The Country Girls Make Good!

By Ed Sullivan

Hollywood, Calif.

ARIEL ZANUCK of Wahoo, Neb., produced "In Old Chicago," as the opening of his production. He was in love with Alice Faye of New York City, and her rival was Phyllis Brooks of Boise, Idaho. His brother was played by Don Ameche of Kanso, Wis. His mother was played by Alice Brady of New York City. The "menace" was Brian Donlevy, from Fort Smith, County Armagh, Ireland. Donlevy's gang lieutenant was Raymond Hatton, from Red Oak, Ia.

And that gives you a faint idea of how many Main streets of the country and the world go into the making of a moving picture.

Main street of Helena, Mont., probably is the most unusual stretch of pavement of the smaller cities of the country, for down it to movie stardom and international fame walked Myrna Loy and Gary Cooper.

"It's funny, but I don't recall Gary at all as a kid," said Myrna.

Cooper, however, remembers her. "Myrna Williams had more freckles than any other girl in town," he tells you.

Of the two Helena, Mont., youngsters Gary was the more celebrated, as he became the political cartoonist on the Helena Independent, but his job exploded in his face when the paper supported the wrong candidate in a local election. Cooper, who had been caricaturing the winning candidate, was dropped as a face-saving device by the editor.

It's difficult to picture a movie star as a small-town boy or girl, but, nevertheless, most of them came from small towns. June Peters of Fort Wayne, Ind., is today's Carole Lombard. Jack Lukie, whose father ran a store in Waukegan, Ill., is better known as Jack Benny now. The two kids who worked in a Milwaukee lumber yard grew up to be Spencer Tracy and Pat O'Brien. The group of youngsters who went to see Rudolf Valentino in the Seattle theaters, and thrilled to his lovemaking, are better known now as Mary Livingston, Frances Farmer, Kaye Lake, Bingle Crosby, and Gypsy Rose Lee.

The pigtailed little girl of Humphrey's street, Louisville, Ky., entertains you now under the name of Irene Dunne.

The balcony usher in the Kansas City theater resolves into William Powell, suave movie hero. The girl who lived at 5123 Armitage, Philadelphia, and attended West Philadelphia High school, matures into Jeanette MacDonald. The college youngster who played the lead at Madison, Wis., in an amateur presentation of "Excuse Me" is heard of years later as Don Ameche. The Lake View High school, Chicago, senior tickles the public fancy as Edgar Bergen, master of Charlie McCarthy. The good looking boy who lived at 2112 Fulton street, Cincinnati, becomes Tyrone Power.

Darrel Zanuck, mightiest poet in the movies, is the boy from Wahoo, Neb., who knocked down the town by running away to join the 6th Nebraska regiment of the National Guard. The son of the osteopath at Fbyeb, Neb., who pays one attention as Robert Taylor, and national put aside affairs of state to wonder if he has hair on his chest. The girl who sold stockings in a Stockholm department store is Idaavonna Greta Garbo, though she was the Gustafson girl then. The three girls who attended public school in Butte, Mont., are Martha Raye, Andrea Leeds, and Lucille Ball, interviewed in the fan magazines.

The telegraph operator at Green Bay, Wis., famed for his professional football teams, is Hugh O'Connell. The daughter of a St. Paul train dispatcher is Joan Davis. The daughter of Patrolman Lappert of the New York police department is Alice Faye, guarded by cops so that fans won't tear off her clothes. The good looking blonde from Mamaroneck High school at Mamaroneck, N. Y., is Claire Trevor. The boy who sold candy in a St. Paul theater is Walter Abel. The advertising salesman on the Philadelphia Bulletin becomes Nelson Eddy. The British private picked up by the Red Cross stretcher bearers from the muck of Vinny ridge is Claude Rains, and the South African soldier decorated by his battalion commander with the military cross of Britain snorts at you from the screen, Basil Rathbun.

If it takes all kinds of people to make the world, it can be said just as truthfully that it takes all the Main streets of the world to compose a moving picture. The Main street of Kankakee, (Continued on page two.)