

Big

FURS

By Sara Day

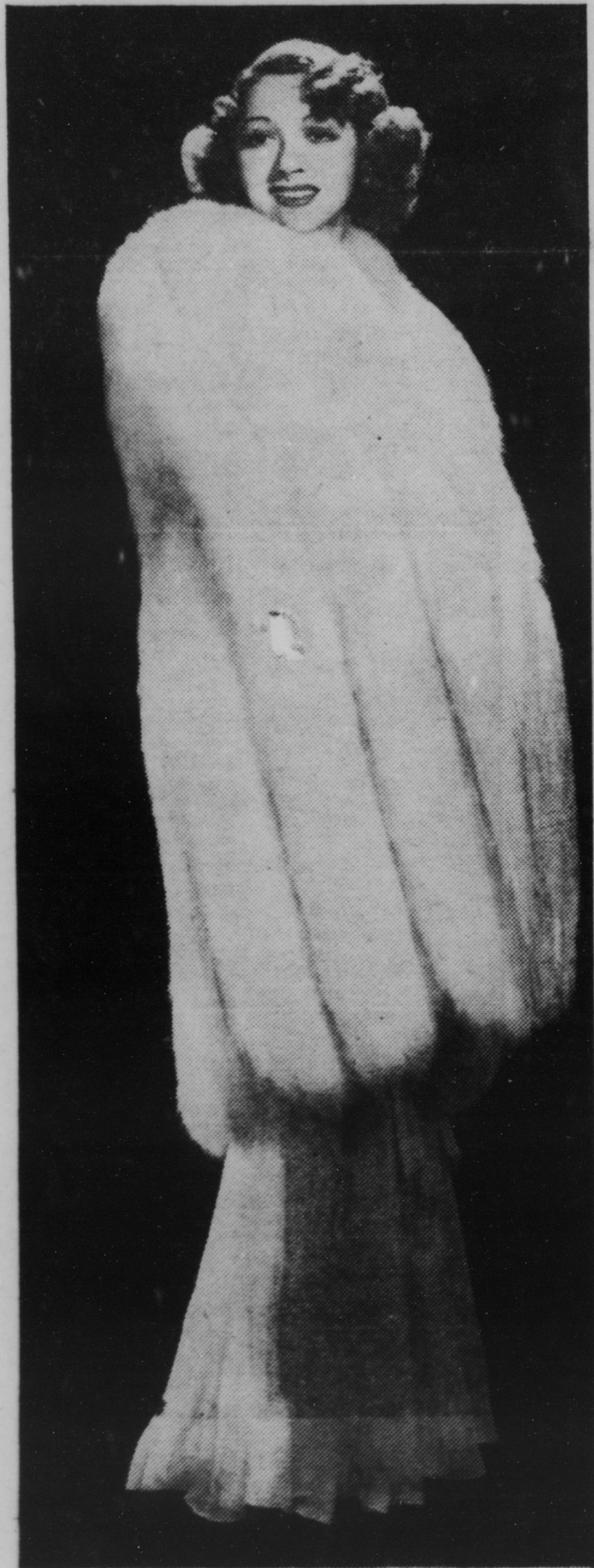
Practically every star in the movie business—or so it seems—has a pair of silver foxes, not to mention the other little items like a full-length mink coat (Sophie Tucker just paid \$15,000 for one), sable or Persian lamb jacket. Expensive.

Joan Crawford is a great lover of beautiful furs. The other night at the Cocoanut Grove she appeared in a stunning full-length coat of natural blue fox. This is the last word in fur luxury this season—blue foxes not only are scarce, but they are very hard to match since the natural foxes vary in color. Her coat is cut with very wide shoulders, kimono-sleeves and without a collar. At a concert I saw her again, in a knee-length red fox cape.

The same night I saw a number of other stars who had turned out to hear Rudy Vallee and his Yankees. And all the girls were done up to the teeth. There was Charlie McCarthy's radio pal, Dorothy Lamour, very lovely in white satin with a white fox cape.

THIS is a big fur year in Hollywood. And a year of big furs too, if you know what I mean. The girls look positively square in some of these new wraps made of the long-haired bulky furs, but it is smart this year to resemble a figure T with shoulders like a football quarterback. This has brought the whole fox family back into popularity. Blue, red, black-silver and white fox are in great demand here. And are seen in everything from bolero jackets to full-length capes and coats. Beaver and Alaskan sealskin also belong to the family of bulky furs. This year fashion has brought the lowly skunk back into society's notice, along with a group of other humble furs such as badger, sheepskin, opposum and even bear.

And they're beautifully handled. These clever furriers have made bushy coats look slimmer by applying the skins on soft velvet, chiffon and sometimes suede instead of sewing them together. Fur coats and wraps nowadays have fine dressmaker touches that they never had until the last two or three years. That may be one reason why furs are increasingly popular.



EVERYONE turned to look at Loretta Young as she came into the Grove because she had on one of the most elegant fur coats it has ever been my pleasure to gaze upon, and I've gazed upon a lot of them this past month. Hers is a full-length white fox with a wide tie girldle set in at the waistline. The top is made bolero style and the skirt, all of white fox skins, just clears the floor. It has the new modish short sleeves, coming just below the elbow.

Helen Jepson, the singer, was very regal in a full length silver fox coat sewn on chiffon. Helen told me she was also having Richard Jaeckel make her another coat for street wear. It is made of sheared beaver with a set-in tie belt of suede and a beanie to match. Jaeckel also made a blue fox coat for Paulette Goddard with set-in pieces of suede at the waistline and elbow—a new fashion.

One night recently I went to hear the Gracie Allen-George Burns program at the NBC Playhouse and later attended a party at Sardi's at which the Burnses and the Jack Bennys were hosts. There, too, everyone turned out in beautiful furs. Gracie looked very cute in a black velvet dress with no back and orchids in her hair. Her wrap was a hip length boxy coat of sable.

Mary Livingstone, Jack Benny's partner on his NBC show as well as in real life, furnished nice contrast for Gracie. Mary was all in white. She wore a white chiffon evening gown and a lovely knee length wrap of white fox. The Fred Allens dropped in for a moment. Mrs. Allen (Portland Hoffa) wore a black velvet gown with a little calot to match. She had a short coat of kolinsky.

And me? I'm writing home to Grandma to find out if she still has that old beaver cape. It's my only chance to get in the fur parade.



Luxury in furs, by night or day: Mary Livingstone (extreme left) presents a picture of glamour in white. And, for daytime luxury, there is Anita Louise (above). Her cape of white fox dyed to resemble lynx is set off by a black pill box hat and a beige wool dress. Then there are Fay Wray and Dolores Del Rio (left) who favor black for sunlit hours. Fay wears silver foxes around her shoulders. Dolores has a short black fox jacket which comes just to the waistline.