

### Danny Thomas Quits TV Loop To Stay In Theater

By BOB THOMAS  
 HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Interviewing Danny Thomas is not like interviewing Gary Cooper. You don't get just "yep" or a "nope" for an answer.  
 Thomas has made a fortune from his gift of gab. So I got a full explanation why he is quitting television. He is perhaps the first of the top comedians to give up the new medium of his own free will. I asked him about it on the set of "The Jazz Singer," in which he is playing the Al Jolson role. Then I stood back and listened.  
 "I am a stand-up entertainer," he began very elementally. "Others I could mention of this same type are Danny Kaye, Judy Garland and Betty Hutton. Go down the list about 12 and you come to Thomas. We have this in common: that we can entertain an audience alone and without props for an indefinite period of time.  
 "I am not a clown. I paint a word picture. I can hold an audience in a cafe or theater for an hour and five minutes merely by talking and singing a few songs. But this type of entertainment is not possible in TV as it is now run by sponsors and advertising agencies.  
 "A sponsor sees me in a cafe and decides to buy me for TV. He says he wants me to do my 'Waiting for My Man' act just as he saw it. But it runs 22 minutes. The agency says it has to be cut down to four minutes. Another routine runs seven minutes; they want it at 2 1/2. The agency claims that the TV audience will not watch a single person on the screen for more than a few minutes.  
 "The comedian said flatly that on-

ly a couple of his dozen shows last season were up to his standards.  
 "You can't hope to create in six days what takes 10 or 12 weeks in a motion picture studio," he remarked. "Quality is bound to suffer. That's why I am throwing my lot with the movies. Instead of tossing a show together and hoping it will be good, the movie makers take time and care, so that each frame of film is like a perfect picture."  
 Thomas listed his other objections to TV:  
 "You can't appear so often and keep your audience. I reverse the acting talents of Gary Grant, Spencer Tracy and the late Walter Huston. But if I were to see them on the screen three times in three months, I would tire of them."  
 "I can't play to a cold audience in TV your audience is looking at the camera, the stage hands, the props, anything but the comedian. But I need those people to bounce off of and to play with. I can't get laughs from a camera."  
 "It's hard to perform with all those gadgets between you and the audience. I like to be free to move around. I might be getting to my best punch line, and I'll hear the No. 1 cameraman talking over his phone to the director: 'That's as close as I can come in; you'll have to get him on No. 2.'  
 "Also, the TV routine gets you down. You're always worrying and attending meetings. They bring out charts — blue charts, yellow charts and red charts. 'Terrible,' they say 'we lost two listeners in St. Louis last week!'  
 Thomas indicated he would limit his future activities to movies (he has four to do for Warners in four years), night clubs and theaters.  
 "There is a half-million dollars waiting for me in night clubs in this country every year, and he reflected. "And I can't feel sorry for anybody who's playing 'The Jazz Singer.'"

### Surgery Case All Confused

FRONT ROYAL, Va. (AP) — A suit charging a doctor with wrongfully sterilizing an electrician's wife was scheduled to come before the Warren County Circuit Court today.  
 A unique twist in the case, brought by James E. Williams, 29, was the fact that his wife gave birth to her fourth child two weeks ago. Williams asked \$25,000 damages from Dr. Lyle J. Hansbrough, Front Royal surgeon, claiming the doctor's operation on Mrs. Williams had rendered her "permanently barren."  
 Williams said the operation was performed on Sept. 9, 1950, without his permission and thus was illegal. Mrs. Williams delivered her third child on that date.  
 Dr. Hansbrough, 42, retorted that the operation was done for contraceptive purposes. He denied that the husband's permission is required by law.  
 Williams has refused to say what effect on the case will be caused by his wife's giving birth again. There was no comment from his counsel either.

### Heat Brings Out Old Gags

BLUEFIELD, W. Va. (AP) — The mercury said 83 degrees, but there they were on a street corner, a bunch of men huddled in overcoats and smirking as they sipped hot coffee.  
 The Bluefield Chamber of Commerce was merely out-gagging the Beckley, W. Va., Junior Chamber of Commerce yesterday. Beckley Jaycees had dropped in with donation of lemons, supposedly to relieve the fruit famine after the Bluefield chamber served free lemonade from street corners 14 times this year.  
 The local chamber takes pride in its "air conditioned" city and serves the drinks when the temperature hits 90 or above.

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