

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To Mr. PAUL HOPKINS [Roy Disney, Bill Garity, Harry Bailey are added]
Date November 25, 1935
From Mr. WALT
Subject PRODUCTION NOTES ON SNOW WHITE

From now on, Ham Luske is definitely assigned to SNOW WHITE.

Fred Moore's last short subject assignment is the pig animation in THREE LITTLE WOLVES. Upon completion of that, he starts work on SNOW WHITE.

Dick Lundy, upon completion of his work on THRU THE MIRROR, will go to SNOW WHITE.

Bill Tytle, when he returns from the hospital, will be assigned to SNOW WHITE.

Bill Roberts' last short subject assignment is ALPINE MICKEY.

Norm Ferguson's last short subject assignment is the drunk Pluto animation in ALPINE MICKEY. When he has completed that, he will start immediately on the animation of the Queen and the Peddler Woman in Snow White.

Les Clark. It is possible that Les' last short subject assignment be the Mickey that he is working on at the present time, i.e. Mickey's Rival. This is not definite, however. I may give him another assignment before I start him in on the animation of SNOW WHITE.

Grim Natwick will also be assigned to SNOW WHITE to help Lusk and Clark on the animation of the girl; but just when he starts is indefinite at this time. He can be assigned to pictures until further notice from me.

Art Babbitt will probably do the animation of the Queen at the beginning of the story. It is possible that I will also have him do some of the animation of the dwarfs. However, the definite starting date for him has not been decided upon. He could be assigned a short subject until you hear further from me.

Eddie Strickland. I intend to assign Eddie to Ham Lusk as his first assistant to do secondary animation for Ham of the girl. It'll be necessary to assign another assistant to Ham to take care of the details, etc.

Other assignments to Ham: Also, I intend that Louis Schmidt, Eric Larson, and possibly young Shaffer, will be assigned to Ham to handle the bird and animal animation surrounding Ham's SNOW WHITE animation.

We must be prepared to back all the men to whom we assign major animation sequences with very good assistants - preferably men to whom major animators can assign secondary animation. It is possible that some of these major sequence animators may not have assistants at the present time capable of doing the type of work required in SNOW WHITE.

I will list below the order in which these men will probably start work on SNOW WHITE, and the sequences I intend them to handle.

HAM LUSK will be the first to start, and his work should definitely be in animation by the middle of December.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To Mr. PAUL HOPKINS
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Page 2.

The first sequence that he will work on will be Snow White discovering the dwarfs' house: with the help of the animals, cleaning it up and getting it in order to surprise the dwarfs on their return.

Second sequence will be Snow White discovering the dwarfs' bedroom, lying down on the bed and going to sleep.

Third sequence will be the dwarfs discovering Snow White ... they find out who she is - decide to let her stay - - She prepares their meal and sends them out to wash ... This sequence ends with Snow White teaching the dwarfs the proper way to eat soup.

Forth Sequence will be Snow White sending the dwarfs off to the mine in the morning.

Fifth sequence will be the meeting of the Queen and Snow White ... the Queen selling Snow White the magic apple ... up to the point where Snow White bites the apple and falls dead.

When this is completed, I intend that Ham go back and handle the sequence of Snow White in the woods, meeting the little birds, and their leading her, to the point where she discovers the house.

If Ham still has time enough, it is possible that I will then have him do the first sequence of Snow White being serenaded by the Prince on the castle grounds, as well as the final sequence where the Prince kisses her in the coffin - she comes to life, and is carried off on the Prince's white horse.

It is possible that with the experience Ham will gain by the work he is now doing, plus his native ingenuity and ability, he will be enabled to handle all of the Snow White action, with the exception of the sequence when the dwarfs entertain her at night, which I intend Les Clark to handle.

To help speed Ham up, I intend that Natwick and Strickland shall handle certain action scenes in all of Ham's Snow White assignment. In other words, they will act in a way as assistants to Ham, handling those scenes under his direction, with Ham concentrating on personality entirely. I feel sure that both Natwick and Strickland will gain a great deal of knowledge by working this way with Ham.

Fred Moore will be the second animator to start work. He will pick up the sequence of the dwarfs discovering Snow White ... allowing her to stay, washing up for dinner, and eating the soup.

The second sequence will be the dwarfs starting off to the mine in the morning.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

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Page 3.

Third sequence will be the dwarfs meeting in the woods to decide what they shall do with Snow White ... ending up with their decision to make her a present of a beautifully carved bed ... leading up to the point where they actually start work on the bed.

This is all the dwarfs action I have planed for Fred. However, I have in mind that he might do the Prince at the opening of the picture, serenading Snow White ... the Prince in the dungeon scene ... and the Prince at the end, carrying Snow White away on his horse. This will mean that all the Prince animation would be done by Fred. This will have to be decided upon as we get further into the picture.

Dick Lundy. At present time I have only one sequence in mind for Dick Lundy. However, it is a long sequence... the one in which the dwarfs entertain Snow White at night in the house pick up with the start of the entertainment and carry thru with all the animation of the dwarfs until the final fade-out, where they are asleep. Dick will work with Les Clark in this sequence, Les doing the animation of Snow White.

Bill Tytle. Bill will be assigned the dwarfs working in the mine, which is the introductory scene of the dwarfs; also the sequence of the dwarfs marching home at sunset; the dwarfs arriving home just after dark, discovering the light in the house; the dwarfs exploring the house, thinking that some super-human thing has taken possession of it ... up to the point where the dwarfs discover Snow White.

Bill Roberts will pick up with the dwarfs starting to do the actual work of making the bed ... he will carry thru all the dwarf action from this point to where the Queen is finally dumped over the cliff.

In Bill's assignment, there are some scenes that involve animal animation. It would be advisable to try to keep someone in mind to work as his first animation assistant to help him on a lot of this stuff.

Norm Ferguson will pick up with the sequence where the Queen does the Jekyll and Hyde into the peddler woman ... prepares the poison apple ... visits the Prince in dungeon ... turns the water on ... starts off toward the dwarfs.

I intend Norm to carry the Queen clear thru until where she falls over the cliff. I also intend that he do the animation of the two comical vultures that follow the Queen thru the woods and wait until she falls over the cliff. It means that he and Ham will work together on the sequence of the Queen selling the Snow White the apple.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To Mr. PAUL HOPKINS
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Page 4.

Les Clark will do all the animation of Snow White in the sequence where the dwarfs are entertaining her, from the start of the sequence up to the part where she says a little prayer before she goes to sleep.

This is the only thing I have assigned to Les at this time, but it is possible that if he does a good job on this sequence, I may assign him more Snow White animation to relieve Ham.

Art Babbitt will be assigned the animation of the Queen from the start of the picture to the point where she does the Jekyll and Hyde into the peddler woman. This will include the animation of any other characters that may come in contact with the Queen during this sequence, such as the mirror, the parrot, the huntsman, the raven, etc.

This sequence will probably be long enough and all Art can handle. However, if it develops that he can handle more, I can use Art on some of the dwarf animation. That can be settled later, as Art will get a late start on this, due to the fact that I am not developing the first part of my story until I get the last part set.

Natwick and Strickland. As I said before, Natwick and Clark are to work with Ham on action animation of the girl. Possibly I'll assign certain little sequences to Natwick direct, such as the sequence with Snow White running thru the weird forest, frightened by what she imagines she sees, up to the point where the birds discover her.

Cy Young. I intend that Cy Young handle all the effects animation on SNOW WHITE, directly and indirectly.

I have definitely assigned Ken Anderson directly to the crew under Cy, to handle all the animators' pan action, on account of the work he did in the THREE ORPHAN KITTENS.

Anderson ... will also help Neil McGuire and the lay-out men. It is possible that I'll give him other bits of animation throughout the picture. However, on all effects that Ken does, I want to be sure that he works in conjunction with Cy, so that we don't take authority and experience away from Cy's department.

It is possible that Ken will do a lot of the planning of this perspective pan work and turn it over to someone of less experience for the finishing work.

Layouts: The layouts in the main will be handled by Charles Philippi and Tom Codrick. There are certain sequences that I intend to have Hovath lay out.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

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Page 5.

Layouts: (cont'd)

Albert Hurter will work with all the layout men, working over their sketches and building into all the scenes the quaint style that he is noted for.

I'll have to find some good assistant layout men to work with these few men. It should be possible to do tis without molesting certain ones of the layout crew, because both Charlie and Tom are good at breaking in assistants.

Helvenston is definitely assigned to SNOW WHITE production, to work with the layout men on lighting and painting.

Backgrounds: The backgrounds will be handled by three background men.

The first one to start will be Sam Armstrong. He is now making preparations for someone to take over the work he is doing on the short subjects, and he expects to be working definitely on SNOW WHITE within the next month.

Later on it will be necessary that we call in Flohri and Mique Nelson to help on the execution of the backgrounds; but this will not need to be done until possibly late in the spring.

Sam's first work on the picture will be experimenting with the various techniques and handling to be used in the various sequences, working in direct close contact with the layout men and Helvenston.

Neil McGuire will handle all of our effects in photography. Neil, Sam Armstrong, and Helvanston, will supervise the photographing of all the action, because we intend to use certain lighting effects even in our straight photography.

Frank Churchill will handle all the music in SNOW WHITE, with Paul Smith acting as his assistant, working closely with Frank and relieving him in every way he can so that Frank can still help out on the short subjects too, possibly letting Paul do all the physical handling of the short subject work. In certain pictures, Paul might handle the entire short subject.

It is possible that the arranging of the music in SNOW WHITE will be done by an outside arranger. This means that the arranging of our short subjects will have to be done either by the musicians working with the unit crew, or by an outside arranger. Paul Smith has instructions to govern this, according to how the work is stacking up.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To Mr. PAUL HOPKINS
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Page 6.

Dialog: Larry Morey has charge of all the arranging and setting to music of the dialog. He will work on practically all the sequences and help on the timing of the action, the feeling of music, etc.

Story Units: At the present time there are six story units working on SNOW WHITE.

1. Larry Morey, Tom Codrick, Philippi, Bailey - are working on the sequence of Snow White discovering the house and cleaning it up.
2. DeMaris and Thorson - working on the sequence of the dwarfs discovering Snow White ... up to the point where she sends them out to wash.
3. Earl Hurd ... working on the sequence of the dwarfs washing and eating soup.
4. Pinto, Walt Pfeiffer, Penner - sequence of Snow White and the dwarfs entertaining her at night.
5. Dick Creedon and Perce Pearce - sequence of the dwarfs holding the meeting in the woods ... up to where they build the bed.
6. Horvath - sequence of Snow White running thru the weird forest, being frightened at the things she sees ... up to where she collapses in the clearing and the birds come out and discover her.

When Morey finishes his present sequence, he will move on and work with DeMaris and Hurd

From there, he will go on and work with Pinto ...
After working with Pinto, Morey will work with Creedon.

After these are all well under way, I intend him to go back to work by himself, or to help Horvath on the sequence of Snow White meeting the birds in the woods.

When Hurd finishes the sequence he is working on now, he will pick up with the sequence of the dwarfs building the bed.

When Creedon finishes the present assignment, he will start with the sequence of the old Queen preparing the poison apple, up to the point where she meets Snow white.

Pinto will help with the final working out of the sequence of the dwarfs washing and eating, as well as the dwarfs entertaining Snow White.

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