

Work Under Contract Is Like Leaning On Fence

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Working under a studio contract is like spending your life leaning on a fence, Van Heflin feels.

Sure, the contract holds you up. But as long as you're leaning on it, you're not getting anywhere.

When you get away from that fence post and out on your own, maybe your knees will be a little wobbly for a while. But you'll see a dozen roads opening that you never could travel before.

"Being under contract gives you financial and emotional security," Heflin said. "But you lose the sense of accomplishment that goes hand in hand with being a free agent."

"Acting is a creative business. Nothing creative functions well when fenced in or leaning on a prop. A contract is a fence and a prop."

There are only two things that squeeze a good performance out of an actor, Heflin said. Either he's got to be starving, or he's got to be free to choose the roles he believes he can play best.

Just Part of Stable

"A contract player has to do what he's told, and play the parts others, pick out for him," Heflin said. "As far as the studio is concerned he's just part of the stable. He's just a chess piece they move around to protect the king and queen."

"If he's one of the few top stars then of course he dictates his own terms. But most average players are better off when they cast loose and take a hand in their own destiny."

Heflin is making his first picture since he broke his contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. It's "Cost of Living," a Sam Spiegel production for United Artists.

"That weekly paycheck looked awfully good," he admitted. "But this year I'll make four times what I would have at MGM. Best of all I'll be playing the kind of parts I want to play."

"I get my biggest fan mail playing the ruthless lover parts, like I did in two loan-outs. MGM had plenty of other ruthless lovers. They always cast me as the intellectual type."

"I had to offer to do two pictures free to get out of my contract but it was worth it. I got off cheap."

Escaped Convict Back To Prison



Willie Rector, escaped convict who made a good name for himself in Tennessee, is visited by his wife and children in jail at Chattanooga before removal to North Carolina to face a long prison term. He was sentenced to death at Morganton, in 1931 on a charge that he raped the 13-year-old sister of his first wife. The late Gov. O. Max Gardner commuted the death sentence to 30 years in prison. Rector escaped prison in 1944. He came to Tennessee, adopted the name of Marshall Evans, married again and became a good citizen in the town of Spring City. Friends are petitioning North Carolina's Gov. Kerr Scott to free Rector. (AP Photo).

Champ Wood Chopper Retires



CHAMPION woodchopper Peter McLaren in action.

PHILADELPHIA—An Australian who made wood chopping such an art that three kings commanded performances in retiring—at the age of 68—and going home.

Peter McLaren was called to entertain kings, but colleges and universities hired him as the scientist of the axe.

The Melbourne-born king of the wood choppers became world champion in contests at Melbourne and Perth in 1905. He last participated in Australia's annual world championship axe swinging contests in 1910. Later, he became such an undisputed master that he gave challengers a 50 per cent time bonus. In thousands of contests he was defeated on that basis but three times, McLaren has never been beaten in the United States.

In 1908 his fame was so wide-spread that Kaiser Wilhelm, of Germany, commanded a performance in Berlin. Three years later McLaren chopped wood at the behest of King Edward VII of England, and later made a command appearance before King V.

Cornell and Yale universities and Pennsylvania and Michigan State colleges engaged him as a forestry instructor. Yale's famed coach of championship swimming teams, Bob Kiputh, had McLaren teach his swimmers the use of the axe to harden their bodies.

McLaren has been a wonder in the world of athletics for nearly 30 years, since he carried his vigorous activity beyond his 40th year. He annually appeared in about 500 contests up to last year—barricading the United States and Europe.

GETS LINE ON LONG-LOST DAUGHTER



ARRIVING BY PLANE in New York from Guilford Surrey, England, Mrs. Eva Cook (inset) phones her daughter, Mrs. Nancy Johnson, of Long Beach, Calif., whom she had not seen in 25 years. Mrs. Cook lost track of her daughter when her first husband took the child "on a short trip" and disappeared. Thirteen years ago, Mrs. Johnson, pictured above with her son, located her mother and urged a reunion. (International)

Self Control Secret of Success

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Crawford, at 42, is one of the world's all-time glamour. The secret, she says, is self-control.

"Laziness, self-indulgence, don't-give-a-hang attitude—things that ruin a girl, men look at a woman who rests them. And when she's looking, that's all!"

But keeping them looking, work, literally. Miss Crawford watches her diet, remonstrates posture and exercises every day.

The results seem worth the effort. In a tight, low-cut, evening gown she wears for the picture "Harriet Craig" Miss Crawford looks like the woman whom wolf whistles were heard to come from.

"Posture is the most important adjunct to glamour," she said. "I wonder why it is so often neglected. I refuse to slump, stand or lurch over a desk, read or write. It's ugly and bad for you physically. If your organs function when all cramped in!"

Dieting Simple

Diet with Miss Crawford. ply training herself to stay from candy, pastry and starch.

"I don't eat foods that 'constructive' to what I look like," she said. "I don't look well on that kind of food. There is no more fun world than feeling and eating candy and rich desserts if you want them. I have got my weight stays the same, round, and I eat everything I want."

Miss Crawford doesn't believe strenuous exercise. She plays tennis, swims and walks the steps to school in the morning.

"And I manage to do stretching or limbering each morning," she said. "I depend on how I feel about my body needs. Sometimes I stretch my shoulders or kink out of my back."

Miss Crawford's career is a shape that never changes and so is Miss Crawford.

Too Much Sex Killing The Novel

By PAUL KUTSCHE
United Press Staff Correspondent

LONDON (UP)—The modern novel will be dead within 50 years, in the opinion of one of Britain's foremost authors.

Unhindered descriptions of sex and over-use of four-letter words will kill it, he said.

Compton Mackenzie, who has written 70 books, including 35 novels, also maintained that Freud was a tremendous blow to fiction.

"Psychology has become a mere substitute for experience," he said. "Life has become too comfortable, with too many passive amusements, to provide either good novels or a novel-reading public." The 67-year-old Scottish-American author observed in an interview at his country home.

Laziness Blamed

In the terms of "Alice in Wonderland," he said. "You wonder sometimes whether the White King is part of Alice's dream, or Alice part of his dream."

"The free, uninhibited description of sex and impulse, with four-letter words, comes from the same laziness," he said. "It will help to kill the novel."

"I see no future for writing without restraint. You lose intensity—and the public has even got over being shocked."

Silver-haired, with a small mustache and Van Dyke, Mackenzie looks like the typical English country aristocrat, in baggy tweeds, faded sweater and slouch hat.

He is not only a novelist, dramatist and magazine editor, but also a political historian, broadcaster, world traveler, and supporter of Scottish, Irish, and Welsh nationalism.

He Made Good

Mackenzie's chief dislike is the aspiring writer who thinks people owe him a living.

"He ought to prove himself before he demands support," Mackenzie said.

"I went through it all myself. At 24 I wrote my first novel and swore I wouldn't write another word until it was published. That took three years, so I got married and raised daffodils while I waited."

Today Mackenzie has a fine crop of daffodils, an enviable library and record collection, and a comfortable estate—tangible evidence that he knew what he was waiting for.

First City Traffic Light Claimed by Cleveland

CLEVELAND, O. (UP)—Aug. 5, 1914, is an historic date for American motorists. It is a day that has since cost drivers money, caused high blood pressure and developed many bad tempers.

On that day, according to the Cleveland Automobile Club, James A. Hoge hung up the first traffic light at a now bustling east side intersection here.

Hoge's first signal was hand-operated by a policeman stationed at the corner, who would ring a bell and turn the light on whenever the nearby firehouse received a call.

The signals had full approval of the chamber of commerce and a few months later a second set was installed. However, Hoge's success was cut short when the lights were declared unnecessary and impractical.

FOR PLEASURE ONLY

DETROIT (UP)—Shuffleboards must measure at least 12 feet in length, the Detroit common council ruled. The council passed an ordinance controlling their length after police complained that shorter boards are used as gambling devices in some taverns.

Second Nickel Saves Day

MADISON, Wis. (UP)—It was lucky for Tony Genna that he had two nickels when he stepped into the drug store telephone booth. The first one he used to make his call. The second enabled him to call police when he came out of the booth and found that the proprietor had closed the store and gone home.

Those 10-Cent Shaves Are Gone Forever

SACRAMENTO (UP)—Union barbers rubbed their eyes and took another look but there it was, a large sign advertising 15-cent haircuts and 10-cent shaves, in downtown Sacramento.

What's more, "Wilson's Sanitary Barber Shop" proudly advertised "union wages and union hours—established in 1879."

The sign, painted on a brick wall, came into view with the tearing down of an old building. Older residents recalled that as children they received a big bag of candy from the enterprising barber along with every haircut.

According to the sign, Wilson's also dealt in "Corn and Bunion Killer, Chillskin Killer, Dandruff Killer, Hair Grower and Fresh Egg Shampoo Compound." All services were "money back" if the customer wasn't satisfied.

'HORSE AND BUGGY' DOC WANTED IN OLD TOWN

WINSTON-SALEM (UP)—There is a real deal cooked up near here for any doctor who longs for the life of a rural general practitioner, "old-fashioned" style.

Old Town wants a doctor and they want him badly. Five years ago, the only doctor got sick and left. Since then there has been nobody to take his place. Folks say some deaths might have been avoided if a physician had been in.

Mrs. R. Y. Sharpe, leader of the doctor-getting committee, said the three schools in the area, Old Town, Old Richmond, and Vienna, need a doctor most of all. The children just have been doing without.

And if somebody will come, the Old Town people will see to it that the doctor finds a place to live and establish an office.

Spar varnish, highly resistant to dampness and the destructive action of water, gets its name because for many years it was used to coat spars and ships.

Grilled in Slaying

ALBANY, N. Y. (UP)—Frederick Washington arranged and paid for his own funeral. His will noted that he had a "paid in full" receipt for the burial.

THAT'S REALISM

HAMMOND, Wis. (UP)—Eddie Wright was watching a television wrestling match on a Minneapolis station, became excited and raised his fist to his face with such force that he knocked out two teeth.

BIRD HEADS EAGLE

NEWBURYPORT, Mass. (UP)—When Mr. and Mrs. William Hicks celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, they had as guests six persons who were guests at their wedding 50 years before.

BIRD HEADS EAGLE

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (UP)—Ralph Bird has been elected president of the Michigan state Fraternal Order of Eagles.

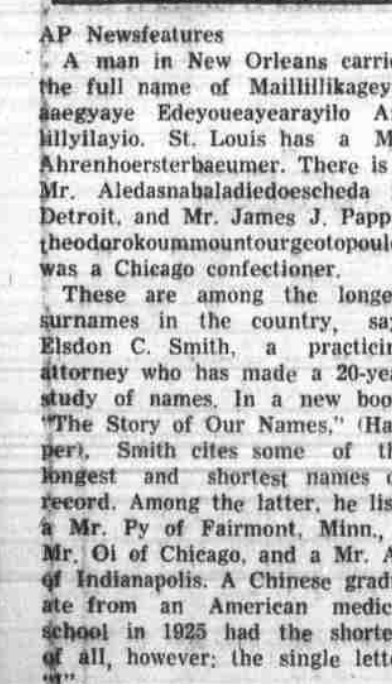
PAID IN ADVANCE



John R. Albert

ACTING on a tip, police of Millville, N. J., have been questioning John R. Albert, 31 (above), a chemist, in connection with the strangulation murder of Lorraine Hess, 17, Albert, who officials say has a past record of sex offenses, was reportedly seen with the high school junior a few weeks before her violent death. (International)

Maillillikageyaaegyaye Is Just His First Name



AP Newsfeatures

A man in New Orleans carries the full name of Maillillikageyaaegyaye Edeyoyeyearayilo Anlillylayio. St. Louis has a Mr. Ahrenhoersterbaeumer. There is a Mr. Aledasnahaldiedoescheda in Detroit, and Mr. James J. Pappatheodorokounmountourgeotopoulos was a Chicago confectioner.

These are among the longest surnames in the country, says Elsdon C. Smith, a practicing attorney who has made a 20-year study of names. In a new book, "The Story of Our Names" (Harper), Smith cites some of the longest and shortest names on record. Among the latter, he lists a Mr. Py of Fairmont, Minn., a Mr. OI of Chicago, and a Mr. Ax of Indianapolis. A Chinese graduate from an American medical school in 1925 had the shortest of all, however: the single letter "I."

"Men with odd names have sometimes attained such fame that the queerness of their names has been forgotten," says Smith. "In this country alone there were Preserved Fish, the New York merchant, and Cotton and Increase Mather, the New England divines."

"A railway mail clerk of Meridan, Wis., is Darling Dear. The Apple family of Chicago had a son they named Orange. Orange Vanilla Lemon resides in Boise, Idaho."

Apt occupational names are easy to find in the United States, Smith says. He cites Dr. Donat Yelle, a dentist of Dayton, Ohio, and a Dr. Toothache, also a dentist at Burlington, Iowa. I Will Sing is a Chinese laundryman in Thomasville, Ga. And in 1948 Please Wright was a candidate for postmaster at Oceana, W. Va.

Initials sometimes make funny oddities in names, says Smith. "The lawyer, Daniel Ashton Martin, hired Irene Thompson to do his stenographic work. In the lower left hand corner of the letters he dictated she dutifully wrote, 'Diet. DAM/IT.'"

Now, if you'll just attach your full name to this note!

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Complainant Tripped Up In Hit-Run Case

ST PAUL (UP)—It cost Harry Fairbairn a \$50 fine to appear as complainant in a hit-run driving case.

In the trial it was indicated that Fairbairn's driver's license had been suspended. Patrolman William McKeand followed him from the building after the court session.

When Fairbairn climbed into a car and started to go away, McKeand arrested him.

Fairbairn pleaded guilty to driving after his license had been suspended and Judge Thomas L. Bergin imposed a \$50 fine.

IT USUALLY RAINS

PETERSBURG, Alaska (UP)—There is no "rainy season" in Petersburg. The average rainfall is 126 inches per year, contrasted to New York City's 42.87.

LAFF-A-DAY



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