

beach to look for a possible bathing girl picture. I was desperate! I went to the corner pub to get a drink. Some hours went by and eventually all three cameramen returned, each with the same report—nothing to photograph! By that time, however, *I did not mind*. The studio had caught fire and burned down while they were gone! And we did not have even a shot of our own plant going up in flames! Dog bites man!

I really have not a great deal either technically or scientifically to contribute to this session. But I will add this, in closing: Every week, when I receive my pay check for editing Movietone News, I say, "Thank heaven for the Motion Picture Engineers!"

WOMEN'S FASHIONS

VYVYAN DONNER*

Movietone News fashion subjects are miniature productions. In proportion, as much time and effort go into their make-up as goes into the preparation of a feature picture. We often spend weeks in preparation for a one-minute subject, and we spend a complete eight-hour day of shooting to get a one-minute subject on the screen. The whole world is tapped for ideas; and sets are especially built on which to present them. Girls are interviewed by the hundreds, and finally picked for their beauty and charm, poise and personality, figure and smartness.

For their movie appearance their make-up is as carefully put on as a Hollywood star's. Our cameramen light them to their best advantage, so that both girl and gown are exquisitely set forth in all their beauty. Every effort is used to make the newsreel fashion clip a small bit of perfection, from news and subject matter, suitability of set and location, and on up to the height of feminine American Beauty.

I work with the finest, most brilliant American designers, and bring their designs before the eyes of the world, showing American taste, American settings, American girls, and the "American look" to some hundred-million moviegoers.

In normal times, we make about one fashion picture every ten days. The commentary is translated at once into Portuguese and

* Women's Editor, Movietone News, New York.

Spanish, and shipped to all the sister Republics of Latin America. The fashions are then sent abroad for translations into French, German, Swedish, and all the other languages.

THE FILM LIBRARY

BERT HOLST*

Situated on the top floor of the Movietone News building is the Film Morgue or, to be more official, the Movietone News Film Library over which I preside. Few people in the news business have any idea of the true importance of this unpublicized department with its history in cans. As of this day there are stored in our vaults approximately 42 million ft of negative scenes shot all over the world, from the North to the South Poles, from every conceivable angle—ground, air, and underseas.

This film is carefully catalogued with a simplified but all-informative cross index, which allows us to put our hand on any given foot of film in the shortest possible time.

Thirty-two fireproof vaults store this film. Because of space limitations in addition to the millions of feet already mentioned, there are other millions in our out-of-town vaults at Ogdensburg, New Jersey. This latter footage we consider as the most unlikely to be called for by our own company, or by the other clients who use our library for stock shots.

We also have a sound library containing every conceivable sound or a good facsimile of any sound. This is also catalogued in our simplified system and before you could say "Jack Robinson" we could give you anything from an artillery barrage to a Bronx cheer.

One of the greatest worries of a film librarian is that old bogey, fire hazard. A constant vigilance must be maintained where so much inflammable film is kept. Extreme temperatures, either hot or cold, are always a problem with us and at such times we must be careful of gas accumulations and see to it that the entire vault spaces are properly aired. We must also guard against dampness that rots film and dryness that shrinks it. Keeping this invaluable collection of canned history in a good state of preservation means maintaining as near as possible a constant temperature.

* Librarian, Movietone News, New York.