

# PHOTOPLAY

MARCH, 1939

P. 20

## Emily Post on the Language of Hollywood

At the tail-end of a very long interview concerning the problems in which Hollywood movies depict polite society, the legendary manners maven, Emily Post was asked one more question...

"And now," Mrs. Post leaned back, "I hope I've answered enough questions for you."

"All but one," I assured her.

"And what might that be?"

"English, pure and simple."

Mrs. Post laughed. "I'm afraid to speak about that, for I'm really a kind person. I don't like to hurt people's feelings. But it is true that your scenic designer may furnish a faultless set, a star's gown may be flawless . . . everything can look like society . . . but talking is the dead give-away."

And because this fault, so glaring, can so easily be corrected, I prevailed upon Mrs. Post to give us part of her preferred list of English "don'ts."

### DON'T SAY:

### SAY:

automobile

automobile

reely

real-ly

secretree (unless

secretary

av viator

ay viator

eggsit

exit

Muhree

Marie

col yum

column

for mid able

formidable

## EMILY POST

**DON'T SAY:****SAY:**

cult your  
at-all  
ray-tion  
to-may-to  
mayonnaise

vallay  
attended  
wealthy  
brainy  
"Pardon me"

lovely food  
"Charmed" or  
"Pleased to  
meet you"  
a stylish dresser

formals  
fellow or chap  
young lady  
close friend

social affair  
drapes  
mansion  
I recall  
request  
"Permit me to as-  
sist you"

converse  
presume

cultcha  
a-tall  
ration (rash)  
to ma(h) to  
mai-onnaise (my)

valet  
went to  
rich  
clever  
"I beg your par-  
don" or "Ex-  
cuse me"

good food  
"How do you do"

"She wears lovely  
clothes" or "She  
dresses well"

formal clothes  
man  
girl  
a best or intimate  
friend

a party  
curtains  
big house  
I remember  
ask  
"Let me help you"

talk  
I suppose