MOVIE COLUMN

MPA's changing rules vexing Hollywood stars

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—The Motion Picture Academy still hasn't solved its supporting-actor problem.

The support category in the Oscar sweepstakes has vexed Hollywood ever since 1944. That was the year when Barry Fitzgerald was nominated for both star and support awards for his performance in "Going My Way."

Absurd? Of course. The academy has kept changing its rules ever since Fitzgerald finally won for support.

For a while, actors in hit films permitted themselves to be demoted to support class to qualify in that less-competitive race.

Now the academy rules that any actor with star billing—usually denoted by having his name appear above the title—must compete in the star race.

STILL ISN'T ANSWER

That still isn't the answer, as you can see in the case of Stephen Boyd. Recently he won the Hollywood foreign press award as best supporting player because of his work in Ben-Hur.

Yet he drew no Oscar nomination, because he had star billing in the film.

Boyd remarked that Hugh Griffith had a much larger role than he did. Yet Griffith was nominated for support, while Boyd remained a star.

Some noted character performers never get star billing, though their roles are stellar. Yet some top names will accept minor roles as long as they get the balm of star billing.

You figure it out.

B.C. ROUNDUP

T. R. Simms charged with murder of wife

PORT MOODY, B.C. (CP) — Thomas Ralph Simms, 24, was formally charged late Wednesday with the murder of his wife.

Mrs. Beverley Grace Simms, 23, was found shot to death early in the day in the bathroom of the couple's small, white house.

Police chief A. W. Kruger said Simms is to appear in police court today. Mrs. Simms was a nurse at Surrey Memorial hospital. Her husband is a hydraulic press operator with Dominion Bridge in Burnaby.

They were married in February last year.

Additives harmless

PENTICTON (CP)—Dugald McGregor of the Summerland Research Station said here Wednesday that any material added to food has to be proven harmless.

He was commenting on a statement by Edward R. Moxey, president of the Pure Food Guild of British Columbia, who told a Vancouver Liberal meeting Tuesday night that degenrative diseases such as cancer and heart trouble are increasing because of food additives and poisonous fruit sprays.

Greatest attention

VANCOUVER (CP)—Recommendations by a coroner's jury in the death of a 36-year-old Indian woman will be given the "greatest attention," Edgar Shaw, acting regional superintendent of Indian health services here, said Wednesday.

Mr. Shaw's comments followed the jury's ruling Tuesday that "inadequate attention may have aggravated the condition" of Mrs. Eva Ada Harry of Vancouver, who died March 11 while being transferred to an Indian hospital at Sardis, B.C.

Key to control

CHILLIWACK (CP) — Provincial Mines Minister Kiernan says a dam on Olson Creek, west of Prince George, is the "key to Fraser flood control."

Mr. Kiernan told Chilliwack Board of Trade that a dam on the Fraser River tributary would create a storage basin of 5,000,000 acre feet. He said a $1,500,000 three-year reconnaissance and engineering program is planned.

Report on hydro

VICTORIA (CP) — Provincial Water Comptroller A. F. Paget said today he will report to the government soon on the feasibility of the proposed multi-million-dollar Peace River hydro project.

Amalgamation move

VANCOUVER (CP)—British Columbia Co-operative Wholesale Society voted Tuesday to consider an amalgamation move which would establish one co-op wholesale organization taking in the entire Canadian area west of the Lakehead.

Canada loser

NEW WESTMINSTER (CP) — John Fisher, executive director of the Canadian Tourist Association, said here Wednesday that Canada, as a tourist nation, is a loser.

Inquire into charges

VANCOUVER (CP)—J. Everett Brown, deputy minister of municipal affairs, told a citizens committee that the department will inquire into charges that certain members of Richmond council have used their offices for personal gain and to exert monopoly control.

Federal loan

VICTORIA (CP)—The Colonist says it has learned the federal government has offered a $1,400,000,000 loan to British Columbia to help the province in developing the Columbia River.

Brown president

VANCOUVER (CP)—J. J. Brown, one of B.C.'s pioneer dairymen, was elected president of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers Association Wednesday. He succeeds D. R. Nicholson, who died December.

Husband dies

VANCOUVER (CP) — Harry George Ireland, 47, who was taken to Vancouver General Hospital Tuesday night to have his stomach pumped for shaving lotion, perfume, shampoo and paint remover was found dead in bed by his wife 12 hours after being released from hospital. An autopsy is being conducted.

LOVE ME LOVE MY DOG—"Hobo," new canine actor, cuddles up with Doris Day, with whom he appears in MGM's "Please Don't Eat the Daisies." David Niven enacts Miss Day's husband in the CinemaScope and color film version of Jean Kerr's best-seller, with other leading roles played by Janis Paige, Spring Byington and Richard Haydn. The picture was produced by Joe Pasternak; directed by Charles Walters.

Concert star to appear in Vancouver

VANCOUVER (CP)—After 20 years on the concert stage, Maria Stader is planning her first public opera role.

The tiny lyric soprano, already acknowledged as one of Europe's leading concert and oratorio singers, said Wednesday she has agreed to appear next December in the home town of Zurich, Switzerland, in Mozart's The Magic Flute.

A big factor in her decision is the knowledge that the conductor will be her husband, Hans Erismann.

Although she has recorded complete operas and performed countless operatic selections in concerts, Miss Stader said she "never really wanted to sing an opera before."

The Hungarian-born singer, barely five feet high, is making her third appearance here in the last four years—with the University of British Columbia choir and Vancouver Soloists Saturday evening.

Names in the news

CAPETOWN—South Africa is not going to get television because it would undermine the white man's rule here, **Telegraphs Minister Albert Hertzog** said Wednesday. **Hertzog** told the senate the whites' rule "cannot be achieved if such bad influences as television and all its accompanying evils are allowed to contaminate our young people who'll be leaders of the country in the future."

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PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad — **Sir Winston Churchill** arrived here Wednesday aboard the yacht Christinia, guest of millionaire shipowner **Aristotle Onassis. Churchill** was not expected to go ashore while the yacht is here for 18 hours to take on fuel.

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LOS ANGELES—**Actor Robert Storr** helped his wife obtain a divorce on grounds of cruelty Wednesday. **Mrs. Storr**, an actress known as **Sandra Lane**, was short of corroborating witnesses, so her husband took the stand to back up her testimony that he sometimes walked out on her at parties. She did not ask for allmony.

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LOS ANGELES— Damages of $20,000 were awarded Wednesday to a studio painter who sued actor **Jack Webb** for $100,000. **Louis E. Shields**, 51, said he suffered back and neck injuries at Republic studios in 1957 when struck by a sound stage door that **Webb** was opening.

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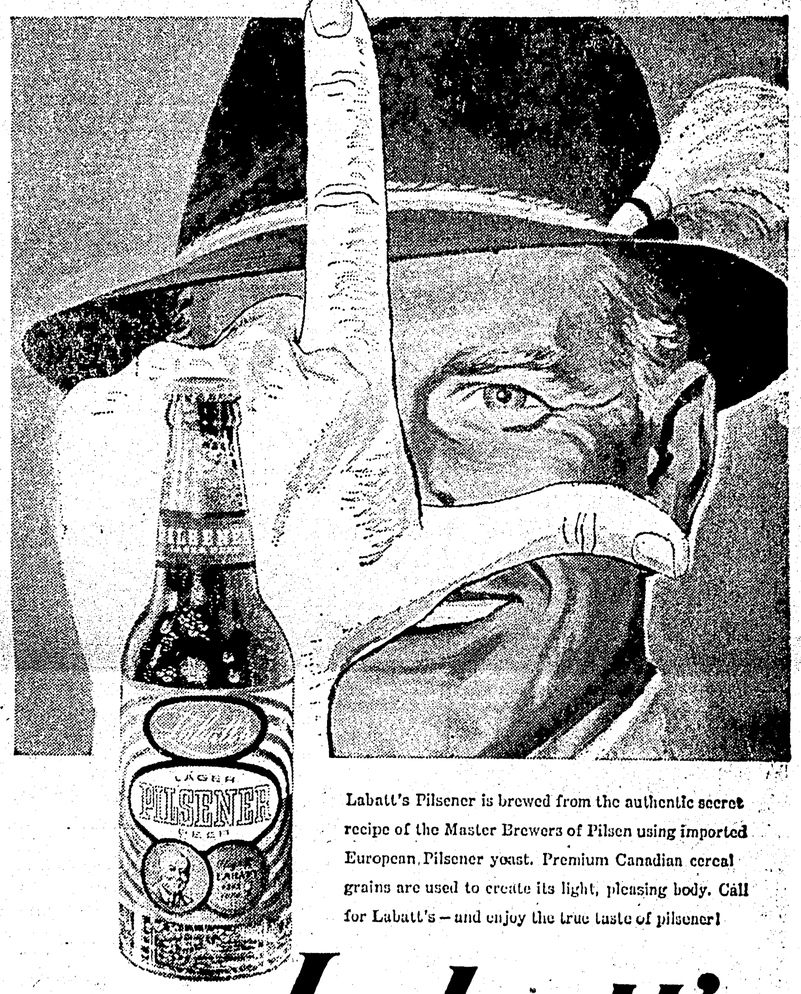

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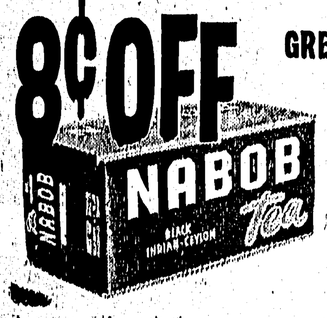

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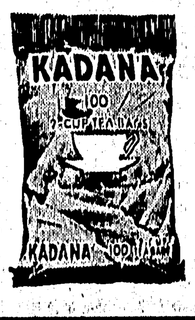

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