

Hollywood Chatter

American Film Maker Says Japanese Actors Greatest in the World

By BOB THOMAS

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HOLLYWOOD—The Japanese are the greatest actors in the world, declares a film man who has made the first Japanese-American picture.

He is Dorrell McGowan, who, with his brother Stuart and former child actor George Breakstone, has just returned from producing "Tokyo File 212" in Japan. The picture was made with the permission of General MacArthur and with the cooperation of the occupation forces, the Japanese Government and film industry.

"I have never seen such actors," said McGowan, veteran Hollywood film maker. "In Japan, everyone can act. When we asked for two generals for the picture, we didn't get actors; we got real generals. We asked for two detectives to follow a car in a scene, and we got two detectives.

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"**THE TROUBLE** is that the Japanese take their acting so seriously they don't know how to fake. When you tell one of them to slug another actor, he doesn't swing wide. He cracks the other fellow's chin open."

"We staged a big brawl in the railroad yards with dozens of fights and falls. When we finished, there was blood all over. They put on real fights for \$1.50 a day. Here a stunt man would charge a couple hundred dollars.

The railroad scene cost us \$150. In Hollywood, it would have been \$50,000."

The producer was also amazed at set-building. It is all done by Japanese artists who paint scenes on paper. Hundreds of pieces of newspaper glued together make the set. McGowan said the effects are amazingly real.