

MOVIES AND AMUSEMENTS

'Good Night Ladies' At Blackstone

Since early April theatrical history of Chicago has added one of its most astounding chapters by the sensational stage success of "Good Night Ladies!" the howling farce comedy playing to record-shattering audiences at the Blackstone theater, co-starring Buddy Ebsen and Skeets Gallagher with a large supporting cast.

Before this West Coast enterprise was a week old in its Blackstone engagement the standing room only sign became a regular decoration and it has been in constant use ever since. National magazines, Time, Newsweek and Variety, the show world's bible, pronounced the attraction the phenomena of the American theater over a period of 22 years.

Without exception newspaper critics acclaimed "Good Night Ladies!" in peans of praise, citing it generally as the outstanding laugh entertainment of many seasons. Metropolitan Chicago newspaper reviewers summed up their unstinted approval in phrases that virtual capacity audiences. Here are some samples of the night press notices.

Wolfe Kaufman in the Chicago Sun: "I laughed my fool head off."

Ashton Stevens in the Herald American: "More lovely ladies than I could hope to catalogue."

Cecil Smith in the Tribune: "I sat all evening howling with laughter along with the rest of the audience."

C. I. Bulliet in The Daily News: "First nighters were loud and boisterous in their laughter."

Robert Pollak in The Times: "Good Night Ladies!" is a winner. It is making people laugh and laugh loudly."

William Leonard in the Journal of Commerce: "It rolled the audience in paroxysms of glee."

"Good Night Ladies!" affords Buddy Ebsen and Skeets Gallagher with their first stage vehicle in several seasons after attaining a niche in Hollywood's film productions. Buddy's last Broadway appearance was in the musical comedy hit, "Yokel Boy," while Skeets has not appeared behind the footlights since his tour with Bebe Daniels and eBn Lyons six years ago.

Carmen Chosen for Soldier's Field Performance

"Carmen" will be the opera presented by the Chicago Opera Company at Soldier's Field on Saturday night, August 8, it was announced today, following word received from Fortune Gallo, general director of the company, who has been in New York for the past week negotiating contracts with singers to fill the leading roles in Bizet's French opera.

Gladys Swarthout, famous mezzo-soprano of the Metropolitan Opera, will forego a scheduled vacation in order to sing the title role in the Chicago Opera Company's first outdoor opera production. One of the most beautiful women on the operatic stage, Miss Swarthout has the appearance and acting ability to match the magnificent voice which she brings to her classic interpretation of opera's gypsy enchantress.

Jan Kiepura world-famous Polish tenor, alumnus of the Warsaw Opera, the Opera Comique in Paris, LaScala in Milan and the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires—will have the tenor assignment as Carmen's fervid lover, Don Jose. This will not be the first time that Mr. Kiepura's matchless tenor voice has thrilled thousands of people. His appearances before large and enthusiastic audiences have become a matter of record.

John Charles Thomas, leading marionette of the Metropolitan Opera, and favorite singer of millions of American people, will have the role of the toreador Escamillo to whom Carmen turns when her love for Don Jose wanes; while the peasant girl Micaela will be sung by soprano Lucia Albanese, who made a sensational debut at the Metropolitan in 1940 and followed her success there with a spectacular triumph here last fall.

In signing four great singing stars for this one super production of "Carmen," Mr. Gallo thus keeps his promise to bring Chicago the top-ranking stars of the operatic world at popular prices. Though the cast selected is the best to be found in any opera house in the world, seats for the performance will sell for 55c, \$1.10 and \$1.65—these prices being possible only because thousands of seats can be made available at Soldier's Field. For the event—most spectacular in Chicago's musical history—a part of Soldier's Field will be transformed into a huge opera arena containing an especially built stage, 216 boxes, and a semi-circle of 30,000 seats.

Promotion manager Harry Zelzer reports that the advance demand for tickets to both the performance of "Carmen" and the Lily Pons concert which the Chicago Opera Company is sponsoring at Soldier's Field on Friday evening, July 31, has far exceeded expectations. Those desiring reserved seats to either performance are being asked to send in their orders by mail, as the regular box office opening has been delayed from July 10 to July 13.

THE POCKETBOOK of KNOWLEDGE



"Cocktails at 5" To Open Sunday at Erlanger

The opening of "Cocktails at Five," the new Shubert musical, has been moved up a day, and will take place at the Erlanger theater next Sunday evening, lighting the Clark street house after a period of darkness which has continued ever since the hasty closing of George Jessel's "High Kickers." The show, based on a French comedy, possesses a book and lyrics by Rowland Leigh and a musical score by Jean Schwartz. The plot is laid in New Orleans during the Mardi Gras celebration. Charlotte Lansing, the prima donna of "Cocktails at Five," was last seen in Chicago in "The New Moon." Since that time she has sung many featured roles with the St. Louis Municipal Opera

Boxes for both performances have been taken over by the Illinois Opera Guild, who will turn over the money raised by their sale to the Guild's recreation fund for men in uniform, so that servicemen may attend regular performances of the opera this fall.

company and with the New York Civic Light Opera company, and has gone in the perennial "Blossom Time."

Another featured singer in "Cocktails at Five" is Hal Conkin. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N. Y., he has sung in such musical comedies as "The Vagabond King," "My Maryland," "Bum, Bum," and "A Wonderful Night." He also has played nonsinging roles in "If a Body," "Daughters of Atrous," and "The Drunkard." On the radio he has taken part in the "Gang Busters" program.

The cast of "Cocktails at Five" also includes Morton Bowe, Ruth Bond, Vicki George, Jack Good, Chet Bree, Joe Marx, Betty Lou, and Robert Platt. "Boots" McKenna has directed the dancing chorus.

Now, Mr. Disney's stepped-up the pig from his most humble station, But it may go much higher yet As a bomber's powder ration!

Masons to Enjoy Picnic at Sunset Park

All Masons will join in their annual picnic Sunday, July 19, at Sunset Park. A continuous program will start off at 9:30 in the morning with the famous horse shoe game. It will be an elimination contest as usual—the winner to receive a handsome prize.

The dinner bell will ring at 11:30, when the entire group will participate in a big family dinner, each family to bring its own basket.

After the meal there will be games and contests for all, old and young alike, including a short session of Bingo. Many prizes will be awarded.

The days events will close with a soft ball game between the fat men and the lean men. The captains will choose up sides. If past performances are any criterion, the spectators will have as much fun or more fun than the players.

After the regular program every one will be served a free hot dog and coffee supper.

The children will be served free refreshments all during the day.

All Masons and members of the Eastern Star, wherever affiliated, their families and friends are invited. There will be enough extra in the baskets for all bachelors and particularly soldiers.

In case of rain the picnic will be held in the Masonic Temple, 21 N. Sheridan Road.

The following committees have been working for some time to make this a memorable event:

General Chairman: Edwin M. Palmer; Honorary Chairman: Beach Atkin; honorary co-chairman: Evelyn Briddle; Greeters: Alvina Culver, Geo. Glader, V. Wm. Briddle; Grounds: Arthur Hollands, Pete Stewart & Edward Strenger; Horse Shoe Game: Reuben Thomas; Bingo: Hugo Schneider, Ray Klinger, Margaret Revnak, Jos. Farnetti, Pete Stewart and George Glader; Races and Contests: "Doc" Hedgecock and Effie Lange; Children's Refreshments: Mrs. Jay Landwehr; Ball Game: Captain of the "Fat Men"; Fred Moon; Captain of the "Lean Men": Art Hollands; Umpire: Albert Larson; Supper & other refreshments: "Red" Iverson & James Thomsen helped by John Gibson, Fred Moon, Ed. Strenger, Mrs. Landwehr, Mrs. Ellen Bleimehl and Lincoln Roberts; Program: Mrs. Ellen Bleimehl and Evelyn L. Briddle; Publicity: V. Wm. Briddle.

ALBERT ANTES

The Glencoe Theatre and the Highland Park Press invites you to be their guest at the Glencoe Theatre. If you will call at the office of the Press, 516 Laurel Avenue, you will be given a pair of passes, which may be used any time this week.

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STARS IN DUST

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

LARRY PARKS, young Columbia Pictures' leading man, and eight other lads who are making their first bid for screen fame have taken over the 26-room house once owned and occupied by the late Thomas Meighan. Larry, who heads the group, has an important role in the Astaire-Hayworth musical, "You Never Never Lovell." He says it cost only \$14.75 to furnish the house—it cost Meighan more than \$5,000! They've thrown four rooms together and built a theater in which they rehearse parts for pictures coming up. There is a large portrait of Tom Meighan over the living room fireplace—they picked it up in a Hollywood prop house.

The sponsors who, seven years ago, were frightened enough to see the potentialities of an obscure radio couple and build them into the famed Fibber McGee and Molly, give radio another innovation this summer; they're substituting a

John Heitsh and Meredith Willson

Metro news commentator and a musician in a half-hour replacement program while Fibber and Molly vacation. The commentator is John Heitsh, the musician, Meredith Willson. The program combines music with sketches of history, literature and current events.

Walt Disney, whose "Bambi" will soon be released through RKO, has acquired the screen rights to Major Alexander P. de Seversky's "Victory Through Air Power" and will make it into a feature picture for exhibition sometime this fall.

Imagine Charles Boyer producing and acting in something called "Flesh and Fantasy." It will be his first production for Universal; he'll star in one episode, Edward G. Robinson in another, and let's hope they change the title!

Capt. Hewitt Wheelers, the army flier who was cited by the President for his exploits in the Pacific war, will play himself in a short subject, "Beyond the Line of Duty," which Warner Brothers will produce for the army air corps.

This shortage of leading men has proved too much for Harold Lloyd. He's produced two pictures for RKO, "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob" and "My Favorite Spy" and has left the studio. His next picture would have been "Butterfingers," a football comedy.

Samuel Goldwyn will select six of the loveliest and most talented secretaries of Washington, D. C., for roles in "They Got Me Covered," co-starring Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour. The story brings out the part that Washington secretaries play in helping to run the government; it's said that they arrive in Washington at a rate of 5,000 daily!

The biggest all-star lineup ever gathered for a summer radio show is the one that Bob Hawk's sponsors have booked for Friday night; it's a 60-minute show featuring Xavier Cugat's orchestra, Connie Bevell and Marge, Lanny Ross and a new comedian, Herb Shriner.

Richard Denning, male lead in "Beyond the Blue Horizon" has held many of Blimdom's stars in his arms. He made the test with Veronica Lake which won her her role in "I Wanted Wings." Paulette Goddard got her Paramount contract after making a test with him; Ellen Drew's test set her for "If I Were King"; Mary Martin's put her into "The Great Victor Herbert"; her first film role. A closeup of his chest substituted for one of Bob Hope's; his back did the same for Bob Burns'. Now he's getting a chance, all of him, in the Lamour picture.

ODDS AND ENDS — Paramount plans to present the Quiz Kids in feature films following the completion of their present series of short subjects at that studio. . . Ruth Hussey joins another top talent well-deserved starship with the role of Mrs. Andrew Johnson in "The Man in America's Conscience" . . . Eddie Albert will play opposite Lupa Velaz in "Ladies' Day," a comedy of the woman's side of big league baseball. . . Patricia Morison wants a horse—but don't send her one unless it's a 14-hand Palomino. . . Metro has bought "Cabin in the Sky," one of last season's most successful musicals.