

MOTION PICTURE
HERALD

The Secret of Treasure Island

1938

This serial is not an adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island," which is pale stuff in comparison. In this newest edition of pirates' gold and dead men are two opposing camps, one consisting of a representative of the press and his daring lady companion, the other a fiendish collection of cutthroats, demented personages, a salty with a hook for an arm, and a ghost pirate with a hollow laugh arising from his hollow stomach and sure to haunt juvenile dreams for weeks, to say nothing of sliding panels, poison chemicals, underground passages and a volcanic eruption. There are also some of the best fisticuff exhibitions since "The Spoilers." The cast is headed by Don Terry and Gwen Gaze, and as villains are seen Gram Withers, Hobart Bosworth, Walter Miller, George Rosener and Sandra Karina. Elmer Clifton directed the 15 chapters. First episode running time, 28 minutes. Remaining 14 chapters, 19 minutes each. Released March 17.

VARIETY

The Secret of Treasure Island

A 15-weeker, "Secret of Treasure Island," is stuffed with fist-fighting, rough and tumble actions, and enough fright ingredients to keep the kids coming back for each episode. Don Terry, built up by Columbia's action product into a first class, fist swinger, gets into the thick of every struggle in the film and he handles the opposition with some backbreaking routines.

The story covers a hidden treasure search which had gone on for centuries, but after a short flashback it brought to the present day. Newspaper editor has a bug to find out the secret of the island, and dispatches on reporter who never returns, so he puts the job on Terry. Waterfront postal clerk, a girl, is forced into making a trip to the island at the same time. Turns out the place is operated by Walter Miller, who has all approaches mined for protection, while he hunts the treasure.

Figuring most heavily in the story is Gwen Gaze, the heir apparent to the treasure and femme white hope of the story; Grant Withers, muscle man for Miller; Hobart Bosworth, imprisoned doctor, and Yakima Canutt, island hoodlum. Over them all Don Terry has the big push.

Has many good suspensions to hang chapter closes on and may of the episodal titles are attractive. Will prove a good biz bet in action houses.



The Secret of Treasure Island

A rousing thriller with all the sensational elements to satisfy the thrill fans who like their excitement in weekly chapter doses. It features Don Terry as a newspaper reporter sent to the mysterious Treasure Island to determine what happened to another reported who has not been heard from after going there to investigate the volcano on the island that was erupting. Gwen Gaze is the femme attraction, and she is very appealing. She has gone to the island to discover her father if he is still alive, after being reported shipwrecked in the region of the island. The island is in the possession of a modern pirate, who rules the place with an iron hand. There are other characters who are held prisoners there. They have the freedom of the big and mysterious mansion in which the ruler lives, but they are entirely subject to his bidding and cannot escape. Walter Biller has the role of the modern pirate who seeks to learn the hiding place of the fabulous treasure in gold and jewels that the old time pirates have buried there. The girl is in possession of half a map, and it is this map that is essential to the locating of the treasure. There are all sorts of weird and terrifying things to alarm the visitors who are now prisoners. In particular, the ghost of the Black Pirate, who was the one who owned the buried loot many years ago. Walter Miller seems to have some connection with the ghost, which suddenly confronts Terry when he has gained

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L. Ron Hubbard wrote the screen adaptation of his "Murder at Pirate Castle" story and turned it into motion picture serial blockbuster "Secret of Treasure Island." The 15-episode film was one of the most successful and longest-running serials of the time.