

# Film Play of 'Gone With the Wind' Keeps Faith With Book, Director Assures

## Bend Newspaper Plans to Erect new Building

BEND, Feb. 13 - (P) - A new building to house The Bend Bulletin will be constructed shortly after April 1, Publisher Robert W. Sawyer said today.

Crowded conditions of the present plant necessitate the expansion, Sawyer said. The new plant will provide for installation of

photo-engraving equipment, the publisher said.

## Celebrate Birthdays

AURORA—Mrs. E. G. Carpenter left for Hillsboro Tuesday morning to visit her brother, J. Nickademus, who is ill at his home. Wednesday was their joint birthdays, Mrs. Carpenter 84 and Mr. Nickademus was 80 on this date.

## Conversion of Margaret Mitchell's Story to Screen Medium Undertaken With Qualms, Successfully Finished

(Does it follow the book? That question is foremost in the minds of the thousands of readers of "Gone With the Wind," who are now to see the book in motion picture version. Victor Fleming, who directed this picture, says it does follow the story. The picture opens Thursday at the Elsinore theatre.)

By VICTOR FLEMING

So far as I know, no one has come forward to claim the championship for rapid reading of Margaret Mitchell's truly dramatic novel, "Gone With the Wind." It is difficult for me to imagine anyone completing a careful digest of the book in less than 24 hours of actual reading time.

David Selznick and I sought to get all of the memorable events of that book into an evening of screen entertainment. As it turned out, the story is told in three hours and forty-five minutes of film.

Novels have been converted into screen fare before. A screen director knows that film pace and rhythm can cover much ground which took dozens of pages in a book.

That pace I knew would play a major role in our story and I was prepared for it. But I didn't realize that into my hands had been thrust a virtual bible of southern life with a string of "don'ts" a mile long.

Whatever problems we had on "Gone With the Wind" were inconsequential alongside of that matter of creating a story to satisfy the world's greatest pre-sold critical audience any film has ever had.

Miss Mitchell had told us that would be authentic and we had to duplicate it. We had no authority to heighten any situation or min-



Producer David O. Selznick searched through a field of 1400 candidates before he selected Vivien Leigh for the role of Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With the Wind," which opens Thursday at the Elsinore theatre.

imize any other. We couldn't change simply for effect. We were not making a picture to please an author or a cast of characters. Our thought had to be on a public which was rabid on the subject.

So out the window went a major part of the experience-proved dramatic inventions we know. Imagination is a fine thing in entertainment, but accurate transfer of life is another thing.

We all know that if we make a picture showing a miner at work, we must be sure to employ a real miner who will have our miner character acting and talking like a miner. We do that to satisfy a really smart part of our audience which will know whether we are right or wrong. Yet here we had not a minority but a vast majority of our audience in the position of critical experts.

I went to work on "Gone With the Wind" with the headaches of pure imagination from "Wizard of Oz" still ringing in my ears. I had felt that picture was quite a problem, but now I began to see something Utopian in an audi-

once which didn't know what a Munchkin was, nor how an Emerald City might look. I was down to the bed rock of reality, with millions of voices shouting, "Hew to the line, mister."

Any important period picture has its headaches. You can't use 60 principals and 9000 supporting players without realizing you have been through the mill.

Nor can you fall to appreciate the responsibility of a motion picture which has accumulated a million working hours from those who helped make it real.

They tell me we shot 1,350,000 feet of negative. Now, that it's all done, the figure doesn't surprise me.

## Director of Home to Speak at Tea

ALBANY—Mrs. Beatrice Blanchford, superintendent of the Old People's Methodist home in Salem will be guest speaker at a silver tea in Albany Wednesday afternoon sponsored by the Women's Home missionary society of the Methodist church of this city. The tea will be given at the home of Mrs. D. E. Nebergall, 206 West Seventh street.

Other speakers will include Mrs. Archie Metzgar of Salem, and Mrs. B. F. Kummer, Brownsville, who will tell of a recent trip east and of the work among the migrant workers of the south.



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LESLIE HOWARD as "Ashley Wilkes" in "GONE WITH THE WIND."

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