

Schwartz Helped Schwartz To Start Curtis

By EMERY WISTER
Charlotte News Amusement
Editor

(Second In A Series)
HOLLYWOOD — Tony Curtis' new picture is "Sweet Smell of Success" and the title has a special significance for him.

Tony simply can't say success. Not in a movie sense he can't.

"It almost threw me out of a scene of my last picture, 'Mister Cory,' said Tony. 'What was the matter? I just couldn't say success, that's all. I had to substitute some other word. I'm always getting my tongue twisted around some word.'"

But now Tony doesn't have to say success, just enjoy it. But it came only after he had literally fought his way out of the steel and asphalt jungles of New York City.

OPEN SHOP

He was born Bernie Schwartz, son of a Hungarian immigrant who was himself an actor. The elder Schwartz had his troubles with the English language and was forced to open a tailor shop to eke out a bare living.

The Schwartz boy soon learned to fight with fists anything he could lay his hands on. When only 11 he was a member of what police called the toughest gang in Manhattan. When 12 he was a Boy Scout spending the summer at camp.

What happened? Thank a man named Paul Schwartz.

There is no relation. Paul Schwartz worked with underprivileged and crime-hardened boys in the East Side. He met Tony when a truant officer dragged the lad into a settlement house.

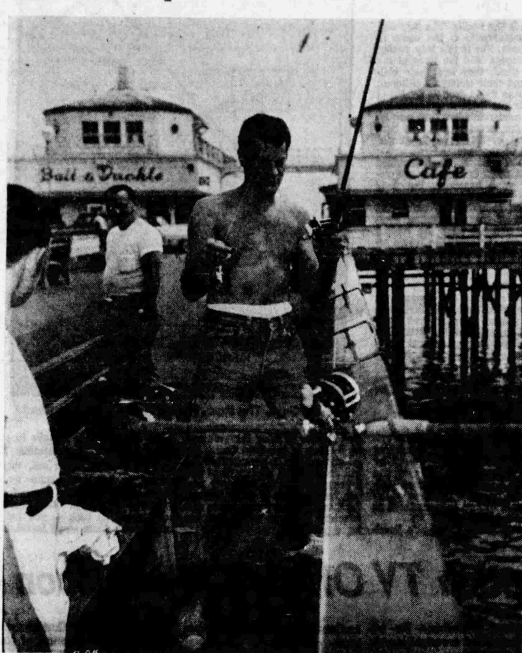
"He talked sense into me," said Tony. "He showed me how I was going wrong. I had always wanted to be an actor anyway and that's when I made up my mind that's what I was going to be. It was a lot better than stealing."

Tony doesn't mind admitting he stole.

BEEN IN BAD

"I had to do it," he said. "Else I would have been in bad with the others."

Paul Schwartz, he says, is still alive and in the South.



Tony Curtis Prepares To Cast On "Day Off" Fishing Trip

"I think it's Memphis," said Tony. "But you know it could be Charlotte. I don't know now."

Tony was just six months from graduation when World War II took him out of school. He joined the Navy and served on a submarine. He was helping load torpedoes on Guam when a chain snapped and struck him. The injury paralyzed his legs and

he lay on his back for four weeks.

Later, he was discharged and enrolled in a dramatic school. After appearing in several plays he was given the lead in "Golden Boy."

A movie scout signed him to a contract and he went to Hollywood. "I thought I was a king," said Tony. "I was sleeping late and having breakfast in

bed."

His contract guaranteed him \$100 a week. When he got his first check it was for just \$14.08.

"I hit the ceiling," said Tony. "Then I found the studio had loaned me the money to pay Screen Actors Guild dues and for other things. Let me tell you I checked out of that hotel in a hurry and moved into a boarding house."

Well, that was eight years ago. Today Tony earns considerably more than \$100 a week, makes pictures for several studios in addition to his new-formed Curtleigh Productions.

Impressed by his own success? Well, of course, he is, but not so you could notice it.

"Man," he says in his typical way, "it's crazy. Just real crazy."

He was in Charlotte a few years ago, on tour with Piper Laurie. Rumors flew thick and fast there was a feud between the two.

"Never was," he insists, though to this day Piper will scarcely mention his name.

FIRST MARRIAGE

His marriage to Janet Leigh was his first. Once they had met there was never anyone

else and no matter how far he was from her he called her every day. And he still does.

Of Janet he'll say this: "A temper? I'll say she has. She gets awful mad at me sometimes. If I take all the money out of the bank and lose it at Las Vegas, put a dent in the car, throw my socks around the house or punch the baby she gets mad. Awful mad."

But Janet heard that and wouldn't agree.

"Oh, no," she shouted from another room in the house. And you could almost see the point on that pretty face.

Tomorrow: Janet Leigh's rise to fame, and what a Cinderella story that is.

Catholics Name State Mother

RALEIGH — Mrs. Norman F. Bennett of Rocky Mount will be honored as North Carolina Catholic Mother of 1957 at the annual convention of the State Catholic Laymen's Assn. in Winston-Salem on April 27.

The selection of Mrs. Bennett, who is the mother of nine children and has more than 30 grandchildren, was announced by Mrs. Arthur A. York of Asheville, chairman of the Bishop's Home and Family Committee.

A widow, Mrs. Bennett is active in several Catholic organizations. She was nominated by her pastor, Father Charles B. McLaughlin of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Rocky Mount.

Rip-Roaring Auto Hardly Surprising

PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP, N. J. — Mr. and Mrs. William Liebeck were rudely awakened recently when a car shot off the road, ripped up their front steps and damaged part of their porch.

The couple was shocked but hardly surprised. It was the 16th time since Sept. 1, 1953, that a car has gone out of control and landed on the Liebeck property.

Carrier and Ives prints, which bring as much as one thousand once sold for six cents each, now dollars from art collectors.

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