

# HOLLYWOOD

By GENE HANDSAKER

## A PRIMA DONNA OF TEEN AGERS

HOLLYWOOD — Lois Butler just doesn't act like a budding movie actress.



Lois Butler  
In an interview—this was her very first—she gets tongue tied and embarrassed and runs her unpainted fingernails along the edge of her studio schoolroom desk.

But all these defects, incidental to the fact that Lois is only 15 years old, the movies can readily correct. What Lois does have is good looks, an unspoiled, adolescent charm, and a wonderful coloratura-soprano voice.

Indianapolis-born Lois, who is blue-eyed and chestnut-haired, got her first press notices recently when she went to Superior Court for approval of her film contract. Her salary, now \$200 a week, will reach \$3,000 a week after seven years if her studio picks up the options every six months. Also, an "exemplary student" clause says she'll be suspended from the contract if her school grades fall below her present B-plus average.

That clause was the idea of her mother, Mrs. Lillian Butler. "Any dumbbell," Mrs. Butler told me, "can be an actress."

Lois' professional world is presently bounded by the plywood walls and arching roof of a king-sized automobile trailer on the Eagle-Lion studio lot. Mornings, she studies history, math, English, Spanish, and general science there, across a small table from her teacher, Randolph van Scoyk. Her mother sits in an easy chair, knitting.

Afternoons, Lois sings vocal exercises and classical compositions. Her voice coach, Mario Silva, accompanies her on a small upright piano at the opposite end of the trailer.

Hammers, saws, and floor Sanders fill the air outside with their racket, but Lois doesn't mind. One day just before taking a make-up camera test, she sang "White Christmas" at the request of a carpenter. For me, she sang Delibes' "Bell Song" with all the poise of a seasoned performer.

The studio plans to star her in her first picture, "Clementine." Lois is thrilled, naturally, but she hasn't "gone Hollywood."

HOLLYWOOD—I had just spent a very pleasant half-hour watching Hazel Brooks pose for some very physical "leg art," so it was a surprise, not to say a shock, to hear her giving out at lunch with sage philosophical pronouncements like Existology is the study of

truth. "Ontology is the study of being," "Me," Hazel added, munching a stalk of celery. "I'm a transcendentalist. You know, like Emerson."

"Only vaguely," I said, somewhat dazed. "Transcendentalists hitch their wagon to a star." (Philosophy 1-A in college was never this jolly!) "They're escapists," Hazel lectured. "They live on another planet; they have a wonderful time."

Miss Brooks, auburn-haired, blue-eyed former New York model, the wife of M-G-M Art Director Cedric Gibbons is definitely a Hollywood star of tomorrow, to hear Enterprise Studio tell it. If personality and beauty can help, Hazel should make the grade. She had a small part in "Arch of Triumph" and now has a fatter role in "Body and Soul" as the gal who leads John Garfield astray despite the best influence of virtuous Lillie Palmer.

The slinky black gown Hazel wears as a nightclub singer is strapless and has a provocative lattice effect over the right bosom; the split skirt kept showing a generous expanse of leg, and the still photographer didn't object a bit.

So it was surprising to hear such a physically attractive babe making with the brains, as when she explained that the movies' gain of Hazel is medicine's loss.

Yep, she honestly planned to become a research expert in cancer until she discovered how much education for a medical degree would cost. She's intrigued by a theory that cancer—"the medical term is carcinoma"—starts in embryos, but: "I haven't had time to read the last couple of months, so I don't know what's going on in cancer."

While modeling toothpaste ads daytimes, Hazel studied philosophy and sociology nights at the Henry George School of Social Science. Psychologist Brooks believes that work is essential to happiness, she said, cracking a hazel nut while we awaited the soup course.

Caught in the starlet's intensive daily whirl of fittings, posing, hair-dressing, interviews, rehearsals, and script study, she believes in laughing at everything.

"Or as the psychologists say," Hazel expounds, "think in universals, not particulars."

## Germans Greet Bidault Plan With Mixed Emotions

BERLIN—AP—German political leaders gave a mixed reception to French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault's proposal that the Allies undertake an organized reduction of Germany's population through emigration.

Berlin newspapers called the idea broached at the Moscow meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers, "sensational."

A spokesman for the Berlin social Democratic party endorsed the idea. The conservative Christian Democratic union suggested that

"acceptance of the plan would mean an indirect acquiescence to the present Oder-Neisse border — which we can never agree to because we believe it contains the seeds of another war." (The Oder-Neisse boundary gives Poland a large part of Eastern Germany.) Bidault said France was willing to accept some German immigrants and that the size of the German population, denser than that of Germany's neighbors, was a war consideration and had heart of the German proposal merited serious realistic manner.

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