

Nearly 9, Shirley Temple Ponders the Future

By MAE TINEE

WHERE DOES she go from here? Shirley Temple.

It's a question that's keeping Hollywood—and the world—interested these days!

● Since her first little weekly salary check of \$150 Shirley has grown from a small, unimportant personage into a young girl recognized as Big Business—one of America's greatest money earners. In 1936 her salary and bonus arrangement for pictures alone ran between three and four thousand dollars a week for fifty-two weeks in the year. That income did not include the royalties she received for Shirley Temple dolls and dresses. It was learned from high authority that her receipts for 1937 were in the neighborhood of half a million dollars.

● On April 23 Shirley will stand on the threshold of her tenth year. Will her popularity and earnings increase or decrease? It has been the latter with so many child players—Jackie Coogan, Jackie Cooper, Mitzi Green. When they arrived at the "gawky" age they were definitely passé so far as appeal for audiences was concerned. But up to date Shirley hasn't been "gawky."

● Clever dentistry has taken care of voids left by little first teeth. A wise mother has kept careful guard over manners, mannerisms, and clothes, and Twentieth Century-Fox has been exceedingly canny in the matter of stories for the growing child. From the time she made her first phenomenal hit in "Stand Up and Cheer" her producing company has looked ahead for her, planned for her.

● "We want her to grow up naturally in the pictures," one of the executives said, "and we are trying to buy vehicles in which she can do so."



(Fox photo.)
Shirley Temple when she was just "going on two."

● All of this forethought has told. Instead of keeping Shirley a baby—or trying to do so—which would have proved fatal to her career—she has been allowed to blossom and grow in her movie rôles. After "Stand Up and Cheer" came "Baby, Take a Bow" and "Bright Eyes."

Several other movies in which she was just a tot followed. Then you watched her mature in "The Little Colonel," "The Littlest Rebel," "Captain January," "Poor Little Rich Girl," "Wee Willie Winkie," and "Heidi." Her next picture will be "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm."

● That the spark of genius burns brightly in Gertrude and George Temple's little girl there can be no doubt. She's proved it. She acts as naturally as—she doesn't act. She has an intuitive understanding of other people and what their rôles demand from her, just as she comprehends what she must do and how to do it to be completely in a characterization.

● Bulwarking her histrionic ability is a happy, normal home life. The Temples lived unpretentiously before Shirley became a star, and they went on the even tenor of their way after she became a celebrity. Never had money any lure for them when it threatened to interfere with the child's welfare.

● Not long ago the Temples turned down a radio offer with options totaling nearly \$300,000 because they thought the added work and excitement would prove harmful to the youngster.

● It's a far cry from that day when Shirley, 3 years old, was selected at dancing school for a small part in a series of "Baby Burlesks"—at \$10 a day.

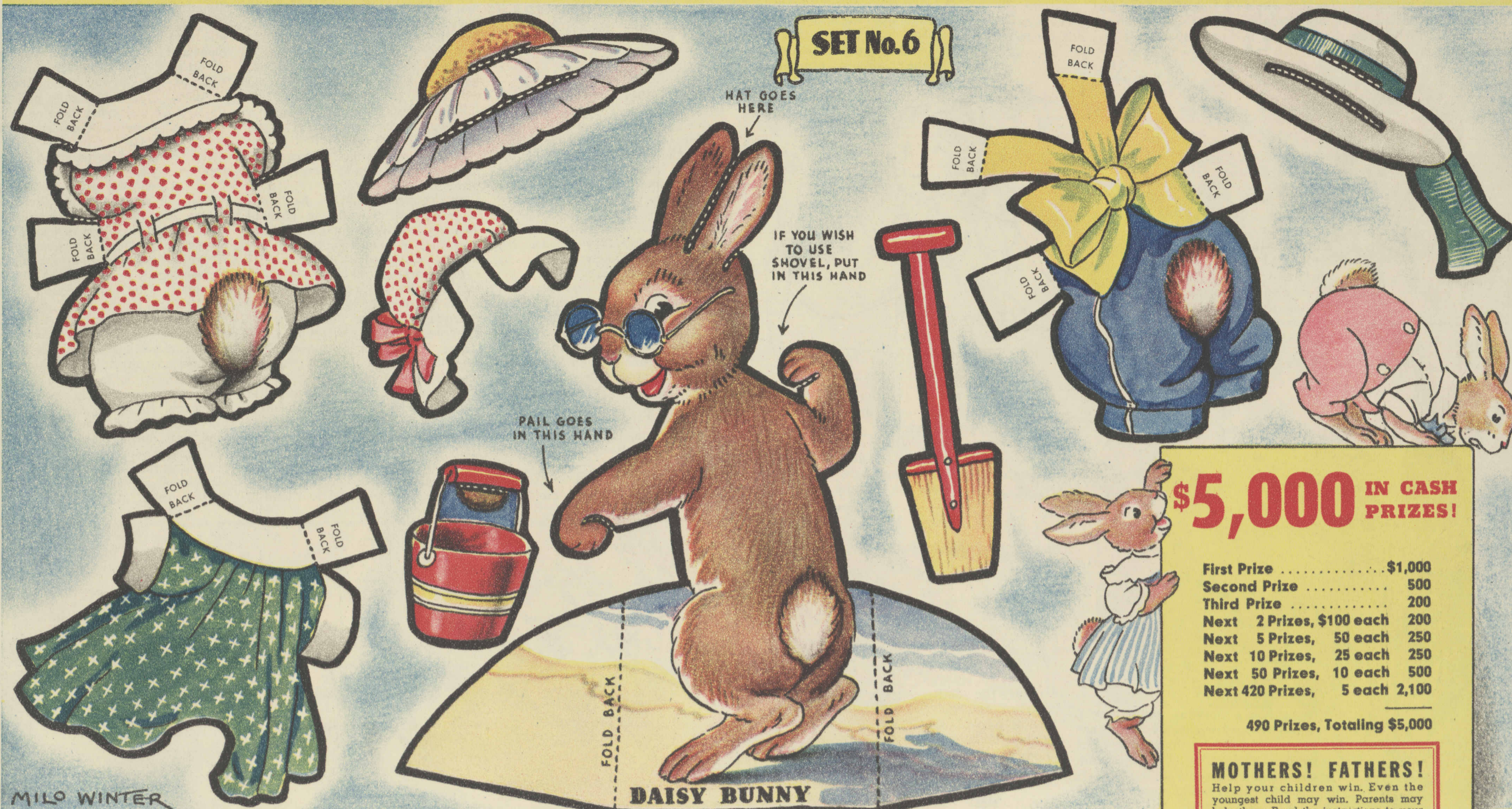
(Tribune Color Studio photo.)
Little Miss Temple, allowed to grow up in her characterizations, poses as a colonial maiden.



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