

Pathfinder

JULY 28, 1948

Disney's Zip

One episode in Walt Disney's newest film, **Melody Time** (RKO), should raise his stock with moviegoers disappointed in *Song of the South* and *Fun and Fancy Free*. The legend of *Pecos Bill*, narrated and sung by Roy Rogers and the Sons of the Pioneers, is up to Disney's best standards. It has imagination, super-fanciful drawing, a hit parade song (*Blue Shadows*) and wry humor. There's a chuckle a minute in it.

The film's other sequences, linked together by Buddy Clark as emcee, are at least average *Disney*. *Once Upon a Winter-Time*, in which Frances Langford sings of two lovers who go ice-skating, has a beribboned, Christmas-card quality. *Blame It On the Samba* features Ethel Smith's sizzling organ-playing and the hip-wriggling of Donald Duck, Jose Carioca and the Bird of Brazil. And there's Rimsky-Korsakoff's *Flight of the Bumble Bee*, transformed into a nightmarish *Bumble Boogie*, by Freddie Martin. *Little Toot* creates a new cartoon character—a precocious tugboat. The tone poem, *Trees*, is the film's visual high point, with music supplied by Fred Waring. And Dennis Day sings several catchy tunes in a new version of *Johnny Appleseed*.

As usual, Disney's staff has turned out a movie with wide audience appeal, technically perfect and carefully Technicolored. But much more to *Melody Time*'s credit is the fact that a great deal of the inimitable Disney spark is showing.



Pecos Bill. Disney's genius worked overtime on his creation.

OldMagazineArticles.com