

# Flicker Folk Go in for the Bounding Main

By Rosalind Shaffer

**Hollywood, Cal.**  
THE things that go on on these Hollywood boats! The harbor police at Catalina lead hectic lives, what with fishing the victims of practical jokers out of the briny deep, towing in cheery movie folk who can't take a dare and have got lost in a rowboat with no oars, or just cheery movie folk who have fallen overboard.

A week-end on a boat is just about Hollywood's ideal of delight. The he-men go for them, to fish and do bachelor cooking; the lady killers like 'em because there's nothing so romantic as putting on a flattering nautical uniform and posing with a full moon over the right shoulder through the rigging. A supercargo of lovely mermaids always helps things out a lot for these boys.

There's never been such a year for sailing about, in large or small circles, in Hollywood. There isn't anything quite so thrilling to a landsman as a ship, because he doesn't know anything about it. It just looks magnificent and dramatic and primitive. Hair-on-the-chest sort of thing, you know. Boys from the sidewalks of New York make mariners in Hollywood. Actors who never saw a ship except on a back drop in Keokuk, when they were playing stock or one-night stands, and had to rescue the lighthouse keeper's lovely daughter to the accompaniment of off-stage sound effects, go nautical in a grand way.

## Plenty of Ocean

The proximity of Hollywood to a lot of good Pacific ocean makes it easy to satisfy this primitive urge. There is good yachting anchorage off Malibu. Santa Monica harbor is being developed continually. San Pedro, Wilmington, and all the harbor frontage there supply plenty of accommodation for boats. It's a nice two-hour sail to Catalina harbor; two hours more will take the ambitious sailor up to Santa Barbara. Beyond that there is the adventurous trip to the Santa Cruz Islands, which offers plenty of challenge to the seamanship of serious sailors, as it is full of strong currents and barren coasts. There are a few sailors, like John Barrymore, who will hazard trips up the coast as far as Alaska, down to the Gala-

vessel used in the film that he went right out and bought himself a fine vessel, Mariner, later supplanted by the still larger vessel Infanta. Between pictures he is always off on cruises.

Lewis Stone always has been a sea enthusiast. When Lew was working this summer on "Treasure Island" he kept his own ship handy to the location at Catalina and lived on it. It is Serena, formerly named Aurora, a 105-foot Gloucester schooner. He hopes some time to have leisure to circle the globe in it. Meanwhile his immediate objective is a trip to South America, where he intends to visit an old friend, now a coffee merchant in Colombia. Serena was built in the east, originally for a South Seas expedition. It is modern in every detail, to electrically controlled winches.

## A Floating Palace

Cecil B. De Mille owns one of the floating palaces of the colony; it is called Seaward. It is of the Gloucester type, with three masts and auxiliary engines, carries a crew of seven, and sleeps eight people. It has three bedrooms and a master bedroom, all with private baths. Formerly it was fitted with elaborately carved teakwood and Chinese silks, but after it was gutted by fire it was redone with English oak and cretonne hangings and upholstery. De Mille bought it out of the South Sea trade, and it has been his since 1921.

The latest victim to the thrills of yachting is Mae West. She now owns a part interest in the 48-foot cruiser that originally was purchased by Boris Petroff, her stage manager, and James Timony, her manager. The boat was officially christened Mae West with a bottle of milk, as Mae is a teetotaler. The cruiser has as beautiful lines as its mistress. The decorations are in Louis XV. style, with ivory woodwork beautifully carved and picked out in gilt, and upholstered and draped in pastel shades.

Preston Foster fetched in one of the most thrilling sea yarns since "Moby Dick" dripped from the pen of Herman Melville. He was out cruising around on the edge of a kelp bed off the coast beyond San Pedro in his 45-foot cruiser Alma A. As all good salts

know, the edge of a kelp bed is the ideal place to fish. Foster nosed the boat into the edge of the kelp bed, shut down the engines, and went up on deck to drop anchor. Suddenly the boat shook violently. Amazed that there should be rocks so far off the coast, he looked down over the bow.

There, shimmering in the clear water not more than six feet below the surface, was the oily back of a giant whale! As he gazed, horrified, and mentally noted that post-prohibition liquor was just as bad as old-fashioned bathtub gin for conjuring up sea serpents, the boat shuddered and the bow raised several feet out of the water.

Warren William aboard his Pegasus. William recently underwent one of the most dangerous experiences of coastal yachting when he was lost in fog for a day. Search for him was begun by the coast guard after the alarm was given by his studio; but he finally made port.



Joel McCrea is something of a sailor. When he can get time off from picture making and ranching he boards his windjammer for a little cruise somewhere along the coast.



Evelyn Venable and Owen Churchill with a party of friends aboard Churchill's boat, Angelita, winner in its class during the Olympic regatta of 1932.



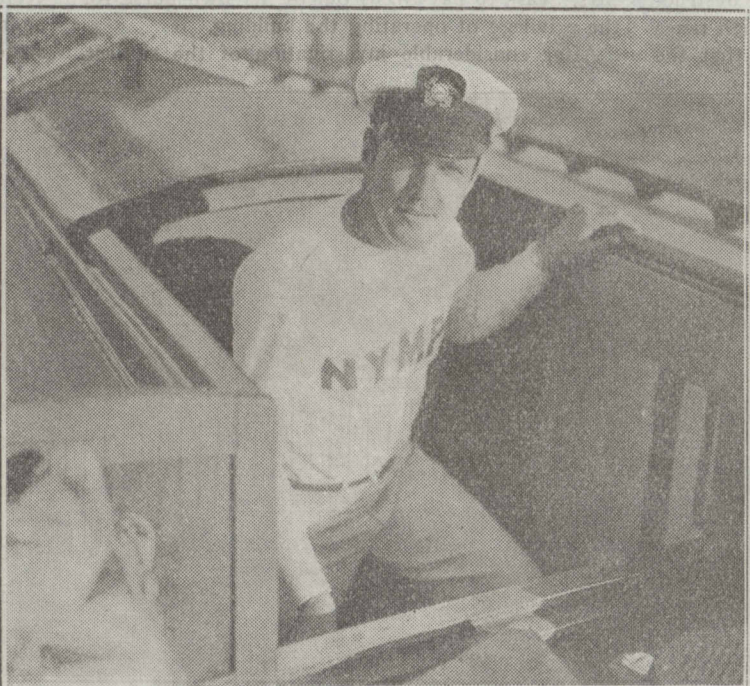
Pert Kelton is so fetching in nautical costume that she simply had to provide herself with a boat to use as background. You see Pert aboard the trim vessel on a placid sea.

pagos Islands, and even to Hawaii. In short, there is sailing to suit all tastes on the Pacific coast.

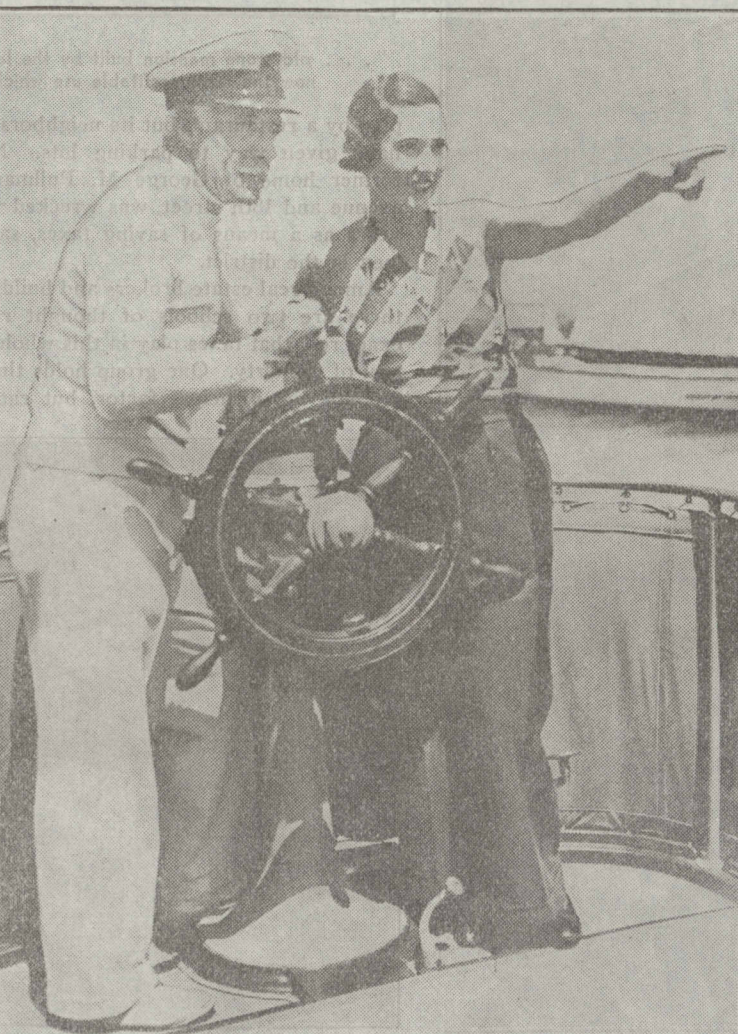
Barrymore is the oldest of the sea salts in the movie colony. His Infanta is a palatial million-dollar seagoing schooner with Diesel engines, equipped with everything from artificial refrigeration and radio to the newest kind of fishing tackle. John is an avid fisherman; he hopes some day to get time to cruise down to Australia and fish for the famous marlin that live in those waters. So far he has made cruises to Alaska and the Galapagos Islands with his whole family, Dolores and the two babies, and often with friends included in the party.

## An Inveterate Cruiser

In the days when John was a New York actor his love for deep-sea sailing suffered from repression, but when he came to Hollywood and made "The Sea Beast" he had such a good time with the



Ken Maynard aboard his 45-foot yawl, Nymph, which he and his wife sail up and down the coast.



Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Stone aboard their Serena, a 105-foot Gloucester schooner, which Lew hopes to sail to South America.



John Barrymore displaying the log of Mariner, which he owned and sailed before buying his present yacht, the million-dollar seagoing schooner Infanta.

He started the motors in reverse to get out of the kelp. The whale rose and followed. For half an hour the queer race went on, the whale blowing and pursuing, while the ship raced backward. What the whale was after, Foster learned later, was to scrape the annoying barnacles off his back on the bottom of the boat.

## On a 45-Footer

Ken Maynard, though primarily a horseman, likes to go down and see "the wild sea horses foam and fret." He has a 45 foot yawl, Nymph, on which he and his wife take cruises up and down the coast. When he is planning a new picture he takes his director, usually Alan James, and a couple of writers on a trip.

A really serious Hollywood sailor burst into print not so long ago when Warren William, aboard Pegasus, William's schooner, was lost in a fog off the coast and was overdue a day on his trip home from the Santa Cruz Islands. Accompanied only by a stalwart Swede sailor and a friend, Tom Manners, William drifted helpless for eight hours in the lane of big passenger ships. The engines had stalled and there was no wind. The foghorn and bell sounded incessantly.

Meanwhile the studio began to worry, and the coast guard began search for William. Mrs. William, who knew he had weathered many

storms in the Atlantic in his old ship, Cutlass, was not so concerned. The coast guard missed the boat, but William finally made port, much to everybody's relief.

Joel McCrea, a native son, is something of a sailor himself. When he can get time off from his studio duties and his ranch responsibilities he likes to go sailing.

Pert Kelton looks so cute in nautical costume that she simply had to provide herself with a boat to use as a background.

## An Olympic Winner

Evelyn Venable has become such a sailing enthusiast that she takes advantage of the offer of Owen Churchill, owner of Angelita, to use his boat any time she wishes. Angelita was winner in its class in the Olympic regatta in 1932, so one could say that Miss Venable is a good picker. She often goes aboard with a party of friends and enjoys playing assistant to the skipper.

If anyone wonders whether the roles that actors play influence their own lives, the answer is emphatically yes. The popularity of sea stories on the screen has converted more than one Hollywood land-lubber into a fellow who sniffs the salt sea air and treads the deck of his own ship. Just one good location trip at sea and they come back wild for the primitive thrills and the peace and quiet that can be had on the sea.