

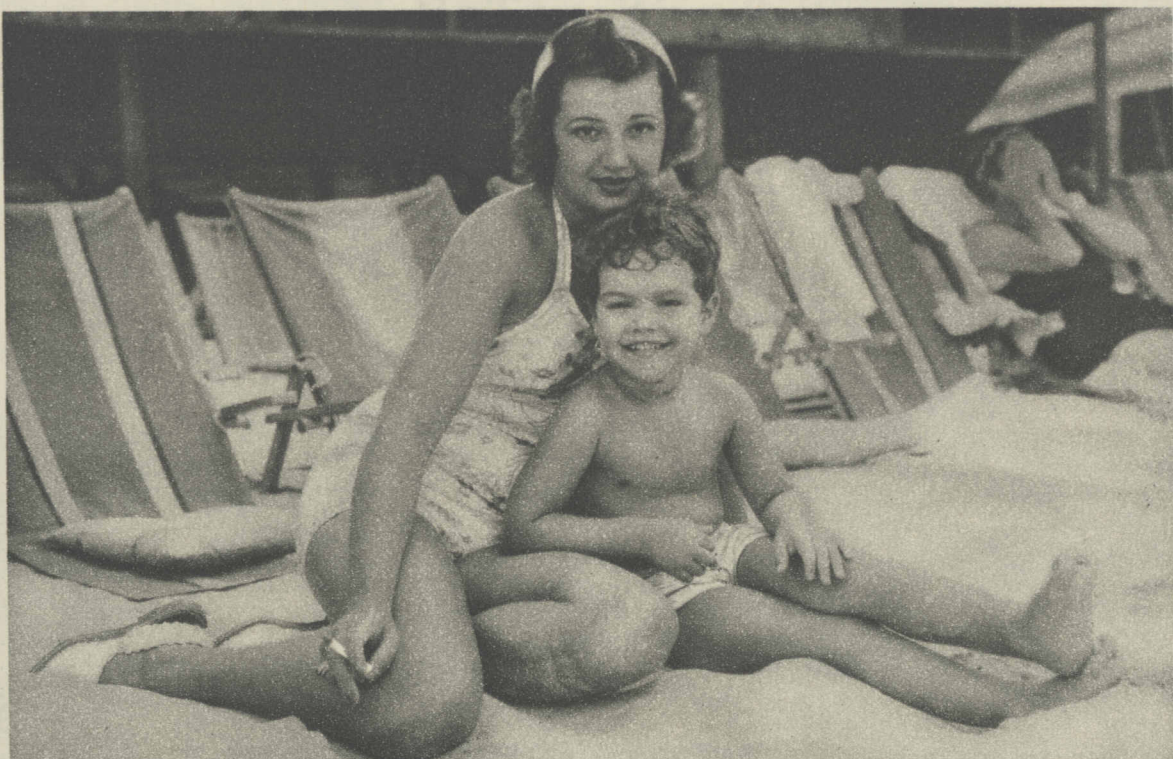
# Why Hollywood Stars Don't Stay Married

## Too Many of Them Wed in Haste

(Continued from page one.)  
 marital unions are lightly conceived may be gathered from the fact that so many weddings are of the elopement type. For example, of the eighty marriages recorded this year between motion picture people, about half were elopements to such nearby Gretna Greens as Yuma, Ariz.; Las Vegas, Nev., and Agua Caliente, Mexico. Four of these already have wound up in the annulment courts. It may be only a question of time before others follow them there.

To the credit of the elopement method it must be said that the practice of slipping across the border affords screen celebrities some measure of privacy. The three-day intention-to-wed law operates in California, and for film people this involves running the gantlet of photographers and reporters on the day of filing the required three-day notice of intention, again on receipt of the license, and considerable publicity on the wedding day itself.

The number of cross-border elopements which follow all-night parties, however, supports the suspicion that all too frequently neither party to the marriage enters the matter in solemn fashion. The idea is born of a joke at some convivial gathering, friends lend encouragement to an amorous couple, and the first thing the couple



Arline Judge on the Waikiki sands at Honolulu with her son, Wesley Ruggles Jr. Miss Judge separated from Wesley Ruggles Sr., a movie director, after five years of married life.

knows it is chartering a plane for Reno, Las Vegas, or Yuma, rousting out a sleepy county clerk and justice of the peace, and becoming husband and wife. After they have returned to Hollywood the two get a chance to look at the whole affair in a more sober light, and recourse to annulment proceedings is a frequent result.

The shorter Hollywood marriages invariably have been elopements. Thomas W. Daniels, aviator, in seeking an annulment of his 1932 Yuma marriage to Elinor Fair said the actress left him five hours after they returned from Arizona. They re-

married in 1934, and this union lasted eight months. Marie Astaire, a minor actress, asking the court for an annulment of her airplane elopement in 1936 to Las Vegas with Thomas Newbauer, broker, said they parted the day after their marriage. In 1928 Miss Astaire married Walter Kane, actor. This marriage lasted only ten months.

Dave Gould, dance director, obtained an annulment of his wedding with Frances Paxton, later Miss California of 1937 (you probably have seen photos of her under the name of Phyllis Randall), claiming they lived together only nine days, from Dec.

### The Record for 1936

A study of ninety-three divorces granted during 1936 to movie colony couples shows cause of action to be classified as follows:

1—Cruelty	28
2—Incompatibility	13
3—Desertion	10
4—Nonsupport	8
5—Outside interests	7
6—Other women or men	6
7—Legal technicalities	4
8—Drunkenness	2
9—Miscellaneous	15
Total	93

5, 1936, to Dec. 14, after their elopement to Yuma.

Lona André, actress, told the court her marriage in 1935 to Edward Norris, actor, another Yuma union, lasted five days.

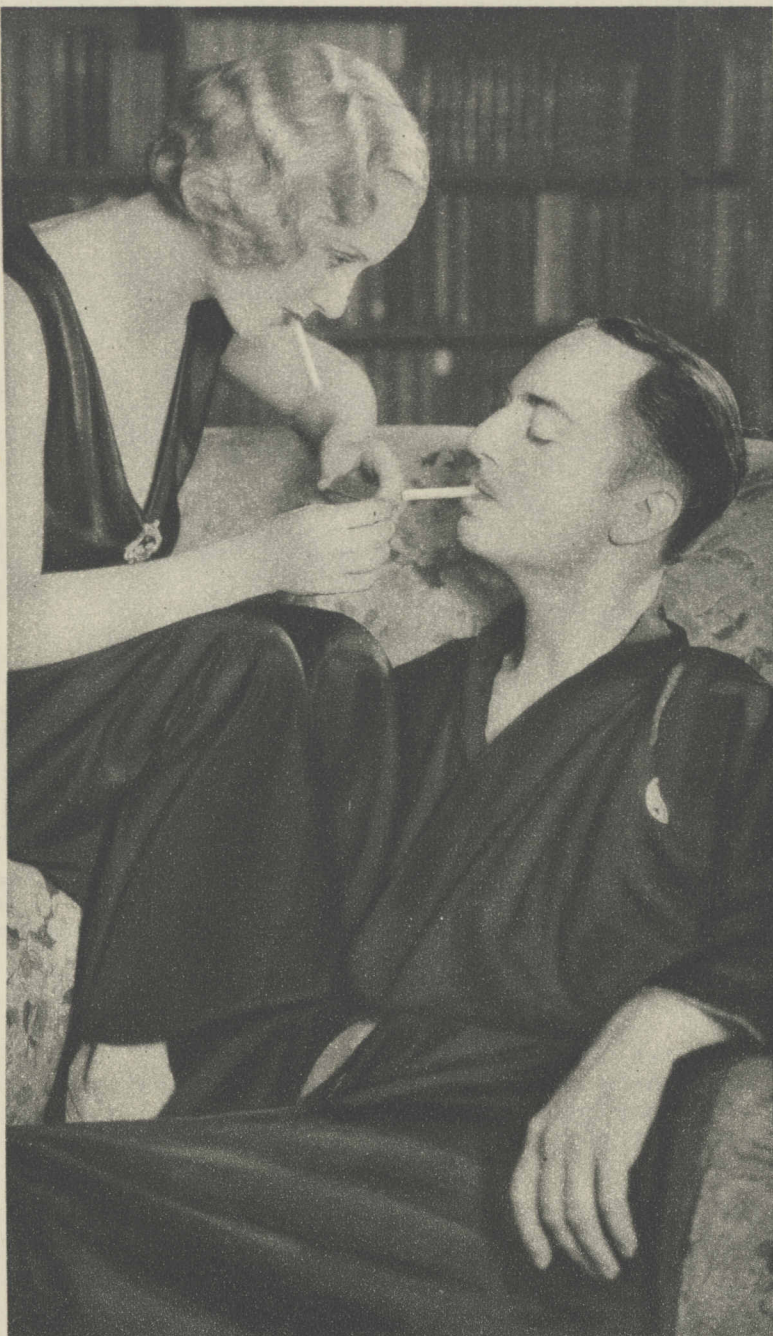
George Brent, in his unsuccessful attempt to obtain an annulment of his Ensenada, Mexico, marriage, testified he and Constance Worth lived together but ten days following the ceremony last May.

Martha Raye and Hamilton ("Buddy") Westmore, movie studio makeup expert, parted after sixty-seven days of tempestuous marital life following their surprise marriage at Las Vegas last Memorial day.

Clash of temperaments appears to be the cause of most marital difficulties in Hollywood. Where both husband and wife have individual careers there is likely to be a clash of ego. Both are accustomed to the consideration and deft handling they receive from their studios as movie stars and cannot seem to appreciate the necessity of give and take in domestic life. When both persons are equally prominent the situation is touchy enough, but it becomes increasingly worse when one of the parties begins to shade the other a trifle. This gives rise to the fear on the part of the lesser star that ultimately his or her own screen identity will be lost in the fame of the other.

This is said to have been the cause of disharmony between Ann Harding and Harry Bannister and between Ginger Rogers and Lew Ayres, to mention a few notable cases.

Still a union between a professional and a nonprofessional does not eliminate the ego problem. A business man or doctor,



This lasted two years. Carole Lombard and William Powell as they appeared, happily married, in 1931. Incompatibility was given as the grounds for separation and final divorce.



Frances Paxton, former wife of Dave Gould, dance director. They lived together only nine days, alleged Gould in obtaining an annulment. Under the name of Phyllis Randall, Miss Paxton was chosen Miss California of 1937.

recognized in his own field, runs the danger of becoming known simply as So-and-So's husband should he marry an actress.

The natural result when one begins to believe that the other is hurting his or her career is a strained atmosphere in which the lesser party decides he won't become a foil to the other's fame. A husband, believing his wife's fame is hiding his own ability, is likely to sulk, to be rude to her friends. To make matters worse, he is likely to seek solace in drink. Such a wife is very apt to underrate her husband's ability and to throw in his face the assertion that he would be a nobody except for her.

Under such circumstances either party can make out a case of cruelty against the other, or perhaps refine the legal charge slightly by claiming incompatibility. At any rate a survey of the legal causes recorded in motion picture divorces last year shows that cruelty and incompatibility were the basis of legal



(Acme photo.) Lona Andre told the judge that her marriage to Edward Norris in 1935 lasted only five days.

## Personalities Too Often Clash

from the ceremony on May 26. The Martha Raye-"Buddy" Westmore divorce promised to be a sensation in mother-in-law troubles when the bridegroom filed charges that a friend of the bride's mother had threatened to kill him for spoiling plans that had been made for the actress' future.

This allegation never was aired in court, for Westmore withdrew his charges and allowed his wife to get an uncontested divorce.

Although it is almost a foregone conclusion that a couple of youngsters new to stardom will break up partnership in short order, the film capital gets a real shock now and then when its bright and shining examples of double billing go into the legal docks. Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks were long pointed out as Hollywood's ideal couple, but after more than thirteen years of wedded life they took the matter to the judge. Ruth Helm's break-up with Conrad Nagel after fifteen years of double harness also jolted Hollywoodians. Ann Harding and Harry Bannister seemed to have hit upon a perfect formula for a going movie marriage when they startled the colony with their cries of quits after six years. Warner Oland's marital crack-up with the former actress, Edith Shearn, ended a marriage of twenty-nine years.

Yet these cases only illustrate the fact that Dan Cupid, for all of his éclat at getting people together, has a tough time keeping them that way, at least in Hollywood.

The matrimonial score is not altogether dismal, however. Investigation reveals that successful marriages do exist in Hollywood. Harold Lloyd and his former leading woman, Mildred Davis, have been married fourteen years and have three children. John Boles and his wife were married in 1917. Warner Baxter and his wife, Winnie,



Sylvia Sidney broke up with Bennett Cerf, a publisher, after four months of married life. Incompatibility was charged.

action in nearly one-half of the suits.

The charge of mental cruelty is heard in the majority of divorce suits between married professionals. Incompatibility mostly characterized break-ups between professionals and non-professionals. The latter charge was made when Sylvia Sidney broke up with Bennett Cerf, publisher, in 1936, after four months of married life, and when Binnie Barnes, actress, divorced Samuel Joseph, her British publisher husband, and when Helen Twelvetrees won her freedom from Frank B. Woody, aviator.

The divorces this year between professionals followed the cruelty charge pattern. Joan Bennett ended her five-year marriage to Gene Markey, film scenarist, on this charge last June. Mary Philips, actress wife of Humphrey Bogart, obtained a divorce from the film heavy on the same charge. They had been married nine years. Arline Judge, in her original suit here before seeking a Reno divorce, gave cruelty on the part of Director Husband Wesley Ruggles as the reason for taking steps to dissolve their five-year-old marriage.

Mother-in-law trouble has figured conspicuously in two recent court cases. Victor Orsatti, actors' agent, made the charge point blank that June Lang's mother was an obstacle to their marital success in obtaining an annulment of his marriage to the actress, a wedding that was one of Hollywood's shorter unions, lasting forty-six days

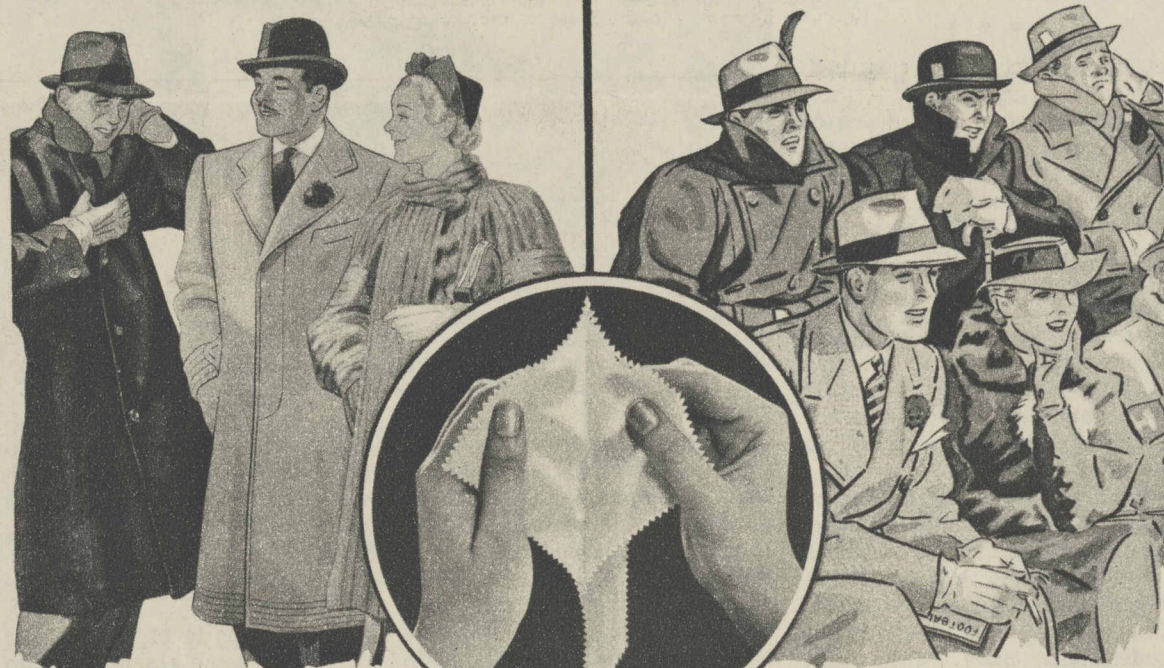
have been married sixteen years. Two other couples are the James Gleasons and the Joe E. Browns, both now with grown sons. The Fred Stones have been married thirty-two years. Richard Arlen and Jobyna Ralston, another former Harold Lloyd leading woman, celebrate their eleventh wedding anniversary next winter.

The death of Irving Thalberg last year terminated one of Hollywood's most beautiful marriages. Thalberg and Norma Shearer were married in 1928.

These, however, remain only notable exceptions, for Hollywood is a town of competing egos whose intensity marriage seldom modifies. So long as a motion picture career remains the stiffly competitive game it is between personalities all seeking to keep themselves in the limelight of publicity, divorces will keep up with marriages in the movie citadel.

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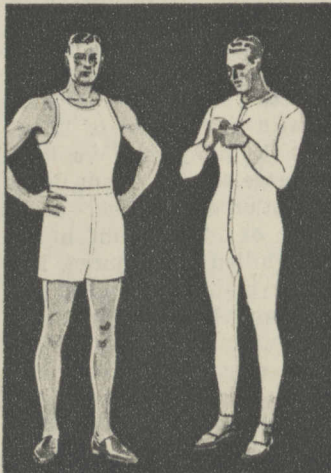
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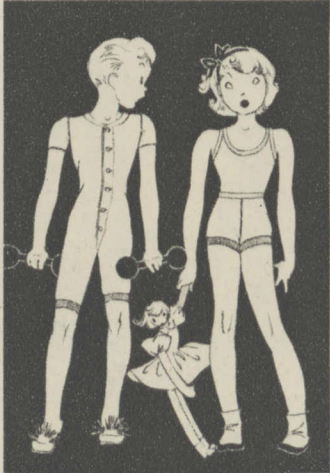
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