

AL JOLSON'S LATEST PICTURE BOOKED FOR INDIANA SCREEN

'The Singing Kid,' Starting Friday, Is to Bring Array of Film, Stage Favorites

Cab Calloway and Orchestra Top List of Supporting Actors; Star of Production Raises Walnuts Between Jobs on Hollywood Lot.

BY JOHN W. THOMPSON

Al Jolson's latest picture, "The Singing Kid," is to open Friday at the Indiana. It was announced today.

In the film with Jolson are Cab Calloway and his band, Sybil Jason, the Yacht Club Boys, Edward Everett Horton, Allen Jenkins, Lyle Talbot, Celia Dodd and Al's new leading lady, Beverly Roberts.

When Al, one of the busiest men in the show business, has time off, he operates a nut ranch.

The ranch is located in Encino, Cal., where Al built a lovely home for Ruby Keeler, his wife, and their baby son. Soon after Al came to town, Encino residents elected him mayor.

The nuts Al raises on his big farm are walnuts. There are oranges, flowers and vegetables, too, but most of them are given away. The nuts are the only thing commercialized. They are wrapped in "Mammy" signature wrappers, sold everywhere.

Wife Is His Check

In his spare time Al also writes lyrics for songs. These he usually gives away. Those he sells, he receives royalty, and if Ruby doesn't watch him he is likely to give that away, too. But don't get the idea Al is a dyed-in-the-wool philanthropist.

He makes money, plenty of it. Warner Brothers, who employ him, say he is one of the toughest customers when it comes to salary bargaining.

The Jolsons' home is furnished elaborately. There is the usual Hollywood swimming pool and golf course. But the place is Ruby's domain and Al doesn't interfere with the routine except when the baby is concerned. One of his worst traits, according to Mrs. Jolson, is that of awakening their son too early in the morning. As soon as Ruby can get him away from the nursery, the two play their daily round of golf.

It is Al's prime ambition to beat 80 on a fast course. He has come near to the mark, but never beaten it. He also wants to be a movie producer, with his own unit. He's supervisor at Warner Brothers now and from the looks of things he'll be a producer before he breaks 80.

Horses His Weakness

If there is a race meet anywhere around, Al and Ruby probably will be found there. Horses are one of Al's weaknesses. If the tracks aren't open, then the couple may be found at a football or baseball game or a tennis match. Both are fond of sports.

In the evenings, the Jolsons usually take in a prime fight or go on a "postman's holiday" to a show. Al chews gum, smokes many cigarettes, but never drinks. He refuses to be left alone anywhere, has spells of moodiness. He never laughs at a joke, but if it's funny enough he buys it.

His set at Warner Brothers is one of the few where visitors always are welcome. He likes to have people around when he's singing or acting.

Film Folk to Honor Rogers

Week in May Is to Be Set Aside for Memorial.

Times Special

NEW YORK, April 6.—Will Rogers' memorial week is to be observed in May by motion picture theaters throughout the country in honor of the beloved screen philosopher, according to plans announced by Will H. Hays, president of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors.

All persons in and out of theater professions are urged to participate in the program, which will mark presentation of the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital at Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks.

The picture is based on "Burn, Witch, Burn," and was adapted for the screen by Richard Schayer and Garrett Fort.

Miss O'Sullivan's role is that of a girl grown up to hate her father, whom she thinks guilty of crime, and who feels free to marry only when, through a strange plot, he finally clears his name.

Lawton Has Role in Mystery Film

Times Special

HOLLYWOOD, April 6.—Frank Lawton, who played David Copperfield as a young man in the Charles Dickens classic, now is cast as Tito, the Paris Surete, temporarily titled "Witch of Timbuktu." Lionel Barrymore is to have the leading role.

It is to be dedicated to the service of those of Rogers' profession who are ill and in need. Both the commission and many of Rogers' friends believe that it is the type of memorial which would have been most pleasing to him.

Fund to Be Raised

Raising of money for use in maintenance of the hospital and for the general use of the commission is among the purposes of the May services, it was announced at the time of the acceptance of the hospital.

No part of the money raised in the original campaign by the commission will be used in connection with the support of the hospital. Funds obtained from the memorial program, however, are to be used at the hospital and in the general aid to handicapped children.

Maj. L. E. Thompson, president of a vaudeville circuit, is to be chairman of the campaign committee. Members of the memorial commission, the motion picture industry at large and intimate friends of Rogers are to assist.

Actor to Attempt Dangerous Swim

Times Special

HOLLYWOOD, April 6.—Erik Rhodes, who swam the 10 miles from Santa Monica to Malibu last summer, plans to attempt to swim the dangerous 15-mile stretch of the Salton Sea in Imperial Valley this month.

This treacherous, brackish body of water never has been crossed by a swimmer. Lying 200 feet below sea level, the choppy waves whipped by desert winds and the bitter natures of the water make it one of the world's severest swimming tests. The last man to attempt thefeat gave up after nine hours in the water.

The actor, wearing special goggles, hopes to make the swim in 10 or 12 hours.

Norma Shearer and Leslie Howard in 'Romeo and Juliet' Roles



All Hollywood Signs Indicate Spring Is Back in Film Capital

Mary Pickford Has New Gardening Gloves, Toby Wing Changes Boy Friends and Sports Fans Warm Up.

BY PAUL HARRISON

HOLLYWOOD, April 6.—(NEA)—It's spring in flickertown. Producers who haven't been on speaking terms are lunching together again. Song writers are peering through open windows and making madrigals about birds and bees and blossoms. Mary Pickford has bought a new pair of gardening gloves.

It's spring in Hollywood, and the studio fashion designers are unrolling bolts of light, bright fabrics. Warner Baxter swears he's taking sulphur and molasses.

You can detect a note of honest sympathy in the voices of casting office telephone girls as they drone: "Nothing today, sorry . . . nothing today . . . sorry, nothing today."

Friends of Wallace Beery are admiring a six-door bus in which he plans to go touring. Toby Wing has a new boy friend.

Wakresses in the studio cafes have blossomed out in crisp, gay new uniforms and flutter their artificial eyelashes outrageously at the extra men.

Shirley Temple's white rabbits are anticipating a blessed event. Dour old studio gamblers are whistling at their posts; and swallows are nesting in the rafters of the least-used sound stages.

"Well," said Cummings. "You write my father and I'll do it." The letter was written and parental consent was won.

European Demanded

So he went to the American Academy of Dramatic Art, but on graduating he couldn't even get into a producer's office. They wanted European juveniles.

The hoax! He went to Europe, toured Scotland for a month, studied Englishmen and aped them before a mirror. Then he wrote letters to New York producers, announcing the arrival of "Blade Stance Conway, young actor, author, has made up a mammy song."

Errol Flynn has decided to raise pigs. Swing music from the night clubs is audible far across the hills of a starry evening. And the trim little waitresses at the drive-in sandwich stands are switching from slacks to shorts.

It's spring in Hollywood.

Directs Second Color Film

In directing "Dancing Pirate," new technicolor feature, Lloyd Corrigan becomes the first director with two full-color productions to his credit. He previously directed "La Cucuracha."

Law School Graduate

Ralph Morgan, currently appearing with William Powell in "The Ex-Mrs. Bradford," is a graduate of Columbia University Law School.

Applies to Bathing Suits

Shop windows are bright, with scanty items identified as the season's newest bathing suits. Frances Sage already is nursing a case of sunburn.

Claire Trevor pursues the last vestige of winter in a tour of the Western national parks. Merle Oberon is learning how to flick a Royal Coachman across a trout pool.

That new, big car with the top turned down belongs to Herbert Marshall. Katie Hepburn is trying to get her golf game back into the 70s. Eric Rhodes motors far into the hills each day, shopping for a ranch. Jim Williams, who draws "Our Way," has fled the city in a fit of fidgets for his snug little 30,000-acre cow yard in Arizona.

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