

# STAR DUST

MOVIE AND RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

**P**RACTICALLY everybody is up in arms over the change in Merle Oberon's looks. You'll recall, perhaps, that Samuel Goldwyn announced that she was to be turned into a regular American girl—and unfortunately the transformation has taken place—so far as her looks are concerned, at least.

Her eyes no longer look tilted. Her forehead is still very high, of course, but it's a defect rather than a claim to beauty. She has lost every bit of the exotic appearance that made her individual, and looks like just one more girl who works in pictures, and it's a crying shame. Her worst enemy couldn't have taken sweeter revenge on her than this change that has been effected in the name of motion pictures.

The Adrienne Ames-Bruce Cabot matrimonial split verifies the predictions made as far back as the time when they were married, but it does seem a shame that two such nice young people couldn't make a go of things, doesn't it?

Meanwhile Stephen Ames and Raquel Torres seem happier than ever. She is going to make a picture in London (as who isn't?), so they're closing their beautiful new home and departing from Hollywood together.

Remember Dorothy Dell? Her sister has been appearing with Arnheim's band, and has made such a hit that Paramount is making screen tests of her.

And do some of you old-timers remember Sessue Hayakawa, one of the favorite villains of the silent films? He's now in Shanghai, heading a troupe of Japanese actors.

"So Red the Rose" seems to have been just one long battle for Pauline Lord, the celebrated stage actress, so she and Paramount finally called it quits and she left the cast. Janet Beecher will have her role.

Mary Pickford is finally going to

direct pictures; she'll make two for United Artists, but will not act in them. Charlie Chaplin will direct one.

It looks as if Universal's "Stormy" would be a really thrilling picture. Rex, the wild horse, will be featured, and Navajo Indians are rounding up one thousand wild mustangs in Arizona for the production.

Warner Brothers are so pleased with the way the film version of "Midsummer Night's Dream" turned out that they're going to film four more of Shakespeare's plays—"Twelfth Night," probably with Marion Davies; "As You Like It," with Josephine Hutchinson, and "A Comedy of Errors," with James Cagney, and "The Merry Wives of Windsor," with Guy Kibbee. What good news for high school students who have to read the plays!

Theatrical producers are trying to lure Mary Boland and Charles Ruggles away from the movies for a couple of new plays.

Leslie Howard has written a play (don't ask me how he could find the time!), but turned bashful about taking credit for it, it's said, so he gave the name of the author as Philip Howard.

The popularity of the "G-Men" movies has started a lot of things. Phillips Lord, already famous on the air as "Seth Parker," has written a dramatic series about G-men and lined up a radio sponsor for his sketches. Quite a change from the Sunday night hymn programs that made Seth Parker famous.

Now it's the lovely Irene Dunn who's decided to change the color of her hair. Technicolor trouble?

Jean Parker has been having a grand time vacationing in New York. Seems funny that once upon a time people who dwelt in Hollywood complained that they were stuck there for years and years—as they were—and never got a chance to see new plays or new people. Now they leap into a plane and are in New York before their eastern friends know they're coming.

It also seems funny that Micky Neilan has a son who's practically grown up. The young man has been visiting in Hollywood with his mother, and every one is delighted with him and with his resemblance to his famous father.

Loretta Young has one admirer, a ten-year-old boy, who lives only to be worthy of her. He's never seen her except on the screen, but his admiration for her has had an effect that countless lectures from his mother failed to achieve.

Now it's John Gilbert who is going to try the personal-appearance route back to popularity—or down into oblivion. Despite his temperamental storms, he still has so many friends among the movie goers that it seems as if there must be a place for him in pictures.

Constance Bennett and Claudette Colbert have both been laid low by influenza.

Marlene Dietrich is going to

make a modern picture shortly—but she'll probably wear at least one costume with feathers on it. Apparently she has learned that the public has had enough of trick frocks and ponderous scenery as a substitute for plot.

**ODDS AND ENDS . . .** Now it's Metro that has signed up an American tenor who made his reputation in Europe; he's known in Norway, where he's an established singer, as Franco Foresta . . . Louise Fazenda and her husband, who is Hall Wallis, a motion picture executive, have gone to Alaska for a vacation . . . Ramon Navarro is going to South America with a picture he made especially for that market . . . Boris Karloff is to do a horror picture called "The Electric Eye" . . . Marion Davies is president of the Motion Picture Relief fund for the third year in succession.

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### Naming of Island of Crete

The island of Crete was named for Cretus, in myths, a son of Zeus by a nymph.

### HIGH QUALITY OF AIR MAIL PILOTS OF PRESENT DAY

Seventy-five years ago the precursors of those who now carry the mail by rail or air over the mountains to the further coast inaugurated the pony express with the aid of the "flight-performing" horses, their "the noblest of the train that wait on man." Emerson described the post office as an institution of "everlasting energy" and as "the first measure of civilization." It is of interest to note that it was private initiative and venture that did the pioneering. A great freighting firm built the stations along the way, procured the hardest horses and employed the bravest men to hold the stations in the solitudes and to ride the ponies at the risk of attack by Indians or wild beasts. The pledge or oath which every pony rider was required to take or make does not seem to be quite in character with the rough habits of the Far West of that time:

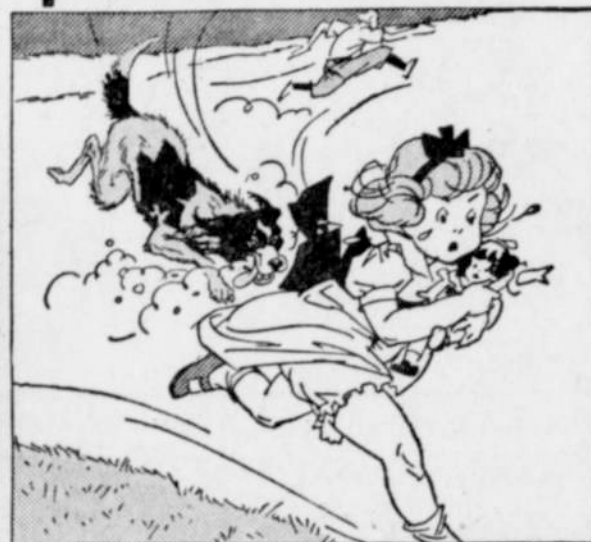
"I do hereby swear before the great and living God that during my engagement . . . I will under no circumstances use profane language; that I will drink no intoxicating liquors; that I will not quarrel or fight with other employees of the firm; and that in every respect I will conduct myself honestly, be faithful in my duties, and so direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my employers. So help me God."

The occupation of these intrepid horsemen has long since gone. Their romantic service has become legendary. The air mail pilots have given us ample proof that the young men of like service today are of an even higher breed, if that may be, than those who kept to the ground with all its perils of savages and heat and cold.—New York Times.

### Record Photograph Shot

The longest photograph shot on record was made by an army photographer from an airplane at an altitude of 23,000 feet. The camera lens caught the peak of Mt. Shasta, Calif., 331 miles away.

## DIZZY DEAN pours one in!



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**Dizzy Dean Winners Membership Pin.** Solid bronze, with red enameled lettering. Free for 1 Grape-Nuts package-top. In ordering, be sure to ask for Prize No. 301.

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Join the Dizzy Dean Winners . . . wear the Membership Pin . . . get Dizzy's Autographed Portrait!

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