



By FRED H. RUSSELL

Really enjoying his first visit to the United States is Rodney Taylor, the Australian movie and stage actor, who was a Bridgeport visitor last week . . . Rod is on a junket to this country as sort of a good-will ambassador in advance of the new motion picture, "Long John Silver" . . . He has an important role in the film, which will have its local premiere this week . . . He doesn't quite know just how he came to be selected to make the American tour, but he is extremely happy about it . . . Before he came east he spent a couple of days in Hollywood and it amazed and intrigued him and even left him a bit breathless.



Rodney Taylor

He explained that there is nothing in Australia to equal Hollywood -- or even come close to it . . . In fact, according to Taylor, Australia has only one major movie studio and a couple of smaller ones . . . The country depends largely on the United States for its film entertainment as the output from the "home" studios is limited . . . Some films come from England, but it is the Hollywood product that brings the lines to the box offices, he said . . . And movie business "Down Under" is good . . . Radio is strong, but so far there is not enough of television to cut into the motion picture's draw . . . Back home Rod has won a Roller Award, which is equal to a Hollywood "Oscar," for his film work and a Critics Award for his stage portrayals . . . He would like the experience of making a Hollywood movie, but sees little chance to have that dream fulfilled at this time . . . It seems that Joseph Kaufman, who produced "Long John Silver" in Eastman color and CinemaScope, is awaiting the actor's return to start work on another film . . . Rod tells us that Australia is just as ideal for movie making as Hollywood and it was just perfect for making the pirate film, "Long John Silver," which opens Wednesday at the Warner and Merritt theaters with Robert Newton in the starring role . . . Taylor, who plays the role of Israel Hands in the film, says Kaufman, who employed Australians in practically all key posts found he had no problem of improving on Nature to provide backgrounds for the swashbuckling adventure tale as the topography of the country turned out to have just the qualifications which the filmmaker sought . . . The actual action is supposed to take place in the blue waters of the Caribbean, or the Spanish Main as it is called in the story.