

'Boner-Hunter' Staff Held Important Studio Adjunct to Supply Original Names

Business of 'Thinking Up' New Titles Required to Avoid Possible Law Suits; M-G-M Research Bureau Headed by Woman.

By JOHN W. THOMPSON

Although the Pullman company is supposed to maintain a department to name railroad cars, the biggest business of that kind is located in Hollywood.

Nearly every studio supports a department created solely to invent names of persons, products, cities, colleges, and buildings which may or may not have real-life counterparts.

This work has been forced upon the studios because of existing state law which prohibits the mentioning of real persons' names or objects in the movies, unless consent is given by the owner. To get around this the movie men must construct cognomina for everything from cornstarch to cities and states.

Woman Heads Bureau

Head of this department at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio is Mrs. Natalie Bucknall, who also runs the research bureau, or what is commonly called the "movie-boner-hunter" headquarters.

Before the present law was passed, Mrs. Bucknall's work consisted mostly of looking up the authentic material on modes and manners in various places and various periods. She now has become a valuable part of the legal department.

Many problems, assignable to Mrs. Bucknall's department came during the recent filming of a college story "We Went to College," in which Walter Abel, Hugh Herbert, Charles Butterworth and Una Merkel are starred.

Scene of Story Altered

The story revolves around the antics of a group of alumni who return to their alma mater for Homecoming Day. The original locale was laid in Kansas College, Ill. But the picture had to be filmed in California, the name of a non-existent town had to be found. Other states had a town named Monroe, Illinois. There had once been a college in the state named Kansas so it's better College in the picture.

The script mentioned Lambda Chi Alpha, but Mrs. Bucknall's experts found a national organization by that name so the fraternity in the film is Kappa Chi.

The names of all the professors, students and alumni were checked against registers and year books of every university in California. Many changes were made. The name of Miss Fiske was changed to Dorothy Duke, who happens to be Mrs. Bucknall's assistant.

Bathing Beauty Problem

Of course no actual fraternities could be used, so under Mrs. Bucknall's supervision a special insignia had to be designed by the art department. School colors, pennants, as well as football uniforms were checked against every West Coast college.

In one sequence of the picture a bathing beauty was supposed to take place. Each girl was to wear a ribbon designating her native

Opening Tomorrow

Apollo

"BULLETS AND BALLOTS"—Edward C. Robinson, Joan Blondell, Barton MacLane, Humphrey Bogart, Frank McHugh. William Keighley, director; screen play by Seton I. Miller.

Story—Detective, apparently discharged from force, is working as under-cover man for police. Gets in with racketeers, eventually discovers gang leaders. Is mortally wounded in gun battle with suspicious racketeer, but kills him as police round up rest of gang.

Circle

"FLORIDA SPECIAL"—Jack Oakie, Sally Eilers, Kent Taylor, Frances Drake, Sam Hearn. From a story by Clarence Budington Kelland; directed by Ralph Murphy.

Story—Reporter, aboard vacation train, bumps into jewel robbery mystery. Several thugs aboard, all capable of having stolen gems from girl whose millionaire uncle gave them to her for safe-keeping. Jewels are planted in innocent train hostess. Real crook nearly escapes, is caught in station by police committee there to welcome vacation cop.

"FORGOTTEN FACES"—Herbert Marshall, Gertrude Michael, Robert Cummings, Jane Rhodes. E. A. Dupont, director; based on story of Richard Washburn Child.

Story—Man shoots lover of unfaithful wife, takes infant daughter to police, and gives himself up. Police find home for child. After 17 years, man is paroled. He finds wife is planning to blackmail daughter's foster parents on eve of her wedding. Prevents blackmail, but wife shoots him, kills self. Daughter goes on with marriage, unaware of real parents' identity.

Loew's

"THE KING STEPS OUT"—Grace Moore, Franchot Tone, Walter Connolly, Victor Jory. Directed by Josef von Sternberg; music by Fritz Kreisler; screen play by Sidney Buchman.

Story—Duke's daughter, whose sister is betrothed to Austrian Emperor, sight unseen, disguises as peasant, goes to capital. She meets Emperor, incognito, who takes her to carnival. Girl is jailed. On release, she leaves town. Emperor pursues her. He finds she is of royal birth. All ends well.

"SPEED"—James Stewart, Wendy Barrie, Una Merkel, Ted Healy, Edwin L. Martin, director. Screen play by Michael Fassler from story by Milton Krim and Larry Bachmann.

Story—Young man, tester of speed cars, is working on a new type carburetor, with aid of girl in publicity office. He tries new gadget in Indianapolis race, but motor freezes. In later test run, he breaks speed record, but is overcome with monoxide gas, nearly dies. Rival in love drives him to a hospital, saves life. Publicity girl turns out to be boss's daughter.

Lyric

"SONS O' GUNS" On Screen—Joe E. Brown, Joan Blondell, Beverly Roberts, Eric Blore, Winifred Shaw, Lloyd Bacon, director; screen play by Jerry Wald and Julius Epstein from the play by Fred Thompson and Jack Donohue; music and lyrics by Harry Warren and Al Dubin.

Story—Timid song-and-dance man, faced with breach of promise suit, joins army during World War. Both disappointed siren and fiance pursue him to France, where he falls for innkeeper's daughter. Sends messages to German spies by mistake, escapes firing squad and captures enemy machine gun nest single-handed. Gets kissed on both cheeks by French general, French girl.

"BARNEY RAPP AND HIS NEW ENGLANDERS On Stage—With Ruby Wright, singer; Condon Brothers, tap dancers; Gene Gory and Roberta, instrumental comedians; Sue Ryan, comedy singer; Shine Moore, the "Shoe Shine Boy"; Lois Harper and Co., miniature dance revue.

Refuses to Wear Makeup for Movie

Times Special

HOLLYWOOD, May 28—King Vidor nearly lost the unofficial "star" of his cast when Gov. Clyde Tingley of New Mexico refused to step before the cameras if forced to use makeup.

"I've heard that actors have to use makeup and I'm not trying to back out on you," the Governor told

Vidor. "But I just can't see the Governor of my state wearing it." Vidor, producing and directing "The Texas Rangers," on the plains of Texas and New Mexico, hastily assured the executive that makeup is not a screen requisite.

Change Director's Plans

Paul Sloane will direct "Everything For Sale," starting June 15, instead of the Gladys Swarthout picture, "The New Divorce," which has been delayed because of Miss Waltz.

LAST DAY AT LOEW'S—*"ONE RAINY AFTERNOON"* PLUS *"PANIC ON THE AIR"*

TOMORROW LOEW'S GREATEST VALUE IN JOY! 2 MAJOR HITS!

THE PICTURE YOU'VE DREAMED ABOUT!

The golden voice of Grace Moore!
The romantic dash of Franchot Tone!
The glorious melodies of Kreisler!

ALWAYS COOL!

25c
To 6

Grace Moore
In the grandest musical love drama of the year...
THE KING STEPS OUT

With FRANCHOT TONE
WALTER CONNOLLY
Music by KREISLER • Directed by JOSEF VON STERNBERG
Screen play by Sidney Buchman
A COLUMBIA PICTURE

SEE THE THRILLING 500 MILE RACE IN COOL
COMFORT AT LOEW'S

SPEED
ROMANCE AT 300 MILES
PER HOUR.....

James Stewart • Wendy Barrie • Una Merkel • Ted Healy

New System for Talkies Is Invented

"Two Sided" Microphone Used for First Time in Great Ziegfeld.

Those of you who saw and heard "The Great Ziegfeld" got more than you bargained for.

It was revealed today that the "spine" of the great showman was the first picture in which "both sides" of a sound wave were recorded.

The new-off-side method has nothing to do with football, but consists of sneaking up behind a sound wave and catching it on the rebound. It is the invention of Douglas Shearer, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer recording director, perfected after five years of research. Shearer has devised complete new reproducers and amplifiers for the new recording.

New Diaphragm System

In former systems the sound, moving a thin plate or diaphragm, was recorded by the backward motion of this plate. Shearer's method records both backward and forward movements, or the continuous motion of the plate, instead of the one movement which resembled microphones hammer taps.

The diaphragms in the speakers which make the sound in the theater likewise are moved backward and forward, instead of being moved and then allowed to spring back by their own resiliency.

The tiny light valve, which is the heart of the entire system, can fit in a vest pocket and weighs but three ounces.

Sound Range Complete, Claim

Any note created, Shearer says, from the lowest to the highest pitch the human ear can hear, and can be recorded and reproduced by the system with no distortion.

This permits all choral and symphonic effects and intricate musical colorings. In addition, speech is

GALA SPEEDWAY DANCE AND FROLIC
Friday, May 29th
Dance Till Dawn
500 Miles of Fun and Entertainment
BEFORE 9:30
50c Plus 5c Tax
INDIANA ROOM
HALLROOM

WHERE, WHAT, WHEN

APOLLO

Under Two Flags—With Ronald Colman and Rosalind Russell, at 11:15, 2:30, 8:30, 9:45 and 10:45.

Circle

"The Princess Comes Across," starring Carole Lombard and Fred Astaire, at 11:30, 2:30, 8:30, 9:45 and 10:45.

Lyric

"The Case Against Mrs. Ames," with Melvyn Douglas, George Brent and Beulah Bondi, at 11:30, 2:30 and 4:45.

Keith's

"The Trial of Mary Dugan," presented by the Federal Players, at 11:30, 2:30 and 4:45.

Times Special

"One Rainy Afternoon," featuring Paul Draper, Eric Blore and Fred Astaire, at 12:30, 2:30, 8:30 and 10:45.

Times Special

"The Golden Arrow," starring Richard Arlen and Anna May, at 11:30, 2:30, 8:30 and 10:45.

"Speedway Revues," with Ted Cook, at 1:30, 2:30 and 4:45.

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