

### ... AROUND HOLLYWOOD

By VIRGINIA MacPHERSON  
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood, Apr. 5—(U.P.)—The "singing telegram" is back—and for one whole day the Andrews Sisters went with it.



Virginia MacPherson  
And, at the rate the girls are coining money these days we were getting something like \$5,000 worth of free entertainment figure every birthday celebrant merit for 30 seconds.

One man even hung up on 'em, something nobody's done to the Andrews Sisters since they hit the big time 10 years ago.

After the first shock most everybody recovered long enough to sputter a few "oohs" and "aaahs." One enterprising wif recovered in time to ask 'em for their telephone number.

**Bang-Up Re-Opening**  
All in all, according to F. L. Sanders, general sales manager, it was a bang-up re-opening for a service that got "bumped off" the wires right after Pearl Harbor.

"We used to send boys out to people's homes," he explained. "But we ran into a lot of trouble that way with female wolves. They used to get their eye on a handsome messenger and then send themselves telegrams so he'd deliver them."

Now Western Union sends out its "happy birthday's" by telephone. When the Andrews Sisters agreed to kick off the singing telegrams they worked hours over a fancy arrangement of the birthday song. Figured they might as well do the thing up right.

**No Shenanigans**  
That's when they bumped smack into the federal communications commission. No siree, said the FCC. They had to sing it the way it's always been sung and no shenanigans about it.

Singing messages must contain only straight lyrics of the tune as paid for by the sender without any embellishments, the FCC ruled.

But even the old-fashioned way sounded good coming out of Patti, Maxine, and Laverne. One of the listeners said it was "the best birthday I've ever had." Four-year-old Bobby wanted 'em to rush right over to his party.

Another, a surgeon, didn't tarry long to listen. "We probably caught him right in the middle of an operation," Patti giggled. "Imagine, having somebody opened up and a nurse comes in to say: 'There's a singing telegram for you, doctor.'"

In the pre-war days the Western Union singers got a buck per birthday. All the Andrews Sisters got were three sore throats.

"And a lot of laughs," Maxine added. "At least nobody asked 'who're you?'"

**JUST IN TIME**  
Tucson, Ariz.—(U.P.)—Norris Murdock wasn't a moment too soon. He took out a complete automobile insurance policy at a downtown office. After the papers were signed he left the building and found someone had stolen his automobile.

### Actress To Lose Boston Accent in Cowtown Location

By Patricia Clary  
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood (U.P.)—Ruth Roman left for a cowtown movie location talking like the late George Apley and expects to come back drawing like Gene Autry.

"It's one way to get rid of my Boston accent," she shrugged. "I just hang around the cowboys and listen to them talk. Wal, pardner, I kin tell ya, it shore do work."

Miss Roman had been trying to strain Boston out of her voice for several years before she went to visit the cowpokes at Victorville, Cal., a desert ranch town where nobody comes from Boston. The "Lightning Strikes Twice" company from Warner Bros. was shooting on the North Verde ranch near there.

"It was only a few days before I improved my 'r's," she said. "They're hard as a wrangler's now."

She's also losing those broad "a's" and other Boston-bred tones cowboys never use.

**No Accent Bias**  
An actress, Miss Roman believes, ought to talk with a universal accent, by which she means no accent at all.

"Then she can play almost any kind of role," she said, "and not have to worry about sounding like she's from Boston when she's supposed to have been born in the South Seas."

"I've been working on my speech industriously ever since I decided to become an actress but it's pretty hard to get your native locale out of it."

Miss Roman finds the best place to hear un-Boston talk is the Main street drug store. That's where all the townsfolk and ranchers gather for coffee and a cigarette.

"The great danger is in listening too much and too long," she said. "Then I'll start talking like Calamity Jane. And my only future on the screen will be taking second billing to Trigger or Champion."

### Atomic Energy Used As Rat Exterminator

Atlanta—(U.P.)—In a sort of Pied Piper routine, the U. S. public health service is turning atomic energy on rats.

Harry Essick, of the typhus control division, says superionic waves, so high on the scale you can't hear them, "drive the rats as nuts as a person who was shut up in a closet with a blaring auto horn."

Then something called "black light" locates the rats while they are still alive. They are poisoned with radio-isotopes.

The drawbacks, Essick said, are expense and danger to humans fighting the rodents.



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### Taft-Hartley Labor Law Produces 304 Lawsuits During First Two Years

Washington—(U.P.)—The Taft-Hartley labor law has produced 304 law suits during the first two years of its life, a survey shows. The government started 65.

The statute was passed by a republican congress June 23, 1947. During its first year, through June 30, 1948, 153 suits were filed in federal courts. The next year there were 151.

There were no criminal actions. The great bulk of the cases were between employers and unions. Many of them were dismissed before opposing parties could face each other in court. This trend suggests that the law thus far has had greater effect outside the court room than as a means of redress for harm actually suffered.

The government used the law 56 times against unions and five times against employers. Two suits were brought against both at the same time, and two against a state commission. The actions were taken to require obedience to subpoenas; to force collective bargaining, and to enjoin strikes, lockouts and unfair labor practices banned in the law.

**Cases Still Pending**  
All the cases have not been concluded. But the government has won 18 of its suits against unions and lost 10. Nine were dismissed. It won three company cases and lost one. One was dismissed.

In one suit against both company and union the government successfully prevented a strike at the Oak Ridge atomic plant. Its most famous case was the successful one against John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, in the spring of 1948.

Both unions and employers have sued the government, mostly over election procedures of the National Labor Relations board. Records do not show they won any of the 29 cases started during the two-year period. Companies brought six cases and lost four. Unions started 21 and lost 11. Some are still undecided and some have been dismissed.

In industrial disputes where the government was not involved, management filed about twice as many suits as did unions. The proportion changed sharply from the first year to the second. Employers brought 72 suits against unions the first year, almost three times the number that unions filed against them, 25. But the second year employers filed only 50 suits, and unions, 36.

Other suits showed individual workers bringing actions against both companies and unions. A few suits were brought against state labor relations boards by both labor and management.

**Many Issues Raised**  
Actions between employers and unions were brought to enjoin strikes, picketing, lockouts, and secondary boycotts; to collect damages caused by strikes; to compel arbitration of disputes; to demand redress for alleged breach of contract, and the like.

Of the 122 suits filed by employers against unions during the two years, 80 have been disposed of. Only six cases actually came to trial. The employer won two and lost four. Sixty-nine cases were dismissed, 38 before an answer even was filed. Six dismissals were at union request. Five cases were remanded to state courts.

Of the 61 suits brought by unions against employers, 38 have been concluded, 31 by dismissal. Twelve dismissals, however, were on motion of the employer. The unions won four judgments and lost three.

New York federal courts led the states in number of cases filed with 69. Pennsylvania and California had 27 each; Ohio, 18; Indiana, 14; Illinois, 13; New Jersey, 12; Missouri and the District of Columbia, 10 each; and Massachusetts, 9.

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### Cop Decides To Take Sides In Street Fight

Houston, Tex. (U.P.)—When Patrolman H. R. Huckaby answered a call to break up a fight he found two of the five participants were his brothers, who are twins.

"I broke it up," Officer Huckaby later reported. "Everything was under control when I left." Witnesses reported to Police Sergeant C. C. Divine that Huckaby's report was correct. He had broken up the fight. What the officer failed to mention, though, was that he stopped the brawl by joining sides with his two brothers.

Sgt. Divine recommended three-day suspension for conduct unbecoming an officer.

### PROF IN DUTCH

Coral Gables, Fla. (U.P.)—A baby food formula cost a University of Miami law professor \$450. Prof. George H. Pickar was fined that amount in municipal court for disturbing the peace. He said a quarrel with his wife started when he found that she had hiked the pabulum content of their baby's formula without getting the doctor's approval.

### BREAKS COME FAST

Fort Worth, Tex. (U.P.)—Robert Lloyd Green, 18, entered a hospital here for the eighth time with a broken leg. The eighth break occurred when he overturned on a motor scooter near his home.



**SUB SEARCH**—Acme Telephone planes are criss-crossing the area around Arguello light station (1) Calif., where Coast Guardsmen reported seeing a surfaced submarine eight miles offshore. The strange sub was seen 150 miles north of Catalina Harbor (2) from which Theodore Donay, a convicted traitor, disappeared after renting a motorboat and sailing seaward. Earlier a Navy patrol plane reported spotting a strange sub 40 miles off Cape Mendocino (3). Fishermen at Eureka (4) had made a similar report.

### He Just Wanted To Have Ample Security

Menomonee, Wis.—(U.P.)—For the loan of \$150, all the collateral Walter Jump wanted was the following: A chattel mortgage on a 1947 truck; A load of lumber hauled from Popple creek to Wheeler; Two trailers hauled from Wilson to Wheeler, about 30 miles; Twenty-five dollars in cash; Ten per cent interest on the loan.

When Oscar Beckwith protested the terms, Jump cut the price to the 10 per cent interest and the trailer delivery, or the \$25.

Either way, a Menomonee jury said, it added up to usury. Jump was fined \$50—with no interest.

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