

STAR DUST

MOVIE AND RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

MIRIAM HOPKINS sailed for Europe the other day, planning to spend her six weeks vacation traveling in central Europe and Russia, mostly by air. She left her little boy, Michael, in school in New York, which was hard to do, for she adores that small, yellow haired chap, and is doing a beautiful job of bringing him up. But he's rather young to go traipsing about Europe. She stayed in New York long enough to hear her latest picture, "These Three," which she made with Merle Oberon and Joel McCrae, hailed as one of the best pictures made in a long, long time. She also stayed long enough to annoy the people who wanted to interview her by promising each

day that she'd see the interviewers the next, and then avoiding practically all of them.

And that's bad business; Katharine Hepburn proved that.

Of course you know how she has been treating interviewers for these many moons; just snubbing them right and left. A while ago she decided to give in, and told the press agent for her company that she would see a representative from one paper. And, according to the story, he began with the New York paper with the biggest circulation and went right down the line, and met with nothing but refusals!

They're still having a hard time at the Paramount studio with "I Loved a Soldier"; pretty soon people are going to think there's a jinx on it. Marlene Dietrich, you'll recall, walked out on it. Margaret Sullivan was then borrowed for it, and broke her arm. Nobody seems to care for the leading role—so some unknown girl may get it, and if she does, she'll be a sensational success, because that's the way things happen in Hollywood.



Dietrich

You've heard Rosa Ponselle and her sister, Carmela, on the radio; theirs are some of the loveliest voices to be found among opera stars. Well, now there's a family feud on in the Ponselle family, because Carmela's writing memoirs, and Rosa doesn't like the idea.

Some years ago Willie and Eugene Howard, who are doing that new radio feature, "Folles Bergere of the Air," were appearing in a musical comedy. They lent a helping hand to a young man who needed a start; being the show's feature stars, they could do it. And now the world knows his name—John Charles Thomas.

Too many bouquets can't be thrown at "The Country Doctor," which would be a delightful picture even without the famous quintuplets. And wouldn't you have enjoyed being present when the father and mother of the quints saw it recently for the first time?

The news reels brought home to many of us the full tragedy of the recent floods, and it is a relief to know that some funny things happened in the midst of all that horror. The news reel companies usually have local people who, if anything interesting happens, photograph it on the chance the company will buy it. During the Pennsylvania floods, a free lance camera man phoned one of the news reel companies in New York, announcing that he had some good stuff. He was urged to send it right in by train. He said he couldn't, that no trains were running. The company checked up and found that one would leave that afternoon. Did he have a boat? Yes, he had his boat tied to the window sill. Well, then, he was to get into that boat and take his film to the railway station. "But I can't," he protested. "I fell out of the boat once and got wet, so I left my suit at the tailor's, and the water came in and washed away everything in his place—and I haven't any other clothes!"

ODDS AND ENDS . . . Wallace Beery was one of the most worried men on the coast when doctors told

"Sap's a Runnin'!" Means Action in the "Sugar Bush" of U. S.

Making Syrup and Sugar Is Purely an American Industry.

"Sap's a runnin'!" With that declaration in the early spring, sap buckets are brought out, and sleds with tanks mounted on them glide into the sugar maple forests of northeast United States and neighboring Canadian provinces, says a bulletin from the National Geographic society. For it means concentrated activity throughout the "sugar bush." "Making maple syrup and maple sugar is purely an American industry," continues the bulletin.

Indians Made Maple Sugar.

"When the colonists pushed back into New England as spring opened up old Indian trails, they saw Indians gashing trees with their tomahawks and sap flowing into hollow logs and bark containers. Soon maple sugar became the sugar of the early settlers even as far south as Virginia and Kentucky.

"At first the white men followed the Indians' methods of producing maple syrup and sugar. But it was not long before they learned that the Indians' deep gash in the trees often injured them. Tapping methods were improved, but the evaporating process has changed little except that more modern equipment is often used.

Tap With Auger.

"Today the tappers first brush the bark with a stiff broom to remove dirt and loose particles, and then tap the tree in a healthy spot some distance from the scar of a previous tapping. The Indians lost much of the sap because of the large 'bleeding' gash. Modern tappers carry an auger which makes a hole only three-eighths to a half inch in diameter into which is inserted a spout leading to a bucket

"More than 12,000,000 maple trees are tapped annually. Nearly one-half of the trees are in Vermont backyards and forests; nearly one-third in New York state. Ohio, rank-

ing third, taps 1,300,000 trees; while Pennsylvania taps nearly a million. Michigan, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Maine and Massachusetts are lesser contributors to the United States' maple sap barrel.

"On an average, maple trees supply the sugar and syrup industry with more than 3,600,000 gallons of syrup and nearly 2,500,000 pounds of sugar yearly.

"When one buys a gallon of maple syrup or a pound of maple sugar at store or market, it represents a large (32 gallons) produces only about one gallon of syrup or about seven and a half pounds of sugar.

"A tree may produce from five to forty gallons of sap during a season. One tree can be depended upon to give from one to seven pounds of sugar or from one pint to one gallon quantity of sap. One barrel (32 gallons) of syrup. The average is, however, about three pounds of sugar or three pints of syrup.

"Thousands of gallons of syrup and pounds of sugar are produced in New England kitchens, but there are many large boiling plants throughout the maple sugar region which produce on a large commercial scale.

"The best sap is produced early in the season. It is water white, clear and sweet, but as the season advances it becomes cloudy and yellowish and has a peculiar odor. When that odor is noted, tapping ceases.

"Sugarin'-off" is the common expression used for making maple sugar. A certain amount of evaporation produces syrup; more evaporation yields sugar. When the evaporation has reached a degree satisfactory to the sugar-making expert, the contents of the kettle are poured into the molds in which it crystallizes. Large cakes of sugar are usually formed in wooden molds; smaller cakes in tins."

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AND IT DID
And there was the Scotchman who bought only one spur. He figured that if one side of the horse went, the other was sure to follow.

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