

The Plattsmouth Journal

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DEAR FOLKS

By VAN

On Thanksgiving Day—

The E. J. Rummels were hosts to Chris and Virginia Bulin and Bob and Margaret Rummel ... Mrs. Anna Hesse had Thanksgiving dinner with a Glendale friend, Mrs. Gladys Field ... The Gerald Shraders were guests of the Oscar Shraders of Orange ... Guests of the Walter Reeds were Alex and Ruby Schlieske, and daughter Sharon; and Mr. and Mrs. Marion Reed, and children Shirley and Jerry ... The Paul Vandervoorts had a family dinner ... The Clyde Graves' were hosts to the Guy Heils and Joe Graves ... The Ralph Marshall's hosted the Merritt Browns, and children, Suzanne and Kenneth, of San Luis Obispo; Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Short of Glendale; and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brown of Nebraska City, Nebraska ... Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Green of Plattsmouth, arrived for Thanksgiving and are visiting Mrs. Green's parents and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Mark, and Rosalyn Mark, as well as other relatives ... The Fred Lindemans of Costa Mesa had a family dinner.

A Day at Disney's—

We went to call on our fellow Burbanker, Donald Duck, the other day, Donald, Mickey Mouse, Pluto, Goofy and their buddies were our hosts on a fascinating tour of the Disney studio.

For two hours our guide, a pleasant young ex-New Yorker, escorted us through the many departments, from the story rooms where picture ideas are originated to the studio theater where the finished product is previewed by the Disney staff before public release.

Our first stop was a story room, where we talked to artists and idea men working on a story based on the "Uncle Remus" tales by Joel Chandler Harris. The method of story origination is interesting; black and white action sketches (with dialogue indicated by captions) are pinned in story sequence on the walls and special boards. The continuity is divided into scenes, with perhaps half a dozen sketches comprising one scene.

In the story room, too, were "character" sketches of Uncle Remus and other principal story characters. These character sketches, in their accepted forms, are the models followed by the animators when actual production starts. We saw story sketches, too, of "Wind in the Willows," by Kenneth Grahame. The leading character in this story is a toad whose love of speed is his undoing.

In the background department an artist showed us how backgrounds are prepared on glass to be photographed by the multiplane camera. This camera, an invention as closely guarded as a military secret (we only saw the little room where air vents suck the dust from the clothes of employees entering the camera room) is the main cog of a photography process which gives depth to the finished picture. As the name of the camera implies it shoots scenes in multi-planes; the backgrounds, instead of being in one flat plane, are painted on glass so that various objects such as houses, trees, fences, etc., may be placed in the planes they actually occupy with respect to each other. Even the character drawings are sometimes overlapped; we saw one sketch where three layers of celluloid were used to show a character standing on a hand car running on a railroad track. The particular background artist we talked to, was painting a resplendent sunrise scene for "Pambi."

Our school days came back to us on our next stop. Remember those little figures we used to draw on our note book pages and then flip the pages to make the figures "move." Well, the Disney animators have raised this idea to a fine art. Using letter size drawing paper, a scene is first roughly animated and the action shown by flipping the papers. An interesting insight on the animation department is that several artists may animate one individual motion. One

artist draws the "extremes," that is the beginning and ending of any particular motion, such as the raising of an arm, for instance, and other animators known as "in-betweeners" draw the necessary "in-between" action.

When the animators complete their work, the finished pictures are turned over to a corps of girls who trace them on celluloid, and ink and paint them with the marvellous Disney colors. The Disney studio prepares its own paint and so many are the colors and shades used, that they are given numbers instead of names. Girls are employed to do this exacting work. We learned, because they are patient steadier hands and are more patient than men. The girls work in long, well-lighted rooms resembling school rooms, with their orderly arrangement of rows of work benches and paint racks.

We thought the studio's sound stage an amusing place because of the many queer gadgets and devices used to produce desired sounds. We saw a xylophone made from water pipe, and a set of chimes made of beer and wine bottles tuned with various quantities of water. As an example of the amusing trickery employed by the Disney sound men, we learned that the sound of a whale "swooshing" through the water was made by amplifying the sound of bursting soap bubbles.

Disney sound men are former musicians (most of them drummers) and they "play" the sound from especially written sound "music." Split second accuracy in timing is obtained by the use of an electrical pulsation or "beat," heard through headphones worn while sound effects are recorded.

We wound up our studio visit by viewing the sound stage where the orchestra music is recorded—and also took a look in the studio theater, where three technicians were watching the screening of a short being made for the Canadian government. Sitting at a long "console" in the center of the theater, the three men discussed and made adjustments in the sound, by turning the console dials.

For providing visibility of the screen, the Disney theater is the best we've ever seen. The floor level dips in a long curve from the rear of the theater to the stage, so that each row of seats gives an uninterrupted view of the screen—even a child sitting behind a tall person can easily see.

As we said goodbye to our guide at the studio gate, we came away with the feeling that "It must be fun to work at Disney's." You and I get a big kick out of watching the hilarious antics of the lovable Disney characters, but after a peek behind the scenes, we know the Disney staff matches that feeling in the "bang" they get out of producing pictures for our enjoyment.

Richard Kline has been guest artist at Santa Monica clubs, recently. He is an accordionist and has played at the Coconut Grove and Lo Da Mar ... Lawanna Kelley and Margaret Ann Vallery attended a recent Burns and Allen broadcast at Hollywood Radio City ... Wally Reed enjoyed a hunting trip near Ventura, getting the limit on quail ... The Woody Gambins of Santa Monica, with John Lindeman of Costa Mesa.

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FEEN-A-MINT 10¢

attended the motorcycle races near Newport ... Virgil and Georgia Kline were hosts to members of their church. The evening's entertainment had a rather unexpected ending, when an earthquake broke up the gathering ... The Fred Lindemans were Sunday visitors in Burbank, visiting the Paul Vandervoorts and C. H. Bullins. Mrs. Lindeman received news that her daughter, Margie Ireland, and children Patty and Tommy, are leaving for Bermuda in December, to join Mr. Ireland, who is stationed at the U. S. Naval base there ... Rosalyn Mark of Santa Monica, had as her guests, Peggy Wiles of Bellflower, and Joy Miller of Glendale.

Round About—
Margaret Rummel gave a dinner on November 15, to honor Bob Rummel on his birthday. Present for the occasion were the E. J. Rummels, C. H. Bullins and the R. T. Rummels. Clyde and Joe Graves also called during the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Taylor, accompanied by Elmer Taylor, arrived in California on their motor trip from Plattsmouth, on Nov. 22. They had a pleasant trip, their only experience with bad weather being a snowstorm near Albuquerque, N. M. They will visit friends and relatives here. Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Rhodes of Lynwood; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Faith of Torrance; and Mrs. Edward Donat of Plattsmouth, were Sunday guests of the Hamilton Mark family of Santa Monica. Another recent visitor at the Mark home was Mrs. Tressa Olson.

N B C-ing Stars—
On recent Hollywood jaunts the column has caught several of NBC's top shows, including Fibber McGee and Molly, Bing Crosby, and Burns and Allen.

A good pre-broadcast gag was pulled on the Fibber McGee show. While McGee was introducing his cast a photographer took a number of flash-light pictures, winding up with one of McGee at the microphone. After taking this shot, the photographer said to McGee: "Thanks, Mr. Hope." McGee sputtered: "Hey, wait a minute, I'm not Bob Hope. I'm Fibber McGee." Whereupon, in great disgust the photographer said: "Oh Fudge!" And opening his camera, jerked out the film and threw it away.

We enjoyed cast member Bill Thompson's dead pan characterization of "Old Timer" and "Wallace Wimple," thought Molly was pretty, and were amused at the way McGee does his "overgrown boy" characterization. The McGee cast seemed to highly enjoy doing their broadcast and had the audience with them all the way.

The "Old Groaner," as Bing Crosby is affectionately dubbed, was appearing on his first broadcast since his South American vacation, and was aided and abetted by Jerry Lester, Rise Stevens, William Frawley and Warner Baxter. Miss Stevens is our idea of what an opera star ought to be like—both easy on the ears and easy on the eyes.

The Crosby broadcasts are noted for their easy-going camaraderie, snappy perisage and fun, and this one was no exception. Jerry Lester set the pace before air time by doing falls on the stage and dives into the audience, and the fun continued apace.

Our Satisfy-Your-Curiosity score came out even. We learned that Announcer Ken Carpenter actually rings the three chimes himself after those priceless station-break gags, but as for Bing's fabulous shirts, we were denied the appraisal of them—he wore but an almost conservative blue slack suit.

Another night found us in Studio B watching that lovable nit-wit, Gracie Allen, and her long-suffering

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Thousands of women report remarkable benefits! Get a bottle of Lydia Pinkham's Compound today from your druggist. Follow label directions. WORTH TRYING!

Honor Milkmen Heroes



A. G. Marcus, Pasadena, Calif., president, International Association of Milk Dealers, presents Pasture medals awarded by the Milk Industry Foundation to heroes of the early morning milk routes. Left to right: Fred Mokrohajsky, Raymond J. Clancy, Mr. Marcus, Robert Snyder and Cornelius K. Oker.

MILKMEN heroes of the nation were honored for distinguished and heroic service to consumers in the line of duty by presentation of the Pasture medals at the recent milk industry convention in Toronto. Cornelius K. Oker, Adohr Farms milkman, Los Angeles, received the gold Pasture medal for digging three feet to save the lives of two children buried in an 8-foot sand save. The milkman saved the little girl by blowing air into her lungs while a pulmoner saved the boy by a knife thrust. Fred Mokrohajsky rescued two small boys who had fallen through ice into a river. Bronze medals were awarded to Leon Record, H. P. Hood & Sons, Auburn, Me., for saving a baby and its parents from a burning hotel, Ronald N. Entwistle, Supplies-Whit-Jones Co., Jenkintown, Pa., for saving the life of a quarry worker whose clothing was afame from gasoline by wrapping him in canvas cloth; Robert Snyder of Silverwood Dairies, London, Ont. for saving a

spouse, George Burns, accompanied by Paul Whiteman and band, Senor Lee, Bill Goodwin and Jimmy Cash.

During the warm-up show Whiteman and band played a medley of tunes like "Stardust," "Whispering," and other perennial favorites, that made some of the easiest listening we've experienced in a long time. Senor Lee played the guitar and sang a Latin-American tune—but we'll let you in on something—that Mexican dialect of his is an acquired act. Lee really hails from Denver, Colorado, but in ten years of trouping in Mexico, he perfected his Spanish so that he actually has a trace of Mexican accent when he speaks English.

Even the sound effects man got in on the fun, when he did a "mechanical man" act. Whiteman's musicians wore splendid blue uniforms with lots of braid, and featured combinations of six violins (including Whiteman) five saxophones, piano duos, as well as individual soloists.

The script called for George, Gracie, and the gang to go duck hunting, and the duck noises were made by the chap who is Donald Duck's voice in the Disney cartoons. Ex-grocery clerk, Jimmy Cash, was very poised and confident in the delivery of his song, and was enthusiastically applauded.

And what do you suppose the sound effects man used to simulate the sound of a falling duck? You'll never guess, so we'll tell you—he dropped a partly filled HOT WATER BOTTLE on the floor.

Rambling Reporter—

We hear Ed Hadraba was tendered a surprise party in honor of his birthday. Among others present were Dick Hatt and Francis Warren. ... When George Stoll was recently mustered out of service, he and the Floyd Klines celebrated the occasion by spending an evening out together. They also stopped to see Randolph Oldham, now the manager of a drive-in on Wilshire boulevard ... Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brown of Nebraska City, Nebraska, who have been visiting their daughter, Mrs. Ralph Marshall, and family, returned to Nebraska on the Challenger, the day after Thanksgiving ... Sunday visitors of the C. H. Bullins were Mrs. Roy Otredosky, Neil and Emma Samek of Santa Ana, and the Robert Fudds of Long Beach ... Edith Vandervoort, with several co-workers in the Van de Kamp company, had dinner in Chinatown. She also attended a dinner for assistant managers of the Van de Kamp company, which was held in the company's plant dining room in Los Angeles ... Joe Graves of Lennox, and Keith Snyder of Huntington Park were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Mark of Santa Monica.

Club Disbands Temporarily—

Margaret Ann Vallery was hostess to the Nu Nu Jitters at the club's last meeting of the year. Because of the approaching holiday season and other activities, the members voted to disband temporarily, with meet-

ings to begin again in February, 1942.

Cornhusker in Hollywood—

NBC stars recently elected to the Hobby Hall of Fame by the Hobby Guild of America, included Irene Rich, Hanley Stafford and Fanny Brice (Daddy and Baby Snooks), Cig Arquette, Connie Boswell, Jim Jordan (Fibber McGee), and Rudy Vallee ... Charlie McCarthy was adamant about riding with Mortimer Snerd in Hollywood's Santa Claus Lane parade. Charlie told Bergen—Quote—"I ain't going any place where there's 750,000 people, with that bumpkin." ... Ronald Colman and Greer Garson have been set to co-star in James Hilton's book, "Random Harvest." ... With Jack Benny and Bob Hope donning women's clothes for pictures, Veronica Lake turns the tables in Paramount's "This Gun for Hire," by wearing masculine clothes. She wears male evening clothes while doing a magic act in the picture ... When Warner Brothers wanted a Dakota snowstorm for a scene in: "They Died with Their Boots On," their special effects men created one by spraying whitewash on the Calabasas hills and filling the air with bleached corn flakes blown by fans. Of course this had nothing to do with M-G-M's decision to use the terrain near Calabasas for scenes of the Burma Road for their picture "China Caravan." Special effects men could turn the moon into the sun, if given a chance ... It's a lie though, that they had anything to do with the recent earthquake ... When we visited Paulette Goddard's set on the Paramount lot, they were calling her picture: "The Lady Has Plans." Now they are calling it: "The Girl Has Plans," on the theory that people are more interested in a girl than they are in a lady ... At the beginning of November, production schedules of the major studios listed 69 pictures underway, either in preparation or with shooting being done. Star names include: Joe E. Brown, Jack Benny, Norma Shearer, John Boles, Buster Crabbe, Bob Burns, Al Pearce & Gang, Charles Laughton, Brian Donlevy, Ginger Rogers, Deanna Durbin and Edw. G. Robinson and many others. Looks like some good entertainment coming up.

470 N. Santa Anita Ave., Burbank, California.

FLAG STOP FOR EAGLE
The Missouri Pacific crack streamliner, the Eagle, will hereafter be on a flag stop at this city. Agent D. S. Sumner announces. There have been requests as to this train, one that is very convenient for those who desire to go to Kansas City, Missouri, leaving here at 9:07 and reaching Kansas City at 11:30, allowing a time for business and returning the same day or night.

Heretofore it has been necessary to secure passage on the train several days ahead in order that the train receive orders at Omaha for the stop. Under the present rule the train can be flagged for passengers for Kansas City or farther points.

IN DEEP APPRECIATION
It is with a sincere heart that I wish to thank all of those kind and thoughtful friends who sent me gifts, flowers, cards, letters and paid me personal calls during my stay at the Methodist hospital at Omaha. These expressions brought cheerful memories to me.—Mrs. Charles Howard.

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WABASH

By Journal Field Representative

Louis Schmidt was in town Wednesday of last week and was getting the roads in condition for the people who would be driving Thanksgiving day.

L. R. Stanley attended the community sale at Syracuse last week, going to buy some shoats and calves, as he has an abundance of corn this year and expects to feed it for greater profit.

John Finkle was called to Crete last week to look after business matters for a short time.

Mrs. Henry H. Gerbeling was in Elmwood a number of days during the past week, going to nurse her little granddaughter, Miss Gwendolyn Gerbeling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Gerbeling, who was very seriously ill for a number of days, but was reported as showing some improvement later.

H. H. Gerbeling has completed the picking of his corn, with the exception of some end rows where there is little grain, and which he will use for feeding from day to day as he gathers it. He is well pleased that the corn is out of the field.

Mrs. Sherman Hardaway was feeling rather poorly for a number of days during the past week, but later was reported as feeling better, which is good news for their many friends.

Shelled and Marketed Corn

Etta Mae Reed, who owns the farm about a mile southwest of Wabash was here Wednesday having her corn shelled and delivered to the Wabash elevator, considering it well to get the corn moved and get the pay for it than to have to crib it and then later come down and have the same shelled. W. Riester did the shelling and the grain was hauled to the elevator in trucks, as the roads were good.

To Make Home in Lincoln

Alex West, who has been employed on the Herman Luetchens farm over on the highway, where he has worked during the summer and until now, has resigned his position and with the family last week moved to Lincoln, where they expect to make their home for the present and where he will seek employment.

Mrs. West Doing Very Nicely

Mrs. Jack West, who was so ill and had to go to the hospital in Lincoln for a major operation, is reported as getting along nicely. A daughter was with her at the time. The husband is in Midway Island in the middle of the Pacific and when advised that an operation was imperative instructed her to go ahead, and the results have fully justified the suggestion. Friends will be pleased to learn of the progress she is making.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Cass County Historical Society will meet in Plattsmouth on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1941, at 11:30 in the morning at the Hotel Plattsmouth. Lunch will be served for 35c per plate. An interesting program has been planned. The prize winning essay in the State Historical Society contest will be read.

Come and bring your friends. Remember the date, Wednesday, December 3, 1941.

A. A. McREYNOLDS, Secretary.

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