

Long Time To Crash Movies

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Zachary Charles didn't intend to go into movies when he came to Hollywood and he never should have changed his mind.

Charles, who has had 16 years of experience in vaudeville and on the stage, just intended to play the role of Chief Sitting Bull in a summer theatre production of "Annie Get Your Gun".

Then he bought a ticket to head back to the sidewalks of New York.

"But my agent changed my mind," he related sadly. "He told me I was a cinch to crack the movies. I shouldn't have listened."

It looked at first as though the agent was right. One major studio interviewed Charles and ordered him not to leave town. They had "just the part" coming up in a month.

"It was two months before the picture rolled," Charles said. "Meanwhile I'd acquired a light tan and a heavy mortgage on a home in the San Fernando valley. Then they told me the part had been rewritten for Lassie."

The agent lined up another producer who was excited over Charles' possibilities. As he was ready to star Charles, the producer had a heart attack and the whole thing was called off.

"This went on for five months," Charles says. "I wanted to stay, but my checking account said go. Sunshine and swimming pools are well, but they'll never replace



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HORSE SENSE: Lady Wonder 'Talks' On Big Typewriter

By PAUL DUKE
AP Newsfeatures
RICHMOND, Va. — This world could do with more horse sense. Good old fashioned horse sense—the kind Lady Wonder has. She's a horse I met the other day. Quite a girl, too. The Lady is not only an authority on the earth's problems, but on most any other subject as well. Doesn't mind sharing her knowledge, either.

Oh, she looks like any other horse—black-coated, speckled in gray around the mane, with four white feet. A trifle on the weighty side, too.

But after two hours in her presence I am prepared to admit that Lady is somewhat different from most of her kin—at least the ones I have met.

Animal World Scholar
For one thing, she has more than the usual quota of horse sense. She's a real brain, if you ask me, a sort of Phi Beta Kappa of the animal world.

Oh no, she doesn't talk. The Lady uses the laint and peck system. In her stall, there's a rather crudely-contrived board with letters and numbers fitted down into tiny slits.

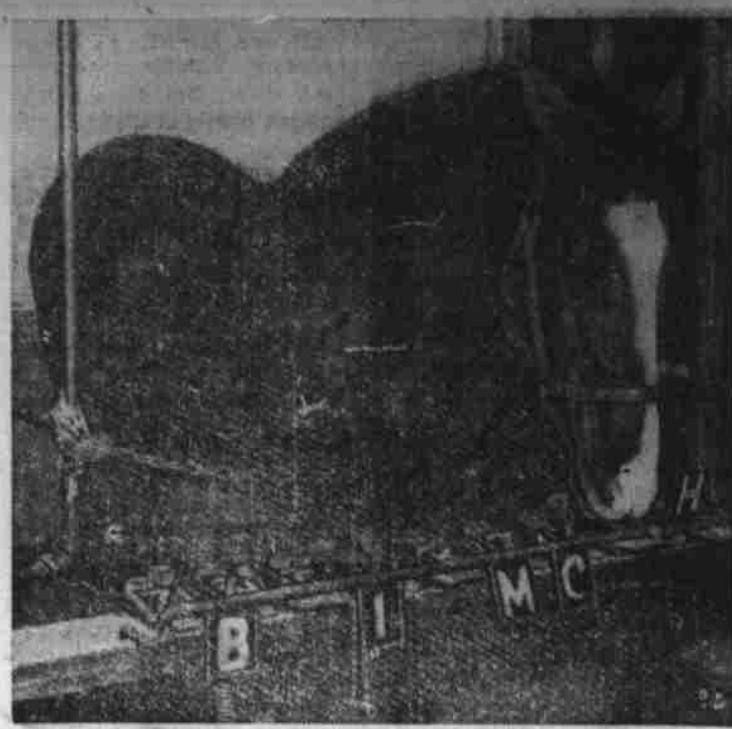
When Lady voices an opinion she simply lowers her chin, touches a lever extending out from each side, and the letter or figure shoots up—just like a typewriter.

Lady's owner, Mrs. C. D. Fonda, introduced me as "Mr. Duke." But Lady quickly dispensed with formality and clicked out a chummy "Paul" even though she had no fore-knowledge of my first name.

Knows All the Answers
With that sendoff, Lady and I chatted like a couple of old hens—I the asking, she the answering.

From Mrs. Fonda, who has raised Lady since she was a three-year-old colt, I learned that the horse is something of a wizard at soothsaying. Midway in Franklin D. Roosevelt's second term she forecast that he would be elected president not only for a third, but also a fourth term.

In December 1940, she predicted America's entry into the



TYPIST AT WORK—Lady Wonder leads with her chin.

war a year later. Don't get the notion Lady is perfect. She's flubbed a few times, too. Such as two years ago when she fell in line with all the other pollsters and prophesied a Dewey victory.

I asked Lady how much I made weekly. Binsol! Like that, she flashed back the correct figure. Thinking the digits might be a little low on that one, I scribbled down two other numbers on a pad. Same result.

Mrs. Fonda, a graying little lady who refers to her pet as an "educated horse," grinned and said something about folks always trying to "catch" Lady. Not long ago, she related, some fellow wanted to know whether his wife was true to him.

To which Lady whimpered and replied: "Are you?"

An Expert on Love
The sightseers who stop off at Mrs. Fonda's yellow frame house on the edge of Richmond ask Lady everything from "will get falling hair?" to "which horse will win the sixth at Belmont?"

By far the most popular questions, though, are those having to

do with love and marriage. Each person gets three questions for 6 cents.

Lady has been doing this type of thing for more than 21 years. Occasionally, a psychologist comes along to test Lady.

In 1940, Dr. Thomas L. Garret, New York psychologist-editor declared her to be a "genuine phenomenon." He said he could find "no trickery involved."

The conclusion was nothing new. As long ago as 1928 three Duke University psychology professors reported: "There appear to be no loop-holes, no reasonable possibility for signalling, either of a conscious or unconscious character."

Lets Secret Out
I thought about a tipoff system between Lady and her mistress. But she has answered questions when Mrs. Fonda wasn't nearby. How does she do it? I asked Lady herself.

She paused for a moment, then spelled out m-i-n-d. Then, I asked her if she'd like to be a human being.

Unhesitatingly, she answered "yes." Poor thing, I thought. Maybe she doesn't deserve that

Gradual Punishment Urged for Young

BAR HARBOR, Me. (UP)—Punish your children gradually, not all at once.

That's the advice of Dr. Emil Fredericson of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory.

He bases his suggestion on the results of experiments with puppies.

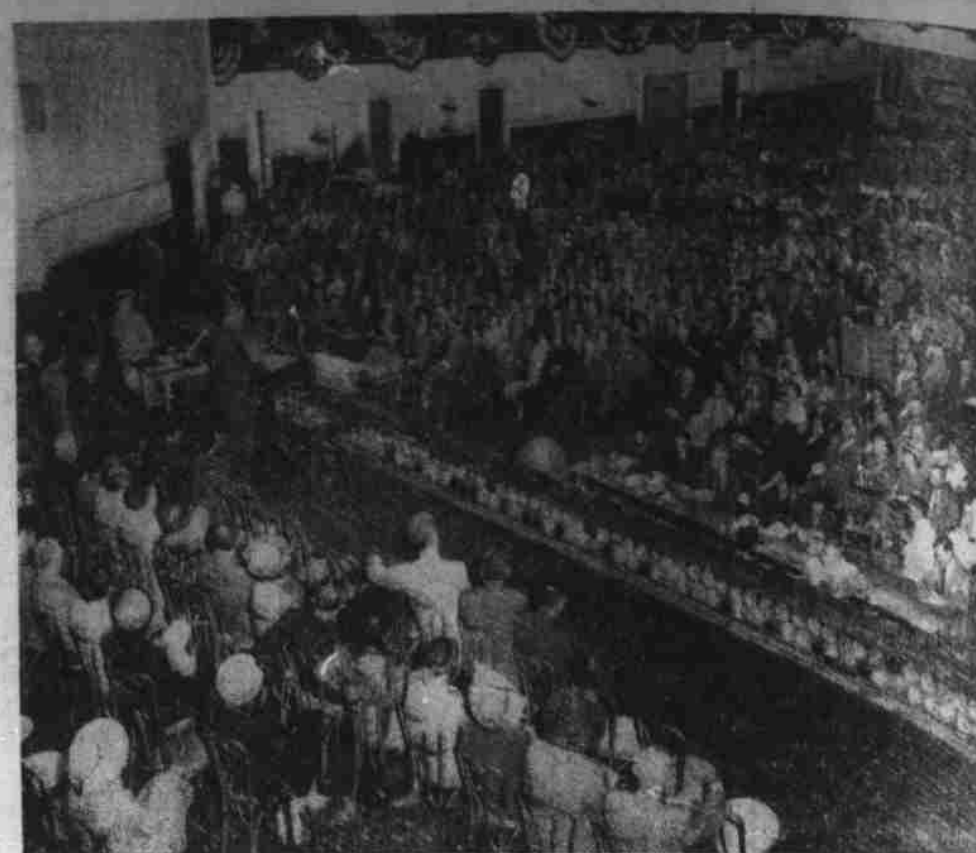
Puppies isolated in a small box for 10 minutes yelped more than those put in the box in a series of 10 distributed one-minute periods. The puppies who took their punishment in one large dose yelped an average of 1,103 times whereas those whose punishment was gradual averaged only 347 yelps.

Dr. Fredericson said the experiments indicate "that experience in emotionally disturbing situations can be much more severe if the situation is imposed on the organism without giving it a chance to recover occasionally."

NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN

SANTA FE, N. M. (UP)—A. B. Martinez, newly-appointed chief of police, started a campaign against traffic violators. Proof that there's no fixing of tickets came when George Berntsen and Sam Z. Monoya, both members of the city council, paid fines for overtime parking. A similar fine was paid by Chief of Police Martinez.

Democrats In State Convention At Raleigh



Here is a general view of the North Carolina State Democratic convention in Memorial Auditorium at Raleigh. On the stage stands Secretary of State Thad Eure, delivering the keynote address. Representatives from all of the state's 100 counties are in the audience. (AP Photo).

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Cagneys Played Vaude As Team

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—The vaudeville act of Vernon and Nye hasn't trod the boards in many a year. But any theater in the country would still jump to bill them.

Vernon and Nye are James Cagney and his wife of 25 years, Frances (Billie) Vernon. They wouldn't just be trading on Cagney's movie fame, either; they've kept the act in shape.

"Sure, we still dance together," Cagney said. "We like to work up a new dance routine and polish a song or two. It's just a form of relaxation, but don't sell Vernon and Nye short. It's still a good act."

Cagney, who's now producing and starring in "Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye" at Warner Bros., has come a long way. Things really were tough for him when the act of Vernon and Nye was born.

Billie had been in vaudeville in a sister act with Wynne Gibson and Cagney with Ada Jaffe. Cagney joined his wife and Miss Gibson in a new vaudeville unit with Lew Fields. Then he worked another act with Harry Greibson.

Dancing School Falls
"It opened," he recalled, "and closed, in San Pedro."

Next Cagney opened a dancing school in Los Angeles. That closed, too. Somehow, he and Billie got as far east as Chicago. There in desperation they pieced together an act from scraps of every vaudeville show they'd done in the past and presented themselves to booking agents of Vernon and Nye.

"I did a comedy bit in a trick hat and suit," Cagney said. "But it was the dancing that carried us through. One day we counted up our money and found we had enough for one fare to New York. "Billie went back to line up something, and that ended Vernon and Nye."

Finally Cagney got a break on the stage in the Jim Tully drama, "Outside Looking In," and after that came movie stardom.

But neither he nor his wife has forgotten the days as Vernon and Nye. That's one reason they keep the act polished and ready to go.

three meals a day."

He was ready to go back into escrow when he agent took him to RKO Radio studios. Within three hours he had been signed for a top supporting role in "Walk Softly, Stranger."

"I was all set to be nervous as a bridegroom," Charles said. "You know, my first movie, strange faces, everything."

Then he reported to the wardrobe department to pick up his clothes. The suit was labeled: "Zachary Scott."

"I couldn't even get proper billing on my clothes," Charles fumed. "Can you imagine that? I was so furious I forgot to be nervous. That probably saved the day and my debut."

"I guess I was lucky at that."

LOVERS LEAP

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (UP)—Police found a car that had plunged from a 20-foot cliff and sunk in the Kalamazoo River. They traced the license plate to Mrs. Pearl Whipple, 38, who admitted that Claude Helton, 32, drove the car over the cliff after both had leaped from the vehicle. She said they had had a quarrel. "I only meant to scare her," Helton said.

SOMETHING TO REPORT

MILWAUKEE (UP)—Patrolman Robert O'Neill had little to report as he called into his precinct but he was asking for a patrol wagon before he hung up. A car careened toward the policeman while he was making his report. As O'Neill leaped aside, the auto smashed into the nearby fire box. O'Neill stepped back to the dangling phone and asked for the wagon.

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK

By R. J. SCOTT

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SCRAPS

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LAFF-A-DAY

MARRIAGE LICENSES



"Not one of them has ever invited me to the wedding!"