

Looking at T-V

With GEORGE A. and EDITH ANN BURKE

LIBERACE'S fans should see him in person. We met him for the first time at a press conference in Boston. The reception was held in the club room of the Boston Garden. Liberace was wearing a medium gray suit and black topcoat. His hair is not the silvery gray it has so often been labeled but rather a less flashy steely gray. His complexion is dark and his eyes brown. Seeing him for the first time, a person might take him for a serious business man. He stands about five foot eight, and is heavy set with wide shoulders.

Liberace's manner was very sincere, friendly and completely free of any traces of conceit. He answered all questions very agreeably and in a deep pleasant voice. Those viewers who find some of his TV mannerisms irritating would like him better in person for he has no mannerisms.

"I believe the people want showmanship as well as talent. I try to give them both," confided Liberace. The next evening, a sell-out crowd of over 14,000 overwhelmingly agreed that Liberace possessed a huge amount of both.

The immaculately tailored Liberace displayed an unusual ability for leading and handling an audience. He has the same easy, casual manner; the same friendly way of speaking common to the old vaudeville headliners and the best of today's MCs. The whole evening added up to a very personal kind of triumph. From his entrance to his final bow, Liberace was in complete control. The audience, about a fourth of whom were men, reacted to his every mood.

They sighed when he played his own composition, "Rhapsody by Candlelight," cheered at the "Beer Barrel Polka." There was a reverent silence during "The Rosary," and the place went wild when Liberace, in the getup of a hayseed, did a turkey trot all over the stage and lampooned himself with "Hey Liberace . . . Where'd You Get That Smile."

By 11.10 p.m. Liberace had completed all the numbers on the program, but he promised the audience that, if they would wait while he changed his suit, he would come back and play more.

The handful that had to leave missed the best part of the show.

He returned and played requests continuously for the next forty minutes.

A new feeling of informality swept the audience. They settled back in their hard chairs as though they were in their comfortable living rooms listening to a friend. The audience burst into rhythmic clapping when he played "St. Louis Woman," they crooned "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." When he played "Brahms Lullaby" thousands hummed softly.

After his final bow he offered to sign autographs for anyone who wanted to wait. About three thousand decided a real close-up look and autograph was worth waiting for, and Liberace didn't sign the last autograph until after 2 a.m.

Idetown

Richard and Jack Kern visited their sister, Sister Augustine at Ridgely, Maryland, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. George Casterline spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Chesko of Binghamton.

Cpl. Allen Fritz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Fritz, who has been stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, two years, arrived home on Thursday night after being honorably discharged from the Army.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Meade observed their wedding anniversary on Tuesday.

Francis Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith and son of Trucks-ville, Mr. and Mrs. George Smith of Wilkes-Barre were callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Davis on Sunday.

Mrs. Corey Meade and Mrs. John Dobson and son, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Meade, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Meade and sons Billy and Bonnie attended the wedding of Kenneth Meade at East Orange, N. J.

The date of December 25 as the birthday of Jesus and, hence, Christmas, became generally observed in most Christian nations in the fourth and fifth centuries. In Shakespeare's time (1564-1616), Christmas was observed for twelve days.

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