

Peck's Bad Boy

US : 1934 : dir. Edward Cline : 20th Century Fox : 70 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
Jackie Cooper; Jackie Searl
 Thomas Meighan; O.P. Heggie; Dorothy Peterson

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ € Z ♂	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3094a	1½	3	1	-	- - - - -	No	unseen



Source: *A Pictorial History of the Talkies*

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

"Cooper is ideally cast as the title character, who enjoys an idyllic relationship with widowed dad Meighan. Trouble comes when his obnoxious aunt and bratty cousin arrive on the scene. **1½"

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Ideal role for Cooper in the familiar story about a troublesome kid who causes his parents endless problems. **1½"

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"Adventures of a well-intentioned but accident-prone boy in a midwestern town.

Old-fashioned American juvenile classic, modestly well done. Previously made in 1921 with Jackie Coogan. Cline also directed a sequel, "**PECK'S BAD BOY WITH THE CIRCUS**", starring Tommy Kelly, in 1938. Story by G.W. Peck."

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Films of 20th Century Fox", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Cooper was 13, twice the age of Jackie Coogan when he played the part in 1921. This was the year he made "**TREASURE ISLAND**", "**HOLLYWOOD ON PARADE**" and "**LONE COWBOY**". Unlike the above critics, I have not seen the film, but Cooper's casting strikes me as less than ideal. He never conveyed much quick-wittedness in his performances, nor much natural propensity to mischief, unlike Tommy Kelly, who played the part in the 1938 sequel, and is certainly the screen's best Tom Sawyer to date.

No-one could possibly have qualms about Jackie Searl, 14, in the role of a "bratty cousin". He so cornered the market for this kind of role that he attracted the studio tag "The Kid Everybody Wants To Spank" (a post latterly filled so ably by Macaulay Culkin). He was actually a very prolific young actor, and could easily match Cooper film for film. The same year as this one, for example, he made "**SHE WAS A LADY**", "**A WICKED WOMAN**", "**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**", "**UNWELCOME STRANGER**" and "**GINGER**".

See the 1921 original, and "**PECK'S BAD BOY WITH THE CIRCUS**" (38), also subject index under **DOGS** and **RASCALS & SCALAWAGS**.