What's Happening

Mrs. Santa Fund

$17,068.00

By Ida Peters

Note: Mrs. Ida Peters has been on vacation. Her column and entertainment pages are being handle by Mrs. Vashti McKenzie, until her return.

Mrs. Santa would like to thank each and everyone who helped her go way over her goal this past Christmas in the efforts to help the needy in the city of Baltimore.

We hope the Christmas of those persons writing to Mrs. Santa was a little bit brighter.

• • •

It was such a joy to see so many Baltimoreans come forward with monetary donations as well as toys, clothing, food and furniture. Eventhough the holiday season is over, let it be season of giving, sharing and caring ever end. Continue to extend your hand to your fellow man.

• • •

You and your friends are cordially invited to the 1976 Prevue of the traveling exhibit of "The Black Presence in Baltimore 1815-1915" at the Peale Museum on Sunday, January 18, 3-6 PM. This has been prepared for by the Citizens Committee for Black History Exhibits.

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The Pierians and the staff of the Gallery of Art, Morgan State University is having a black tie preview showing of "The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution, 1770-1800" Sunday, January 11, 7-9 PM, in the main gallery of Art in the Murphy Fine Arts Building.

• • •

The Baltimore Museum of Art on Sunday, January 11 at 2 PM in the Cone Wing will have an event for young people, "Bonjour Mademoiselle Cone".

Chris Leahy, Educational Assistant, will create an improvisational tour of the Cone Collection using dramatic techniques to spark inquiry in young people's approach to art works. Please meet at the Information Desk in the main court.

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One of Baltimore's most famous Dinner Theatre name has been revived and will open January 30.

The New Rolfon Hill Dinner Theatre, 1111 Park Avenue at Sutton Place, begins its 1976 season under new management with remodeled facilities and a renovated lounge.

The first production will be the hit comedy "Luv" starring Kay Gates, Aurelie Dorsett, and David Emge, and directed by Paul Hjelmervik.

Mrs. Ruth Pratt (center), president of the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, congratulates Mrs. Camilla H. Sherrard, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arena Players, after presenting a check for $1,200 to Mrs. Edith Hare (left). The check was presented on opening night of the Arena's production of "Tambourines to Glory", and completed Delta Sigma Theta's pledge of $2,000 to the "Possible Dream" fund which is the financing of renovations to The Arena Playhouse.

Bubbling Brown Sugar," a new musical revue, has passed its 250th performance on its pre-Broadway tour. The show's now at the New Locust Theatre in Philadelphia on return engagement to that city where it plays through January 18th.

The show played to packed houses for more than 6 weeks at the National in Washington breaking all records. So there is still time to see the revue before it moves further north.

"Bubbling Brown Sugar," which will open in New York at the Anta Theatre on February 4th with previews beginning on January 23, is completing a phenomenal pre-Broadway tour of six months in which it grossed over two million dollars after engagements in D.C., Philadelphia, Chicago, Toronto and the current return engagement in Philadelphia which is doing capacity business.

Baltimorean Avon Long, Vivian Reed, Joseph Attles and Josephine Premice are starred in the rousing new musical revue which celebrates some of the most famous personages and places of Harlem from 1910 through 1940.

To honor the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr., the Enoch Pratt Free Library will present a special film program on the anniversary of his birth.

At 2 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, a program at the central library, 400 Cathedral street, will feature "Martin Luther King, Jr., a Man of Peace," an intimate portrait of the man, his philosophies, and his teaching, followed by "Legacy of a Dream," a chronicle of Dr. King's public career, narrated by James Earl Jones and produced by the King Foundation.

Admission to the library screening will be free. The public is cordially invited.

• • •

Ray Charles, successful and gifted musician, recalls details of his early life and professional career in "Body and Soul, Part II," a 25-minute film set for a 6:30 p.m. showing on Wednesday, January 14, at the Hollins-Payson branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 31 South Payson Street.

Charles also describes the development of black music and uses filmed performances by such notable stars as Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin, and Duke Ellington to illustrate his interpretation of the history of soul music.

• • •

Martin Eidelberg, professor of art at Rutgers University, will speak on "French Ceramics and Japanese Art" at 3 P.M. Sunday (January 11) in Graham Auditorium of the Walters Art Gallery.

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"Your Arms Too Short To Box With God", the rousing Gospel musical conceived by Vinette Carell (Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope") with music by Alex Bradford has been held over again at Ford Theatre in Washington. It will be in residence now thru January 25.

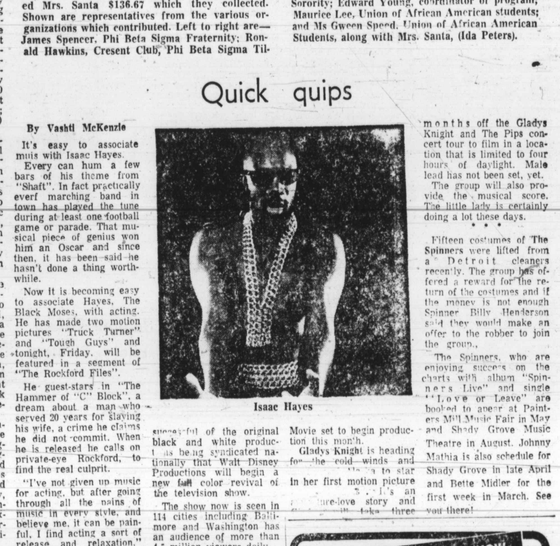
The Arena Players open their first production of the new year tonight at 8:30 P.M. at the Community College of Baltimore theatre, 2901 Liberty Heights Ave. Being presented is Robert Anderson's "Solitaire-Double Solitaire", two one-act plays that deal with marriage in a poignantly sophisticated way. Performances continue tomorrow (Sat.) and Sunday at 7:30 P.M., and again next week-end (Fri.-8:30 P.M.; Sat. and Sun.-7:30 P.M.) January 16, 17, and 18.

The Susquehanna Festival Theater, a cultural project of Harford Community College, will begin Saturday workshops for students and senior citizens in February, according to Michele Nelson, Artistic Director. These workshops, funded by a grant from the Maryland Arts Council, will as had weekly under the general direction of Ms. Nelson.

"Free at Last," a movie history of the black American from emancipation to the end of World War II, and "Ancient Africans," a thoughtful survey of the civilizations and achievements of the people of the many nations of Africa, will be shown at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, at the Pratt library's Kirk Avenue Center, Kirk Avenue and 22d Street.

The first film uses dramatic readings from the works of Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, and Marcus Garvey to tell its story, while the second offers color photographs, maps, and imaginative animated sequences to explore the past of an enormously diversified continent.

Baltimore's own Ethel Ennis will be appearing at The Playboy Club this weekend, January 9 and 10 and next weekend, January 16 and 17.



The Interested Organizations of UMBC presented Mrs. Santa $136.67 which they collected. Shown are representatives from the various organizations which contributed. Left to right are—James Spencer, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; Ronald Hawkins, Cresent Club, Phi Beta Sigma Tiler, Lambda Kappa chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Edward Young, coordinator of program; Maurice Lee, Union of African American students; and Ms Gween Speed, Union of African American Students, along with Mrs. Santa, (Ida Peters).

Quick quips

By Vashti McKenzie

It's easy to associate musis with Isaac Hayes.

Every can hum a few bars of his theme from "Shaft". In fact practically everf marching band in town has played the tune during at least one football game or parade. That musical piece of genius won him an Oscar and since then, it has been said-he hasn't done a thing worthwhile.

Now it is becoming easy to associate Hayes, The Black Moses, with acting. He has made two motion pictures "Truck Turner" and "Tough Guys" and tonight, Friday, will be featured in a segment of "The Rockford Files".

He guest-stars in "The Hammer of "C" Block", a dream about a man who served 20 years for slaying his wife, a crime he claims he did not commit. When he is released he calls on private-eye Rockford, to find the real culprit.

"I've not given up music for acting, but after going through all the pains of music in every style, and believe me, it can be painful, I find acting a sort of release and relaxation," said Hayes in a recent interview.

"I'll go anywhere to do a dramatic role if it's something worthwhile," he said. "As far as winning an Emmy, I don't give it a thought. I just want my work to be worthy of watching."

• • •

The whole left in the singing group The Fifth Dimension due to the exodus of husband and wife, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. has been discussed. Danny Beard and Marlecie Barnes will join Pen Townson, Lamonte McLemore and Florence LaRue Gordon as the Fifth Dimension on a new album "Home Cookin" being produced by Snuff Garrett.

McCoo and Davis left on the best of terms and will record as solo artists for ABC records.

• • •

I'm enjoying our son, Jon-Mikael watching and getting excited over reruns of "The Mickey Mouse Club." Even at his age, 15 months, he sings and dances with the Mouseketeers.

The re-runs have been so enjoyful of the original black and white production which is being syndicated nationally that Walt Disney Productions will begin a new fall color revival of the television show.

Isaac Hayes

The show now is seen in 114 cities including Baltimore and Washington has an audience of more than 4.5 million viewers daily.

"The New Mickey Mouse Club" complete with new Mouseketeers is tentatively schedule to debut in January 1977.

Let us all hope and pray that more than one Mouseketeer will be black. Even so, it is hard to imagine a mouse-show without Annette, Chubby, Darlene, Tommy, Dorene, Bobby, Roy, Jimmy.

• • •

Yaphet Kotto, currently seen in the movie "Friday Foster" starring Pam Grier, has been set to star in the title role of "Crunch" two-hour TV-movie-of-the-week to be shot in Jamaica three months off the Gladys Knight and The Pips concert tour to film in a location that is limited to four hours of daylight. Male lead has not been set, yet.

The group will also provide the musical score. The little lady is certainly doing a lot these days.

• • •

Fifteen costumes of The Spinners were lifted from a Detroit cleaners recently. The group has offered a reward for the return of the costumes and if the money is not enough Spinner Billy Henderson said they would make an offer to the robber to join the group.

The Spinners, who are enjoying success on the charts with album "Spinners Live" and single "Love or Leave" are booked to appear at Pimlico Mid-Atlantic Fair in May and Shady Grove Music Theatre in August. Johnny Mathis is also schedule for Shady Grove in late April and Bette Midler for the first week in March. See you there!

Mrs. Santa's Helpers

By Arnetta Lottier

The Mrs Santa Program is over and we are still receiving letters from folks asking for help. It is too bad that these people did not write in time to get help. There is nothing Mrs. Santa can do now because all the clothes, toys, baskets of food and gift certificates have gone out to those on our lists. Try calling or writing the Salvation Army if you need assistance. Social Services or one of the churches in your area.

Speaking of letters, some of the folks who received help from Mrs Santa wrote to thank her. Here is a typical letter we have received:

"Dear Mrs. Santa:

We really thank you for the clothes and the games you sent to help make our holiday a lot happier than it would have been. We did not receive a basket but we were blessed to get the things we did. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Thanks to all the folks for their letters of thanks. A special thanks to our reader in the city jail who wrote to say how good it made him feel to read about all the people Mrs. Santa was helping.

Help a Shut-in

John Watkins came to this office to tell us about his niece, Ms. Pauletta Jones, who is in Chion Memorial Hospital, Room 614. This young lady is 19 years old and is suffering from Sickle Cell Anemia. She has been in and out of the hospital and will have to do so for the rest of her life. Naturally, she becomes depressed at times and it would be ever so nice if you would send her a card or write her a little note to help cheer her.

Mr. Watkins, her uncle brought us this little verse that was on her bulletin board and said it seemed to express how his niece feels. It is called "The Lonely Little Room" and goes like this:

"As I sit here, I think and I look out of my window and look across the city. It's funny when you are just in one little room, you really can see the bus and you wonder where they are going and say 'Hey, don't go'.

I'm here in my lonely little room and I sit on my bed and say my bed is my friend for now. Then my family comes to see me and I feel good. I love them all.

Then the clock says 8 o'clock and all the noise is gone and I am back into my loneliness. It is time to go to sleep and I say 'Thank you God for this day'".

How about it, readers, won't you please send her a card?

The Evening Star Social Committee, Mrs. Blanche Edmonds, president and Mrs. Margarette McCoy, recording secretary presented $25 to Mrs. Santa Fund.

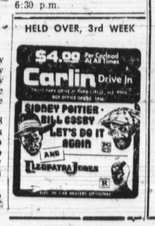
Enoch Pratt

Saturday, January 10
Central Library, Children's Department: Films — "The Case of the Elevator Duck," "The Roc Bird and the Rescue," "Peewee's Pianola," and "Up the Creek," 2 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13
"Demagogues and Do-gooders," "Under the Clouds of War," and "Exits and Entrances," films at the Central Pratt Library, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14
"Free at Last" and "the Ancient Africans," films at the Pratt Library's Kirk Avenue Center, 6 p.m.

"Body and Soul: Soul," film at the Pratt Library's Hollins-Payson Branch, 6:30 p.m.



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Directed by
Bob Smith
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Community College of Baltimore Theatre
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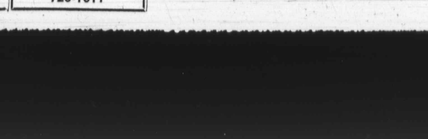

The McKenzie report

"Hello Dolly", good bye Pearl

By Vashti McKenzie

Pearl Bailey is sensational as the mischievous matchmaker in "Hello Dolly" at the Kennedy Center's Opera House now through January 24.

In her patented "Bailey-style" Pearl puts a shine to Dolly Gallagher Levi singing, prancing and dancing her way to her wedding day with Yonkers' very own reluctant millionair, Horace Vandergelder, played by Billy Daniels.

Pearl is so good that you won't notice that the scenery is not as grand as before and the dancing waiters in the "Waiters Gallop" and "Hello Dolly" production numbers are not as fast as they use to be.

But who cares!

Pearl is giving her swan song in "Dolly" because she intends to retire from show business after 40 years to go into politics of a sort. She is returning to New York to join the American delegation to the United Nations.

In the Opera House on New Year's Eve as Bailey descended the staircase of the Harmonia Gardens restaurant, she received a standing ovation from the capacity crowd.

After cajoling with the waiters and singing, Pearl stops in the middle of the ramp to "catch her breath" as only Pearl can do it, and with her friends, the audience.

"Hey, I'm not suppose to be talking to you. I'm in a show here, I must stay in character," she said.

"I do have a script you know, darling. It says sing, go around here twice and stop, and I did."

Just as she was about to progress the musical Pearl stopped again and said:

"Well, this is my last time around and after 40 years, if I can't do what I want to do than......"

So Pearl mounted the steep staircase one more time gathering her red stain gown about her knees and proceeded to entertain her way through "Hello Dolly" once again much to the delight of the audience.

Mary Louise is a delight as the widow Irene Malloy and also is the ball of energy Chip Fields as Minnie Fay. Gredolde Frazier does great with the character Barnaby Tucker and what else can you say about the grand, Billy Daniels.

Unlike the Broadway production in which Pearl and Carol Channing starred, the cast is integrated with the principals being black.

"Hello Dolly" is the perfect musical comedy vehicle for Pearl Bailey to say goodbye to her fans. You'll laugh at the wit and charm of Dolly Levi and share at her remarkable penchant for getting into and out of trouble.

But nobody is beating down the doors of the Kennedy Center to see "Hello Dolly". They are flocking to see Pearl and nobody but Pearl.

They are waiting to see Pearl pout and hear her throw out those one line zingers. They want to see Pearl strut across the stage leaning over and walking softly as she can on those aching feet darling.

They want to see her put her hands on her hips and carry on, honey, in her nonchalant way. They want to hear her talk about getting old and going to the White House...again.

Pearl Bailey is starring at the Kennedy Center and just happens to be in an entertaining musical. Go by boat, plane, train, car, bus or camel but do try to get there. You might never get a chance again to see Pearl do her thing on stage.

To think that you're going to say goodbye to Pearl, however, is a misconception. This is goodbye to her stage career but to think you'll never hear from Pearl again... ha! Aurevoir, Pearl.

"Pearlie Mae"

Suggestive sex sells Leon Haywood

"I personally feel that I'm giving people what they want to hear in music," said Leon Haywood, when he was questioned about his recent single and album release on 20TH Century Records, entitled, "Come and Get Yourself Some", being considered as a sexually suggestive record.

The tall Texan then went on to explain, "You see, I'm a musician, songwriter, recording artist, and entertainer, and I want to be successful in my profession. And today, the success of a recording artist is predicated on hit records; therefore, I've got to get hit records, and the only way I know how to do that is to give the people what they want to hear and buy on records."

Leaning forward and hitting on the desk to emphasize his point, Leon said, "Everything is sex now, so if I'm gonna be in the trend I've gotta' jump on the bandwagon and write about what people are buying. When you look around, you'll see that the market is full of suggestive sex songs, and everybody's digging it, songs like "Let's Get It On," "Can't Get Enough of Your Funky Stuff," and so many, many more. People like to hear these things."

"From a male point of view, I've got to talk to the women, because they buy the records, and there are things they like to hear in a record, even if they don't come out and admit it, they like to hear it."

"And every hit record has got to have what I call 'a hook line.' For example, one of the tracks on my latest album is called, 'I WANNA DO SOMETHING FREAKY TO YOU,' that's starting to happen, because everybody's playing it and talking about it. I don't think it's suggestive at all, but it does have a hook like in it to hold a listener's attention over and over."

"Actually, the hook line and title has a double meaning, and it's up to the person listening to let their mind carry them wherever they want to go with their thoughts, when they hear the hook line or title over and over throughout the song. I just want to make records that sell, I can't be responsible for what a person thinks."

"If a person thinks dirty, then what they hear in a song is dirty; and if a person thinks of love and beauty, then that's what they get."

"Now, in my song "I WANNA DO SOMETHING FREAKY TO YOU," I was thinking about the beauty of the mountains and the canyons, and I wrote the lyrics thinking about the beauty of natures work, and how it could freak a person out and make them sensitive to love; however, it's the hook line that starts people thinking the other way."

"Check the lyrics... your love grows like a mountain... and I'd love to slide down into your canyon... in the valley of love. I won't rest till I bring you joy and happiness."

"As far as I'm concerned, the lyrics are simple enough, and there's nothing out of place, because I'm talking about love and beauty compared to tall mountains and cool green valleys or canyons; however, when you add the 'hook line' onto the lyrics, that's where most people let their mind play tricks with the entire song and it's true meaning."

"My whole thing is to make records that sell, so I put a danceable groove into my music, and write lyrics about what people are talking about most, and that's how I come up with the type of songs that sell for me. I really don't mind if people think that my songs are suggestive, as long as they sell. Because I plan to be around a long time giving the people what they want to hear; so, if suggestive sex sells my records and makes me successful... I'll keep it in the family, and you can come and get yourself some."

Leon Haywood

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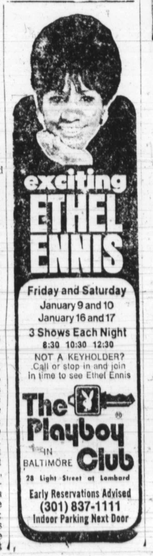
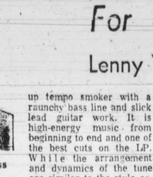


For The Record

Lenny White: Super drummer



Frederick I. Douglass

Super drummer Lenny White, best known as the heartbeat of the country's most popular Jazz-Rock group Return to Forever, has cut his first LP as a leader. Entitled "Venusian Summer," the album is destined to become a big seller during the Bicentennial year.

A multi-talented Brother Lenny wrote and arranged most of the material on the album, in addition to playing synthesizer keyboards, gongs and bass guitar on some of the tracks. But his specialty is whipping frenetically on the drums, as he demonstrates time and time again on every jam.

Have you ever tried "Chicken-Fried Steak"? I don't know what such a concoction tastes like, but I do know that Lenny plays the h-- out of the tune, an up tempo smoker with a raunchy bass line and slick lead guitar work. It is high-energy music, from beginning to end and one of the best cuts on the LP. While the arrangement and dynamics of the tune are similar to the style associated with Return to Forever, Lenny demonstrates on this and other songs on the album that he has strong and creative musical ideas of his own.

The most danceable jam on the album is entitled "Away Go the Troubles Down the Drain," a tune that has Top-40 potential. This tune features beautiful interplay between keyboard players Weldon Irvine, David Sanchez and Onsie Allan Gumbs. Doug Rauch is hanging in there, laying down some more of his nasty bass lines which provide a solid foundation for the group. And of course, there is White, a precise timekeeper who doesn't need a watch. Lenny is running neck and neck with Billy Cobham for the honors as the best drummer on the contemporary music scene.

The "Venusian Summer Suite" is a two-part jam, with the first part entitled "Sirenes" being an exploration of the sounds that can be produced on various types of synthesizer keyboards like the Minimoog, the Oberheim Digital Sequencer, and other space age instruments. "Venusian Summer," the second part of the suite is much more interesting to listen to than part one, mainly because of the flute work of Hubert Laws. Although this is the title cut, it is in this writer the weakest portion of an otherwise sterling album.

Flip the album over and you have two items that make this disc worth spending your hard earned ducats to add it to your collection. "Prince of the Sea" sounds a lot like some of the things that Carlos Santana has been doing these days. The song features some mean trade-offs between guitarists Larry Corsell and Al Di Meola, another member of Return to Forever. They really get down to the nitty gritty on this jam.

"Mating Drive," a furiously paced scorcher, is by far the tour-de-force of the LP. Played at breakneck speed, "Mating Drive" allows room for Lenny to stretch out on a drum solo that leaves you craving for more, more, more. The cut is dominated by guitarist Raymond Gomez whose sizzling, scorching, searing riffs may melt the needle on your stereo/quadrophonic box. Honefully Nemperor records will bring back Gomez on future LP's. He has a style that slickly complements the bass-o-phonics of Doug Rauch and the super drumming of Lenny White. If you are into high-energy, electronically galvanized music, then "Venusian Summer" will probably be your favorite album of 1976. LET THE BUYER BEWARE: do not lend this album out to even your best friend—you will never get it back!

TV Notes

by Vashti McKenzie
COMMENT

An interesting announcement came from NBC this week about the recently completed production of a two-hour feature "Judge Horton and the Scottsboro Boys" in Monticello, Georgia.

The film is based on the highly publicized civil rights case involving nine Alabama black men who, in 1931, were accused of raping two white women in a freight train loaded with bobos. The men were arrested, tried and sentenced to death within 24 hours after they were accused of the crime.

Arthur Hill and Vera Miles will star.

Now here's the interesting part. The feature will focus on Judge James Horton, a popular and respected Alabama jurist who presided over a new trial eight years later in which the jailed defendants were acquitted.

When the verdict was re[illegible] Horton's career was stifled and he was ostracized by the local community for his handling of the case.

My question is what about the nine black men wrongly accused. Why not focus upon their lives and families. They were not only "stifled and ostracized" from the community but were jailed and sentenced to die. What happened to these men in jail? What happened to their "careers"? What happened to their families? Now that's an interesting figure for television, devoid of similar cases is television.

I'm sure we should be appreciative of the fact the story representing hundreds of similar cases is now being developed for television.

However let's go one step further. I think the viewing public, especially white public, is ready to see the horrible truth about the hundreds of racial incidents that happened and are possibly still happening today in and out of the south.

Many black men were accused of raping white women, looking at white women, talking to white women, pointing at white women, and touching white women. Most of these men never made it to trial let alone jail.

They were hung from the nearest tree and castrated. Now tell that story!

PRIME TIME

Salesman Fred Sanford interrupts a television cooking show to do a pitch for the Whopper Chopper, in "Can You Chop This?" on "Sanford and Son," Friday, Jan. 9.

Redd Foxx and Demond Wilson star.

Robert Stack and Brock Peters star as a detective team investigating a cross-country string of assault-slayings involving young women, in the "Police Story" colorcast of part one of "Odyssey of Death" Friday, Jan. 9.

Robert Alda, Dane Clark, Janet MacLachlan, Lloyd Nolan and Otis Young guest-star in the "Ellery Queen" colorcast of "The Sunday Punch," the mystery of a boxer's untimely demise in the ring, Sunday, Jan. 11.

• • •

All is fair in love and war—for the moment it's war—and George Jefferson jumps in with both feet in this second half of a two-part episode. While Lionel and Jenny feud George adds fuel to the fire by setting his son up with a beautiful young woman, on "The Jeffersons," Saturday, Jan. 10.

Mrs. Betty Ford, wife of the President of the United States, makes a cameo appearance in the episode of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" to be shown on Saturday, Jan. 10.

• • •

Academy Award winner George Kennedy ("Cool Hand Luke"-Best Supporting Actor 1967) stars as a tough gunslinger who hired six other men who are marksmen and experts in combat to free a revolutionary leader from a Mexican prison in "Guns of the Magnificent Seven," on "NBC Monday Night at the Movies" January 12.

Bernie Casey stars.

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