



Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Hollywoodites speculated today as to what's wrong with Mario Lanza, and his friends agreed: "He belongs on records and in films where he can work at leisure."

Despite Lanza's trouble he is not washed up. CBS-TV wants him for another "Shower of Stars." Two nightclub owners told me they would book him for Las Vegas again in a minute "because he is a great talent and a great draw."

Lanza is set next for a picture at Warner Bros., "Serenade," but neither the script nor the music is written yet. Whether the exacting Lanza will approve them will be next month's chapter.

Lanza actually had laryngitis, those close to him agreed. But the ailment was aggravated beyond repair—and possibly subconsciously caused—by his anxiety over such an important job. This same nervousness, friends say, caused him to resort to record-playing on a CBS-TV program last fall.

Lanza's throat began bothering him on the train even before he arrived in Las Vegas. "He became so worried he couldn't sing and that aggravated the condition," explains writer Ben Hecht, a close friend of the tenor.

"He just sat in his room for four days. The day of the performance I talked to him at my hotel for hours. I looked down his throat and it was red as hell. "He seemed in good spirits but when he got back to his own hotel he didn't feel good again. He was so upset because he couldn't sing he was almost suicidal. He did not want to go on the stage to apologize so he took some sleeping pills and passed out."

Hecht describes Lanza's ego as "the biggest I've ever seen. He thinks he's the greatest." But other friends think Lanza's belting covers up some problems. Lanza was a Philadelphia piano mover when a conductor heard him singing on the job and launched his career. After the war MGM executives heard him sing in Hollywood Bowl and made him an overnight star.

Money Trouble
But the flamboyant singer, his friends explained, often has the uncontrolled emotions and temper of a child. He was fired from MGM after trouble over "The Student Prince." The studio sued him. He sued his manager on charges of mismanaging his own fortune. He was up to his ears in income tax debt (but now is clear). He was, and is,



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On The Side

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

I think true love is never blind. But rather brings an added light. An inner vision quick to find. The beauties hid from common sight. No soul can ever clearly see Another's highest, noblest part: Save through the sweet philosophy And loving wisdom of the heart. —Phoebe Cary.

Right now my weight is the same as when I was 21. I am not on a diet. I recently took off about 20 pounds by just eating less, eliminating the second helpings. Incidentally, contrary to a widespread belief, potatoes are not very fattening. There are about 29 calories in an ounce of potatoes. In an ounce of butter there are about 219 calories. It is the butter people put on potatoes that make them fattening.

Horses and Women
Could harness horses race on a grass course? Could they compete on the downhill El Camino Real turf course at Santa Anita? So queries a Californian. The sturdy standard breeds can race practically anywhere. In England they race on the grass. Why, sir, every winter harness horses race on the ice at Lake Placid, N.Y. Going downhill wouldn't bother a standard breed. His ancestors raced over hill and down dale on highways with terrific displays of endurance.

Asides
What is a fair wage for a taxicab skipper? How about that of Los Angeles taxicab drivers? They get 50 per cent of what is on the meter with a guarantee of \$10 a day. . . . Although she weighed 165 in her heyday as a Broadway star, Lillian Russell tried to maintain an "hour glass figure." This called for considerable form compressing. Lillian always had about 200 corsets on hand.

Plane Wreck Found; Pilot Said Missing
Yakima, Wash. — (U.P.) — A search party combed the rugged area of Simcoe Peak in central Washington today for some trace of Hank Baker of The Dalles, Ore., missing since the crash of a light airplane.

Jack LaRogue, The Dalles, the plane's second occupant, was found critically injured inside the wreckage by Air Force paramedics who jumped into the scene. He was flown to Portland after being evacuated from the peak by helicopter.

The wreckage of the plane, which was bound for Yakima from The Dalles Saturday morning, was found yesterday by search pilot Tony Palmiero of Prosser, Wash. From the air he noticed tracks in the snow to indicate that someone had walked away from the crash.

Commission Urges New Federal Court
Washington — (U.P.) — The Hoover Commission urged Congress today to establish a new federal court to handle certain tax, trade, and labor disputes.

It said the new tribunal should take over judicial functions now exercised by the National Labor Relations Board, the Federal Tax Court, and the various independent agencies which act in trade regulation cases.

The commission made the recommendations in a 115-page report on government "legal services and procedure." The 12-man group, headed by former President Herbert Hoover, is making a continuing study of ways to improve government operations.

San Bernardino, Calif. — (U.P.) — Patton State Hospital attendants thought they had apprehended a mental patient when they found Rod Scott wandering on the second floor of a ward. After nearly one hour, Scott finally convinced them he was a sheriff's deputy from Imperial county and accidentally had stepped off the elevator on the wrong floor.

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By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Queries from clients: Q. Who portrayed the part of the piano player in the film version of "Casablanca"? A. Dewey Wilson. Q. Am I right in saying that all bars, i.e., places selling alcoholic drinks, are closed in Dublin, Ireland, on St. Patrick's day? A. You are right, sir. Dublin goes dry on March 17.

Among the Married
A much voiced saying of the bachelorettes is, "All the nice men are married." How about all the nice girls? For example, can you name offhand six feminine film, television or theatrical stars who are over 21 and still single? That is, who are not divorcees or widows but real bachelorettes who have yet to make a trip to the altar?

Sidelights
"Let me have a ham and cheese sandwich on rye and no lettuce," I said to the fountain lunch attendant. Said he, Mister, you're making a mistake in not taking lettuce. It contains vitamins E, B, G, and C." . . . It was Margie Hart who said, "most women do not understand men. That is why women who do understand men have so little competition."

Almost Confidential
The most prevalent of chronic diseases in the world is rheumatism. In the United States alone there are about 7,000,000 people who suffer from that ailment. . . . The old maid character continues to be popular, particularly on television programs. The reason for this is that humor concerning old maids gives married women a feeling of superiority.

Passing By
Arthur Murray, millionaire dancing teacher. Although a native of New York City, he went way down South to college. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech. On April 24 of this year Arthur and his charming matrimonial mate, Kathryn, will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. The 30th anniversary is the pearl wedding. So I guess Mrs. Murray is due to get a pearl necklace.

Republicans Due More Patronage Jobs
Washington — (U.P.) — The White House has decided to urge federal agencies to open more top jobs for patronage starved Republicans, it was learned today.

A memorandum setting forth the recommendations is being drafted at the White House. It is expected to be sent to agency chiefs within two weeks.

The new memorandum will streamline the program set in motion by the White House last year for recruiting applicants for many federal jobs through the GOP national organization.

All informed sources said it also will declare that the time has come to bring more "non-career executives" into federal agencies, as recommended recently by the Hoover Commission studying government organization.

MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO
Madrid — (U.P.) — Scores of foreign tourists including seven Americans were arrested Sunday for throwing leather cushions into a Madrid bullring to show their disapproval of the poor quality of the bull-fighting. The Americans, who were fined \$6 a piece, said they didn't know much about bull-fighting but threw their pillows because they saw so many Spaniards doing so.

WET WATCH
Madison, Wis. — (U.P.) — Rodney Davis found a woman's wrist watch in the stomach of a one-pound perch he caught on Lake Mendota here recently.

SEA SERPENT FILE
Provincetown, Mass. — (U.P.) — George Washington Ready, town crier in 1886, solemnly swore he saw a 300-foot sea serpent that breathed sulphurous fumes. Ready said in an affidavit he was not "unduly excited by liquor or otherwise."

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