

OUTDOOR BALLET



CLAUDE THOMPSON



AND CARMEN DeLAVALLADE



'GERSHWIN YEARS' V FOR HARRIED

By BERNIE HARRISON

GF Leland Hayward, veteran producer of "The Gershwin Years" for CBS Sunday night, spent the holidays tearing out his remaining locks, it's understandable.

Maybe he should have hired Johnny Midnight before he undertook the assignment.

Who, for example, erased the tape of the Catfish Row sequence from the brilliant "Porgy and Bess" ballet?

"It was a stunning piece of tape," Hayward said, "but what hurt was that it was shot outdoors on Jamaica Bay and couldn't be reshot there because of the snow."

A producer, of course, thrives on problems—or so he jollies himself into thinking. "I like to believe we'll have a good show on account of them," he said.

The tape erasure, unfortunately, wasn't the only setback.

First, host Moss Hart had to withdraw because of his health. Richard Rodgers stepped in. Then, soprano Eileen Farrell, who recently made her Metropolitan debut, withdrew in a billing difference.

The Catfish Row sequence had to be reshot—naturally. Hayward sent his crew and dancers to the nearest, sunniest beach.

One of the interesting aspects of this number is that dancer Claude Thompson, as the crippled Porgy, never gets off his knees. Carmen DeLavallade is Bess; Alvin Ailey is Crown, and Harold Pierson dances Sportin' Life.

After the tape snafu, Hayward