

Role of Will Rogers Going to Son, Jimmy

Jack Benny Is Booked for Another Movie and May Not Get That Vacation

By LOUELLA O. PARSONS,

Motion Picture Editor International News Service.

HOLLYWOOD, April 24. The toughest test any young actor ever had handed him is the one Jimmie Rogers made at Warner Brothers for the role of his dad, Will Rogers. Of course the rope-throwing, gum-chewing comedian didn't come into fame until he was much older than Jimmie, but the family resemblance is strong. In fact, someone whispered off the record, that the test is so good there is no doubt but that Jimmie will be signed very soon.

Of course there is the little matter of borrowing young Rogers from Hal Roach, to whom he is under contract. But that can probably be arranged without difficulty. Mrs. Rogers, who sold the life story of the American cowboy-philosopher, has the final say on the actor selected, and naturally her son would meet with her approval.

When is Jack Benny going to get the vacation he told me he needs so badly? He is booked for a movie at Universal after he finishes "George Washington Slept Here," and he won't be off the radio until Summer. Jack has been talking business to Bruce Manning on "Wonder Boy," a comedy written for him by Paul Jarrico and Richard Collins. He likes the idea so well he probably will sign a contract within a few days. Meanwhile, he and Annie Sheridan are emoting in the "George Washington" number and getting lots of laughs out of the comedy on the Warner lot—especially a scene where John Hancock tries to sell Jack, dressed as George Washington, an insurance policy.

Eddie Sutherland won't have even a breathing spell after he finishes "Army Surgeon" at RKO. He's been signed to do another service movie, "The Navy Comes Through," with practically the same cast—Randolph Scott, Pat O'Brien, Jackie Cooper, and possibly Jane Wyatt, who is an RKO starlet. Speaking of Randy reminds me of a funny story he told me. He went to Dayton to see a friend in the service and the town is such a mad house that the only reservation he could get was in the Dayton Hospital. Word went out the famed movie star was in the hospital and Randy, who never

felt better in his life, was deluged with telegrams.

While the contest rages over whether Lana Turner, Rita Hayworth, Peggy Diggins or a half dozen other glamor girls are the "Sweetheart of the Army," Joan Davis crops up as the "Morale Girl," by popular vote of the Quartermaster Motor Base at Stockton. The boys voted for Joan because she makes them laugh. It is a good thing they haven't seen or heard Joan's daughter, Beverly Wills of Beverly Hills (as she calls herself) because she would have stolen ma's thunder. The juvenile's latest contribution to the gaiety of nations was at the circus when the pint-sized ponies pranced on. "Look!" she yelled, "rationed horses!"

No one is surprised that Freddie March soon dons the makeup for "Mark Twain," America's foremost humorist and famous author.

As long ago as last December, when I met Jesse L. Lasky on the train headed for the Mark Twain celebration at Hannibal, he told me March was his selection and he hoped to get him. Then Warners intimated that other actors were being considered.

But today an announcement was made that March checks in at Warners to start "Twain" discussions and that he has finally put his valued signature on a contract.

With "Sergeant York" such a hit, Jesse is doing his utmost to equal it in his "Twain" epic.

SNAPSHOTS OF HOLLYWOOD COLLECTED AT RANDOM: Whisper is the stork has made another date with Maureen O'Sullivan and John Farrow; Judy Garland is ill again and off the set of "Me and My Gal;" Barbara Stanwyck remained with her hairdresser all through her tonsilectomy.

Captain James Roosevelt and his bride, the former Romele Schneider, dining at the Little Club, formerly called the Little Troc; John Roselli, formerly June Lang's groom, squiring Betty Hutton to Slapsie Maxie's; Carol Marcus, who came here to be Gloria Vanderbilt's bridesmaid at her marriage to Pat Di Cicco and remained, at Charlie Foy's with Billy Halop. Her mother dined a few

MOVIES

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nights ago with Gabriel Dell, another "Dead End Kid".

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