

# «Hog-Callin' Crooner» Confesses His Past

From the M-G-M PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

**T**HREE months ago, he was just a country lad from the farm country.

Today, he is the most popular singer in the West—and with an amazing motion picture contract in his pocket.

Even Pinky Tomlin cannot explain his meteoric rise to fame in the entertainment world. But this is his story, one of the strangest yet written into Hollywood's history:

Born at Eureka Springs, Arkansas, Pinky Tomlin was christened Truman but his complexion was so pink and his sparse hair so pinkish-blond that the name of Pinky has remained with him ever since he can remember.

"I'm just a farm-boy," he confesses. "...milked the cows, chopped the wood, harvested the grain just like any other farmer."

But Pinky wanted to be more than a farm-boy. He wanted a high class education. When he was three, his family removed to the small city of Durant, Oklahoma, where they also lived on a farm.

"I decided a lawyer education was the best one I could get," says Pinky, "so I entered the University of Oklahoma law school..."

At O. U. he was a member of Delta Tau Delta and active on the campus.

But simple little rhythms kept running through Pinky's head in law classes. They wore down the professor's patience as Pinky hummed his little tunes and tapped his foot on the floor day after day, so in his last year he was ejected from law school.

"I was working my way through by leading the college orchestra. I made about eighty dollars a month and got my meals for nothing at the college cafeteria by singing."

Pinky took his orchestra down to Wichita Falls, Texas, where he found a job in a dance hall for twenty dollars a week. When he left Wichita Falls, the whole town demanded that he return—so Pinky went back for thirty dollars a week.

"My father had died," says Pinky, "and I decided I had to make big money quick..."

Meanwhile, he had written a song. The idea came to him while he was driving a travel truck.

"I came home one night from driving the truck and started to dress. Mom asked me where I was going and I said to see

the object of my affections, who lived a hundred and fifty miles away.

"Well, I was sunburned pretty bad from working on the truck and Mom said I shouldn't go until I changed my complexion. On the way to see my girl friend, those phrases, 'The Object of My Affection Has Changed My Complexion,' kept running through my head and I had the song finished in my mind when I arrived at the girl friend's house..."

"And that's how I happened to write 'The Object of My Affection.'"

The song became the best seller of

1934. With a friend, Coy Poe, like Tomlin, a member of Delta Tau Delta, Pinky made the great adventure to Hollywood. He found a job singing in the famous Biltmore Bowl, rendezvous of the film stars—where he was discovered by Producer Lucien Hubbard who gave him a screen test.

Pinky's whimsical mannerisms and his unusual singing voice with its Southern drawl became contagious, and now Pinky Tomlin is a featured contract player for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios.

He is to be featured—just being himself and using his own name—first in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture, "Times Square Lady," which Hubbard will produce.

"I guess if I'd remained in Oklahoma all my life," Pinky grins, "I probably wouldn't be known beyond the State line. Now I'm having all my songs recorded and I've appeared on a national radio program and I'm going into the movies..."

"So I'm figuring that the old professor did me a favor when he kicked me out of law school."

