

Picture Filmed Here To Be Shown At Parks Next Week

The Technicolor musical, "Can't Help Singing", filmed at Cedar City last summer and starring singing star Deanna Durbin and Robert Page, will open at the Parks theatre in Cedar City Monday, according to John Rowberry, theatre manager.

The new picture, Miss Durbin's first technicolor film, is expected to be an outstanding success, production officials reporting that it has far exceeded their expectations, especially in the adaptation of the beautiful scenery of this section to the story. The picture was produced by the Universal Picture Corporation as one of its major productions of the year, and is understood to be one of the most important pictures ever filmed in this area.

It was primarily to capture the outdoor scenic beauty of this area for the picture, that Universal sent a troupe of some 140 players and technicians to Cedar City. Headquarters for the company were established at the Escalante hotel after it had been vacated by the Army's 316th. College Training Detachment. With headquarters in Cedar City they traveled to many different locations in this area, ranging from the Parowan "Gap" to Kanab. Most of the scenes were shot at Duck Creek and Navajo lake and the surrounding territory. In addition to the 140 people brought here from the Hollywood studio as many as 250 local "extras" were used in the filming of the picture.

The story of "Can't Help Singing", moves the principals across the country in a wagon train, and Universal was able to find locations in this immediate vicinity that could be adapted to all stages of the story. In fact the script was changed in one instance to adapt a desert wind storm to the story. The troupe had been taken to Parowan "Gap" for special shots, and soon after arriving on location a heavy

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"Can't Help Singing"

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wind storm came up, and the Director ordered scenes shot depicting the terrible hardships of early pioneers crossing the desert.

The story, laid in 1849, opens in Washington, D. C., Deanna, in love with a young Army officer, played by David Bruce, sets out to follow him to the west coast. Enroute she meets Robert Paige, a gambler whom she engages to drive her covered wagon; she falls in love with him. There's a merry mixup when the three come together in Sonora, but it all comes out all right for Deanna in the end.

In direct contrast to her preceding dramatic role in "Christmas Holiday," Deanna is light and gay throughout this film, which leans heavily toward comedy. Paige, in his most important role to date, proves an excellent romantic teammate for Deanna.

Akim Tamiroff and Leonid Kinskey are very funny as a pair of petty crooks. Ray Collins does a grand job as Deanna's pompous senator - father. An Andrew Tombes comes through fine as a fast-talking swindler.

Producer Felix Jackson and Associate producer Frank Shaw have given the picture top-notch production value.

Frank Ryan directed the picture, and despite the fact that he moved into directorial ranks only two years ago on Miss Durbin's "Hers to Hold," he steps into the front line of Hollywood directors as the result of his deft handling of this film.

An outstanding feature of the picture in Miss Durbin's singing of a number of Jerome Kern tunes, written especially for the picture. Kern and E. Y. Harburg wrote seven songs for the production, every one of them an outstanding hit. They include "More and More," "Can't Help Singing," "Elbow Room" "Californ-i-ay," "Any Moment Now" and "Swing Your Sweetheart Round the Fire."

Universal has publicised the fact that the picture was made in Cedar City, and the wide spread advertising of the picture, together with the beauty of the film will be of great value to southern Utah, attracting the attention of movie goers all over the United States to the beauty of southern Utah's scenic attractions. The success of this picture should also do much toward bringing Universal back here for other productions and attracting other companies to the area.