



Len Chandler of KRLA

Len Chandler Sings the News

By Bill Yaryan

Len Chandler, KRLA's "staff singer-poet," first wrote made-to-order verse when, as a sixth-grade student in Akron, Ohio, he penned a love letter for a friend at the bargain basement price of 25 cents.

learn the guitar. Van Ronk sang for the children at St. Barnabas House where Chandler was a counselor.

met Chandler in Mississippi where he was filming a documentary, "What Shall the Harvest Be," which eventually included three of his songs.

Chandler, 33, was an initiator and guiding light of the topical song movement which grew out of the folk music revival in the early 1960s, and which included such other singer-poets as Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton and Phil Ochs.

Chandler continued to comment on the daily news with song (he has two LPs of topical and non-topical songs on Columbia) but what was happening in the South didn't really hit home until 1963 when he went to Atlanta to attend a conference on freedom songs and Negro music.

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Chandler's songs always do more than tell a story; at best, they provide flashes of illuminating insight.

According to his friend, Julius Lester: "Since that time he has increasingly used his talents, not for his aggrandizement, but for the 'movement.' He is one of those all-time few name singers who appear at benefits for small organizations, where he won't even get any publicity for appearing, not to mention money.

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Chandler's father was a saxophone and clarinet player in bands backing Billy Eckstine and Lena Horne, and his mother encouraged him to attend chamber musical recitals as a boy in Akron. He took up the oboe and french horn, and eventually got a master's degree in music education at Columbia.

The featured role of Valere in Moliere's comedy "Tartuffe" opening a two week engagement at the Huntington Hartford Theatre Monday evening will be played by Pasadenaan Mark Bramhall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dexter Bramhall, Burlington Drive.

They fail, however, to face the facts. Movie stars turn to television as a last resort. The work is harder, the hours longer, the bow-towing diminished, the pay less.

By Vernon Scott

It was Long John Silver in "Treasure Island" who raised his crutch and railed at the enemy: "Them that die'll be the lucky ones!"

There are fewer dispiriting sights than yesterday's idols. You and I go about our work in anonymity. The hot shot insurance salesman retires contentedly to fish. The arc welder may end up with a chicken ranch, the bus driver at a retirement community playing shuffleboard.

But you and I, the salesman, welder and bus driver were never beloved by hundreds of millions of persons in our lifetimes.

Our faces are unfamiliar except to a handful of friends and acquaintances.

But consider the movie and television stars. What happens when they outlive their stardom? Some gracefully accept retirement. Examples: Irene Dunne, Claudette Colbert, Jimmy Cagney.

They are the exceptions. Others become drunks, drug addicts, suicides, mental cases or public spectacles.

One leading man of a decade ago is under constant care of a male nurse, a hopeless alcoholic. He's unable to work or function as a human being.

His face is used up. One of the leading glamor girls of World War II waits at home for the telephone to ring, hoping it's her agent or even a man asking for a date.

Still another once great beauty roams from country to country, continent to continent, in a relentless escape from herself. At least among foreigners she is spared the pity evident on faces that once worshipped her as a sex goddess.

A headline reports the death of a one-time star as "accidental overdose" of drugs. The story comes from a friend or a family doctor, sometimes a member of the family. But it is stretching the truth. Such deaths among stars are rarely accidental.

Those stars who see the end of their careers sometimes prolong their public lives through surgery.

Face lifts are commonplace among both male and female performers. Hair transplants rejuvenate the receding hairline. Cosmetic surgery will hide the wrinkles and crow's feet for perhaps another two or three years.

The tragedy lies not in the fact that the fading star faces economic disaster, but that he cannot reconcile himself to becoming a has-been. Yet it is as inescapable as death itself. Every generation has its "now" people, its "today" stars.

Oldtimers must be pushed aside to make room for the Warren Beattys, The Beatles, Julie Andrews, Sean Connery, Mia Farrow and Faye Dunaways.

It is they who draw the shrieks of the crowd at a premiere while a Lana Turner or Ray Milland may slip past unnoticed.

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They fail, however, to face the facts. Movie stars turn to television as a last resort. The work is harder, the hours longer, the bow-towing diminished, the pay less.

Should the series succeed it may prolong a career for years. If it fails, generally all is lost, save perhaps the demeaning stock company.

Long John Silver knew there were worse things than death.

'Mame' Delights 'Em At Civic Light Opera



Dinah Shore

Dinah Shore Keeps Busy

Dinah Shore a coloratura? "Well, hardly," the colorful entertainer set the record straight with a laugh. "Just because I plan to sing with some fine symphony orchestras this summer doesn't mean I'm about to hit the scales. I'm not at all like that mountain climber who has to scale Mt. Everest just because it's there. I'm more the terra firma kind. I'll stick to what I know."

And what Dinah knows is quite considerable—chiefly that a girl has to move perpetually to keep up with the changing world. Accordingly she's stepping into new pastures, having long since conquered the recording, television and night club fields.

"I'm going to start the concerts at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on June 23," she points out. "The last time I was there was when our team at Hume Fogg High School in Nashville traveled there and I went along as cheer-leader. But I hope nobody looks up those dates."

It was that cheer-leading chore, in fact, that kayced Dinah's career as an operatic soprano. "My singing teacher tired to make me a Lily Pons for a couple of weeks, then handed me an ultimatum: It would have to be either cheer-leading or singing. One would have to go. She couldn't compete with the foggy quality I was getting in my voice. So I picked cheer-leading," she recalls.

Dinah is also heading for the beautiful new Performing Arts Center at Saratoga Springs in New York on June 27. I ought to get in a little tennis and golf while up there in those glorious surroundings," she said wistfully.

On June 29, she'll be at Clowes Memorial Hall in Indianapolis and then will fly for an affair of the heart in Chicago. There, on July 1, she'll give a benefit performance with her good friend Mahalia Jackson for underprivileged children.

"That marvelous lady is doing such fine work for so many people. I feel privileged to be asked to appear with Mahalia," she said with feeling.

Appearances with the Washington National Symphony in Columbia, Maryland, on July 3, and with the Cleveland Symphony on July 5 and 6, conclude the first phase of the summer concerts. That doesn't seem to leave much time for leisure, but Dinah makes out.

"I flew to Birmingham recently to play golf for charity," she said. "And guess who else was there? Julius Boros, Billy Casper and many top pros like that. I had a chance to take some lessons, and it really helped. I managed to hit that ball an average of 240 yards! I quit right there while I was ahead. I've never lost a lesson!" she laughed.

Always on some sort of a new kick, the singer has been concentrating recently on needlepoint: "The way I'm going I'll cover every piece of furniture in the house."

What about TV—is she still a holdout? "Not really," she states, "and I'll point to my record. After all, I did a couple of Ed Sullivan guest shots and I did a million spots for Rowan and Martin's 'Laugh-In.' Oh, and I made my talk show debut recently, appearing on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. I thought I might talk too much. You know, I'm a Southern girl and I never use one word when a thousand will do. We received such good response on our only special last season, the Nashville Sound, that I'd like to do a few more. Also, I'm going to do the Lucy Show next fall. I'd hardly say I was off TV. Don't you agree?"

Dinah could make Averell Harriman and Ho Chi Minh agree.

SHOW TIME listing for various theaters including Academy, El Monte, and others.

UPTOWN 2314 E. Colorado FREE PARK & SY 3-1315, MU 4-1147

ACADEMY Planet of the Apes 12:30, 2:00, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15

PASADENA STATE 770 E. Colorado Blvd 792-7139

Loew's COLORADO coming to dinner Spencer Sidney TRACY POITIER

Loew's CROWN Don Knotts with the Shakesiest Gun in the West

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER "BEST FOREIGN FILM" ESQUIRE 2670 E. Colorado SY 3-6149 MU 4-1774

Local Actor In 'Tartuffe'

The featured role of Valere in Moliere's comedy "Tartuffe" opening a two week engagement at the Huntington Hartford Theatre Monday evening will be played by Pasadenaan Mark Bramhall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dexter Bramhall, Burlington Drive.

Local Actor In 'Tartuffe'

He is now a member of the American Conservatory Theatre, based in San Francisco. The ACT is sending two of its brightest productions to Los Angeles, "Tartuffe" and Dylan Thomas' "Under Milkwood" (July 15-27), Bramhall appears in both plays.

UNITED ARTISTS Smokey PASADENA 792-6169

"THE BEST MOVIE I HAVE SEEN THIS YEAR!" "CLOSELY WATCHED TRAINS"

ESQUIRE 2670 E. Colorado SY 3-6149 MU 4-1774 STARTS Wed., July 3rd