

## THE FILM WORLD

BY  
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# "Un! Deux! Trois! Quatre! CINQ!" —And The Dionnes Became Famous

**"Gosh! GOSH!  
"GOSH!"**

And, as Oliva Dionne, French-Canadian farmer, became a father for the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth times—all in the space of a few hours—the honest eyes of Dr. Allan Dafoe grew wider and wider. It was the early dawn of May 28, 1934 and when Dr. Dafoe came out of the bedroom his greying hair was askew and his spectacles were pushed back on his nose. "You'd better go in," he said to Dionne. Fatherhood was nothing new to this young farmer—he had five children already—but this was something different. Smiling up at him was his 26-year-old wife and pillowed beside her ...

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quintuplets to its heart. Within 48 hours the simple-minded Dionnes found themselves front page news, and literally bombarded by a barrage of offers from screen, vaudeville, circus and radio promoters. And then the State stepped in—and the only living quintuplets in history were safeguarded from exploitation.

Above are five child stars who, before their first feature film has been released, are more famous than Shirley Temple—the Dionne quintuplets. They are the stars of "The Country Doctor," a film based on the day in 1934 when Mrs. Oliva Dionne, French-Canadian farmer's wife, astounded the world—and her husband—by giving birth to five daughters. (The above photograph is by courtesy of the N.E.A. Service).

### Five-Star Film.

AND now, as their second birthday passes, the quintuplets, Marie, Emilie, Cecile, Annette and Yvonne, find themselves among the world's most popular screen stars. Twentieth Century's producer, the famous Darryl Zanuck, quick to seize on the unusual, began work on a film entitled "The Country Doctor," which showed the "quints" in action—and, incidentally, added 10,000 dollars to their trust fund. Jean Hersholt plays the part of the country doctor—and plays it so amazingly well that, in the opinion of an American critic, he almost steals the picture from its quintette of stars.

### Their Own Directors.

MOST of "The Country Doctor" was made in Hollywood, but, for the final shots Hersholt went to Ontario. Dr. Dafoe allowed his little charges to work one hour a day, but refused, under any circumstances, to permit them to be kept working past their lunch hour. All the film equipment was sterilised and kept out of sight. The actors and the director had their throats sprayed between shots. Since it was out of the question for the director to tell the "quints" what to do, they literally directed themselves, and Jean Hersholt had to fall in with their whims and fancies. They liked him and mistook Dorothy Peterson, who plays the leading feminine part, for one of their nurses. The picture was released in 326 theatres in America last month—and it is doing phenomenal business. It is to be screened in three New Zealand centres simultaneously, starting on Friday, June 19.

### All in a Row.

WHEN the first shock of five-fold fatherhood had worn off a little, Dionne put through a long-distance call to a Toronto newspaper. Could he insert a birth notice—a rather unusual notice? How five daughters had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Oliva Dionne—five all in a row. The birth notice cost the Dionnes nothing. An amazed and excited Toronto editor soon had the wires of the world humming with the greatest "human interest" story for months. Within 24 hours the world had taken the Dionne

### Muni Just Lost.

THERE were few surprises in the 1935 awards of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences the details of which have just been made available. Warner Brothers are well in the picture with three awards—one to Bette Davis for her performance in "Dangerous" (in my opinion she was infinitely better in "Of Human Bondage"), a second to Hal Mohr for his cinematography in