



Hollywood Cavalcade

Directed by Lyle W. Nash

NEWSREEL... When Rod La Rocque, 18, graduated from La Habra, Calif., High School this summer it meant the famous name of a silent film star will not be forgotten. The young man is a distant namesake of the first Rod. He hopes to have a law career... The March of Time gives one the shudders. Greta Garbo will be 69 soon, Brigitte Bardot and Sophie Loren are now 40! Elvis Presley is 39... Coming soon is a film about a roly-poly silent film comedian who suffers a career collapse after a big weekend. The Wild Party, its producers claim, is not about Fatty Arbuckle. Most of it was filmed in famed Mission Inn, in Riverside, California... Top feminine part is played by Raquel Welch... The bodies of Gary Cooper and Florenz Ziegfeld have been moved from Los Angeles cemeteries to other places.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT is a two hour MGM collection of clips from films (mostly great musicals) produced between 1929 and 1969. The nostalgic romp features nearly every popular film player who worked for Leo the Lion. So far all the caustic, contemporary critics have praised the production.

THE enduring qualities of silent films were revealed again this summer when a Los Angeles Times reviewer looked at the 1925 Paramount film *The Plastic Age*. He wrote: "...fascinating as a social document... Terrific showcase for Clara Bow... Is just plain enjoyable to watch... *Plastic Age* reverberates with the very quality of the Roaring Twenties desperate gaiety... Gilbert Roland exudes the dashing masculinity he has maintained to this day... Directed with verve and lightness." I wonder what 1974 movie will be praised like that in 2023?

LEST you forget. Bobbie Darin, Jackie Gleason, Carroll Baker, William Demarest, Jack Oakie, Nancy Carroll, George Bancroft and Chester Morris were all nominated for Oscars.

ALTHOUGH Jeanette MacDonald has been gone since 1965, her legion of devoted fans is greater than ever. In June several hundred members of the Jeanette MacDonald International Fan Club, JMIFC, held their annual convention in Pasadena. Membership is now at an all-time high of 700. During their nine day Clan Clave (as they call it) they viewed 10 films of JM and Gene Raymond, held receptions, dinners, went on trips and socialized. JMIFC president Miss Clara Rhoades, 1185 Woodward Ave., Topeka, Kansas, 66604, said: "Membership is booming. In June we gained 30 new members. Eight years ago membership had fallen to around 100. We are so pleased. I'd be happy to hear from any TO readers who want to know about our JMIFC."

QUESTION: "Inform us about child actor Darryl Hickman, please." Best way to learn all about him (then and now) is to read the March 1974 issue of Film Fan Monthly. Writer Doug McClelland profiles Hickman in great fashion.

A MONTANA reader asks about Jackie Cooper. I hope she was watching June 30th when Jackie was seen by some 50 million Americans on a political fund raising telethon of 21 hours duration. Jackie is busy, happy, has a son 28 and another son 18 and loves Hollywood as much as ever.

IT was in Ontario, California, we caught up with Cooper at the great race track. He's a race fan and a skilled stock car driver. He said: "Yes, I'm busy most of the time. Directing is the most appealing to me. The film *Chosen Survivors* is my latest acting effort. I think Hollywood is returning to films more for home and family viewing. But you will pay for them probably by Pay-TV. I think Paul Newman is a great actor and will last like Cary Grant. Newman can have a directing career anytime he wants it." Cooper and fellow child star Gene Reynolds both won Emmys for 1974 directing efforts in TV. Both are kept as busy as they want.

BECAUSE they were vexed about some trivial thing, the Vernon, California city fathers voted in 1919 to prohibit all movie making within its boundaries. Once Vernon (near Los Angeles) had a popular night spot much loved by film folk.

REAL NEWS... *Sweetheart: The story of Mary Pickford* is a detailed, frank, interpretive biography. Choice reading... Troy Donahue, 37, is returning to films after his career took a left turn for the worse... Jean Harlow's father, Dr. Mont Clair Carpenter, 96, died in May... Actress Josephine Chaplin's son is Charles Chaplin III. Mother lives and works in England... Summer tourists were pleased and surprised to see a huge "Welcome to Gloria Swanson" banner over the Universal studio front entrance. Swanson appears in the big film *Airport-75*. Seems like 1925!... Bette Davis had fifth billing in a Barbara Stanwyck film early in her career... Los Angeles county taxpayers paid \$250,000. to prove that *Deep Throat* was pornographic. A jury could not agree.

VIRTUALLY all the reviewers were kind to Mack and Mabel the musical comedy which premiered in Los Angeles this summer. Robert Preston is the star. The fast moving show is patterned after the lives of movie greats - Mack Sennett and Mabel Normand. It's headed for Broadway.

CONTRIBUTIONS, comments or questions are welcome to HC, at Box 113, Pasadena, California, 91102.