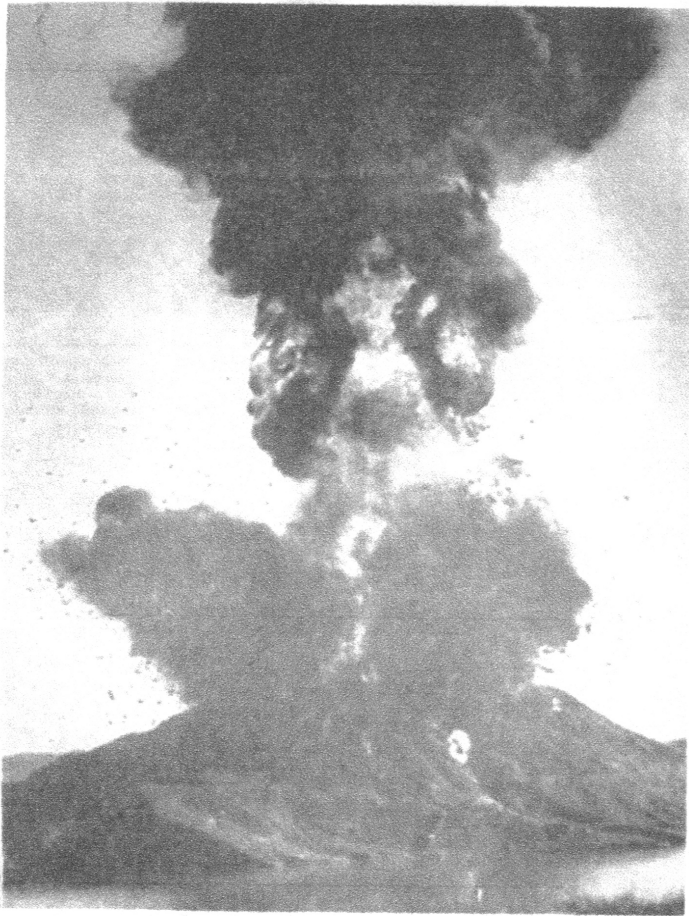


MOVIE SET VOLCANO BLOWS ITS TOP HERE



The man-made volcano at the Butler Ranch near De Luz blew its top last Thursday afternoon.

Cameramen manning a battery of cameras recorded the event in color, and photographers from major news services, as well as newspapers in the area, were present.

Thursday's explosion was the climax to several months of painstaking preparation by Special Effects Director Lawrence Butler and his assistants and technicians. Preliminary explosions were set off several times a day for a few weeks before the final shooting.

The top 12 feet of the crater was destroyed by the final explosion last week, with a state forestry fire crew standing by. The volcano was

decorated with streams of lava fashioned from phosphorescent orange paint.

Assistant Art Director Phil Jeffries said that lava flows were filmed at the studio and that pictures of the streams of lava taken at the De Luz location were taken as the result of optical illusion with reflected light causing a pulsating, moving appearance to the lava streams coursing down the sides of the scale model volcano.

With the major part of the filming already completed on the ranch, the crew of "Devil at 4 o'clock", a Columbia pictures starring Frank Sinatra and Spencer Tracy, will spend less time here.

Additional work is to be done in the De Luz area on a radio tower collapse and also on a forest fire to be prepared on location, according to Jeffries.

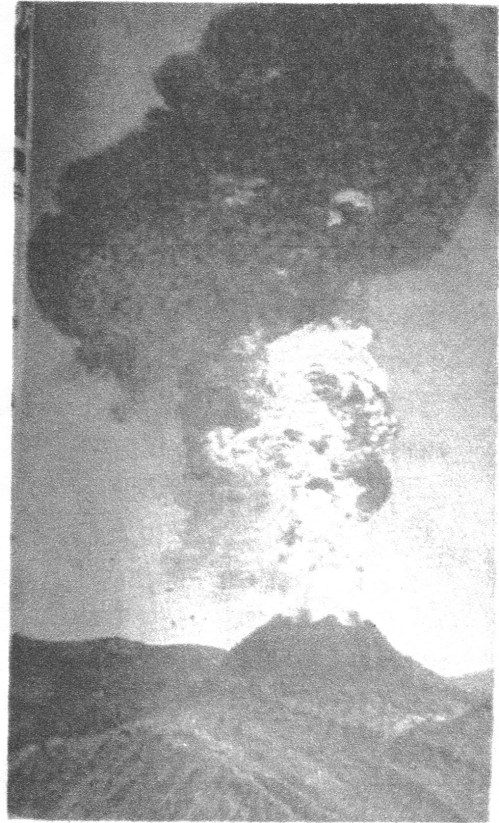
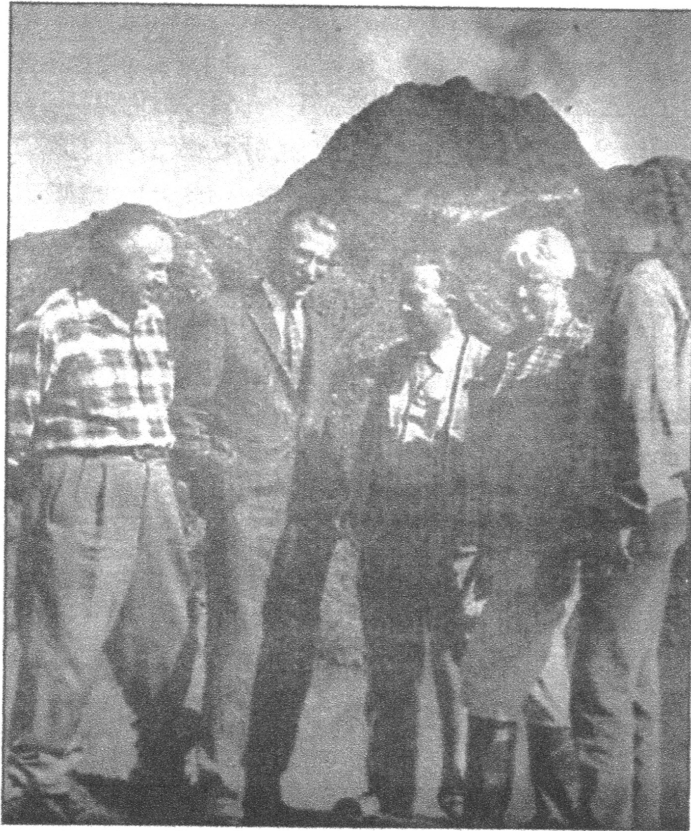
Close-up scenes have been filmed in Hawaii. The movie is scheduled for release late in 1961.

From the Fallbrook Enterprise of Thursday February 16, 1961

Volcano in De Luz Pops Off

2 or 3 blasts a day as film crew awaits big blow-up

By Bob White
Enterprise Staff



Black smoke puffed from the volcano's maw. Several artillery-like blasts followed, in rapid succession, with orange balls of flame shooting up nearly 150 feet.

The terrific heat from the blast was felt several hundred feet away by the Special Effects Director and movie technicians.

It was a preliminary blast from a man-made volcano on the Butler Ranch in De Luz, where crews have been working for several months.

Blasts have been set off at a rate of three a day, with the final explosion to be touched off this week designed to rip the entire plastic top of the volcano.

NOT SATISFIED

The director wasn't satisfied with the blast on the Saturday morning, about a week before the final shot. The flame and smoke was too high, and there was no wind. He informed his colleagues it would have to be done over after lunch, and gave the order that if the appearance of the blast did not improve, he would make the change from gasoline to powder.

In the end the volcanic activity would look real enough. Many feet of film taken in the Hawaiian eruption not long ago had been studied thoroughly.

For the final explosion of the volcano for the movie "Devil at 4 o'clock" technicians and crew took proper precautions to avoid the blast. Directors were greatly concerned regarding the final explosions, because this could only be shot once.

For the movie, Columbia Studios sent a man crew to the Lawrence Butler ranch, where a lowly duck pond was being excavated to provide enough material for a volcano, built exactly to scale. Only background shots were made here, with other parts of the movie made on Maui in the Hawaiian Islands.

HERE FOUR MONTHS

The movie is a Mervyn LeRoy-Fred Kohlmar Production, and stars Spencer Tracey, Frank Sinatra, and Barbara Luna, with Hean Pierre Aumont, Gregire Aslam, Cathy Lewis, and Bernie Hamilton.

The crew has been on the set here for nearly four months. The De Luz set is estimated to cost in the neighborhood of \$150,000, and was being used only for background and special effects, including volcanic activity preceding the final eruption, lava flows, and an airplane approaching the "Island of Talus."

According to Special Effects Director Larry Butler and Art Director John Beckman, the volcano is "the largest miniature ever done in the industry."

It was built to a scale of 150th to 1, to give the 50-foot high, 250-foot long island the appearance of a volcano one mile high and five miles long.

Most miniatures, Beckman said, are one-sixth actual size, usually built to a scale of two inches to one foot. He said that at first the studio planned to use the west end of Anacapa in the Santa Barbara Islands, but an undertaking there would have cost a fortune.

The Butler came up with the idea of using his duck pond, and the project was started last summer. The pond was enlarged into a small lake 950 feet long and 400 feet wide. The volcano was formed, with erosion markings being made by fire hoses.

Green Paint

Unable to wait for grass to grow over the entire 50-foot scale model, the crew used green paint. To make the scene more realistic, shooting was done almost into the sun for a silhouette effect. A tunnel was built into the north side of the volcano, and a steel tube 18 feet in diameter and 20 feet high was placed in side to allow for placement of explosives. A wind machine was set up to stir the water realistically. Close-up shots were made on Maui. Director Butler says that by the time all the shots are integrated, the De Luz volcano won't be differentiated from the Maui location.

Other shooting scheduled for the De Luz location includes parachute drops and the collapse of a radio tower.

There were several reasons for the shooting in this area. First, there was an advantage in using De Luz because of the clear air. Second there is nothing in Hollywood which will approach the scale needed for the back ground set.

Butler, who was seen tramping around in rubber boots and rough jacket on the De Luz set conferring with the art director and others, has been with Columbia Pictures for 20 years, both as technician and director.

Cameraman Mark Davis has been in the business since 1930, working for several big name studios. Last year he was in Alaska, in 17-below zero weather, shooting, "Ice Palace." He took pictures of the blasting "Volcano" close up from a helicopter this week.

The movie with the De Luz volcano filmed on the Butler property, is believed to be ready for release late in 1961, although the studio has said nothing officially regarding the date.