

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"WHAT DO YA SPECT ME TO DO... WALK ON MY HANDS?"

'Our Gang' Comedy Star Slain In Money Argument

SAN FERNANDO, Calif. (AP)—Actor Carl (Alfalfa) Switzer, 33—a reckless, wide-eyed movie star as a boy—was shot to death Wednesday night. Police said the shooting had occurred during an argument with another man over money.

Switzer was a favorite of moviegoers a generation ago when he appeared in "Our Gang" and "Reglar Fellers" comedies. He became known again with reissue of the films to television under the title "The Little Rascals."

But in recent years his movie parts had been minor, and he worked as a bartender and hunting guide when not acting. He realized nothing from reissue of the old films.

Police said Switzer had gone to the home of a friend, "Bud" Stiltz, 28, Wednesday night in an effort to collect a \$50 loan.

The shooting was witnessed by Jack Piott, 37, who had accompanied Switzer to Stiltz's home, and Mrs. Rita Jane Corrigan and her three children, who were there when Switzer and Piott arrived.

Stiltz was held for questioning. Switzer began his movie career in 1933. He and his young colleagues pranced through a long series of "Our Gang" comedies and then, as they grew older, appeared in the "Reglar Fellers" series.

Some of Switzer's pictures in those days were "Too Many Parents," "Wild and Woolly," and "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch."

After 1942 Switzer's career went into eclipse along with those of most of the other kids who had appeared in "Our Gang" and "Reglar Fellers." Jackie Cooper was one member of the gang who went on to success as an actor.

Switzer continued to act, but the parts were sparse. Among his more recent pictures were "Going My Way," "State of the Union," "Island in the Sky," "High and the Mighty," "Dig that Uranium," and "The Defiant Ones."

Just a year ago Switzer was

slightly wounded in a mysterious shooting near his home. A sniper winged him in the arm. The police never learned who the sniper was.

Switzer was divorced in 1954. Learning of his death, one of George (Spanky) McFarland, said he was "shocked, to say the least." McFarland, who now has a TV show in Tulsa, Okla., said he and Switzer had been close boyhood friends but that they had only infrequent contact in recent years.

Actress Slates Hospital Return

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Actress Gene Tierney has withdrawn from a comeback movie role and returned to a mental institution, her studio says.

The 20th Century Fox Studio said Wednesday Miss Tierney has re-entered the Menninger Clinic at Topeka, Kas. She withdrew from the movie "Holiday For Love," which begins shooting in 30 days.

Miss Tierney, 37, spent eight months in the institution before being discharged last September. She had spent 18 months earlier in a private institution in Hartford, Conn.

Basin Briefs

To Anderson — Mr. and Mrs. John Archibald Macdoel attended the open installation of the Mount Shasta Masonic Lodge at Anderson on Saturday evening and visited friends in that town on Sunday.

Cattle—Mr. and Mrs. Ora Garey moved their cattle over the weekend from pasture on the Lower Klamath Lake to their ranch at Macdoel.

To New Mexico — Mrs. Harold Andrus and daughter, Melva Jean, Macdoel, left last week by train for Clovis, New Mexico, to be with her husband who returned about the first of the year to Cannon Air Force Base after several months of duty on Formosa.

Enlisted — J. L. Hawkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Hawkins, Macdoel, has enlisted in the paratroopers division of the Army and is leaving Thursday for Portland to take his physical examination.

Dorris Grange 393 — plans to hold a public card party at 8 p.m. on January 24 at the Dorris City Hall. Pinochle and whist will be played and prizes will be given. Refreshments will be served.

Alturas—A reception in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William Howe, Alturas, will be given at the Federated Community Church on Saturday, January 24, from 1 to 5 p.m. The hosts, Bill Howe, the only son of the Howes, and his wife of Castro Valley extend an invitation to all friends of the couple.

Public Card Party—Lost River Grange will sponsor a card party at the grange hall in Olene on Friday, January 23, at 8 p.m. The public is invited.

In Far East—Clyde A. Bushaw, son of Mrs. Ada D. Wilbur, Malin, is aboard the USS Rochester for a tour of Navy duty in the Far East.

Upper Klamath Lake — Grange will meet Tuesday, January 27, at the Tomahawk Ski Bowl Lodge at 8 p.m. All persons interested in grange work and property owners of the area are cordially invited.

Stamps Aid Customers

WASHINGTON (AP)—A survey shows that customers pay more for food at supermarkets which give trading stamps, but the added cost is more than offset by the value of the stamps.

The Agriculture Department, reporting this today, said its study in 21 cities showed that food prices in stamp-giving stores averaged six-tenths of one per cent more than those in nonstamp supermarkets.

But the value of the stamps amounted to about 2 per cent of the money spent at stores giving stamps, the studies showed.

The survey covered the period from November 1953 to March 1957. In a report on the study, the department said: "The use of stamps apparently has no significant effect on prices paid to the farmer. But it noted this potential gain for purchasers: "If the consumer pays six tenths of one per cent more for food in the stamp-giving store but redeems his stamps at the rate of 2 per cent, he benefits by the extent of this difference. That is, if you don't count the time and trouble it takes to save and redeem these stamps."

Recreationists Rename Officers

PORTLAND (AP)—Members of the Portland Exposition Recreation Commission Wednesday reelected their officers.

The officials are Gail Livingston, chairman; Thaddeus B. Bruno, vice chairman; and R. Anthony DuBay, secretary-treasurer.

The commission is directing preliminary work for the city's eight million dollar sports center. Construction bids are to be opened Jan. 29.

DuBay reported that the commission's funds on hand now total \$6,419,149.

Hollywood Mourns Death Of Mogul C. B. DeMille

By BOB THOMAS  
AP Movie-TV Writer

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—A giant has gone.

The heart of Cecil B. DeMille stopped Wednesday morning, erasing the most colorful movie maker from the Hollywood scene he had dominated for 45 years. DeMille always invited superlatives; his films were the biggest, made the most money, were seen by more people throughout the world.

Superlatives aside, what kind of a man was he? The answer is best told in his own words.

Despite his outward assurance, he said he faced his job with trepidation.

"I have never made a picture without being frightened," he said. "Of what? Of my own ability. Of whether I squeezed the most out of my material. Of whether I created something that would wring the public's heart."

He prepared his scripts with infinite pains. "A good story is everything. If you have that, the director and the stars do not make much difference. They can help a picture a little or hurt it a little. But they can't make a good script into a bad picture, or a bad script into a good picture."

He supervised even the smallest details in his films. "What did the people wear and eat in those Biblical times? Did they eat roast beef or lamb chops or what? It would be as bad to show them eating the wrong thing as it would be to show them dressed in tails and tophats."

He made pictures for the public alone, though the disdain of the intellectuals stung him. "I have

often wondered why critics are hostile. If the people are entertained, that should be enough. Every time I make a picture, critics' estimation of the public drops 10 per cent."

He demanded loyalty from his ever-present retinue but denied the legend that he hired only yes-men. "I pay pretty generously, so why should I pay a man more than 20 dollars if all I wanted him to say is 'Yes'? On the other hand, I don't want an aide who continually 'noses' me. He'd be just as worthless. I want assistants (and I have them) who ever give me good reasons for disagreeing."

He was a stern taskmaster and could wither an extra at a hundred paces. "I have been called a tyrant, a despot and a martinet because I lose my temper when I see someone playing checkers on a set that cost \$40,000 a day when he should be paying attention to his job. It's the same with alibis. I don't have enough time on this earth to listen to alibis."

He had faith that the movie business would continue despite its ills. "They've been saying the theater is doomed for 6,000 years. My belief is that if our material is good, we won't have to worry."

He wanted to die in the saddle. "I don't suppose I will ever quit unless I am forced to. If you are a good story teller—and Mrs. DeMille and I believe that I am—I think you should stick to your trade as long as you are able."

He had been planning two more productions on a schedule that would have taken him to the age of 85 — "and then they'll have to come and wheel me away." But after returning from a strenuous tour for his last picture, his heart wore out before he could conclude his work.

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Miss Oregon To Host Fete

PORTLAND (AP)—The winner of the Miss Oregon contest will be queen of the Oregon Centennial Celebration this summer.

The contest winner—who will be selected at Seaside, June 5-7—also will represent the state in the Miss America contest at Atlantic City, N.J., later in the summer.

The Seaside contest is usually held in late July. It has been advanced by the sponsoring Junior Chamber of Commerce so the winner can act as official hostess for the state's 100-day Centennial show.

Local Junior Chambers of Commerce from throughout the state usually sponsor entrants in the Miss Oregon Contest.

There will be several other queens available for the Centennial. The Sons and Daughters of the Oregon Pioneers will select their Valentine Girl next month. She will light the candles for the state birthday cake at the Centennial banquet in Portland Feb. 14.

In addition, Portland will select its Rose Festival queen June 10.

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