



Around The Town

By EDGAR S. VAN OLINDA

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Extra Sensory Perception

There's never a dull moment in the editorial office of The Times-Union. Not a day passes, but someone, owning a two-headed calf, or a king-size muskelunge, a trained chimpanzee or what have you, doesn't barge in to have his or their pictures taken. And so it was that an old friend, Art Moger, of Boston, demon press agent for most of the major motion picture studios, descended upon our cubicle with two quite unusual people in tow: the Great Juan, E.S.P. mentalist and his exotic assistant, Catrina La Paz.

The Great Juan, a native of Bolivia (he pronounces it Bo-lee-via) is making his American debut at the Imperial Room of the Thruway Motel in Washington Avenue where he opens Monday night for a limited engagement. We did not immediately learn the duties of his assistant, Miss La Paz.

"E.S.P. stands for extra-sensory perception, one of the newest gadgets in the art of mental telepathy or communication between two persons, near or far-removed.

Built-In Chin

Born on an island in Lake Titicaca, the largest and highest body of fresh water in the world, on the border between Bolivia and Peru, the Great Juan, in his early 20s, has been mystifying the incredulous of South America with his mental prowess.

He was discovered by Guy Gabaldon, most decorated hero of Korea in World War II, having to his credit, the capture of 2,000 prisoners of war. He was one of the stars of the picture, "Hell to Eternity." Guy saw possibilities in the entertainment world of North America for the young man with the Spanish hat, built-in-chin strap, tight pants and wickedly pointed shoes. When asked if he were a Flamenco dancer, like Jose Greco, the Great Juan smiled and said the only dancing he has done since his arrival by plane Tuesday, was to keep his feet warm in the zero weather and snow here.

Art Moger, his personal manager, is not one to mess around with mediocre talent. But even that proper Bostonian wasn't too certain as to what his client has in mind. The mind reading act will be broken-in at the Thruway Motel, and anything can happen. The Great Juan is a very modest and self-effacing individual. He assured us his work was no threat to the Great Dunninger or the late Harry Houdini.