

FAHP News, September 12, 2016

Actors and Actresses Depicting Famous People: The “News” of December 11, 2006, was entitled “Let’s Go to the Movies.” When I was young during the Golden Age of Hollywood, I loved the movies, culminating in the Club House Theater in Yorklyn, which I operated for two seasons in 1947 and 1948.

From the 1930s through the ‘50s, leading stars of the screen were under contract with the big studios and often took roles not to their liking. Among the features during this period was the portrayal of American heroes in full-length films, which carried over to historical documentaries on TV. The earlier movies took liberties with actual facts, but they were popular. Big name stars were often asked to portray historical figures. Sometimes they were honored to do it; often they “had to.” Following is the list of those I can recall.

Spencer Tracy: Clarence Darrow, Father Flanagan, Christopher Jones, Jimmy Doolittle, Thomas Edison, Robert Rogers.

Edward Arnold: Pawnee Bill, Daniel Webster

Walter Hampden: Thomas Jefferson

Hal Holbrook: John Adams, Mark Twain, Abraham Lincoln

Henry Fonda: Abraham Lincoln

James Stewart: Glenn Miller, Charles A. Lindbergh

Cary Grant: Cole Porter

Don Ameche: Alexander Graham Bell, Stephen Foster

James Cagney: George M. Cohan

Gary Cooper: Lou Gehrig, Sergeant York

Joel McCrea: Buffalo Bill Cody

Louis Calhern: Buffalo Bill Cody

Raymond Massey: Abraham Lincoln, John Brown

Robert Walker: Jerome Kern

Jose Ferrer: Sigmund Romberg

Tony Curtis: Harry Houdini

Charlton Heston: Andrew Jackson (twice)

Van Heflin: Andrew Johnson

Ronald Reagan: George Custer, George Gipp

Errol Flynn: Earl of Essex, Gentleman Jim Corbett, Jeb Stuart, George Custer

Howard Keel: Frank Butler

Fess Parker: Swamp Fox Marion, Davy Crockett, James J. Andrews

Ralph Bellamy: Franklin D. Roosevelt

Charles Boyer: Napoleon

Charles Laughton: Captain Bligh

Gene Lockhart: Stephen A. Douglas

James Mason: General Edward Braddock

Victor Mature: Samson

Walter Huston: Abraham Lincoln, Jerry Cohan

John Wayne: Davy Crockett

Richard Widmark: Jim Bowie

Mickey Rooney: Young Tom Edison

Ray Middleton: Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Frank Butler

Clark Gable: Fletcher Christian

Howard Da Silva: Benjamin Franklin, Jack Armstrong

Fredric March: William Jennings Bryan

Yul Brynner: King Solomon

Pat O’Brien: Knute Rockne

Fred Astaire: Vernon Castle

Mario Lanza: Enrico Caruso
Ethel Merman: Annie Oakley, Perle Mesta
Helen Hayes: Queen Victoria, Empress Maria of Russia
Bette Davis: Queen Elizabeth I
Hedy Lamarr: Delilah
Elizabeth Taylor: Cleopatra
Gina Lollobrigida: The Queen of Sheba
Mary Tyler Moore: Mary Todd Lincoln
Ruth Gordon: Mary Lincoln
Patty Duke: Martha Washington
Jaclyn Smith: Sally Fairfax
Ingrid Bergman: Princess Anastasia
Betty Hutton: Annie Oakley

If you need to know who some of these historical people were, or what film they were in, drop me an E-mail.

Work Report: On Tuesday, September 6, 22 volunteers were on hand, but several limited their activity to hearing Rose Ann Hoover's talk about her '40 Packard 120 convertible sedan. It was a warm summer evening and very enjoyable sitting alongside her car, both for the content of her information and for the favorable weather. Several attended in addition to our work volunteers. The volunteers on hand were as follows: Jerry Lucas (in charge), Rose Ann Hoover, Jerry Novak, Ted Kamen, Bob Jordan, Neal Sobocinski, Steve Bryce, Brent McDougall, Dennis Tiley, Anne Cleary, Matt Richard, Dave Leon, Tom Marshall, Ruth Marshall, John Bacino, Bill Rule, Tom Sandbrook, Mark Russell, Dennis Dragon, Jay Williams, Bob Koury, and Lou Mandich.

The steam pipe for the Model H-5 was insulated and a first attempt was made to install it. Locomotive 402 was thoroughly cleaned from its runs on Sept. 4. Wiring progress continued on the '37 Packard, and more copper tubes were removed from the old boiler of the Model 87.

On a very hot Wednesday afternoon, September 7, with Tom Marshall in charge, no one else showed up. Tom left early, and no work was done.

On Thursday, September 8, 14 volunteers were on hand: Tim Ward (in charge), Tom Marshall, Bill Schwoebel, Dave Leon, Jim Personti, Geoff Fallows, Bob Jordan, Ted Kamen, Neal Sobocinski, Bob Koury, Devon Hall, Jerry Lucas, Bob Stransky, and Paul Kratunis.

The pilot and pilot tank were both installed (and the last connection made the next day) on the Model 735. Additional track work was accomplished on the A.V.R.R. in the afternoon. The throttle was removed and replaced in the smoke box of Locomotive 402.

The Mountain Wagon was prepped and polished for its use at the Kennett Square Mushroom Festival on 9/10 and 9/11, and its speedometer cable was completed and hooked up. The electric fuel pump was connected to the new harness in the '37 Packard. The other cars to be used at the Mushroom Festival and at Chadds Ford Days, including Stanley Models 76, 725, and 740, the Rauch & Lang electric, and the '32 Packard were prepped for their appearances.

Our attendance at the Kennett Square Mushroom Festival and at Chadds Ford Days on both Saturday and Sunday were a success. Five of our cars ran very well, and their occupants had an opportunity to promote FAHP and our upcoming Auburn Heights Invitational to hundreds of interested people. Thanks to all our volunteers and to Susan for yeoman service.