Behind the Movie Sets

with Buddy Mason

Ever hear of the man who needed a battleship to catch a minnow? Compared to a moving picture company going on a little one-day location, he was under-equipped.

While visiting a Paramount set recently where "My Own True Love" was being filmed, I came across Buddy Brill and Oscar Rudolph, two of Paramount's ace assistant directors, making up the call sheet for the next day.

The company was to go up the coast about 30 miles and shoot a few scenes with Melvyn Douglas and Phyllis Calvert, who play underground agents in this picture. The script called for Mr. Douglas and Miss Calvert to land a small boat in a deserted cove. They were to make their way to shore and take cover in some nearby shrubbery—simple as all that!

You'd imagine that all they'd need would be a camera and cameraman, a director, a boat and a clump of bushes. But things are not done with such ease in a highly technical industry where you need an elephant stockade to trap a mouse.

This list of essential men and equipment that Buddy and Oscar were compiling for the next day's caravan covered two pages, and gave mute testimony to the fact that the picture industry has outgrown its infancy. Let's look at the list:

There were 11 Grips (men who move the big soundproof cameras, construct camera, parallels and lay "dolly" tracks for the huge camera boom); 8 electricians (to operate the "Booster" lights in the event of unexpected cloudiness); 1 generator man; 3 standby laborers; 2 portable dressing rooms; 1 check girl; 1 paint box and painter (a must w[illegible] all companies since he darkens down any object that might reflect light on the camera lens).

Added to this were 4 whistlemen and wig-wag men (to flag down nearby traffic during sound takes); 1 camera boom and crew; 1 cameraman and crew; 3 assistant directors; 1 still photographer; 1 hairdresser; 1 makeup man; 1 wardrobe man; 1 wardrobe girl; 1 doctor; 2 standby lifeguards; 2 fishermen for standby boat; 1 script clerk; 2 company prop men; 4 nurserymen; 2 portable restrooms and attendants; 2 special cameramen (for trick shots through glass); 2 small boats; 4 extra prop men; 1 camera car; 2 trucks for trees, grass and shrubbery; 2 prop trucks; 2 buses; 7 transportation cars; 1 sound truck; 1 sound boom and crew; 2 Grip trucks; 1 electrical truck; 1 special effects truck; 2 wind machines and operators; 1 portable darkroom; 1 caterer's truck and crew; meals for 100 people; typewriter table for script clerk and a thousand and one other items that make up the personnel and equipage of a movie company away from its home lot.

Each department must go on location fully prepared for any emergency for if one little piece of specialized equipment was needed and not at hand, the company might have to wait until it could be sent to them from the studio. With the hourly cost of production running into the thousands of dollars, you can understand why it is better policy to take along more gear than you need, than to need more gear than you take along.

When we add to our list one location manager who arranges for anything that might be needed in the neighborhood, one transportation manager, one dialogue director, one film cutter, one unit production manager, two stand-ins, and, oh yes—one director, we have quite a working crew to shoot a few scenes of two people rowing a boat to shore.

Which reminds me I almost forgot to include Mr. Douglas and Miss Calvert. After all, this army of men does need a couple of subjects to photograph!

Engraved Wedding Announcements at the News office.

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HOMEMAKERS Dispatch

Berry Time

"Doubtless God Almighty could have made a better berry—but he never did," a 19th century gentleman is reported to have observed concerning strawberries. And most of us agree.

That's why the all-too-short strawberry season is anticipated eagerly, and should be enjoyed to the full when it's here.—And it's with us now.

So get out the jam kettle and freezing cartons 'gainst the 11-month strawberry drought ahead. Eat all you want now, too. They should be plentiful, according to predictions, and they're full of food values. Half a cup of strawberries contains three-quarters of the vitamin C you need for a day as well as fair amounts of calcium, iron and B vitamins.

Prepare for Preservation

You are going to have plenty of spinach and asparagus to can and freeze in the near future. And other fruits and vegetables will be prime for preserving soon thereafter. So now is the time to get your equipment in shape for the food preservation season. (It's no longer the "canning season" alone. Today freezing marches along with canning, side by side).

First of all, check the pressure cooker. Maybe new parts are needed such as a gauge or safety valve or gasket. If so, order them before the rush season is on.

For safe operation of your canner, clean the pet-cock and safety-valve openings by drawing a string or narrow strip of cloth through them. Do it at the beginning of the season and several times during the season.

Then check the pressure gauge—Remember, an accurate pressure gauge is necessary to get the processing temperatures needed to make food keep. A dial gauge, old or new, should be tested often. Your county home demonstration agent or dealer can show you how.

Cooked Foods, Frozen

Professor Faith Fenton of the College of Home Economics at Cornell told a training school of home demonstration agents some interesting facts about freezing cooked foods recently. Professor Fenton, who does a great deal of research in freezing, points out that all cooked foods are not frozen successfully. That is partly because cooked food is exposed to the air longer than uncooked foods and is more likely to collect bacteria which may make it spoil.

Before the homemaker freezes cooked foods she should ask herself: "Is it more convenient frozen?" and "Is the quality (taste, food value and sanitation) still good after freezing?"

These are some of the foods that Professor Fenton says are good when cooked before freezing: Unsweetened fruit for diabetics; puree of vegetables and fruits (in season) for the baby; concentrated soups; rolls and bread.

Pies, on the other hand, taste much better if frozen uncooked and baked at the time you want to serve them.

A good general rule, she claims is to cook or reheat frozen foods from the solidly frozen state. Don't let them thaw slowly first. During that thawing period bacteria may develop and cause spoilage.

Buy, sell or swap thru the classified ad columns.

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NOTICE TO GAS CONSUMERS

By order of the Public Service Commission this Company has filed the following rules effective July 1, 1948.

RESTRICTIONS OF GAS FOR SPACE HEATING

"Gas service will not be supplied for NEW OR ADDITIONAL SPACE HEATING PURPOSES to premises having facilities for the utilization of other types of fuel or to newly constructed premises except where the customer had purchased and had commenced the installation of heating equipment designed exclusively for gas fuel prior to July 17, 1947.

The prohibitions herein directed shall not apply where, because of special or unusual conditions or circumstances, the failure to receive gas for space heating WILL ENDANGER LIFE or RESULT IN SERIOUS IMPAIRMENT OF HEALTH, provided satisfactory proof of these facts shall have been filed in writing with the Empire Gas and Fuel Company, Ltd., and written approval thereof obtained.

Whenever the facts establish with reasonable certainty that a customer hereafter has connected new or additional gas heating equipment, the Company will discontinue all service to such customer upon such notice as is or may be required by law until the new or additional gas heating equipment has been disconnected.

This restriction shall remain in effect until May 1, 1949 unless such date is changed prior thereto."

PLEASE NOTE: THE SAME RESTRICTIONS ARE CONTINUED THROUGH THE COMING WINTER SEASON AS HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE JULY 17, 1947, WITH ONLY

ONE CHANGE—Where failure to receive gas for space heating WILL ENDANGER LIFE or RESULT IN SERIOUS IMPAIRMENT OF HEALTH, the Company may grant an exception upon the filing with it of satisfactory proof. If you feel that you might be eligible for gas service under this exception, please apply at our nearest office for full particulars. YOU MUST HAVE WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE COMPANY to be entitled to service under this exception.

These restrictions, as heretofore, apply to NEW OR ADDITIONAL SPACE HEATING by natural gas, but do not effect the use of gas for cooking, refrigeration, hot water or other non-space heating purposes.

The present restrictive rules carry an expiration date of May 1, 1949, and we regret that we can not predict what the situation may be at that time.

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New Amendments To Vehicle and Traffic Law

ALBANY—Motor Vehicle Commissioner Clifford J. Fletcher has listed the following new amendments to the Vehicle and Traffic Law:

Amendments effective June 1st eliminate one year operators' and chauffeurs' licenses;

Provide that convictions for violations of subdivisions 1, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18 and 19 of Section 15 of the Vehicle and Traffic law or convictions for similar offenses under any local law or ordinance need not be endorsed on the license of an employed driver if the offense occurred while such driver was operating in the course of his employment, a vehicle not owned by the driver;

Include in the definition of "chauffeur" a person employed for the principal purpose of operating a motor cycle or who drives a motor cycle while in use as a public or common carrier of persons or property;

Provide that every tractor having a width of more than 70 inches shall have two reflectors on the front thereof, so placed that they show the width of the vehicle and one reflector on the rear thereof; and provide that a trailer used in combination with a tractor shall have two reflectors on the front thereof so placed that they show the width of the vehicle;

Exempt from the definition of "motor vehicle" trucks with small wheels used in factories, warehouses and railroad stations and operated principally on private property, regardless of the motive power of such trucks; and include in the definition of "motor cycle" three wheeled motor scooters which have two front wheels and a single rear wheel, and exclude from such definition three wheeled automobiles.

Another set of amendments, effective July 1, provide that the red flag which must be placed on the extreme rear end of the load of a vehicle loaded with material extending four feet or more beyond the rear thereof shall not be less than 24 inches square and the red light which must be provided at night on such load shall be visible from the rear for a distance of at least 500 feet;

Provide that every motor vehicle [illegible] the public highways [illegible] shall be equipped [illegible] with mirror;

[illegible] be unlawful to operate vehicles equipped with glass which is so broken, fractured or discolored as to distort visibility;

Provide that any operator or chauffeur convicted of operating a motor vehicle or motor cycle upon a public highway while his license is suspended or revoked or while the certificate of registration of such motor vehicle or motor cycle is suspended or revoked; or, while suspension or revocation is effective, restoration thereof or a new license or registration being contingent upon furnishing proof of financial responsibility, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction subject to a minimum fine of $25 for a first offense.

Other 1948 amendments already effective include those which prohibit replacement of broken glass in doors, windows and windshields with other than safety glass;

Extend to July 1, 1949, the right to use of a junior operator's license for operating a motor vehicle for agricultural or dairy purposes upon the public highways;

Permit a trailer owned by a non-resident and duly registered in the jurisdiction of the owned to be hauled on the public highways when drawn by a tractor vehicle duly registered and owned by a resident of this State;

Provide that the operation of a motor vehicle within 30 days after the expiration of a chauffeur's license shall be a traffic infraction instead of a misdemeanor, or, punishable by a fine of not to exceed $50;

Provide that a person who operates a motor vehicle or motor cycle displaying registration or using a license that he knws has been obtained unlawfully shall be guilty of a misdemeanor;

Increase from $25 to $50 the minimum amount of damage or judgment for the purposes of the Motor Vehicle Safety-Responsibility Act and provides for reports of accidents in which no personal injury or death has resulted only when the damage to the property of one person is in excess of $50.

The stories told by women usually leave a man wondering what's funny.

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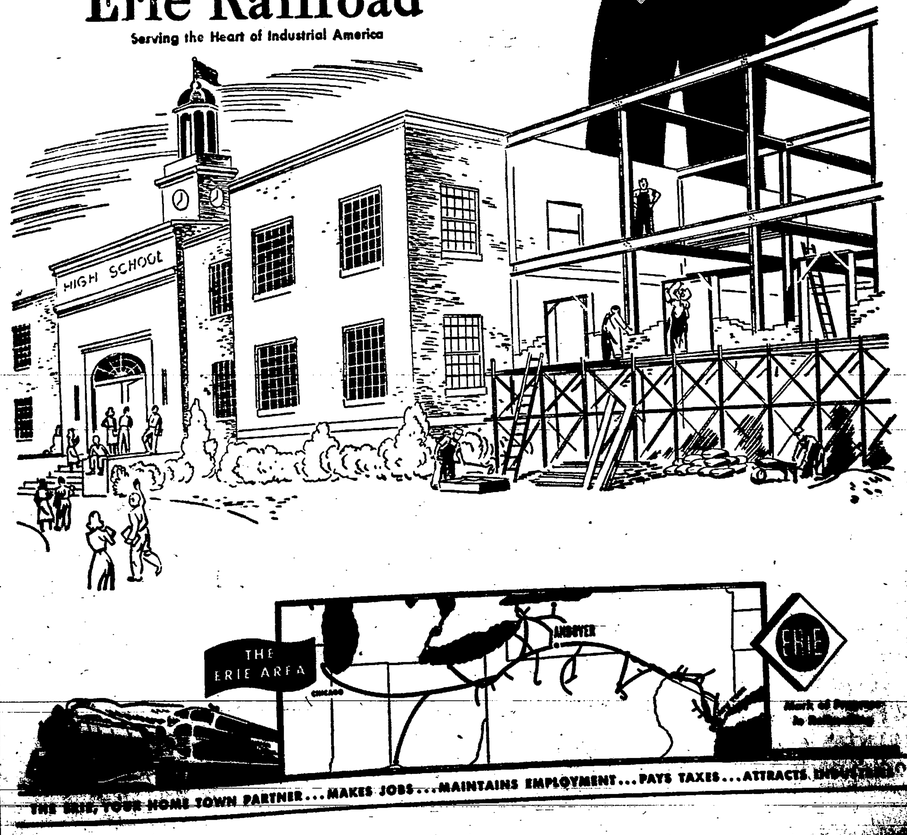

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