

June 29, 1955

Todd's Tie-In Trek

Mike Todd played host to nearly 100 newsmen when he picked up the tab on an air junket leaving yesterday afternoon for Tijuana (and returning at midnight). Purpose was to give the press a gander at Cantinflas, whom he has inked to star in his upcoming indie, "Around the World In 80 Days," as Mexican comic traipsed about the bullring in an event specially staged for NBC-TV's "Wide, Wide World."

Mag Profiles Todd

Mike Todd is profiled in the current issue of Saga mag, with writer Ed Linn tabbing the producer "The Man Who Can't Get Broke."

Tops in interest focused in Cantinflas, the Mexican film comedy star, in the role of a comic matador in the bullfight ring at Tijuana. Cantinflas, making his video bow (Mike Todd is co-starring him in his upcoming Todd-AO production, "Around the World In 80 Days") wore his standard gear—droopy pants, an old undershirt and battered felt hat, to which he added a cape as he braved the bull. It was a young'un, granted, but it served the purpose and one of the reasons why this was the standout segment was due to its uncertainty. Anything might have happened.

"Bienvenidos Cantinflas y Miguel Todd." That's what the signs said as Mike Todd and Hollywood contingent United Airlined into Tijuana Monday p.m. . . . Todd junketed the scribes south to meet Cantinflas and David Niven (on board) who'll star in his "Around the World In 80 Days" . . . Reason for the chartered flight, said Todd, was so he could smoke his cigars, which he can't do on regular airliners . . . Senor Todd personally poured champagne and served caviar to the fourth estaters. Whatta waiter! . . . David Niven, who's still a British subject, was delayed at immigration on the return flight because his visa wasn't in order. He assures us his boys will be American citizens! . . . Took longer to go through Customs and Immigration than to fly home! . . . Evelyn Keyes, also on board (natch!), will NOT be in the film . . . As the two huge chartered United Airliners waited alongside each other on the runways, fotog Dennis Stock asked: "What's it gonna be — a 'drag race'?" . . . Maureen O'Sullivan, vacationing at Ensenada, met husband John Farrow (producer-director of "Around the World") at Tijuana, and brought along four young 'uns to join the party at the bull ring and dinner at Caesar's . . . Cantinflas is king in the Latin America's, and no matter how much Todd pays him (reported \$300,000) he'll make it back in spades in pesos . . . Talk about Mexico-American friendship: when one of the kids caught Cantinflas' hat (whatta souvenir!) he promptly sent it over to "Miguel" Todd . . . Todd also got the bull's tail, after Cantinflas completed the kill — not seen on tv, of course! . . . "Mario," (Cantinflas) as he is called by the fans, is a tremendous showman and artist — a Chaplin with guts! . . . Todd paled as the bull fight continued after the NBC-TV cameras went off and each time the bull's horns grazed Cantinflas, Todd saw "80 Days" vanishing into thin air . . . Secret Police guard Cantinflas wherever he goes. In one Mexican presidential election, he received 26,000 write-in votes! . . . And if Todd's interested, Cantinflas told Niven he'll give him bull fighting lessons . . . "Around the World" rolls July 7. And Wm. Menzies will build 177 sets for the Todd-AO epic.