

sonally would have liked to have seen more of the Civil War and the Pony Express.

Yet on the whole there is more continuity than you might expect, the connecting thread being the romance between Joel McCrea and Frances Dee. The latter is the aristocratic Southern belle whom the trail-blazer marries early in the story, and thereafter sees only at irregular intervals, depending on the state of the transportation business.

When the Civil War comes, Joel and Frances are parted by more than pioneering. A serious misunderstanding arises, and their hair has turned to silver before the final happy reunion. It struck me that this misunderstanding was rather forced and unnecessary to the human interest, which is quite strongly enough sustained as it is by the very likeable and convincing acting of the two young stars.

Mr. and Mrs. McCrea

FRANCES DEE and Joel McCrea are Mr. and Mrs. McCrea in private life, which is possibly why they have no trouble in making their love-making seem real. Specially pleasing is the patrician Miss Dee, who is at last getting the breaks she deserves.



Joel McCrea, Frances Dee, and Bob Burns as they appear in Paramount's production, "Wells Fargo," released this week in Auckland. It is a large-scale drama of American transport and is reviewed in these pages.

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UNOFFICIAL

Definitions Of A "Stand-In"

OFFICIALLY, a "stand-in" is the person who takes the star's place while scenes are being lined up and lighted. But here are a few unofficial definitions offered on the set of "Stand-In," Walter Wanger's comedy for United Artists, which co-stars Leslie Howard and Joan Blondell:—

"Stand-ins get all the hot lights and none of the spotlights."—Leslie Howard.

"When a star thinks she's too inspired to perspire, the stand-in does it for her."—Joan Blondell (who plays one).

"A stand-in is the wallflower who sits out all the dances when the music starts."—Humphrey Bogart.

"You've got to have someone to make you feel important on the set, so there are stand-ins."—Alan Mowbray.

A special pat on the back for Bob Burns, ordinarily one of the most annoying players I can imagine but here in his element as a lanky path-finder who is the hero's trusty friend.

Go to see this picture if you like the type. There are some uneven patches, but the general effect is vigorous and realistic.

"Wells Fargo." Paramount. Directed by Frank Lloyd. Starring Joel McCrea, Frances Dee. First release: Auckland, April 14.

"Dinner at the Ritz"

THE sensation created by Annabella in "Wings of the Morning" not only won her the applause of three continents, but also focused upon her the attention of Hollywood's greatest studios. When she repeated her success in "Dinner at the Ritz" she was immediately signed by Twentieth Century-Fox and brought to Hollywood, where she is now making "The Baroness and the Butler" opposite William Powell.

A New World picture, "Dinner at the Ritz" features Paul Lukas, David Niven and Romney Brent in important roles opposite Annabella. Declared to be as tensely exciting as its new star is lovely, the screen play was written by Ronald Pertwee and Romney Brent.

"Dinner at the Ritz" recently finished a record season at the Civic, Christchurch, and will be the Easter attraction at the Plaza, Wellington.

Two Little Words

RICHARD GREENE, 22-year-old English actor, has gone to Hollywood to play opposite Loretta Young in "Four Men and a Prayer."

This is the result of having been seen by a Twentieth Century-Fox talent scout when he was playing at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, in "French Without Tears."

Greene goes to Hollywood with a seven-years contract in one-year-periods.

He belongs to an old theatrical family. He is a nephew of the famous musical comedy actress, the late Evie Greene.

Richard began his stage career only three years ago with a tiny walking-part in London.

He played tiny parts in several British films and in the Gracie Fields film, "Sing As We Go," he spoke two words,

"Not yet." These two words he may now forget.

New Theatre

SUMNER, about eight miles from Christchurch, now has its own picture theatre, the "Hollywood." It incorporates the very latest in cinema construction and the sound equipment, it is stated, represents an innovation for South Island theatres. Seating capacity is 500, with special de luxe seats in the stadium gallery. Snack and milk shake bars are in the scheme of things, conforming to the latest

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