

Horn's followers at the 'Theater'



EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth in a series of articles on the San Francisco "Theater of All Possibilities." Others will appear in future editions.

**By Jack Brook
For The Progress**

When I had gotten far enough into this story to call witnesses into the facilities of KGO for a meeting, I invited colleagues from the Chronicle and the Examiner to join me. The story that resulted in the Chronicle estimated that the annual income of the Theatre of All Possibilities was conservatively in the neighborhood of \$5000,000. That figure does not include the sale of dinners at the theater's restaurant. My calculations place the potential income even higher.

This brings two questions immediately to mind. First, what have the people who spent the money gotten in return? The members, or at least those represented by those who have come forward in this search for answers, received psychological scars that are a long time in healing. Some may never heal. The audiences who paid the price of admission and then went to the productions were subjected to some of the worst theatre ever to burden the boards in San Francisco. Only the Horns have benefitted on the monetary ledger.

Question Number Two hinges on those theater ledgers. Considering that all transactions, or the bulk of them, were made in cash, what are the true figures relative to the operation of this 'Non-profit California Educational Corporation'? Were serialized admission tickets sold for recording purposes? According to Kathleen Mandis, "All performances were over-sold. We knew that a lot of people would buy the tickets and never show up." How is that kind of transaction recorded in the books?

It seems to me that, in light of these questions, the State Board of Equalization and the Internal Revenue Service might have some inquiries of their own. After all, we're not dealing in a low income project at the Theatre of All Possibilities.

BOOK STORE SCAM

The following method of operation has been reported to me by several Bay Area book stores. Step 1) The phone begins to ring over a period of several days. The callers ask if the store has "The Theatre of All Possibilities" by Alex Horn? The store says 'no'. Step 2) The callers 'order' the book. Step 3) The book store owner tries to locate a publisher or distributor of the book. None can be found.

Step 4) About a week later a van pulls up in front of the store and who should pop out with an arm load of that very book but people from The Theater of All Possibilities.

Step 5) Since the small store has 'orders' for the book, they purchase a supply. And - you guessed - Step 6) The 'order givers' are never heard from again.

George Moore has such a book store. When Step 5 came along, he spoiled the ploy by telling the book bilkers that he'd take the book on consignment or not at all. The van sped away without leaving the seemingly rare, but much in demand volumes. According to Moore, "I've been around long enough not to get caught in that kind of deal. Many less experienced people I know got taken."

The McKenzies own The Book Store in Hayward. The scam was played on them and they have the book in stock. Only, something went wrong. Maybe it was the long drive to the East Bay city, but the van delivery people settled for a consignment transaction. The book order was dropped off in September. In October, an invoice arrived from "Everyman Publishers". This time the preliminary callers were "a school group who wanted to do one of Alex Horn's plays, which appears in the book". They must have decided to do "Oklahoma!" instead, because all of the books are still sitting in The Book Store. They're \$6.95 a pop. Strangely, the McKenzies haven't heard a word from "Everyman Publishers" since October.

CHILD DAY-CARE CENTER FOLLOW-UP

As reported in my first article in The Progress of Friday, December 22, 1978, members of the Theatre of All Possibilities were allegedly operating a children's day care center at 331 Bartlett Street. Inspector Duane Otis of the San Francisco Police Department spent a day observing children coming in and, around four o'clock in the afternoon, being picked up.

He knocked at the front door and was greeted by a lady who promptly denied his request to come in. She left Inspector Otis standing on the porch while she went to 'call her attorney'. While waiting for the next development, Otis observed cribs inside the house and about fourteen young children in the house, or leaving with parents.

The attorney, George Walker, arrived, and Inspector Otis asked some routine questions, like, "Is this operation licensed?" Walker didn't know. When Otis asked what the children were doing there, Walker volunteered that perhaps they were "having a Christmas party."