

Revival puzzles former star

By LUCRETIA STEIGER
Copley News Service

HOLLYWOOD — Thirty-odd years ago Hillary Brooke was a young woman in the movies. Today she is retired and wondering why suddenly she is almost back in the public limelight.

"I can't understand this revival of interest in old movies," says the actress, most recently familiar to millions in "My Little Margy" and the Abbot and Costello television shows, "but in the last couple of months, I've heard from several movie magazines and a New York television talk show. Now that's strange, considering that I retired in 1960.

"I don't really enjoy seeing myself in the old movies," the handsome woman with blue eyes and silver-streaked auburn hair says. "I get used to the way I am and that's fine, but there's always the contrast in the old films."

Miss Brooke began work in movies in the film "New Faces of 1938." That was four years after she became a Powers model in New York while a student at Columbia University. After doing a musical in England, she went to Hollywood and got the job in "New Faces" during her first interview. After that, the young actress kept busy in a variety of dramatic and comedy shows, going into television, "a natural progression" when that medium came along.

Now married to Ray Klune, former MGM senior vice president, she was production manager of "Gone With The Wind." Hillary contrasts the old studio "star system" with today's more realistic Hollywood scene.

"No one could possibly afford to give herself or himself the buildup the studio could do then," Hillary says. "In those days everything was run by the studio, and we had a little more fantasy in films. I think that's sort of important.

"There's room for everything in the theater and picture business," Hillary says. "It's an incredible area of communication. I know that when I go to films, I enjoy going to learn as well as to be entertained. In many ways, we have gotten away from entertainment.

"For many people, life can be



MEMORIES — Hillary Brooke, left, as she looked when she was a Hollywood movie star, and as she is today.

duil, and then it's marvelous to go see a picture," Miss Brooke says. "What's wrong with a dream? There's so much unhappiness today that I think we could all laugh a little more. Someone has said that in today's movies we go to stare, not to listen, and I know that in a lot of films I don't understand what they're trying to say.

"Then I think the movie as a sort of emotional creation of the director and writer.

"I think acting is a very difficult profession," she says, adding that she was a struggling actress, trying to learn from directors and putting the bits and pieces together until one large moment when the shade went up. "For the first time, I was able to control a performance from that little space in the back of your head which directs your creativity.

"I enjoy learning," Miss Brooke says. "I always have been eager to learn, and I've had plenty of energy. Furthermore, I liked being a featured player, as compared to the leading lady. The leading lady used to stand around and be found by the leading man, while actresses in other roles could really get into the roles."

Maynard Ferguson to appear at college

SLIPPERY ROCK — Maynard Ferguson, "the world's most exciting trumpet sound," will appear in concert at Slippery Rock State College on Nov. 19.

Ferguson and his orchestra will present a music clinic that day at 2 p.m. in Miller Auditorium, and then at 8 p.m. will present a concert. The public may purchase concert tickets at the College Union Information Desk.

A native of Verdun, Quebec, Canada, Maynard Ferguson first shot to fame with the controversial Stan Kenton Orchestra in 1950. He had begun his musical training at the age of four, when he began to learn both piano and violin. At the age of nine years, he attended the French Conservatory of Music in Montreal where he took up all the saxophone family plus clarinet and slide trombone, finally settling for the trumpet.

He formed his first band when he was 15 years old and was possibly the world's youngest

bandleader — the average age of his sidemen was 30 years.

In 1948, Ferguson started to work in the United States, first with Boyd Raeburn's Big Band and then Jimmy Dorsey and Charlie Barnet.

After leaving Stan Kenton in 1953, Ferguson was first-call trumpet man for Paramount Pictures in Hollywood. He formed his first American band which was centered at "Birdland," the now defunct New York jazz club. This band was known as his "Birdland" Dream Band and it contained the cream of the New York sessionmen.

The year 1956 saw Ferguson on the road with a new band of young up-and-coming musicians, with whom he continued traveling until 1967. At that time he disbanded and signed with Harold Davison to tour England with an all-star British Band which was billed as "Top Brass." Also that year, he formed his own musical instrument company.

Friends gave help

Jim Stacy is determined to be optimistic of future

By VERNON SCOTT
HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Actor Jim Stacy grinned and said, "I'm going to make it all right. It's a matter of hanging in there."

Jim is out of the intensive care unit at UCLA Medical Center where his left arm and leg were amputated following a motorcycle accident the last day of September.

He is 36 years old, an athletic guy who took pride in his physical condition and in doing his own stunts in movies and on television.

Jim was a football star in high school, a Little All-America halfback at Glendale College, and played briefly in the Canadian Football League. He starred in his own Western series, "Lancer," for two years.

Now he lies swathed in surgical gauze in a private room at the hospital seeing a few friends each day, growing strong and more determined to face the future optimistically.

Jim was lucky to escape with his life. His companion, Clair Cox, 27, was riding behind Stacy on the motorcycle and was killed when the bike was sideswiped on the narrow, twisting Benedict Canyon road.

The driver of the car that struck them, Carter Gordon, was booked for felony drunken driving.

Hollywood friends, led by Jack Haley Jr. and actor Michael Callan, organized a drive to collect 60 pints of blood administered Jim by the hospital before and during the surgery that saved his life.

"They've already collected their quota," Jim said, "and they're still arranging for more donations."

"The least you can do in a situation like this is help out," Callan said. "Jim and I have been friends for 15 years.

"His spirits fluctuate. Sometimes Jim is despondent. Other days he cheers up. He's a dynamic man. But the real test

of courage and his friends will come when he leaves the hospital. Now all we can do is let him know we care about him.

"I understood Jim never lost consciousness during the accident. He began hollering at people who stopped at the accident to help him. Then he tried to get someone to put a

tourniquet on the remains of his arm."

Jim's recollections of that night are mercifully dimmed by shock.

"My friends have really helped," he said. "It's hard to imagine how much courage it gives you to face the future when you know so many people are pulling for you."

Choir to perform

SLIPPERY ROCK — Two public performances of Vivaldi's "Gloria" will be presented by the Slippery Rock Symphonic Choir on Nov. 18 at the Center United Presbyterian Church in Slippery Rock.

Under the direction of Dr. Chester O'Bannon of the Slippery Rock State College Music Department, the 80-member choir, made up of community members and the SRSC Women's Glee Club, will give two performances, at 7:30 p.m. and at 9 p.m.

The performances will take place with the Slippery Rock Chamber Orchestra assisting. The orchestra is under the direction of Dr. Nelson Cleary of the SRSC faculty.

Soloists during the concert will

be Cheryl Allen, mezzo soprano, and Mary Kintzer, soprano. Ms. Allen, a resident of Prospect, is a sophomore majoring in music. Ms. Kintzer, also a sophomore, is from Robesonia, Pa., and is majoring in recreation.

The work "Gloria" is one of the many of Vivaldi's works which have recently been discovered in the 20th century. Vivaldi (1678-1741) was a major composer of the Baroque era, and was mainly an instrumental composer.

According to Dr. O'Bannon, "Gloria" is "a work of praise through the setting of portions of the mass. It is one of the most popular Baroque works for chorus and orchestra."

Italian folk show set for Dec. 7

PITTSBURGH — "I Campagnoli", the unique Italian folk singing and dancing group, with Eugene Richards as director, will present a spectacular new show at Heinz Hall on Dec. 7 at 8:30 p.m.

"I Campagnoli", sponsored by the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America Cultural Heritage Foundation, has attracted nationwide and worldwide attention by their stage and television performances. Over the past eight years they have built up a vast repertoire of authentic songs and dances from the many beautiful and exciting regions of Italy — to name a few, gay and carefree Naples; proud and silent Sicily; gentle and strong Abruzzo; lonely and hospitable Sarajina, and the mighty Trento.

Director and Choreographer Eugene Richards is considered an authentic expert on folk music and dance. Although he is of Italian ancestry, he has been a featured dancer with many of the nationality groups in the Pittsburgh area, as well as with the Pittsburgh Opera Ballet, Pittsburgh Symphony, and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

Tickets are on sale at the Heinz Hall box office, Downtown Gimbel's, Horne's, Kaufmann's, and the ISDA Cultural Heritage Foundation Office, 419 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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