

Retiring Won't Bring Happiness

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Think twice or three times, men, if you're dreaming of retiring. Your golf game may improve, Fred Astaire says, but your happiness won't.

Most men chained to a job plan to chuck it all eventually for a life of leisure. Astaire tried that.

"I was never so glad," he said, "as to chuck all the leisure for a job."

Astaire quit the movies four years ago after doing "Blue Skies" with Bing Crosby, and he says he intended never to return.

"I was never more serious about anything," he said. "I had been dancing since I was five. That's not the easiest way to make a living, and I wasn't getting any younger. Luckily, I had no financial worries."

"So I decided to stop working and enjoy a life of leisure."

For a couple of weeks, Astaire played a lot of golf. He caught up on his reading. Then he sat around

At The Park Thursday & Friday



Snack for two... Van Heflin and Barbara Stanwyck enjoy a mid-night snack in a scene from "East Side, West Side," M-G-M's film-ization of the Marcia Davenport best-seller novel, which comes to the Park screen this week. The stellar cast also features James Mason as Miss Stanwyck's philandering society husband and Ava Gardner as the girl who tries to ruin her marriage.

Wishes She'd Had Acting Lessons, Too

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Piano students of the world, arise! You have nothing to lose but your grace notes.

Abandon that two hours of practice a day, unless you have concert ambitions. Elizabeth Scott, for one, says there are more interesting things to do.

"I used to practice two hours a day," Miss Scott said. "I rode an hour and a half each way, for six years, to take lessons. And for what? Better I should have taken acting lessons."

Miss Scott speaks out in this vein for the benefit of teen-agers who might otherwise be deceived by some piano-playing scenes in "Paid in Full," a picture she made for Hal Wallis at Paramount.

Her co-star, Diana Lynn, gracefully tossed off a few bars of a difficult piano composition for a scene. But Miss Scott says that doesn't mean everybody should learn to play the piano like Diana. "It was piano-playing that first brought her to films as a child," Miss Scott said. "She was going to make a career as a concert pianist. But movies won out."

Lessons, Anyway

"Now, I never aspired to a career on the concert stage. But I had to take six years of lessons, anyway. I did get a great deal from this, the ability to enjoy music as an intelligent listener and the ability to play acceptably. And I'm grateful for that."

"But I found I had many more important things to do and to learn to become an actress. Time is the most important thing in life, and it must be used to the best advantage."

"Accomplishments are all right in their place, but they must not be preferred to the work one chooses as a lifetime job."

When Miss Scott returned recently to her home town of Scranton, Pa., she met her old piano teacher.

"Now, aren't you sorry you didn't keep up your lessons?" the teacher said.

"I don't know what I actually said," Miss Scott said, "but the answer inside me was a big fat no."

FREE SPENDING NOTED IN FARMING AREA

ALFRED, N. Y. (UP)—Residents of a three-county New York State agricultural area spent more cash and incurred more debts in 1949 than in either of the two preceding years, according to a study by Alfred University.

Alfred has been observing the economic habits of residents of parts of Steuben, Allegany and Livingston Counties since 1947.

Borrowing from 14 of the area's 18 banks increased \$22 per capita during 1949 and deposits decreased \$18 per capita, the report showed.

In reporting that \$2,777,638 cash left the area during 1949, the survey said the net outflow of funds has totalled \$5,243,369 since the study was begun.

DOUBLE ROLE

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (UP)—Alderman Raymond J. Sullivan was in Superior Court awaiting a call to jury when a city hall messenger asked that he be excused. He was needed by the city council which lacked a quorum to select jurors for the next sitting. Officials excused him.

At The Strand



Scott Brady "pays off" John Russell after discovering that it was Russell who framed him, in this scene from Universal-International's exciting drama, "Undertow". Coming to the Strand Theatre Tomorrow.

Cowboy Star Meets 337 Supporting Actors; Finds Them All Bad

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—The movies' newest cowboy star, a lank Arizonian named Rex Allen, met up with 337 of his supporting actors and found them all bad.

Not only were they bad actors, Allen said, but they were non-cooperative. Wouldn't even read the script.

The 337 troupers, if you can call them that, were the herd of steers Republic Studios furnished Allen for cattle drive sequences in his current picture, "Hills of Oklahoma."

"Those varmints didn't surprise me," Allen drawled. "I knew they'd be nasty. I've been a cowhand for years."

This makes Allen practically the only cowboy star who knew how to ride, rope and roll his own before he got the job. Most movie cowboys have to be introduced to the cows.

Like Any Stampede
His first scenes with the movie herd called for him and some other experienced cowhands to run down a stampede, cut out some of the leaders and gradually halt them.

"A movie stampede is like any other," Allen said. "The cattle get frightened and they take off. You couldn't say they were acting. They just follow their own inclinations, and nobody can make 'em read the script."

And as in any other stampede, both people and cattle get tramp-

led on unless the people know exactly what they're doing. Which is why it comes in handy to have a movie cowhand who really is a cowhand.

"I've been in stampedes in three movies, and I'm beginning to catch on to how they want it done," Allen said. "That's more than I can say for the cows; no matter how many movies they're in they never catch on."

Twice as Hard

The big difference in running cattle in the movies, instead of on the open range, is that the movie cattle have to be kept within the camera distance and angle.

"The cattle don't know about this," Allen said. "So the cowhands have to work twice as hard. Every steer that strays out of the picture is just that much daily rent wasted."

One result on the movie cattle's disposition is to make them more evil. Cattle just don't like being over-herded, if at all. A steer with several pictures to its credit is, both literally and figuratively, a bad actor.

"We herded 337 beasts like that through an eight-hour day," Allen groaned. "What we think of them—and what they think of us—would never get past the censors."

"They tell us, though, the action will look swell on the screen."

GOOD MANNERS RARE

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (UP)—During Highway Courtesy Week, police watched 700 automobiles go by without noting a single driver eligible for a courtesy award. Finally, a policeman took a pair of crutches and hobbled into the street. The driver who stopped got the award.

COLLIDES WITH

MALDEN, Mass. (UP)—ist Leonard J. Clark killed it with a po-

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