

Young Bobby Driscoll Enjoys the Movies

He Likes Acting in Them and He Also Turns Out for Children's Shows

By Nadine Subotnik.

BOBBY DRISCOLL is a movie actor and he makes a dollar and a half a week.

"And I work for it," Bobby told me carefully Saturday. "I mow the lawn, run errands for Mother—well, I did before someone stole my bike.

"I put 50 cents a week in a Christmas fund and I save the rest too. Things turn up."

The last "thing," Mrs. Cletus Driscoll explained to me, was her Mother's day gift.

"What about the bike, Bobby?" I asked the almost 13-year-old Hollywoodite. "Think you'll get another?"

"Maybe I'll even get a BETTER one," he said with an extremely impish grin.

Works For Disney.

And that is Bobby Driscoll, Cedar Rapids-born youngster who is now doing very well under contract with Walt Disney—the only child under Disney contract—and on loan-out to other film-makers.

He's a good-looking boy—cuter, actually, than he registers on the screen. He's an intelligent boy. But he is also a typical one.

Big project for Saturday, after he'd finished with *The Gazette* and radio: Getting outside to play with a young cousin, Larry Cabalka, and the neighborhood kids.

Bobby and his mother and father were back in Cedar Rapids briefly enroute to New York, where they will meet the Disneys. Their plans after that are not ready to be announced—"just say a business trip," Bobby said.

Moved to Altadena.

When the Driscolls left Cedar Rapids originally Bobby was a year and a half old. They settled in Altadena, and one day Mr. Driscoll took the then six-year-old Bobby to Pasadena for a haircut. The barber took a liking to Bobby, told his father the boy should be in the movies.

The whole situation impressed Mr. Driscoll not at all. "When he got home," Mrs. Driscoll related, "he told me about it. He said he liked the man's barbering but he didn't have to throw in the movie line too.

"But the barber kept talking about it every time my husband would see him. Then he interested a son, who interested an agent.

"We went to an audition for a boy's role in 'Lost Angel'. We looked all around the lot because we never expected to get into a movie studio again."

In Fifteen Movies.

You know the rest. Bobby has been in movies ever since: "The Sullivans," Disney's "Song of the South" and "So Dear to My Heart". Most recently, on loan-out, his first big dramatic picture, "The Window".

Fifteen movies in all. And there's really nothing much to this thing of being a movie actor, the way Bobby tells it. He likes it all. The secret of acting? "I just try to live the part."

From Mrs. Driscoll I got the details on how a child movie actor—or at least this child movie actor—works it out. And much of it is done with help from Mrs. Driscoll, who used to be a teacher at Polk school in Cedar Rapids.

Learns Lines Day by Day.

The night before Bobby starts a new picture, Mrs. Driscoll reads him the whole story—so he'll know what it's all about.

Then, each morning before they go to the studio, she teaches him the lines he will use that day. "I practice them on my way to work," Bobby explains.

Infection of the lines and the action to go with them rests with the dialogue people and the overall director.

Sometimes there are problems, but Bobby seems to take them in his stride.

"The Window" was shot largely in New York. By the last shooting it was zero weather. Bobby played a little boy who crawls out on a fire escape because of the heat.

The shivery weather was bad enough. But they also stuck pieces of ice in Bobby's mouth



IT WAS A MEETING OF MANY RELATIVES when Movie Actor Bobby Driscoll and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Driscoll, visited in Cedar Rapids Saturday. That's Bobby in the center, of course. At the left are his parents; at the right his grandfather, Dan E. Driscoll, and a young cousin, Larry Cabalka.



YOUNG BOBBY AND COUSIN LARRY could hardly wait to get outside Saturday. And joining them in the sunshine was Larry's black and excited dog.

so frosted breath wouldn't show. "And that really rocked me," Bobby says.

How about that terrific scene in "The Window" where Bobby is trapped high in a condemned building on a rafter that is just about to collapse?

"It was really six stories up but there was a lot of scaffolding underneath so I couldn't fall," Bobby explained.

To get that horrified expression in his eyes?

"Well, I just looked down and remembered that, after all, I was six stories up."

"I wanted to do the jump down myself, too," he adds, proudly. "But they wouldn't let me. A midget did it instead."

His Schedule.

When he's making a movie he works on the set four hours a day, eats one hour and goes to school for three. When he's not working he goes to public school.

It doesn't allow him much time to play. That he admits, but he still like the movies fine.

When his bike was stolen, he was at a kid's show!

But Saturday in Cedar Rapids the playing was the big thing—he has "droves" of relatives here and they range all the way from a grandfather, Dan E. Driscoll, to many cousins.

An open house was also on

schedule Saturday at the home of Mrs. Driscoll's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. John Cabalka.

And that's about the story of Bobby Driscoll.

Except that he has a dog "as white as Larry's is black! . . . And that he's going out for track at school. . . . And that someday he wants to go over to the Quaker Oats and "see 'em pop stuff out of guns."

And he thinks Mr. Disney is very nice.

But, Bill Insists, He Works Hard

HOLLYWOOD (UP) — Men get their pipe, a footstool and a kiss when they come home from a hard day's work, but an actor's wife gives him a hard lock and sneer.

"Ha!" says the actor's spouse. "All worn out from kissing Jeanne Crain."

Actor Bill Lundigan declares this to be an actual statement made to him by his wife, Rena, when he returned exhausted from work in "Pinky".

And he reports that Gregor Peck, Richard Widmark and the other leading men get the same thing from their fraus. Wife think a day spent kissing Betty Grable or Hedy Lamarr is good clean entertainment.

"They don't know what we go through," he sighed dejectedly. "It's the same thing over and over—and in those hot lights. Even the mechanics of the thing are rough. You have to hold the girl just so or you bump noses or make her look like you've broken her jaw."

LISTEN!
And You'll Buy
WESTINGHOUSE
See Them Today at
ART'S RADIO DOC
Easy Credit Terms
400 TRD AVE SE • DIAL 3-0411

Yesterday's top tunes—
played by the top bands
of today!

**"YOUR
HIT PARADE
ON PARADE"**

If you know,
you may
win a **BIG**
cash prize.
Follow the
clues on

**the Lone
Ranger**

Dial 600

RADIO