MOVIE COLUMN

Hollywood accepts homegrown talent

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—At long last, Hollywood has claimed its own girl, Gwen Verdon.

The film industry is a little slow on the uptake sometimes and the case of Gwen is a prime example. The gal was born almost in the shadow of MGM studios, where her father worked as an electrician.

She played in Los Angeles theatres as a tap dancer, appeared in water shows, modelled bathing suits and strutted at night spots. Still, Hollywood couldn't see her.

She danced in and around the sumptuous movie musicals of the '40s and early '50s.

"I had two duets with Betty Grable in movies," she recalls. "Each time I played a bum."

OTHER ROLES

There were other dancing roles too, usually anoynmous. She played a Negro dancer in "Mississippi Gambler," a sinuous native girl in "David and Bathsheba."

"My last assignment here was as Jack Cole's assistant on "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes", she said, referring to the Marilyn Monroe-Jane Russell epic of 1953.

"But then I got a chance to go into Can-Can in New York, and I took it."

She helped lift an otherwise pedestrian musical into the hit class. Then she went into "Damn Yankees," achieving stardom as Lola, the shapely temptress who helps bargain for a baseball player's soul. She followed with "New Girl in Town," also a hit. Again, her performance was greatly responsible, since critics found fault with converting Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie into a musical.

Finally, Hollywood has her. She has been returned to her home town to re-create her role in "Damn Yankees" opposite Tab Hunter.

But Hollywood doesn't get to keep her. When she finishes the film, she heads back to Broadway, which has treated her more kindly.

FOOTING THE BILL—Making a big splash, shapely Roberta Morton prances in the surf at Miami Beach, Fla. Although the pretty miss had a kick coming, we're sure the photographer had no complaints.

Reds refuse to join tests on radiation

LONDON (AP)—Nikita Khrushchev says the Soviet Union probably will not join other members of the United Nations scientific committee on radiation in sending observers to this summer's series of United States tests in the Pacific.

"This would be a sort of support of the U.S. assertion that it is allegedly possible to develop a clean bomb which would be, so to speak, a noble weapon for the filthy deed of annihilating people," the Soviet premier told a Kremlin reception for President Nasser Wednesday night. Moscow radio broadcast his remarks today.

The U.S. invited the UN committee to demonstrate its progress in developing a nuclear bomb substantially free from radioactive fallout.

OSLO (AP)—Oscar Torp, 64, Labor president of Parliament and former prime minister of Norway, died Thursday night from a brain hemorrhage.

Anglican Church seen in danger of extinction

TORONTO (CP)—Lack of clergymen may bring the extinction of the Anglican Church in rural areas of Western Canada within the next generation, Very Rev. S. A. R. Wood, Dean of Saskatoon, told the graduating class of Wycliffe College Wednesday night.

He said there is anxiety and distress in the minds of bishops in charge of rural dioceses because they have three men who must do the work of six.

"We need your help," he told graduates and students, "If we are to have a strong church right across Canada."

Dean Wood described the church's position as desperate for most sections of the country outside urban centres.

He received the honorary degree of doctor of divinity from the college.

HAND STAND—Giving a pal a hand, circus giant Ted Evans, more than eight feet tall, holds 20-year-old Margarito Esparzo Navarez, 28 inches high, in New York. They're both with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus, currently appearing at Madison Square Garden, New York.

PARENTS AND 23RD CHILD—The high cost of living doesn't seem to have fazed Mr. and Mrs. Charles Campagna (left) of Edmunston, N.B. Mrs. Compagna has given birth to her 23rd child. The boy, weighing seven pounds 14 ounces at birth, yawns lustily in the arms of nurse Ann Thibodeau. Eighteen of the 23 children are still living. The couple has been married 28 years. (CP Photo)

BLACKWOOD on BRIDGE

By EASLEY BLACKWOOD

Learning when to pass will make you more points than learning how to bid slams. Players like Miss Brash, the overbidder; Mr. Fusty, the old-fashioned player and Mr. Muzzy's the opponents' delight, all seem to miss the real purpose of the game. The main objective is to win the most points—not to outbid the adversaries.

Even better players than these have trouble passing when they should. I see many cases where "getting the bid" becomes more important than getting the points on the score sheet.

Many players seem to feel that there is some shame attached to passing—that when you fail to bid on doubtful values, you are lacking in courage.

Disregard those who make these absurd accusations. They are bound to be the eventual losers in the game. So what good is their advice? . . . I suggest that you take your advice from the winners. And the winners in the long run will be those who know when to pass.

In today's deal, when Mr. Champion failed to come into the bidding over Mr. Dale's one spade overcall, Miss Brash should have given up promply. What possible future could the hand hold for her side? It was silly to dream that game could be made on the East-West cards. Indeed, it was much more likely that the opponents had some play for game.

They did. When Miss Brash foolishly reopened the bidding with two clubs, Mr. Dale and Mr. Abel bounced into a four heart contract which they undoubtedly would have made. Sensing this, Miss Brash now elected to take a sacrifice at five clubs going down three tricks for a 500 point penalty.

East dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
Mr. Abel
♠ A 6
♥ Q J 7 2
♦ K J 8 4
♣ 8 4 3

WEST
Mr. Champion
♠ Q 8 3
♥ K 3
♦ 10 9 6 5 3
♣ J 10 2

EAST
Miss Brash
♠ 5 4 2
♥ 6 4
♦ A 2
♣ A K Q 9 6 5

SOUTH
Mr. Dale
♠ K J 10 9 7
♥ A 10 9 8 5
♦ Q 7
♣ 7

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♣	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
2 ♣	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
5 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
All Pass			

She could have let Mr. Dale play a harmless one spade contract. Her "courage" multiplied her loss on the hand about five times.

City Rotarians to attend Juneau parley

Five Prince Rupert Rotarians and three Rotary-Anns will leave tomorrow by Ellis Airlines en route to Juneau to attend the Rotary International District 504 conference, May 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Heading the contingent are president Robert McKay and secretary James McGregor. Others attending are Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gordon and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roberts.

SATELLITE CHIEF—Dr. John P. Hagen, 49, is head of the U.S. satellite program and has directed its operations since 1955. He was born in Nova Scotia and went to school in Halifax. His family moved to Boston in 1928. (CP from AP) 1958

New danger detected for space travellers

By FRANK CAREY

WASHINGTON (AP)— Evidence of an unidentified form of radiation which may require special shielding precautions for space travel has been picked up by the U.S. Army's Explorer satellites.

So intense is the radiation—believed to come from the sun—that it caused cosmic ray counters aboard the two satellites to die out at times.

This was reported yesterday to a special meeting of the National American Physical Society, called to hear first reports of preliminary scientific information from the satellites.

In addition to the report on the unidentified radiation, the various scientific accounts stated that temperatures within Explorer I have ranged from 32 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit—even though temperatures outside may vary from about 120 below zero to about 800 above. The reporting scientists said even less internal variation could be achieved.

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