

Up and Down --- and Up

By Bill Kent

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RENE STONE, 26-year-old Purcell boy, has just given up trying to fathom or explain the dizziness of Hollywood, where right at present he seems to be all set to gather moss under a long-term RKO picture contract.

Last summer his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rene Stone, visited him in Hollywood, and they couldn't fathom, either.

"They do such queer, dizzy things out there," said Mrs. Stone, who is house-mother of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Norman. "Rene quit trying to explain."

This much can be explained. Rene's name has been changed to Robert Stone (remember Spencer Arlington Brugh, the Beatrice, Neb. boy?) and as such he is under a long-term contract at a nice salary which his mother has been pledged not to reveal.

He has just finished a picture with Miriam Hopkins, and is starting on another soon.

And just to add the dash of Hollywood dizziness, Rene, who was hired by RKO because of his fine tenor voice, didn't sing a note in the Hopkins picture.

Another sample of the movie madness was exhibited in September when RKO casually terminated a short-term contract with Stone by telling him he was a flop and couldn't sing.

So a few days later Rene and his agents were having a party for about twenty friends in the Trocadero, Hollywood night club, and the Purcell warbler stood up and sang.

Almost before he could cut it off another RKO official came running up panting phrases like "colossal, terrific," and would not take no for an answer about that new long-term contract.

Nice, sane, orderly place—Hollywood.

In 1838 Rene's Chickasaw great-great-grandfather, Benjamin Love, and his two brothers, followed the "Trail of Tears" made by the Seminole, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Choctaw nations 10 years earlier. They moved from Holly Springs, Miss., to new land near Marietta in the Red River Valley.

Almost 100 years later their descendant, young Rene, blazed a Trail of Tears all his own—a nation-wide trail which he told about recently on an NBC radio

program, featuring new and prospective movie stars.

Brother Stone, as the Sig Alphas know him, was graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1934, and almost immediately he took the fine tenor voice which Prof. William G. Schmidt had trained for him to New York.

He was doing just fine until his tonsils went bad and had to be eradicated. So Rene went back home to Purcell and for a year mooned around the home of his grandmother, Mrs. S. G. Head.

Then he set out for Hollywood. There he worked in restaurants doing everything from dealing them off the arm to appearing as a singing waiter.

And one fine day when he finished a song in a cafeteria there, an RKO talent scout or something rushed up screaming as usual, "stupendous, colossal, terrific," and signed him up to a short term contract at a salary which beat the cafeteria's anyhow.

He was put to work in the picture starring uncouth Joe Penner titled "New Faces of 1937," and with the Hollywood way of doing things, the company promptly cut his part out of the picture.

Incidentally, this made Mrs. Pearl Dooley, operator of Purcell's movie house, very unhappy, and she communicated same to RKO's president in New York, who wired Hollywood to put Rene's part back in the picture for Purcell, and Purcell and Mrs. Dooley were glad.

But RKO wasn't, and shortly told Rene he was very bad, and they would not require his services. And then, as above, came the incident at the Trocadero and he became terrific again.

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Even the Union!

More than fifty employes of the Student Union cafeteria met and almost unanimously elected Pauline Haulsee, Wewoka, as Queen of the Union. Miss Haulsee was chosen from among a group of fifteen comely co-eds nominated for the honor. Queen of the Union is a new idea this year, but the selection is to be made an annual affair, students said.

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Biblical play presented

Noah, a Biblical story by the French playwright Andre Obey was the second Playhouse production of the year, given in the University auditorium December 10 and 11.

The leading role of Noah was played by Jack Swineford, Enid, and that of Mrs. Noah by Betty Chowning, Tulsa, both experienced in Playhouse productions. Roles of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham and Japhet, were taken by Dixie Snodgrass, Elmore; Charles Briley, Mangum; and Tom Ed Rogers, Altus.

Old bell-clapper is safe

Old Central's "lost" bell-clapper came back to the University in time to peal out tidings of the Sooners' victory over the Oklahoma Aggies in the Homecoming day football game. As soon as the gun had been fired ending the Sooner-Cowboy contest, the old clapper was put into operation on the bell at the University R. O. T. C. stables.

Whit Cox, Tulsa, former University track star, ended a widespread search for the missing clapper when he revealed it was in his trunk in Tulsa. The clapper has become a traditional emblem of victory in the competition between the Sooners and Aggies. It was stolen out of the tower of Old Central, main building at A. and M. college, Stillwater, five years ago. It has now been placed in the safe of Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University, for safe keeping until next year's game.

Cleckler goes to Muskogee

Frank Cleckler, '21, former O. U. alumni secretary and for the last year manager of the Veterans Administration office at Oklahoma City, has moved his residence to Muskogee due to removal of the state headquarters for the Veterans Administration from Oklahoma City to Muskogee.

The orders for removal also provided that Mr. Cleckler take charge of the Veterans' Hospital at Muskogee. The order consolidates the Veterans Bureau and the Veterans Hospital.

Salter officer of association

Lewis S. Salter, dean of the college of fine arts, was elected first vice-president of the Oklahoma State Music Teachers association at a meeting of that group held in Tulsa. The meeting included memorial service for Frederik Holmberg, dean of the University Fine Arts College before his death two years ago.

In touch by air

Lieut. Lyman Edwards, '32, member of the United States Naval Reserve now on active duty and stationed at Mt. Herman, La., has found that he can get news from Soonerland quite easily. He recently established amateur radio contact with Jay Kelso, chief electrician at the University.

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