

# Fewer Movies Made This Year Than at Any Time in History

By VERNON SCOTT

UPI

Hollywood—UPI—Movie business has never had it so bad.

This year fewer pictures were made than in any previous year, going all the way back to nickelodeon days.

Production is down 34 per cent from the 1957 output.

Only 194 feature films were produced, compared with 293 last year.

For the first time since the silent era less than 200 new flickers were canned—a distressing drop from the 1936 high of 566.

Distressed producers who used to say, "wait 'til next year," admit 1959 may be worse.

Every major studio, except MGM, made fewer pictures this year than last.

Independent producers dropped off from 131 films last year to only 76 in 1958.

Recalcitrant actors, high costs and that old "debbil" television have ganged up to put motion pictures in the worst slump in history.

Salad Days Gone

In the old days Columbia, Metro, Paramount, RKO (now defunct), Universal-International, 20th Century-Fox and Warner Brothers ground out 50 to 60 pictures each.

But those salad days have wilted forever.

Universal laid the biggest egg, filming only seven flicks this year as against 27 last year.

However, the usual panic is missing among movie employees.

During the 1949 crisis actors, electricians, carpenters, painters, prop men and all the rest were unemployed and mutinous.

Not so in 1958.

They're all working on filmed TV shows, which have taken up the slack.

Nor are the sound stages dark and echoing.

Brash video companies have moved in—mostly with horse operas—keeping the 6,000 movie workers happily employed.

Those studios which moved into the TV field early are booming.

Columbia (through its Screen Gems subsidiary), Warner Brothers (with five westerns) and 20th Century-Fox have no financial problems.

But Paramount and Universal, which hoped TV would evaporate, are hurting.

Few TV Shows

MGM still produces few TV shows, but its movie production has climbed to 24 pictures this year compared to 20 in 1957.

How come?

"We've rooted out the deadwood and injected some new blood in the top echelons," a studio spokesman said, then added wryly, "and some of our films have made much more money than we anticipated."

Metro, largest of the majors, could be among the missing next year if its \$15 million gamble, "Ben Hur," is a dud at the boxoffice.

Another reason for the movie nosedive is slumping boxoffice receipts abroad.

R 'n R RESTORES HEARING

Sutton, England—UPI—Metal worker William Gregory today credited an Elvis Presley rock 'n' roll song for restoring his hearing.

Gregory, deaf for eight years, said "something went click" while the song was blaring on the radio during the week end.

He said his hearing suddenly returned.

Titian painted his Battle of Lepanto when he was 98 years old.

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# Hatfield Court Test Scheduled

Salem—UPI—A group of Marion county citizens will seek a court test of who has the right to appoint Oregon's next secretary of state, Gov.-elect Mark Hatfield said today.

Hatfield said the unnamed citizens would file for a declaratory judgment in Marion County Circuit Court to back his claim that he has the right to appoint his successor when he becomes governor Jan. 12.

Democratic Gov. Robert D. Holmes previously announced he would appoint David O'Hara, a Republican and former State Elections Division chief, to the post when secretary of state Hatfield resigns.

But Hatfield claims he does not have to resign to take the oath as governor.

Hatfield said he thought the courts could dispose of the case quickly, adding "it is important that we get the ruling soon to eliminate confusion."

The gov.-elect said he would not attempt to appoint a successor to the post himself until the court test was made.



**DON'T DESPAIR**—Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India expresses strange feeling after being garlanded with a live snake by Hindu saint, Panchleganokar, in New Delhi. Saint assures premier's daughter, Indira Gandhi (right) that nothing will happen to Nehru and she should not fear.

# December Generally Big Month For Bulls Along Wall Street

By ELMER C. WALZER

UPI Financial Editor

New York—UPI—December generally is the big month for the bulls of Wall Street.

Seldom in the past has the stock market declined in the last month of the year, a month of optimistic investment of interest and dividends, and forecasts of optimistic for the new year.

But the dividends have been higher than one would have expected on the basis of the decline in earnings of many corporations.

The higher expenditures for most companies for expansion and modernization.

The Du Pont firm finds that the big rise in share prices so far this year is one factor against a December rise.

"Viewed from fundamental factors," the Du Pont researchers say "the rise in share prices has increased the price-times-earnings ratio of the industrial average to the highest level since 1946."

"And yields have been materially reduced so that high-grade bonds now provide a considerably larger return than do junior equities."

Major Clue

"Accordingly a test of the further upside potentialities in the stock market, which should provide a major clue to what's ahead for equity values next year, may be revealed by the ability or inability of share prices to reflect the strong seasonal factors in the period ahead."

A December rise, when it occurs, usually carries over into January which is one of the four good months for industrial shares.

The market usually also has a rise in March of moderate proportions, a good one in July and August and a big one in December.

September has been one of the poorer months but this year the market rose in that month. It also gained in October which is a standoff in the record.

It is recalled that the industrial average closed 1928—30 years ago—at exactly 300 in the D-J tabulation. It is not considered beyond the realm of possibility that it could touch an even 600 this year.

But none of the analysts is making that prediction.

The general tendency is to wait for a market appraisal of the economy attitude in Washington.

December gains for industrials was the period between 1942 and 1952—11 straight gains for the month, ranging from 1.45 points or 1945 to 8.58 points for December, 1949.

This year, the tax selling that usually hits the market in November has been light.

And the year-end dividends smaller than last year.

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# ILLINOIS VALLEY Tree Haulers Cautioned

Cave Junction—John Moe, state fire warden, calls attention to the provision of the state law requiring all persons who transport more than five Christmas trees to have a bill of sale for the trees.

This provision applies to those who have purchased trees from a landowner and not to persons cutting trees from their own lands.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith moved to Portland where Mr. Smith is attending the Northwest Technical Institute.

Mrs. Smith will be employed in the office of the New York Life Insurance Company.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. John C. Smith of Cave Junction Tuesday morning was a six pound one ounce baby daughter, Julia Marie.

This is the couple's third child.

Elk hunters Jim Allen, Clifford Pink and Bob Lewis returned this week from their two-week trip with two elk.

Bob Lewis, a former smoke-jumper, is now with the Forest Service in Powers.

Lee Hassler, hospitalized this week and for a time placed on the critical list, is reported to be improving some.

Ronnie Green, son of Mr. and Mrs. Les Henry was selected as a candidate for cadet training at Keesler Air Force base, Miss. His high rating in his chosen fields of electronics and radar was responsible for his appointment.

Scott Reading, vo-ag student at Illinois Valley High school won the southwest Oregon conservation speech contest last week held at Crater High school in Central Point.

Dave Foote of Crater High school won second place. Forest conservation was the subject of the contest sponsored by the Oregon Association districts.

Scott will receive a trophy from the J. R. Simplot Fertilizer company and an all expense-paid trip to the annual meeting of the state association in Baker Nov. 20 and 21.

The contest was judged by the Medford Toastmasters and Toastmistress clubs.

The Illinois Valley High school PTA minstrel show is well underway, with chorus practice sessions being held this week.

The posters advertising the event were designed by Mrs. Casey Piller, Mrs. Jim McDermott and Mrs. Merv Hogan assisting.

Van Johnson, musical director for the minstrel said there was still room for anyone desiring to take part in the chorus. Practice is held nightly in the high school.

A temporary burlap curtain has been located which can be used for the first performance on the new stage. There will be a campaign to sell ads on the curtain. The PTA has issued a call for donations of homemade candy, cake and pie to be sold during intermission time.

The minstrel show is scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights, Dec. 5 and 6.

Mr. and Mrs. George Horton of Los Angeles, paid a surprise visit to the Robert Wilsons last week, and extended their stay to three days.

**COURT RECORDS**

**DISTRICT COURT**

Dave L. McAnally, refusal to weigh, \$105.

Mabel L. Brown, no operator's license, \$10.

Paul D. Conrad, failure to stop, \$10.

John M. McCabe, insufficient tail lights, \$10.

Richard E. Cox, no safety chain, \$15.

Davis E. Vincent, unnecessary noise with motor vehicle, \$10.

George C. Lane Jr., violation basic rule, \$55.

Melvin Howard Franklin, 19, 619 Table Rock rd., Central Point, drunk in a public place, \$30.

Charles E. Lane, no operator's license, \$30 and six months jail sentence to be suspended on condition he refrain from driving.

**CIRCUIT COURT**

Della Joan Hughes vs. Jack W. Hughes, divorce complaint.

# Sputnik Rocket To Be Visible

Portland—UPI—Mrs. Robert Boardwell of the Oregon Moonwatch Team said today Oregonians should be able to see the rocket section of the Russian satellite Sputnik III before it falls back into the atmosphere.

She said the section was due to return to the atmosphere Dec. 3, plus or minus one day.

Mrs. Boardwell said viewers should be out 10 minutes or so before the scheduled visibility time of the rocket.

They gave the following times for the Portland area for the rest of the week, with crossings from northwest to southeast.

Tuesday: 5:35 p.m., 56 degrees in northeast sky.

Wednesday: 4:28 p.m., 22 degrees in northeast sky, and 5:59 p.m., 46 degrees in southwest sky.

Thursday: 4:47 p.m., 39 degrees in northeast sky and 6:18 p.m., 16 degrees in southwest sky.

# Most Foreign Nations Keep Payment Schedule

Washington—UPI—President Eisenhower has reported that most foreign countries are making scheduled payments on their World War II lend-lease obligations.

In his 39th report to Congress on the lend-lease operations, the President disclosed Monday that as of Dec. 31, 1957, the foreign governments had repaid the United States \$445,348,673 of their total \$1,577,570,755 obligations.

# Bandleader's Wife Dies in Auto Crash

Port Lupton, Colo.—UPI—Mrs. Catherine Hill, wife of band leader Harry (Tiny) Hill, died instantly Monday in a car crash while driving behind an automobile operated by her husband.

Coroner Charles Ludine said Mrs. Hill, about 35, died instantly from a fractured skull after being thrown from the vehicle when it hit a utility pole.

# ALMOST FLATTENED

Vicksburg, Miss.—UPI—Montie Bailey of Brandon, Miss., was knocked down and run over by a three-ton packing roller Monday. He got up and went back to his construction job after doctors said they couldn't find anything wrong with him.

# PRIZE WINNER DIES

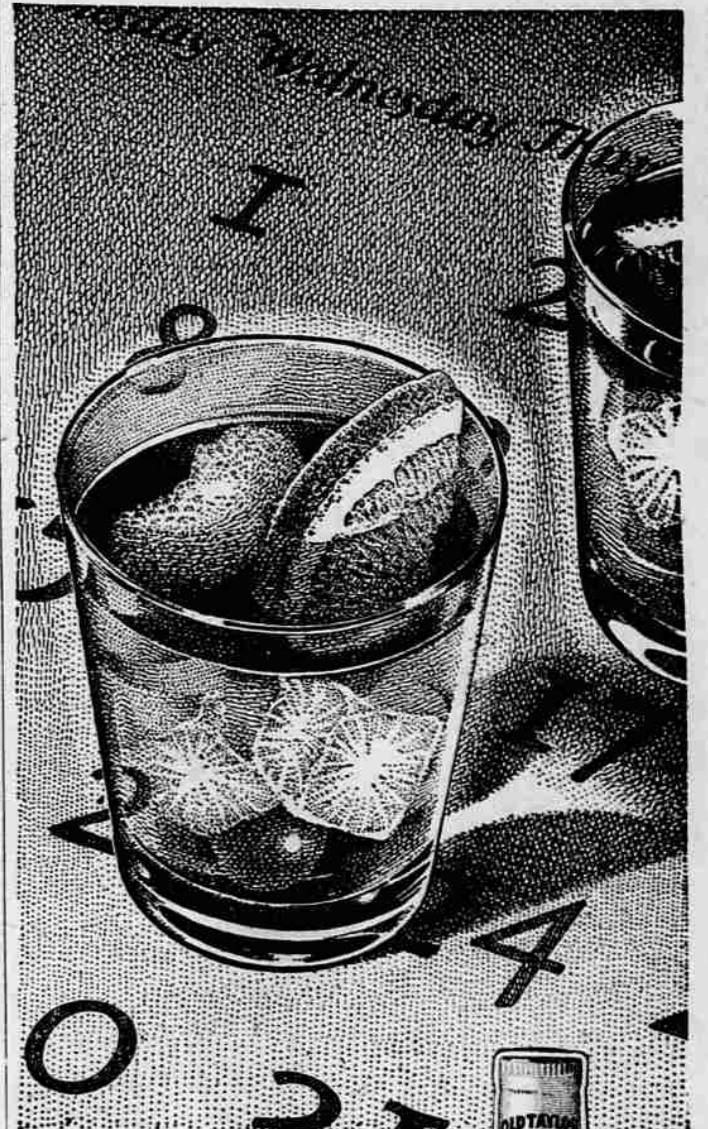
London—UPI—Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, 94, died Monday in a nursing home. He won the Nobel peace prize in 1937 for his efforts to make effective the League of Nations, of which he was a founder.

# Warning Issued on Cough Syrup 'Jag'

Portland—UPI—Police told the State Board of Pharmacy Monday they were alarmed at an increasing number of young persons who drink cough syrup containing narcotic derivatives to get thrills and "floating sensation."

Police said certain syrups which contain derivatives can be obtained without prescription.

The Board voted to call a hearing to consider a new regulation which would require written doctors' prescriptions



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"PLEASE, MR. JONES, don't try to stay". This was the Red puppet government's warning to the only U.S. newsmen in Budapest when the Russian tanks rolled back to crush the Hungarian revolt. But Russell Jones, of United Press International, did stay, until the ultimatum, "Leave—or go to jail." For his reporting of the bloody and historic events he saw, he won the Pulitzer Prize. Jones, as U.P.I.'s chief Eastern European correspondent, now is writing from both sides of the Iron Curtain. Read his dispatches in

Medford Mail Tribune