



Hollywood Cavalcade

Directed by Lyle W. Nash

PEOPLE... Ruth Etting, songstress of the 30s, visited her hometown of David City, Neb. this summer. She now lives in Colorado Springs, Colo. . . . Signe Hasso popped up recently in a 1974 TV pilot... Some fans write Mary Carlisle c/o Elizabeth Arden Salon, 9702 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, Ca. . . . Lois Wilson still lives at 10 Mitchell Place, New York . . . Gloria Swanson calls 920 Fifth Ave., New York, 10021, home . . . Ben Lyon donated much of his film memorabilia to the British National Film Archive . . . Ann Little, who played with Fred Thomson, is happily retired in Los Angeles . . . Official records now reveal that Bobby Driscoll, 31, died of drug addiction in 1968.

BILLY AND BOBBY MAUCH are alive and happy. The top Warner Bros. juveniles in the 30s returned from WWII (they did not serve together) to a film industry offering few and fewer parts for twins. About 20 years ago Billy joined the WB editing department where he is today. He is married and may be contacted c/o Burbank Studios, Burbank, Ca. Bobby, also married, tends his various business interests in the Big Bear City area of California.

RETAKES... Richard Burton told an interviewer that Communism appeals to him . . . There is a new "Valentino" screenplay being considered by Hollywood producers . . . Betty Blythe made 119 films in the 44 years, 1916 to 1960, she was a film personality. As a tall actress, 5' 8½", she proved tall women have a spot before the camera . . . Florence Vidor was once cast in the lead for *Winning of Barbara Worth* but production problems prevailed and it did not come to pass.

FIFTY FOUR years ago the largest movie screen ever built, 136 feet high and 146 feet wide, was erected at the State Fair grounds in Columbus, Ohio. The drive-in like screen was created for the 1919 Missions convention of the Methodist Episcopal church. Movies were shown on it but only on a 40' x 40' section. The problem was to get enough light to fill the screen. If enough light from carbon arcs was applied the heat would have burned the explosive nitrate film. The lenses were also less developed then today. At the time the film emulsion was saved by blowing cold air on the glass plates of the projection gate. Film greats Adolph Zukor and D.W. Griffith were on hand to view the giant screen idea. Drive-ins as we know them, with gigantic screens, did not come along in a big way until 1933.

SHORT SUBJECTS... Plan now to attend the 1974 ATOS Convention in Detroit. You'll meet 1,000 of the nicest organ fans around. Portland conventioners had a ball. The giant Portland Paramount rekindled memories of 1931-32 when I attended the Publix stage shows with Fanchon and Marco Sunkist Beauties. Every convention organ artist was great. But Don Simmons captured my fancy with his finger magic at the Oaks Park. Never have I heard a Wurlitzer sound

so loaded with power, feeling and tone. If I lived in Portland, again, I'd become a roller skate fan.

CHOICE reading describes David Chierichetti's new book, "Hollywood Director" (Curtis, \$1.50) which is all about Mitchell Leisen. Claudette Colbert, Ray Milland, Olivia de Havilland and Dorothy Lamour are only a few associates who tell of Leisen's talent. Much of the fascinating book is in the words of the great director himself. Author Chierichetti has scored a smash hit with his excellent research, review and interpretation.

REEL NEWS... California Gov. Ronald Reagan blasted talent sharks for cheating screen hopefuls when he was Screen Actors Guild President in 1950 . . . Carole Lombard made her film debut (age 12) in the 1920 silent Fox film *A Perfect Crime* . . . The big studio preview was a dog. Hundreds walked out. The embarrassed theatre manager phoned HQ: ". . . the last reel of the film was shown to assorted sneers, jeers and snores." . . . Fay Holden, of the Hardy family series, passed on . . . MGM hopes to film F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Last Tycoon* in 1974.

QUESTION: "Can you verify, that Charlie Chaplin once made a movie for the British Royal family?" Answer: Well . . . sorta. Maybe you are thinking of the 1922 film *CC made when Lord Louis Mountbatten spent his honeymoon in Hollywood. CC filmed a gag-type home movie of the Royal visitors at Pickfair, etc. Cast included Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, Jackie Coogan, CC and other honored guests. Print still exists.*

"I GOT plenty of nuttin'" is a line from a George Gershwin song.

It might be the theme of employment as a motion picture player in the sagging Seventies. Here's a 1973 factual report about one actress. She is 44 and talented. Has worked 26 years in films, stage, TV. In 1970 she worked one day. In 1971 three days and in 1972 earned \$200 for one day's emoting. She is awaiting her first 1973 call. Here is proof that the road to riches does not pass through much of Hollywood. Recently union statistics indicated 70% of Hollywood acting talent were unemployed.

IT SEEMS TO ME... When sound replaced silent films we lost a minor art in title writing. This came from *Birth of a Nation*: "For she who had learned the stern lesson of honor, we should not grieve that she found far sweeter the gates of death."

ONE LINERS... Bette Davis and Mary Pickford were big fans of Greta Garbo . . . Movie ad writers sometimes wax emotional as this ad for *I'll Cry Tomorrow*: Filmed on location - in a woman's soul . . . Contributions, comments, questions are welcomed. Send them to P.O. Box 113, Pasadena, Ca., 91102.