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THE MEN IN LIBERACE'S LIFE

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**TRIPLE CURSE OF THE
FABULOUS PATINOS**

THE MEN IN LIBERACE'S LIFE

He's the darling of the two-way stretch set. But no matter what you've heard about this dimpled keyboard virtuoso, his heart belongs to his boys!

By HARRY WILLIS

AS A PHENOMENON of social significance, the doll-faced piano player named Wladziu Valentino Liberace is fascinating. Opening your eyes and ears to him for the first time you'd swear he was dedicated to expressing the suffering of mortals, but determined to smile through his tears, come hell or heaven.

This is an impression definitely not shared by some 30 million middle-aged members of the two-way stretch set. To them, his keyboard meanderings are

as welcome a sound as the noise of champagne corks popping would be to parched bibulants at a Cafe Society brunch. Not since the days of Rudy Vallee has a wavy-haired entertainer done so much to so many, but whereas the sonorous Stein Songster more than once proved himself one of the boys, there's been an awful lot of speculation and untrue gossip about not only the girls, but the men in Liberace's life.

The closest male friend he has is his married brother George, who is possibly the nearest thing to a pal that Liberace wants. In addition, there's another brother, Rudy, 24, a Korea vet, who works as a film editor on Liberace's syndicated TV shows. But, as far as girls go, Liberace lays claim to having purchased three engagement rings on as many different occasions.

In point of UNCENSORED fact, this dimpled darling of millions of moonstruck mothers and their marriageable daughters, is prob- (Continued on page 61)

The Lib, shown with devoted brother George, is ardent trencherman. He often consumes two dinners at sitting.

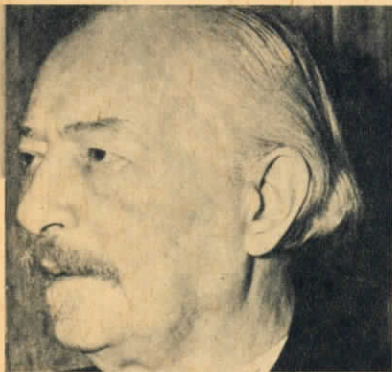


Just as Liberace is today, Harry Richman, left, and Rudy Vallee were targets at height of fame for joke-makers. Despite jests they're still top favorites.





The Lib as Chopin. Inspiration for candelabra trademark came from an old movie based on maestro's life.



Like idol Paderewski, Lib shortened name for musical career.

Just a happy boy with his dog, the Lib frisks with pet poodle Suzette.



Piano-shaped pool in backyard is Lib's great joy. He loves to float on his back and think out problems.

THE MEN IN LIBERACE'S LIFE

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ably the loneliest boy in town even though he lives literally in a gold fish bowl. He's proved this aloneness more than once by waking his male companions in the middle of the night for a "bull" session — simply because he was lonely. This need for camaraderie with men, by the Lib, as he is known to his intimates, is quite understandable when you consider that during his waking hours he's surrounded by thousands of milling grandmas, mothers and their younger teen-age offspring — all starry-eyed fans who shout his name and stamp their feet as soon as Liberace walks on stage and takes a bow.

Actually, he's done nothing to merit savage stories. But, the plain truth is that when a guy displays the most relentless cuteness since Little Lord Fauntleroy, and has the most widely admired dimples in show business, and wears white shoes, white sox, white pants, white coat, white tie and looks for all the world like a lonely, cuddlesome orphan bear, he's fair game for the poison-pen set and the barb-tongued night club comedy sharpshooters. Under any other circumstances Liberace would doubtless be treated for what he is, a nice guy who's a little on the gentle side.

"People think I'm such an eccentric," the Lib's been quoted as saying. "Why, I don't even have time to be bad."

He's not kidding. The figures show this. Here and in Canada, 185 TV stations carry the Lib's program, with sponsors ranging from banks to franks. Half a million albums of his records are occupying honored places in as many homes. Last year he gave 50 concerts, in such spots as Madison Square Garden and the Hollywood Bowl. The annual take for this frenzied activity was close to a million dollars, and he's reputed to have \$2,000,000 in contracts on hand.

The Lib's reluctance to discuss his inner feelings is understandable, particularly since he's been belted from pillar to post by the long hairs. Consequently, he keeps his worries to himself, though he did confess to one writer how he

ly and preferable brass and copper on the floors and watch how it rolls and how fast. Walk around and listen for squeaks. Look for the clay or mud tunnels of termites.

Cracks, crevices, saggings, moisture, stains, blisters in paint, rust in water are all danger signals wherever they appear. Estimate what repairs and improvements will be necessary and what they will cost; if they are extensive they may be used as bargaining points. When in doubt, pay an expert a few dollars for an opinion.

Watch out for signs of excessive skimping on construction costs. Recently there was a major scandal in a Midwestern city after numerous purchasers of new homes complained to the Better Business Bureau that the chimneys were too small to draw properly.

Check on whether the neighborhood is improving or deteriorating, zoning restrictions, distances to transportation, schools, churches, and shopping facilities, the quality of police and fire departments, and whether there are dumps, factories, or other objectionable factors nearby. Find out if large assessments are projected for municipal improvements. If the home is new and not yet fully assessed, find out the taxes on similar homes in the neighborhood on which assessment has been completed.

If you will follow the above suggestion and, in addition, use your own good common sense, the chances are that you'll get a good buy in that new home. And that means comfortable living, a great deal of money saved, and peace of mind for a long time in the future.

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