

historic instrument in its rightful position in the cultural life of the community. This project was assumed by the Womans Club after several other organizations had failed to obtain community support.

During the early 1930's, the period in which vaudeville was being phased out in this territory, I was a professional musician and it was my privilege to have performed both on stage and




Keyboards after refinishing.



Console during process of re-installing stop tablets — pneumatics have been releathered.

in the pit in the Orpheum Theatre. The organist, Pierce Wall, (now deceased) was a personal friend and on many occasions, I have heard this grand old Wurlitzer fill the theatre with sound before it was finally relegated to the forgotten past. This instrument was much on my mind as I did not wish to see it destroyed and thereby a very important piece of Sioux City's musical history lost forever. It is a rare privilege for me to be a part of this restoration program and also that it is a part of my regular profession. □



## Hollywood Cavalcade

Directed by Lyle W. Nash

**ESTHER RALSTON TALKS:** "Different films pleased me in different ways. Which did I prefer? 'The Case of Lena Smith' gave me my first big chance to be an actress. Von Sternberg created some fine films at Paramount. *Old Ironsides* was enjoyable. I felt honored to head the cast of *American Venus* Paramount turned out a lot of escapist fare during the twenties. The films were fun to make. They served the movie public well. It was a happy time for me."

**ACTRESS ER** worked long and hard. Between 1926 and 1929, when films were switching to sound, she appeared in 16 Paramount films. That's about as fast as they could be produced.

**PICTURES** which fans of ER remember include: *Something Always Happens, The Prodigal, Lonely Wives, Mighty, Wheel of Life, Fashions for Women, Quarterback, The Blind Goddess, Children of Divorce, Kiss for Cinderella, Peter Pan, and Lucky Devil*. Not too many epics but films that make for lasting happy memories.

**DEMANDING CRITICS** found ER worthy of attention. About "Figures Don't Lie" the reviewers said: "... a thing of charm ... a lyric of laughter ... the gaily spontaneous action of ER ... the girl is good and improves with every picture." When ER made *The Betrayal* with the great Emil Jannings, the critics said: "... she wins sympathy as the erring wife and shows herself superbly fitted for heavy dramatic roles all too soon."

**LASTING FAME.** The night I called N.Y. information and asked for ER the operator said in extra soft tones: "You mean, that Esther Ralston?" "Yes, information," "I replied," the one who was in films long ago." The phone operator said she fondly recalled her. I had the number in a flash.

**DOCUMENTARY** film maker Robert J. Flaherty summarized movies best when he said: "Film is the language

of the eye." Nanook the hero of the 1922 Flaherty production eventually starved to death in the far north.

**ALTHOUGH** the odds are 100 to 1 it won't come to pass, a brash young college film maker thinks he might talk Mary Miles Minter into sharing some of her thoughts of the last 50 years about Hollywood. MMM lives in quiet retirement but has been extra kind to a couple of young film buffs recently.

**WHO IS WHERE?**—Readers Report contacting Patsy Ruth Miller at Ocean Drive West, Stamford, Conn. They write to Stepin Fetchit at 203 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill. ... Irene Rich used to live at 940 Monte Drive, Santa Barbara, Calif. ... Singer-composer Pinky Tomlin used to have an office at 9889 Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, Calif.

**HEDDA & LOUELLA** by George Eells is the biography of the two Hollywood gossip columnists. Here is powerful cinema drama you always thought might be true but never imagined you'd see in cold print. Never has an industry been so harried as by these two illiterate, highly opinionated and vindictive women. One queen accented kindness; the other cattiness. Both were repressed. They massaged the egos of greedy executives. Film greats such as Chaplin, Welles and Brando mostly ignored the much-feared gossip mongers. Eells says Louella will be 91 years old this autumn.

**ORGANIST** Gaylord Carter, who is celebrating his 50th year as a motion picture theatre pipe organ great, travels to Australia for a concert tour in September and October.

**COMMENTS,** contribution and questions are welcome at P.O. Box 113, Pasadena, California, 91102. □