



The Lyons Den

LEONARD LYONS

The \$32,000,000 deal for Jack Warner's corporate shares was set by Serge Semenenko, the banker. There were 40 people involved in the session at a midtown bank. At 4 p.m., when an impasse had been reached, Semenenko excused himself for an hour to keep "an appointment." His departure enabled the others to recapitulate, and come to terms among themselves.

When the banker returned at 5 p.m., he was told that all sides were in agreement. Semenenko was not surprised: he'd spent the hour keeping his "appointment" at his barber's.

Claire Boothe Luce is completing a McCall's article on Churchill, Eisenhower and President Kennedy as Sunday painters. She'll illustrate it with her own painting of Henry Luce . . . Peter Finch was in the London courts yesterday to unfreeze the cash his former wife had attached. He wants to take the money with him to Jamaica . . . Sam Levenson, the comic and author, may accept a teaching job again, at LIU.

Jack Benny will play his first non-comic violin solo on his NBC-TV special Dec. 1. For three years he's been taking violin lessons from Gloria Chappell, concert master of the Beverly Hills Symphony Orchestra. When he introduced the young, blonde Miss Chappell to his wife, Mrs. Benny said: "Now I'll sign for singing lessons with Robert Goulet."

Roger Vadim celebrated his first Thanksgiving in N.Y., as house-guest of Henry Fonda, his father-in-law. Fonda's wife, Shirley, and daughter Jane were there, of course . . . Paramount just bought the rights to Neil Simon's "Star Spangled Girl" . . . Bing Crosby, his wife Kathryn and their three children will make their joint TV debut on ABC-TV's "Hollywood Palace" Dec. 24. The Crosby's will sing Christmas carols.

A novel advertising technique was tested in Paris a few days ago. The ad showed a woman in the process of disrobing. Visible are the groups of men she's facing. The caption reads: "If you don't want your widow to become a striptease artist in order to feed her children—buy life insurance."

I. P. Lazar expects to sell the movie rights to "Man of La Mancha" for \$4,000,000 . . . Lazar's newest film-package is "The Scientific Incident," an original by Irwin Shaw for MGM and Peter Sellers . . . American



JACK BENNY

International's "Hallucination Generation" is filmed in black-and-white, but the LSD sequences are in color . . . Jason Robards bought the U. S. rights to Peter Barnes' "Clap Hands, Here Comes Charlie." Robards will produce and star in the play.

A London hostess tells this story of the late Dame Edith Sitwell, who did not admire Nancy Mitford. The hostess met Miss Sitwell and invited her to spend a weekend at her country home. She mentioned how quiet and restful it was, and added: "Nancy Mitford is spending the summer there—finishing her book" . . . "Her book?" Dame Edith replied, "What's she reading?"

Rossano Brazzi, star of "The Christmas That Almost Wasn't," is filming a 30-minute documentary on the floods in Italy, for the Florence Relief Fund . . . Gina Lollobrigida will be in N.Y. next week to arrange her world tour for "Cervantes" . . . A forthcoming cookbook, "Miss Dove Presents," is by producer Leonard Sillman's cook. She'll give her recipes for the dinners-for-30 she prepares at Sillman's town-house.

Gene Sarazen was the first notable to patronize the Pen and Pencil, in 1937. He presented to its owner, the late John Bruno Sr., the 4-wood he'd used in winning the Masters tournament. The golf club was displayed prominently. This week Sarazen asked John Bruno Jr. about the club. "Oh, it's in my golf bag," Bruno said. "I use it regularly. It's a good club."

David Susskind just taped, for his TV series, a discussion between Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment," and Louis Nizer, who'd written a special introduction to the Warren report . . . Barry Nelson, co-star of "Cactus Flower," can have the starring role in Ira Wailach's new comedy . . . Andy Warhol just made his first Velvet Underground recording, for MGM. He used his banana-theme for the label's decor.

Our Ambassador to Paris, Chip Bohlen, recently met with Gen. de Gaulle. It was a brief meeting, which began by Bohlen saying: "Mr. President, I am always sad when I find myself disagreeing with you" . . . De Gaulle laughed, and replied: "Mr. Ambassador, I am also very sad, but only when I find myself agreeing with you."

The Beatles and their manager, Brian Epstein, have \$5,000 invested in "Hail, Screwdyke!" the play opening at the Booth on Monday . . . Her Highness the Maharanee of Baroda is doing a cookbook of Indian recipes, for Heinz . . . Toots Shor has adhered to his pledge not to drink until he can walk again without a cane. At his Thanksgiving dinner for his family Shor told them: "This is the first and last time you'll see me sober on a holiday."