

# Old Maestro Says Movie Work Tough

Dick Hartman, the Hill-Billy Band Leader, Returns to Charlotte After Making a Westerner in Hollywood.

BY DICK PITTS  
Observer Staff Writer.

"Working in motion pictures is the hardest work I ever did in my life," declares Dick Hartman, hill-billy band maestro, who has just returned to the city with his Tennessee Ramblers after finishing work in "Ride, Range Ride," for Republic Pictures corporation in Hollywood.

"We figured making movies would be easy," said Mr. Hartman last night. "We thought most of the stuff was faked, but we learned differently once we started work in the picture." And for proof that movies seldom fake, he points out that Kenneth (Pappy) Wolfe has a big cut across his eyes, and that three of the players were knocked out cold in one of the big fight scenes of the picture.

Mr. Hartman and his troupe returned with a bad case of sunburn. The Kleig lights, he said, were hotter than the sun and not only half-burned you, but sunburn you as well.

"They also made music for the second film.

"The most outstanding thing on my mind," he declared, "was the fight in the saloon. It was so tight. We certainly wrecked the place. And the people we worked with were such swell folks, we're anxious to get back and work on another picture. It's hard work but we like it."

## GETS IN YOUR BLOOD.

"But it's a great business," he hastened to say. "It sort of gets in your blood. And the people in the studios, from the smallest extra or prop boy to the highest executive are regular home folks."

"Ride, Ranger, Ride," which stars Gene Autry, popular western actor, and Kay Hughes, will be shown here about September 30, he said.

Mr. Hartman and his band, including Harry Blair, Kenneth Wolfe, Cecil Campbell, Garnet Warren, and Fred Morris, left Charlotte August 1. Through Murphy Greig, owner of the Criterion theater here, E. E. Everett, manager of the local Republic Pictures exchange, and the fact that the Tennessee Ramblers are considered the most popular hill-billy band in the South, Mr. Hartman was signed for two years. The next picture, in which he and his band will be featured, will be produced in February.

Mr. Hartman and his troupe of hill-billy musicians arrived at the studios in Hollywood on Wednesday, August 5, and started to work the next day.

"We were given scripts to read, and when they were ready to shoot a scene, they'd check to make sure we had rehearsed our lines of that particular scene, then we'd go to work. We had to work fast, and hard.

## ELMER NEVER RODE BEFORE.

"In the first scene, we were on horses galloping down the road behind the sound and camera truck. Now Elmer (Garnet Warren) had never been on a horse before, and the first thing we knew, he'd pulled away from us, passed the sound truck, and galloped on down the road. Elmer didn't know how to stop the horse, so he let go the reins and yelled, 'Waw! Waw!' We had to shoot that scene over, and from then on when we were supposed to be riding horses, a double would take our parts. However, they did let me ride my own horse."

The scenes, Mr. Hartman said, are not taken in order. One scene is shot here and another there, with no sequence at all. Before the big fight scene in the picture, they were bandaged up and the scene "after the fight" was taken. The next day the actual fight scene was made.

The story of the pictures concerns Gene Autry and his pals who are in the Texas Rangers. When the Rangers disband and the territory is turned over to the U. S. Cavalry, the boys enlist. Gene gets in a fight and is discharged by the colonel of the outfit. Dick and the boys want to quit, but find out they can't, so they pick a fight. Consequently, they are discharged. Monte Blue, veteran screen actor, is the villain, and is in cahoots with the Indians. He also is a friend of the Colonel's, but it is not until the end of the picture that he is exposed, and Gene finally wins the Colonel's daughter.

## EIGHT DAYS HARD WORK.

The picture was finished after eight days of hard work. According to Mr. Hartman, they worked from 16 to 18 hours a day, and spent all but two days in the studios. The Tennessee Ramblers furnish all the music for the picture and are featured throughout the action of the

GRAND NATIONAL STUDIOS, INC.  
7250 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD  
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA  
GRANITE 6131

February 1, 1938

Mr. Elmer Warren, Mgr.  
Blackwood's Swing Billies  
W P T F  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Warren:

My secretary in New York forwarded me the letter you sent regarding the Blackwood's Swing Billies. She also advised me that she will forward the phonograph records and pictures you are sending, as soon as they reach her.

I shall be very happy to let you know what we can do about the Swing Billies at a future date. At the present time we have commitments with several musical organizations and it will be impossible to make use of any other bands now.

Thank you for your interest in our company.

Sincerely,



Edward Finney

ef/mw



# GRAND NATIONAL FILMS IN

HOLLYWOOD OFFICES — 7250 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD — HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

February 8, 1938

Mr. Elmer Warren, Mgr.  
Blackwood's Swing Billies  
WPTF  
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Thank you for arranging to have a recording made of your group in one of the numbers that you sing. Am looking forward to receiving this material when it is ready.

Would suggest that you send the record to my attention at Grand National Studios, 7250 Santa Monica Boulevard, Hollywood, California.

Sincerely,

Edward Finney

ef/mw

March 17, 1938

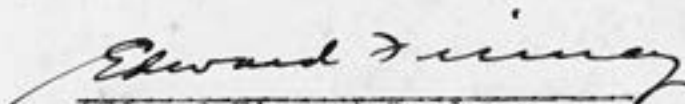
Elmer Warren  
Radio Station WPTF  
Raleigh, N.C.

Dear Mr. Warren:

This will acknowledge receipt of the records mentioned in your letter of February 25th.

At the present time I am unable to make you a proposition along the lines outlined in your letter of February 25th. However, I will be glad to keep the matter in mind and if something can be done in the future, will get in touch with you.

Sincerely yours,



(Edward Finney) Producer -  
Tex Ritter Singing Westerns

EF:EP

June 21st 1938

Mr. Armand Schaefer  
Associate Producer  
Republic Productions  
North Hollywood, Calif.,

Dear Mandy:

Remember, Elmer of the Tennessee Ramblers. Well this ain't nobody else. I'm working back here at WBT with the Briarhoppers and doing pretty good. The last time you heard from me I was with the Swing Billies over at WPTF. Our program expired overthere and we broke up, so I got on down here.

Believe me this outfit have plenty publicity. They have been on the air here for the past two years and a half, and have been the top program all the time. Have gotten up to 15,000 pieces of mail a week. Been playing hour a day show for Drug Trade, selling Peruna, color-bak etc. It is an eight person act, all men are more or less legit- musicians, singing and playing in all kinds of musical combinations. Maybe you will hear from us soon from our manager, Johnnie McAllister, or the exchange. If you do, give us a very close check, and see if you can't place us out there in a picture.

Mandy, you probably remember the twins of mine, well let me tell you, they are sure doing fine; nearly two years old now. Wish you could see them too, the most popular babies out here, they're going to be fine showmen too someday.

Here's wishing you continued success in the fine productions you are turning out. We sure like anything Republic releases. I played a personal appearance with your new star recently. Roy Rogers. He went over swell here, and they like him very much.

Your friend,

Garnett "Elmer" Warren  
Briarhopper Boys  
WBT Charlotte, N. C.

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Received at

North Hollywood, Calif

7 S R 11 XC MTAIRY N CAR 810AM AUG 14 1936

GARNETT ELMER WARREN  
HARTMANS TENNESSEE RAMBLERS CARE REPUBLIC PICTURES NORTH HOLLYWOOD CAL

TWINS BOY AND GIRL SIX AND QUARTER POUNDS EACH EVERYTHING OK

JACK

750A



THERE IS NO DEPENDABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR WESTERN UNION

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Pictures  
**CO-OPERATOR**

Jack Hardy, Managing Editor

**"Uncle" Becomes Papa**

"Uncle Elmer" Warren of the Tennessee Ramblers, who really is an apple-cheeked North Carolina boy, this week added to his titles that of "father of twins." Just as he ended work in "Ride, Ranger, Ride," a telegram came. "Twins arrived. Boy and girl. Each 6 1-4 pounds. All well."

**DAISY VARIETY DAISY**

**Warrens' 6 1/4-lb. T**

Elmer Warren, one of the Tennessee Ramblers now working public, has been informed is the father of twins. Warren from his wife who is in North Carolina. Twins are a boy and a girl each weighing six and a quarter pounds.

**PROGRAM SHORTS AND PRESS FILLERS**

Just as the last scenes of Republic's "Ride, Ranger Ride" were being filmed, "Elmer" Warren, one of the Tennessee Ramblers featured in the Gene Autry story received word that he was a proud father of twins born to his wife Inez in Mt. Airy, N. C. The picture, starring Gene Autry, will open out at the Strand Theatre, Mt. Airy.

Max Terhune, magician, ventriloquist and comedian who is featured in Republic's "Ride, Ranger, Ride," starring Gene Autry at the Theatre is a near relative of Albert Payson Terhune, noted writer of novels and dog stories.

George Lewis, appearing in Gene Autry's Republic film, "Ride, Ranger, Ride," at the Theatre, starred in forty-four pictures while still in his "teens." They were the collegiate two-reelers produced by Universal.

Lloyd Whitlock plays his 150th villain in Republic's "Ride, Ranger, Ride," a Gene Autry singing western now at the Theatre.

Chief Thundercloud, full-blooded Arizona Indian, is a graduate of the University of Tucson and is an experienced geologist. He is appearing currently at the Theatre with Gene Autry in Republic's "Ride, Ranger, Ride."

George Lewis, while playing Lt. Cameron in Gene Autry's latest western, "Ride, Ranger, Ride," negotiated a "Flying W," which means that both he and his horse turned double somersaults when the horse stopped in a gopher hole. Neither was hurt.

Max Terhune  
Republic Studios  
No. Hollywood, Calif



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Garnett Elmer Warren  
2 Station W.B.T.  
Charlotte  
North Carolina