

Many Hollywood marriages began in Yuma

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Editor's Note:

Hollywood marriages were somewhat common in Yuma in the 1930s-1940s. This article, reprinted from a special edition of The Sun on Oct. 15, 1972, looks at some of those famous marriages.

For more than a quarter of a century, Yuma was the place to be married for Hollywood stars. The long line of notables ended when Arizona adopted the pre-marital blood test law, making Arizona's law almost the same as California.

Yuma's career as the marriage capital of Hollywood started on Jan. 26, 1930, when Loretta Young and Grant Withers were married by Justice of the Peace Earl A. Freeman.

From that day on, many stars traveled to Yuma when they wanted to marry in a hurry. Freeman married so many of them that he was known as "The Marrying Judge" until he retired to go into private practice.

1931 was a very good year, with film stars Mary Astor and Gloria Swanson among those marrying here. In 1932, the famous cowboy star, **Tom Mix, was married to Mabel Hubbell** on the courthouse steps with hundreds of fans in attendance.

Many others, their names long forgotten by all but a few, were married during the years. One who hasn't been forgotten was Jean Harlow, who married cameraman Hal Rosson in 1933.

In 1935, Errol Flynn took his bride Lili Damita and Claudette Colbert took Dr. J.J. Pressman as her husband. John Barrymore married Elaine Barrie in Yuma the next year.

In the early thirties, the famous Los Angeles evangelist, Aimee Semple McPherson, married her choir director, Hutton, at the Yuma airport, with a minister she had brought with her on the chartered plane.

Mary Astor returned in 1937, this time to marry Manuel Martinez del Campo. Alice Faye, Anita Page, Helen Burgess and James Dunn were also married here that year.

In the 1940s, Louis B. Mayer, head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, was married in the Yuma County Jail, where he'd taken refuge to avoid reporters. Justice of the Peace R.H. Lutes performed the ceremony.



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(CHICAGO BUREAU)

TO WED TOM MIX.

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MISS MABEL HUBBELL, ABOVE, KNOWN PROFESSIONALLY AS
MABEL WARD, CIRCUS AERIAL GYMNAST, IS REPORTED EN ROUTE
TO YUMA, ARIZ., WITH TOM MIX, WHERE SHE WILL BECOME HIS
BRIDE. EDITORS: WATCH WIRE NEWS.

YOUR CREDIT LINE MUST READ "ACME"

FEB 15 1932

PHOTO BY

Third Wife of Tom Mix

FROM CHICAGO BUREAU

NEW YORK CITY

ACME