

Hollywood Cavalcade

Directed by Lyle W. Nash

NEWSREEL... The Ed. G. Robinson art collection sold for \$5.1 million... Musical researcher Miles M. Kreuger says Martha Mears was greatest voice dubber ever found in Hollywood... Dorothea Wieck turned up on TV the other night in a 1958 film. Looks well... Ruth Elder, the winsome flying beauty of the 1920s, lives in San Francisco. She told an interviewer: "Am happy here after years in Hawaii... Am happy to be out of celebrity fishbowl"... Child star Margaret O'Brien is 37 this year... Bill Demarest, 82, looked sharp in a recent celebrity TV show... Silent personality Carmel Myers says she'll live in Hollywood again... Virginia Cherrill does hospital charity work in Santa Barbara area.

WHO IS WHERE... "May I contribute some items?" asks a No Name reader. "Joyce Compton, Lizabeth Scott and Una Merkel all live in the sprawling Los Angeles area. Are well but only accepting good acting roles – if any ... I last saw Kenny Baker when he was living in Solvang, Calif.... Saw Alexander Gray in the La Jolla, Calif., last year ... Last contact I had with Jackie "Butch" Jenkins (now 37) was in a Texas town not far from Dallas ... You might try contacting Johnny Downs, 70, in Matamoras, Penn., at 717-491-2141 ... Actor Mike Mazurki runs a Los Angeles luncheon spa when he's not before the cameras."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ... Here are some replies to questions. They are self explanatory. Ruth Waterbury and Adelah Rogers St. Johns are still writing about the Hollywood they knew for the last 50-plus years ... Villain Sojin's first name was Kamiyama ... Marth Mansfield, Edith Storey, Sylvia Breamer and Mary Thurman were early day (1919-20) stars on Photoplay covers ... Expensive Celebrity Register may help locate some famous people. Some libraries have copies ... Some Movies of the Week for TV cost only \$600,000. compared to at least \$2 million for a conventional feature film. Some TV quickies are shot in 12 days ... "Life of Alex G. Bell" was probably the only big film that starred Loretta Young and had her sisters, Polly Ann, Sally and Georgianna in it.

NAMES OF 1934... Forty years is a long time to remain a drawing power in the entertainment world. Among those who drew then and still command attention are: Helen Hayes, Bette Davis, Katharine Hepburn, Myrna Loy, Pat O'Brien, Laurence Oliver, Walter Pidgeon, Claudette Colbert, Jane Wyatt, John Wayne, Charles Boyer, Bing Crosby, Alice Faye, Fredric March, Merle Oberson, Marlene Dietrich and Ginger Rogers.

SELECTED SHORTS... In 1928 there was a Hollywood Museum on Hollywood Boulevard... His parents named him Henry Byron Charles Stewart Warner but fans knew him as H. B. Warner... Broadway is not always necessary for a successful career. Lurene Tuttle has been a star on radio, TV, in films and in the theatre but never worked on Broadway... Actor Oliver Blake is busy in his home town of Pasadena, Calif. but best known there to friends as Ollie Prickett.

HOLLYWOOD film statistics are often doctored by zealous press agents, fading memories or just plain poor research. Frequent question is about what name players appeared in most films over the years. Exact answer is probably unknown but most historians will agree that the following folk were among the most active. Numbers after names indicates an estimate of the number of film appearances. Slim Summerville (640), Edgar Kennedy (560), Zasu Pitts (505), Fritz Feld (325), Russell Simpson (410), Harry Woods (507), Philo McCullough (485), Henry Armetta (350), Charles Lane (370), EEHorton (525) and Lucien Littlefield (400).

THE younger generation has its own philosophy. Recently I heard it expressed at a Hollywood party: "She looked positively indecent. Sorta like Jane Fonda with clothes on."

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TWO new LP albums are worth your attention. Warner Bros. have released one album which features dialogue tracks from many WB epics. The other LP features WB music from the "Jazz Singer" to "Mame" and includes many of the great 1930s musicals.

WHY were silent films so popular? Well, one of the greatest and most talented stars Mary Astor explained it this way:

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"We were the hope peddlers; we pushed it in all sorts of brightly colored capsules: Love conquers all. Movie theatres were quiet, dark, hypnotic. Organ music throbbed gently and a huge brightly lighted silver square held one's total attention. You could forget, you could identify or you could sleep. People didn't kick the habit for years."

IF GOSSIP column items are a test of popularity, then fame is fleeting but only more so in Hollywood. From a 1952 column with 57 names mentioned only five are around today... Contributions, comments and questions are welcomed to HC, at Post Office Box 113, Pasadena, California 91102.

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