

Powell Ready To Return To Musicomedy

By ERSKINE JOHNSON

HOLLYWOOD — (NEA)—Exclusively Yours: Dick Powell left the musical beat for the dark alley beat as a tough private eye in "Murder, My Sweet." But now Hollywood can roll out the tunes instead of the murder mysteries. Dick's ready to warble again with that singing voice that packed theaters in the late '30's.

"Sure, I'd like to do a musical," he told me. "But I guess Holly-

wood's forgotten I can sing. I even had one big studio executive say to me, 'I don't know you could sing, Dick.' Then I reminded him of all the 'A' records he had and he looked sheepish and said, 'Of course, I'd forgotten.' Dick just made his directorial bow on an RKO suspense thriller, "Split Second," and is crowing over his luck in drawing the assignment without having to double as an actor.

"I was lucky," he said. "I remembered what Bob Montgomery and Orson Welles did. They directed themselves. It can't be done. You can't be in 'em, too."

Barbara Payton hopes that Hollywood will forget the Tom Terrific Tug-of-war for her heart and let her continue with her acting career. But she's prepared to take up permanent residence in England if the wind blows cold along Hicker alley. The blond headline queen made two films in London and she's counting on their U. S. release to bring her Hollywood oiled.

"I hope it will make a difference," Barbara told me. "If it doesn't, I won't stay in Hollywood. I think it's kind of unfair, but that's another story."

Greer Garson's mother is on the payroll at MGM at a salary that even the better-known stars on the lot aren't commanding.

Every top studio is after Vanessa Brown following her Broadway click in "Seven-Year Itch." But her hubby, plastic surgeon Dr. Robert Alan Franklin, says that she can't do a movie until the fall of '53 under the terms of her run-of-the-play contract.

Ethel Merman's due for a second film at Fox as a followup to "Call Me Madam." It may be Irving Berlin's "There's No Business Like Show Business."

Columbia's beating Fox to home plate with Marilyn Monroe's singing voice by re-releasing "Ladies of the Chorus," a small-budget picture made in 1949, and she's in the mood to picket any theater that plays it.

Snapped the screen's No. 1 blonde doll.

"I think it's terribly unfair. It was the first time I was ever in anything. The picture was shot in nine days. Why don't they be fair and add a line to the opening credits: 'This girl was dropped flat by this studio just after she made this picture.'"

Producer Parn Blumenthal has asked Lisa Ferraday to be the next Mrs. B. . . . Bing Crosby's Hollywood Colony Game is a new rage. A real test of nerves . . . Hearts and flowers note: Mickey Rooney has penned a new ditty, "Elaine," in honor of his bride, Elaine Mahonen. She'll do a gag walk-on in Mickey's new MGM film, "A Slight Case of Larceny," but she doesn't want to be a movie emotee.

Writer Alan Wilson to his agent, Bullets Dugum: "But the script can't stink. I'm using chlorophyll on my typewriter."

Oh, no! John Wayne not only dyed his hair brown and for his role in "Sword Before the Mast," but also tinted the forest on his many chest the same hue! . . . If Ginger Rogers can have a Frenchman who has movie ambitions, so can Lena Turner. George Sorel, descendant of a famous French acting family, is Lana's new flame. . . . Pat Knight went to a Hollywood party with Lance Fuller, who's separated from starlet Joy Lansing. The dolls came face to face and there was a tense moment. But the ice turned to smiles and a heart-to-heart chat.

The rumbles about Tyrone Power and Linda Christian just won't unrumble. Insiders predict a divorce.

Carole Matthews, the newcomer who co-stars with Dan Dailey in U.S. "Meet Me at the Fair," is trying to decide whether to go on with her career or marry a Chicago doctor. . . . Ray Bolger and Warner are in a huddle about a re-make of "Bunny," with Doris Day as his co-star. . . . Ben Hecht's autobiography is completed and in the hands of his publishers. Publication date is set for the fall of '53.

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Merrill Grange Names Heads

MERRILL—New officers were elected to head Merrill Grange 717 when they held their December meeting in the Recreation Hall.

George Williams is again master; Frank Hadley, overseer; Herriet Fotheringham is the lecturer; Clara McNeil, chaplain; Ivan Icebice, steward; Murray Howard, assistant steward; Louise Icebice, treasurer; Lillian Thomas, secretary; Lucy Graham, cerner; Anna Howard, flora; Marquerite Hadley, pomona; and William Graham, gatekeeper.

The executive committee is Lewis Kandara, Bob Petrik, and John Glacim. Anna Howard is home economics chairman, and Bob Petrik is the agricultural chairman.

Visitors were Dist. Deputy Secretary Yancey; and Mr. Yancey, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Anderson of Malin.

A motion was made to have a square dance Jan. 17, if a hall is available. Only one business meeting a month, on the second Monday, will be held in the future.

The new Grange officers were installed Dec. 11, at Midland. Deputy Yancey presided assisted by Carl Yancey and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Anderson.

Granges participating were Midland, Shasta View, Malin and Merrill.

Three members are vying for the presidential chair, including Al Aldrich, Fred Hadlock and Wally Nordwall.

In the vice-presidential race where two men are to be elected there are four members in the

PLANT DEFIES WINTER

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Despite recent sub-freezing temperatures here, a peony plant is blossoming with white, soft pink and yellow petals in the back yard of Mrs. Lena Coleman. Pink and white mountain daisies bloom nearby.

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20-30 Club Plans Vote

Klamath Falls 20-30 Club members are lining up behind favorite candidates for the forthcoming elections to be held within the club.

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running, including Bill Collier, Ed Maurman, Bob Harvey and Ivan Eccles.

The club went on record at last night's meeting in the Willard Hotel in support of the International Rheumatic Fever Foundation of 20-30 International. Another project has been placed in the books to raise money for that foundation and its work in the rheumatic fever field.

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TEACHERS EXILED
HONG KONG (AP)—Communist authorities in Canton have exiled 800 school teachers to hard labor in other provinces because they proved to be "hopeless cases" in a "mind reform" program, says a report from that south China city.

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BY MARY EGAN

Tomorrow night the annual Silver Tea for the Sisters of St. Francis will be held in the school auditorium. The Mother's Club is in charge of the affair, which consists of Christmas singing by the Madrigals, Glee Club, and students of the grade school.

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it! We've got a team and we're going to shoot it!" Yes, the Trojans have launched off with a good start for the basketball season.

After taking the Bonanza Antlers, they fell short by five points to the Lakeview Hawks but have again gone onto the road of victory with wins over Bly and St. Mary's of Medford. The St. Mary's game was played on their home court, consequently, the girls chartered a bus for the enjoyable trip. Dinner and a dance climaxed what every BHA student will agree as, "The perfect Sunday!"

Last night the Trojans faced the Bentley Hornets on the opponents floor, and Friday night it will be the Merrill Huskies for their floor for the first league game of the season. Yes, it's very obvious what's on the minds of Academy students these days, Basketball!

Just two days to go, and then two weeks vacation! It's hard to believe that Christmas is here again, thus, another Christmas vacation about to begin. With the close of school on Friday, parties will be held in each of the classrooms, as well as the Christmas edition of the school paper being distributed. Yes, everywhere you go about BHA, the Christmas spirit is showing.

EX-SLAVE NOW 103

DENVER (AP)—She used to be a slave shooting flies in the home of the Tennessee colonel who owned her but even now she's 103. Channy Myers says "I'm still as supple as a girl." After the Civil War freed her, she and her husband headed west to a roving goldmining camp at Victor, Colo. where she cooked for the miners and her husband worked in the mines. He died in 1922.

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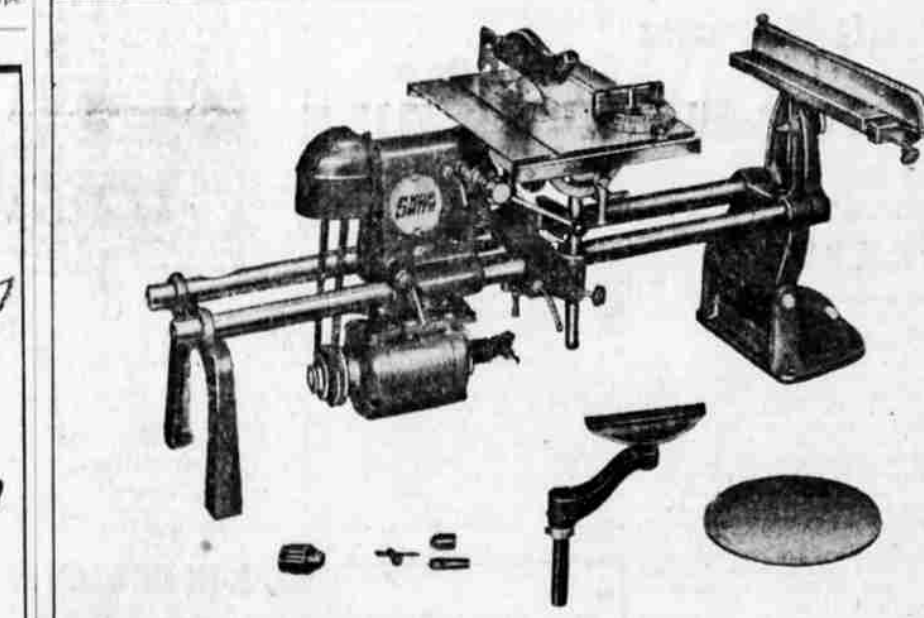
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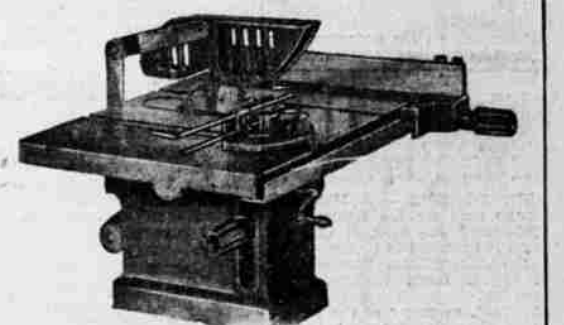
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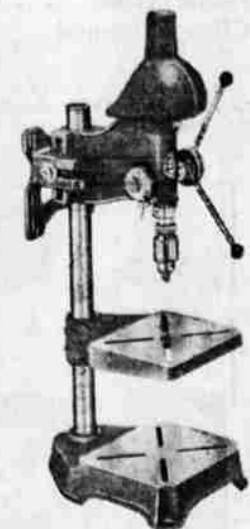
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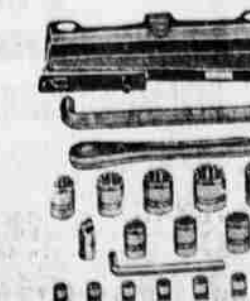
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