



LOVE SCENE—Joan Fontaine and Arturo de Cordova are in a scene from "Frenchmen's Creek," which will play Wednesday on the screen of the McDonald theater.

### THIS IS HOLLYWOOD

By Erskine Johnson

Demarest was dying... I thought it was funny. But the chamber of commerce can't blame me. I love California's weather—

Lizabeth Scott, they're saying over at Paramount, will be a star after her first picture, "The Hal Wallis movie, "Don't Ever Grieve Me." So maybe we better take a look at the young lady.

Lizabeth and Tallulah are good friends now, but there was a time when they didn't speak. Lizabeth winced at the memory. "I was sitting backstage and Tallulah looked at me and said, "Close that door. Being the meek little understudy, I closed it."

### Jimmie Da Schnozz FAVORITE VAUDEVILLE START STILL POPULAR

The nose knows, Jimmy Durante is wont to say, but who knows The Nose?

Thousands of movie fans know the Great Schnozzola as a funny guy who sings, plays piano, murders the king's English, wrecks pianos and fedora hats, is given to flopping his arms and screaming, "I'm mortified!"

Off the screen Durante isn't much different. He's no collar and no tailor's model. His English comes not from school books, but he's friendly, gregarious, has a heart as big as the Mojave desert and just as warm.

Durante, who has one of the leading roles in MGM's "Two Girls and a Sailor," which opens Sunday at the State theater, is not the guy to forget his old pals. Back in 1923 Jimmy, Lou Clayton and Eddie Jackson started their famous trio. The three had opened a small night club in New York. Each of them had been a performer. Jimmy had always been a pianist. They decided to put on their own show and the trio act evolved with Jimmy as master of ceremonies and general ring leader.

When Jimmy was eight years old his father bought a piano. When it was delivered at the tenement where they lived, there was neighborhood celebration, for it was the only piano on the block. When Jimmy learned to play it, however, the other kids called him a sissy. Fortunately he didn't give up; he licked the tar out of the ringleader of the hecklers instead.

### Down Front

By Will Lindley

This Week We Present NEWS AND VIEWS HOLLYWOOD — Pat Kirkland, 17-year-old daughter of radio producer Jack Kirkland, has been signed for lead in film version of B'way hit, "Kiss and Tell"...

Fox will do revise of "State Fair" in technicolor... Vera Hruba Ralston and Roy Rogers, public stars, will be crowned King and Queen of Winter at Lake Placid soon... AP and INS have selected Lauren Bacall, leading lady opposite Bogart in Warner's "To Have and Have Not" as outstanding new actress of 1944...

Apple Mark Of Barrymore Traditions A shiny red apple rested on Ethel Barrymore's dressing table during the first day's filming of RKO Radio's "None But the Lonely Heart"...

The late Jimmy Drew, Ethel Barrymore's uncle, started the apple tradition three generations ago. He never failed to send red apples to his relatives on the first nights of their respective stage bows, or whenever one of them appeared in a new play.

REHEARSE "HARVEY GIRLS" Robert Alton, who recently returned from New York after staging the dances for the new Olson and Johnson play, "Laffing Room Only," has started dance rehearsals for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's forthcoming musical, "The Harvey Girls," which will star Judy Garland, Ann Southern and John Hodiak.

### Sturges Finds His Own Film 'Characters'

The so-called manpower shortage in Hollywood does not worry Preston Sturges. He is not one to sit around moaning and weeping about the shortage of trained actors in the film city. He makes his own actors out of the very interesting fellows closest at hand, regardless of whether or not they've ever acted.

Until Sturges prepared to make his current Paramount comedy, "Hall the Conquering Hero" which opens Thursday at the McDonald theater, the actor shortage was no problem for the director-writer. But a lot of thespians have departed the ranks of film players of late. Sturges did not meet the situation by creating casts abundant with women and short on men. His "Hall the Conquering Hero" needs a lot of men. In fact, Sturges has five young marines tramping through the story with Eddie Bracken from start to finish. He wanted actors who look like marines, and he got them.

One is a former studio laborer, another an ace stunt man, a third a stand-in, the fourth an ex-prize fighter and the fifth a young actor who happened along fortunately. Sturges is a firm believer in the theory that, if you scratch the surface of the average man, you'll find an actor. People have always developed an aptitude for seeing talent where it might not be apparent to others. Here, in detail, is how Sturges got his marines.

He was sipping a cup of mid-afternoon coffee one day at the Paramount studio coffee shop when he walked a bronzed young fellow in overalls which were smeared with dirt and paint. Sturges beckoned the chap, and learned he was one James D. Moore, a studio laborer. Sturges had him read the part and that was that.

The fourth fellow is a tall, husky brunette. Ever since Bob Hope started in films, this Len Hendry has been in stand-in for the comedy star. Hollywood doesn't usually pick actors from stand-ins, but Sturges did in Hendry's case. Hendry, between Hope pictures had done a bit of pantomime for Sturges which the director liked. He signed Hendry.



IN HELIG DRAMA—Cary Grant and June Dupres are the lovers in RKO's "None But the Lonely Heart," which opens Sunday at the Hellic theater.

WEEK'S THEATER PROGRAMS McDonald: Sunday through Wednesday... Hellic: Sunday through Wednesday... State: Sunday through Wednesday... Two Girls and a Sailor: Thursday through Saturday... None But the Lonely Heart: Thursday through Saturday... Behind Prison Walls: Saturday and Sunday...

Mature 'Gets 'em'—When They're Mature PORTLAND, Jan. 20—(AP)—It isn't only Frank Sinatra and the bobby-soxers. A middle-aged woman emerged from the theater where Victor Mature was appearing. "I've seen him!" she shouted. "I've seen my idol!" She walked into the lobby's ornamental fish pond, waded out, knocked over a war bond booth, and disappeared dreamily into the street.

### Now McDONALD Playing!

In Blazing Technicolor... Pirates Love!

JOAN FONTAINE & ARTURO DE CORDOVA  
**FRENCHMEN'S CREEK**

with BASIL RATHBONE • NIGEL BRUCE

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MGM's RED, WHITE and BLUESICAL MUSICAL!

FOR 4 DAYS

**TWO GIRLS and a SAILOR**

ALAN BAXTER • GERTRUDE MICHAEL

"Behind Prison Walls"

### TIM SOLD CANDY

Tim Murdock, as a youngster, used to tickle and candy at a refreshment stand on the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer lot.

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By the author of "How Green Was My Valley"

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### DUBIOUS

HOLLYWOOD — Rosemary LaPlanche, former Miss America appearing in RKO Radio's "Johnny Angel," wonders about her latest honor. An inmate of Leavenworth prison has asked her for a pinup picture.

### MUCH TRAVEL NOWHERE

Spencer Tracy will cross the continent during the week, but will never leave the "Without Love" set at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in Hollywood. He spends the next five days in a Pullman compartment for a sequence of the picture.

### HICKS AT "WALDORF"

Russell Hicks is the latest to join the cast of "Weekend at the Waldorf," starring Ginger Rogers, Lana Turner, Walter Pidgeon and Van Johnson. Hicks will be seen as a Wall Street Big Shot.