

Opera Star Forecasts Bing's Rise

HOLLYWOOD (UP) — Many a Metropolitan Opera star must toss at night over the problem, "What has Bing Crosby got?"

You can't blame them for wondering. Crosby doesn't have the voice of Just Bjerlings. He's not as handsome as Mario Lanza. He's no better an actor than Elio Pinza.

All he does is make about as much money as the three of them put together.

What makes Crosby go has been hashed over many times around opera circles. But the first time it happened was 20 years ago, when nobody else had heard of him.

The incident was recalled by Regis Toomey, who is working with Crosby now in Paramount's "Mr. Music."

"Bing and I were both appearing in the stage show at the New York Paramount Theater," Toomey said. "I was fairly well known from pictures, and Bing was an up-and-coming singer."

Watches Stars Rehearse

Between shows, Toomey went back stage at the Metropolitan to watch a rehearsal by Lucretia Bori and the late tenor, Antonio Scotti.

Toomey told Scotti, when the singer asked, that he was working at the Paramount.

"Oh, yes," Scotti shot back. "With that Crosby. What an artist he is! What an artist!"

The Met's treasurer, Earle Lewis, stared in horror.

"That crooner an artist?" he scoffed. "Not in my book. You can't even hear him past the first row!"

"Maybe I sing louder," Scotti admitted. "Here in the Met they can hear me in the last row. But mark my word."

"Crosby will not only be heard beyond the fourth row—he will be heard around the world."

Movies Make Folks Kinder To Animals

HOLLYWOOD (UP) — Every horse in the country ought to neigh a few good wishes to the movie producers in Hollywood. That's the place where people love horses even more than beautiful girls.

This tradition of the 35 mm. west has inspired similar devotion to horses from Puyallup, Wash., to Okechobee, Fla., producer Clarence Brown says. And many a hay-burner has been snatched from the glue factory because Roy Rogers would never never do that to Trigger.

The examples set in movies have a lot to do with the fact that people are treating animals with more kindness than they used to, says Brown, who has been singled out by the American Humane Association for the excellent care given in the many animal actors in his MGM picture, "The Secret Garden."

"In the past 30 or 40 years we have come a long way in man's treatment of animals," he said, "and a not inconsiderable part of that is due to the kindness-to-animals theme that dominates so many films."

Deer Hunters Boomed

After the Disney movie "Bambi" came out, he said, children boomed deer hunters.

"The Lassie pictures probably have converted thousands of movie-goers to the love and care of collies," Brown said. "I think we can trace part of the fad for pet skunks to the skunk which appeared in one of Disney's pictures."

In western pictures, he said, the love of a hero for his horse is far more noble than any pale sentiments for the leading lady.

"A generation of children," Brown said, "is growing up with that point of view. How wonderful for horses!"

Even outside of westerns, you never see a movie hero being mean to an animal. That is always a facet of the villain's black heart.

"It is clearly pointed out," Brown said, "that anyone who mistreats a dumb animal invariably comes to a bad end."



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"Since You Went Away" starring Claudette Colbert, Jennifer Jones, Joseph Cotton and Shirley Temple coming to the Strand Theatre Sunday and Monday.

Hollywood De-Glamorized



GLAMOROUS CORNER is ordinary—Hollywood and Vine.

By JACK QUINN

AP Newsfeatures

HOLLYWOOD — Glamorous! Fabulous! Astounding! How many times have you heard these tiresome but tireless adjectives applied to Hollywood, its people and its wares?

The myth that this sunny Southern California town is the first wonder of the modern world is served up—and, too often, swallowed—in every cranny of the globe. Man's appetite for tales of movieland, and his eagerness to believe them, is one of the marvels of our time.

Four decades of high-powered publicity have created such popular fantasies as these:

Hollywood isn't a cluster of movie mills, it's the glamor capital of the universe. Actors aren't people, they're fabulous personalities. Movies aren't plays on celluloid, they're epics, stark dramas or smash comedies.

A favorite legend of this type is attached to Hollywood Boulevard, subject of this essay.

It's not always a letdown to visit Hollywood, meet a star, or see a movie. Sometimes they surprise you. But the Boulevard fails completely to live up to its billing.

The movie town's main drag is extraordinary, but not for what it is. It's much more notable for the things it lacks. Not one of the film colony's much ballyhooed night-spots or cafes graces this lane. Not a single studio borders it. The stars? They shun it in favor of plushier Beverly Hills byways. Although it runs through the heart of filmland, it is largely ignored by the movie industry.

Hollywood Boulevard is six and a half miles long. But when natives speak of "The Boulevard," they mean the mile-long tenderloin between Vine St. and La Brea Ave. The tag ends don't count.

Let's take a ride down the Boulevard, beginning at the fabled crossroads of Hollywood and Vine. Right off you note that instead of MGM and Ciro's the intersection is bounded by a drugstore, a luggage shop, a bar and a department store.

Except for the casual dress of the street herds, the corner differs little from any other metropolitan intersection. Not that the natives aren't colorful. Grandmas in sun-suits and wedgies scuttle across the thoroughfare. Mink-clad matrons, even on 90-degree days, bustle in long gents, sporting silk scarves and maroon sport jackets, lounge against store fronts appraising feminine strollers. Look sharp and you might spot Peter the Hermit or one of his brethren striding along with swinging staff, like rag-clad figures out of the Old Testament.

But characters are as much a part of the scenery, and go just as unnoticed, as the purple hills to the north. It's a bias Boulevard. The last time anyone created a sensation was the day one ambitious starlet paraded in a leopard skin with a lion on a leash.

Driving along in the sunlight

you get the impression that the Boulevard isn't particularly gay, just gaudy, not a sideshow, but merely a shopping section.

Many store fronts look like sets. When the flickers were new in Hollywood, the Boulevard was a favorite location site. Studio gangs ripped off the street and used it for countless scenes of robberies and auto wrecks.

Driving west you pass the last landmark of bygone times, the Hollywood Hotel. The faded stucco, hostelry, once THE hotel of filmland, is slated to go. Soon it will be replaced by a modern structure.

Down the way a bit you pass a roccoco white apartment building where lives Mack Sennett, the aging sultan of slapstick, now the Boulevard's most famous resident.

Sid Grauman's colorful and grotesque Chinese Theater, most

Pittsburgh Makes War On Bad Air

PITTSBURGH (UP)—The center of the steel industry, once known as "Smoky City," is starting its third year of a plan for clean, pure air.

The latest tests show that smoke has been reduced some 65 per cent during the two-year period of smoke abatement. That means a similar reduction of harmful fumes for people to breathe.

To compile the figures, researchers placed cans atop buildings throughout the city. Once a month, the dust that fell into them was collected and analyzed. During the ten-year period from 1938 to 1948, comparisons showed reductions of as much as 40 per cent in combustible materials.

The reductions are direct results of the efforts of the bureau of smoke prevention, which fathered smoke abatement laws of three general types.

There are specific laws for mills, factories, office buildings and similar commercial users. Railroads and steamboats are covered by a second class of laws. Small consumers, such as residents, make up the third group.

Efforts to eliminate the umbrella of smoke from Pittsburgh date back to 1892. In 1917, industrial consumers, in an effort to increase the efficiency of their fuels, joined the fight. But it was not until 1941 that a comprehensive smoke abatement ordinance was passed. That had to be postponed for the war.

Household regulations were tried out in 1947. Many consumers complained of the high cost of smokeless fuel and the scarcity of stokers. Dr. Sumner B. Ely, superintendent of the bureau of smoke prevention, blames many of the complaints on the fact that Pittsburghers were unfamiliar with the firing of smokeless fuel and thus wasted much of it.

In 1948, however, there were few complaints.

Since policing of the city's 100,000 small consumers would be impossible, the smoke bureau controls fuel directly from the coal yards. An ordinance prohibits dealers from selling fuels which produce big amounts of smoke.

The density of smoke coming from the stacks of large consumers is checked regularly and violations of abatement regulations subject the offender to stiff fines. Railroads and steamboats also are

pretentious of the score of movie palaces on the Boulevard, distinguishes the western end of the golden mile. There, day and night, the curious gaze at stars' footprints in the cemented courtyard.

Beyond are ivy covered mansions, once the homes of screen famous, now converted into rooming houses. Perhaps, a generation ago when the celebrities lived and played there, the Boulevard was the glamorous, fabulous, astounding place it is proclaimed.

But today it's more a frame of mind.

At The Park Thursday and Friday



When it comes to eating, Elsa Lanchester has to hand it to Danny Kaye in a comic sequence for Warner Bros. Technicolor comedy "The Inspector General," currently at the Park Theatre.

rigorously inspected.

The advantages of smoke control far outweigh its expense. Railroads, for instance, have found that the extended use of diesel engines is much cheaper and more efficient than the exclusive use of steam locomotives.

Industry found that in addition to the large savings resulting from more efficient use of fuels, smoke eliminating devices trap many saleable chemicals which formerly were discharged into the air.

To the small consumer, smoke control has brought savings in cleaning and lighting bills and vegetation. Probably the greatest saving is to the individual's health.

The health factor in smoke pollution was dramatically illustrated at nearby Donora, Pa., a year ago.

The community underwent an unusual atmospheric condition which clamped a fog-like lid over the town for five days. It is believed that the lid prohibited fumes from the stacks of industrial plants from being carried away thus creating a smog which claimed the lives of 22 persons, most of whom had suffered previously from respiratory or heart ailments.

Smoke abatement has been so successful in Pittsburgh that surrounding Allegheny County solons have passed similar laws. Under them, some 2,000,000 persons will soon enjoy blue skies.

A master clock in the control room at Grand Coulee regulates the accuracy of all electric clocks in the Pacific Northwest.

PARK THEATRE PROGRAM

THURSDAY and FRIDAY, Jan. 26-27

HE'S A GENERAL WITH AN ARMY OF BEAUTIFUL BABES!

DANNY KAYE

The Inspector General

Color by **TECHNICOLOR**

WALTER SLEZAK
BARBARA BATES
ELSA LANCHESTER

YOU'VE NEVER GUESSED WHAT HE INSPECTS!

DOUBLE FEATURE

WHIP WILSON *RIDERS OF THE DUSK*

HE'S A WIZARD WITH HIS WHIP!

ANDY CLYDE

— ALSO —

JOE E. BROWN *FLIRTING WITH FATE*

A GAUCHO FROM BROADWAY!

AN M-G-M PICTURE

Late Show — "PRISON WARDEN"

Starring WARNER BAXTER and ANNA LEE

"DAVID HARUM"

Starring WILL ROGERS and EVELYN VENABLE

MONDAY and TUESDAY, Jan. 30-31

MAYBE I AM JUST A DAME... AND DON'T KNOW IT!

BARBARA STANWYCK

Thelma Jordan

WENDELL COREY • Paul Kelly

Push-button Oxygen Helps In Hospital

CLEVELAND (UP)—University Hospitals in Cleveland has come up with a new life-saving device operated on the push-button principle.

If oxygen is needed quickly, hospital attendants merely push a plug into the wall in any room and the life-giving gas is at hand. University Hospitals is one of four institutions in the country to have piped-in oxygen.

The new method eliminates the use of the familiar high-pressure cylinders in which oxygen was delivered before.

A steel ball outside the hospital is the source of the gas. The ball, six feet in diameter, holds 440 gallons of non-combustible liquid oxygen. The liquid is vaporized and reaches the outlets ready for instant use.

Deer often will starve rather than eat winter "browse" which moose relish.

Factories Inside Cities Found Just As Cheap

CHICAGO (UP)—Manufacturers seldom save money by locating their plants outside city limits to avoid municipal taxes, a study shows.

The American Municipal Association and the American Association of Planning Officials studied rates in 40 cities.

The associations reported that the total costs of services for lying areas often are as high as higher than taxes levied for purposes inside the cities.

In the Atlanta, Ga., area study showed, for instance, industries outside the city pay about 12 per cent more than inside, if the cost of water and the city rate is included.

Vacuum cooling offers a tremendously promising method for conditioning certain vegetable shipment, recent tests by scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture show.

STRAND

Two Shows Daily Monday through Friday 7 & 9 P.M.
Saturday: Continuous Showings from 11 A.M.
Sunday: 3 Shows, 2, 4 and 8:30 P. M.

THURSDAY ONLY, Jan. 26

ROY ROGERS

KING OF THE COWBOYS

SHINE ON HARVEST MOON

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, Jan. 27-28

DOUBLE FEATURE

Vigilantes of Dodge City

Starring **WILD BILL ELLIOTT**

as **RED RYDER**

With **BOBBY BLAKE** As **LITTLE BEAVER**

— PLUS —

Y'M A PEACEMAKER... ORDINARILY... I GET RILED! I'M A TORNADO!

DEATH... DIAMONDS... and a DAME!

— What a combination for mystery thrill! —

Treasure of Monte Cristo

A LIPPETT PRODUCTION starring **GLENN LANGAN** - **ADELE JERGENS** - **STEVE BRODIE**

Also—"KING OF ROCKET MEN"—Cartoon

LATE SHOW SATURDAY, Jan. 28

FRANKENSTEIN meets **THE WOLF MAN**

starring **ILONA MASSEY** - **PATRIC KIMMEL**

with **BELA LUGOSI** - **LIONEL ATLING** - **MARIA OUSPENSKAYA** and **LON CHANEY**

SUNDAY and MONDAY, Jan. 29-30

Claudette COLBERT
Jennifer JONES
Joseph COTTEN
Shirley TEMPLE
Monty WOOLLEY
Lionel BARRYMORE
Robert WALKER
Guy MADISON

"Since You Went Away"

Coming Soon: "BAGDAD" — "ICHABOD AND MR. TOAD" — "DAY AFFAIR" — "DEPUTY MARSHALL" — BE WISE — GET STRAND WISE!