STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

★★★By VIRGINIA VALE★★★

THE great experiment of a Fred Astaire picture without Ginger Rogers is now up for public approval, and first reports promise that it will triumph at the box office. "Damsel in Distress" hasn't the effervescent Ginger, but it has that most blithe of dinwits, Gracie Allen, and her solemn George Burns.

The setting of this giddy, tuneful story is England, where Astaire as a shy matinee idol becomes romantically entangled with a peer's daughter played by the ingratiating Joan Fontaine. The story doesn't get in the way of the dancing, and Astaire has never danced with such breathtaking skill before.

Fred Astaire

When you see him and Gracie romping through a carnival engaging in dizzy antics on treadmills, revolving barrels, and in front of those crazy mirrors that distort reflections, you will wonder why Gracie's amazing talent as a dancer has been overlooked so long.

—★—

The long delay in making another feature picture with the Dionne quintuplets has at last been explained by Twentieth Century-Fox officials. They have been waiting for the little girls to learn English, figuring that audiences can't be counted on to study French just in order to understand the little cherubs.

—★—

Waves of dissatisfaction spread through Hollywood like an epidemic every once in a while, and lately producers have been having their troubles pacifying pouting stars. Loretta Young has decided that she doesn't want to make any more pictures with Tyrone Power for a while. Not that she doesn't like him. She does, but she thinks that the public tires of seeing the same couple on the screen in picture after picture. Ginger Rogers has served notice on R. K. O. that in addition to her salary she wants a share of the profits of pictures she appears in. Fred Astaire and Katherine Hepburn both share in the profits of theirs. Dorothy Lamour has rebelled against wearing native dress in pictures. Wants to be clothed like a civilized lady. And Wayne Morris wants no more build-up as a handsome youth.

—★—

Wallace Ford is one of the screen players over whom the first-night audience at "Of Mice and Men" cheered in New York recently. Even if the play runs all year, however, Wally figures that his fans out through the country won't forget him, for before going into the play he completed the as yet unreleased "Swing It, Sailor" for Grand National, and three pictures in England.

—★—

Jack Holt is rounding out his twentieth year as an actor and his eighteenth as a motion-picture star. No other performer has enjoyed outstanding popularity more than half as long as he has, and Hollywood producers will tell you that he is just as popular with them as with the public. Whether he is assigned to horses or top hats, Jack is always amiable, and if a story seems thin he figures it is up to him to give a performance that will build it up. Some of the young players supporting him in Columbia's "Under Suspicion" asked him recently how he got his start, and then shuddered a bit as he told them that he rode a horse over a thirty-five foot cliff into swirling rapids.

Jack Holt

—★—

ODDS ANDS ENDS—Marlene Dietrich shed her wan and bored manner in a New York night club and joined the crowd truckin . . . She could be as sensational in comedy as Irene Dunne is if she only would, but she won't . . . Ballroom dancing bores Fred Astaire until Benny Goodman starts playing and then he just can't sit still . . . Betty Jaynes, youthful sensation of the Chicago opera, will play Norma Shearer's old role in "Student Prince" when M-G-M films it again as a musical . . . When Dick Powell stopped over in Chicago between trains a group of fans surprised him by presenting him with their autographed photos . . . Spencer Tracy will send out his Christmas cards from Ireland . . . Fathers of twins are the only eligibles for Hollywood's most exclusive club. Membership so far consists of Bing Crosby, Laurence Tibbett, Charles Starrett and Richard Dix . . . Girls don't want to be cast in the next Mauch twins picture because their favorite pets nowadays are white mice . . . The Voice of Experience will be broadcast coast-to-coast beginning December 27.

© Western Newspaper Union.

WHEN SANTA COMES

Christmas on Smoke Creek

by Thomas Taylor

THERE was not to be any Christmas tree at the little church at the head of Smoke Creek that year; and of the several families who lived there, not more than half were expecting Santa Claus. The dark days had left the dismal little valley or hollow even more gloomy than it had been in better years, when the mines across the ridge in the next hollow gave some employment to the heads of the families of Smoke Creek.

Jim Knox, who lived at the very head of the stream, was perhaps the most unhappy of all in the little "settlement." His wife and only child, a son of seven, had died, and his nearest neighbor was Joe Hathway, a bitter enemy with whom he had had many difficulties. So that lonely night of Christmas eve as Jim sat before the open wood fire, with the light of blazing hickory logs his only company, he was not without fear for his own safety—he knew Joe Hathway had threatened his life.

He Noticed Something Like a Card Tacked on Hathway's Door.

As he sat dreaming his eyes happened to rest upon his rifle standing in the corner of the log room. "That gun or Joe Hathway's will some day tell the tale," he said to himself. He meant that one day, like so many others down the lonesome stream, either he or Joe would go—and using a common mountain expression, "with his boots on." He did not care—life had come to mean but little for him.

While Jim was thus dreaming, Joe Hathway sat in another log cabin but a few yards down the stream. By chance Joe's attention was called to a book on a shelf. The school teacher had given it to his daughter who had died from the epidemic on the creek. The title appealed to him—"The Christmas Carol." He took the book and began to read. Page after page and chapter after chapter, he read on. It was the first book Joe had ever read. It filled him with new visions and new ways of thinking. He read on till midnight and had been so impressed that he decided to read a chapter from the Bible before going to bed. By mere accident the chapter was one on the birth at Bethlehem. Its teaching overpowered him—he had found the more abundant life.

• • •

On Christmas morning when Jim Knox went out to the spring for a pail of water he noticed something like a card tacked on Joe Hathway's door. He saw no smoke from the chimney. Taking in the water, cautiously he approached Joe's cabin door, and read the note which said:

"Dear Jim: You will find me gone. I was reading some last night in 'The Christmas Carol' and in the Bible. I read that verse that told of peace and good will to man. Said to myself, 'My family is all gone—the last was Mary. She left the book to get me on the right track. There's nothing in this hollow for me any more. Maybe I can find work by New Year's over on Cedar Creek' You and I never could get along. So to make things better for us both hereafter I am leaving at daybreak. And Jim as I say 'Good-bye,' I also wish to say, 'Peace on earth good will to men.' "

And as another result of "The Christmas Carol" two mountaineers were better men, and though they had no Christmas cards or presents, and no holiday programs, the pines on the hillsides seemed a bit greener and the music of the streams seemed sweeter.

© Western Newspaper Union.

Boxing Day Is Time for Making Christmas Gifts

THE first weekday after Christmas, Boxing day, is a legal and bank holiday in England, Wales and Northern Ireland but not in Scotland. This is the day on which "Christmas boxes" or gifts are expected by, and given to, errand boys, servants, letter carriers, etc., observes a writer in the Detroit News.

The name "Christmas box" is often applied there to the ordinary gift at this season of the year, apart from this usage. References to the "apprentice's box" and "butler's box" as far back as the Sixteenth century indicate that these gratuities were at one time placed in an earthenware box, which could be opened on Boxing day only by breaking it. It appears also that the early church had alms-boxes which were opened only on that date.

Chambers' Book of Days states that the institution of "Christmas boxes" evidently is akin to that of New Year's gifts and, like it, has descended from the times of the ancient Romans who at the season of the Saturnalia, practiced universally the custom of giving and receiving presents.

The Yule Sing

Bells of Christmas

by Cecile Webb Pearson

TOM MADSEN sat beside the fireplace and gazed moodily at the blazing logs, as the sparks spiraled upward. Outside flakes of snow beat against the window pane to the chime of the church bells ringing peace and good will to all the earth.

"Peace," Tom muttered. "Was there such a thing on earth? Not for him, anyway." He had staked everything on his boy. Been both father and mother to him—given him the advantage of the best schools, with a law partnership waiting for him in his own office; and what did he get? "Sorry to disappoint you, Dad, but I don't seem to be cut out for law. Sally and I want to find happiness in our own way. I mean to buy the old Wormley farm and Sally and I will be married there, in our own home, Dad, on Christmas eve."

Young Tom had choked a bit as he saw the look on his father's face—"I'm sorry, Dad; I do appreciate all you've done for me, 'but the hand writes and moves on,' and it's all settled. Be a good sport, Dad,

"I'm Sorry, Dad; I Do Appreciate All You've Done for Me."

and come to our wedding and give us your blessing." But he had turned on his boy. "Never!" he cried. "See my son married to a cheap dancer; a common"—Young Tom's face was white. "Stop, Dad, or I might forget you are my father"—and he had rushed out of the house.

That had been three long months ago. An eternity for him. He had been too hasty; had been governed by his prejudices. One couldn't measure the present generation by the one of his day. Tom, Jr., was no fool; he should have trusted him to do the right thing, what right had he to interfere; to say how any life should be lived?

Suddenly he wanted to have a share in the joyfulness. He reached for his hat, but remembered it was too late for shopping, but there was his check book. What if Tom refused his tardy offering? The eager look died. There was a loud ringing of the door bell and the sound of rushing feet—the door was flung open. There was Tom, looking just like he used to when he came to him for comfort. "Dad, we just have to have you. Sally sent me to bring you. It's Christmas." Tom, Sr., held out his arms. "We won't disappoint Sally, son."

© Western Newspaper Union.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

© Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for December 26

CHRISTIAN CONSECRATION

LESSON TEXT—Philippians 1:12-26.
GOLDEN TEXT—For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.—Philippians 1:21.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Our Best Friend.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Answering Jesus.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Choosing a Life Purpose.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—What Christian Surrender Means.

Consecration is one of the words expressing Christian truth which has been so much used and so often misused that it has lost its savor. The writer remembers many a "consecration service" which meant nothing to those present except the fulfilling of a certain formula or program. The purpose of the meeting was excellent, but results were lacking because it had become a mere formality.

Paul the apostle knew nothing of any theory of consecration. He knew and lived and proclaimed such an abandonment of self to Christ and his cause as really required no statement in words—it was his life.

We close today a three-month series of studies in the Christian life. We began at the right point by considering "Christian Sonship," for no one can live until he is born and no one can live a Christian life until he is born again. We have considered together God's grace in keeping, renewing, guiding, blessing, and communing with his own. All these precious truths call us to devote ourselves to Christ in glad and full consecration.

Men give themselves thus to the building of a fortune, to the propagation of a political or social theory, to the pursuit of an occupation or profession. Why should not the Christian give himself in like measure for Christ and his holy cause?

Paul, in the verses of our lesson, shows that spirit and boldly declares that he follows Christ regardless of trying circumstance—he does so now, "in the body," not later in glory. And it matters not whether it be by life or death—"Christ shall be magnified."

I. "What Then?" (v. 18).

Paul was imprisoned for the gospel's sake. Did that stop him? no; he made the very guards who were assigned to watch him in his house into missionaries of the cross. He won each one as he took his designated period of service and sent him out as a testimony to "the whole praetorian guard and to all the rest" (v. 13 R. V.).

Then, some of his Christian associates taking advantage of the fact that he was imprisoned, went out to preach just to show that they were as good as he. They made their very preaching an expression of their envy of his popularity and hoped to heap more sorrow upon him. Did he get angry and bitterly fight back? No; he thanked God that Christ was preached. We need more of that spirit in our day.

II. "In My Body."

One of the glaring fallacies of human thinking is the idea that at some favorable time in the future we shall be able to enjoy life, do mighty deeds or serve the Lord. For example parents fail to enjoy their children because they are always looking forward to the next stage of their development. The time to enjoy and help our children is now. The time to serve the Lord Jesus is now. The day will come when we shall be glorified with him, but it will then be too late to speak to our neighbors about Christ.

III. "To Live Is Christ and to Die Is Gain" (v. 21).

Humanly speaking when a matter is one of "life or death" it is a question whether death may not intervene. The hope is that this may not be the case and every effort is made to prevent it. How different with Paul. He rightly points out that to a Christian death means entering into perfect fellowship with Christ and unlimited service for him. Every human limitation will then be put aside—knowledge, service, communion, will all be perfect and complete.

He would not, however, turn away from his present privilege and duty. Since it is God's will that he should abide in the flesh he will do it in such a way as to make it literally true that to him "to live is Christ." Every life has a purpose and that ruling passion which controls and directs a life is what should be written into the sentence, "To me to live is . . " What is it—money, position, pleasure, sin? Or is it Christ? If he is your life, then you enter into the New Year with the assurance that it will be full and satisfying, and gloriously useful.

Spiteful Words

A spiteful word cuts both ways. A slander hurts the man or woman who spreads it in a more deadly, though unseen, way than it hurts its intended victim. Victor Hugo nobly says, "Every sword has two edges; and the man who wounds with one, wounds himself with the other."

Only One Real Failure

There is only one real failure possible; and that is, not to be true to the best one knows.—Canon Farrar.

Catch Up on Chic

IF YOU'RE a bit behind in the thrilling game of Sew-Your-Own, Milady, why not take advantage of the holiday season and catch up? Today's trio is especially right for "vacation sewing" because it consists of simple practical pieces that require little time and trouble. Make all three and you'll have gone a long way toward putting the old punch back in the game.

Streamlined Styling.

The slip at the left is all you could wish for from the standpoint of styling. It offers superb lines from the moderately low cut V neck, through the dart-fitted waist right down to the very hem. The clever overlapping back is light proof and provides an action pleat so necessary for complete satisfaction. Important, too, is the fact that you may choose the material you wish in your own color. Better make it in duplicate for many meticulous months ahead.

Pretty in Sheer Wool.

The two-piece in the center is, like the slip, heavy on style. The defined waist is effectively young as is the flowing skirt and little round collar. It is just the frock to give one lots of git-up-and-git for the second semester, or "to break the ice" whenever one is anxious about one's appearance. It can be the height of chic in sheer wool—very pretty in flat crepe.

Modern Home Dress.

When it's home you're thinking of you naturally turn to a frock like the third member of the trio at the right. This button-all-the-way model is different enough to delight you and simple enough to set you sewing at sight. It is cut for comfort but with an ever watchful eye on that elusive little thing called chic. Crisp contrast may be had in the collar and cuffs and in that trim row of buttons that march down the line—and then back again. Look fresh in your version in pretty percale.

The Patterns.

Pattern 1946 is designed for sizes 14 to 20 (32 to 44 bust). Size 16 requires 3¼ yards of 39 inch fabric. One yard of ribbon is required for shoulder straps.

Pattern 1404 is designed for sizes 12 to 20 (30 to 38 bust). Size 14 requires 4⅛ yards of 39 inch material.

Pattern 1390 is designed for sizes 34 to 48. Size 36 requires 4⅝ yards of 35 inch material. The collar and cuffs in contrast require 1¼ yards material.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., Room 1020, 211 W. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.

© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

"Quotations"

—A—

Men are not free to love their fellow men when they are consumed by love of gain.—*Dr. Elmer Ellsworth Brown.*

Men seldom, or rather never for a length of time and deliberately, rebel against anything that does not deserve rebelling against.—*Carlyle.*

There is no greater delight than to be conscious of sincerity of self-examination.—*Mencius.*

Promise is most given when the least is said.—*Chapman.*

Light burdens, long borne, grow heavy.—*Herbert.*

Happiness cannot be found in seeking it.—*Dr. Phillips Endecott Osgood.*

SMALL SIZE 60c — LARGE SIZE $1.20
McNEIL'S MAGIC REMEDY
Brings Blessed Relief from aches and pains of
RHEUMATISM
NEURITIS and LUMBAGO
Try a bottle . . Why Suffer?
AT ALL GOOD DRUG STORES

Uncle Phil Says:

Respect Due Precedent

Respect for precedent has a solid basis. Don't be contemptuous of precedent, but study its claims to authority.

Gossip thrives less among men particularly because it means a black eye if not worse.

It is nonsense to say that no one is interested in the troubles of others. We're not all inhuman.

Men have had but one burst of extravagance in clothing in the last 30 years. It was when they paid $8 for a silk shirt.

But Is He?

By his reason a man endeavors to prove that he is rid of some of his primitive instincts.

There is always a welcome place in the world for the young woman who is determined to be a lady.

Women often say it is hard to please men by the way they dress; but let a man pick out a woman's sartorial outfit and she'd be a fright.

Or Lacks So in Curiosity?

A phone won't bother you if you calmly go on writing and let it ring; but who has a seraphic temper like that?

If you want to enjoy retrospection, recall your happiness, not your sorrows.

It is hard to conceal contempt. Something besides words gives you away.

Human conscience began to function thousands of years ago. There is a lot of it in the Bible.

GET RID OF BIG UGLY PORES

PLENTY OF DATES NOW...DENTON'S FACIAL MAGNESIA MADE HER SKIN FRESH, YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL

Romance hasn't a chance when big ugly pores spoil skin-texture. Men love the soft smoothness of a fresh young complexion. Denton's Facial Magnesia does miracles for unsightly skin. Ugly pores disappear, skin becomes firm and smooth.

Watch your complexion take on new beauty

Even the first few treatments with Denton's Facial Magnesia make a remarkable difference. With the Denton Magic Mirror you can actually see the texture of your skin become smoother day by day. Imperfections are washed clean. Wrinkles gradually disappear. Before you know it Denton's has brought you entirely new skin loveliness.

EXTRAORDINARY OFFER
—Saves You Money

You can try Denton's Facial Magnesia on the most liberal offer we have ever made—good for a few weeks only. We will send you a full 12 oz. bottle (retail price $1) plus a regular sized box of famous Milnesia Wafers (known throughout the country as the original Milk of Magnesia tablets), plus the Denton Magic Mirror (shows you what your skin specialist sees) . . . all for only $1! Don't miss out on this remarkable offer. Write today

DENTON'S
Facial Magnesia

FILL OUT COUPON NOW

SELECT PRODUCTS, Inc.
4402—23rd St.,
Long Island City, N.Y.
Enclosed find $1 (cash or stamps) for which send me your special introductory combination.

Name.....
Street Address.....
City..... State.....