

### Jackie (The Kid) Coogan Returns To Show Business

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — When a fellow marks 40 years in the movies, you'd expect to find him a gray-haired oldster. Not Jackie Coogan.

What hair is left is still brown. And he's still youthful and light-footed, having dropped 30 pounds to a trim 178. He passed his 44th birthday Sunday, and he's as enthused as a starlet over his new-found acting career.

"This past year has been the best for me since the war," he said. "All it took was one good role to convince producers all over again that I could act."

Jackie started acting early. His four decades in films would stretch even longer if you included the Essanay comedy he did in Chicago at 1½.

"I don't remember that one, so I don't count it," said Jackie. "I do remember after that when I'd come onstage and do a little comedy dance with my father in vaudeville."

"Then when I was 4, I was signed

by Charlie Chaplin for 'The Kid.' That's really when my career began."

He recalled that the film required a year and a day to shoot. At 3, he was a world-famous star, the most successful child actor of the silent era.

Jackie bridged the gap to adolescence with films like "Tom Sawyer" and played collegiates in "College Slice" and other movies. But after his Air Force service, he found rough going.

"Around 1950, I quit and went into the appliance business," he said. "I figured it, Hollywood didn't want me, I wasn't going to stick around. But even then I was still in show business. I appeared on Pantomime Quiz and I played occasional night club dates. After two and a half years, I decided to go back to acting full time."

He ran up against the problem faced by many familiar names: overfamiliarity. He explained: "I knew everybody in Hollywood, and they knew me. I could get into see the producers, but they'd say, 'what can we do with you?' It took one strong part to convince them."

The part was on a Playhouse 90 show last year, Frank Sinatra saw it and paged Jackie to play his sidekick in "The Joker is Wild." Since then, Jackie has done three pictures in a row for Al Zuzguth at MGM — "High School Confidential," "Night of the Quarter Moon" and the current "Best Generation." He's also acting as dialogue director on the latter, and yens to become a director.

"Now I'm in this business for the rest of my life," he vowed. "I asked if he had a nest egg to tide him over lean days. Nothing remained of the millions he made as a child; his experience caused the Coogan law which protects the earnings of child stars."

Fortunately, I brought some money home from the war," he smiled. "There was nothing to do in Burma but play poker. I won \$25,000 in one pot and came home with \$40,000 in all."

### "DENNIS THE MENACE"



"SEE? DIDN'T I TELL YA HE SLEEPS IN A CRAZY OUTFIT?"

### Jimmy Durante's Partner Planning To Do A Single

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — "What's Jackson gonna do wit'out Durante?" sighed the Old Schnoz.

He referred to strutting Eddie Jackson, his show business sidekick of 43 years who announced Friday he was leaving the act to do a single.

Jackson told a reporter: "I got a feelin' Jimmy don't want me around."

Told of this, Durante replied, "That ain't true, Eddie's a second banana. He knows dat. He's still part of de act anytime he wants to come back."

Durante said the 63-year-old Jackson, in poor health recently, should retire. When Jackson took sick last year Durante replaced him with Sonny King.

"Eddie wanted to get outta his sick bed and come on at de Desert Inn (Las Vegas), but his doctor told me 'Jimmy, if dat guy comes on, he ain't gonna live.' So I wouldn't let 'im."

Durante retained King even after Jackson got well and returned to the act. "I hadda keep up wid de times, Durante said. "You gotta have young blood. Who's gonna pay to see a couple of old guys like Eddie and me?" Durante is 65.

"After 43 years," says Jimmy, "you woulda tought the guy woulda come up to me and said, 'Jimmy, I'd like to try a single.'"

"I woulda advised against it but if he wanted it dat way, I woulda said 'Okay, Eddie, try it, but de act always will be Clayton, Jackson and Durante.'"

Lou Clayton, the third partner, died in 1950.

Eddie had the last word, however. "Don't rap Jimmy," he pleaded. "He's one of de nicest guys in de world. He broke my heart but I still love him."

### Early Day Film Horrorman Hates Current Humor Lack

By BOB THOMAS  
AP Motion Picture Writer

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — One of the earliest of the movie monsters deplores the current humorless crop of boogymen.

The speaker is Claude Rains, back in Hollywood after a seven-year absence. The suave British-born actor wasn't a monster, really. Matter of fact, you didn't even see him. He played "The Invisible Man."

Rains was reminded on his invisible past because he was back on the Universal lot playing the wine tycoon in "This Earth is Mine." These were the same grounds where he made his unseen film debut 25 years ago.

Comparing "The Invisible Man" to the present-day horror films, the actor commented: "These new monsters have no sense of humor. They're just out for pure fright and I think they miss a trick."

"The invisible man was the kind of fellow who would ride a bicycle down a country lane sing-

ing 'here we go gathering nuts in May.' He got sympathy because of his humor and because he was a poor laboratory chap who had gotten himself into a pickle he couldn't get out of. There's no sympathy at all for these modern monsters."

Rains recalled vividly how he was chosen for the role. A long-time stage actor, he had been tested in the East by Fox for a film contract. He did a couple of scenes from plays in his stage style.

"When I saw the test, I was horrified," he said. "I stank. I knew immediately that I hadn't the slightest chance for a film career."

Fox felt the same way. But at the time, Universal was searching everywhere for an actor to play "The Invisible Man." Rains' test was among those reviewed by the studio. "Said Director James Whale: 'I don't care what he looks like; that's the voice I want.'"

So Rains was signed. I have long wondered exactly how much work he did in the picture. He explained that he did all the scenes which showed him clothed. He was seen for a brief flash at the end when he died and materialized.

The invisible stuff was done by the movie trick makers, and it required some fantastic planning.

"The footprints in the snow were a production in themselves," Rains said. "They had to cut holes in the stage the size of foot-

prints. The wood was replaced and fastened with wires which led out of camera range. Then the whole set was covered with corn flakes or gypsum or whatever they used for snow in those days. When the camera rolled, the wires were pulled one-by-one and the footsteps appeared."

Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi also made scare pictures at Universal in the same era, and they never escaped the horror tag. How did Rains manage?

"Fortunately, I landed at Warner Brothers, where the casting head, Max Arnow, put me into every conceivable kind of role, including Bette Davis' lover in 'Mr. Skeffington.'" he explained.

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### Laundry Makes Clean Haul

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Uneasy when a hard-looking character entered his downtown bar, Vincent Como stealthily wrapped \$500 in a towel and tossed it into the back room.

The customer left after a few minutes and Como, 41, breathing easier, went to get his money.

It was gone, along with the soiled towels that had just been picked up by a laundry truck driver.

Patrolman Theodore Porter found \$22 at the laundry, but \$528 is still missing.

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### FBI Boss Victim Of Smear Charges Legion Leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — Is FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover to be the subject of "a character assassination job" or of "a complete and balanced report?"

Preston J. Moore, national commander of the American Legion, charged in a statement that a deliberate smear campaign has been launched against Hoover and the FBI. He described it as "similar to the Communist party's unsuccessful efforts of 1940."

He said reporters of the New York Post have been assigned to dig up material to reflect on Hoover in what he described as "obviously a far-flung... attempt to do a character-assassination job on Mr. Hoover."

Editor James A. Wechsler of the Post said that paper is preparing a factual study of Hoover and added: "We are interviewing a wide variety of sources in many places in an effort to obtain a complete and balanced report."

Moore said also that complete issues of two magazines, The Nation and Rights magazine, are devoted to what he called critical

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### Safe Holiday Hints Listed

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — On Halloween, light the way for trick and treats so they won't trip in the dark.

The white strips on wires holding up newly planted trees.

Take the children out of traditional black and orange Halloween costumes. Motorists might not see them. Put them in light-colored costumes with reflecting tape.

Avoid masks because they restrict the vision. Use facial paints instead.

Light jack-o-lanterns with flashlights instead of candles.

Take in your trash cans, lawn mowers or bicycles which might attract vandals.

These are suggestions of the National Safety Council, San Francisco chapter, for a safe Halloween.

### Russians Invent Machine To Tell If Singer's Good

LONDON (AP) — The Russians have invented a machine to tell if a singer is any good without the trouble of listening. Moscow radio said today.

It said a top quality operatic voice depends on tones with frequency of about 3,000 vibrations a second.

Without the vibrations, it said, neither a man nor a woman will make the grade.

"However," it added, "not even the keenest ear can always catch the subtle acoustic processes of a singer's voice, and this is where the machine comes in."

"The voice is not only recorded but photographed. The sound frequencies making up the voice come on film in the form of lines of different length."

"It is possible to determine whether the singer has a voice of professional caliber without actually hearing it."

### Beach Towels Have Message

KANSAS CITY (AP) — The average person probably isn't thinking about what to take to the beach next summer, but fashion people are.

The result includes some eye-catching beach towels. One of them on display at the Central States Salesmen's Assn. market here has a memo wheel printed on it with a knotted cord attached to the center of the wheel. The cord may be placed on messages such as:

"Have gone for hot dogs."  
"Have gone for swim."  
"I am under the towel."

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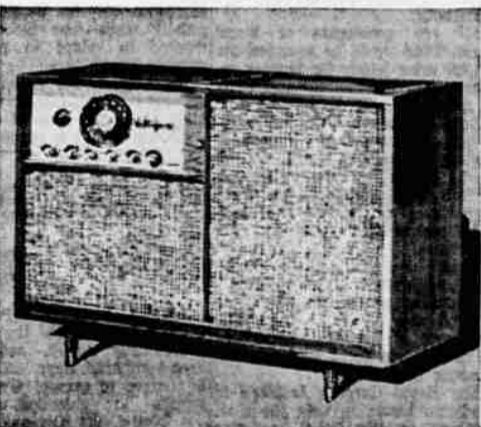
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