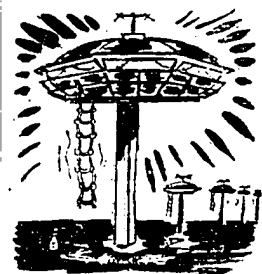


IN California City...
WITH FRED BECK



CALIF. CITY—Have you ever noticed the inept drawings that appear atop this deathless prose that comes to you from California City, a new community high on the Mojave Plateau where the air is so clear it glistens on moonlit nights?

The drawings are by Bill Danch, a rich, successful writer of TV comedy, but just the same a frustrated cartoonist.



FRED BECK

Mr. Danch just has to draw. Otherwise he gets sullen, refuses to eat, and goes wandering off into the night making pitiful mewling sounds.

We fought the war together, manning typewriters side by side, so I let him place his drawings here. It's therapy.

Usually I don't care, but today I am wishing that Danch had some talent because I want a picture of a chemosphere house — one that looks like a chemosphere house.

A chemosphere house is a house constructed on the top of a single stem of hollow steel. A chemosphere house resembles a large lollipop stuck in a mud pie.

Power lines and water pipes go up the stick, or stem. Sewer pipes come down inside the hollow stem.

The stem or shaft has a diameter of about two feet, and hence the chemosphere house can be built on a site that, heretofore, was useful only as a nesting place for the almost extinct California Whooping Condor.

Just such a chemosphere house is now being built in the Hollywood hills. I'm kidding? Then go see it, on Torreyson Dr. near Bill Mulholland Dr.

Q. Why such a house?
A. Because in-town homesites are becoming almost as extinct as the California Whooping Condor.

Chemosphere houses may become common on rocky slopes. They could be built, too, off-shore along the beaches, approached presumably by breeches buoy.

The point here is contained in the implied emphasis on the completeness of the builtupness of the Los Angeles Basin—not to be confused with the Hollywood Bowl.

Experts have warned that the entire coastal plain from San Diego to San Luis Obispo will be built solid.

Where do the people go then? Make no mistake. The Antelope Valley has a date with destiny and it's no blind date.

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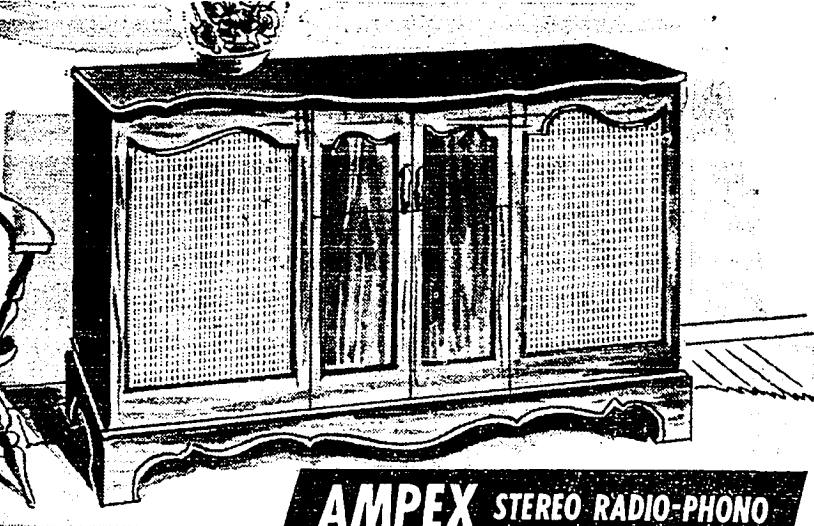
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