

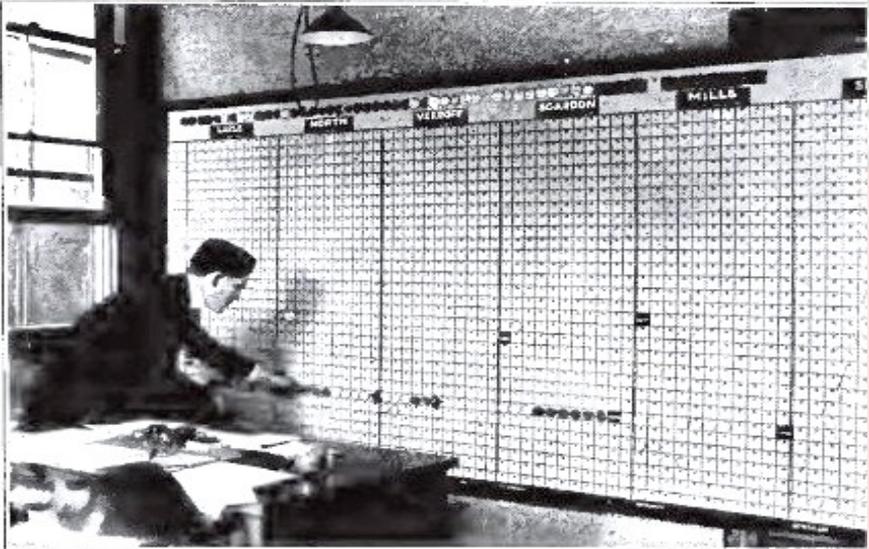
PRODUCTION

CHAPTER 2

FROM THE EXECUTIVE LEVEL

Let's start at the top and work our way down. Executives at the major studios were monitoring multitudes of films, so they didn't want all the details. Studio management only wanted to know basic information such as what was being filmed, the film's director, any major changes or modifications, and when filming was completed.

Shown below is an Executive Production Board from 1918. This board showed the names of different directors and the progress of their work. At a moment's glance it may be told how many actors are at work, how many scenes completed, and whether they are in the studio or out doing exteriors.



PRODUCTION

Some executives wanted a system to keep track of the basics that could be occasionally updated. A production NUMBER/CODE was created to follow through the process (because quite often titles and/or directors would change).

FOR MOVIE STILL

Again we want to pick on Paramount as all records seem to indicate they were the most aggressive and most likely the ones that actually started the use of production codes.

We want to show you a VERY RARE look at one of the systems used by Paramount to control their projects - Route Cards. Never heard of them, you say... yes, these are that hard to find.

From the late teens until the 1970s, a simple Route Card was issued showing what projects were in production by the production number, title and director. This simple card let executives see the number assigned, the title, if the title changed, the director, if the director changed, and when the production was completed. The entry would then drop off of all of the subsequent cards. This meant filming was completed and the film moved to the editing process.

We were able to study these cards in one binder of a two-binder set. We reviewed Volume 2, which covered the years 1943-1967. We have not yet been able to acquire Volume 1 to study. But the samples from Volume 2 show how their system worked.

Learn How to Identify Unknown Movie Stills

Examples of these Route Cards follow. The actual cards are printed on colored card stock, each in a different color which made them easier to discern.

Ed and Susan Poole

ROUTE CARD No. 5

August 3, 1943

- 1364 Lady In The Dock.....Leise
 1367 Riding High.....Manhal
 1361 The Story of Dr. Watson.....DeMille
 1362 The Unwinded.....Allen
 1363 The Hour Before The Dawn.....Telfe
 1366 And The Apple Sing.....Manhal
 1365 Henry Aldrich's Life Secret.....Bennett
 1366 Freshman's Creek.....Leise
 1367 Hall The Conquering Hero Surgeon

1369 Dr. Watson.....Bennett
 1370

ROUTE CARD No. 6

October 12, 1943

- 1364 Lady In The Dock.....Leise
 1361 The Story of Dr. Watson.....DeMille
 1362 The Hour Before The Dawn.....Telfe
 1364 And The Apple Sing.....Manhal
 1365 Freshman's Creek.....Leise
 1367 Hall The Conquering Hero Surgeon
 1368 Standing Room Only.....Lunfield
 1369 Ministry of Fear.....Lang
 1370 Going My Way.....McCarty
 1371 Henry Aldrich — Boy Scout.....Bennett
 1372 Our Hearts Were Young And Gay.....Allen
 1373 The Man In Half Moon Street.....Murphy
 1374 Rainbow Island.....Telfe
 1375 Double Indemnity.....Wilder
 1376 When I Come Back.....Seebach

1377

ROUTE CARD No. 7

November 12, 1943

- 1364 Lady In The Dock.....Leise
 1361 The Story of Dr. Watson.....DeMille
 1368 Freshman's Creek.....Leise
 1367 Hall The Conquering Hero Surgeon
 1368 Standing Room Only.....Lunfield
 1369 Ministry of Fear.....Lang
 1370 Going My Way.....McCarty
 1371 Henry Aldrich — Boy Scout.....Bennett
 1372 Our Hearts Were Young And Gay.....Allen
 1373 The Man In Half Moon Street.....Murphy
 1374 Rainbow Island.....Murphy
 1375 Double Indemnity.....Wilder
 1376 I Love A Soldier.....Seebach
 1377 Tomorrow's Harvest.....Borsage
 1378 The Hillier Gang.....Farrow
 1379 Incestry Bonds.....Manhal

1380 The Girl Behind The Counter.....Allen
 1381

ROUTE CARD No. 2

March 17, 1944

- 1366 Freshman's Creek.....Leise
 1367 Hall The Conquering Hero Surgeon
 1374 Rainbow Island.....Murphy
 1376 I Love A Soldier.....Seebach
 1377 Till We Meet Again.....Borsage
 1378 The Hillier Gang.....Farrow
 1379 Incestry Bonds.....Manhal
 1382 Road To Utopia.....Wilder
 1383 And Now Tomorrow.....Pichel
 1384 Bring On The Girls.....Lunfield
 1385 Practically Yours.....Leise
 1386

1387
 1388
 1389
 1390
 1391

ROUTE CARD No. 3

May 11, 1944

- 1366 Freshman's Creek.....Leise
 1367 Hall The Conquering Hero Surgeon
 1374 Rainbow Island.....Murphy
 1376 I Love A Soldier.....Seebach
 1377 Till We Meet Again.....Borsage
 1379 Incestry Bonds.....Manhal
 1382 Road To Utopia.....Wilder
 1383 And Now Tomorrow.....Pichel
 1384 Bring On The Girls.....Lunfield
 1385 Practically Yours.....Leise
 1386 Manker He Says.....Manhal
 1387 Two Years Before The Mast.....Farrow
 1388 Here Come The Waves.....Seebach
 1389 Fear.....Allen
 1390

1391
 1392

PRODUCTION

These cards were kept in a ring binder. The ones we have on file were issued about every two months before and during World War II, but went to monthly as production picked up after WWII.

Here is a closer look at a portion of a page:

October 12, 1944	December 11, 1944
★	★
1379 Incendiary Blonde..... Marshall	1387 Two Years Before The Mast..... Farrow
1383 And Now Tomorrow..... Pichel	1388 Here Come The Waves Sandrich
1384 Bring On The Girls..... Lanfield	1389 The Unseen..... Allen
1386 Murder, He Says..... Marshall	1390 A Medal For Benny..... Pichel
1387 Two Years Before The Mast..... Farrow	1391 Kitty..... Leisen
1388 Here Come The Waves Sandrich	1392 Out of This World..... Walker
1389 Her Heart In Her Throat..... Allen	1393 Salty O'Rourke..... Walsh
1390 A Medal For Benny..... Pichel	1394 Miss Susie Stagle..... Berry
1391 Kitty..... Leisen	1395 Duffy's Tavern..... Walker
	1396 The Virginian..... Gilmore

Notice the first one on the October sheet is #1379 – *Incendiary Blonde* – (director) Marshall. By the December card – it's gone. It was finished with filming and sent to editing. Notice down the line to #1389 – *Her Heart in Her Throat* (director) Allen. By December the title had been changed to *The Unseen*.

Learn How To Identify Unknown Movie Stills

Let's look at another sample. The image on the next page shows three of the cards for May, June and July 1948:

Ed and Susan Poole

11441 The Great Gatsby _____ Nugent
11442 Tailcoat Millions _____ Haydn
11443 Sorrowful Jones _____ Lonfield
11444 The Accused _____ Diesterle
11445 Dark Circle _____ Farrow
11446 _____
11447 _____
11448 _____
29021 Tropical Masquerade _____ Ganser
29022 Big Sister Blues _____ Ganser
29023 _____
29024 _____
10009 Sorry, Wrong Number _____ Litvak
10010 _____

11442 Tailcoat Millions _____ Mayan
11443 Sorrowful Jones _____ Lonfield
11444 The Accused _____ Diesterle
11445 Dark Circle _____ Farrow
11446 Lady from Lariat Loop _____ Marshall
11447 Streets of Loredo _____ Fenton
11448 _____
29022 Big Sister Blues _____ Ganser
29023 Catalina Interlude _____ Ganser
29024 _____
10009 Sorry, Wrong Number _____ Litvak
10010 _____
10011 _____
10012 _____
10052 The Heiress _____ Wylor

11444 The Accused _____ Diesterle
11445 Dark Circle _____ Farrow
11446 Lady from Lariat Loop _____ Marshall
11447 Streets of Loredo _____ Fenton
11448 One Woman _____ Allen
11449 Samson and Delilah _____ DeMille
11450 A Mask for Lucretia _____ Leisen
29022 Big Sister Blues _____ Ganser
29023 Catalina Interlude _____ Ganser
29024 _____
10009 Sorry, Wrong Number _____ Litvak
10052 The Heiress _____ Wylor
11513 Samson and Delilah (Morocco)
(2nd Unit) _____ Jester
11514 Samson and Delilah (Studio)
(3rd Unit) _____ Jennings
11515 Samson and Delilah (Miniature)
(4th Unit) _____ Jennings

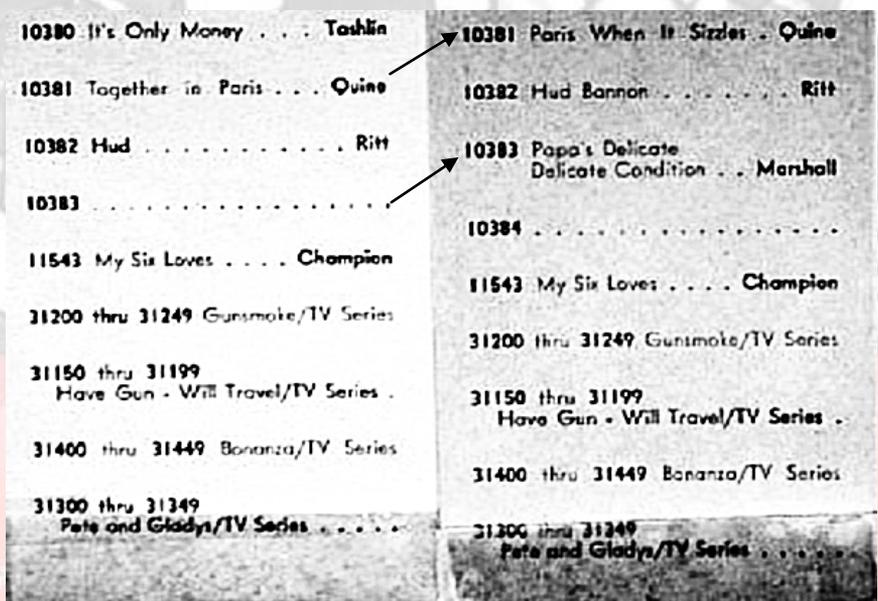
11513 Samson and Delilah
(2nd Unit) _____ DeMille

PRODUCTION FOR MOVIE STILL

On the June card (middle), the entry on the bottom reads: 11513 – *Samson and Delilah* (2nd Unit) (dir.) DeMille. Notice on the July card where the new number 11449 shows as the production code for *Samson and Delilah* with DeMille as the director.

The bottom of the July card reads: 11513 – *Samson and Delilah* (2nd Unit in Morrocco) with Jester as director; 11514 – *Samson and Delilah* (3rd Unit in Studio) with Jennings as director; and 11515 – *Samson and Delilah* (4th Unit - Miniature) Jennings over that as well. **These are temporary UNIT codes.** Once the filming was complete, temporary codes were eliminated and the primary number used.

Let's look at one more sample of two cards from May and June of 1962.



Code #10381 has a name change from *Together in Paris* to become *Paris When It Sizzles*. Code 10383 starts out as *Pap's Delicate Delicate Condition*.

PRODUCTION

Also note that these cards show how TV series codes were listed in blocks. By this time, TV had become a major part of production as well and was integrated into the system.

Each TV episode had its own production code number. Notice that they would allocate a block of 50 numbers at a time. When they finished that block of 50, if the show was going to continue, they would allocate another block of 50 until the show was cancelled. And while the Route Cards only cover the series, we have been hard at work trying to break down each episode as well and fill those titles in.



**MOVIE
POSTER
EXCHANGE**

Check out our regular
still and photo auctions!

www.movieposterexchange.com

PRODUCTION



L'imagerie gallery

- ♥ ORIGINAL VINTAGE MOVIE POSTERS
- ♥ RARE FILM POSTERS BOUGHT AND SOLD
- ♥ LINENBACKING AND RESTORATION SERVICES
- ♥ EXPERT CUSTOM FRAMING



www.limageriegallery.com

PHONE: 818-762-8488 FAX: 818-762-8499 EMAIL: limageriegallery@gmail.com

10555 Victory Boulevard - North Hollywood, CA 91606

Tuesday through Saturday from 11:30 to 6:00

Ewbank's



Take a look at our auctions



www.ewbankauctions.co.uk

Grand Susan Home