

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by  
copyright (Title 17, U.S. Code).

ADAM Wynne  
MFLA + (Canadian  
moving picture digest)  
v. 32 Aug 31 1940 ed.  
p 5-7

Orpheum Theatre  
in Toronto <sup>OK</sup>  
AVP/THE  
OFFSITE

## Resume August Features By "Jay L"

ing a little more on the adult side . . . whether this is a wise decision remains to be seen, but from every other angle this can be considered 'tops' of the series . . . kids and grown-ups alike will get a big kick out of this."

### "BLONDIE HAS SERVANT TROUBLE"

**STARRING** Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, and Larry Simms, with Jonathan Hale, Danny Mummert, Irving Bacon, 'Daisy', Ray Turner, Arthur Hohl and Esther Dale. Directed by Frank R. Strayer. Running time—66 minutes

"In this reviewer's opinion, by no means the best of the series . . . script is a fantastic affair, in which particular effort has been made to create laughs which just aren't there, and the strain shows in the finished production . . . kids, however, will enjoy it thoroughly, and there is no fear of adults asking for their money back."

### ESQUIRE FILMS (Release)

#### "CONVOY"

**STARRING** Clive Brook, with Judy Campbell and John Clements. Directed by Pen Tennyson. Running time—95 minutes.

"Smash entertainment for any theatre in the British Empire . . . packed with suspense, thrilling action, a dash of comedy, and some romantic interest, the picture is similar in type to those American flag-waving epics Warner's were turning out with Pat O'Brien and Jimmy Cagney . . . treatment, however is strictly British . . . the utmost in production is evident, with technical aid being contributed by the British Admiralty . . . authentic and convincing."

### UNITED ARTISTS

#### "SOUTH OF PAGO PAGO"

**STARRING** Victor McLaglen, Frances Farmer and Jon Hall, with Olympe Bradna, Douglas Drumbrille, Gene Lockhart and Pedro de Cordoba. Directed by Alfred E. Green. Running time—96 minutes.

"Edward Small's latest contribution to U.A. is a pleasing and fairly exciting piece about the South Seas . . . not, however, strong enough to stand alone, but with a good supporting picture, should prove profitable . . . chief faults lie in the script which has been done several times before . . . photography and direction are first rate."

### UNIVERSAL

#### "LA CONGA NIGHTS"

**STARRING** Hugh Herbert, Hugh Herbert, Hugh Herbert, Hugh Herbert, Hugh Herbert, Dennis O'Keefe and Constance Moore, with Barnett Parker, Armida, Ferike Boros and Eddie Quillan. Directed by Lew Landers. Running time—59 minutes.

"One of the dizziest comedies to hit the screen in some time, with Hugh Herbert playing six roles, his own, and those of his mother and four sisters . . . filled to overflowing with time-honored laugh-getters . . . a sure cure for war blues."

#### "EARTHBOUND" IS NOW SHOWBOUND FOR RELEASE

Saint John, N.B. — A mention of a film called "Earthbound", has recalled to an old movie-fan that a film of this name was shown to the N.B. Board of Censors in the days of silent pictures and was condemned on "religious grounds". Realizing the number of films today with "after-life" themes it is interesting to note how times and ideas have changed as now it is felt that such pictures have spiritual and up-lifting values.

#### OPERA HOUSE, NEWCASTLE ALL DOLLED UP

Newcastle, N.B. — The Opera House, at Newcastle, N.B., has undergone a complete modernization with new seats, hardwood floors, re-decorations and everything which brings this theatre up to date and attractive. Mrs. J. V. McLaughlin will be wished still further success in this newly renovated theatre.

#### ALL DISNEY PROGRAM

Halifax, N.S.—The Orpheus Theatre, Halifax, N.S. (W. Gates, Manager), is featuring an entire program of Disney films — a return of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", "Ferdinand the Bull", "Donald Duck", and the "Three Little Pigs" with other shorts.

#### STRAND THEATRE DISMANTLED AT CHESTER, N.S.

Chester, N.S.—The Strand Theatre at Chester, N.S., which was operated for a number of years by A. M. Publicover and by him transferred to M. E. Walker of Halifax, N.S., has been dismantled, the equipment removed and changes are to be made in the building so that it can be used for other commercial purposes.

### MARITIMES BUSINESS IMPROVING

Saint John, N.B. — The summer business at Halifax, Dartmouth, Kentville, N.S., Saint John, N.B., and other localities where training camps are located has changed very materially now. Halifax, for instance, has noticeably good business owing to the greatly increased war-time population there. Saint John has several partial Units in training, which have added materially to the movie-going population. The box office receipts have felt the extra stimulus, due also to the transfer of the unemployed to the soldier category. The erection of large training camps at Sussex, N.B., and other parts of the Maritimes such as Yarmouth, where fifteen buildings are being constructed, will give almost city status to small town situations for some time to come. In fact there are rumours that some of these places will have additional entertainment facilities with the prospect of a greatly increased Canadian Army. There is a growing impression that the very necessary element of amusement for the good of the public at large will be extended to new proportions.

#### GERALD SPENCER SUBSTITUTES FOR F. G. SPENCER TRAINING

Charlottetown, P. E. I. — Gerald Spencer, son of F. G. Spencer, was in charge of the Capitol and Prince Edward Theatres (Spencer Circuit) at Charlottetown, P.E.I., during the absence of his brother, F. Gordon Spencer, who was training with a military unit at Camp Sussex, N.B.

#### JOHN MARCH ACCOMPANIES W. H. GOLDING MOTOR TRIP

Saint John, N.B. — John March of the Empire-Universal Films staff at Saint John was a member of a party chaperoned by his uncle, W. H. Golding (Manager of the Capitol Theatre, Saint John) and Mrs. Golding, on a motor tour of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

#### NEON SIGN FOR SALE

Height of Sign: 15 ft. 4 in.

Width of Sign: 6 ft. 6 in.

Thickness: 10 in.

Letters are in Red, Green and Fluorescent Gold and are 5½ in., 8 in. — 10 in. in height. The sign was previously used for Roller Skating and Dancing but can be converted to make attractive theatre sign. Three transformers.

BOX 7 — DIGEST

259 Spadina Avenue - Toronto  
Waverley 4929

Will sell cheap for quick sale.

## "49 Parallel" Canadian Epic Canada In 1940

Winnipeg, Man.—The motion picture The 49th Parallel, one of the "biggest" productions yet undertaken by a British movie company, is no historical drama but an "epic of Canada today — Canada in 1940".

Michael Powell, the chief director, now supervising the filming of sequences in and near Winnipeg, offered this explanation this morning "to correct a false impression that seems to have got around". Mr. Powell was the chief director of The Lion Has Wings and U-Boat 29.

There will be four or five main episodes each centering in different regions of Canada. They will all be linked with a connecting story. Each episode will feature one big star as Miss Elizabeth Bergner was featured in the episode which was filmed in Manitoba.

Actors and technicians working on "49th Parallel" recently completed work on a Hutterite farm near Elie, Man.

Following the shooting at the Hutterite colony, scenes were recorded at Stevenson airport and at downtown Winnipeg points.

One thousand extras were used in the scenes at the Stevenson's Field Airport with Tamari Desni, Carla Lehman, Eric Portman and John Chandos in one of the highlight scenes of this British movie. Portman and Chandos were Nazi seamen who were captured, they were prisoners on a plane in Winnipeg when they were rushed upon by home defence citizens on the lookout for such invaders. The scene is reminiscent of what has recently happened "somewhere in England", when a Nazi plane was brought down and hundreds of residents of that particular district sprung up as it were from everywhere and surrounded the pilot of the Nazi plane who was quickly taken away in a small army truck which arrived on the scene, over this bit of farmland whereon the plane had come down.

Fred Young who was cameraman for "Goodbye Mr. Chips", "Nurse Edith Cavell" and several other notable screen successes, is handling the "shots" for "49th Parallel". Tamara Desni and Carla Lehman are air-hostesses. Incidentally the crowds were unpaid actors and actresses in this picture; and in the words of an official of the company, "the more the merrier"; and so thousands came, in fact five thousand.

### CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR TORONTO THEATRE

Three additional contracts have been let for the \$60,000. theatre building at 600 Queen St. West, which R. R. Dennis is building for Mrs. Minnie Rittenberg. Plans are by Jay L. English, Royal Bank Building.

### HOLLYWOOD ACTORS

Patric Knowles, Robert Coots, Colin Tapley, British subjects having passed their initial tests at Ottawa in the Royal Canadian Air Force have come to Toronto to continue their training at Exhibition Grounds.

They had joined the R.C.A.F. several weeks ago and just became "fledgeling war birds". All three were sworn in and now have the prefix AC2 to their names. They will emerge from their training as pilots, observers or runners.

Colin Tapley already has some flying to his credit and so has Patrick Knowles who has flown his own plane for the past few years and soloed about 150 hours.

Following the recruiting ceremony, Lieut. John Farrow, Comptroller of Naval Information, husband of Maureen O'Sullivan, gave a dinner party to the trio. Patrick Knowles once appeared in a picture directed by Farrow.

### MICHAEL POWELL GUEST AT ROTARY LUNCHEON

Michael Powell, director of the British Film, "49th Parallel" was guest speaker at a Rotary luncheon at the Royal Alexandra Hotel, Winnipeg. Mr. Powell speaking of the moral behind the picture he was producing stated that it emphasized Canadian unity, a quality which Canadians oftentimes overlooked since they lived so close to that which was their own history. Other members of the cast including the technical staff were guests.

### ALLIED EXHIB. MEET FOR ANNUAL SEPT. SESSION

Halifax, N.S. — Next month will see a meeting of the Allied Exhibitors' Association of Nova Scotia meet for their annual session. A likely topic for discussion will be the new regulations passed by the Nova Scotia Government.

### PROCEEDS FOR RED CROSS

Wilkie, Sask. — Roxy Theatre played "The Royal Visit" and turned over 50 percent of the proceeds to the Red Cross.

### WALTER WANGER TO ATTEND PREMIERE

Walter Wanger, one of Hollywood's most noted directors will attend the premiere of "Foreign Correspondent" at Ottawa, at the Elgin Theatre.

Joel McCrea, Herbert Marshall, Laraine Day, Robert Benchley are stars of this latest Walter Wanger feature. The noted producer will also attend the opening of his picture at Loew's, Montreal. Mr Wanger will be accompanied by his wife Joan Bennett, both producer and star will come on to Toronto and make public appearances at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Alfred Hitchcock directed "Foreign Correspondent". Now you know that it has "sustained interest" and holds you to its finale.

### RAIN CHECKS FOR "REBECCA"

A sudden storm which played havoc with town and theatre lights sent the Strand Theatre in Sussex, N.B., into darkness. A capacity house in which were soldiers and civilians, received rain checks for a come-back performance since the severity of the electrical storm made it impossible to continue the show. The house left the theatre singing, and as each filed past the manager, Colin Danson Sr., he or she received an admission ticket for another night. About one-third of the feature picture had been shown, together with the shorts; and the crowd appreciated the courtesy as expressed by the management in the return tickets.

### STRAND THEATRE, TILLSONBURG GETS NO DAMAGES

Blocking of a drain in front of the Strand Theatre, Tillsonburg, caused a considerable amount of water to run into the basement of the theatre. A pump in the basement endeavored to get rid of the water. Mr. A. Glazer, manager of the theatre claimed \$25.00 for a burnt-out motor which he alleged was the result of being over-worked because of the amount of water which emptied itself into the cellar of his theatre. Mr. Glazer further stated that the condition of the drain had been reported to the town clerk.

On Motion of Councillors J.C. Eichenberg and Millman, the clerk was instructed to notify the Strand Theatre that the municipality of the Town of Tillsonburg assumed no responsibility in regard to the damage as alleged. Sanborn and Company Limited, claimed \$125.00 for alleged damages to the Style Snap Shoppe operated by Balfour and Dougherty as a result of smoke arising from the fire in the basement of the Strand Theatre. The town assumed no responsibility in connection with this damage as alleged, also.

### GRACIE DOES HER BIT FOR NAY AT THE AMPHITHEATRE

The Amphitheatre, which was filled to the brim when Gracie Fields came there last night. The overflow crowd of 5,000 listening to a loudspeaker supplementing the stage, a popular singing comedienne, although a brief personal appearance at the Amphitheatre, Winnipeg reports that the U.S.A. history of Winnipeg for a single night 2,000 who heard Gracie, at a public square building grounds.

Gracie did her repertoire and then the crowd cried for more just as the did when Gracie appeared in the Amphitheatre for the Star's First Aid Fund recently. The Winnipeg Press, in commenting on Gracie's voice, said, "she has a voice like honey made bread with a good thick crust." Gracie has a fine voice with a wide range of several octaves, a strong, rhythmic quality the latter which might be likened to home-made bread, but which musically is called "rasberry" tone values. "I Never Cried So Much In All My Life" is all about a girl who goes to a picture house and sees her heroine much pursued and much wronged. Then there is "Turn Your Back To The Wall" and the biggest aspidochrona in the world, character studies which Gracie does so well. The May Morning was a satire on coloratura vocal gymnastics and the audience shrieked with laughter. The Drigo-Serenade revealed just what Gracie could do with that voice. Distinguish whether Gracie's voice was imitating the cello and whether it was the tones of these instruments to which one was listening. "Danny Boy" and "Ave Maria" displayed what Gracie could do with her voice and the crowd continued to ask for more whether this was an act or a character sketch.

Several pictures with Gracie Fields as a star are now being released throughout Canada; and this about to be a good time to capitalize on them.

### ATTORNEY-GENERAL ASKS STIFFER SENTENCE FOR STEVENS

Bob Stevens has unfortunately been getting himself into trouble. He was recently fined \$25.00 under the offense of Canada Regulations No. 100 alleged "subversive language". Stevens is a prominent theatre owner and well-known to the Motion Picture Industry in Canada. He was born in Italy.

R. T. Stevens was arrested on Nov. 24th and when he appeared in court before Magistrate J. S. McKenna he was remanded in custody and went out bail to Aug. 31st for trial. He was arrested by the R.C.M.P. and South

## GRACIE DOES HER BIT FOR NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA AT THE AMPHITHEATRE

The Amphitheatre, which seats 6,500, at Winnipeg was filled to capacity, plus, when Gracie Fields came there to sing for the Navy League of Canada. The overflow crowd of 5,000 listened to Gracie's singing from a nearby stadium, a loudspeaker supplementing for the personal appearance of the world's most popular singing comedienne, although Gracie did reward the listeners by a brief personal appearance at the stadium.

Winnipeg reports that the 11,500 paid admissions is the largest in the history of Winnipeg for a singer; and to this number can be added another 2,000 who heard Gracie, as a loudspeaker brought her voice across the legislative building grounds.

Gracie did her repertoire and then the crowd cried for more, just as they did when Gracie appeared at Eaton's Auditorium for the Star's Fresh Air Fund recently. The Winnipeg Free Press, in commenting on Gracie's voice, said, "she has a voice like home-made bread with a good thick crust". Gracie has a fine voice with a wide range of several octaves, a sympathetic quality the latter which might be likened to home-made bread, but which musically is called excellent tone values. "I Never Cried So Much In All My Life" is all about a girl who goes to a picture house and sees her heroine much pursued and much wronged. Then there is "Turn Herbert's Face To The Wall" and the biggest aspidistra in the world, character studies which Gracie does so well. The May Morning was a satire on coloratura vocal gymnastics and the audience shrieked with laughter. The Drigo-Serenade revealed just what Gracie could do with that voice of hers, and at times it was difficult to distinguish whether Gracie's voice was imitating the cello and violin or whether it was the tones of these instruments to which one was listening. "Danny Boy" and "Ave Maria" all displayed what Gracie could do with her voice and the crowd continued to ask for more whether this was an aria or a character sketch.

Several pictures with Gracie Fields as a star are now being released throughout Canada; and this should be a good time to capitalize on them.

### ATTORNEY-GENERAL ASKS STIFFER SENTENCE FOR STEVENS

Bob Stevens has unfortunately been getting himself into trouble. He was recently fined \$25.00 under the Defense of Canada Regulations Act for alleged "subversive language". Bob Stevens is a prominent theatreowner and well-known to the Motion Picture Industry in Canada. He was born in Italy.

R. T. Stevens was arrested on Aug. 24th and when he appeared same day before Magistrate J. S. McKessock he was remanded in custody and without bail to Aug. 31st for trial. He was arrested by the R.C.M.P. and Sudbury police.

## Shooting the Stars

Sales promotion Bamberger has done it again. There is a novelty promotion booklet on "Dance Girl Dance" which is unique and original; and that is a feat in Motion Pictures as rare as an original story which is original. "Dance, Girl, Dance" stars Maureen O'Hara and Louis Hayward. The story is by Vicki Baum, and in addition to the two stars mentioned there are Lucille Ball, Virginia Field, Ralph Bellamy, Mary Carlisle, Katharine Alexander, Edward Brophy, Walter Abel, Harold Huber and Maria Ouspenskaya in this RKO-Radio Pictures cast. Erich Pommer is producing and Dorothy Arzner directing. The story is all about an ambitious dancer who yearns for fame as a ballarina. There is a lavish ballet featuring Maureen and forty "gorgeous and talented dancers". Louis Hayward is the bewildered play-boy millionaire. There are songs and dances galore, plus love interest, tears and comedy. Frank Borzage is directing "Flight Command" for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer with Robert Taylor starring. Teamed with Taylor are Ruth Hussey and Walter Pidgeon. J. Walter Kubin producing. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has placed Charles Holland, Negro tenor, under a long contract. Holland who made such a sensational hit in "Youth Will Be Served", "The Mikado In Swing" and "Run Li'l Chillun" stage presentations, and the screen presentation of "Green Pastures", will have a role in which his magnificent voice may be heard to advantage. Holland was a sensation on the Red Cross all-star radio program recently. Katharine Hepburn does five interesting dives from a ten-foot board for the swimming scenes in "The Philadelphia Story". Polan Banks' novel, "January Heights" will be Bette Davis' next starring vehicle for Warner Bros. George Brent will be leading man and Edmund Goulding, director. "January Heights" is a modern romantic drama with a social problem. Somerset Maugham's "The Letter" is Bette Davis' last picture scheduled for Thanksgiving release in the U.S. "Chad Hanna", Walter D. Edmund's best seller will go into production with Henry Fonda and Linda Darnell as co-stars. "Chad Hanna" is the third feature on the 20th Century-Fox list for technicolor production. The cast includes such important names as Mary Beth Hughes, Jane Darwell, Guy Kibbee, John Carradine, Eddie Collins, Ted North. "Chad Hanna" was serialized in The Saturday Evening Post under the title of "Red Wheels Rolling". Darryl F. Zanuck is said to have paid \$50,000 for the picture rights. Paramount is producing "Love Thy Neighbor" with Fred Allen and Jack Benny introducing the entertaining feud. Mary Martin sings and dances and the famous Abbott Troupe add to their

fame with new dancing innovations. Bing Crosby and Mary Martin are finishing "Rhythm on the River", another Paramount singing comedy. M-G-M's "Strike Up The Band" with Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney will bring us another musical, and Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald that delightful story of song and music, "Bitter Sweet". Anna Neagle is doing "No, No, Nanette" for RKO-Radio one of the most famous of musicals and so that song may be continually upon our screen. Dorothy Lamour will sing in "Moon Over Burma". "There's Magic In Music" will be directed by Andrew Stone, creator of "The Great Victor Herbert" for Paramount and will feature Allan Jones and Susanna Foster. Dennis Morgan will play the romantic lead opposite Ginger Rogers in "Kitty Foyle" for RKO-Radio. Morgan recently appeared as a Northwest Mounted Policeman in Warner Bros. picturization of "River's End", a James Oliver Curwood story. James Roosevelt announces that James Stewart will play stellar role in "Pot o' Gold". Horace Heidt and Orchestra are facing cameras for pre-recordings. Harry Tugend has written the screen play. United Artists will release. Harry Gold has gone to Hollywood to confer with Chaplin. soon we will have word of "The Dictator". Alexander Korda will produce six pictures according to announcement from Alexander Korda Films, Inc. This company is new to Hollywood and was organized to expand Korda's producing activities at Hollywood as well as in London. Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier will appear in the first Hollywood Korda production based on the lives of Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton. "New Wine", based on the life of the composer, Franz Schubert, will have as leading lady Iona Massey. Merle Oberon will star in "I Have Been Here Before", a story especially written for her by Alexander Korda, her husband. Laurence Olivier will be starred in "Cyrano" and "Sabu" in Rudyard Kipling's, "Jungle Boy". United Artists will release. Headquarters for Korda at General Service Studio. "The Howards of Virginia", Frank Lloyd's production for Columbia Pictures will have special trade show at the Astor Theatre, Aug. 28th. Alexander Hall will direct "This Thing Called Love" for Columbia. stars Rosalind Russell and Melvyn Douglas. 20th Century-Fox producing special reel depicting scenes taken during the premier of "Brigham Young" at seven theatres. Lowell Thomas will be commentator. The reel will be 500 feet long and will be shown to exhibitors throughout the U.S. and Canada. The special reel is a novel idea to help exhibitors promote the sale of the picture to the public. Universal will release 13 Walter Lantz color comedy cartoons — Andy Panda, famous cartoon character produced by Lantz last season will be the featured cartoon player. "Andy Panda's Crazy House" will be early September release — the first of the series. Peggy Moran will have an important part in Universal's production, "Caribbean Nights", directed by Edward Sutherland.

### KING GEORGE TO REOPEN

The King George Theatre at Port Colborne, which was destroyed by fire, will be reconstructed and reopen as a modern theatre, first class in all its appointments, construction and equipment.

### WALTER WANGER TO ATTEND PREMIERE

Walter Wanger, one of Hollywood's most noted directors will attend the premiere of "Foreign Correspondent" at the Elgin Theatre. Let McCrex, Herbert Marshall, Robert Benchley and the noted producer will also attend the opening of his picture at the Elgin Theatre. Mr. Wanger will be accompanied by his wife Joan Benson, with producer and star will come to Toronto and make public appearances at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Allred Hitchcock directed "Foreign Correspondent". Now you know that it has "sustained interest" and holds its own as its finale.

### RAIN CHECKS FOR "REBECCA"

A sudden storm which played havoc with town and theatre lights sent the audience of "Rebecca" at the Elgin Theatre in Sussex, N.B., into a panic. A capacity house in which were sitters and civilians, received rain checks for a come-back performance under the severity of the electrical storm made it impossible to continue the show. The house left the theatre singing and as each filed past the manager, Colin Dawson Sr., he or she received an admission ticket for another night. About one-third of the feature picture had been shown, together with the lobby and the crowd appreciated the country as expressed by the manager in the return tickets.

### STRAND THEATRE, TILLSONBURG GETS NO DAMAGES

Flooding of a drain in front of the Strand Theatre, Tillsonburg, caused a considerable amount of water to run into the basement of the theatre. A group in the basement endeavored to pump out the water. Mr. A. Glazer, manager of the theatre claimed \$25.00 for a burnt out motor which he alleged was the result of being over-worked because of the amount of water which emptied itself into the basement of his theatre. Mr. Glazer further stated that the condition of the drain had been reported to the town

Motion of Councillors J.C. Johnson and Millman, the clerk was instructed to notify the Strand Theatre that the municipality of Tillsonburg assumed no responsibility in regard to the damage alleged. Sanborn and Company claimed \$125.00 for alleged damages to the Style Snap Shoppe caused by Ralfour and Dougherty as a result of smoke arising from the basement of the Strand Theatre. The town assumed no responsibility in connection with this damage as alleged, also.