

Acquisition Program Meets Stiff Competition

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By JESSE ROGUE
UPI Financial Editor

NEW YORK (UPI) — Roy M. Goodman, 33, said he feels today like a David preparing to do battle with not one, but many Goliaths.

Goodman is the third generation of his family to head his company, Ex-Lax, Inc. He describes it as a "medium sized" company, but it is armed with a load of cash and with the cash he is seeking acquisitions primarily in the proprietary drug field.

The competition, he said, is terrific. The drug industry's annual business volume is estimated at \$3.3 billion, and 35 of the 1,400 drug manufacturers in the United States account for 80 per cent of the total industry sales. Many once-independently owned companies have been bought out or merged into the giants.

"We have had plenty of offers to buy us out, just as have many of the independents in the proprietary drug field," he said. "But we feel we would be better off in the acquiring rather than the acquired role."

Recently Goodman's company purchased the Bayswater Co., Canada's largest maker of baby ointment, as a first step in its acquisition program.

"The numbers of well known names which we feel are eligible for acquisition are very few," Goodman said. "We have three people working constantly to examine possibilities, and they realize the extent of the competition."

"But I feel that a medium-sized company such as ours has distinct advantages to offer any firm of the size which we seek to acquire. For one thing, we want to acquire well-managed companies. Anyone seeking acquisitions does this. We ordinarily want to keep the principals of these companies in working positions. There have been cases where large drug houses acquired smaller firms, signed the papers one day, and went in and fired whole departments the next day."

RECOGNIZES REBELS

RABAT, Morocco (UPI) — Morocco announced Tuesday it has officially recognized the "government in exile" of Angola, headed by rebel premier Holden Roberto.

Wet Scene Takes Glamour Out Of Movie Making

By VERNON SCOTT
UPI Hollywood Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — "All right, start the rain," the assistant director called.

Within seconds the sound stage at Paramount Studios was deluged by a heavy rain storm. Pipes above the scene sprayed hundreds of gallons of water down on the exterior of an army hospital. Additional sprinklers whirled more droplets down.

To increase the illusion of a storm a 10-foot-high fan whirled the waters across the stage.

"Okay, action!" the assistant yelled above the din.

Steve McQueen stepped out of the relative dryness of the false front hospital and into the pouring rain. He hunched his shoulders up as water dripped off his cap into his face. Then he plodded wetly to an army staff car.

Tuesday Weld Gets Wet

In the foreground co-star Tuesday Weld watched him go, the water cascading through her long blonde hair, clung to her dress.

"Cut," shouted the assistant director.

"Save the rain," a technician called.

And suddenly the torrent of water, the fan and the sprinklers stopped cold. Three or four inches of dirty water covered the floor of the stage.

Director Ralph Nelson, protect-

ed from the rain by a sheet of plastic that covered the camera, emerged to say that it would be necessary to shoot the scene again.

There was a groan from cast and crew as preparations were made to film it a second time.

The scene was a key dramatic point in "Soldier In The Rain," which also stars Jackie Gleason. But the enormous comedian had already completed his role and was back in New York, dry and presumably happy not to be soaking his feet in muddy water for Allied Artists.

Wet Horseplay

Just before the cameras were

set to roll again McQueen dashed out of the set with a bucketful of water. He chased the assistant director the length of the stage before sloshing the contents all over the unfortunate man.

"Gotcha," McQueen cried. "Now we're even," the assistant complained. "How about some dry clothes?"

"Forget it," the wardrobe man said. "We're already 'way over budget."

The assistant took off his shirt and, at a signal from Director Nelson, yelled "start the rain."

Again the deluge came pouring down. The fan whirled. The sprinklers sprinkled. The actors went through their paces.

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