

MOVIES AND AMUSEMENTS

Plain Gladiators Phooie, Goffe's Men Claim Super Gladiator Title

Sgt. Glen Rounds, former cowboy artist - author, expresses his very original sentiments on gladiators, mosquitoes and related subjects in the Fort Sheridan Tower, official post newspaper.

By SGT. GLEN ROUNDS

Now me, I just work here, and my opinions are not greatly sought after but now that you ask me I'll tell you something that's been on my mind for some time. It's the business of us, of Capt. A. C. Goffe's outfit, being called "Gladiators."

Gladiators, as I used to see them pictured, were fellows resembling Charles Atlas in structure who were practically nothing but bedroom slipper and a little fighting hardware. They seemed to do little but practice individual defense measures with each other or a couple of lions in a big corral with dry sand underneath and a crowd of applauding railbirds looking on.

Look At Us!

Now take us Gladiators. We spend five minutes strapping on several hundred pounds of field packs, bayonets, cartridge belts, gas masks and just about everything but foot lockers and our girl friends.

Then we climb into trucks and go for hundreds of miles while the drivers look busily for the bumpiest spots in the road. Finally we arrive at the most horrible piece of landscape that anyone could whistle up.

Next, we proceed to set up heavy field pieces on swamp that quivers if a frog so much as twitches his foot in crossing it. After we are plastered with mud we walk miles back to the kitchen truck which is two hours late.

Typical Experience

Then we walk miles back to our posts plus extra miles due to getting lost in the dark. Then we set up tents in puddles that a 'gator would flee from in horror. Then we are forced to crawl into the tents and roll over three times until thoroughly wet, then

crawl out and take a hitch at guard. We then spend the night slapping mosquitoes and hollering "halt!" in high falsetto voices. From a distance the chorus of their plaintive cries float across the lonely marshes like the mating call of the loon.

And if a man is able to get in between the dripping blankets for any length of time the mosquitoes go to work. Now ordinarily mosquitoes are no bargain wherever you find them. But you wrap your head up in your blanket, preferring death by suffocation to being eaten alive, they start hammering with their feet on the outside until the victim looks out to see what kind of creature is stomping on him. Once he sticks out his head he is grabbed and yanked bodily into the open and then devoured.

I have sworn statements from reliable soldiers who have seen the fiendish bugs turn men's dogtags over to see if their blood type was the kind that agreed with their pampered stomachs. Many of the men now chalk their blood type on the outside of their tents at night to avoid being awakened by the continual rattle of the tags.

Starts Adding

Take three days of one variety or another of the above, add a whopping dose of equipment cleaning, plus the misery of the men who are still nursing mosquito bites, plus the anguished cries from the drivers who had to wash the mud from their trucks. Also take a couple of pinches of mumbling from the fellows scraping rust from rifles that had been borrowed by dudes who were on guard in the rain. Still adding, take the angry shouting of the cooks as the sand caved in under the field range.

Add all these, plus the 4,004 other things I forgot about our recent convoy and you'll have to agree with me that by comparison those old time gladiators had a lead pipe cinch. But we can take it.

Ice Follies To Open For 15-Day Run At Arena

The Ice Follies of 1943 opens its appearance at the Chicago arena, Oct. 13, for a fifteen evening run plus two Sunday matinees.

The Shipstads and Johnson, originators of the show, bring to their public for the sixth time another ice extravaganza outstanding in the amusement world.

Many glamorous and comic headliners together with forty ice follies are included in the Follies. The Service club, society group, is in charge of opening night and many of Chicago's society women are busy arousing interest for the benefit of their many charities.

Among the members working on the enterprise are Mrs. Ralph J. Mills, corresponding secretary; Miss Dorothy Herbst, director; Miss Nancy Leigh Bowes, all of Highland Park.

A few of the charities benefited are: Salvation army, American Red Cross, Children's Memorial hospital, Infant Welfare society, Martha Washington home, Seeing Eye Replacement and St. Vincent's.

Two new additions to this year's show are Betty Atkinson, acrobatic artist, and Norah McCarthy, Canadian skating champion. Heinie Brock as old "Daniel Bum" lends comedy, Frances Claudet who is director of skating routine for the show is a start herself, and the colorful Shipstads.

"We Know What a Soldier Likes to Read!"



Left to right: Patricia Peardon, star of the Broadway hit, "Junior Miss," Audrey Ax and Susan Bellcher, Girl Reserves of Orange, N. J.

GIRL Reserves, junior members of the Young Women's Christian Association all over the country have a brand new war-time job. It's making USO scrapbooks for the men in uniform.

Here are two of these 'teen age girls with pretty Patricia Peardon, star of the Broadway hit, "Junior Miss." They invited Patricia to come and see their work because the youthful star who is the same age as thousands of Girl Reserves, married a soldier short-story writer herself four months ago and is particularly qualified to advise on what soldiers like to read. Patricia, a weekly commuter between Broadway and Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where she visits bridegroom Peter Kallischer, was so pleased with the new national project that she promptly adopted it as one of her major war activities.

The Girl Reserves are trying to satisfy all reading tastes, so they include in their handy-size scrapbooks everything from mystery thrillers and light romances to correspondents' stories from abroad, serialized biographies on the best-seller list and humorous cartoons. They decorate the covers of the scrapbooks as their fancy dictates, and send them to the nearest USO Club, or to the National Y.W.C.A. office in New York, to be turned over to the USO for circulation to service men eager for reading material. Very often these men are in distant regions of the world, far remote from their corner newsstands and stationery shops and unable to finish that serial they started way back when.

Motion Picture of Pacific Area To Be Shown At Bethany

"Hawaiian Paradise," a documentary picture in natural color, produced only a few weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor, will be shown at Bethany Evangelical Church, Loral and McGovern streets, by Julian Gromer of Elgin, Ill., Monday evening, Oct. 12, at 8 o'clock.

This picture of the tropical garden in the Pacific includes scenes of flowers, towering fern trees, "the most graceful tree on earth"—the cocopalms, picking and canning pineapples, harvesting sugar cane and taro, world-famous Waikiki beach, surfboard riders, jet-black sand beach, volcanic mountains and craters, Hawaiians, Oriental temples, "believe-it-or-not" barefoot football, and "gardens of flowers"—the lei.

Mr. Gromer is the photographer, lecturer, adventurer and traveler. The public is invited.

Highwood Social Service to Meet

The Highwood Social Service will meet Monday, Oct. 5 at the Highwood city hall at 8 o'clock. Members are urged to attend, as plans will be made for the campaign to raise funds.

There will be an election of officers and presidents of all organizations are requested to see that their representatives are present at the meeting.

FORMAL MEETINGS RESUMED THIS WEEK BY SEA SCOUT SHIP

Sea Scout Ship 39 of Highland Park returned to its formal meetings and winter activities this week. On board its landship at the North Shore Yacht club last Monday evening, eighteen fully uniformed sea scouts met with their skipper to plot the ship's course of the future.

During the summer months all of the mates have been drawn from the ship into some phase of military service: Mate Roderic Smith is an ensign of the line stationed at Tower hall in Chicago, awaiting orders of the very near future; Mate Gunter Schwandt is an instructor at the Aeronautical University of Chicago teaching military students; Mate Leslie Rankin, an aviation cadet in the naval reserve air corps, has just been ordered to Lockport for secondary flight training; Mate Michael O'Brien is a second class petty officer in the naval reserve, stationed at Glenview air base; Mate Bob Coleman is at Notre Dame university, having been enrolled in the naval unit earlier in the summer, and Mate Tom Stein is in the army reserve unit at the University of Illinois.

The loss of these men has placed an added responsibility on the seascouts of the Highlander, according to Skipper Traver Hamilton, an ensign of the dental corps of the naval reserves, who states that he is going to raise a number of the seamen to junior officers rank to assist in the running of the ship.

In his talk to the unit by Skipper Hamilton, stressing the growing importance of the training and information available in sea scouting, it was said, "Sea scouting is not a military organization, but what you will learn in seamanship, water safety, signaling and first aid this winter may well serve you and your country in the future wherever you may fit into the picture. This is a time for added effort by all of you to do all you can."

The Highlander has more than thirty registered sea scouts at the present time and hopes to expand to forty-five members by the end of the year; of the group five boys are registered as associates and are in the U.S. armed forces on active duty.

Sea Scout Art Williams was appointed officer of the deck for the next meeting, when regular instruction began.

'Good Night Ladies' Still At Blackstone

After listening for weeks to the second-guessers and self-eyed public pulse-feelers advance theories on the record breaking success of "Good Night Ladies!" at Chicago's Blackstone theater, producers Howard Lang and Al Rosen have reasoned that now after 24 weeks of sensational business, it would be fair and timely to submit their private analysis.

It's no longer a secret that the farce comedy has been the phenomena of the road since its inception in San Francisco. Broadway's very best slickers on public reactions have excused to Chicago to make out the answer, and a half-dozen movie shoppers have found reasons to come here and toss in offers for the film rights to this hit of the year.

Sums up impresarios Lang and Rosen: "It's what they want... a funny show... funnier, in its nonsensical way, than anything uncovered in the last decade. You see, our play has no message, we never meant it to adjust the world's crisis, and started out to create an entertainment that was all amusement. It would be a staggering bore to anyone who is allergic to laughing. The calculating analysts are fair enough to admit that we have devised a new high in escapism fun. That was the goal. So we win, even by the concession of a strange breed who insist on discovering the answers to everything."

The success of "Good Night Ladies!" can be credited to a knowledge of stand-out public choices during the first World War they cite, when the hysterical brand on nonsense reigned in the theater. Laugh plays stole the stage. Frankness sprung body behind the footlights. It became an era of division seekers yearning for the pleasures that relieve taunt nerves and exhausted energies.

Thus the co-producers describe their private opinions of their farce discovery, which co-stars Buddy Ebsen and Skeets Gallagher with a stage full of pulchritude recruited from the Broadway stage and Hollywood studios.



STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

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AFTER all these years something new bobs up in the way of what Hollywood calls a "world premier." On October 10, RKO theaters throughout the country will present "Here We Go Again," the new Fibber McGee and Molly picture, the cast of which includes Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, Ginny Simms and the Great Gildersleeve. The hour is 9:30 a. m. The admission prices everywhere will be 35 cents for adults, 25 cents for children. The novel feature is that adults will be admitted only if accompanied by children!

Metro did all right with its most recent opening. "The War Against Mrs. Hadley" made its bow in Washington, D. C., and admission was by war bond only—the prices being scaled from \$25 to \$25,000 per seat, and all seats being reserved.

Albert Dekker, who's just finished playing a marine in "Wake Island," thinks it's rather amusing that the public believes him to be a foreigner, thanks to the kind of roles he usually plays in pictures. He's as American as our corn; his father was a colonel in our army, and Dekker is a graduate of Bowdoin college.



ALBERT DEKKER

Chicago Opera Notes

Following announcement of "Lakme" as its pre-season opening night performance on November 7, the Chicago Opera Company this week announced "Rigoletto" as opener of the subscription season proper.

"Rigoletto" will be heard on Monday night, November 9, with Josephine Antoine, Anna Kaskas, Jan Kie-pura, John Charles Thomas—all Chicago favorites—and Nicola Moscona, who will be making his Chicago operatic debut. Moscona is the brilliant young basso of the Metropolitan Opera who was born in Athens, Greece. His Operatic debut was made at Athens' National Opera House in 1931, his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1937. On three different occasions he has had the honor of being chosen for solo work by Arturo Toscanini—twice in performances of Verdi's "Requiem" once in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Jarmila Novotna, who scored a "Traviata" triumph here in 1940, has been signed for the coming season.

For the first time in its history, the Chicago Opera Company this year will include a Polish opera—"Halca" in its official subscription repertoire.

In order to cooperate fully with the opera company in making the attendance at this event an outstanding one—and to encourage the presentation of Polish opera and artists in the future—a Polish Opera Guild has been formed, which numbers among its members many of the city's outstanding Poles and music lovers. Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Barzynski, Quartermaster Corps, U. S. Army, is chairman of the new organization.

Auditions to give two newcomers an opportunity to be heard with the opera company this fall got under way this week, as the opera's board of judges heard the first of the applicants to be accepted for hearings. Requests for auditions will be received up to and including Wednesday (October 7). Applications should be addressed to Mrs. William Cowen, Audition Chairman, Chicago Opera Company, 20 N. Wacker Drive.

Want to see how the FBI goes about rounding up spies? Then be sure to see the new "March of Time," called "The FBI Front." The film reveals the way in which Axis espionage activity was apparently permitted to go unchecked for a time, in order to amass as complete a file of evidence as possible against the day when the guilty ones were to be rounded up.

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"The Fride of the Yankees," Samuel Goldwyn's story of Lou Gehrig's life, goes on and on at the New York theater where it opened. House records fall one after the other, as people crowd in to see Gary Cooper and Theresa Wright in this very moving picturization of the career of the famous and beloved baseball player.

"Over Land and Over Sea," a song composed by Alexander P. de Seversky and his wife and published five years ago, has been revised and dedicated to the American air forces. Seversky's "Victory Through Air Power" is being made into a feature by Walt Disney.

Orson Welles, who guest-starred on the Stage Door Canteen radio program recently, said that one of the most tempting offers he has had since his return from South America was David Selznick's that he play the part of "Roche" in "Jane Eyre." Welles turned it down, is determined to let nothing interfere with any plans the office of Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs may have for him.

Alan Reed, star of the air's "Able's Irish Rose," is head man at home since he brought his son the prize match cover of the boy's collection. It's the President's personal match cover—solid blue, with a gold sailboat with the F. forming the masthead, the D. the mainsail, and the R. the auxiliary sail.

Few radio programs have attracted the attention and praise that have come to the Norman Corwin series "An American in England," broadcast over CBS from London. Corwin has been hailed as "the greatest American morale builder because he has pointed out the best in two great peoples."

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ODDS AND ENDS—Movie reports that motion picture exhibitors believe that Van Heflin is the No. 1 star of tomorrow: "Seven Swans in a Row" is his next picture... In "Nothing Ventured" you'll see Lana Turner as a girl who falls in love with a clerk in a five-and-ten... Signe Hasso, Swedish actress making her American film debut in "Journey for Margaret," is said to possess all of the essential ingredients of her countrywoman, Greta Garbo... Clayton Ruck, who portrays Herman, the Dink, on the Burns and Allen show, is studying dentistry in his spare moments.

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