



It Happened Last Night— Fred Returns From California

Says Without Adjective 'Sunny'
State Just Another Nebraska

By Earl Wilson

NEW YORK, Mar. 3.—"In California," said Fred Allen, who's just back from there, "people don't know the meaning of the word 'happen,' because nothing ever does."

"It's so crowded that all the oranges are on the ground because people are living in all the trees."

"They say Los Angeles is booming, just because the streets are full of people all the time."

"But those people in the streets are people moving from one house to another house. Naturally, when anybody moves into one of those California houses, he moves out of it and into another one right away."

Fred, you can see, had a good time in California. I met him at the Plaza Oak Room where his agent was trying to persuade him to go back to work.

Fred wasn't very eager, however.

"YOU USED to save your money for a rainy day. With taxes the way they are now, you save your money and when it rains all you've got to hold over your head is an income tax receipt."

I suggested that anybody with



Fred Allen

his talent must also be ambitious to have a vast audience every week.

"Nowadays," Fred replied, "you keep your nose to the grindstone and you wind up with your nostrils full of emery dust."

"So you have no plans?"

"I've got no more plans than a dead architect."

"Don't you like to be busy?"

"Why, I'm busier doing nothing than I was when I was working. In Hollywood I was on the Bob Hope show, and on the way from the dressing room to the microphone, I did two benefits."

"EVERYBODY in Los Angeles was trying to invent something. One guy was making his own Sanka. He put sleeping pills in his coffee."

"I saw trailers with television aerials on them. Guys that hadn't got homes yet had TV sets out in their yards. It got so cold while I was there, they put smudge pots under people."

"California is a state made fa-

Earl's Pearls

Ken Murray mentioned recently that the Democrats, at their party dinners, have the best food and best drinks but the second-best waiters. "The best waiters," he says, "are the Republicans."



Ken Murray

see my dentist," he said. "Want to come along and have a tooth pulled on me?"

The Midnight Earl

WHAT'S HOT: El Morocco's all-powerful headwaiter, Carino, readmitted Robin Roberts of Panda-Bogart fame (who was barred) in company of Jock Goldstein. Today's Daily Double: John Griffin and Carol Bjorkman. Margaret O'Brien and mama were hand holding at the Madison's Sunday brunch. Prince Alex Hohenlohe's engagement to Gloria O'Connor came as a big surprise to several ladies who were hoping right up to the end. The Army is rebuilding its Criminal Investigation Division, which was sharply cut after the war. The Licia camera company, formerly manufacturing exclusively in Germany, will open factories here.

BAR BUZZ: Dick Wesson's forming an independent movie company. The Jerry Lewises, who just adopted a 6-week-old boy, are trying to buy Maria Montez's home in Hollywood. Marlon Brando's getting nibbles from the Cagney's producing outfit. Ted Lewis, the textile tycoon, is Lois Andrews' latest. Billy Eckstine signed for a London Palladium appearance next fall. That's Earl, brother.

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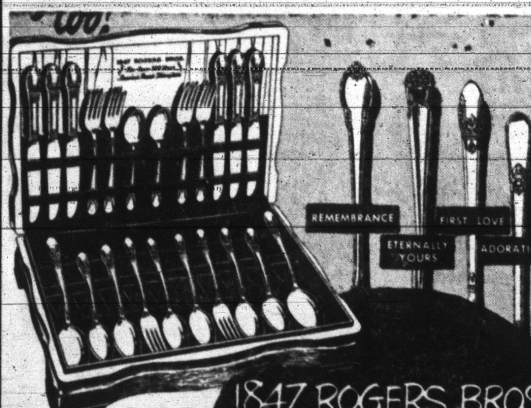
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