THE DALLAS POST, MARCH 25, 1971

Will success spoil Bruce?

"Please report to CBS Studio 43 Tuesday morning at 10:15 for a taping of SEARCH FOR TOMORROW. It is a restaurant scene, so please wear sport coat and tie."

It was my first big break. Well, okay, so maybe it was my little break. But it was a break-I had to admit that. It was something. This small town child from Dallas, Pennsylvania, was going to be on nationwide cross-country afternoon television. It would be seen by millions of American housewives as they partook of the adventures of one JoAnn Tate on (organ music in) the "Search For Tomorrow.

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Of all the daytime soap operas, "Search For Tomorrow" is perhaps the handwringingest. I remember JoAnn Tate when I was in elementary school and the soap opera was only 15 minutes long. Poor JoAnn was wringing her hands even then. Do you realize what that poor woman has been through during these past Godmows-how--many years of laundry detergents. It's a wonder her hands aren't raw from wringing. And now I, little Bruce Paul Hopkins, who used to weep and wring right along with JoAnn, was going to be on the program. Boy, was I excited!

"Boy, am I excited." I said to the people at Publishers' Weekly magazine, where I work to avoid starving as I pursue fame and fortune in the theatre world

Well, now what are you going to do on the show? What kind of role do you have?" inquired my boss.

"I'm going to sit in a restaurant." I announced smiling. "And?"

"That's all." I explained. "There's this restaurant scene and I'm going to be a person in the restaurant." I was going to be what is referred to in the television world as "atmosphere. " In order for a restaurant to look like a restaurant there had to be people sitting around eating. I was a person. I could eat. Granted, it was not going to take an extensive amount of acting on my part, but it was a start. Everybody

is to start somewhere. Walking into the lobby of the CBS Studio was like entering a hospital. It seemed so antiseptic d quiet. A uniformed officer sat at a desk next to a sign that demanded "Please Show Your fected my psychological CBS Identification Pass." I

lip trying to decide what to do. Suppose I brazenly opened the door and found myself in the middle of JoAnn Tate's living room during the taping of a terribly emotional scene. Let's face it, how fast can you write a person into a script? Having inhaled bravely and gathered together all of my courage, I reached forward to pull open

the door. It flew open and I was almost run over by Anthony George. I gasped. Now for those of you who aren't up on your soap operas, Anthony George just happens to be the soap opera idol of millions of American women. You cannot imagine the number of women who in their daily fantasies have been unfaithful to their husbands with Anthony George. And there he was about to step on my left shoe. Anthony George assured me I could go right on in. I went right on in. There I was

on the set. It was quiet on the set (heh, heh). It was a large room, about the size of a big square gymnasium. In the center of the floor were several movable cameras, a boom microphone, and other equipment. Surrounding these were the various sets: a kitchen, a foyer, a living room, the restaurant setting, and a doctor's office. Overhead, hanging from an amazing framework of pipes, were lights and microphones. It was fascin-

ating Having joined the other extras, I sat in the restaurant scene to watch the rehearsal until our scene. Suddenly, she appeared: JoAnn Tate. Oh wow! Little did I know when I was a skinny little kid in grade school that one day years later I would be a skinny little adult appearing on a television show with the very JoAnn Tate I watched during those days of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. She had always been so brave, so staunch, so pure. She had undoubtedly effected my psychological makeup. And now I was in the very same room with her. I wanted to run up and say, "Miss Tate I used to watch you years and years and years ago when I was a mere child, and I think you've ef-

was about it. I chewed my lower for its performance. I found that a bit depressing. There was this child, who had probably never had an acting lesson in its life, being paid all that money. And here I was with a Bachelor's degree in theatre arts being paid a good deal less. Now, how fair is that? The show was taped on a

Tuesday and was to be viewed the following Friday, Feb. 5. Word was sent out to the parents, brothers and sisters, immediately contracted a aunts and uncles, and neighbors. All gathered around their televisions Friday, ready to catch a glimpse of Bruce Hopkins. The entire staff of Publishers' Weekly magazine career. Today -- "Search For went to lunch together Friday. They went to a little bar and restaurant in New York, and demanded that the bartender on "Search For put Tomorrow." That brought a lot of stares from the men at the bar. However, the bartender complied by tuning in CBS, and the entire staff of Publishers' Weekly magazine stood there watching the men walk on the moon. I had been pre-empted by Alan Shepard and his golf ball. That meant I had to wait until

Monday. And Monday, standing in the television department of Korvette's Fifth Avenue Department Store, a large portion of the P.W. staff watch JoAnn Tate's lower lip quiver. The clerk at Korvette's thought we wanted to mutually purchase a color TV and was doing his best to show us the merits of the particular model

that we were watching. He assured us we could watch it for awhile. My scene was midpoint in the program and it seemed to be taking forever to get there. Just as the scene was about to begin, the clerk returned to show us how nicely the other channels were received. He was pounced upon by four P.W. staffers.

Then I appeared through the miracle of video tape. I was in full view for a good portion of the restaurant scene: I chewed and chatted just like any old boy you might see in a restaurant. The P.W. Staff agreed that it was a distinguished performance. Maybe not award-winning, but distinguished all the same. I had been a hit as atmosphere The reports came in from all

over. I received a telegram

from a former student of my

same down-to-earth, calm, warm-hearted individual that I have always been. Success has not spoiled Bruce Hopkins. I still remember my friends, and refer to them by name when I see them. When people stop me on the street and ask if I am the person who was in the background of the restaurant scene in the Feb. 8 episode of "Search For Tomorrow" I always smile and chat with them a bit. Sometimes I autograph their gum wrappers and things. I try to be a real guy. That makes the fans happy, you know.

Having become a star, I combination of mononucleosis and viral pneumonia. However, now that I have pretty much recuperated, I am about to return to the city to continue my Tomorrow": tomorrow-"As The World Turns." Who knows where it could lead? Someday I migh even do a commercial Now, that's when you know your've made it.

(NOTE, For information about the Bruce Hopkins Fan Club, write: Mrs. Fay Hopkins, Dallas, Pa.)

Larry Ide is recovering at home

Larry Ide, a senior at Dallas week Senior High School, is recuperating at his home following a month-long bout with mononucleosis

Wilkes-Barre, 106 volun According to his mother, Mrs. will be presented pins cove Lawrence Ide, Larry will be at from five to 45 years of set home for several more weeks. to the community through The infectious stage of the dis-Cross. The awards meeting ease has passed, she reports, be informal, with time for and friends may come to visit unteers to renew old acou Larry at the Ide home, 114 Rice ances or make new ones, St., Trucksville. Davis said.

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The Dallas Post (J. KOZEMCHAK SR.)

Red Cross workers will receive awards

The Wyoming Valley Chapter, American Red Cross, will observe Volunteer Recognition Week with its 54th annual awards meeting scheduled April 1 at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Aston Davis, chairman of volunteers, made the announcement last At the meeting, which begins

Back Mountain youngsters in Benton. Saturday, April 3. The hunt will be held in the Dallas Senior High School gymnasium from 1

the area after the Saturday night accident on Dug Road in Kingston Township. A UGI pole fell across the road, landing on the vehicle involved.

Dallas Women to sponsor hunt

Two hundred and fifty winthe fith annual Easter egg hunt to 3 p.m.

ning Easter Eggs will be in- of the Dallas Jr. Woman's Club, cluded in the assortment of the Easter egg hunt this year is Easter eggs to be chosen by being planned by Mrs. Thomas Children up to and including 8 years of age are asked to bring

Conducted under the auspices

\$.25 and an Easter basket to the gymnasium. No registration for the hunt is necessary.

the success of their drive.
Persons who have newspap
ers or magazines may drop
them off at any time Monday
Tuesday or Wednesday at the
Lehman United Methodis
Church basement, or take them
to the scouts, April 3, the las
does of the drive between the

ay of the drive, be hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Willard Carey's barn on the Lehman-Huntsville Road, near Lehman Center.

It is possible that there might be some arrangements made to help with extremely large

Information concerning the drive is available by contacting James Hopple, 675-3166, or any member of the troop.

Lake taxpayers to meet Tuesday

Harveys Lake Borough Taxpayers Association will meet March 30 at Daniel C. Roberts Fire Hall at 8 p.m. The subject for discussion will be the "million dollar school." Robert Belles, supervising principal at Lake-Lehman High School, will speak on the need and planning of the school. All taxpayers are urged to attend.

following a following a with mononu- with mononu- tegion Home, 45 N. River St., Wilkes-Barre, 106 volunteers will be presented pins covering from five to 45 years of service to the community through Red Cross. The awards meeting will be informal, with time for vol- unteers to renew old acquaint- ances or make new ones, Mrs. Davis said.	E CKERT'S Power Equipment		
Gold Colored Livingroom Suit Sale Now For Only	Whee Horse TractorsTorc Hahn EclipsePick Up And DeliveryLawn BoyAnd DeliveryPerna. Mowers	Mini-Bikes Yard Man Riders Gasoline Eng. Pumps Hahn Eclipse & Toro Tillers	
Main St. Dallas, Pa. Win. & App. Main St. Dallas, Pa. FAIRVIEW SHOE STORE F Mon., Tues., Wed. & Sat. 9:30 to 6	Yard Man Mowers Remington Chais Rte. 309 Dallas		
STORE Thurs. & Fri. 9:30 to 9 R			

PAGE THREE

Lehman Boy Scouts near paper drive end

Lehman Boy Scout Troop 241

will wind up its paper and

magazine drive April 3.

Although the scouts have had

good response, they are anxious

to collect more paper to assure

loads Expert handling was necessary to clear "hot" power wires from

didn't have a CBS identification pass. I did have my Bloomsburg State College I.D. Card, but I rather doubted they'd accept that. So I played it straight. I asked the uniformed man where I'd find Studio 43, and he instructed me to take the elevator to the second floor. On the second floor there was a uniformed man standing next to a sign that read Please Show our CBS Identification Pass." Boy, for all they knew I could be a spy from NBC. I followed his directions to the end of the hall.

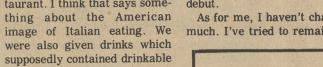
"Studio 43: No Admittance." hid the sign on the door. I decided I was a star and didn't have to pay attention to these silly signs, and I brazenly pushed open the door and entered. I found myself in a narrow hallway that led directly to another door bearing a sign warning: "Studio 43, No Admittance." This was getting a bit ridiculous. I am only capable of being brazen a certain number of times a morning, and this

BUCK

that might be kind of a backward compliment, so I didn't do anything. I just watched, waiting for the moment when she would quiver her lower lip.

makeup." But then I decided

teaching days. It said, "Congratulations superstar: you I chew divinely." My sister E received dozens of calls in Smethport, Pa., where the people thought that with my hair so long I looked just like S her. Relatives in Endicott and Cazenovia and Huntingdon Valley were suddenly a bit more important since my television



supposedly contained drinkable tea. That was a lie: it was undrinkable tea. Oh well, every actor has to suffer. In the scene immediately pre-

ceding ours, there was a baby of some six or eight months who was on camera for maybe 30 seconds. Could have been a whole minute. Somebody came over to our table and remarked that the baby was getting \$200

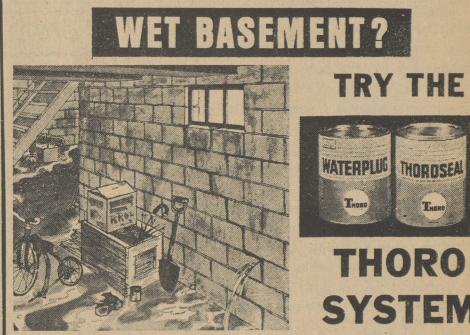
We rehearsed the half-hour program, with commercials, four times before the final taping. Timing was noted, and bits of business were added to fill in extra seconds here and there. We were given Ritz crackers to eat in what was supposedly an Italian restaurant. I think that says somedebut

much. I've tried to remain the



As for me, I haven't changed FAIRVIEW SHOE STORE FAIRVIEW SHOE STORE





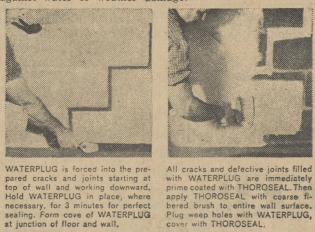
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