

With Rex Harrison, Irene Dunne triumphed in "Anna and King of Siam."



Now the lovely star has a real-life role as U. S. representative to UN.



Proudest of Miss Dunne's accomplishments are her husband, a doctor, and daughter.

Irene Dunne:

Saleslady for the UN



by Joseph N. Bell

IRENE DUNNE, who has won just about every honor the entertainment industry can bestow, including five Academy Award nominations, recently experienced the high point of her career.

It happened not amid the cameras and klieg lights of Hollywood but in the somber meeting halls of the United Nations. There, during the current session of the General Assembly, Miss Dunne has performed the most important role of her life, that of alternate United States delegate to the UN.

When I interviewed her in the delegates' lounge, her eyes sparkled with enthusiasm for the world peace organization. Still as trim and chic as the night she first played Magnolia in "Showboat" back in the late '20s, Miss Dunne has found a totally unexpected part that excites her even more—and one to which she is adding warmth, maturity, and growing understanding of international problems.

"When you're a member of a 10-man team," she says, "you can only get to know a small part of what's going on at the UN. But that part is dramatic and exciting beyond words. Nothing in Hollywood has quite the same quality, for at the United Nations all the problems of the world parade before your eyes."

News of her appointment came as a complete

As alternate delegate she is

playing the biggest role of

her career, and it won't

end when the General

Assembly adjourns.

surprise to Irene. She was at her home in Holmby Hills, Calif., when she received a phone call from the White House.

"It was Sherman Adams, assistant to the President," she recalls. "When he asked me if I would serve on our UN delegation, it was one of the few times in my life I was almost speechless."

It took some rearranging of her busy life, but this was one role Irene Dunne wasn't going to miss. Soon after the call from Adams, she was on her way to Washington for the delegate briefing which precedes each session of the General Assembly. She found herself in distinguished company which included Congressmen A. S. Carnahan of Missouri and Walter H. Judd of Minnesota; Dr. Herman Wells, president of Indiana University; George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO; nationally known attorneys Philip Klutznick and Genoa Washington;

plus Henry Cabot Lodge and his two permanent associates on the U.S. delegation, James Wadsworth and Mrs. Mary Lord.

Irene charmingly explains something about U.S. participation in the UN that isn't generally understood. The U.S. delegation (except for Lodge, Wadsworth, and Mrs. Lord) changes completely each session and is made up of a broad cross section of Americans, representing both political parties and every race, creed, and religion.

Selection as one of the seven alternate U.S. delegates requires not so much familiarity with the problems being discussed as it does outstanding Americanism. Irene Dunne is the first entertainer to be selected—a tribute both to her charm and to the high concept of public service she has demonstrated many times in the past.

During the three months the General Assembly is in session each year, the delegates' expenses and a nominal per-diem salary are paid by the U.S. government. It means taking three months out of busy personal lives to devote to the cause of better world understanding and relationships.

Says Irene: "You never for a moment forget that war and peace and life itself are at stake. When I go