

STAR DUST

MOVIE AND RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

ANNA STEN seems to be badly in need of an adviser; since Samuel Goldwyn bought her off and let her go (and it's reported that he paid her \$130,000 rather than make any more pictures with her), she's been sort of getting in wrong.

On a personal appearance tour she came out on the stage in South Bend, Ind., not too well dressed, and without make-up, and apparently quite bored. She told the audience that she didn't know why she was there, and they didn't seem to care whether she knew or not.

Scheduled to make a talk before a Notre Dame association, she just backed out. The rest of the tour was canceled.

As for making any more pictures, she has announced that Hollywood producers wanted her to reduce, and that she won't play "flat-chested American girls"; she would like to find a story in which she'll be a buxom heroine.

Perhaps she's just bewildered; that wouldn't be surprising, after all the ballyhoo that went with her launching in pictures here. She's up against a tough problem, because she doesn't know where to go if she leaves America; she can't very well go to Russia and her husband isn't in favor of Germany.

Perhaps Columbia will take her in hand and make her a star of the first water, so far as the box office is concerned. They have a way of doing such things at that studio. If they'd give her a half-way decent story and Frank Capra as director, she'd be a success. Capra could make a success of anyone.

It looks as if "Becky Sharp" would be the sensation of the year, so far as the movies is concerned.

And if it is, watch all the movie companies scramble to make all-color productions!

I've often wondered who listened to those cooking programs on the radio; most of the housewives I know are so busy that they can't manage it, because the radio is in the living room and they're likely to be almost anywhere else in the house when those programs go on. Now I know.

Last week I was waiting for a ferry that plies between Delaware and New Jersey, and parked next the car was a truck, with two brawny young men on the seat. They turned the dials of their radio until a silvery voice floated out on the air, saying "Now it's time to see if the waffles are done. No, not quite!" Then they sat back contentedly and listened till the program was over!

Now, that Virginia Bruce has finally received her decree of divorce from John Gilbert there are all sorts of rumors as to whom she'll marry next. The current favorite, romantically speaking, seems to be Count Alfredo Carpegna.

Many of the movie people who happened to be in New York went to the party given on the new French liner, Normandie, to celebrate its arrival here. But so many other people also went that they were lost in the shuffle.

It's funny, the way girls who tackle Hollywood and don't get as far as they'd like to are able to return and take the town by storm after they've made good in New York.

Julie Haydon didn't make much progress in Hollywood, perhaps because she was known as the girl who looked like Ann Harding. She left for New York, where she was leading lady in "The Scoundrel," in which Noel Coward played the lead, and she gave a beautiful performance perhaps because Coward rehearsed all her scenes with her before she did them. Now she's all set to play the lead in "Professional Lady" for Paramount, and to play opposite Gary Cooper in "The Light That Failed."

Marguerite Swope grew up in Hollywood and did quite a bit of dancing in pictures, but she wanted to act, and Hollywood wouldn't recognize her as an actress. So she went to New York and made a name for herself on the stage. She returned to California to visit her family, and Paramount signed her up for "The Last Outpost," in which she'll work with Cary Grant, Gertrude Michael and Claude Rains. The funny part of that was that she wasn't at all anxious to make a picture, as she was fairly well set to do a play in New York in the fall.

Incidentally, what a swell part the hero of "The Light That Failed" is for Gary Cooper. He ought to be a knockout in the role of the Kipling hero who goes blind.

The motion picture industry seems to be having another attack of merger-itis, since Twentieth Century has combined with Fox, and all sorts of possible combinations are rumored. At present they're Paramount and RKO, and Fox-Twentieth Century-Metro.

Also, practically everybody is declaring that Universal is to be sold. The only movie magnate who comes out with a strong denial is Carl

Laemmle, Sr., but of course he's only the owner, so nobody pays any attention to his remarks.

"Our Little Girl" isn't up to the Shirley Temple level, but her admirers don't mind that; she's good, as always.

Remember Patsy Ruth Miller, she's turned writer with a vengeance. After selling several short stories, she's signed up with Samuel Goldwyn to do some special work on "Barbary Coast," which he is going to film at last.

And do you remember the picture that was made of the last Byrd expedition to the South pole? Well, there's another one on hand now, and the producers can't decide what they'll do with it. The first one didn't do well enough at the box office to make it seem likely that the public will rush to see the second, so it may be released as a series of shorts.

Don't think you're hearing a new

kind of static if you turn on your radio and hear that somebody's going to sing "Ufty, Mufty and Guffy." It's the title of a new song!

ODDS AND ENDS . . . Major Bowes seems to get the best amateurs for his radio hour . . . Cornelia Otis Skinner's program has put her near the top on the list of radio entertainers . . . Myrna Loy writes home that British autograph seekers are even more numerous and persistent than American ones—but she doesn't mind. She's a grand girl who appreciates the fact that it's because the public likes her that she keeps going . . . Usually the celebrities who complain about autograph seekers are the ones who aren't particularly bothered by them . . . It's reported that Conrad Nagel will marry again . . . And that his wife will do the same . . . George Arliss is to play a hobo in his next picture—or rather, a "sentimental vagabond" . . . Helene Chadwick and Charles Ray may make a short together . . . Ramon Navarro will do a stage play in London, probably with one of our girl film stars as his lead-

ing lady . . . Jimmy Savo, one of our greatest comedians, will probably make a picture for Paramount; he did "Once in a Blue Moon" for Hecht and MacArthur, but they felt that it wasn't good enough to release, though they admitted that he was great.

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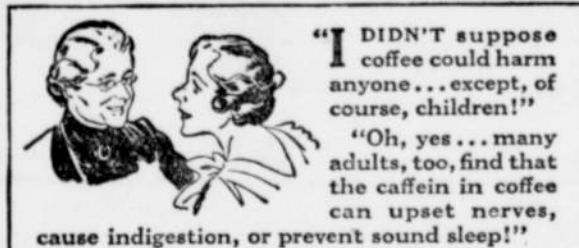
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