



CLOSEUP — Of all the accomplished villains, Stuart Holmes was among the finest in the silent film era. His roles in "Four Horsemen" and "Prisoner of Zenda" ('22 MGM) were near classics. Holmes was probably the most skilled and sophisticated heavy going as he was at home with Hamlet or as a slippery society scoundrel. Researchers note that Holmes began his film career with a "first." He starred in the very first movie Wm. Fox produced in 1914, "Life's Shop Window." The one reel effort (10 minutes) was shot, edited and ready for distribution in a week.

HOLMES, who knows his profession perfectly, has terse views about acting. His eyes twinkle as he says: "Many great actors were drunks — Jack Barmore and W. C. Fields. The most exciting men in history were heavies. Napoleon, Stalin and Hitler."

TODAY at 82 Holmes looks good, is still tall, has clear blue eyes, a deep tan, a small moustache and thinning hair. He lives alone at 2152 Vista del Mar Ave., Hollywood, Calif., 90028 in the same hilltop home overlooking the lights of Cinemaland that he has owned since 1924. Next year will mark 50 years of living and working in Hollywood. He spends his time painting, in wood carving and doing sculptor creations.

TV pleases him because of its technique: "I like television because the creators are using lots of closeups — which I tried to sell to the movie makers of 40 years ago. Let the audience see the actor."

THE LAMBS (Club), 130 West 44th St., New York, 10036, New York, with a membership of 1,200, may be a source of locating entertainment personalities. Many get mail at the Lambs.

QUESTION DEPT. "Isn't it true that early day movie stars were very short and a tall girl did not stand a chance in films?" Answer: Yes and no. Mary Miles Minter, Mary Pickford, Theda Bara, Gloria Swanson and Betty Bronson were rather petite — some would say very short. One fine character actress was denied many a worthy role because of her 5'7" height. She was Gertrude Astor. She towered over more than a few leading men of the early silents. In spite of this elegant tallness and dignity, Astor carved out a notable career and is today ready for a film and TV call. Last time we saw her at a Hollywood party, she looked charming.

ANN Little, who was in the early silents and worked with Wm. S. Hart, is feeling fine and lives at 5798 Lindenhurst Ave., Los Angeles, 90036, California.

MASSIVE, mighty, costly. That's the 629-page "American Movies Reference Book" (Prentice-Hall, \$29.95). Paul Michael and associates have compiled a volume overflowing with facts, 1,854 new stills, mini-biographical sketches of 587 film players and the largest Award list of all types yet printed in one place. The dedicated fan will cherish the 1,000 films with cast credits. It is a review of the Sound era from 1928 to 1968. A highly selective, interpretive view of the films since Conrad Nagel was the voice of Vitaphone. Book can be had from Nostalgia Book Club for 50% reduction, if you're a frugal type.

IT WAS farewell last June to Los Angeles' beautiful Carthay Circle cinema cathedral. The CC was a Spanish monument to California's great history and had a magnificent collection of paintings of great moments in western history. It served as a premiere center for new films for 40 years. "Gone With the Wind" bowed there in 1939 while "Volga Boatman" opened the house in 1926. Other great films to have first showings at the famous white landmark included "Lilac Time," "What Price Glory," "Seventh Heaven," "Sunrise" and "Mother Knows Best." MGM's "Shoes of the Fisherman" closed the house before the wrecking crews took over. Site was used for an office building. The style 235 (3/11) Wurlitzer was sold to Hollywood photographer Harlan Helm for a reported \$4,000 in the mid-'50s. He lost interest and sold it before completing installation in a vacant supermarket building.

COMMENTS, contributions and corrections are welcomed to P. O. Box 113, Pasadena, California, 91102.

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