ON THE SCREEN AT THE NEW LYCEUM

Edgar Bergen with Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd in "Charlie McCarthy, Detective."

Charlie McCarthy attains the status of a star in his new Universal offering, "Charlie McCarthy, Detective," coming on Monday and Tuesday, January 1 and 2 to the New Lyceum Theatre. And as a stellar performer, he's great in every splinter of his being.

Of course, Edgar Bergen shares the starring position with Charlie, edging in on every one of Charlie's scenes but not attempting to steal anything from McCarthy. Mortimer Snerd ,another of Bergen's family, is also starred.

"Charlie McCarthy, Detective" is a murder mystery story, with Charlie (with Bergen's aid) ultimately unravelling the maze of twisted clues and pinning the crime on the guilty party. The story is unusually sound, and with Bergen's inimitable comedy, the combination produces one of the top entertainment offerings of the season.

Romance Included

Robert Cummings, Constance Moore and John Sutton furnish the romantic element of the story, with Cumings as a magazine columnist, Miss Moore as Bergen's partner in his night club act, and Sutton as Miss Moore's Sweetheart. In other important roles are Louis Calhern, Edgar Kenedy, Harold Huber, Milburn Stone, Samuel S. Hinds, Ray Turner, Alec Craig and Waren Hymer.

The picture was produced and directed by Frank Tuttle. The story is by Robertson White and Darrell Ware. Miss Moore sings two songs—one more than does McCarthy, who bursts into song for the first time on the screen. Charlie's number is "I'm Charlie McCarthy, Detective."

Especially good are Bergen's various comedy routines with McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd. They are smoothly and logically included in the action of the story without slowing the fast pace of the action.

Joan Bennett, who has become even more alluring as a darked-tressed glamour girl, is cast in a light comedy role as the heroine of Hal Roach's new screen romance, "The Housekeeper's Daughter," which is scheduled for its initial showing on Wednesday and Thursday, January 3 and 4 at the New Lyceum Theatre thru United Artists release. Miss Bennett is co-starred with Adolphe Menjou in the new production, and their suporting cast reads like a galaxy of Hollywood's best known celebrities.

Heading this group are handsome John Hubbard's one of the screen's newest discoveries, who gets his first big chance in "The Housekeeper's Daughter" as Miss Bennett's heart interest, Peggy Wood, who plays the role of Miss Bennett's mother, the comely housekeeper in the wealthy Randall family; Victor Mature, in the role of Joan's ex-boy friend; George E. Stone, portraying a pathetically incurable homicide; Donald Meek, cast as the managing editor of a metropolitan daily; Lillian Bond, who appears briefly as a famed Broadway butterfly; and William Gargan in the role of a screwy news photographer. Other well knowns in the cast include John Hyams, Leila McIntyre, Luis Alberni, Rosina Galli, Tom Dugan, Marc Lawrence and Gene Morgan.

Miss Bennett appears as a modern-day sophisticate who causes collective flutterings in the hearts of five gentlemen, while Menjou portrays an ace newspaperman whose reputation is dependent on a series of wacky accomplisments. Menjou, who has a system based on comic antics and hilarious pursuits, gets himself romantically involved with Peggy Wood and forgets to solve the great murder crime in the picture.

The direction of this merry melange of comedy and romance was in the hands of Hal Roach himself, and the screenplay for the production was jointly written by Rian James and Gordon Douglas. The picture is based on one of the nation's best sellers, the novel of the same name by Donald Henderson Clarke.

The story of "The Housekeeper's Daughter" concerns the mad happenings which take place in the swanky home of the socially prominent Randalls when the scion of the family falls in love with alluring Hilda, the housekeeper's daughter, and becomes involved in the mysterious murder of Gladys Fontaine, the Boardway actress. Robert Randall, played by John Hubbard, remains in town for the summer while his family is sojourning at a glittering sea resort and almost single-handed breaks open the crime. But not before his fashionable house is overrun by a mob of gangsters and newspapermen. With romance and crime marching side by side, a hilarious climax is provided in a big fireworks scene—when a gang of underworld hoodlums who invade the house where Joan Bennett is staying is put to flight by Adolphe Menjou with the aid of a barrage of fireworks.

Among the impressive and lavish sets constructed for "The Housekeeper's Daughter" were included a fashionable town house, a glittering night club, the mirrored interiors of a gambling casino, a lavish waterfront houseboat and several newspapermen's rendezvous. Three cabs used in a New York street scene sequence for "The Housekeeper's Daughter" traveled a distance of exactly thirty feet. Rental on the vehicles amounted to ten dollars each for the scene, or a total of thirty dollars. At this rate the cab fare amounted to exactly $1,660 a mile.

NEWS GATHERED ON THE PENINSULA

The prospects of the present State owned highway bridge across the Susquehanna river being razed when the new bridge across the same river, about a quarter of a mile further north, is completed, which has caused much spectulation and untold amount of criticism from the people of both Cecil and Harford counties, may yet be saved.

Mayor Robert R. Lawder, of Havre de Grace, announces that he has been in communication with B. Howell Criswold, of Baltimore, who is in charge of the sale of the bonds for the new bridge, and has been assured that there is no certainty that the present bridge will be torn down, but if it is done, the residents of Harford and Cecil counties would be properly taken care of.

The great Choptank river is the gathering place now for the greatest flock of wild fowl—some estimates put it as high as 1,000,000 birds—known here in a generation. They include geese and grebes, teal and tern, cranes and curlews and, of course, ducks.

With the $250,000 Court House at Elkton completed and to be accepted by the County Commissioners within the next two weks, a delay in placing the order for furniture holds up the opening of the building. While the lowest bidder for equipment was not awarded the contract by the Commissioner, it was because of inferior equipment, they claim. The WPA department is making an effort to hold the award to the lowest bidder despite the kind of furniture. It is understood that the mater will be adjused and the building will be occupied by Feb. 1.

Two roped-oft and supervised beaches, one for children and beginners and the other for adults and the more advanced swimmers, are being considered by the local Red Cross Chapter for the annual swimming and life-saving classes at Oxford next sumer. A separate beach for Negroes, somewhere in the county, also is being contemplated, according to Wendell Marshall, instructor.

At the present time, Mr. Marshall said, Talbot county Negroes have few, if any, places where they may go to swim and bathe. They are barred from most of the available beaches, which are privately owned, and must learn to swim and practice the sport in out-of-the-way ponds and other untested and often hazardous places.

Allotments totaling $663,000 for six electrification projects in five the Rural Electrification Administration.

Among the allotments were:

Choptank Co-operative, Inc., Denton, Md., $43,000 to build 50 miles of line to serve 126 members in Caroline and Queen Anne's counties.

Annapolis, December 27—Governor and Mrs. O'Conor will be "at home" to the people of Maryland on Monday, January 1st, at Government House here.

This reception, an annual affair, will as usual consist of two parts. At noon, Major General Milton A. Reckord and the oficers of the Maryland National Guard and of the Naval Militia will pay their respects to the Governor, who will be assisted on the receiving line by Mrs. O'Conor and Rear Admiral Wilson Brown of the United State Naval Academy.

Later in the afternoon, from four to six, the Governor and Mrs. O'Conor will receive the residents of Annapolis and of the State.

Study Shows That Only One Out Of Every 400 Persons Has Trouble Hearing Over Telephone

Bell Telephone Laboratories Announces Results Of Tests At Two World's Fairs

A recent study of more than half a million hearing tests taken by visitors to the Bell System telephone exhibits at the New York and San Francisco fairs, revealed that only one out of every 400 persons has hearing impairments that interfere with the use of the telephone.

About one person in every 125, however, has difficulty in hearing a direct conversation, and one in every 25 has trouble hearing in an auditorium.

In this, the widest survey of hearing ever made, the Bell Telephone Laboratories, who were particularly interested in the findings from a telephone research standpoint, disclosed that women generally hear higher tones better than men. The masculine ear, however, excels in the lower notes.

The study included persons from 10 to 60 years of age.

Largest Toy Exhibition

The largest toy exhibition is said to be the exhibit at the Leipzig Trade Fair where at least 250,000 different types of playthings are displayed.

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