



Hooray For Hollywood

On Screen or Off, Malibou Lake is the STAR! by Johanna Poirier

We could easily fill a book with stories of the movies, television shows and commercials that have used our beautiful mountain, lake and club scenery.

Starting as far back as the silent films of 1924, the clubhouse was used to recreate locations as diverse as Canada and the Philippines. The cast and crews sometimes stayed for weeks and members' cabins were often rented out by production companies for overnight accommodations.

In 1932 "Man from Yesterday" with Claudette Colbert and Charles Boyer had a precious scene that showed the original clubhouse porch and a brief view of the interior of the clubhouse. In 1933, Paramount Pictures made the lake look like the mighty Mississippi, with W.C. Fields, Baby LeRoy and Alison Skipworth starring in "Tillie and Gus." The Club Bulletin reported: "One hundred members...found an easy way to earn money...answered the call for extras that summer, waving pom-poms, blowing horns and...showing every sign of having a wonderful time at a gay Fourth of July picnic."

A November 1933 Bulletin reported that "The

new sun porch recently added to the home of Mr. Schobert was made from lumber left by the Tillie and Gus set." (Schobert was Club Manager and lived in the present Manager's Office.)

For "Fury in the Jungle" (1934) the lake was transformed into exotic Morongo, South America. Alan Dinehart starred in this film and he was also a prominent member of the club in the 30's. The Nov. '33 Bulletin reports, "Enjoyable indeed was the impromptu entertainment and dance for the Press given by the cast of Columbia's production "Fury in the Jungle"... Given at the clubhouse on Saturday evening... Dancing to the strains of Aiton's Seven Orchestra"... Most likable Alan Dinehart and his lovely bride Moselle Brittonne, acted as host and hostess." For the 1934 Paramount production of "Come on Marines" with supporting actress Ida Lupino, the lake was an isle in the Philippines.

A 1936 film starring the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, called "Phantom Patrol" had many scenes showing the



1931

The horror classic "Frankenstein," starring Boris Karloff, features a scene at the lake (now Judge Larry and Laura Mira's dock)



1942

Diana Barrymore saves Robert Cummings beside the Lake Vista Bridge in "Between Us Girls"



1956

Another classic "The Bad Seed" set up the fateful drowning scene beside the lake.

original clubhouse exterior, our gateway with the carved fish, the old log cabin (now Earl Haines home), a dirt trail that was South Lakeshore and the original log sided Manager's office. Just 2 months after they finished shooting, our great log covered clubhouse was in ashes.

"Make A Wish" with Bobby Breen and Basil Rathbone was the first picture to be shot at the newly rebuilt clubhouse in 1937. The Lake Vista Bridge, main dock and clubhouse are clearly seen throughout this early musical. The Bulletin reported "It is fortunate that at the earliest possible moment that the clubhouse could be prepared for occupancy, a moving picture company was waiting on our doorsteps ready to move in, and start it on its way to earning money for the club."

A newspaper from the late 30's reported "Malibu (sic) Lake has lifted a pretty penny from the pockets of the film studios. The Malibu Club charges a flat price of \$1000 a day for the use of the lake and adjoining property. Housing and feeding individual members of the company costs \$5 inclusive."

A modest tally of films that used our lake and surrounding Lake property in the decade of the 1930's was no fewer than 40! That's 4 pictures a year. In fact it was this symbiotic relationship that got the lake and its members out of serious debt. In eight short years the lake reduced its debt from \$235,000 to a mere \$20,000. Thank you Hollywood.

Charlie Chaplin used the lake in 1940 for "The Great Dictator" with several shots of the lake and the Lake Vista bridge as background in the fictional nation of Tomania. In 1947 he came back to Malibou Lake for a scene in "Monsieur Verdoux" where he attempted to drown his rich wife, Martha Raye, in the lake.

Our lake is not just a desirous set location, it is a desirous life location. Many from the entertainment industry have made Malibou Lake their home. Arthur Edeson, pioneering cinematographer, built his weekend cabin in 1932 on South Lakeshore overlooking the dam (now Eileen Pearson's home). On his style of cinematography he writes, "In those times, flat lighting was the rule...I began to introduce some lighting ideas I had learned in my portrait work -and my efforts tended to show a softer, portrait-like quality on the motion picture screen." At Warner Bros. from 1936 until his retirement, Edeson was responsible for some of the studio's most memorable films such as "The Maltese Falcon," "Sergeant York," and "Casablanca" and the Boris Karloff horror classic "Frankenstein."

Roy Bolger, beloved scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz," lived on East Lakeshore in the Beutler home at the corner of Lake Vista. Frank Milton, a long-time member, won two successive Academy Awards while working for MGM. His son Gary was also in the film industry, won an Emmy and lives in the family cabin on South Lakeshore. Sir Guy Standing lived at the end of East Lakeshore (now the Waulthier's home). He received his knighthood after WWI. Sir Guy was a beloved member mentioned in the 30's bulletins dozens of times for such good deeds as donating trophies for the sailing contest. His credits include "Death Takes a Holiday" and "The Lives of a Bengal Lancer."

For 85 years our lake has been the playground and backdrop for the entertainment industry. Malibou Lake is perhaps the most well documented secret in all of Southern California.



1958

Cast and crew between scenes of "I Married A Monster From Outer Space"



1959, '63, '66

Member Frank Milton is Oscar winner for Sound on "Ben Hur," "How The West Was Won" and "Grand Prix." In '89, son Gary wins Camera Emmy for "Desperate Passage," a documentary.