MOVIE COLUMN

12 stars rule movietown

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — These are the men who now rule the movie industry:

Marlon Brando
Gary Cooper
Tony Curtis
Kirk Douglas
Clark Gable
Cary Grant
William Holden
Burt Lancaster
Gregory Peck
Frank Sinatra
James Stewart
John Wayne

They hold the balance of power in Hollywood just as surely as the town once was ruled by the pioneering producers. The pioneers are dying, and the strength of the major studios has steadily ebbed. The top-draw stars have moved into the vacuum.

SCREAM ABOUT PAY

The major and independent producers are screaming over what they have to pay those stars.

An MGM producer recently wailed to a columnist that the studio's product was stalled because stars wanted a wing of the administration building plus $1,000,000.

Though they may scream, the producers pay. Take a look at some of these reports:

Mirisch Brothers pay Holden and Wayne $750,000 each plus 20 per cent of the profits for The Horse Soldiers.

BANKRUPTCY SEEN

Many producers claim that such deals are outrageous and that the stars are pricing the film business into bankruptcy.

The stars appear unconcerned. In the case of Bill Holden, his Bridge on the River Kwai deal is offered as proof that there can be profit for everyone in a good picture.

Holden was offered 10 cents of every dollar that came in the box office. The film is one of the all-time greats, and his take will amount to $2,500,000. His payments are limited to $50,000 a year, so he can still be collecting when he's a great-grandfather.

How did this revolution happen?

Let the stars themselves explain. Some modestly deny they are the new rulers of Hollywood. But all admit the power of box office favorites has grown immeasurably in the last decade.

Frank Sinatra: "I saw this trend coming five years ago. I knew the time would come when the major studios no longer existed as such, but would offer their facilities in partnership with the actors and creators of film properties."

WAS DROPPED

Sinatra, dropped from his MGM contract as a singer on the skids six years ago, is back at the studio—as partner in Some Came Running and two more films.

James Stewart: "After the glamour and glitter is stripped away, you've got to realize that movies are pretty much like any other business. We exist on supply and demand, too. The demand now is for solid, reliable performers who can get people out of their homes and into the theatres.

"People don't have the movie habit any more. They won't go to the theatre unless they are pretty sure of getting their money's worth. When they know that Duke Wayne or Gary Cooper is in the picture, they can judge from past performance that it ought to be pretty good."

Cary Grant: "We've gotten to be like a well-advertised brand of tea. Housewives buy the brand of tea rather than take a chance on a brand they're not familiar with.

"The moviegoer is the same way. He'll see one of our pictures because he knows he's pretty sure of getting a certain quality, while he might not take a chance on a new fellow across the street."

WHY A DOZEN?

Why are there only a dozen stars who fit this category?

William Holden: The studios are to blame for that. Right after the war there were 750 to 800 actors under exclusive contract to the studios. Today there are 175, and virtually none of them are big names.

"As soon as the picture business started getting tough, the studios dropped the actors. The producers argued why should they pay an actor $2,500 or $5,000 a week when they can let him go and hire him back at $100,000 per picture."

Of the golden dozen stars, all but four were under studio contracts at one time. But now they are free agents and get as much as $750,000 in salary and perhaps half the profits.

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SARASOTA, Fla.—Joe Cash, the world's water ski champion, gives dry-land instruction, first step in learning to ski, to a pretty pupil at his ski school here. Joe estimates that three million more Amercians will learn to ski next year, and says there were five million skiers this past season. Cash holds the world jumping record of 136 feet.

B.C. ROUNDUP

Committee against extension

TRAIL (CP)—Members of the committee for Canadian Doukhobor Affairs want no further extension of time allowed Sons of Freedom Doukhobors wishing to move to Russia.

During discussion on an extension to Oct. 21 allowed Freedomites to file their migration forms, members meeting here said they feel this allows ample time for forms to be signed and lodged at government offices.

Nick T. Oglow, chairman of the Castlegar village commission, said he considers that the actual signing of the applications is not the real problem.

"The whole situation rests with the Russian government as, to whether these people would be accepted," he said. "Until the Soviet has indicated its position, we can't bring any pressure."

HANEY (CP)— Building permits valued at $2,253,000 were issued by Maple Ridge municipality during the first nine months of this year. The largest commercial permit issued was for a shopping centre here which will include a supermarket flanked by two smaller stores on each side and possibly a two-storey hotel.

RICHMOND (CP)—The Richmond Teachers Association, with 225 members, has presented a demand to the school board for a 12-per-cent wage increase. The present contract ends Dec. 31.

VANCOUVER (CP)—Mrs. Loma Cliff, home alone watching television Friday night, heard a noise in her bedroom and investigated armed with a bowl of popcorn. She found a prowler who told her: "Don't panic." She let fly with the bowl of popcorn and the new panic-stricken prowler fled from the house leaving behind him a trail of blood from a head cut.

VANCOUVER (CP)— B.C. civil servants have been urged to align themselves more solidly with organized labor.

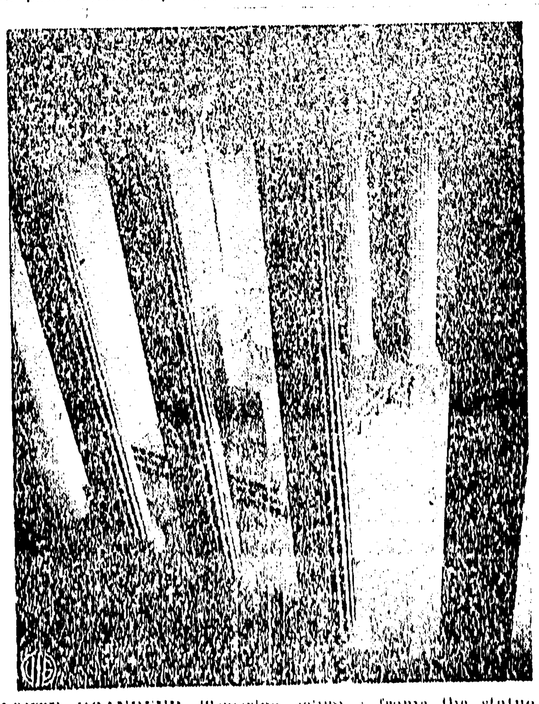
"It is the only way to stop the way you are being called on to subsidize the welfare state and to end your status as second class citizens," Bill Black, president of the B.C. Federation of Labor, told the opening session of the B.C. Government Employees Association convention.

VANCOUVER (CP)—Mr. Justice J. G. Ruttan refused Friday to approve a proposal which would have refunded $45,000 to Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross on his purchase of shares in Vancouver Machinery Depot Limited.

Mr. Ross purchased the 21,748 shares at $15 each from the estate of Vancouver industrialist George William Sweny, killed in a plane collision April 8, 1954 near Moose Jaw, Sask.

Mr. Ross told executors of the estate that after he assumed control of the machinery depot the company experienced considerable losses in realizing certain assets. Executors agreed to rebate $2 a share, or $45,000.

All adult beneficiaries consented to the proposal, but a court-appointed lawyer told the B.C. Supreme Court justice Friday the proposal would not be in the best interests of several infant beneficiaries.



LOFTY GRANDEUR—Towering columns frame the statue of Abraham Lincoln and a woman tourist in this new view of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The photo was made from atop a 60-foot-high scaffold used to clean a mural.

Man charged with attempted murder to be held in Canada for extradition

OKANOGAN, Wash. (AP) Superior Court Judge Joseph Wick has ruled that Donald Stevens should be held for extradition to Canada where he is charged with the attempted murder of an RCMP constable.

Records of the proceedings will now be sent to the Secretary of State's office in Washington, D.C. where final determination of the case will be made, Judge Wick said.

Stevens, alias David Spangenberger and John Morrison, is charged with shooting Cpl. Ralph Brown of Summerland RCMP during a manhunt which followed a slaying at Kaledon, B.C.

Judge Wick said Brown testified at the hearing that Stevens was the man who had shot him at a roadblock.

Stevens appeared in court on a stretcher. He has been detained in a Tonasket hospital recovering from wounds suffered when he refused to surrender to a posse which trapped him in a nearby swamp.

Stevens was represented at the hearing by a court appointed attorney, R. E. Mansfield of Okanogan.

Federal conciliator in Vancouver

OTTAWA (CP)—The federal labor department has sent one of its top conciliators to Vancouver to attempt to resolve negotiation difficulties involving seamen on Canadian Pacific west coast ferry services.

A government source said Friday night conciliator Eric Taylor is in Vancouver to try to find on what points the Seafarers' International Union CLC and the Canadian Pacific west coast steamships service disagree.

It is understood that Mr. Taylor will attempt to draw up terms of arbitration to resolve the dispute which erupted in a long strike last summer.

The strike was brought to a halt by government action when Parliament passed legislation ordering the men back to work. Negotiations of a settlement were to follow.

Decision put off

VANCOUVER — Judgment has been reserved in Supreme Court on a $60,700 claim resulting from a sawmill fire in Quesnel more than three years ago.

Owners of the mill have sued the former operators of Quesnel Machine Shop, Joel Virgil Rice, Jack Rome and James Keith Yorkston, and welder Don Anderson.

The company blamed the fire, June 10, 1955, on alleged negligence while the defendants were making alterations at the mill.

Tampa, Fla. (AP)—Claude Williams, 158½, Tampa, stopped Leo Bailey, 160½, Detroit, (7).

Hollywood, Calif. (AP)—Joe Micelli 149, New York, stopped Karl Heinz Guder, 153, Germany (8).

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Maritime Power Boom

The power potential of the Maritime Provinces is rapidly being harnessed to play a vital part in a hoped-for economic surge ahead.

During the last year large new resources have been tapped and made available to users.

Star attraction is New Brunswick Electric Power Commission's 72,000 kw Beechwood hydro project which [illegible]

The New Brunswick metal discoveries in the northern part of the province promise to require vast power, and it has been provided. A $225 million expansion plan to provide 700,000 kw is on the drawing boards.

New Thermal Plant

By 1961 a further 50,000 kw should be available from a new thermal plant to be built in Saint John.

Seaway Nears Completion

Queen to Open Huge Project in 1959

Canada next year gets 3,000 more miles of coastline and a rosy new economic horizon.

When Queen Elizabeth opens the massive half-billion-dollar St. Lawrence Seaway next spring, she will [illegible] powerful economic forces dimly seen.

[illegible] of the great days [illegible] will alter. There will be less transshipping percentagewise.

Trans-shipment points for outbound bulk cargo — especially grain — may tend to shift farther east.

Transport of bulk products will leap.

Western farmers will enjoy lower grain shipping charges.

Most important, there is [illegible] of overall [illegible] Seaway, but the biggest won't.

Realistic studies of probable Seaway cargoes indicate that domestic bulk shipments will demand much of its capacity.

Seaway traffic, according to figures [illegible] the recent Canadian To[illegible] is est[illegible]

That's a more realistic figure for immediate consideration. It is expected to be reached within five years.

Of this, 18 million tons would move downriver, would include 10 million tons of grain and grain products, three million tons of soft coal, and 1.5 million tons of iron and steel.

Upriver tonnage would be 26.5 million, including 20 million tons of iron ore.

The [illegible] committee that [illegible] ses.

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