

HOLLYWOOD

1940 Was Leap Year, but Leaping Was Mostly Toward Divorce Court

By PAUL HARRISON
Times Special Writer

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 31.—Maybe 1940 was a Leap Year, as the calendar says; but romantically, most of the leaping was done in the direction of the divorce courts. Never before, not even during its wildest jazz-age adolescence, has Hollywood hung up such a sorry record.

There have been more divorces in some previous years, but never such an unfavorable balance of divorces to weddings. For example: Among people whose names should be familiar to fans who read a lot of movie news, the year brought 33 divorces, 25 marriages. But the ratio becomes 22-to-12 when the list is whittled down to notables known to almost everyone.

Two dissolutions were not surprising, although, when Ginger Rogers went to court last March after a four-year separation from Lew Ayres, she managed a few tears as she testified: "He told me to get out, and there was nothing else to do." Constance Bennett omitted his trivionics when she put aside her third mate, the Marquis de la Falaise de la Courdry.

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DICK FORAN AND Mrs. Ruth Piper Hollingsworth Foran even consulted a psychoanalyst in a futile effort to bolster their crumbling marriage. Helen Vinson and Fred Perry tried a reconciliation which didn't work, and John and Elaine Barrymore attempted three.

The Great Profile holds the marital record; but nobody has such a rapidly fluttering heart as Peggy Ann Kent. Last September, at 23, she went to Reno to shake off her third husband, Ernie Westmore.

Most amusing grounds for divorce was Carole Landis' statement that Willard Hunt Jr. called her "a damn fool, like everybody else in motion pictures."

Among other players—oh, yes, Jimmy Roosevelt—who have been involved in divorce actions during 1940, are: Mischa Auer, Alice Faye, Tony Martin, Vivien Leigh, Brenda Marshall, Wayne Morris, Laurence Oliver, Luise Rainer, Martha Raye, Lana Turner and Johnny Weissmuller.

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MOST STRIKING TREND was the number of December-May romances. William Powell began the sequence in January by eloping with 24-year-old Diana Lewis. The actor was 47 at the time, and had known her only three weeks. In April came the marriage of George Jessel, 42, and Lou Andrew, a precocious show girl just turned 16.

Other weddings involving a considerable difference in ages were: Oliver Hardy, 42, and Lulu Jones, 26; Herbert Marshall, 50, and the considerably younger Lee Russell; Buster Keaton, 44, and dancer Eleanor Norris, 21; Fritz Feld, 40, and Virginia Kraft, 22; producer Nunnally Johnson, 42, and Doris Bowden, 25.

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WHEN DOES IT START?

CIRCLE
"Love Thy Neighbor," with Jack Benny; Fred Allen, Mary Martin, at 11:30; 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30. Meet the Wildcats, with Ramon Bellamy, Margaret Lindsay, at 11:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30.

INDIANA
"Sante Fe Trail," with Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Raymond Massey, at 11:17, 1:50, 4:30, 6:55, 9:25 and 12:15.

"March of Time," at 1:30, 4:02, 6:35, 9:05 and 11:41.

LODGE
"Comrade X," with Clark Gable, Hedy Lamarr, Oscar Homolka, at 12:35, 3:30, 6:20, 9:20 and 12:10.

"The Thin Man," with Lew Ayres, Rita Johnson, at 11:30, 2:05, 3:30, 8:10 and 11:30.

LYRIC
"Midnight Show," with Nick Lucas, on screen at 12:30, 3:30, 6:30 and 9:01.

"Behind the News," with Lloyd Nolan, on screen at 11:30, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 and 10:45.

"Jerry Calona 'Moonlight & Melody,'" Wrestling "Roughhouse Fistic," —News.

Gala New Year's Eve Show
BEGINNING AT 11:45 P. M.
TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT REGULAR PRICES

HOME OWNED-HOME OPERATED

LYRIC
On Stage!
Mirth! Music! Girls!
"The LYRIC
NEW YEARS
REVUE"
Starring
Nick Lucas
A Galaxy of Stars including the RHYTHM-
ETTES and WFBN
Talent Winners!
ON THE SCREEN
BEHIND THE NEWS
DORIS DAVENPORT-LLOYD NOLAN
Fri. & Maries "CONTINENTAL REVUE"

TO NIGHT at YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRES

EAST SIDE

PARAMOUNT
At 11:30
Dick Foran "Mummy's Hand"
Comedy "BANDITS & BALLOONS"
Cartoon "Peace on Earth"
Matinee Tomorrow—Starts 1:15

IRVING 5507 FINAL NITE! E. Wash 20c to 6
Marion Dietrich—John Wayne
"SEVEN SINNERS"
John Barrymore "GREAT PROFILE"
Wid. — Mat.—Lam & Abner
"REAMING OUT LOUD"
"DR. KILDARE GOES HOME"

RIVOLI 5:45 20c
TONITE AND WED.
Gary Cooper "The Westerner"
W. Brennan "7 SINNERS"
John Wayne "GREAT PROFILE"
Wid. — Mat.—Lam & Abner
"REAMING OUT LOUD"
"DR. KILDARE GOES HOME"

EMERSON 5:45 20c
TONITE AND WED.
Jan. Cagney "HERE COMES THE NAVY"
Cesar Romero "GAG CARDBOARD"
Mat. TOMORROW, 12:45 to 2:30

SHERIDAN 5:15 E. Washington
Open 6:45
Joe McCrea "Foreign Correspondent"
Dennis Morgan "RIVER END"
Mat. TOMORROW, 12:45 to 2:30

PARKER 5:30 Open All 10c
Hon. "Everything Happens at Night"
Ty. Power "GAG CARDBOARD"
Continuous Matinee—10c to All

The Mecca 733 N. 20c
Jan. Stewart "NO TIME FOR COMEDY"
Lila Lee "CAPTURE CAUTION"
CONTINUOUS MATINEE TOMORROW

LA COMA 2:42 20c
Cary Grant "HOWARDS OF VIRGINIA"
Doris More "DOWN ARGENTINE WAY"
CONTINUOUS MATINEE TOMORROW

TUXEDO 4:20 New York 20c
MIDNIGHT SHOW 11:30
Dick Cagney "GAG CARDBOARD"
John Wayne "GREAT PROFILE"
CONTINUOUS MATINEE TOMORROW

Hamilton 211 E. 10th FINAL NITE
"HERE COMES THE NAVY"
"MONEY AND THE WOMAN"
Matinee Tomorrow 12:45 to 2:30

Stratford 15th and 20c
Sam Russell "CITY FOR CONQUEST"
Doris More "GREAT PROFILE"
CONTINUOUS MATINEE TOMORROW

NORTH SIDE

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