

## Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

**HOLLYWOOD** . . . I had been told that Roger Miller was like a Rorschach test. You study him a while and then try to figure out what he is.

Well, primarily, he's sleepy. "I'm not really sleepy; I just don't have a lot to say," he told me. "I just flew in from a personal appearance, went home, awakened my son, said 'hello' — and blew my whole vocabulary for the day."

Miller is a sort of person that hasn't been seen around here since Will Rogers. He's a genuine rustic with a country-boy sense of humor — which means he's a lot funnier than a city boy any day. Two years ago he began to record his own songs and he became an immediate hit. America loves its hick heroes.

"I'm worn out. I haven't stayed home more than three days for a year. Haven't unpacked my suitcase for six months until this morning. It was full of little scraps of paper with notes on 'em I couldn't read."

"I was born in Texas, but Erick, Okla., is my home town. It's so small the city limits signs are back to back. This school I went to had 37 students — me and 36 Indians. Every time we'd have a school dance, it would rain. The favorite game at recess was cowboy and Indians. That is, it was their favorite."

"We were dirt poor. What I'd do is sit around and get warm by crawling inside myself and make up stuff. I never learned to read music and now I'm afraid to try . . . Well, golly, now I'm the latest addition to the vast wasteland. When you're poor you're always thinking of the things you'll do when you get money. Now that I've got money, I can't seem to remember what it was that I wanted."

"I'M NOT sleepy. I appear that way as a kind of defense. I think. Mostly I listen. I listen a lot more than I talk. I call myself a 'conscientious observer.' I have a mind like a sponge. It soaks up everything."

"Last time I visited the folks the yard was filled with kids and a State Senator came to call. They were as proud as they could be."

"I'm not sleepy. I'm just mentally lazy."

"I got a letter from some GIs in Viet Nam who like my records. They said the Viet Cong like them too. They play them from a loudspeaker so the Americans will hear them. Then they say: 'Now that's something to make you homesick, Yankees!' I wonder where they get the records. Do you suppose they belong to an American record club?"

"I don't listen to music much. Mostly I like a little bit of a lot of things. But I watch television all the time. L.A. is a 24-hour television town you know . . . I write what I call 'depressive jazz.' The words and music come to me at the same time, but I'm left with a lot of pieces of songs."

## Tennis Class For Children Has Openings

A few openings are available in the 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. children's tennis class held Mondays and Wednesdays at the Lomita Recreation Center.

Students who qualify will be eligible to participate in a novice tennis tournament Aug. 9 and 10 at the Lakewood tennis courts.

Further information is available at the center, DA 6-0140.

Marine S. Sgt. Paul E. Shelby, son of Mr. Chelcia A. Shelby of 1633 Cota Ave., is serving in the Da Nang area, Republic of Viet Nam, as a member of the 3rd Marine Division's Drum and Bugle Corps.

Members of the corps appear daily throughout the Headquarters area and entertain at various ceremonies. Other duties include manning machine guns on the defense perimeter of the air base near Da Nang.

"Actually, I'm a semi-philosopher. I'm writing a book of things that I've thought like: 'Every day is Saturday to a dog.'"

MILLER came to Hollywood originally to become an actor. "Yeh. I'd given up on music. Been writing it since 1957. I started an acting class. Cost 25 bucks a day. One day Otto Preminger called me in for a show of his. First thing, his phone rang and he started to talk to someone. I went to sleep right away. When I woke up Preminger said 'You better go back home and get some sleep.' I did and I've never heard from him since."

It may be the first time in the history of Hollywood where an actor who slept with a producer didn't get a part in his latest movie.

## P.D.Q. Bach at Bowl

# This Bach Concert Is One You Have to Hear

Professor Peter Schickele will bring his hilarious "P.D.Q. Bach" concert to Hollywood Bowl next Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

The tongue-in-cheek musicologist will present the spurious 18th century composer's "Pervertimento for Bagpipes, Bicycle and Balloons (S.66); the cantata, "Iphigenia in Brooklyn" (S. 53162); and the oratorio, "The Seasonings" (S. 1/2 tsp.). Also on the program will be Prof. Schickele's own "Unbegun Symphony," so titled because, unlike an "unfinished symphony" which lacks concluding movements, Schickele's symphony contains only third and fourth movements.

Solists will be Carol Neblett, soprano; Claudine Carlsson, alto; John Ferrante,

tenor, and Arthur Edwards, bass. Maestro Bruno Pantoffel will conduct The Royal P.D.Q. Bach Festival Orchestra and Roger Wagner Chorale.

LESS FORTUNATE than K.P.E. Bach, J. C. Bach, and W. F. Bach, P.D.Q. Bach was "the only forgotten son" of Johann Sebastian Bach, the great 18th century master, according to Prof. Schickele who claims to have discovered the lost works of the mythical P.D.Q.

Bowl goers may be familiar with Prof. Schickele's musical spoofery through two recordings currently available. One, "An Hysterical Return: P.D.Q. Bach at Carnegie Hall," is itself a spoof of the album, "An Historic Return: Horowitz at Carnegie Hall."

In the liner notes on the "Hysterical Return" album, Prof. Schickele writes:

"FORTUNE has continued to guide me to the hiding places of the long-lost P.D.Q. Bach manuscripts, and each new discovery is greeted with a sense of anticipation which borders on the apprehensive. The unearthing of the grand oratorio, 'The Seasonings,' however, was especially exciting, since it proved beyond a doubt that P.D.Q.'s inabilities were not limited to the smaller forms; every measure of this monumental work is infected with the same lofty intentions which permeate the cantata, 'Iphigenia in Brooklyn' and other shorter pieces, and the carrying out of these intentions is equally

disappointing. The road to musicians' hell must be paved with P.D.Q. Bach compositions.

"His instrumentation, however, is always interesting; in 'The Seasonings' he employs a lurid assembly of instruments which, in addition to the usual trumpets, timpani, and strings, includes a push-button chord organ, two slide whistles, two kazooes, a shower hose in D, a trombone (a hybrid instrument constructed from parts of a bassoon and a trombone, having all the disadvantages of both), a windbreaker and a slide windbreaker (consisting of tuned mailing tubes, sometimes referred to in old treatises as 'mailing tubas'), and, interestingly enough, a foghorn."

### HONOR STUDENT

Gilbert Diaz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilberto Diaz of 1517 Plaza del Amo, was named an honor student at Claremont Men's College last semester.

Airman Lewis N. Meadors, son of Mrs. Alva M. Ashwell of 1344 W. Carson St., has been selected for technical training at Sheppard AFB, Tex., as at U. S. Air Force aircraft maintenance school. He was graduated from Narbonne High School in 1965 and attended Los Angeles Harbor College. His father, Kenneth R. Meadors, resides at 206 E. 227th, Torrance.

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