

## Fun-Making Cantor Film Coming Here

Story of Comedian's Life  
Displays Little to  
Provokes Laughs.

By JOHN W. THOMPSON

"When you laugh at me, it's because you think I'm funny, but when I make you laugh, it's because I have planned it."

That is what Eddie Cantor wrote me once after I had requested his recipe for humor on the stage.

Upon that philosophy Eddie Cantor has built his reputation as a comedian. When he retired from the stage six years ago to devote himself entirely to pictures and radio, Eddie decided he could do justice to no more than one picture each year. He has stuck to his promise as has no one else in Hollywood, except Charlie Chaplin. Mr. Cantor is to be seen in his latest, "Strike Me Pink," at Loew's starting Friday.

### Believes Actors Smug

Mr. Cantor, who like all the leading professional humorists essentially is a solemn person, believes actors are too smug.

"They don't think enough," he says, "because they have nothing to worry about." So Eddie prescribes worry for those who are engaged in the interpretive work of the stage and screen. Eddie's sideline is writing—articles and books.

Eddie once was a ragged little street urchin in Hester St., New York. He wasn't well bred. He wasn't even well fed. But he had a stanch old grandmother who urged him on. And he picked up a few pennies singing and dancing and improvising jokes for passers-by.

At 14 Eddie got a job as clerk in a factory mailing room. A year later he was fired.

### Won Amateur Prize

Although he won first prize in an amateur contest at Miner's Bowery theater, it was as a singing waiter in a Coney Island beer garden that he achieved his first real success. Jimmy Durante was his pianist, and folks endured the food to hear Eddie sing and Jimmie play. After working six months, saving tips and all, he got enough money together to buy his grandmother a fur coat.

Soon, however, Eddie got his start on the stage. He worked in a vaudeville act featuring Bedini and Arthur at Hammerstein's Victoria theater. Eddie was thrilled to death, but he didn't have much to do. During a stage wait once, he volunteered to sing a song, the manager acquiesced and Gus Edwards, who was in the same show, recognized Eddie's talent. He offered to give Eddie a job at "Gus Edwards' discovery," any time Eddie was out of work.

In 1912 Eddie became a member of the "Kid Kabaret" cast. And what a cast it was! Included were George Jessel, Eddie Buzzell, Georgie Price, Lila Lee and Gregory Kelly, all magic names to the eyes and ears of the theatrical public at that time. Eddie played the part of a black-faced butler.

### Friends of Will Rogers

While touring with this act, Mr. Cantor met Will Rogers and there was born a long friendship. There was a sort of pleasant rivalry between the two as to their philanthropic work, and they took unusual interest in what the other was doing. Eddie is the main support of a boy's camp. He is one of the backers of another camp where he himself, went one summer.

During the last few years, due probably to the familiarity of Eddie's radio broadcasts, the American public has come to better know Mr. Cantor's family. One of the nicest things about Eddie is Ida, his wife. They have been married happily more than 22 years. And who is there that hasn't heard Eddie remark about the "Cantor Home for Girls," referring to his five daughters?

Not long ago, on one of his broadcasts, Eddie mentioned the name of Janet Cantor, one of the "babies" of the family. Afterwards he called her long distance and asked how she liked hearing her name broadcast. In a very grown-up voice Janet answered:

"Thanks for the publicity, Pop."

### Teacher Girls Thrift

Eddie is teaching his daughters to be thrifty, a lesson he learned at the cost of a fortune lost in the stock market crash. His two younger girls, Janet and Marilyn, are on an allowance of \$1.50 a week. When they are in debt they can't get a cent from "Papa" Cantor.

"Stay 'way from your bulge," he warns. "You're not producers yet."

The secret of Eddie's and Ida's married bliss is "mutual respect," according to Eddie.

"If more women in Hollywood would use Ida's tactics, the divorce lawyers would starve," he says.

In "Strike Me Pink," Eddie is supported by Ethel Merman, and Parkyakarkas, his radio stooge, who appears on the screen for the first time.

### Shows Her Largest Catch

Madge Evans returned to Hollywood from San Diego with the biggest fish she caught near the Coronado Islands this season. She went to the Bay City for a rest after completing her role in "Exclusive Story."

### Hurries to Last 2 Days

ONE NIGHT ONLY!  
NEXT SUNDAY!  
HORACE  
HEIDT  
AND HIS  
ALEMITE BRIGADIERS  
25—Entertainers—25  
Tickets \$1.00 a person,  
incl. tax, till 6 p. m.  
Sunday. After that  
\$1.10. incl. tax.  
WALTZ TONIGHT  
PIRATE BALL  
Ladies, 15c, incl. check  
Carl Meeks Orchestra  
INDIANA ROOF BALLROOM

## Trouble, Romance and Laughter Promised in Screen Shows to Open Here Friday



## 'Oh! Hang Me, Hang My Story,' Wails Writer of Screen Comedy

Assignment to Bring Out Film Laughs Invites Suicide,  
Says Grover Jones, Who Finds Drama Easy.

Times Special

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22—"Handing a movie writer a job writing all comedy is an invitation to suicide," declares Grover Jones, who has finished the script for Harold Lloyd's new picture, "The Milky Way."

"It's the most thankless job in Hollywood," says Mr. Jones. "The funnier you are, the less credit you get. The actors get the praise. But fall once, and the attention is yours."

Because he believes writers must get away from comedy writing to save their reputation, Mr. Jones now is doing a drama called "Buffalo Bill," for Courtney Ryley Cooper. He helped write "Lives of a Bengal Lancer," "The Virginian" and "Lady and Gent."

"Anybody can write a drama," says Mr. Jones. "When I have to write one I like to walk into story conference and say 'I've got it!' Then if I haven't a story, I have to make one, anyway. So I tell them a story."

"One day I was told to get George Bancroft and 'sell' him an idea for a story. I didn't have a thing in mind. But I backed him into a corner, and told him I had one. So what did I do? I put a kid into the story. And I went on from there."

"I got Bancroft bowling a baby, and he snapped up the story right there. Then all I had to do was to put it on paper. It was 'Lady and Gent,' one of the successes of the year. Shucks, anybody can write a drama."

"But comedy is different. It is the hardest thing in the world to write. And what chance do they give you? They tell two other fellows they are supposed to write a drama, and then give them three weeks. But when they decide they need a few laughs in it, they just call in the funny men and tell them, 'We need a good funny scene in here that will roll them in the aisles.' And the funny men are supposed to come through right then."

Mr. Jones did comedy writing for "Trouble in Paradise," "Tom Sawyer," and "Huckleberry Finn," and then helped with the script for "The Milky Way."

## Organ Recital Set for Friday

Donald Gilley to Present  
Mallory Bransford.

Donald C. Gilley, head of the organ department of Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music, is to present Mallory Bransford, Anderson, an advanced pupil, in a graduate recital in Odeon Hall at 8:15 Friday night. The program is open to the public.

A graduate of Oberlin conservatory, Mr. Bransford has been studying at the local school toward the master of music degree, with a major in organ.

Each song he undertakes, Mr. Newton gives a performance of keen musical perception and command of his emotional and dramatic values.

This, coupled with a voice of unusual range and rich color, intelligently employed, has made the singer's four appearances this season entirely delightful occasions. Again we are grateful to Mr. Newton for the opportunity to hear seldom performed music of such high order. (By J. T.)

### Forgets Pick and Shovel

Edgar Edwards, the lad taken from a labor gang and given an acting contract, received a telephone call from his foreman last night asking why he hadn't been to work. When he explained the foreman gasped and hung up. Mr. Edwards had forgotten to return his pick and shovel.

## Roof Features

## Costume Dance

## Prizes Offered for Best 'Pirate' Dancers.

## Recitals Boost Singer

Masquerade ball is to be added to the usual Wednesday waltz and ladies' program at the Indiana Roof tonight, the management has announced.

The Roof, working with Indiana Theater, where the picture, "Captain Blood," is to open Friday, offers prizes to persons appearing tonight at the Roof in the best pirate costumes. Judges for the contest to be staged at 10:30, are to be Vanities stars.

Carl Meeks' orchestra, under direction of Charles Pierce, is to play for tonight's dance. This band is to remain at the Roof until Sunday evening, when Horace Heidt and his Brigadiers are to come here for one night.

## Authority to Speak on Picture Framing

## Siegfried R. Weng, Director of the Dayton Art Institute, is to discuss picture framing at John Herron Art Institute at 8 tonight. The program is sponsored by the Indiana Artists Club.

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### ONE NIGHT ONLY!

### NEXT SUNDAY!

### HORACE HEIDT AND HIS

### ALEMITE BRIGADIERS

### 25—Entertainers—25

Tickets \$1.00 a person,

incl. tax, till 6 p. m.

Sunday. After that

\$1.10. incl. tax.

WALTZ TONIGHT

PIRATE BALL

Ladies, 15c, incl. check.

Carl Meeks Orchestra

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