
**STAR
 DUST**
 Movie • Radio
 By VIRGINIA VALE

NOWADAYS there is one sure way for an executive of a motion picture company to find out whether his company considers him really important or not. If he's a big shot, he's not allowed to fly. That's a hardship when a man is commuting from Hollywood to New York and back again, of course—but hardship or not, they take trains.

Only last week three of Metro's big men wanted to get from New York to Hollywood in a hurry, and planned to fly; they had done it so often that it meant no more to them than walking down the street; they knew all too well that flying was no more dangerous than any other means of transportation. But at the last minute somebody got wind of their plans. The resulting argument was hot and heavy—but in the end they went by train. One of them didn't really object, however. He was Howard Dietz, chief of publicity and advertising.

"That's all right with me," he remarked. "I'll win a thousand dollars at bridge on the way out."

There's just no stopping them—I mean these girls who are as determined now not to be blonde as they once were to be as blonde as possible. Jean Harlow started it, of course, by turning "brownette," and now we have Carole Lombard, Alice Faye and Joan Bennett following her example. They seem to feel that it will help them to get more serious roles—quite forgetting that Ann Harding, who is naturally so blonde, has been doing pretty well with serious roles for a long, long time.

Joan Bennett



On the other hand, Marion Talley (ex opera star and farmer, now working hard in pictures) has turned blonde for her first screen appearance. If you have seen her, or seen photographs of her in the old days, you're going to be surprised at her appearance; she has lost a lot of weight, and it is a big improvement.

Those Major Bowes amateur stage units have been so successful that Bob ("Believe It Or Not") Ripley is going to have some of his own; the first will begin its tour somewhere in New England the last of April. It will probably include these acts: Little Jeanie, a thirty-pound midget; Grace Murphy's quintuplets, five ballet dances averaging three hundred pounds each; a concert pianist who plays—and well—with his elbows; John Tio and his talking bird; and a man who makes music with leaves. Bob himself, encountered at a party after the opening of Ringling's circus, was trying to curb a strong desire to go out with them himself.

Frank Parker, who bobs up on so many radio programs, is going to make another picture; his first, you'll recall, was "Sweet Surrender." He's been on the stage, so he's prepared for a movie career.

Speaking of his stage career, the other day Fifi D'Orsay came to a rehearsal of her radio show with a picture of the cast of "Greenwich Village Follies of 1925." Willie Howard glanced at it, then at Parker, and said, "Frank, there's a fellow in this picture who looks exactly like you."

"Looks like me?" retorted Frank. "It is me. I was a chorus boy."

I wish you could meet Bette Davis. She's an overwhelming young person, because she's so devastatingly frank. No matter what you ask her she'll answer it, and intelligently too—with no regard for whether the movie moguls will like what she says or not. Now some interviewers use rather brutal tactics.

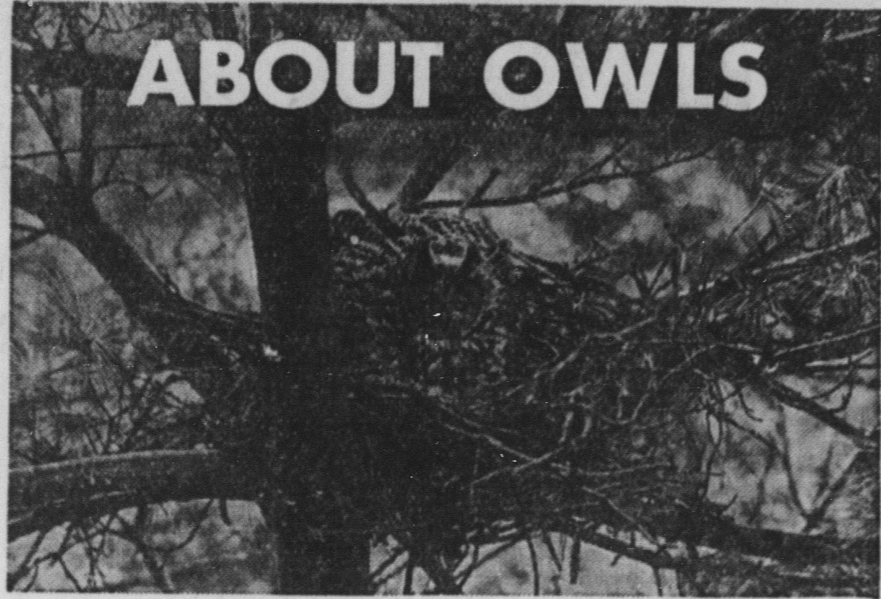
That doesn't work with Bette Davis; she doesn't get angry, she just tells the truth, with a pleasant smile.

"How do you get along with your husband?" someone asked her recently. "There are reports that you've separated."

"Oh, we fight," she replied. "It's my fault; sometimes I simply have to fight, and then nothing will stop me."

ODDS AND ENDS . . . John Boles doesn't want to be tied down to one company any longer; he's going to free lance . . . Fredric March felt the same way; thought he was making too many costume pictures . . . So the first one he signed up for as a free lance was "Mary of Scotland" with Katherine Hepburn . . . Paramount is going to give us "Beau Geste" again, in color this time, with Gary Cooper in the leading role . . . "A Message to Garcia" is a fine picture . . . Jane Withers does fine work in "Gentle Julia" . . . Shirley Temple got another raise the other day . . . Practically all the movie companies are trying to sign up Charles Boyer, who's already under contract . . . You'll see him before long in "The Garden of Allah" . . . And in color . . . Margaret Sullivan's broken arm is holding up two pictures . . . Myrna Loy will be teamed with Warner Baxter in "To Mary, With Love"; remember them in "Broadway Bill"?

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ABOUT OWLS

Waiting for Nightfall and a Meal of Mice.

Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

THE evening air of early spring in the Everglades of southern Florida is soft and mild. Delicate scents from blossoms come with the breeze, together with the voices of myriad frogs in incessant but attractive chorus from the marshes. Suddenly, from the moss-festooned live oaks in this peaceful background, comes an outburst of demoniacal laughter, guttural in sound and startling in its abruptness.

Playing the beam of light from an electric torch through the branches, you discover presently two glowing spots of ruby red, reflections from a pair of eyes. As your own eyes adjust themselves to the feeble illumination, you can distinguish dimly the shadowy form of a great barred owl. The hubbub stops immediately, for the bird is puzzled by the spot of light; but as you continue along the trail the owl, now behind you, utters a loud, prolonged whoo-oo-oo-aw that resounds eerily among the trees. Until daybreak you hear at intervals the wild ululation of its calls filling the darkened woodland.

The voices of owls are more familiar than their persons, as most of them are active principally at night, and without special search the birds themselves are difficult to see. Their presence, unseen but constantly evident, has caused imagination to play about them until in practically every country in the world there have grown up fables and superstitions regarding owls.

The little owl of Europe, about as large as the American screech owl without the ear tufts of that species, has long been an emblem of wisdom, and in early years was accepted as a special ward of Pallas Athene of the Greeks.

He Only Looks Wise.

The vogue of the owl as an emblem of wisdom is not due to any special intelligence of the bird, but to the conformation of the head, with the two eyes so placed that they look directly ahead like those of man.

As the companion of night-flying witches, or as one of the ingredients in the brews concocted by these trouble-makers, the owl developed a black and unsavory reputation, attested by many references to its evil omen in Shakespeare and other writers.

Among American Indians, owls, though feared at times, were in better repute and were the basis of various lively legends. Zuni tales include stories of one called "gray owl" that lived in a house as a man does. The Pima Indians held that at death the human spirit passed into the body of an owl and, to assist in this transmigration, they gave owl feathers, kept for the purpose in a special box, to a dying person.

Among the Plains Indians, the Arrikara included an owl group as one of their eight mystic societies, and in the sacred rites of this body they used the stuffed skin of an owl with disks of cunningly fitted buffalo horn for eyes.

Owls are found throughout the world from the Arctic regions through the continents and to remote islands in the sea. More than 300 kinds are known, ranging in size from the tiny elf owl, no larger than sparrows, to the powerful horned owls and eagle owls, which are two feet or more in length.

Scientifically, all owls are included in one order, the Strigiformes, in which two families are recognized, one for the barn owls (Tytonidae) and the other (Strigidae) for all other species.

Regardless of their size, owls are instantly identified by their broad faces with prominent disks of feathers about the eyes, coupled with sharp, curved beaks and claws, and long, fluffy feathers. Their nearest relatives are the whip-poor-wills, night-hawks, and gnatcatchers.

Formerly it was thought that owls were allied to hawks and falcons, but on careful study it was found that these two groups differ radically in structure. The resemblances are superficial and are due to the form of the beak and claws, which have undergone similar development from seeking the same kinds of foods.

Other Birds D-alike Them.

Most owls are nocturnal and by day sleep in caves, hollow trees, tangles of leaves, or whatever may offer protection. When they are found by other birds, there is high excitement, jays, cardinals, and the like gathering to scold and chatter at these enemies of the night. Crows are more aggressive and often drive the largest owls to seek more secure cover where they may avoid their cawing black tormentors.

The homes of owls are located in hollows of trees, caverns in rocks, or

in stick nests built by hawks, crows, or other birds. Often no nesting material of any kind is used. The eggs are white, occasionally tinted with buff or pale blue, but without markings, and are peculiar in being usually elliptical or nearly round. The young are covered with white down and remain in the nest under care of the parents for a considerable time.

In defense of their young, owls are often aggressive and swoop at any and all who chance to pass, sometimes with startling effect when the attack is delivered without warning. A scientist climbing to the nest of a great horned owl once was struck so savagely in the back by one of the parents that the strong talons of the bird drew blood through the heavy clothing he wore.

While walking at dusk near a woodland camp in eastern Kansas, the scientist was startled by something that, without warning, struck his bare head. The aggressor was a little screech owl with a family of young nearby. At other times he has had owls knock off his hat, assisted no doubt by his involuntary flinching as the bird brushed past. In Puerto Rico, country people inform you gravely that a native owl steals the hats of persons who walk the trails at night and carry them off to use them for nests, a superstition probably based on attacks such as those described.

Their Plumage is Soft.

All owls have soft plumage composed of long, fluffy feathers. The wings have softened margins, so that in flight the birds move without sound, as if they were shadows. In owls, the lower leg, or tarsus, and upper surfaces of the toes, bare in most birds, are covered with feathers, these being reduced or absent only in a few species that inhabit warm countries. The plumage colors run usually to gray, brown, and buff, with lighter markings of buff and gray. White and black are extensive in some, but brighter colors are rare or absent.

Some of the smaller owls have rounded markings on the back of the head, resembling eyes. In South America the country people tell you these birds have four eyes. They can see behind as well as ahead.

The eyes of owls are fixed so immovably in the head, where both are directed forward, that the bird must change the position of the head to alter its line of vision.

Though the majority of owls remain hidden in shaded, secluded places by day, there are a few that are abroad by day or by night indifferently. This is true of the snowy owl, which lives in summer through the long Arctic day, and of the borrowing owls of open country in the new world. The latter delights in resting in the sun, and in broad daylight detects and watches hawks and other birds flying at such great heights that one can barely see them.

What They Eat.

Owls live mostly on animal food which is captured alive, except that occasionally they feed upon rabbits freshly killed by automobiles along our highways, or upon other carcasses. Mice, rats, and other small mammals are regular prey, as are birds of various species.

The barred owl eats many crayfish and fish, while crabs and fish are staple foods of the fish owls of Africa and India, which have featherless legs and rough, horny-surfaced toes to assist in capturing such slippery prey. Horned owls have been known to capture goldfish in ornamental pools, but this is unusual.

Owls, like hawks, tear their prey apart and swallow the pieces entire. During digestion the flesh is assimilated, while bones, fur, feathers, and other indigestible portions are formed into compact pellets, which are regurgitated to leave the stomach empty for another meal. Such pellets accumulate about roosts and, through identification of the bones contained, give a valuable index to the food of the bird concerned.

The great horned owls and snowy owls are fiercely predatory, killing rabbits, squirrels, and other creatures of good size. The former has been known to capture and eat small owls. In the Dominican Republic was seen a burrowing owl tearing at the body of a young bird of its own kind which had been killed and thrown aside by some native.

Occasionally wild mice increase for various reasons until they form a veritable plague. Under such circumstances short-eared owls gather in abundance and aid in reducing the numbers of the pests. Burrowing owls feed extensively on beetles and other large insects.



NOT SO SERIOUS

"And it is estimated," concluded the scientist, "that at the present rate the heat of the sun will be exhausted in approximately 70,000,000 years, at the end of which time this planet will be a cold, barren ball of rock, and all life will be extinct."

A small, worried-looking man at the back of the hall rose to his feet. "How long did you say it would be before this terrible calamity occurs?" he inquired.

"About 70,000,000 years," replied the lecturer.

"Thank heaven!" said the worried one, resuming his seat. "I thought you said 7,000,000!"

IN ANTARCTICA



"How about this daylight saving scheme—what shall we do about it?" "Set the clock ahead about a fortnight."

That Was Why

The examiners were checking up the students' papers. "Can't set this youth pass," said one, handing his colleague a paper. "He can't spell properly." "What's he done wrong?" asked the other.

"He spells 'proceed' with only one 'e,' said the first.

"Where's he come from?" his colleague asked. "Ceylon," came the reply. "H'm," smiled the second, "that accounts for the spelling. He comes from the land of the Cingalese."—Answers Magazine.

Cold Storage

A man saw a message and an address on an egg he got for breakfast. The message read:

"This egg was packed by a girl thousands of miles from the United States. She is supposed to be the prettiest girl in this neighborhood, and is prepared to marry the man who eats this egg."

The man cabled her: "I'll marry you."

The girl's reply read: "I am flattered by your proposal, but I am now married and have three children."

Boyhood Recollection

"Would you not like to be a bare-foot boy again down on the farm?" said the romantic lady.

"No," answered Senator Sorghum. "It sounds peaceful enough, but in this life you can never escape some kind of hostilities. Even when I was trudging over the meadow to call the cattle, some big bull would frequently stop me and try to give me an argument."

WARNED



"He kissed me without any warning." "He did not. I warned him against it often."

Moving Pictures

"Putting the portraits of great men on our paper currency is a proper and deserved tribute."

"Yes," replied the impetuous person, "but who gets to hold on to a piece of paper money long enough to look at the picture?"

Accommodating Thief

Friend—You say that thief was very accommodating? Merchant—Yes; he took all the money out of the cash register and rang up No Sale.—Chelsea Record.

Tak! Tak!

Sallor (on leave)—I'd like to try on that suit in the window. Puzzled Clerk—I'm a navy booster, mister, but I'm afraid the boss would be upset if you didn't use the regular dressing room.—Santa Fe Magazine.

Evident Appreciation

"How is your garden getting on?" "First rate," replied Mr. Crosslots. "I haven't eaten any of the truck myself, but I know from the appearance of the neighbors' chickens that it must be very nice and nourishing."

New Slit Sleeves and Youthful Bodice Go With This Spectator Sports Frock



Pattern No. 1868-B

Some are chosen and some are not, as you remember. And this is one of the "summer" chosen! A pretty bad pun, but this perfectly stunning spectator sports frock makes up for it. And you can wear it yourself when summer sets in if you'll send for the pattern now.

It is surprisingly easy to make, and with the aid of the step-by-step chart, illustrating the cut and fit of the new slit sleeves and the way to pleat and stitch-up the youthful bodice, you will immediately realize how automatically it goes together. The bodice has a lot of blouse to it. even makes you suspect that it's held underneath by an elastic band and the side pleats of the skirt har-

monize beautifully with the action pleats in the back blouse.

Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1868-B is available in sizes 14, 16, 18, 20; 40 and 42. Corresponding bust measurements 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42. Size 16 (34) requires 4½ yards of 39 inch material. Send fifteen cents for the pattern.

The Barbara Bell Pattern Book featuring spring designs is ready. Send fifteen cents today for your copy.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third St., New York, N. Y.

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OF INTEREST TO THE HOUSEWIFE

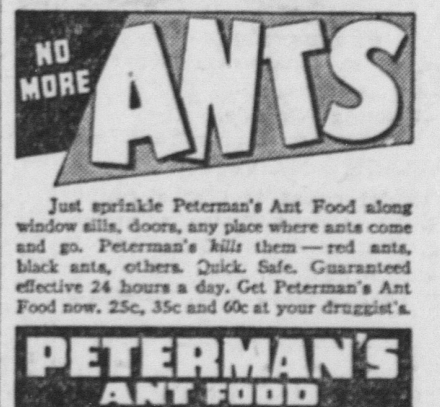
Grease spots can be removed from washable materials with warm water and soap as in ordinary laundering if care is taken to rub spot thoroughly. Soap containing naphtha or kerosene is efficient.

To remove soiled places on the children's rompers and play clothes dip garments in water, sprinkle with granulated soap powder, roll up and put to soak in the bottom of tub.

Soiled white window shades may be successfully painted on one side with a coat of flat white paint and with green paint on the other side.

When making gravies, allow one and one-half teaspoons of flour to each cup of liquid. Mix flour to a paste with cold water and add to hot liquid.

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PETERMAN'S ANT FOOD

This story will interest many Men and Women

NOT long ago I was like some friends I have... low in spirits... run-down... out of sorts... tired easily and looked terrible. I knew I had no serious organic trouble so I reasoned sensibly... as my experience has since proven... that work, worry, colds and whatnot had just worn me down.



"Yes, I have come back to where I feel like myself again."

The confidence mother has always had in S.S.S. Tonic... which is still her stand-by when she feels run-down... convinced me I ought to try this Treatment... I started a course... the color began to come back to my skin... I felt better... I no longer tired easily and soon I felt that those red-blood-cells were back to so-called fighting strength... it is great to feel strong again and like my old self. © S.S.S. Co.

S.S.S. TONIC Makes you feel like yourself again

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The "FIRST QUART"
Tells the Story

Out of the experience of thousands of motorists has been developed a simple method of comparing oil performance... the "First Quart" Test. It is just a matter of noting how many miles you go after a drain-and-refill before you have to add a quart. If you are obliged to add oil too frequently, try the "First Quart" Test with Quaker State. See if you don't go farther before you have to add that tell-tale first quart. And, the oil that stands up best between refills is giving your motor the safest lubrication. Quaker State Oil Refining Company, Oil City, Pa.

Retail Price... 35¢ per Quart

QUAKER STATE MOTOR OIL

BEFORE HE SAYS...

"You need a quart!"

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