

'Cabaret '49' patrons romp in carnival spirit

The man who walks before the wavy mirror at the carnival and shrieks that his feet are too stubby and his head's too long will get his laugh at Cabaret '49 this Sunday night.

For in a howling sketch prepared specially for the occasion, leading Progressives will strut before the audience in caricatures of themselves, getting perhaps their first and last chance to see themselves as others see them.

Some 15 actors and actresses from the casts of top legitimate shows now in Chicago and a top dance band will add to the evening's merriment.

The cabaret, to be held in UE Hall, 37 S. Ashland Ave., Sun-

day, Jan. 30, 8:30 p.m., will be staged night-club style. Progressive State Director Bill Miller and Legislative Director Sidney Ordower will be among those taking off on themselves in the revue.

CRC to picket Federal Building

To protest the trial prosecuting 12 communist leaders, a picket line will be thrown around the Federal Building, Adams and Clark streets, Saturday, Jan. 29, at 1 p.m., according to Mrs. Imogene Johnson, executive secretary, Illinois Civil Rights Congress.

Strike, buyer resistance push down packer profits

Two things stick out like a hog's sore thumb this week from the profit statements of the big meat packers.

First, the packers' resistance in last year's packing strike was nothing short of bonehead. It cost them plenty, whereas they could have afforded a raise in the first place and come out way ahead.

Second, the batting around the consumers have sustained at the hands of the packers is being returned somewhat in kind.

Armour, Swift, Cudahy, Rath, Morrell and Wilson were struck in 1948. The profits of every one of these outfits went through the slicing machine. Armour's \$31,000,000 profit for 1947 was ground down to a \$2,000,000 loss for 1948 to lead the herd in the backward stampede.

Cudahy was trimmed from \$7 million to \$1 million; Wilson's 1947 take of \$18 million flopped to \$6 million for 1948. Getting off easiest was Swift whose \$34 million in 1947 dropped to \$28 million.

All these figures are after taxes.

Hormel, up 17 percent from 1947, makes an interesting con-

trast with Rath which went down 57 percent. Hormel workers were not on strike. Rath workers were. These two companies do about the same volume and draw their livestock from pretty much the same area.

The packers, who looked like portions of horses to their workers and to the public after they broke the strike, saved their faces with a voluntary grant of a four cent per hour raise. The profit figures demonstrate that the workers' demands could have been met to the advantage of not only the workers, but to making the profit reports considerably more handsome.

SLIGHT PRICE CUTS

Now in the face of these reduced profits, packers find themselves forced to tempt price-angry buyers into the meat eating habit, in the manner of one training a dog to lie down and roll over. Prices have slumped slightly below the normal decline customary this time of year.

On top of all this, popular pressure has moved the government to sue the Big Four packers in a new anti-trust suit.

The packers sure are getting

it from all sides. And the people seem to cause all the trouble.

Convict GE for conspiracy

TRENTON, N. J. (FP)—The giant General Electric lamp-bulb empire was convicted in federal court here this week of conspiring to maintain a monopoly of the incandescent electric lamp industry in the U. S.

It was the sixth time GE has been convicted for monopoly practices since 1940.

Judge Phillip Forman upheld Justice Dept. charges that GE and eight other firms had a stranglehold on the production of lamps. The companies are guilty, Forman said, of engaging in the following practices in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act:

1. Fixing prices to get "high, unreasonable and excessive profits."

2. Patent pools with Westinghouse and other companies which stifled competition and

hampered industrial progress.

3. Carving the world market into exclusive territories which each company could exploit and setting aside the U. S. as exclusive territory for GE.

4. Abuse of the Mazda trademark, which was used interchangeably by GE and Westinghouse.

The judge summed up his findings by saying: "GE conspired to and did restrain trade and competition in, and unlawfully monopolized the incandescent electric lamp industry in the U. S."

According to the Justice Dept., GE, which advertises that its bulbs "stay lighter longer," has been cutting the life of its flashlight bulbs by two-thirds.

GE's most recent previous conviction came Oct. 8, 1948, when Federal Judge John Knox fined the company and its top officials a total of \$50,000 for engaging in the conspiracy with Krupp and other foreign firms to fix prices and limit production of tungsten carbide.

A highlight of the latest trial came the day Board Chairman Philip Reed admitted that GE had been operating its gigantic lamp business under invalid patents.



TRAITOR SENTENCED. Former U. S. Air Force pilot Martin J. Monti was sentenced to 25 years in prison and fined \$10,000 for wartime treason. The traitor, who deserted to join Hitler's air force and later broadcast for the Nazis, pleaded that he wanted to "fight communism."

Warsaw impresses N. Y. Times writer

"The reconstruction achieved in Warsaw in the short period of three months takes one's breath away," according to Sydney Gruson, New York Times correspondent in a special feature recently printed in the Times.

"Warsaw," writes Gruson, "is only faintly recognizable now as the ruined city left by the Germans in 1945. It has shape and beauty again, much of it formed in the last quarter of 1948."

And the correspondent continues: "Blocks of rubble have been transformed into shining new office buildings and houses. Two new bridges have been completed across the Vistula to relieve the burden on the single span that previously had joined Warsaw to its suburbs on the east bank of the river."

"The main streets bisecting the capital, both north-south and east-west, have been made into wide thoroughfares. . . . Not only government and political party buildings have sprouted. Blocks of new flats providing better housing than Polish workers ever enjoyed have been rushed to completion, and new ones started."

The Times writer in Warsaw says "much of the reconstruction" both in Warsaw and in

the countryside "was done under the impetus of a one-month production drive and labor competition instituted in November to mark the merger of the Communist and Socialist parties. Many new houses bear such painted signs as 'this house has been built in fifteen days (or eighteen or twenty-one) in honor of the merger of Congress.'"

Gruson concludes that "the political effect of the merger production drive and of the steadily improving living standard that has resulted from increased production is evident to returning residents. The (Polish) government is buoyant, more sure of itself than ever before and confident that it is daily gaining more honest support from the people themselves."

Georgia assembly defeats attempt to unmask KKK

ATLANTA (FP)—A bill that would have forced Ku Klux Klan members to come out from behind their sheets was killed by the Georgia House of Representatives this week.

Cabaret '49

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