

From
Houston (Tex.) Chronicle

Date 9/21/40

Fort Worth Struts At World Premiere Of "The Westerner"

Easterner's Dream of Texas Town Reproduced
As City Turns Out to Cheer Stars in
Judge Roy Bean Film.

BY MILDRED STOCKARD,
Staff Correspondent.

Fort Worth, Sept. 20.—Fort Worth put on a big show Thursday, with a full Western flavor, in celebration of the world premiere of "The Westerner," Samuel Goldwyn's dramatization of the career of Judge Roy Bean, and starring Gary Cooper, Walter Brennan and Doris Davenport.

Fort Worth looked like an Easterner's dream of a Texas town. Cowboys in full regalia slouched around in slanting high-heeled boots, cowboy Stetsons at

ABILENE GIRL WINS.

By Associated Press.

Fort Worth, Sept. 20.—Miss Evelyn Foot, 18, of Abilene was named the winner of the "Miss Typical Texas" contest held last night in connection with the world premiere of "The Westerner."

Miss Foote, who won over 23 other contestants, will receive a trip to the New York World Fair.

rakish angles. Frame facades turned modern theatre and hotel buildings into imitations of frame buildings of frontier days. Across the Worth Hotel was stretched a crudely printed sign: "Hotel Room and Board."

All Fort Worth must have turned out to greet the celebrities brought here in three planes from Hollywood. For the parade which opened festivities in the afternoon, thousands thronged the street, and Thursday night three theatres were sold out and thousands more clogged the streets in front of the theatres, hoping to glimpse the celebrities. The crowd was so dense officers had trouble clearing a path to let patrons into the theatre. And the Fort Worth

fans found the pushing and shoving of the crowds worth the effort, for there were more Hollywood celebrities here than have been brought to a Texas premiere before. The dinner out at Amon G. Carter's ranch, Shady Oaks Farm, looked like a miniature academy award banquet.

Dallas Cowboy Attends.

Besides the three stars of the picture, there was lanky Chill Wills, Dallas County cowboy, who soared sensationally in "Boom Town." He's a sandy-haired, lanky Texan who looks as if he had just ridden in from the range, and whose head hasn't been turned at all by his sudden fame. He has a small part in "The Westerner."

Lillian Bond, blonde screen beauty, who plays the part of the fabulous Lily Langtry, was also a member of the party, with Producer Sam Goldwyn, who disappointed fans by speaking in perfect English without a single "Goldwynism;" Mrs. Goldwyn, who is pretty enough to be a star herself; William Wyler, director of the picture, and his charming actress wife, Margaret Tallichet, former Dallas girl.

Coming along just for the fun, and entertaining the crowds royally with their quips and clowning were Bob Hope, who acted as master of ceremonies at the theatres; Charlie Ruggles, who is as much fun as one of his screen roles; Edward Arnold, whose roaring, contagious laugh could be heard wherever crowds collected.

Other Stars Attend.

Petite, blonde Ona Munson, who said she hoped people would not confuse her with Belle Wat-

ling, her most famous character, insisted she came along as Lorelei, the newspaper girl in her radio serial, to cover the story of the premiere.

Georgia Carroll, former Dallas girl, who is Hollywood's latest sensation, was another beauty in the party. She recently was put under contract in Hollywood after scoring in "Louisiana Purchase" on the stage.

Nationally known newspapermen, Hollywood columnists and trade paper editors, also brought here for the celebration, included Harrison Carroll, Robbin Coons, Ed Schallert, and Jimmie Fidler, of Hollywood and Abel Greene of New York's Variety.

The stars were generous with themselves. They rode in the parade, made radio speeches all day long, talked again at the Carters' informal dinner and gave a program at each of the three theatres.

Autographs Signed.

In between times, they signed autographs, frantically trying to keep pace with the fans who thrust pencils at them whenever they paused.

Fort Worth gave them a welcome they won't forget, and the day will long remain one of the bright days in the history of this Texas town.

Amon G. Carter was the official host of the party. In cowboy outfit and riding his Palomine pony, he greeted the celebrities at the airport when they arrived, and he headed the parade that wound through the city's downtown streets to the cheers of a crowd estimated at 40,000. Later he and Mrs. Carter were hosts to the stars and visiting newspaper reporters at an old-fashioned Texas dinner at his Shady Oaks farm. Again at the theatre, he told the audience how delighted he was the premiere of "The Westerner" was being held in Fort Worth.

"I can think of nothing more appropriate than having the premiere here where the West begins," he said. He shared honors on the stage with R. J. O'Donnell, vice president of Interstate Theatres of Dallas, and with Bob Hope, master of ceremonies.

Gary Cooper Cheered.

Gary Cooper, who is just as tall, and as shy and as good-looking off the screen as he is on, was the center of attraction wherever the stars went. And on the stage, he had to take bow after bow.

Walter Brennan, character actor who plays the role of Judge Roy Bean, was one of the surprises among the stars. Accustomed to seeing him on the screen as an old man, he appeared amazingly youthful. He is tall, with slightly stooping shoulders, his brown hair just beginning to be touched with gray.

Vivacious young Doris Davenport probably was having the biggest thrill of all the stars. It was her first premiere, and she's still young enough in the business to be thoroughly thrilled with the excitement of a premiere.

Following the screening of the picture, the stars made personal appearances at the movie ball in the Texas Hotel, which climaxed the day.