

SPEAKING CANDIDLY

(Continued from Opposite Page)

for Naughty Nan, a young plumber for Anne, and there's also a repressed schoolteacher and a fiancé (Ralph Bellamy) who won't toe the mark, but does so wholeheartedly one moonlight night.

Hard To Believe

AN interesting enough little picture, "Girls' School," sincerely and well done for the most part, though maybe the atmosphere is laid on with rather too heavy a touch. And it's hard to believe that well-bred young females could be quite as nasty to each other as they are in "Girls' School."

However, it must be presumed that Columbia's research department investigated that point, and found they can be.

Girl Reporter With Candid Camera

["Exposed." Universal. Directed by Harold Schuster. Starring Glenda Farrell, Otto Kruger. Release date indefinite.]

"EXPOSED" represents the first time (to my knowledge at any rate) that pictorial journalism has been romantically treated and brought to the screen.

By pictorial journalism I mean the sort of news purveyed per medium of pictures in periodicals of the "Life," "Pic," "Look," "Foto" and (in Australia and New Zealand) "Pix" class.

In America, thanks to the vogue started by the sensational successful "Life," dozens of newspaper papers sprang on to the newsstands literally overnight. Some expired soon after drawing their first breath, some lingered on, hovering, as it were, between "Life" and death; some have prospered exceedingly.

These periodicals have waged a desperate war among themselves. Circulation has come only to the



GLEND A FARRELL

Has notable precedent.

most enterprising, to the paper which could most consistently scoop its competitors with some sensational series of pictures.

It's A Girl

"EXPOSED" deals with a hectic chapter in the life of the star reporter on a newspaper magazine. This star reporter is a woman, and a comely young woman at that.

I would like to challenge this fact on the grounds of improbability, but Universal have a notable precedent. One of the star photographers for "Life" is a woman, Margaret Bourke White, whose scenes of life among humble communities in Southern States have won her wide recognition.

But to return to our muttons. This star reporter, who is none other than blonde Glenda Farrell, stumbles by accident on a remarkable picture.

In a low working-men's hostel she photographs a dead-beat who turns out to be none other than a once well-known prosecuting attorney whose energy was responsible for having an innocent man hanged, and who, in a fit of remorse, threw up his practice and fled to this low, working-men's hostel to get away from it all. (The remorseful prosecuting attorney, by the way, is our old friend Otto Kruger.)

Over-Exposed

A SERIES of more or less probable circumstances, which we need not elaborate here, serve to rehabilitate Mr. Kruger, and the rest of the film (and the really exciting part) is concerned with Miss Farrell's efforts to expose a racketeer, the racketeer's underling to

expose an indiscretion of Miss Farrell, and Miss Farrell's romantic endeavours to expose the love she feels burns for her under the waistcoat of the rehabilitated Mr. Kruger—and which, incidentally, she heartily reciprocates.

In fact, it's exposes, exposes all the way, and if I cared to be nasty I could say that it is over-exposed and under-developed, but that wouldn't be fair, because it's all pretty good fun.

Technically Wrong

ONE thing I am going to enlarge upon, however, and that is the need, in films like this, for directors to have their technical facts above reproach. In this instance I approached the scenes giving technical details of news-photography from the extremely critical viewpoint of an enthusiastic miniature camera fiend.

The crucial exposure in "Exposed" hinges on Miss Farrell's ability to secure—at night—action shots of a fast-moving assault, battery and murder.

Now, the camera she used had, at the fastest, an f.2 lens, and with a super-express-speed film she could never, in that light, have stopped the action and secured a reproducible print.

—But Why Worry

HOWEVER, now that I have aired my knowledge of photography, I am quite prepared to admit that it doesn't really matter a hoot, and that it is possible to spoil a good ship through being too particular about a ha'porth of tar.

Glenda Farrell and Otto Kruger do well, and there's an excellent little cameo from Herbert Mundin.—J.G.M.

World's Oddest Army

HOLLYWOOD VETERANS OF MANY "WARS"

ADD to your list of odd jobs in the movies that of Richard von Opel. Von Opel commands the world's most strange standing army. It fights for no country and is more often defeated than victorious. Each of its 48 members has "died" at least once on a movie battlefield. At present they are to be seen as the heroic Swiss Guard in "Marie Antionette."

A few months ago, they were red-coated troops of Napoleon in "Marie Walewska." To-morrow, they may be American soldiers in the trenches. They have been trained to carry eighteenth-century spears at the proper angle, ride horseback in suits of armour, or operate machine guns, all with equal skill and ease.

Two years ago, this troop did not exist. It is the creation of von Opel, a former officer in the Austrian army. When von Opel went to the United States in 1932, he

Spencer Tracy As Great Explorer

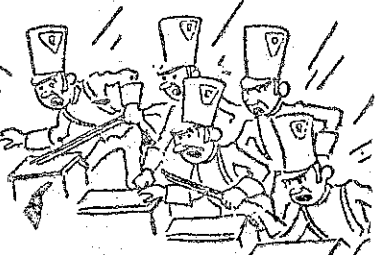
THE Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation are completing their plans for the production of "Stanley and Livingstone."

Spencer Tracy has been engaged to play H. M. Stanley, and Loretta Young is to have an important role. The actor to play Livingstone has not yet been chosen.

found his accomplishments as a soldier and a gentleman little in demand.

Appalled at the ineptness displayed by screen armies, he decided to organise and train a regiment that would be 100 per cent. efficient, at the same time making a job for himself.

"THE majority of my soldiers had no previous experience," said von Opel. "I prefer athletic young men of serious character and good habits, who are willing



to work hard and accept the severest discipline."

For the most part, von Opel recruited his "soldiers" from petrol stations, soda fountains and department stores. A few were recent college and high school graduates. All were ambitious.

When the undesirables had been weeded out, von Opel put his army through a six-months course of military exercises, designed along the lines of the old Austrian officers' school. Instruction was given in fencing, horsemanship and gymnastics. The army drilled daily until the most difficult formations, both on horseback and afoot, became routine.

Today, von Opel's army is rated the finest in Hollywood. In two years, it has appeared in twenty-four motion pictures, and is in constant demand. Whether a studio requires a Macedonian phalanx or a crack Highland Scottish brigade, von Opel's army is ready to march.

Abraham Lincoln

SAM GOLDWYN is said to be paying \$240,000 for the rights to Robert Sherwood's play, "Abraham Lincoln in Illinois," in order to star Gary Cooper as Abraham Lincoln. Raymond Massey is playing the part on the New York stage.

WARNER BROS.

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Original Screen Play by Norman Krasna, Rine and Simon. Music by Basil DeSylva. Based upon "Ancient Robin Hood" legend. Story by Eric Wolfson and Kenneth

Presented by WARNER BROS. Directed by MICHAEL CURTIZ and W. KEIGHLEY. A First National Picture

(Approved for Universal Exhibition.)

Playing Simultaneously

AUCKLAND REGENT Friday, Jan. 13.

WELLINGTON REGENT Thursday, Jan. 12.

CHRISTCHURCH REGENT Friday, Jan. 13.