

Mis-Step by Mary Pickford Turned Grauman's Theatre Into Famed Hollywood Spot

HOLLYWOOD — One summer a machine pulled up in front of a mammoth, pagoda-like structure under construction on Hollywood Boulevard.

Out stepped showman Sid Grauman to display his gaudy new Chinese Theatre to the two reigning stars of the silent screen, Doug Fairbanks and Mary Pickford.

Out stepped Doug. Out stepped Mary. Squish! Her dainty tootsies landed in wet cement on the sidewalk. America's sweetheart laughed it off and walked on, leaving impressed in the concrete the outline of her shoe.

Thus, by accident, was Hollywood's longest running publicity gimmick born. For Grauman, one of the sharpest showmen ever, perceived possibilities in the print. When he opened the theater, then as now filmland's most bizarre, he arranged to have Doug and Mary place their feet and hand prints in a special square of concrete in the forecourt.

The stars have been doing it ever since. Now, 26 years later, 121 squares are preserving for posterity the shoe and glove sizes of film-land favorites.

Half a dozen times a year workmen with hammers break up an other square, pour in fresh cement, and stand aside while some celebrity wades in. Publicitywise, there's nothing like it in Hollywood.

Ralph Hathaway, the theater manager, estimates that during the summer tourist season about 4,000 people a day enter the forecourt to have a look. There are crowds from 10 in the morning to 11 at night. Sightseeing buses stop regularly and fans pour out to snap photographs and fit their feet into the prints of the famous.

Until Grauman's death in 1960, most stars scrawled messages of thanks to the showman. Some tried for humor. William Powell wrote Sid he was "Happy to put my foot in it for you." Monty Woolley scribbled "Wish you were here."

During Grauman's lifetime he made the decisions on who should be chosen. Since his death Charles Skouras of Fox West Coast theaters has done the picking. The system is secret. Some of the screen's greatest names have been passed up.

One thing is certain. The forecourt would long since have been filled had players been cement-dunked in wholesale lots. As it is, there's enough space to last at least another quarter century.

So far, not a block has been removed. Only one has been moved. The one signed by Wallace Beery and Marie Dressler was shifted a few feet when the box office was relocated.

Grauman tried to work in an actor's trademark, if he had one. Thus Jimmy Durante left the imprint of his nose.

Others include outlines of Woolley's beard, Betty Grable's leg, Bill Hart's six guns, Sonja Henie's skates, Harold Lloyd's glasses, John Barrymore's profile, Al Jolson's knees and John Wayne's fist.

However Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe, the most recent additions to forecourt fame, failed to capitalize on their most obvious assets. They merely signed their names.

HOLLYWOOD — Director Anthony Mann seems to be making a career out of James Stewart.

He's directed five Stewart pictures in a row, and soon starts No. 6.

Why the Stewart streak? "We like each other," says Mann. The pair first met years ago when Mann directed the actor in summer stock productions in the East. Then their careers drifted apart. Stewart became a top movie attraction. Mann made a name as a director.

They finally got together again on "Winchester 73." It came off so well Stewart has asked for Mann on each of his subsequent

films. After completing their current film, "The Glenn Miller Story," the two head for the northern wilds to make "The Far Country."

HOLLYWOOD — Ralph Volkie, a boxing coach hired by movie studios to get actors in shape for rugged roles, figured he was in for an interesting assignment when he learned Jane Russell was to be his next pupil. But he was a disappointed man when he reported to the set.

Turned out they didn't want him to improve Miss Russell's shape. It was quite adequate, thank you. All they wanted Volkie to do was instruct Jane in the art of hitting a punching bag.

HOLLYWOOD — Actor Dale Robertson, barely 20 years old, is already making preparations for "the day I'm no longer wanted in Hollywood."

As insurance against the fickle nature of movie fans, he's investing a good portion of his salary. For instance, he already is one-third owner of two young companies. One makes a rubber cement product, the other perfume.

He's studying photography—"It might make me a living some day." In his spare time, he trains his police dog, Chief. And the time isn't wasted. Robertson says the pooch is already earning more than his keep by performing in films.

Fur Coats Still Big Business With Russians

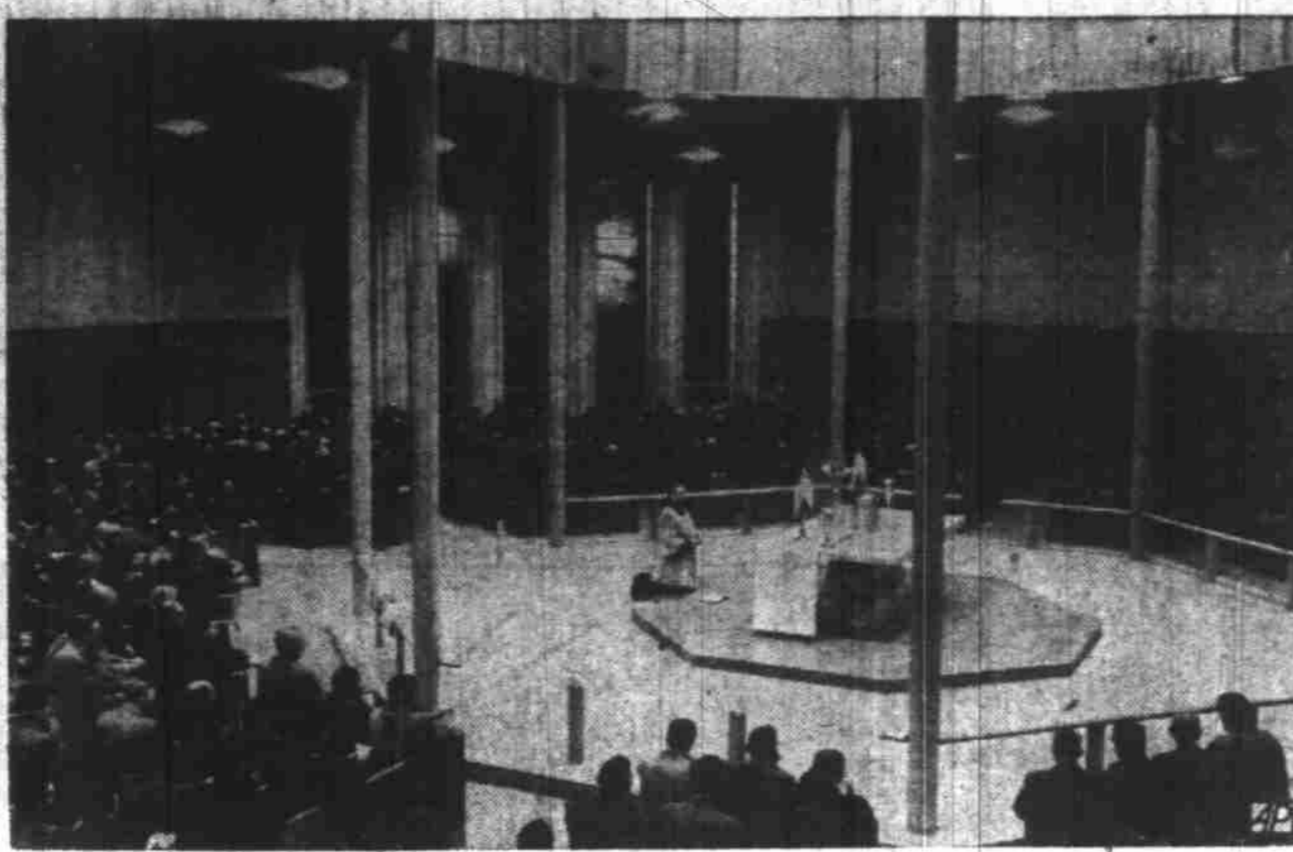
MOSCOW — Fur continues to be big business in Russia. Frequent items in the Moscow papers stress the importance of fur ranching and trapping.

In the Far East on the shores of the Okhotsk Sea, a fur trapper 106 years old continues to thrive and recently turned in more than 1000 rubles worth of squirrel pelts. He is Roman Ignatievich Sokolov, claims to have killed over 200 bears and 43,000 squirrels, has a pension but refuses to retire.

Another item says silver fox farming is growing. In the Yakutsk Region there are 30 collective silver and black fox ranches near the "cold pole of the world."

Strenuous efforts are being made to increase the sable population of the U.S.S.R. Twenty years ago the sable was in danger of extinction in the Soviet Union. But a total embargo was clamped on sable trapping and the numbers of sables in the country rose. Sables were moved into areas in which they had become extinct.

Electric locomotives first appeared on U.S. mainline tracks in 1895.



NEW CHURCH SHAPE—Men attend a mission in new Blessed Sacrament R. C. Church in Holyoke, Mass., which departs from traditional church architecture by being octagonal in shape.

Jet 'Copter Model Points Way to Future

AUSTIN — Experiments of a University of Texas student in jet power may help the helicopter become the family flivver of the future.

There are still a lot of problems but a miniature eggbeater built by James M. Cooksey, senior from Mullin, Tex., shows promise for jet-propelled overhead rotors. His model brought him a \$300 scholarship from Bell Aircraft Corp. It has a jet exhaust tube on the tip of each rotor (the large blades that whirl).

Using "bottled" compressed air for jet power, the model takes off and flies in a circle.

Cooksey says the comparatively simple jet system does away with both the complicated mechanical drive and the antitorque propeller on the rear of the standard craft. Intricate transmissions run up the cost of present helicopters. The cheapest model sells for about \$30,000.

Cooksey believes his method could reduce the cost but a big bugaboo still to be licked is excessive fuel consumption.

Family Up Early For Daily Bath

McALESTER, Okla. (AP)—Mrs. Addie Lee Milner has resorted to a rugged solution of the water problem in her household.

Due to an acute distribution problem, water is being rationed during the hot part of the day here.

So, Mrs. Milner sets her alarm clock for 4 a.m., rous the whole family out for a bath and then sends them back to bed.



ROOM FOR EVERYBODY—Airman 2/c Richard K. Mackey, Miami, Fla., who is 4 feet, 7 inches tall and is believed to be the smallest man in Air Force, chats with Airman 2/c Floyd G. Hunnicutt, of Fort Worth, at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas.

Overhauling Leaves Fire Trucks New

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Some pretty equipment is being used to fight fires in Pittsburgh these days. Leo Gill, director of automotive equipment found old equipment stored away and decided to rebuild the old fire engines, some purchased in 1914.

Adding engines here, new tires there and topping them off with fancy paint jobs, Gill found he had some first class fire trucks. Pittsburgh is accustomed to paying out \$20,000 or more for each new piece of fire equipment. Fire Chief Stephen A. Diey, pointing to a reconditioned rig which originally was purchased in 1914 said:

EVIDENCE EXPLODED
CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP)—Evidence in a bootlegging case, gathered in the basement of the Kanawha County jail, destroyed itself and amid loud pops and breaking glass.

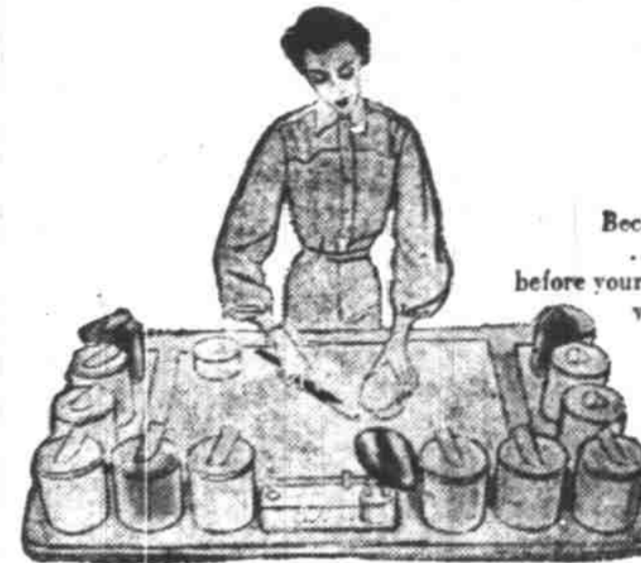
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