

# Footlight Closeups

## Spear-Fishing Actress Prefers Safe, Straight Dramatic Role in 'Sharkfighters'

By GLENN C. PULLEN  
 A ROUND Hollywood they call Karen Steele they "spear-fishing blonde from Hawaii," but she wants it clearly understood that she is a dramatic actress and not a mermaid.

Producer Sam Goldwyn Jr. adroitly managed to get the new movie character closer to the water again in his latest United Artists picture titled "The Sharkfighters," coming to Loew's State Nov. 8.

Visiting Cleveland yesterday, Karen said she found herself right at home playing the nervous wife of a Navy officer (Victor Mature), who fights hungry sharks just to prove the value of a novel repellent fluid.

Not overlooking a single bet, Goldwyn also gave the lovely ex-televiser a bathing-suit scene guaranteed to display her lithesome curves to the most stunning advantage.

"People find it hard to believe I was a reckless tomboy when I was growing up in Honolulu," she said during a luncheon at Hotel Staller. "At Hawaii University I played halfback position on an all-girls' team in touch football until my father convinced me that spear-fishing for moray eels was a much safer sport."

### Turned Down at First

Her father is Percy Davis Steele, assistant district administrator of the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific, who raised his three daughters in Hawaii to be rugged individualists. A blue-eyed mixture of Irish, French, Swedish and English, Karen is a forthright girl with a lively curiosity about the world.

"When I first tried to crash into American movie and television circles, three theatrical agents turned me down, telling me to stay out of the business," she said.

The Steele versatility finally won while Burt Lancaster and Paddy Chayefsky were auditioning talent for a new movie being made on the proverbial shoestring.

### Picked for 'Marty'

It became the "Oscar"-winning "Marty," in which the newcomer portrayed Ernest Borgnine's married and harassed cousin. Critics praised her sensitivity in depicting a young

Italian-New York girl so realistically, although she admits "I didn't have the faintest idea of how a New Yorker should sound."

A small role in William Holden's "Toward the Unknown" came next, followed by "Sharkfighters," which Goldwyn made on the picturesque Isle of Pines near Cuba. A special camera crew had previously spent many months filming scenes of sharks in action.

"After seeing those huge, fearful creatures, I gave up all my plans to do some spear-fishing around Cuba's shores," declared the expert swimmer who is also a high-ranking tennis player. "Be sure to catch Nature's big battle with sharks, which is a hum-ding-ding thriller."

### Missed by Parents

Goldwyn now has the free-lancing Miss Steele, who studied dramatics at UCLA and Florida's Rollins College, under contract to make two pictures for him each year. Her parents, who came to visit her recently, have not seen much of their favorite daughter.

"They patiently waited for me to finish a role in John Payne's 'Bail Out at 33,000' and then came this promotion tour which I wanted to do," the blonde beauty explained.

That long-postponed family reunion, however, will materialize when she returns to the West Coast this weekend for a well-deserved vacation.

### Playlets for Eldred

Two playlets merged under the title of "Prompts From the Serpent" start the season tonight for Eldred Theater on the Western Reserve University campus. The action ranges from

a satiric Garden of Eden scene from Shaw's "Back to Methuselah" to "A Leak in the Universe," a comedy by I. A. Richards. Both are directed by Nadine Miles.

Euclid Little Theater try-outs for "See How They Run" will be held at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow and Thursday at Blevin's Dance Studio in Euclid. Production dates are Dec. 13-15, under Miss Muriel Heinrich's direction.

### Theater Schedules

ALLEN—"A Cry in the Night," 12:24, 2:54, 5:24, 7:54, 10:24. "Amazon Trader," 1:48, 4:18, 6:48, 9:18.  
 ARENA—"Ice Capades," 9 p.m.  
 HANNA—"Happiest Millionaire," 8:30 p.m.  
 HEIGHTS ART—"RHIN," 7:15, 9:15.  
 HIPPODROME—"Between Heaven and Hell," 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30. Sneak Preview at 8:30.  
 KARAMU—"Italian Straw Hat," Arena, and "South Pacific," Proscenium, 8:30 p.m.  
 LAKEWOOD—Dark.

LOWER MALL—"Boris Godunov," 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45.  
 OHIO—"Search for Bridey Murphy," 12:30, 2:25, 4:20, 6:15, 8:10, 10:05.  
 PLAY HOUSE—"Abe Lincoln in Illinois," Euclid-7th St., "Seven Year Itch," Drury, and "Cradle Song," Brooks, 8:30 p.m.  
 STATE—"The Power and the Prize," 12:40, 3, 5:24, 7:45, 10:05.

Help the Senate League's Medical Injury fund by attending the Plain Dealer's 26th annual Championship Football Game at the stadium Thanksgiving morning.

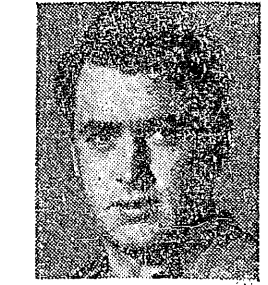
### Portsmouth Steel Labor Tieup Ends

PORTSMOUTH, O., Oct. 29 (AP)—Production was resumed today at Detroit Steel Corp. Portsmouth Division as steelworkers returned to the mill in response to appeals of union leaders.

A four-man slug pit crew, seeking addition of a fifth member, refused to work last Friday, choking off production and affecting 4,200 other workers.

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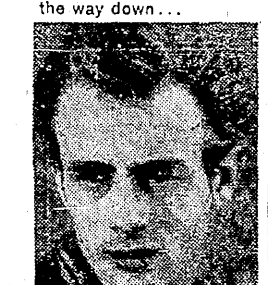
BICK BENEDICT was big enough to stand up and take what he wanted—and biggest, one day when he crawled...



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JETT RINK was made of laughs and lies and loving looks; he was made to get to the top--so he could have the fun of falling all the way down...



A PICTURE OF PROUD PEOPLE, A LOVE STORY, A CAVALCADE--  
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 Sat., Sun. 2:30 PM - 2.00, 1.80, 1.60.  
 Evns. Mon. thru Fri. 8:30 PM - 2.40, 2.25, 1.80.  
 Sat. 7:30 & 10:30 PM - 2.40, 2.25, 1.80.  
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