Star Dust
STAGE · SCREEN · RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

ALL through the past we hear tales about how popular this or that movie star is—then along comes some one who brought in the most money at the box office. The material pull of motion picture celebrities taken annually by Showmen's Trade Review shows that Greer Garson and Van Johnson topped the 1944-45 list. Bing Crosby (first last year) was second, followed by Spencer Tracy, Gary Cooper and Bob Hope. The schoolgirls run Judy Garland, Betty Grable (who led the list for the last three years) Betty Hutton and Margaret O'Brien. And the picture that topped all the others was "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," with "National Velvet" in second place.

Bob Hawk can keep a secret. For three years the idea for his current Monday night series, the CBS "Bob Hawk Show," was locked in a safe, awaiting the end of the war. His "Thanks to the Yanks" was splendid



BOB HAWK

for warfilms, but now he's the big five-and-five man, with contestants answering five questions for their first prize and the question with five parts for the second half.

It's being said around that little Margaret O'Brien is getting awfully tired of playing little girls she has to play—especially since Joanne Dorothy (might her to sing "I Want to Be Happy" in his own special style. But for poor child's typecast at her age!

Louis Hayward's professional screen career leaped forward when he was elected for one of the top roles opposite Ruby Keeler in "The Mexican Woman"; that came as a result of the sneak preview of Hal Mooneberg's "Young Widow," in which he's co-starred with Jane Powell. He got in three years with the marine corps; as captain of a photographic unit, he filmed the battle of Tarawa.

Heck, the Palmolive Ray Milland rides in "California," had to have two mouthfuls—one for rearing, one for falling. It's a technicolor picture so they had to be dyed in stable blends. But as they were both dark horses, they had to be bleached first!

That $500-a-minute series, "Exploring the Unknown," is receiving rave notices. Selected by the armed services as one of the most popular transcription programs for U.S. overseas, the Sunday series is being distributed by the New York university film library to schools throughout the country, and the Americana Concert society is using some of the broadcasts in its educational work.

One hundred thousand people have persuaded Kate Smith to broadcast before a studio audience again; they all asked for tickets, so she's now doing her Friday night "Kate Smith Sings" program from CBS's Playhouse 8. It's largest, seating 1,356. The regret broadcast on the West coast will take care of another 1,200, so in about 41 weeks she will have caught up with the accumulated requests.

Dr. Nip "Dave Elman's Hobby Lobby," Wednesday nights on Mutual, Elman has auditioned every-thing from Elman's personal zoo to Mr. Archerfield's pillow slips and his proud boasts they were sold [illegible] the articles were authentic. The Radio Writers association voted it a must never show on the air. He's got seven eight people off to scour the world for a year for historical [illegible] to be auctioned later.

[illegible] Allen of Broadway's "The Co-Eeds," are the parents of [illegible] Allen's numbered the [illegible] Lenten [illegible] Lenten [illegible] Lenten