

MISS DRESSLER HEEDED ADVICE, WON STARDOM

Astrologer Predicted 'Seven Fat Years' for Great Character Actress.

This is the third of a series of stories dealing with the career of Marie Dressler, who was known as the greatest modern motion picture comedienne. The first two articles were published in The Times last week before her death.

BY GEORGE H. BEALE

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HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 2.—Marie Dressler enjoyed the companionship and regarded as wise the counsel of her closest friend, Nella Webb of New York.

Of a broad tolerance, Miss Dressler accepted the advice of Miss Webb without indicating whether or not she believed in Miss Webb's astrology of which she was one of Marfan's most noted exponents.

At least the astrologer displayed an uncanny ability to determine what lay before the "ugly duckling."

It was at the low point of Miss Dressler's fortunes, when she contemplated opening a hotel in Paris, that Miss Webb swung her influence against the project, but for different reasons than those of the actress' friends.

Most said that Marie Dressler was too kind-hearted and would be preyed upon till bankruptcy, should she open her hostelry.

Forecast "Fat Years"

Miss Webb said nothing of the kind. She counseled against it because she foresaw for her friend "seven fat years" should she continue in her profession.

Whether or not she envisioned Marie Dressler as the top-notch comedienne of the talking screen, which even itself was then but a squawking forerunner of its glories, was not made known.

That was in 1925.

Miss Webb aided in dissuading Marie Dressler from her proposed hotel proprietorship with what seemed an extremely visionary prophecy.

The "seven fat years" were to begin Jan. 17, 1927 a specific date some two years hence.

On Jan. 17, 1927, Miss Dressler accepted an offer which began her meteoric career. She passed her "seven fat years" and at their close, she was dying. They were ended, according to Miss Webb's forecast.

That fateful Jan. 17, Allan Dwan, a director, telephoned Marie Dressler to offer her a role in a picture he was about to make. Perhaps she remembered her friend's exact date in the forecast—at any rate, despite her fear that producers who knew her would fear her superannuated, she took the job.

Eclipsed Greta Garbo

In itself it did not bring her fame, but news of it reached the ears of her friend, Frances Marion, leading Metro—Goldwyn—Mayer scenario writer, who had met Marie Dressler as a cub reporter fifteen years previously.

The writer persuaded Irving Thalberg to employ Miss Dressler. Clarence Brown, director, remembered that Lon Chaney once had called her the most brilliant character actress in the country. He cast her for the role of Old Marthy in "Anna Christie," and she became a celebrity for the second time.

She expanded the role of the old harridan to such an extent and so expertly that she "stole" the picture from Greta Garbo, and was catapulted into fame, entrenched in the hearts of a vast audience, and a \$4,000 weekly pay check.

Tonight's Radio Tour NETWORK OFFERINGS

THURSDAY

5:00—Merry melodies (CBS) CKLW.

5:15—The Bookends (CBS).

5:15—Ferde Grofe's orchestra (CBS).

5:45—Studio program (CBS).

5:45—Walter Pitkin (CBS).

5:45—Tales and Courage (NBC) WEAF.

5:45—Raginsky orchestra (CBS) WABC.

5:45—Coates' orchestra (NBC) WEAF.

5:45—United States navy band (NBC) WJZ.

5:45—Wurtzbach's orchestra (CBS) WABC.

5:45—New Barnet's orchestra (CBS) WABC.

5:45—Mills' songs orchestra (NBC) WEAF.

5:45—Irish Minstrels (NBC) WENR.

5:45—Fayard and Glenn (NBC) WEAF.

5:45—Sport column (CBS) WABC.

5:45—John B. Kennedy (NBC) WEAF.

5:45—Sylvia Frosts' songs (CBS) WABC.

5:45—The House Beside the Road (CBS) WABC.

5:45—Grofe's orchestra (CBS) WABC.

5:45—Boake Carter (CBS) WABC.

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5:45—"Grits" and Glenn (NBC) WJZ.

5:45—Parade of the Provinces (NBC) WJZ.

5:45—Fifteen minutes in Hollywood (CBS) WABC.

5:45—Joseph Lhevinne, pianist (NBC) WJZ.

5:45—Songs (NBC) WEAF.

5:45—Vera Van (CBS) WABC.

5:45—Death Valley Days (NBC) WJZ.

5:45—Death Valley Days and Nights (NBC) WABC.

5:45—Mary Eastman, Barlow's orchestra (NBC) WJZ.

5:45—Paul Whitehead's music hall (NBC) WABC.

5:45—Dancing in Twin Cities (NBC) WJZ.

5:45—Light's orchestra (CBS) WABC.

5:45—Stern's orchestra (NBC) WEAF.

5:45—Hankel's orchestra (CBS) WBBM.

5:45—"Grits" and Glenn (NBC) WJZ.

5:45—Dancing in Twin Cities (NBC) WJZ.

5:45—"Grits" and Glenn (NBC) WJZ.