role which did not exist in the film — the grandfather in the homesteading family — so who says TV isn't creative?

THE RETREAD season is upon us and the shows we slept through earlier in the year will be displayed anew. In seasons past there was some effort made to claim the re-runs were chosen by audience popularity or "repeat quality" but this year no one has made any such claims. They're merely putting them on the air. Thus,

The Old Timer



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the television season of 1965-66 — the most highly touted in network promotions — has come to a quiet end. In terms of imagination and ideas it has been the most depressing year in the medium's history.

This does not mean that it has been a flop by network standards. The financial statement shows that it has been the most lucrative season with profits soaring. During the month of January this year the total network TV billings — estimated on basis of net time and programs rose 16.5 per cent over the same month last year to a monthly total of \$122,603,300. CBS and NBC were neck-and-neck with \$45 and \$43 million respectively and ABC with \$34 million. Not bad for one month.

So, it appears that television, by a gradual and consistent lowering of the entertainment program standards, is finally approaching the point where money and mediocrity have merged in a glorious marriage of immense mass appeal. With the exception of news, public affairs, and documentaries which television does with great skill, there is little programming left that can appeal to the tastes of people who seek subtlety or stimulation.

Drive on to Reinstate Dills as Legislator

Overwhelming district-wide support to return Judge Ralph C. Dills to Sacramento as senator has developed with almost daily new endorsements by groups from all branches of labor, business, professions and associations.

The Association for Better Citizenship, dedicated to the promotion and betterment of all educational endeavors, is backing Judge Dills who has an outstanding record for education as assemblyman for six terms.

The California League of Senior Citizens, headed by Myrtle Williams and George McLain, Jr., secretary-treasurer, have recommended Dills for Senator. "Judge Dills is well known to thousands of elderly people as a public servant who has displayed unusual concern for their welfare," the League's May issue of the Senior Citizens Sentinel points out.

Pvt. Kenneth G. Pevic, whose wife, Patricia, lives at 21213 Anza, Blvd., completed eight weeks of advanced infantry training at the Army Training Center, Ft. Dix, N.J., May 13.

The 25-year-old soldier is a 1959 graduate of Torrance High School and received his bachelor's degree in 1963 from Long Beach State College. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Max S. Pevic, live at 2439 Border Ave.

Among the many labor unions endorsing Judge Dills for Senator in the 32nd District are the Joint Council of Teamsters 42, the International Association of Machinists, District Number 94, and the Laundry, Dry Cleaning and Dye House Workers Number 52.

The South Bay Chapter of the California Rental Association, with truck, trailer and equipment rentals in every community in the 32nd Senate District, has come out in favor of Judge Dills for Senator as the only candidate with state legislative experience.

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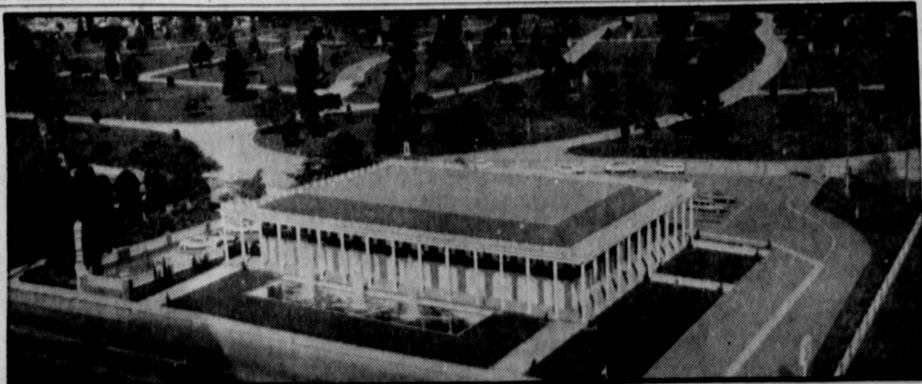
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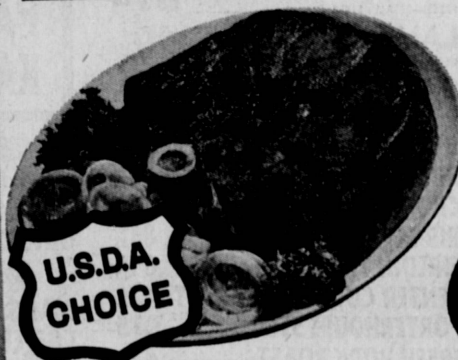
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