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Lovely Maureen O'Hara's Always There When Director Ford Beckons

IT took her eight years to do it, but Maureen O'Hara — who isn't Irish for nothing — is back working with John Ford in his first production for Republic, "Rio Grande," opening..... at the..... Theatre for a..... engagement.

Back in 1942, when Maureen had been in this country little more than a year, Ford chose her to play the leading feminine role in "How Green Was My Valley." He won an Academy Award for his direction of this film, and it served as the final stepping stone to stardom for the lovely Miss O'Hara. She vowed then that whenever Mr. Ford wanted her, she would be there. He wanted her to play the wife of John Wayne in "Rio Grande," and she plays it, despite the fact that she had finished five pictures in quick succession, without any rest, and had been hoping to take a vacation.

First Film Role

Actually, there was no motion picture apprenticeship for Maureen. Her first appearance on the screen was in the feminine lead in "Jamaica Inn," with Charles Laughton. This picture brought her to the United States where she has been appearing regularly in pictures ever since.

Maureen was born in Dublin, Ireland, on August 17. She made her first stage appearance at the age of five when she was pressed into service to read a short poem between the acts of a school play. After that, little Maureen began to study dramatic art with her ABC's and never swerved from it.

Abbey Theatre Player

When she was 12, she was invited to appear on a radio program, and earned her first money as a professional entertainer. By the time she was 14, she had been enrolled in the world-famous Abbey Theatre School, had several fine performances to her credit and had won every award and medal bestowed in Ireland's frequent play festivals and dramatic contests.

Following one of these productions, Miss O'Hara; then 17, received a letter from an English film company, asking her to go to London immediately for a screen test. It was there that Charles Laughton saw her and offered her a contract.

Maureen tasted her first film fame at the London premiere of "Jamaica Inn." It appeared that London was to be her



"RIO GRANDE" (1E)

home for some time to come. She leased a house for seven years in Hyde Park and had lived in it only six weeks when she was offered the leading role in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," closed up her house and sailed for America and Hollywood.

Three days after Christmas, 1941, Maureen flew to McComb, Mississippi, to become the bride of film director Will Price. The Prices now have one daughter, Bronwyn, who is six.

In her career, Maureen has sashayed between straight drama, high comedy and fantasy.

She is noted as one of the best dressed of the younger screen players. She has a fetish for smart hats, of which she has a large collection. She hates to travel; takes a train if a trip is necessary.