

February 16, 1955

February 18, 1955

... They've kept it quiet but Mike Todd had a real run-in with two studio cops at RKO last Saturday. They wouldn't let him in, because of the five-day week. He drove over the chains, etc. A real brawl.

CinemaScoped sneak of "Oklahoma!" was worth the 124-mile round trip trek through fog to Riverside. . . It's the greatest tunefilm of all time. . . Agnes De Mille's dances rate superlatives, Rod Steiger's Pore Jud an Oscar. . . Eddie Albert, Gloria Grahame, Gordon MacRae are terrific, Shirley Jones a new star

American Optical Creates Motion Picture Division

Southbridge, Mass.—To handle all products and activities relating to Todd-AO process, American Optical Co. has created a new division here. William F. Peck, who has headed the AO instrument division in Buffalo, will be general manager of the new Motion Picture Products Division.

February 21, 1955

... Shirley Jones will do "Oklahoma!" sequences in Paris in May with the Judith Anderson-Helen Hayes-Mary Martin ANTA unit.

Current low activity in studios, with only 15 pictures shooting here plus four on locations abroad, will get a hypo as soon as producers have completed their annual rush of getting new negatives out of the state by "tax day," the

February 24, 1955

Director Fred Zinnemann plans to leave April 10 for Europe on a vacation combined with location hunting for Mike Todd's "War and Peace," slated to roll abroad in September.

first Monday in March, when the county imposes a property tax of about 30 percent on all new negatives found in the possession of the studios or labs.

Biggest production that has been rushed to beat the tax deadline is the CinemaScope version of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" which would be subject to a six-figure bite. The Todd-AO negative is being cut in New York and therefore is tax exempt.

Because indie producers are most sensitive to the annual tax, primarily because small inventories prevent them from spreading the tax cost over a group of films, not a single indie picture is shooting at present, but 14 are slated to roll between March 7 and March 30 and another eight in April. Major studio properties scheduled to start by March and April already number 28, making a total of 50 features to get the gun in the next eight or 10 weeks.

February 27, 1955

I also was delighted at this opportunity to hear Shirley Jones sing two songs from "Oklahoma!" As Laurie she lived up to everything her agent, Wynn Rocamora, told me about her—and that praise, is indeed praise from Caesar!