

Mustache Trademark Of Comedian

NEW YORK (AP) — Billy de Wolfe, this town's new gag chief, is faced with a problem in recognition bordering on the hair line.

Billy's mustache is missing. It was just a trifling brush, about one-half by two inches, but it was as important to Billy as a trademark as a bathing suit is to Esther Williams.

For a dozen years or so Billy, a man with an antic gleam in his eye, has been wandering in and out of movies as a funny man. He has traveled the show road through night clubs, variety and even TV.

It was, however, only a few weeks ago that he first trod the boards of New York's intimate theater, appearing in John Murray Anderson's "Almanac" at the Imperial and emerging with rave notices as the funniest man around these parts in quite a spell.

But it was a victory won without the presence of his mustache. Now his problem is to obtain a recognition which is more than just lip service.

"There's more talk in New York right now about that mustache than the Chinese Communists," is De Wolfe's restrained summation.

"Just now even a taxi driver looked at me and said 'Put it on!'"

"Out front at matinees I can hear little old ladies whispering to each other. Minutes after my first entrance they decide it's me and start applauding."

"Or someone comes up to me on the street, or at a party. They all start the same: 'You know, I didn't recognize you without—' the De Wolfe eyes close."

The mustache has been in and out of Billy's professional life like a yo-yo.

He got it in his first movie, "Dixie," when he played a river gambler, and it seemed appropriate. During wartime service in the Navy, it was shaved off, then put back for a morale (this, presumably) tour.

Aside from discouragement over loss of his mustache, ("Maybe I ought to hang a sign around my neck. 'Yes, it's really Billy de Wolfe!'", the versatile comic is in top spirits over present chores.

"I'm feeling healthier, younger and getting a lot of new material," he says. "I was getting fat and lazy in Hollywood. Everybody out there's the same. They want a lot of bread, they get in their Cadillac and drive four blocks. I weighed nearly 200."

Not for a minute, however, is he thinking of saying goodbye to the movies. He's been gathering impressions of Gotham people and manners which will show up in new De Wolfe convulsions when he returns West.



Well Known Newsmen Dies In East

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—William L. McLean Jr., 68, a big city newspaper executive who championed the rights of the small town paper, died last night of a cerebral hemorrhage.

He was vice president and treasurer of the Philadelphia Bulletin, and a brother of Robert McLean, president of the Bulletin Co. and president of The Associated Press.

Stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage at his home, McLean was taken to Lankenau Hospital, where he died a short while later. His wife and two children were at his bedside.

McLean was active in the Bulletin's operations since his discharge from the Army as a first lieutenant after World War I. His primary interests were in the company's finances and in the handling of newsprint.

As a past president of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Assn., McLean devoted much attention to the problems of smaller newspapers throughout the state.

He felt that the big dailies should keep in mind the smaller newspaper's responsibility to its community and help it meet that responsibility.

Survivors include his widow, Eleanor Ray Bushnell McLean; a son William L. III; and a daughter Fay.

Funeral services will be held Saturday.

A GLOBE TROTTER will tell the Klamath Falls Knife and Fork Club of things to come. He is Albert Stuart Otto, slated to address the organization March 22 at a dinner meeting in the Willard Hotel. Otto is internationally known as a world traveler and lecturer. He also has been acclaimed as a humorist.

Minister Chases, Recovers Car

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Dr. William A. Benfield Jr. is a minister by choice, but yesterday he became a traffic cop by necessity and after a chase recovered his stolen automobile.

He was en route to graveside services in a borrowed car when he spotted his own car—complete with dent in bumper and white leather seats.

He chased the auto into Cave Hill Cemetery, reclaimed it, and in short order was in Reshaven Memorial Park to conduct burial services.

Dr. Benfield, pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church, said a youth was driving the car, stolen from his garage March 2. The youth escaped among the tombstones.

Crackpot Phone Call Reported

WASHINGTON (AP)—An anonymous telephoned warning — and memories of the shooting spree staged by Puerto Rican fanatics 10 days ago in the House of Representatives—sent police reinforcements on the double to the Capitol yesterday.

Nothing happened. William Bonnell, House sergeant-at-arms, said an untraceable call the FBI received, predicting "trouble," probably was the work of a crackpot — "but we can't take any chances."

Sergeant York Leaves Hospital

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Sgt. Alvin C. York, Tennessee's World War I hero, returned to his home at Pall Mall, Tenn., yesterday after being released from Saint Thomas Hospital here.

Attendants said his condition was "satisfactory" although he would be confined to bed for at least a week. He entered the hospital last month after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage.

Shooting Dare Leads To Sentence

LOUISIA, Ky. (AP)—Fifteen-year-old Walter Lowe must pay with a life prison sentence for killing his 14-year-old aunt, Susie Mae Edwards, on a dare last Dec. 10.

The youth, who was 14 at the time of the slaying, pleaded guilty in Circuit Court yesterday.

Coroner L. Byron Young said witnesses told him Lowe was holding a loaded shotgun and the girl told him he was "afraid" to fire the weapon at her. He pulled the trigger, then ran.

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