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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

In Hollywood—

Esther Gets Straight Part

Miss Williams Walks and Fans Don't Miss Swimming Sequence

By Erskine Johnson

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8—Esther Williams walks instead of swimming. But it almost didn't happen.

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game" has Esther playing her first non-swimming role (except for one quick flash) in 12 pictures.

Then M-G-M got worried again in a big aqua-type dream sequence. But first they sneak—previewed the picture with an added question on the audience reaction cards.

The question read: "Do you miss Esther Williams swimming?"

The cards came back with a unanimous "No," plus such tributes as "Esther gives a swell performance."

The swimming dream sequence won't be filmed. Esther is happy. She's been yelling for a straight dramatic part for a long time.

GEORGE BRENT says he'll do four more pictures after "Illegal Entry" and then quit the screen for good to become a gentleman farmer. George has half a million dollars invested in his San Fernando Valley horse-breeding farm.**HOWARD HUGHES** is talking about releasing some of those Astaire-Rogers musicals to cash in on their comeback together in M-G-M's "The Barkleys of Broadway."**CARL BRISSON**, the Danish song star, is appearing at the Coconut Grove. I'll never forget the time he made his debut in Hollywood for "Murder at the Vanities." He introduced his son, Freddie Brisson, to Hollywood as his "brother." Freddie is now married to Rox Russell, has his own production company and will soon film papa's life-story.**M-G-M** just filmed a technicolor version of "Little Women" with June Allyson, Elizabeth Taylor, Margaret O'Brien and Janet Leigh. Margaret played Beth so seriously that every time director Mervyn LeRoy looked at her, he'd say:

"Cheer up, Margaret. We haven't come to the death scene yet. Don't forget, you have scarlet fever first."

M-G-M is about to release a color version of "Little Women" with June Allyson, Elizabeth Taylor, Margaret O'Brien and Janet Leigh. Margaret played Beth so seriously that every time director Mervyn LeRoy looked at her, he'd say:

"Cheer up, Margaret. We haven't come to the death scene yet. Don't forget, you have scarlet fever first."

LOEW'S "The Story of the River" with Sabu and Bibi Ferreira, at 2:30 and 3:45.**INDIANA** "The Paleface," with Bob Hope and Russell, at 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 and 9:30.**KEEFE'S** "Next Time We Love," with James Stewart, Margaret Sullavan and May Robson, at 1:45, 4:30, 7:30 and 10:15.**LYRIC** "The Sea Gull," with John Wayne and Elizabeth Taylor, at 2:30, 6:30 and 9:15.**WORLDS** "Words and Music," with all-star cast, at 1:45, 4:15, 6:30 and 9:30.**EDWARD WEEK IN BOSTON****BOSTON**, Jan. 8 (UPI)—Theatrical folk deng there was Soviet influence but biled simultaneously in Boston theaters were the shows: Red Shoes, Red Gloves, Red Mill and Red River. 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