

Bad Business In Hollywood Helps Desert Resorts

By PATRICIA CLARY
UP Staff Correspondent
HOLLYWOOD (U.P.)—So many Hollywoodites are getting away from the "depression" and mad business in town that there's a terrific boom in \$85-a-day retreats on the desert.

Resort hotels with ankle-deep rugs and glass walls are popping up like cactus from Victorville to Indio. Producers can lounge beside swimming pools perfumed with Chanel No. 5 and decorated with sun-tanned blondes while they ponder where they'll get the money to pay for it all.

So many people who want to get away from it all are flooding Palm Springs that those who really want to get away from it all are leaving. Some of them go up to the Apple Valley Inn near Victorville, where things are so quiet they use homing pigeons instead of telephones.

There's a pigeon race outside every bungalow at the million-dollar hideaway. When you want a drink, meal or gin-rummy partner, you stuff your order into a capsule on the pigeon's leg. The bellboy who fills it brings back the pigeon.

Pigeon Racing Tried
"Some of our guests have added such improvements," the manager said. "Zachary Scott and Cesar Romero bought a stop watch and held daily pigeon races."

The communications system, as much telephone service, was disrupted by California's unprecedented winter snow. Tender-hearted guests took the pigeons inside the bungalows and fed them crackers, cheese, caviar, and Scotch. The hotel has since had some difficulty getting them back on schedule.

The crowds at Palm Springs were reported once to have prompted

KEEPS PLEDGE TO BURN BOOK



MAKING GOOD HIS THREAT, the Rev. C. N. Greene, of Coldwater, La., burns in the Public Square of Natchitoches, La., a copy of "The Midsummer Fires," a novel written by James Aswell, of that city. Since its publication, the book has had the little city of 8,000 in a furor. It was denounced as "profane" and an "invitation to lust." (International)

ed Frank Sinatra to consider putting up a rival desert resort on the banks of the nearby Salton Sea. Sinatra said later he was going to stick with the Springs, where he owns a \$110,000 shack with a swimming pool shaped like a grand piano, a master showerbath with sunken faucets and a tiered living

Barbara Stanwyck Once Termed Most Beautiful In Show

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Barbara Stanwyck has done such a good job lately with Academy Award-type parts that she has been called the most beautiful on Broadway.

So Miss Stanwyck is now going back to fundamentals for the first time in five years.

That was the way Miss Stanwyck got her start. When she was 15 she was in the Ziegfeld Follies, covered only by a beaded cummerbund around her and an elephant beneath her.

The lady's come a long way. People are talking about an Academy Award for her swell job in "Sorry, Wrong Number."

It took Universal-International

room so Sinatra can croon from the top level to the guests down below.

Sunken Tubs Come High
At the Palm Springs Biltmore hotel, the \$85-a-day guests (and nobody in the A picture class pays less) get sunken tubs and tinted mirrors that make you look as if you had a tan.

There are almost no telephones, however, for guests who at home have them near bathtubs, bars, swimming pools and gin-rummy tables. The Biltmore manager says it takes him two hours to call the linen room.

The Deep Well Ranch, on the outskirts, makes people used to being waited on hand and foot pay through the nose for waiting on themselves.

Horace Heidt owns another spot, the Lone Palm, down the road, and George Raft runs the Desert Retreat, which he claims has the world's only perfumed swimming pool.

'Laughs Unlimited' Provides Gags For All Comers, Even Politicians

By JOHN ROSENBERG
United Press Staff Correspondent
NEW YORK (UP)—No kidding, people are getting funny.

Call the plumber and he spouts jokes as he plugs the leaks. Visit the dentist and he has a gag for every gargle, fun with every filling. Everyone, it seems, has a punch line. And, if need be, a new one every day.

That claim is made by two serious-looking men named Art Paul and Stan Burns, co-owners of "Laughs Unlimited."

The title of their company is appropriate too. They whip out an average of 40 gags a day, some of them almost original. Of course there are some like the one about "the girl with the seven-day kiss—it makes one weak."

Or, "the girl who changed her heater seat five times before a sailor annoyed her."

And the definition of a bore: "a guy who is here today and here tomorrow."

Plenty of Clients
The files of Laughs Unlimited contain letters from senators, gov- ernors, doctors, lawyers, bartenders, car-hops, elevator operators, disc jockeys, masters of ceremonies, school teachers, lecturers and others who wanted to be funny and wrote for help.

Some of the letters are post- marked Singapore, Ceylon, Mexico, South Africa, Alaska, Sweden, Scotland and Portugal.

"Outside our regular markets of television, radio and screen, the biggest private buyers seem to be politicians," Burns said. "Ever- though the election is over, they're still buying."

A line from material recently sent a politician reads:

"I've been mixed up in politics for years now. Some years I'm more mixed up than others."

Burns and Paul said purchases from individuals had increased at least 20 per cent in the past year.

"If it keeps going this way," Paul said, "there'll be a pun on every- one's tongue. I guess it's just be- cause people like to see other peo- ple laugh."

Gags For Hecklers
He said there was only one thing wrong.

"Some of the guys who buy our gags are letting it go to their heads," Paul said. "They've been invading the night clubs and com- peting with the comedians."

He said it's got so bad, they've had to turn out a few hundred "squelchers" for comedians. These are gags designed to quiet hecklers.

Some of them go like this: "Look, I'm not a tailor, Go have your fit somewhere else."

"My, oh my, you've got nice teeth . . . Yours?"

Burns and Paul laughed heartily at their little jokes.

FREE DRINK MOOCHER LANDS BEHIND BARS

ST. LOUIS (UP)—Matt Trudt pleaded guilty to obtaining merchandise under false pretenses and was sentenced to 60 days in the workhouse.

He told the court he was always able to get "one more drink" when he posed as the assistant excise commissioner.

"With enough liquor in me, I'd probably say I was President Tru- man," Trudt declared.

PARK THEATRE PROGRAM

SATURDAY, February 26

—DOUBLE FEATURE—
"Silver Trails"

Starring
JIMMY WAKELY
— ALSO —

"Lightning In The Forest"

Starring
DONALD BERRY and ADRAIN BOOTH
LATE SHOW

"Incident"

Starring
JANE FRAZEE and WARREN DOUGLAS

SUNDAY, February 27

"Pitfall"

Starring
DICK POWELL and LIZABETH SCOTT

MONDAY - TUESDAY, February 28-29

"One Sunday Afternoon"
(Musical Comedy in Technicolor)
Starring
DENNIS MORGAN and DOROTHY MALONE

Comes To Strand Sunday



On guard, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. is back on the screen as a swash- buckling soldier-of-fortune in "THE FIGHTING O'FLYNN," out- dueling and out-shooting his opponents and charming fair young colleens with on-the-spot poetry. Opening at the Strand Theatre Sunday.

All Slapping In Movies Not Play

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Occasion- ally in movie slapping scenes the actors make a mistake. They real- ly slap the other person.

Producers generally try to con- duct the business with as little veer as possible on their actors' million-dollar bodies. But some- times an actor is working so hard he doesn't stop to fake things.

Laraine Day is supposed to slap Dane Clark, who plays her brother- in-law in the Robert and Raymond Hakim picture "Twilight," when he makes a pass at her.

"In the rehearsals she just grazed me," Clark reported. "The sound man was going to dub in the slap later. But she got excited in the take and missed her aim."

"She hit me so hard I couldn't hear the rest of the scene. I had to read her lips because the ringing in my ears drowned out her voice."

In another picture, Clark had to slap a European actress who was making her debut in American films.

Not Like Europe
"I wanted to fake it," he said. "I used to be a fighter and I don't go around hitting women. But she insisted on doing it. Said they always did in Europe."

"I hit her as easy as I could, I just turned her around and she didn't come back for her line. We dubbed in the slap after that."

Director Irving Pichel had to slap Florence Eldridge, Mrs. Fred- eric March, during the days when he was an actor. Every time he wound up, he said, he wiped the sweat off his brow.

"After nine takes of this," he said, "She took me aside and told me the suspense was worse than the slap. The next time, I slapped her and kept walking off the set until I heard 'cut.' And I kept right on walking until I came to my dressing room. I didn't know how the scene came out until the next day." "It was okay."

Franchot Tone, another star of "Twilight," was slapped by Jean Wallace, then his wife, in a picture.

"She slapped me," he recalled, "as though she had a hunch we were getting a divorce."

Movie Producer Gets Brooklyn Dialect 'In Raw'

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—A lot of surprised Brooklyn folk are about to find themselves in the movies.

Producer Maxwell Shane, who decided the simplest way to make background acting realistic was to dispense with actors, toured the streets of Brooklyn with a micro- phone in his pocket. Then he put what he heard in his movie.

His picture, "City Across the River," includes the voice of an unidentified market man pleading:

"Don't squeeze da tomatoes, lady; you give em da spots." He's got the indignant tones of a housewife:

"Another nickel I should pay yet!"

"Most of them," Shane com- mented, "were so busy they didn't even notice my tape-recording ma- chine."

That sounded like an ideal way to make movies cheap. Just use a city's streets as sets and its pass- ersby as extras. That's just about the way they made the early silents, too.

Not So Cheap
But it's not as cheap as it sounds.

Shane said he had to pay the Screen Extras Guild a stand-by fee for every Brooklyn voice or face in his Universal-International picture.

"I don't mind that," he added quickly. "It's worth it not to use the Hollywood extras."

Shane also used the voices on his recorded tape, some of them from youths police hauled out of pool halls, drug stores and alleys, to show his writers and actors how Brooklyn really sounds.

"They got the dialect down so well," Shane reported proudly, "that a preview audience in Glen-

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producer Michel Kraike and director Michael Gordon to re-dis- cover those celebrated legs.

Legs Versus Acting
They asked her to combine the legs with highly emotional acting for the first time in "The Lady Gambles," in which she plays a wife who wrecks her life on the gambling tables.

Miss Stanwyck okayed one beach sequence with Robert Preston, her co-star, in which she romps through the surf with her skirt tucked above her knees. In another, she wears a bathing suit, expensively designed by Orry Kelly but just as leggy as any other.

The last time Miss Stanwyck did anything like it was in 1942 when she showed up in black mosquito netting principally, for an epic about burlesque.

The dress was approved by everybody concerned, except possibly Miss Stanwyck. It is reported that she spent all the time possible in a camel's hair overcoat.

For a time, it reminded Miss Stanwyck of the long-gone days when she was one-fifth of a living chandelier in the George White Scandals.

NOT NOWADAYS
TUPELO, Miss. (UP)—Times change, Word H. Baker reflected, after scanning through some 1929 newspaper advertisements. Auto prices: Runabout, regular, \$285; runabout, complete with self-starter and clincher tires, \$330; run- about, with such extras as self- starter and demountable rims, \$350; touring car, regular, \$295; four-door sedan, \$685.

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With JOHN WAYNE

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WITH FIST AND BULLET!

BILL ELLIOTT
THE MAN IN THE TUNNEL

2nd FEATURE
"LADY IN A JAM"
With IRENE DUNN
Plus Cartoon and Dick Tracy Reel

SUNDAY - MONDAY, February 27-28

Meet A Man
After Your Own Heart!

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS Jr.
"The Fighting O'FLYNN"

co-starring
HELENA CARTER - RICHARD GREENE