

# Poultry Raising Latest Thrill of Mauch Twins



The Mauch twins, Billy and Bobby, or Bobby and Billy (the photographer forgot to say in which order they appear), pictured at their latest adventure, the field of poultry raising. They are going to hatch chickens, ducks, and maybe turkeys in their home-made incubator—they hope.

## 12-Year-Old Stars Keep Busy

By ROSALIND SHAFER  
Hollywood, Cal.

RECENTLY signed to a contract which calls for a salary of from \$350 to \$2,250 a week over a seven-year period, the Mauch twins might be said to be laying up a comfortable nest egg for their old age. But right now they are much more interested in eggs of another kind.

The latest adventure of the 12-year-old movie stars is into the field of poultry raising—even though they live in a Hollywood apartment hotel. Their parents have permitted the hatchery experiments only because the family expects to move soon to a new ranch home in the San Fernando valley.

Building their own incubator from an old packing box, the twins fitted it with cloth, electric lights, a thermometer, and a peephole. They have even figured out a gadget to turn the eggs without handling them. They call the contraption "the modern mother." News of their hobby has brought them many contributions—not all of the chicken variety, however. There have been duck eggs, turkey eggs, guinea eggs, and a few others of doubtful parentage.

It has been the fate of a number of child stars on the stage and screen that they were spoiled by too much attention. So far the Mauchs have escaped. Critics pronounce their work in such pictures as "The Prince and the Pauper" notably un-actory. They are still as natural as in the days when they romped around Peoria, Ill.

Since leaving Peoria they have stormed their way into the hearts of the movie public as typical American boys, bubbling over with health and good humor. One of their chief pranks on the sets is to change places with one another. Even the director can't tell the difference. The only way their mother can distinguish between them is by Billy's higher cheek bones.

The boys got their start in films by appearing in separate pictures, one acting, the other performing as a stand-in. But that gives them too much leisure—and leisure only makes for mischief when boys are concerned. So now the studio is trying to find a new vehicle in which they can be co-starred.



Reading their fan mail is another diversion which occupies the time of the youngsters. They are so much alike that it is claimed only their mother can tell them apart.

# Radium in the Movies

## Cameraman and Savant Risk Lives

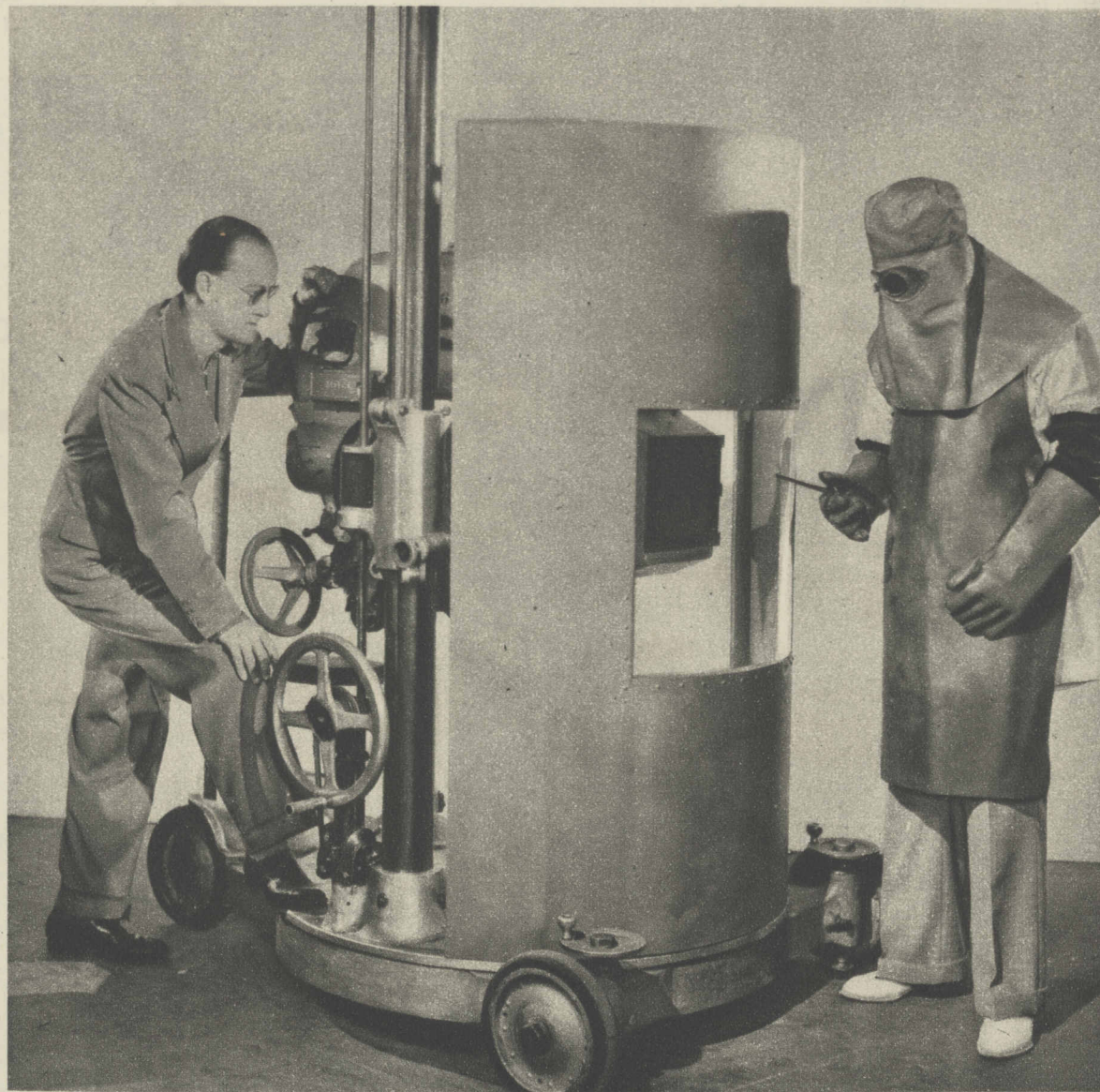
By GEORGE SHAFER

Hollywood, Cal.

HOW would you go about making a movie of the story of radium? Film technicians here in Hollywood have solved the problem, but not without peril to their lives. For, highly curative as radium has proved to be, it has left in its wake a string of fatalities, due to accidents in handling.

Daredevil actors who leap from speeding machines, ride wild horses, or smash airplanes have provided no more thrilling melodramas than the story of the volatile metal, the discovery of which revolutionized much of medical science. Equally fascinating were the methods used to transplant that tale to the screen.

Laboring in suits of fabricated lead and wool (lead is the only metal impervious to radium rays), grotesque hoods of lead, flexible lead gloves, and special glasses, Cameraman Charles Lawton Jr., Director Jacques Tourneur, and an anonymous scientist spent several days in obtaining the first motion pictures of the subject. No one else was allowed in the lead-lined shooting compartment during the filming.



Pete Smith, right, maker of movie shorts, and Gale Gitterman, M-G-M research expert, examining the special camera and lead protective device designed to make moving pictures of radium.

Overcoming difficulties was a regular routine that challenged the ingenuity of studio experts. The camera presented the first problem after plans to film the metal by remote control proved impracticable. A shield of lead containing a glass panel was built as additional protection for the cameraman.

Production was held up when it was found that pictures made with ordinary film were ineffective in repulsing radium emanations; they became cloudy and diffused and failed to register objects clearly. Thereupon J. M. Nicholas of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer photography department perfected a film that could withstand the rays long enough to get a picture.

The studio precautions were not publicity stunts. Medical annals are full of stories of martyrs whose experiments with radium in the interests of science cost them their lives.

The accompanying pictures show how Pete Smith's company filmed the sequences for a short subject film, "Radium."

In the upper picture the man on the right is Gale Gitterman, M-G-M research expert, all dressed up like the man from Mars, and prepared to engage in mortal combat with four grams of the metal. At the left, inspecting the special cam-

era and lead protective device, is Mr. Smith.

In the second view the person behind the armor might be called "the Man in the Iron Mask" if it were not for the fact that the mask is of lead. He is the scientist who arranged for the loan of the radium to the studio and who performed all the dangerous experiments.

In the lower picture Mr. Gitterman is lifting a case of the stuff from its container. The case, like the container, is of heavy lead. Inside is a tiny platinum capsule holding the precious grams. And precious is the right word. The value runs into six figures.

As nearly everybody knows by this time, radium was discovered by Prof. and Mme. Pierre Curie and G. Bemont of Paris in 1898.

Practical uses of radium and radium compounds are limited at this time almost entirely to the field of medicine, in which the radioactive rays from the element have been found to have curative properties. These rays have been used in the treatment of cancer, and, although not definitely a "cure" for all forms of this scourge, they relieve pain.

Physicians and those experimenting with radium therapy have found that healthy tissue



Further evidence of the elaborate precautions being taken to protect those who appear in the movie "Radium." The man in the mask is a scientist from the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, who prefers to remain anonymous.

is from four to seven times more resistant to the action of the rays than diseased tissue, and in conditions in which the diseased tissue may be destroyed without any of the healthy tissue being adversely affected, radium treatments have been very beneficial.

Radium rays have been used to destroy the vitality of seeds and kill bacteria which cause typhus, cholera, anthrax, and similar diseases. Radium salts are used to paint watch faces and other objects which are desired to glow in darkness.

## Voice of the Movie Fan

Letters published in this department should be written on one side of the paper. If you wish a personal reply please inclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Dear Miss Tinée: Where was Fernand Gravet born, and when? Thank you.



FERNAND GRAVET Born in Belgium on Christmas day.

Martens, is a Belgian. You're welcome.

ADELINE DANTA.

Editor's note: Mr. Gravet was born in Belgium, Dec. 25, 1908. He was educated in England. His father, the late Leopold G. Martens, of French descent, was a well known European manager and producer. His mother, Fernande Gravet, is a Belgian. You're welcome.

where, where he, too, doesn't gawk at the poor dwelling he sees.

Before the picture starts you're told it is all fiction. Well, those two Mauch boys remind you that it is fictitious throughout the play. Their acting is not normal at all.

A. H.

Editor's note: Ah?

Dear Miss Tinée: I'm seconding your wish that the producers see these letters and do something about it.

Saw Fred Astaire in "Shall We Dance," and I haven't made a mistake in quoting that picture—all anyone saw was Fred Astaire. Boy, was I hot under the collar! Heard a story that he was sore because Ginger got the limelight in a former picture. Well, he sure hogged it in "Shall We Dance." He didn't help himself, either. It was rotten to let her stand aside as she had to while we were bored to tears at his rotten howling. O, boy, those tunes! Does anyone call that singing or rhythm? Stick to your knitting, Fred—that's dancing, not singing.

You better remember that in America, anyway, it's still women and children first. I felt I was gypped on that picture plenty, but I come right back and get three times my money's worth in "Maytime." There's a pair that know what they are there for. I wonder, Miss Tinée, if these wonderful stars even begin to know what they do for the thousands of us who have always been hungry for the finer things but have had to pass them up because of the price. Now we can sit and soak up joy for two hours and go out with the feeling that we haven't cheated on something else in order to enjoy our needs. I

really feel that "Maytime" more than made up for every poor picture I've ever been gypped on.

I've been a picture fan for thirty years. Believe I know a real one when I see it.

Sincerely, MOVIE HOUND.

Editor's note: Brickbats and bouquets! It's a pleasure to hear from one who takes her movies so seriously.

Dear Miss Tinée: I go to the movies often, and nothing suits me better than to go to a picture that is thrilling from start to finish.

Lately I've seen some wonderful pictures, but recently I saw a show which to my mind was the best production I've seen in quite a long time. The name of that picture was "A Star Is Born."

To my mind Janet Gaynor and Fredric March were suited perfectly to their rôles. Their acting was superb. Adolphe Menjou, May Robson, Andy Devine, and all the rest of the cast were at their best. On the whole I think the show (including cast) was simply grand.

I've never seen a show that really

showed the way the lives of the screen's favorites are not their own. To me the most impressive scene was the one of the funeral.

Let's hope that we get finer pictures such as "A Star Is Born." Wouldn't I love to see the whole cast of that picture starred again together? Gee whiz!

A movie fan and admirer of your column, I remain yours very truly,

B. CHAON, Compton, Ill.

Editor's note: Gee whiz is right! Glad you like the column! Keep the good work up.

Dear Miss Tinée: I was very much interested in a fan letter that was published in your column. As I never fail to read your column, naturally I saw the letter concerning Simone Simon.

All I can say for Mr. Wayne is that it is too bad that he missed "Girls' Dormitory." That was the best movie that I have ever seen, and it is the only one that I have ever seen three different times.

You just can't describe Simone. I've seen all her pictures and have read every book that a screen play was adapted from and she figured in. I have clipped out nearly a hundred pictures and advertisements of this star and would like to know the name of her next picture. You needn't tell me anything about her, because I know her life and ambitions backward. When will Hollywood realize her talents, her popularity, and her personality that takes a hold on everyone? R. S. S.

Editor's note: Ah—a champion for the little French girl! I bet she'll be tres happy if she reads this letter!



Mr. Gitterman lifting a case of radium from its container. The case, like the container, is of heavy lead.