



SPEC O'Donnell had a face that was freckled and framed with red hair. Who can forget his haunting appearance in "Little Annie Rooney," the Mary Pickford hit of 1925? Since 1948 Spec has devoted himself to the real estate business in Los Angeles. Last year he decided to take time out to read, fish and relax without those 20th Century tyrants (calendar and clock) hounding him. He loved film making—especially the silent era productions. Bill Beaudine was his favorite director.

"YES, I'd take a good character part," Spec wrote in a recent letter, "as I always liked movie making. I think such stars as Brandon, Burton and Newman of today would have been big hits in the silent days. TV is not too much of a pleasure. There is too much sameness and bad story influences."

SPEC (his real first name was Walter) would be happy to hear from TOB readers. Write Spec O'Donnell, c/o River Bend Lodge, Box 2400, Parker Star Route, Blythe, California 92225.

WHO'S WHERE . . . Joseph Henabery, 81, lives in Tarzana, Calif. He's the man who played Lincoln in "Birth of a Nation" and then went on to become a great director. . . . Child star Tommy Kelly (now 43) of the '20s lives in the Santa Ana, Calif., area. . . . Carol Dempster was last reported living in La Jolla, Calif. . . . Director Frank Capra says that Dolores Costello lives in the same area as his ranch at Fallbrook, Calif.

EDWINA BOOTH is not dead. The ill-fated "Trader Horn" actress, reported deceased by responsible writers, lives in Southern California. Three people have talked to her in recent months. To one reporter she said she prefers to ". . . remain dead and forgotten." She's married and interested in church work. [Edwina

was reported dead of some exotic malady contracted during the filming of "Trader Horn" in Africa about the time the film was released in the early '30s. The movie mags had a field day—Ed.]

CHOICE reading is Kevin Brownlow's "The Parade's Gone By (Alfred A. Knopf). It is a vivid 600 pages of photographs and interviews of the atmosphere and achievements of the silent film era. Such film greats as Zukor, Selznick, Vidor, Chaplin, Swanson, Keaton and Lloyd recall how early films were made. Most comprehensive book ever written about the whole range of film production.

"THE Lost World," 1925 monster film, still playing collector theatres, was the first movie ever shown on an airplane. The English tried movies in planes in 1925 but films-in-flight was declared a poor idea.

CLIP & SAVE: Lillian Gish, all-time film great, is making personal appearances at special motion picture events. Miss Gish appeared recently in Los Angeles and San Francisco in an informal film lecture which included the showing of a 90-minute film clip of her memorable screen performances. If she comes

to your area, don't miss her fascinating film memories.

NEARLY 2,000 people attended Ramon Novarro's last rites. Film notables Neil Hamilton, Gilbert Roland and Ida Lupino mingled with the faithful-through-the-years fans. Novarro, very wealthy from land investments, shared his worldly goods with his brothers and sisters, the church and many worthy charities. Future generations of film lovers will enjoy his work through the preserved prints of his cinema appearances.

QUESTION: "Name three brothers who were leading men in silent films other than Matt, Owen and Tom Moore." I can't at the moment. Two Hollywood historians cannot recall any such other trio. The Watson family of Hollywood once had about six sons in films at various times. Most of them are in the photographic business today.

THE American Film Institute reports that 188 out of the 250 lost prints of great American films have been found and are being preserved.

MARY Pickford's wisdom and evaluation of sound pictures was once summed up like this: "It would have been more logical if silent pictures had grown out of the talkie instead of the other way around."

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Reviewers' Comments:

BOMBARDE—"There's Variety Galore."

CONSOLE—"Wonderful Imagination," "Recommended to all listeners without a single reservation."

THE DIAPASON—"Will serve very well under Christmas trees equipped with horseshoe consoles."

