



It Happened One Night— It's Coffee Now For Lee Tracy

Actor Urges Tolerance
For Hollywood Misses

By Earl Wilson

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—One of my favorite newspapermen—Lee Tracy—strode into the Waldorf Men's Bar and did a very unjournalistic thing.

"I think I'll have a cup of coffee," he said.

"Haven't had drink in two years and"—he counted it off on his fingers—"four months!"

I looked in amazement at this really great actor, who used to play so many fine reporter roles on stage and screen, and who, when a bit loaded once down in Mexico, did more to make balconies famous than Romeo and Juliet or Harry Truman combined.

"How'd you quit?" I asked, feeling a little silly, because I'd ordered a snort, figuring he'd have one, inasmuch as he always had before.

"How? Didn't give it a thought. Just quit," he said.

He was looking lean, dapper and well-tailored as befits a guy residing in the Waldorf.

"And how do you feel now?" Lee Tracy coffee—honest. "I know what you're supposed to say. 'Oh, boy, I feel GREAT. JUST GREAT!' But I haven't noticed any difference. Except I feel better in the morning."

Mr. Tracy—here talking about plays and movies—and some of the Broadway producers should put the guy to work because he's the greatest! — said he hopes folks'll be tolerant about some Hollywoodians recently in jams for not quite handling the ole debbil, rum.

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Didn't Hurt—Then

MAYBE YOU remember a parade in Mexico in 1932 when Lee stood on a balcony shouting "Viva la Mexico" and also "Go to hell!"

Reports of his further attitude toward the parade were printed but Mr. Tracy, denying them, forced one magazine to retract. Anyway, MGM fired him, but he worked there again later.

"It didn't hurt you much?"

"It didn't at the time. I got a better contract right away with another studio. But you look at life from the long pull, and . . . He didn't finish.

"THE STORY always gets so distorted. Take Robert Walker. . . . Maybe he never had a drink before and never will again but

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Earl's Pearls

If food prices here get any higher, there'll be a lot of food poisoning around here, maintains Lenny Kent at the Playgoers. The food'll be o.k.; trouble is, they won't be used to eating.

Coleman Jacoby contends that those Hollywood reefers that make you high have this slogan: "They satisfy."

that's the cross he'll have to bear."

I turned the talk to the proposed picture in which he'll play a fight manager.

"I've been an Army officer in two wars and never played an Army officer," he said.

"I punched cattle in Canon City, Colo., but they never thought of me for that. I played ball in St. Louis with the Wabadas—the Wabash R. R. team—but with all these baseball pictures, I never got a call for that.

"No, I'm not the type for those things," he said. "I'm the type for a newspaper reporter—which I've never been."

HE LOOKED at my empty glass.

"Say, you better have another drink," he said. "This is the time of day for drinking."

"I'll just sit here," he added.

"I can't take another cup of coffee."

Mr. Tracy—here talking about plays and movies—and some of the Broadway producers should put the guy to work because he's the greatest! — said he hopes folks'll be tolerant about some Hollywoodians recently in jams for not quite handling the ole debbil, rum.

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