

HONORED... Wayne Devenny (right), manager of White Front's Torrance store, accepts a plaque presented to him for "generous assistance" to the United Cerebral Palsy Workshop. Presenting the award is James Cooksey, 20, a handicapped trainee at the workshop.

## Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

In a recent display of its attractions for the fall season, the CBS network gathered together its heavenly bodies from nearby golf courses, movie studios, swimming pools, and massage parlors and allowed them to mix briefly with newsmen, waiters, and hatcheck girls in the Petit Trianon. (That's not the original Petit Trianon, of course, but an unreasonably inexact facsimile flocked onto the walls of the ballroom of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.)

No sooner had the assembled choked down the aspic than there was a tinkling of the glassware and a whistling in the public address system and there was Art Linkletter—heaven forbid—preparing to throw a few choice words in our direction. A great groan went up from all sides.

"Ladies and gentlemen we have about 200 famous people to introduce and I want you to hold your applause until they have all stood up or else we're never going to get through the evening," said Linkletter, the king of the ladies' matinee hour.

At this, the groan increased to a roar. People continued to talk and the waiters of the Petit Trianon grimly went about their tasks of serving the meat course.

"LADIES and gentlemen!" said Linkletter. "I am going to get through this if it kills me," a proposition which a majority of the people present seemed willing to accept.

"First, there's that bright and witty man of many talents and charms, Steve Allen, and his lovely wife, Jayne Meadows!" (Applause.)

"Ladies and gentlemen I must ask you to hold your applause or we will never get through the introductions! ... Steve? Where are you? Steve Allen? ... Well, he's our first no-show. Heh, heh!"

In fairness to Linkletter it must be said that he had an impossible task. The celebrity audience was tired and wanted to eat. Most of them had been up at dawn for filming.

But he made the fatal error of allowing the inattention to ruffle him. It was a grim sight to see a professional turn amateur in front of his colleagues. First it was evident in his asides:

"If you don't be quiet, I'll stop. You can see by my tuxedo that I'm playing the Greyhound Bus Station later this

evening (no laughs). And it would be a lot more fun than this."

FINALLY his introductions of the innocent (each followed by defiant applause) became more snide:

"Here's a guy who stole my stuff with kids and has managed to make a big thing of it all over the world—Danny Kaye!" ... "And now the head of the Clampett clan and the last living Republican in Hollywood—Buddy Ebsen!"

If there's one thing that Linkletter understands, it's money. "And now that great performer, Garry Moore. Gary is drinking Roy's Crown Cola tonight because he owns Royal Crown Cola in Los Angeles!" (R. C. Cola, is also a Linkletter enterprise, I am told.)

And then the final touch: "If you've read the latest edition of Esquire Magazine you will see that I have been included in an article on people who are above criticism called 'The Unknockables.' My picture is right next to the Pope's. Come out to the pool after the show and watch me walk on the water!" (Stunned silence.)

WHEN THE foolishness ground to a halt, Linkletter bowed out to such light applause that Gary Moore, the famous soft drink entrepreneur, jumped to the empty microphone for a few impromptu words of praise for the emcee who had disappeared.

"If I could be anyone in the world," said Moore, "I would want to be Art Linkletter."

The man across the table from me looked over and crossed his eyes ever so slightly.

Oh well, Marie Antoinette had trouble in the Petit Trianon, too.

### Kiwanis Golf Tourney Set

Members of the Torrance Kiwanis Club will participate in a nine-hole golf tournament Monday, June 27, at the Dominguez Golf Course. Tee off time will be 5:15 p.m.

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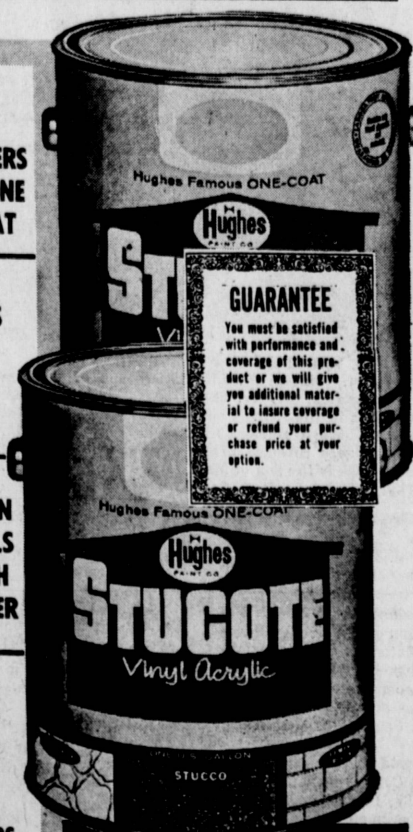
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