

# Marilyn's Responsibility Has Opened Her Eyes

## Star States Own View of Calendar Picture

BY EDWIN SCHALLERT

"Responsibility" was the flabbergasting word which Marilyn Monroe shot across to me over the long-distance telephone last week from San Francisco. "A star has a great responsibility," she said. "I have learned that through the letters I receive and through other contacts with the public. Most of all I have learned it through what servicemen have said and written to me. It has opened up a new world."

"Responsibility" is something that just doesn't associate itself with the young star who recently made such an outstanding hit as Lorelei Lee in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," and who afforded her studio, 20th Century-Fox, a tremendous amount of grief and tribulation locating her for this interview, for which this writer felt she was due in connection with her booming career.

The emissaries of 20th spent the better part of a week trying to discover where she was in the Bay area, and even became exasperated.

### Willing to Chat

They finally located her at the sister of Joe DiMaggio, named Marie, and Marilyn was ready and willing to chat extensively over the phone, and also to proffer an explanation:

of why there were so many complications about reaching her.

"I have been working almost steadily for three years," she said. "I had only two days off between 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes' and 'How to Marry a Millionaire' and even worked on one of those. So I really felt that I was entitled to a rest."

### Calendar Discussed

"I knew if I didn't sort of hide out for the time being I simply wouldn't have any rest. So that's the main reason I didn't let anybody know where I was. All I've been doing is resting and fishing since I've been up here the past week or two, and I'll be back at the studio again soon. But I did need the rest."

During our half-hour chat over the phone the entire Monroe horizon, past and present, was scanned by the star and this writer, including even the issue of the famous calendar picture, concerning which we

now for once have her version.

She said simply: "It is not true that Tom Kelly who shot the photograph took pity on me on account of my financial condition. It is true that he once lent me \$5. But the arrangement about the photograph was strictly a business deal."

### Simple Explanation

"He and his wife of that time, Natalie, had asked me whether I would pose, and he kept asking from time to time if I would. I was living at the Studio Club and had accumulated certain obligations which I wanted to discharge. I knew this money was available and finally one day I determined this was a solution to my economic problem. So I said I would do it, and 'please, let's get it over with as quickly as possible.' And that's all there was to it, but certainly it was definitely a business deal."

Marilyn put forth a clear-cut, simple explanation of the transaction. She also met the question about whether or not she will marry Joe DiMaggio with a straightforward, "I have no plans." She made it clear they are not wed and further that he was not available to talk on the telephone when I asked about that. The fishing expeditions, which I gathered were with DiMaggio, were on San Francisco Bay.

"What I really hope to do in the immediate future is take a trip to Korea, probably as near Christmas as possible," she said. "It is our hope to have a very big star, famous for his comedy, when a group of us go on the trip, but I cannot disclose his name." Private investigations disclosed that this might be none other than Jack Benny.

### 'Pink Tights' Next

"I am not sure just when 'Pink Tights' will start filming, though that is pretty definitely scheduled as my next picture," she continued. "I think it might be after the first of the year. I have played in CinemaScope for 'How to Marry a Millionaire' and it strikes me that it is much more like the stage than the older system of film-making. I also worked in CinemaScope in 'River of No Return,' but that was complete."

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SUPREME PIN-UP—Marilyn Monroe's lure for servicemen and general public today seems unrivaled. Simultaneously, through pictures like "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and probably also forthcoming "How to Marry a Millionaire" she will become bigger and bigger box office.

# Marilyn's Own View of Calendar

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ly different because of being photographed out of doors.

"I count that one of my most strenuous experiences. My ankle was pretty badly injured, though it is much better now. It happened when I was crossing the stream on stones. I was wearing boots at the time. I didn't think too much of it at first, but it was terribly hard to get the boot off after the accident and that strained a tendon.

"It was really wonderful working with Robert Mitchum on that picture and though I don't count myself an outdoor girl by any manner of means, I think the experience was really beneficial.

## Likes Dramatic Parts

"What I have really set my heart on is dramatic parts in pictures. Consequently I always look back on 'The Asphalt Jungle' as having been one of my finest experiences, and 'Don't Bother to Knock' as another. I know, of course, that 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes' has meant a great deal for my career, and it was fun working with Jane Russell in that film.

"Also in 'How to Marry a Millionaire' we had a wonderful group with Betty Grable and Lauren Bacall. Working with Jean Negulesco as the director was a great advantage. But I have set my heart on more dramatic parts as I go along.

"I also want to live up fully to what people really seem to feel about my work in pictures. I have had two instances which have brought me a great sense of responsibility. Once it was a marine who came to the door of my home after having been in Korea. He told me how much pictures had meant to the men in service and while he talked he started to cry. I can't tell you how deeply I was touched.

## Letter From Soldier

"Then there was another case told to me in a letter by a soldier. He said he had clipped my picture out of Esquire magazine, and carried it with him. He had been at the fighting front in a foxhole, and found it necessary to move to another position under fire. He remembered he had left the pin-up picture in the foxhole, and though he had started to the new position went back for it.

"It was amazing, he said, that returning for that picture had saved his life. Shots had been fired that would have hit him if he'd been in the other location. So he thanked me for 'saving his life.'"

Miss Monroe is today the top skyrocket star of the movies. Her ascendancy compares with any and all of the famous ones of the past like Barbara La Marr, Jean Harlow and other rare beauties, whose fascination has also been linked with a certain fatality.

People came from miles to Jasper National Park where "River of No Return" location just for a chance glimpse of her. She has caught the imagination of a multitude of people—not simply men in the service but a vast civilian population of both sexes.

She is reckoned beautiful in a thoroughly modern-day sense, and is simultaneously both charming and alluring in a peculiarly unobtrusive way. This was rather specially caught in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," despite that this does not, perhaps, represent her highest ideal of a picture.