

While The City Sleeps

Occupation Has Forced Foster To Learn 'Uh, Huh' Variations

'Open Line' Keeps Moderator On Toes

(Many Tucsonans earn their daily bread while the city sleeps. Here is another in a series of stories about those who are on the job in the predawn hours.)

By MORT ROSENBLUM

Jack Foster can say "Uh huh" probably more ways and with more different intonations than any man walking.

In course of a four-hour show on KTUC, Foster releases an endless stream of such expressions while an endless stream of Tucsonans talk about their operations, the nation's ills, the cost of lambfat in Upper Volta and wombat pets.

Foster moderates "Open Line," a midnight on-air radio show that is exactly what its title indicates. Persons are welcome to vie for three lines into the studio, be placed on the air and just open up.

"They talk about anything... we run the gamut," said Foster.

Conversations range from personal troubles to top literature and philosophical discussions, he said.

"We get people from all walks of life... Once in a while a bunch of hooks try to give you a hard time, but..."

Just in case, the phones are attached to a tape recording device that gives Foster a six second period in which to cut off obscene or profane remarks.

But that's nearly the only restriction.

"Some of these people really have a problem. You don't want to hurt their feelings. I just let 'em talk," he said.

"You won't believe it, but there are more lonely people in this town..." added Foster. "You know, they feel I'm just part of their family."

Often he gets calls from people driving through Tucson.

TUCSON TODAY

Master's Recital: Thomas Weber, violinist, at 8 p.m., Crowder Hall. (No admission charge.)

UA Art Gallery: Paintings by Douglas Dennison, UA art professor, second floor gallery, permanent Kress Collection and recent acquisitions of the Gallagher Collection on main floor from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Speedway at Olive Rd.

Playbox Theatre: "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You in the Closet, and I'm Feelin' So Sad" at 8:30 p.m., in Trailside Town on Tanque Verde Rd.

UA Mineralogy Museum: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Geology Bldg., N. Drive, University of Arizona campus.

Kit Peak National Observatory: Located in the Quinlan Mountains, open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 53 miles southwest of Tucson.

Tucson Art Center: "The Arizona Crafts—1965," 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 325 W. Franklin.

Saguaro National Monument: From 8 a.m. out E. Broadway.

Desert Museum: Live exhibits of more than 350 kinds of Arizona-Sonora animals and plants, 9 a.m. to sundown, Tucson Mountain Park.

Art Exhibit: Tucson artists' group, lobby of Tucson Jewish Community Center, 109 N. Plumer, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Drama: Rincon High School. Theatrical Society presentation, "Time Out For Ginger" at 8 p.m. in Rincon Studio Theatre, 422 N. Arcadia.

Rodeo Museum: Collection of stagecoaches and 19th century carriages, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Rodeo and Fairgrounds on S. 6th Ave.

Little Theatre: "Spring Dance" by Philip Barry at 8 p.m., Drama Dept. of Amphitheater High School at 125 W. Yavapai Rd.

Great Books Discussion: Tocqueville's "Democracy in America" at 10 a.m. at Verde Meadows Center, 1360 E. Irvington Rd.

Play: "Pioneer Go Home" at 8 p.m., Salpointe High School, 1545 E. Copper. (Admission charge.)



'Yes, I'm Listening'

Enscenced in his dial-laden domain, Jack Foster listens as one of his many listener-talkers chats away during the midnight "Open Line" show on KTUC. The show gives Tucsonans a chance to sound off on nearly everything, keeping Foster and his audience wide awake, while the city sleeps. (Jack Sheaffer photo)

stopping at a phone booth to call in "just for the fun of it."

Many times persons seeking unusual information find what they're looking for by asking on the air and waiting until someone calls with the answer.

"One time we got on ghost stories and had practically every woman in Tucson sitting in the middle of her bed with the light on," Foster recalled. He said the story—telling started with some woman talking about the mice in her bedroom, and it mushroomed.

He says often someone will try to put him on a limb. "My stock answer is, 'Now you're asking me to agree with you', and I won't give an opinion."

Although he said he occasionally threw out "teasers," generally they're unnecessary.

Most of his success seems to stem from a fatherly charm. From a warm, "Good morning, Open Line," to a friendly, "Take care, now," Foster puts up with direct attacks, railings, and unintelligible mumbling.

"He's got the patience of a priest," described one admirer.

In a typical hour during a recent show, for example, Foster and his callers retold the story of Jessie James; defended and attacked the Selma, Ala., happenings; outlined the Vietnamese situation, and wandered through 1,000 years of Chinese government.

The program starts at midnight, but continues until Foster cuts off the calls to prepare the morning news and weather reports. He fills in with music and news, as he sits locked in the studio.

"After midnight, no one gets in here," said Foster, who has an unlisted home telephone and who keeps his home address a secret.

Foster, 55, has been in radio work since the 1930's when he switched over from show business. He got his start at the age of 16 in vaudeville, then worked throughout Texas.

He moved to Tucson in 1961, taking over the "Open Line" show last July.

Foster said he didn't mind working at night, but, "You've got to turn the world upside down, or it'll turn you upside down."

Steward's Tax Trial Delayed

Trial of a former state representative from Maricopa County on income tax charges has been postponed until July 15.

George R. (Rusty) Steward, 40, was to have gone on trial Thursday in U.S. District Court in Tucson on the federal indictment.

Steward, a Democrat, resigned as state liquor control agent at Lowell after the indictment was returned.

Sewerage Issue May Go To Suit

Sanitary Dist. Loser In Annexed Areas

By DICK CASEY

Sanitary District No. 1 will sue the City of Tucson to determine whether the district should receive tax revenues on lines installed by the district and later annexed into the city.

This is the position the district has taken on the matter, Kenneth Scharman, district manager said yesterday in commenting on negotiations between the legal staffs of the city and district.

The crux of the matter, he says, is that the city has acquired through annexations sewer lines and other district installations and the district has not been reimbursed. This has placed the district in a financial stranglehold, he says.

"We cannot go on much longer—the issue has to be settled before our next fiscal budget," Scharman said.

The legal staffs of both the district and city have been meeting regularly for several weeks to seek a solution.

"It is my understanding that members of the city policy-making group realize that something must be done," the sanitary district official said.

Scharman said the city and the district entered into a 20-year agreement in 1948 when the district was formed to handle installations and annexations as they now exist.

"This was satisfactory as it was envisioned in 1948 and it was a very good agreement for about 10 years," Scharman said.

Since the district was established in 1948, it has installed sewerage lines and pumps to serve developing areas outside the city and has collected tax revenues on this equipment according to assessed valuation.

But because the city has grown rapidly, it has annexed more and more territory into the city limits. When this is done, the city collects the revenues on the lines and other equipment.

Scharman explains that although the district's revenue has dropped drastically, "we still have to maintain the same size staff" to provide adequate service and prepare new installations of pipe for developing areas.

He said that prior to large annexations by the city in 1960, the district's assessed valuation was an estimated \$30 million. He said that almost overnight this dropped to about \$8 million.

The district's legal staff says the question of who is to collect the revenue and who is to construct the new sewer systems are the issues that need to be settled. They maintain that the district cannot continue to construct new sewers for which they receive no tax revenues.

"Our agreement with the city is longer fits the situation," says Scharman. He points out that the existing agreement still has about two years to go.

"We simply cannot wait that long for some relief. This would be neither fair nor equitable," he added.

Scharman said the district is hopeful that some agreement with the city can be reached in "two or three weeks." If not, the courts will have to make a decision, he said.

Over 4,600 Pima Students Have Emotional Problems

Pima County public school teachers have indicated there are about 4,625 pupils in elementary grades who have moderate emotional problems requiring special attention and consideration by the teacher.

Their estimate is a highlight of a recently completed survey conducted statewide by the Arizona State Dept. of Health Mental Health Division. Robert Cowles, local division consultant said a remarkably high percentage of the teachers contacted in the survey replied — well over 80 per cent.

No special education classes were included in the study. All children identified as having emotional, physical or mental retardation problems in the survey are in regular classrooms.

These include 792 with such serious emotional handicaps their teachers feel they are creating a disturbance or are unable to benefit from class work.

The survey shows Pima County averages are similar to state averages in both the number of moderately and seriously disturbed. Like the state, Pima County has almost no facilities to help either group.

On the other hand Pima has 1,020 mentally retarded children attending special classes and about 844 such children still in regular classes. Pima has 2.1 per cent of its total school population identified as mentally retarded but in regular classes. The state average is 3.1 per cent.

A similar survey attempted at the high school level resulted in inconclusive results, Cowles said. He attributed this to the less intimate relationship between faculty and pupil at the secondary level and to the possibility many disturbed children may be among the dropouts.

Rep. Udall Backs Arnold Elias For Postmaster's Job



ARNOLD R. ELIAS



HAROLD B. COLLINS

Collins Ending 31-Year Tenure On April 30

A Tucsonan whose ancestry here pre-dates the Gadsden Purchase is to be recommended as Tucson's first new postmaster in 31 years.

Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., said last night in Washington that Postmaster Harold B. Collins has submitted his resignation from the position he has held since 1934.

Collins, whose resignation is effective April 30, has held

the longest postmaster tenure in Tucson history.

To replace him Udall said he will recommend 31-year-old Arnold R. Elias, a former state legislator who is now a career officer in the Denver regional office of the Post Office Department.

Udall said he considers Elias especially qualified because of his experience as a confidential assistant to the postmaster general in Washington, and more recently as an assistant to the special assistant for employee relations in Denver.

In Washington, Elias, who will be Tucson's 19th postmaster, first was assigned to the Board of Appeals and Review and to the assistant postmaster general heading the Bureau of Personnel. Later, he served as an assistant to the deputy assistant postmaster general for industrial relations.

"Very few postmasters start out with experience like this," Udall said. He added, "Elias' background should help him make a smooth transition from the present excellent management of the Tucson Post Office."

Udall praised Collins for the "tremendous job" he has done in meeting Tucson's growing postal needs over the past three decades.

Elias, of 323 N. Westmoreland Ave., is the great-grandson of Angel Elias, a Mexican officer who led the contingent of soldiers and civilians who left Tucson for Mexico following the Gadsden Purchase. The Elias family lived in the Mexican pueblo here for many years before the change of flags in the mid-1850s.

Elias' grandfather, Manuel Elias, was among those who left Mexico following the overthrow of President Porfirio Diaz in 1911. The Elias family settled here in the late 1920s.

He is also a relative of former Mexican President Plutarco Elias Calles.

The Tucson native is a graduate of Tucson High School and the University of Arizona.

Following two years in the Army and graduation from the UA, Elias taught history and social studies at Wakefield Junior High School.

In 1938 he was elected to represent the Second District of Pima County in the Legislature and was re-elected in 1960. Among his assignments were the Committees on Appropriations; Rules, Education and Welfare.

Elias is a member of the American GI Forum, Young Democrats of Greater Tucson, and Democrats for Better Government.

Udall also said Herman Berlowe is his preference for assistant postmaster whenever that position becomes vacant here.

D-M Fire Showers Ashes Over City

Burning of surplus fuel at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base brought a barrage of telephone calls to the Tucson Fire Department yesterday.

Fire officials said last night the somewhat common occurrence caught the public notice when a wind shift carried smoke and ashes over the city.

Arizona In Transition, Goddard Tells JP Meet

Governor Decries Antiquated Form

Arizona is at a crossroads, burdened by a horse-and-buggy type of government, Gov. Sam Goddard told members of the Justice of the Peace Conference last night.

Addressing over 150 attorneys and members of the judicial branch of government at the Desert Inn, Goddard said that Arizona and the mountain states are at "the point of transition," and that the present "separate kingdoms of government departments" are unwieldy, with basic reforms needed.

"The executive branch of government must be reformed as the judicial branch has been," Goddard said.

Magistrates from throughout the state, including State Supreme Court Justice Lorna Lockwood and all the Supreme Court judges, are attending the third annual conference, which will end tonight at the University of Arizona.

Goddard told his audience that only a few years ago Justices of the Peace "were merely tolerated in the judicial framework."

The Justice Courts were described by the governor as the guarantee of speedy justice and "an essential part of the democratic process because they are closest to the people."

"We are entering new eras of

Tucson Claims Lion's Share Of Scholarly JPs

Justice of the Peace Al J. Flood of Phoenix observed yesterday that only three of the state's 88 justices of the peace have law degrees. They are Toby LaVetter, Joe Jacobson and Clark H. Johnson, all of Tucson.

All are attending a two-day judicial conference, which Flood described as "a good refresher course."

Goddard said, "when it becomes daily more important to be more learned in the law."

His audience broke into laughter when Goddard speculated on the first Justice of the Peace to be established on the moon.

Goddard brought another burst of laughter from the group during a discussion of the current legislature.

"Nobody can say this legislative session has done nothing. Why, in seven and a half weeks they passed the Beer Can Law!"

Arizona homeowners, Goddard said, are having a very difficult time, losing homes by repossessions that in 1958

Fake-Crash Passengers Stir Up Genuine Fright

PHOENIX (AP) — Forty-five "passengers" scrambled from the shattered fuselage of a Super Constellation without incident Thursday in a Federal Aviation Agency experiment.

It took the volunteer passengers 106 seconds to clear the giant airliner, which was wrecked at Deer Valley Airport near Phoenix in another FAA test last year.

From the drill, the FAA hopes to obtain vital information which could affect seat spacing, aisle widths, interior lighting and the number and location of emergency exits in airliners yet to be built.

Most of the passengers left under their own power, but to add realism to the "disaster" scene, some volunteers were instructed to act injured or simulate unconsciousness.

Cameras filed the passengers' reactions as a loudspeaker reproduced the roar of an airplane crashing, wings snapping and aluminum shredding. Smoke from theatrical bombs filled the fuselage.

Sue Jeffrey, 13, of Scottsdale, was the first out of the airplane.

"Phew," she said, "they sure weren't polite in there."

Despite FAA apprehensions that genuine fear could not be simulated, there appeared to be genuine panic aboard the airplane.

"I think it was the smoke that did it," said Mrs. Jamell Reed of Scottsdale. "A lot of us, particularly the children, thought that something had really gone wrong and we were in danger."

JPs LaVetter, Jacobson Swap 'Words' At Meeting

Justices of the Peace Toby LaVetter and Joe Jacobson had a small but stormy conference of their own yesterday at the third annual Justice of the Peace Conference at the University of Arizona, according to bystanders.

Commenting on the reported incident yesterday, LaVetter said, "The man had to be quieted down."

The man (Jacobson) allegedly "spoke some words" to LaVetter. Witnesses said it almost developed into a scuffle between the two justices.

"It's too bad it happened. But I'm all in one piece and I just want to forget it," LaVetter said last night.

LaVetter would not say what led to the "words," but reliable sources said it appeared to stem from an article in Thursday morning's Star.

In that article, LaVetter said his court was being deluged by lawsuits that could be handled in other precincts.

LaVetter was quoted: "They don't file there (in Jacobson's court) because the transcript usually includes 10 pages of testimony and 27 pages of Jacobson's comment." He said the transcripts normally cost 50 cents a page.

Jacobson could not be reached for comment.