

# STAR DUST

MOVIE AND RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

WILEY POST may not be able to make that cross-country trip in the Winnie Mae—after all, three failures in a row do make it look as if his pet plane couldn't turn the trick—so he's going to retire the plane, so far as that sort of flying is concerned.

But the Winnie Mae won't sink back into private life as a result. For Post has been signed by an independent movie producer to make a serial with the famous plane, and how the small boys will love it!

It seems that "Sequoia" is responsible for a lot of domestic difficulties. At least ten nice, quiet house cats of my acquaintance have taken to the woods in rebellion against playing the role of the puma in home-made versions of that delightful picture. And one very young lady was so impressed by the moral of the film that she's undertaken a single-handed crusade against hunters of all ages, and has burned up the toy shotguns treasured by her brothers.

Myrna Loy's been oriental in pictures, and she's been sophisticated, so now she's going to show what she can do as a simple country maiden. You'll see the result in "The Small Town Girl." There's no official report, incidentally, on whether she'll marry Arthur Hornblower or not.

Constance Bennett arrived in New York with Gilbert Roland, and promptly started dashing about with various members of the Four Hundred; she's quite a society favorite, you know. She was a sensation at one smart gathering. In a sheer black frock that emphasized the Bennett charms.

To Sylvia Sydney, Hollywood is just the place where she works for a living, nowadays. She doesn't care for sports, and in Hollywood it's the thing to be very athletic. She lives in an apartment—what, no game room, no swimming pool!—and heads for New York the moment she's free. 'Twasn't always like that!

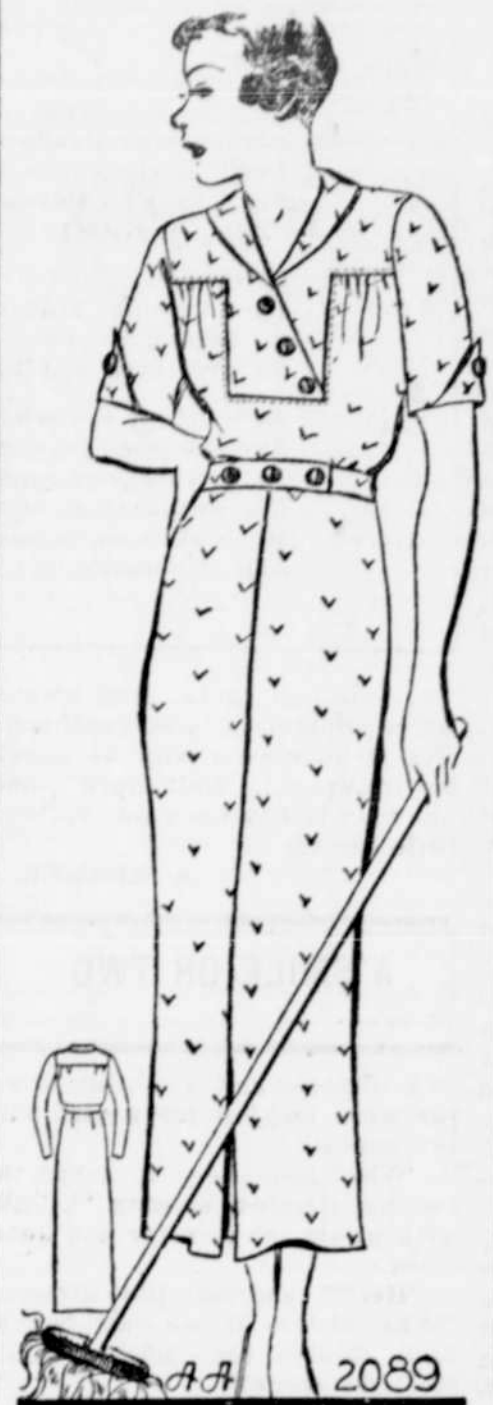
"Black Fury" is such a tremendous success that Paul Muni's likely to develop into one of our biggest stars of the screen, a reward which he deserves, of course. But he'll go on playing tough parts, apparently. He's slated to do a picture called, at present, "Doctor Socrates," based on the Dillinger face-lifting episode. And Bette Davis will play the girl. Looks like a good combination.

Grace Moore is certainly piling up one success after another. The latest news of her is that she has been commanded to sing for King George and Queen Mary in London, as part of their Silver Jubilee celebration. Meanwhile she's been reducing again.

This business of reducing is a serious one for the movie girls. They do say that Irene Dunn, who's so much smaller looking off the screen than on it, storms at her masseuse if the woman doesn't go at her hammer and tongs at every treatment. And that same masseuse is known as one of the most merciless pounders in Hollywood. Many of the stars have her in once a day. "All this talk of just eating what you want and not having to bother about your weight is just hooey with most of them," a girl who's connected with the movies told me recently. "They diet like mad and have this woman do the rest—and one treatment from her is punishment, too." And this girl knows; she depends

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### Ponte Vecchio, Florence, Queen of All Bridges

Some may admire modern suspension bridges, others may marvel at ancient Roman viaducts, but only the Ponte Vecchio in Florence can call forth the emotion of love, declares a traveler recently returned from Italy. Of course, the chief charm of the Arno is due to its bridges, but the queen of them all is the quaint and lovely structure known as the Ponte Vecchio or Old bridge.

It is old. Until 1080 it was built of wood, but wooden bridges were carried away and in 1345 Taddeo Gaddi erected the present bridge. With a view of obtaining income, the city shops were built on the two pathways, which were let to the butchers of the town.

In 1593, Cosmo I ordered that the goldsmiths and jewelers should take the place of the butchers and soon the Ponte Vecchio became the wealthiest street in Florence.

An open space has been reserved in the center, from which can be had delightful views of the river, the eminence of San Miniato, the Cascine shrubberies and the mountains on the horizons.

The Rialto bridge, tradition says, is where Shylock did his daily business. Built first in the Twelfth century, the present bridge goes back to 1591, and until recently was the only bridge across Grand canal in Venice.

on a strict diet and the masseuse, right along with the rest of them.

Wonder if Ruth Etting really will retire? She says she's going to, after she's taken a round-the-world trip which is scheduled for the near future. But people in general aren't taking her threat very seriously.

Jack Benny's in Hollywood, with Mary Livingstone and all his professional family, ready to go to work on their new picture. But he's going to make personal appearances all along the Pacific coast, and keep right on being one of the funniest men on the air, as well.

Isn't Hollywood a funny place? Binnie Barnes, an English girl, is to play Lillian Russell in "The Great Ziegfeld." She'll have to put on some weight in order to do it, and there are plenty of American actresses who could do it just as well, if not better.

Richard Barthelmess is one of the wonders of the movie world. He does an excellent job in "Four Hours to Kill," yet he's been a star for eighteen years now, and so is one of the old men of the movies so far as experience goes. And you can count on very few fingers the stars who have gone on successfully for that long!

Sorry, but I'll have to remind you again that Charles Boyer is one of our coming screen stars. His performance in "Private Worlds" has built up a huge following for him already. Men like him and women want to see him in as many romantic roles as he can find to play. He clicked in that one picture the way Valentino did in "The Four Horsemen."

**ODDS AND ENDS.** . . . Dolores Costello Barrymore may return to pictures . . . Charles Laughton is back in Hollywood to do "Mutiny on the Bounty" . . . There's been a great roundup of stars for Garbo's "Anne Karenina"; they've signed everybody from Fredric March to Freddie Bartholomew . . . Color photography's coming back strong, and red hair is more popular than blond, in Hollywood, as a result.

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### Mosques Are Pronounced Cairo Skyline Feature

Cairo, one of the high points on Mediterranean cruises, is the capital of Egypt, the largest city in Africa and one of the most curious cities in the world.

The minarets are the most beautiful in the Levant. There are 500 mosques in the city. In the building of one Gami Sultan Hassan expended \$3,000 daily for three years, and when it was completed cut off the architect's hands so that he could not construct another like it.

The Citadel, built about 1166, contains a mosque of Oriental alabaster. The Mosque of Tulin, built in the Ninth century, stands on the hill whereon, tradition asserts, the ark rested after the flood. Another legend is to the effect that upon this spot Abraham was about to offer Isaac as a sacrifice when a ram was opportunely found for a substitute. Out in the river lies Rhoda Island, where, tradition says, Pharaoh's daughter found the infant Moses in the bullrushes.

## "Dust Storms" Figure on All Pages of History

Records of drouth are readily traced in the rings of trees. There are records of other drouths in the plains as bad as or worse than the present drouth. This is not, however, an assurance to science, that we may now be witnessing the beginnings of one of those deserts in which nature delights. It was when the Southwest became a desert that the Indians moved into Mexico. Life follows the moisture-bearing air currents. When they passed from the region south of the Mediterranean to the region north of the Mediterranean, life followed them. The Asilower Mississippi valley, but the shortage of moisture has gone right on in the plains. Whether in Texas or Saskatchewan, the wind has only to rise and the dust is blown. If anything, the dust storms have been worse than ever in the last two months. They have actually buried fences, piled dust high around houses and barns, covered up crops. They are destructive alike to man and beast. No form of life can withstand them day after day very long.

Needless to say, the dust phenomenon has greatly altered the food situation in the United States. It affects meats and grains. It is in part responsible for the increased cost of living. The AAA plan to limit the production of spring wheat has been abandoned. How can there be too much wheat when the wheat states are the chief victims of the dust? The drouth reduced corn last year

to a minimum. If it persists this year, there will be no reserves of corn left. From surplus induced by excess production in our own and other countries, we are in danger of passing to scarcity due to drouth and dust.

No one who has not been in one of the dust storms which have swept the western plains for more than a year can appreciate their devastation and the apprehensions of the people in the region extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Slave lake.

Science knows full well the potentialities of this terrible phenomenon. It has innumerable records of other soil transformations brought about by the wind. Much of the richer soil over vast areas in the United States was carried there by dust storms. An analysis of dust falling in Missouri a year ago revealed the characteristics of soil in the Dakotas. All soils are easily identified by their mineral content. The Dakotas had been exposed to drouth for a number of years. The soil was deprived of its protective vegetation. Thus, when the wind blew, the soil was carried away to be deposited in other states.

To most of us who live where moisture is sufficient for human needs, it is difficult to realize that the dust storms have been raging all winter. Neither snow nor rain has been sufficient to keep the dust down even in mountainous states like Col-

orado. Heavy rains have flooded the atles have long been accustomed to packing up and following the moisture-bearing winds.

Science would not care to assert its entire apprehensions of the dust storms in the western plains. They may be the consequences of just another drouth. Or they may be the beginning of the end for all that region where the buffalo grazed. Science knows what has happened. What is to happen is on the knees of the gods.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### Efficiency Impaired by Any Unnecessary Noise

Noise is no longer regarded as a necessary evil and business executives are awakening to the fact that unnecessary noises impair the efficiency of workers, says Harold Berlin, New York acoustical expert, adding:

"Noise is the true murderer of thought and it has been proved that loud noises generally are harmful to the sense of hearing, impair the digestive system, increase blood pressure and respiration."

Noise is measured by an acoustimeter which registers indecibels, a decibel being the slightest change in volume of sound which the human ear can distinguish. The human ear cannot stand, so science figures, a noise that registers more than 120 decibels.

In one experiment Berlin picks up the noise of a buzzer with an amplifier. It registers around 60 decibels. He takes a large tube, which is lined with thick rock wool felt, passes it over the amplifier and the noise of the buzzer is barely audible.

Science is coming to the point that it can ably combat noise and Berlin foresees widespread use of sound deadening equipment with a resulting increase of efficiency and enjoyment of life on the part of office workers.

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