

# Hedda Hopper

## LOOKING AT HOLLYWOOD

Celeste Holm won't know, until she reads this, that she's been given the part of Ann Dettrey, the feminine editor, in "Gentleman's Agreement," which stars Gregory Peck and Dorothy McGuire. At present, Celeste is in Miami for a personal appearance. From there she'll go to New York for a week's visit with her mother.

I hear that Clark Gable is happy over everything in "The Hucksters" except the ending, which he thinks is too corny. A corny finish to a good picture can ruin everything that's gone before. So I'm hoping Clark puts on his fighting clothes and gets a new ending. This picture has to be a goodie

and nobody is more aware of that fact than Gable.

Peggy Wood is coming out from New York to play Betty Hutton's mother in "Dream Girl." Her husband will join her later.

Congratulations to Leo Spitz and Bill Goetz for realizing the value of Johnny Beck, who's been the general manager of Universal-International since its merger. Johnny, one of the youngest and brainiest men in the industry, has now been made executive assistant to Leo Spitz.

### CHAPLIN'S LAST CHAPTER

After seeing the opening of Charlie Chaplin's new film in New York, a prominent motion-picture executive wired me: "I've witnessed a historic occasion. I've just seen Chaplin's 'last' picture."

When Marie Dressler and May Robson were big stars, pictures revolved around them. They were favorites with the public, and made producers a lot of money. I get many letters asking why Charlotte Greenwood doesn't get better parts. Fans think she could step into the places left vacant by Dressler and Robson.

Ty Power piloted his boss, Darryl Zanuck, back from Palm Springs. Wonder how many producers would trust their lives in the hands of their actors? Mighty few.

### DOUBLE TAKE

"The Bishop's Wife" is back on the sound stages with Cary Grant, David Niven, Loretta Young and Monty Woolley still in the parts for which they were originally set. Gladys Cooper and Elsa Lanchester have been added to the cast. Sam Goldwyn feels that the \$700,000 cost of holding up the picture while the new director, Henry Koster, went to New York for some new scenes written by Robert Sherwood is a wonderful investment. Sam was right when he said, "Sometimes a script reads better than it plays." When that's found out in the early stages of shooting, corrections are relatively easy. It's much cheaper to remake a few scenes than a whole picture.

Jane Withers did her good

deed for the day by helping her 10-year-old protege, George Nokes, get the boy's part in "Shaggy," for Pine and Thomas. It's the story of a kid and his dog. Jane said, "Many people helped me, and I'm just paying back the kindness."

### WIRES CROSSED

The telephone strike caused this amusing incident. Alan Ladd had a horse he's to ride in "Whispering Smith" ready to be sent to the studio. Unable to telephone, he wired: "Marijuana ready to be picked up. Send for it." If you don't think that had repercussions—until Western Union discovered Marijuana was the name of Alan's horse.

Phil Regan canceled an appearance on Bob Hope's show to fly to Chicago and take over Morton Downey's spot at the Blackstone. Downey's still ill with laryngitis.

Eric Johnston sneaks again.

Defending Hollywood against charges of extensive Communist doings, he said, "It's a credit to the producers that little Communist propaganda has reached the screen." Formerly, he'd said that to his knowledge no red propaganda wound up in films. If Johnston really wants to know who the Commies are, it'll be very easy for him to get a list of their names. He would be doing a good job if he demanded that the studios get rid of them before they can put their doctrine on the screen. Johnston talks much, but does little. At least, so it appears to me.

Gary Cooper was wanted for the lead in "State of the Union," but too many of his friends thought he looked too young to be a candidate for the office of President of the United States.

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### Rabbi to Speak

"Must We Fight Communism?" is the subject of an address to be given by Rabbi Morton A. Bauman at 8 p.m. today at Temple Israel of Hollywood.