

VARIETY

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56 PAGES

NEW KIND OF 'SEX' SHOW

New Keno and Fancy Handbook Shops Intriguing Chicago Women Now

Chicago, Dec. 4. Supplanting the dog races as chief opposition to nite life and show business is keno. It's the old lotto. Lotto, resurrected, needed, and called keno on lucky, is taking the residents of this town by storm. Through its popularity in hotels it is penetrating the private home and, played at large stakes, is replacing bridge with manly.

The hotel games attract an average of 100 players. Rate is a nickel a card. Any number of cards may be purchased for each play, jilt apiece. Some plungers spend as much as 15c a round.

To the winner of each pot, with all coin paid for the lotto cards included, goes an average of \$7 or \$8. Toward the close of the evening three more expensive pots are played, with a 25c kitty and a final at four bits. These are called "losers" or consolations as in Poker.

A time is chipped out each round for "service." This includes two or three bell hops to rake in and hand out pasteboards and money and a number caller.

Hotel receives nothing. Just a pastime for guests and their friends. All guests seem to have plenty of friends for keno.

So far the game is almost strictly (Continued on page 31)

Citizen Fined \$100 for Serving Booze in Home

Minneapolis, Dec. 4. In this town they're arresting and fining people for serving liquor at private parties in their homes.

Police raided the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jensen here while a "hard times" party was in progress. They were directed by complaints that liquor was being consumed on the premises. Although all that the cops found was a gallon of whiskey and a dozen quarts of beer for 12 couples attending the party and although it was a strictly respectable party, they pinched Jansen.

Charged with "possession of liquor for sale," Jensen pleaded not guilty in municipal court. It was shown that he had a spotless record and that the liquor was placed where the guests could help themselves.

Nevertheless, Jensen was found guilty and fined \$100, the judge holding that it is "possession of liquor for sale" just to serve liquor to guests at your party or to make the booze available for them gratis.

Now the grand jury is investigating the case because of the fact that two policemen are alleged to have been present at the party and to have drunk some of the liquor. It develops that the raid was made at the instigation of an alderman who was doing a favor for a constituent. The constituent wanted to "get something" on a divorced wife to whom he is paying alimony.

Pep Up Coffin Sales

Cincinnati, Dec. 4. Titles and catch lines of popular songs are being used to advantage in pepping up the sales of a local coffin manufacturing firm.

In its latest newspaper advertising, the Crane & Breed Casket Company has "When Day Is Done" for a caption, followed by "—and a loved one has departed. Choose a casket of zinc, the rustless, beautiful and enduring."

Executives of the concern say the idea has put new life in their business by greatly increasing the demand for zinc coffins.

Candy Ass'n's Campaign To Offset Cig Propaganda

National Association of Candy Manufacturers, trade organization headquartered in Chicago, is wroth at the cigaret manufacturers, particularly Lucky Strike, for its anti-sweetening propaganda, at the expense of the confectionery people. It has appropriated \$1,000,000 for a six-month advertising campaign to retaliate against the nicotine products. Ames & Morr, advertising agency, is handling the copy placing.

The candy men's association may plug the thought there is poison in cigarets and nourishment in candy.

The campaign is primarily aimed at the femmes, who have added to the ciggie makers' profits considerably with the vogue for smoking. The "coffin nall" producers have stressed that further with the plug against the fattening idea of candy and the substituting of a cigaret to fill the void.

New Year's in Montreal

Montreal, Dec. 4. Montreal is preparing for the New Year's rush from over the border.

First with set conditions is the Mt. Royal Hotel. Its terms are a prepaid stick of three days at \$30 daily, check with reservation. If dinner New Year's Eve, another nick for \$30, totaling \$130 for the three days and one meal guaranteed. Everything else but room, plus.

Another condition is reservation and check must be at hotel by Dec. 15, and all 3-day guests to vacate by midnight of Jan. 1. Montreal Tourist Bureau estimates that \$75,000,000 in this city was spent by visitors the past season and that most of the good time Charles came from the States.

It represents the local top season in the history of booze.

DR. AS LECTURER ON ILL. CHARTS

"Love, Marriage and Divorce" as Topics of Dr. Shaffer for "Women Only" This Week at Shubert-Brooklyn Theatre—50c Top—Tried to Make Newspaper Women Leave

THREE BOOKS FOR \$1

Birth control is most simple, according to Dr. S. Albert Shaffer, if the women believe him and will follow his observations of 35 years in child bearing.

Besides the Dr. as lecturer at the Brooklyn-Shubert Monday afternoon, where this new kind of sex show started a stay of two weeks, with the first (current) week for "Women Only," there were about 70 women. Also the male house manager, a male policeman and a male fireman, all interested in the inside stuff on "Love, Marriage and Divorce," the Doctor's main topics.

In the feminine portion of the light non-deadhead 50c top meeting place to hear the inside were two women taking notes. An usherette detected the writing ladies and asked them to leave. They refused. The usherette asked that they deliver their notes so far taken to her. They refused.

By this time Dr. Shaffer, talking from the stage, heard the commotion. He stopped telling the ladies how to even up their families long enough to join in the discussion over the rights to take notes while he is talking. The Dr. finally ended the argument by saying to the newspaper women:

"If you think you can write down in an hour and a quarter what it has taken me 30 years to find out go ahead," and he resumed his birth control spiel. And the ladies remained in their seats, but stopped talking notes.

No applause was extended to the lecturer at any time. Some snickers were heard when he described (Continued on page 51)

Circus Fans Oppose Tully's "Circus" Film

Washington, Dec. 4. Proposed filming of Jim Tully's "Circus Parade" has aroused the ire of the Circus Fans' Association.

Protest has been placed with Will Hays along with which went an ultimatum that if the filming was gone through with the association would go on record with Congress in favor of federal censorship.

Circus Fan Association has a large and influential membership throughout the country. It includes admirers of tent shows. The organization issues a monthly bulletin of some importance and holds an annual meeting.

Big Sugar in Riviera Gambling Racket; Doughboy Gigolos No Opposition

50% of Daily Work

It is claimed that through universal interest in the stock market, no theatrical office anywhere is securing over 50 per cent efficient service daily from its staff.

Other 50 half of the time spent looking at tickers, phoning or talking over stocks.

Hays' Work for Fox to Movietone Miss Trumbull

Thanks to the Hays organization, William Fox will probably be able to movietone before the end of the week the young woman who is slated to enter matrimony with President Coolidge's son, John. But what a sales talk the Hays' body had to hand over a phone to a Connecticut politician close to the girl's father!

It seems that across the border the conservative household and yard of Governor Trumbull have been so besieged by cameras of all makes since the announcement of his daughter's engagement that the stern executive is now an avowed enemy of all shutter men.

Here is how the Hays' office advised its "in" to approach the Governor:

"Assure him that it will be done in a most dignified way. Say that the young lady will be given a copy of the reel and that it will not be shown anywhere until she and her family have seen it.

"Tell the Governor that when his first grandson is born the company will be glad to film the baby and add that part to its wedding present.

"In shooting the picture tell the Governor that all that is required is to let a truck 'draw up in his back yard. Then tell him that only members of the family should be assembled; that his daughter should say something worthwhile that will make her beloved by the American people.

"Since this is a talker we would also suggest to him that the family dog be allowed to bark. Tell him that barking records excellently and gives a family touch."

Padlock Off for Sundays

Chicago, Dec. 4.

Under Federal padlock for violating the prohibition law, Rainbo Garden cafe is used Sundays for religious services by Lady of Lourdes Church, which will be unable to move into its new building until Easter.

The altar from the old church has been transferred to the Rainbo's main dining room.

Paris, Nov. 20. If night club naughtiness in New York goes padlock this winter, send the boys and girls over here. The Riviera season after all a branch of the show business, indicates the demand for frothy fun is increasing.

Best index to that is the Casino trade. These palaces, in which gambling is only a part of their attraction, are getting tremendous profits. Every town has, at least one. Nice has three.

One takes in a square almost as big as Bryant Park. It has a huge central hall where you can see acts, revues and such amusements while waiters weave in and out with everything from muddy mocha to gorgeous water. It has gambling tables, of course—roulette rooms for the mob and more exclusive inner sanctums for the cane-checkers, chiefly adenoidal anglicans. It has a ten room upstairs where hot hoofing goes on from noon to dawn, with sax and Argentine orchestras alternating. It has even a red upholstered movie palace.

All these are wheels within wheels. You pay a dime to crash the main entrance and after that you can spend, or lose, as much as you like.

The going is so good in this racket that Frank Gould, who built Juan Les Pins, is elbowing into Nice with a new casino, increasing Nice's quota to four. He is also building one at Beauville, about half way between Nice and Monte Carlo.

His new Nice Casino is a big baby, right on the Promenade des Anglais. Cook's has a corner of it and the American Express is across the way. All the travel-check changers are already in the bag.

This place is scheduled to open (Continued on page 2)

Bill Has Ruth Keyes, If That Means Anything

William Morris has Mrs. Ruth Keyes for stage and personal appearances. What he'll do with her, Bill doesn't know, excepting that Mrs. Keyes is a looker, a "free-lance model" (according to her identification) and possessed of beaucoup notoriety in connection with the Arnold Rothstein mystery murder.

Mrs. Keyes identified George ("Jumpsey") McManus as her booze-en companion in that now famous Park Central Hotel.

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London as It Looks

By Hannen Swaffer

Tallahah Bankhead will shortly be the Countess de Bosdari which will sound very well in Alabama. Tallulah is still acting in "Her Card-board Lover." The young man who now says he is going to marry her has been keeping it from the papers for some weeks. So has Tallulah. Contradictions happen usually, even before royalties are officially engaged.

Tallahah's Young Man

Young de Bosdari, who played cricket for Winchester, is a very good looking young man, who, during the last few months, I believe, has made about \$1,000,000. He started business life in the publicity department of Selfridges. Then he was associated with the Glady's Cooper's beauty creams. I next heard of him pushing the Panoprote. Then he was on the board of British Brunswick, which, I believe, is a gramophone company. Now, I think, he has started some talking-film-organization. He knows where the money is.

Anthony was formerly engaged to Ehid Stamp-Taylor. I once remember his getting quite angry because I introduced her to Archie Selwyn, who immediately offered her a job in New York. Tony did not want her to leave London.

Short-Lived Romance

That, however, was soon broken off, and he then became engaged to Josephine Fish. He married her in March. She divorced him a few weeks ago.

Tallahah says that Tony has settled \$500,000 on her and that she is going to settle down. I should like to know Tallulah when she has settled down. It will be a quieter London.

I should also like to see Tallulah take the young massa down to the plantations of Alabama. How the blacks would cheer the young massa. Oh, that melon!

There is no need today. The blacks go to the white parties after the London theatres close down.

Alabama has come to Mayfair.

Tex: Guilan Outdone

Thinking of America reminds me that Mrs. Meyrick came out of gaol yesterday morning. We do our bootlegging in a really civilized way. They called Mrs. Meyrick "the Queen of the Night Clubs" and gave her six months. When she came out, she was met by her daughter, who is now the Countess of Kinnoull, of all things in the world and the Earl of Kinnoull, who drank some milk, which he bought from a passing milkman, while he waited.

At night, they gave the old girl a "party." The young Baron de Clifford, who married another of the night club queen's daughters, was there. His mother was Eve Carrington, a Gaiety girl.

Meantime, the Home Secretary is cleaning up the night clubs like the devil. Although I told him all about them four years ago, he has only just heard. It all happened while Mother Meyrick was in gaol.

Jackie Plays With The Trains

Meanwhile, Jackie Coogan, undisturbed by all this excitement, has been playing with a toy train. He went on at the Palladium, last Monday night, to earn 3,000 dollars a week, with his father, and when the page girls came on in the second house and gave him a toy train, he acted very nicely, pretending, like a real grown actor, that he had not been presented with the same train at the first performance. That is what I act acting—being pleased twice.

Still, Jackie is very serious about this train. When I went to tea with him the other day, he wanted to play with it all the time, even although it requires the whole ballroom and relays of hot water. When I told him the best toy trains in the world were made somewhere in Oxford street, he described the shop to me and all the engines they had in the store, having expert views on all the prices that Hamley's charged.

The Value of a Name

I should think the Coogan turn worth \$200 a week without the personality, plus a three-course very good dinner.

Still, when Jackie recited "Persian at the Front," a rude man at the back shouted "Why Pershing?" and my office typist, in taking down my account of this for the next morning's paper typed it "Why Perslan?" never having heard, I suppose.

Out-of-Date Animal Acts

There is a lion act on the Palladium bill, over a dozen lions and tigers and things like that. We hate these things in England. Some people walked out. Scores of people have written to complain to me. Artists have complained to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I don't know what the law is on your side about performing animals, but in my own feeling is that it ought to stop. Give the human beings a chance. Don't cage up beasts merely so that the fatuous can grin. Because lions are said to have behaved cruelly to Christians in the days of Nero, there is no reason why we should get our own back, centuries afterwards.

Stoll's Self-Boosting

I was surprised, after seeing that E. A. Baughan, in the Daily News, had called John Drinkwater's play, "John Bull Calling" a show about fit for a village hall, to see, in the Referee, a reference to Mr. Drinkwater's "masterly skill," "satirical touches," "an interesting addition to Mr. Drinkwater's dramatic output" and so on.

But then I suppose they had to say something. You see, the London Coliseum in the name Oswald Stoll who runs the Referee, and as the Palladium seems to be on the barred list, the man who does "Round the Music Halls" was confined to the Coliseum and the Alhambra, which are both Stoll houses.

The Palladium did not advertise in the Referee last Sunday. In fact, nearly all the theatres had struck. Years ago, the Referee used to be taken seriously. Now, theatrical people merely say, of it, "Why do we still take it in?" I have tried to buy it twice, but Stoll, I believe, rather fancies himself as a director of public opinion.

Plain Facts About Touring

What on earth is to become of the touring proposition? Neither "Beady" nor "The Trial of Mary Dugan," big successes in the world's capitals, made money in any city except one of the greatest size. This applies to the whole world, not just England and America.

Julian Wylie has a very good musical comedy in "Mr. Clinders" with Eobbe Howes and Binnie Hale. Yet, at Sheffield, last Monday night, when he took \$605, this was regarded as extraordinary trade.

At Cardiff, two weeks ago, even "Funny Face," with Leslie Henson and the Astaires got but \$5,000 or slightly over. Although "The High Road" made \$40,000 in London, Tom Walls, who produced it, told me yesterday that, after rehearsing a really fine company for the road, one as good as the London one, he found that the tour lost \$15,000! "If they don't want 'Lonesome,'" he said, "what on earth do they want?"

The Moss Empire houses, now once-nightly, cannot find shows. The best ones do well, others do dreadfully.

RIVIERA SEASON

(Continued from page 1)

next month, but it won't, for the reason that the French contractors never get anything done on time if they lose their building permits.

Even so, the sucker trade will not mind waiting a bit. How much money is in the racket?

Gambling Profits

Well, the Cannes Casino admits officially it made 51,000,000 francs this last year. That's better than two million bucks.

Nice's Casinos touched \$5,000,000 and Monte Carlo (which doesn't announce its swag) probably made more than these two put together. It has had to build a swell rubber beach and a terraced tennis club (later costing \$2,000,000) to find a way to get rid of some of its riches.

Then there's the Sporting Club in Monte Carlo. Wholly high hat trade, probably did more business than all the public tables of the big towns.

Monte Carlo plays a nice balance between stripping the chump and entertaining him with opera, aquariums and band concerts. The aquarium is the finest in the world, which isn't to be wondered at, considering all the poor fish they have to draw from.

There's a benevolent dictatorship about Monte Carlo that has its box office value. You have to show your passport and pay 10 francs to play at the mob tables.

Natives are not allowed to gamble, showing the prince is really a square-shooter with his friends. Queens do not have to pay taxes either. Casino syndicate pays them for everybody. These are not so high, as there is no army or navy in the country.

Publicity from these places is badly organized, being chiefly hit or miss, but resort correspondents have only one formula anyway. Only winnings (?) are put on the wires.

But the casinos aren't the whole works. Lots of opportunities elsewhere for lightweight entertainers. Dancing turns, song and gagsters and sax seducers are needed in almost every hotel, bar and tea room between Hyeres and Rapallo.

This afternoon work with a special big show about 5:30. A vaude turn can turn out to be a hotel and a theatre, and with a little forethought collect some extra jack. Ten minutes satisfies the tea-topers. After that they want to hoof a bit themselves.

These entertainers do not come into open competition with the gigolo. The gigs give dance lessons in the morning at these tea rooms, hotels and casinos, and in the afternoon pay off the dumb dowagers with a few waltzes, the femmes paying the broche bill. But they sit out the vaude turn like everybody else and applaud ever so politely.

Gigolo night work is extra and is charged at whatever price the traffic will bear. Some of the free lance pleasure men make 100,000 francs a season, but work hard for it.

Others, falling into the ranks of the easy money mob, make nearly as much. As one-woman gigs, they have no morning work.

All these things come from resort to resort, always being in the right place at the right season.

Provinces Off "Dugan"

London, Nov. 20. The sticks were didn't favor "Mary Dugan." Road show sent out by Sir Alfred Butt to cover the provinces came back after a disastrous four or five weeks.

Some of the members filled in walk-on parts in the London company.

The London company of "Mary Dugan" will about finish in another three weeks. Management has only to give the cast a week's notice.

SAILINGS

Dec. 18 (London to New York), "Good News" company (Majestic).

Dec. 14 (London to New York), Will Fyffe (Leviathan).

Dec. 12 (Vancouver to Sydney), Alan Bunce, Ruth Nugent, Two Davys (Aorangi).

Dec. 5 (New York to Stockholm), Greta Garbo (Kingsholm).

Dec. 5 (London to New York), Serge Rachmaninoff (Berengaria).

Dec. 1 (New York to Paris), Alexander Patty (Paris).

Nov. 28 (Paris to New York), Mme. Albert Kaufman, Jacques Forder (The Rigel).

Nov. 23 (Paris to New York), George Pierce (Leviathan).

London Chatter

London, Nov. 24.

Who says an actor can't hold on to his money. Elwood P. Bestwick admits owning \$200,000 in real estate holdings in a valuable and fashionable part of Long Island.

Glady's Frazin, American, starring in British Filmcraft's "Power Over Men," by Dennison Clift, will take the second plunge into matrimony while here. Bridgemoor not nominated, nationality American.

Gilda Gray in "Piccadilly" will be through about the end of the month.

The Hungarian Restaurant which opened here recently and is run by the Hungarian Government has for its head waiter an Italian, while most of the serving help in soup and fish speak excellent Russian and French. The guy who checks your hat is an Englishman.

Mrs. George Banfield, wife of the director of pictures of British Filmcraft, now and then takes a fling at pictures under the professional name of Gabrielle Morton. She is the daughter of the late C. M. S. MacLellan, author of "The Belle of New York," niece of Maxine Lesing and the sister-in-law of Yvonne Arnaud, the famous French artist.

"The Trial of Mary Dugan" closes at the Queen's, Dec. 5, and will be replaced by "Burlesque," starring Nelson Keys.

Phyllis Titmus revue star, was married Nov. 15 in London to Richard Watney, of the family of brewers.

In the presence of a number of members of the Russian aristocracy, Marthe, third daughter of Chaliapin, has married in the Russian Church in Paris Nov. 18 to Daniel Gardner, English engineer.

"The Love Lorn Lady," a new play by Frederick Jackson is to be staged by Leon M. Lion provincial before coming to the West End at Christmas. Cast includes Renee Kelly, Jane Ward, Eula Drake, Euzena Bent, Francis Lester, Patrick Waddington, Richard Gray.

Mabel Russell (Mrs. Hilton Phillipson), the first actress member of Parliament, Conservative member since 1918, has stated she will retire. Miss Russell gained the seat when her husband was obliged to stand down. Both have decided they will give up political life.

The Brigade of Guards (crack regiments) is to have its own river-side country club next year on the banks of the Thames at Malden-head, where their boat club was situated and where, although women guests were allowed, no music or dancing was permitted.

Night club amenities are to be introduced to fight the opposition of neighboring resorts. The idea originated with the Earl of Portarlington, formerly an officer in the Irish Guards.

Nice Chatter

By Frank Scully

Nice, Nov. 20.

Strike in port of Marseilles jammed location trip and shooting schedule on "Venus," Constance Talmadge's Afro-Riviera production. One big ship, the Corcoran, mysteriously sunk in harbor, but otherwise hasn't resulted in anything serious.

George Jacoby shooting exteriors on "Infidelity" at Corsica, Napoleon's island birthplace near here. "Infidelity" is from "vendetta" by Maria Corelli. Production is for Dr. S. Markus. Susy Vernon and Henry Edwards in cast.

Fred Paul of Welsh-Pearson-Elcder, English outfit, due in Nice for exteriors on "The Broken Melody." George Gall, a Nicols, is in the cast.

New company called Societe de Production de Riviera Films, formed. A. R. Fred heads it.

Adelqui Millar's company here on scenes of "The Light on the Summit," using Gorges du Loup for locations.

Shooting "Oriental Adventures" at Touggourt, down on the Sahara. Dolly Davis, Claire Rommer, George Charlia in the cast. Soft picture.

Maurice Gleise comtemples producing "Allah is Great." Just finished "You Belong to Me."

Egypt

By EDWARD ASSWAD

Cairo, Nov. 7.

Opening performance of the Robert Atkins, Shakespearean company, Royal opera house, was big social event. Play was "As You Like It." Performances of Stella Arbenina as Rosalind and of Duncan Yarrow as Touchstone were outstanding.

First performance given by Lois Fuller's dancers at the Alhambra theatre, Alexandria, was warmly greeted.

Kursaal is playing a fortnight at the Kursaal theatre, here, before continuing a tour to Beyrouth, Aleppo, Constantinople and Bucharest.

Amateur musical society here has produced the following operas with great success: "Mikado," "Gondoliers," "Yeoman of the Guard," "Iolanthe" and "Merrie England."

Ernesta May and Painter are dancing at the Kit Kat Klub and doing well.

Casino de Paris

Among the artists performing at the Casino de Paris are Delysia and Rabaroff, Duo Sinscow, Mlle. Wanda Chlita, Mlle. Regina Dancourt, Salsu Sisters, Mlle. Emmy Krauss, Lys May, Miss Louise and Mlle. Mimi.

Charlotte Lyses, comedian, has opened at the Alhambra, presenting "La Ame Femme de Barbe Bleue," by Alfred Savori. Cast includes Co-negliano and Silvio de Fredelli. The Marcellini company visited the Verdi theatre to more or less success.

Kursaal theatre has been successful with Greek operetta directed by Mme. Olympie C. Ricciardi.

Company includes Zozo Delmas, Marya and Etoile, Giuseppe Anna Rouso, Mme. Nezer, Michel Coñoloti, Manos Philippidis, Christophe Nezer, Alexandre Ardandoff, Constantin Pomont and Flenemidis.

Paris Chatter

Paris, Nov. 22.

The Paris revue is dying a slow but sure death.

Foreigners who have supported the existence of it are surely announcing their distaste for revues by becoming conspicuous by their absence. French people never were fond of revues.

About the most agreeable surprise Paris has had of late is the pleasant way the people here have talked to the talkers.

The Metro house, Madeleine, is starting to book seats way in advance, something unheard of in France before.

El Garron opened its new place almost next door to where it was on Rue Fontaine, in Montmartre, the other night. Very few attend. Rather unfortunate to the South Americans interested in the rendezvous. They were warned that Montmartre is dead, but refused to take heed.

Considerable interest here about Constance Talmadge's picture which she is making at Nice under direction of Louis Mercanton. It is the first quota picture. All the players are French with the exception of Constance.

Booked for Paris

Paris, Nov. 22.

Arnaud and Lartigue have booked the Aero Polo Players for the local Empire commencing Dec. 25. Four Orsons, Roth and Shay, Jack Stanford and Van Horn and Inez are due here in January; Vaughan de Loath in February; "the Ingenues" for next April, after they have played the Riviera, opening at Cannes Feb. 16.

Osca and Dufrances with Paul Fournier and Henri Portely have been visiting London for acts for the Fournier circuit this season (Empire, Folies Wagram, Bobino, and the new Plaza to open in March). They were accompanied by Henry Carson. The 18 Jackson girls are here and Shay, Jack Stanford and Jessy-Ruddock's girls, for a new production at the Folies Wagram this winter.

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New Classes Now Forming

Drive Against London's Nite Clubs Involves Police, Bribes and Liquor

London, Nov. 22. The Home Secretary, Sir William Joynson Hicks, and the new Chief Commissioner of Police at Scotland are tightening the grip on London's night life to a stranglehold.

It may well end in extinction for the minor places and those relying on the illicit sale of liquor. There is not much to choose between the best night club and the worst as far as offenses against the licensing laws.

Present condition has arisen from the recent wholesale prosecutions and the repeated evidence that managers of the raided clubs had been warned of the coming police action. Following an official inquiry into this, a sergeant, Goddard, attached to Vine Street Police Station, was dismissed from the force, ignominiously, after serving two years or more past the time when he could have retired on pension. Following the inquiry Goddard had a balance of over \$60,000 was extracted and is now in the possession of the Home Office. It is the policeman's money but he must prove it before a magistrate. Up to now no attempt has been made in this direction probably on account of the fact that such proceedings, while getting back the money, might involve the petitioner in serious charges.

This matter has been discussed in the House of Commons and the Home Secretary was pressed to state whether the Kit Cat Club was one of the places that had been bringing the police. He evaded a direct answer contenting himself with saying that, as far as he knew, the Kit Cat is a restaurant.

A further inquiry into bribery was directed against another policeman, but to the surprise of everybody the court martial was cancelled and the man allowed to resign. Up to now nobody knows what further course against these men and others the Home Secretary intends to take. It has been common talk that night clubs and some restaurants have been in the habit of putting a portion of their money aside for the purpose of "squaring."

A further official statement which has caused consternation among alien night club owners and managers is a repeated declaration that such persons found guilty of transgressing the licensing laws will be deported. This also applies to those who have been bribing or attempting to bribe police, if their guilt is brought home to them.

Naturally with a general election pending, the Government has to move very warily, especially as one of the big election cries directed to the women voters is that of prohibition. General prohibition is unlikely here and such a law might easily upset the entire internal peace of the country. There is already sufficient discontent over the defense of the Realm war time regulations which included the recently revoked order that smokers could not buy candy or cigars after eight o'clock on licensed premises, although you could walk into a shop or public house and get your smokes by putting money in slot machines.

Bad for Clubs. As far as night life is concerned at the present moment there is a wide difference of opinion. One side says it is looking up, the other that it is dying. 1928 has generally been a very bad year for night clubs and the like. Many have been closed, including the Chez Victor. Victor was deported, but is allowed to return now and again to see his friends and attend business meetings.

The Winter Garden closed on its own account after a raid, the alien management getting the wind up regarding the deportation order. Stage Door has been more heavily fined than any club yet, although the deportation order was not enforced. The Lido, Silver Slipper and the notorious "43," an establishment which has been raided on several occasions, are others.

The Silver Slipper is now a restaurant, but running on cabaret-dance lines, while the Stage Door is shortly reopening as a restaurant complete with dancing and entertainments. It is the Kit Cat and the Merry Grill. The only actual difference between the old and new regime is that all drinks for these converted houses have to be sent out for and cannot be procured after

Censor and Talkers

London, Dec. 4. The censor's attitude on talking films is a new problem here. Lord Chamberlain is reported to be taking advice on the subject, according to an official. He has been advised that a "talking film" is not a play within the meaning of the Act.

"Does the matter end there?" he is said to have been further interrogated.

"Not necessarily. It may go farther."

the public houses close at 3 in the afternoon and 11 at night.

New places are continually opening. The latest club is Nunky's in Regent street. This is being run by George Abramson who had the Lido before disaster overtook it. Here a good orchestra is under the direction of Eddie Crossbart, American musician. It is a day as well as night club, and has a good dancing floor and a very fine chef. At the opening, cabaret ran continuously from 5.30 but this has now been cut down to three shows nightly, the first being at 6.30. It closes at 2 in the morning.

Murray's Club, which celebrated its 21st year this week, has gone back to full cabaret and has an exceptionally fine chorus of dancers. Mrs. Merrick, "the Night Club Queen," was released from prison today, having earned a month's remission for her six months' sentence for infringing against the licensing laws. Developments may be expected among her night clubs and restaurants. During her absence the Silver Slipper has been run by her daughter, both peesees, and this fact has tended to make the place snobbish.

Rumors about cabarets dying in London should be listened to with caution. Same story crops up periodically.

Rosetta Duncan Back

London, Dec. 4. Rosetta Duncan returned to "Topsy and Eva" last Saturday (Dec. 1) after a fortnight's absence due to an indisposition.

While Rosetta was out her role was first played by Gracie Fields and then by Vivienne Duncan, Mimi Crawford coming in to do "Eva." Show will leave the Gaity Dec. 15, the sisters opening at the Palladium (vaudeville) Dec. 17 for two weeks.

London Biz 'Way Off

London, Dec. 4. Business is thoroughly bad due to the heavy depression over the King's critical illness. Mild, damp and foggy weather had added to the general gloom.

Theatre attendance is 'way off excepting in very few instances.

CABARET ACTS OVER

London, Dec. 4. Roseray and Capella, opening at the Piccadilly hotel cabaret, were well received, as was Grace Doro, who returned here after a provincial tour.

Trix Sisters open at Verrey's restaurant for six weeks Dec. 10. They will double into the vaude houses.

"OUT OF SEA" OUT

London, Dec. 4. "Out of the Sea," written by Don Marquis, closed Saturday (Dec. 1) at the Strand after a run of nine days.

Succeeding attraction is "100 Years Old" which comes in from the Lyric, Hammersmith.

Dowling Chasing Burke

London, Dec. 4. Eddie Dowling wants Tom Burke for his male lead in the musical version of "The Big Parade" he is preparing.

Burke is asking plenty of money.



WILL MAHONEY

The Chicago "Post" last week said: "Will Mahoney, who dances as though there's a devil inside him that won't let him rest, is the whirlwind sensation of the Palace bill this week, keeping his audience shouting at his eccentricities as well as applauding vigorously his dance steps."

Direction

RALPH G. FARNUM
1560 Broadway

PARIS ACCEPTS GUITRY'S PLAY, "LINDBERGH"

Reproduce Reception Ceremonies—4 Other Shows Open

Paris, Dec. 4. "Lindbergh," at the Chatelat in three acts and 18 scenes, was successfully presented Nov. 29 by Sacha Guitry, the author. It depicts the famous aviator's arrival in Paris and the change of heart towards him. Yanks on the part of a French nobleman who had previously opposed his son's marriage to an American girl.

Menzel, American dancer, came from New York especially to repeat with Solomonoff the dances during the original reception scene when President Doumergues received Lindbergh at the Elysees Palace. Identical ceremonies of that occasion were reproduced and Menzeli was big success. A ballet with 200 children also pleased. Charles imitated the musical clown, Grock, while Miss Marguett impersonated Mistinguett.

Chanterelle, the clerk picked for his resemblance, played Lindbergh timidly but naturally and sympathetically. Irene Miller plays Lindbergh's mother in a scene depicting her school class selling news of the boy's successful arrival in Paris.

Griffith Campbell impersonates Ambassador Herrick, while Brown portrays Marquis Crewe, the British ambassador. Show essentially Parisian phantasy and Al Woods has the American rights.

Poetical Comedy Light
"Sur Mon Beau Navire" ("On My Beautiful Ship"), poetical comedy in prose by Jean Sarmant, was presented at the Michodieres with little success. Author plays the role of a retired Spanish torador.

Play is in three acts with Victor Boucher, Berthier and Marguerite Valmond and concerns a flirtation aboard ship bound for Mexico between a married man and a widow. Threatened storm brings climax, but no storm happens and amorous affair terminates as ship nears port.

Strictly Local Revue
"Capucines Revue," opening Nov. 28, was fairly accepted. It is a topical show without giving offense. A knowledge of local conditions is necessary to understand the satire written by Jacques Bousquet and A. Wilhelm. Cast includes Noreen Lesley, Berthe, Louvigny, Robert Barthe, Hieronimus, Michel Duran, Jane Chirel, Janine Morrey, Renee Villiers, Christiane Dor, Suzy Winker and Luvette Demoulin.

Has a Chance
"Depart," by Simon Gentillon, is at the Theatre de l'Avenue and has an outside chance. Plot is about a brother and sister romantically

400 Girls Pass Out Champagne at 'Singing Fool' Premiere in New House

Regal Called London's Most Beautiful Theatre—Society Audience for Opening—Film Liked

"BURLESQUE" FAIR

London, Dec. 4. "Burlesque" was well but not sensationally received Monday night at the Queen's. It is paced much slower than in New York with Broadway local gags about Friars, Lambs, Dillingham, etc., not understood here.

Nelson Keys, in main role, was okay until called upon for some serious work, at which time he demonstrated pathos is not one of his specialties. Newspapers non-committal on notices.

Vienna, Nov. 19.

A German version of George Watters and Arthur Hopkins "Burlesque" adopted by Ossip Dynoff under the name of "Artuser" was launched here at the Theater an der Wien, under the direction of Max Reinhardt. The reception was favorable, after cool at the beginning.

Techehoff, Russian, is Skid, with Tibor von Halmany as Bozo, and Hans Moser as Jimmy.

Vaude acts are included including Douglas (step dancer) Admirals 4, and Frank Fox, pianist.

Bostock's Circus Opens

London, Dec. 4. Gordon Bostock opened his three ring indoor circus Dec. 1 at Earl's Court. It was well received although the absence of any sensational act is rated a handicap.

Two other factors against the venture is the fact London is not educated to circus-going before Christmas, and that the three ring idea is new, confusing and on the whole not liked by Englishmen.

Earl's Court, additionally is rather inaccessible.

Palladium's Worst Week

London, Dec. 4. Palladium just closed its worst week's business since reverting to vaudeville. The king's illness and other depressing factors are blamed. Jackie Coogan failed to mean a thing on his third week.

Miguel Galvan, debuting at the Coliseum (vaudeville) last night (Monday) after a provincial tour, proved pleasing. Peggy O'Neill opens in a sketch at Palladium Dec. 17.

Squawks on Flyweights

Paris, Dec. 4. Loud Squawks are to be heard about the Izzy Schwartz-Padnor bout just being a set-up for a return match in New York, where flyweights can grab real dough.

Izzy's all! is that he slipped and fell, splitting open his big toe on the day of fight.

Fyffe Coming Over. 14

London, Dec. 4. Will Fyffe sails on the Leviathan Dec. 14 to open at the Palace, New York, Dec. 23.

dreaming in childhood of becoming navigator and actress. They realize their ambitions but find no romance in them. Lucien Nat and Marguerite Jamols are in the leading roles.

Film Tragedy
"Une Tant Belle Fille" (Such a Pretty Girl) by Jacques Deval, has been produced by Rene Rocher at the Theatre Antoine. It is a psychological drama with melodramatic development.

Two war buddies become picture producers and both love the same actress. Each bows to the other's love to create a tragedy when one commits suicide and the other, considering himself responsible, shuns the coquettish woman. Jean Worms, Marcel Andre and Blanche Montel are among the players.

Opening of "The Singing Fool," Al Jolson's Warner Brothers picture, was made sensational at the new Regal last Wednesday night (Nov. 28) by the management, in conclusion, sending 400 girls down the aisles passing out champagne, sandwiches and cigars.

At the finish of the picture a trailer was immediately flashed asking the audience to remain seated and take wine with the management. The entire stunt was pulled so fast and clean that everything was handed out before the 2,500 people in the house realized what was taking place. Film feature was warmly greeted.

New theatre was built by Alfred Abrahams and is the most beautiful house in London. A strictly society premier gathering was headed by the Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught. The opening jammed traffic from eight o'clock until midnight.

Location of this new film site is on the Marble Arch corner of Hyde Park.

Meeting Over the King's Condition, for Theatres

London, Dec. 4. Lord Chamberlain called a meeting of all entertainment managers for today (Tuesday) to decide what course to take regarding closing should King George's illness prove fatal.

COMEDIE FRANCAISE SUIT

Paris, Dec. 4. Huguette DuFlos has been fined 150,000 francs for breaking her contract with Comedie Francaise.

She and four others stepped out of National theatre last week complaining that their salary was too small.

BOOKER DUE IN JAN.

London, Dec. 4. Val Parnell, General Theatres' booker, is due to sail for New York in January.

He will scout for talent, particularly headliners.

COCHRAN'S REVUE GOING

London, Dec. 4. Cochrans' Revue, at the Pavilion, is coming.

Letter show off to be replaced by "Lucky Girl," moves over from the Shaftesbury on Christmas.

MASLOVA'S INJURY

London, Dec. 4. Maslova opened with a new act last week at Alhambra (vaudeville) and tore a leg ligament Tuesday.

A month's layoff is necessitated, the dancer going to Paris for treatment.

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Congressional Friends and Enemies Say Howdy at Capitol

Washington, Dec. 4. About the only new thing in the opening of Congress for the short session yesterday was the appearance of Fox Movietone (sound news) equipment in the legislative halls recording for the first time, this notable gathering of law makers. This included Jack Connolly with the privileges of the floor, something previously denied for like purposes.

Otherwise 'twas the same hand-shaking and welcome home stuff with very few changes in the cast of principals.

Sol Bloom, the Democratic "theatre's Congressman" was holding a reception on and off the floor. Then stood up in the restaurant for 15 minutes waiting for some hungry scribe to get up so he could set down at the press table.

Vestal of Indiana with numerous copyright bills sees the three on the calendar enacted into law. Jeff Busby, Miss. known as the friend of the exhibitor, equally as confident in the reverse—and so on down the line.

Senator C. C. Dill, Democrat from Washington, said he is through with copyright legislation. Senator added "the American Society has been taught to pay itself." With Congress acting as a policeman the Society should be expected to stay that way.

Hopes of the reformers are: Passage of Sproul bill to put teeth in the Volstead law.

Enactment of Jones-Talkler bill to make it hard on the persistent violators of that same Volstead law. Federal moving picture censorship via, it is believed, the Brookhart and Hudson bills.

Enactment of legislation to tighten up on the transportation of prize fight films so as to not only reach the transporter but the exhibitor.

Passage of anti-gambling legislation.

Passage of the Brookhart bill to put back on the payroll prohibition agents considered worthy but who failed to pass civil service tests.

Hammer bill to stop companionate marriage in the District of Columbia.

This latter to be another of the "shining examples for the rest of the country" such as is the proposed Sunday law, also for the District.

Landis Makes Balto by Tanker—Alimony Dodger

Baltimore, Dec. 4. Cullen Landis arrived in this town one gray morning last week. There was no reception committee. He came over the bounding sea, chambermaid to the mess-room aboard the oil tanker "Salina," bound east from Frisco.

Landis explained that he was after "atmosphere" for a short story, admitting "other reasons," including Mignon LeBrun, former Mrs. Landis, who should draw \$350 a month alimony.

Landis hinted at financial reverses and declared that \$350 is a lot of money, when for a short time.

He declared that the former Mrs. Landis is fair about the matter and he shall resume the payments. Meanwhile Cullen has deserted the fo'castle in favor of Broadway.

Easterners Back

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Ben Holmes, former burlesque straight man, directing shorts for Fox, is due to return east next week.

It is also understood Dave Stamper, brought out here last summer, will return east when his six-month Fox contract expires in January.

QUITS TEETH FOR FILMS

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Dr. Henry Hale Collins practicing dentistry in Seattle for 11 years, has sold all his office furnishings and come to Hollywood to become an actor.

Collins is 35 and will use the name of Hale Collins for his screen efforts.

Joe Kennedy in Thursday. Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Jos. P. Kennedy left here Sunday for New York.

He expects to go straight through and is due in New York Thursday.

U's Crane Camera Replaces "Parallels"

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Universal's camera crane is a revolutionary contribution to the mechanics of picture making. Reminding at first glance of a fireman's extension ladder, it goes through its half dozen tricks with remarkable speed and precision. The crane will take the place of "parallels" as studio camera platforms are known, removing from the production cart much expense incurred in shifting bulky parallels from one set to another.

The machine weighs 14 tons, its extreme elevation of the camera platform, six feet in diameter, is 35 feet. Camera and operators do not have to climb a ladder to get into the crow's nest. The device is lowered to the ground and the crew steps aboard.

The boom carrying the platform may be raised or lowered, may be swung in any direction or at any angle the truck conveying the entire machine may be moved ahead or backward, as alongside a building, and the platform itself may be revolved with the boom remaining stationary.

The machine is credited to an idea of Paul Fejos, who in conjunction with the technical force of the studio laid plans before H. W. Stevens and C. P. Walker of Lewellyn Iron Works. These electrical engineers are responsible for the final designs. The truck on which the engine is carried is trailed by a generator. The crane pays out electric cable as it moves away from the generator when latter is standing and picks it up when returning to it trailer.

Engineers estimate the cost of the apparatus at \$25,000, while studio officials taking into account preliminary overhead set the cost at double that amount.

The crane is noiseless in operation and may be driven on to a sound stage.

Canadian Co.'s Showing

Montreal, Dec. 4. United Amusement Corporation, operating 12 theatres in this city, has published its balance sheet for year ended August 31, 1928. It shows profits of \$401,372, up \$90,000 from the previous year, record for the company.

Its total net is up \$120,000 for the period over the previous year. After all deductions, net profit available for common dividend was \$245,582, as against \$144,782 in year before. This works out at better than four per cent on the no par value common stock of the company outstanding. Net working capital is up \$42,000 to \$61,018.

E. A. Cousins, president, says that in addition to paying common stock dividend, an eight per cent dividend on preferred shares was also paid. He adds that the new theatre of the company in Sherbrooke, Quebec, the Grenada, will be opened early this month.

United Amusements is affiliated with Famous Players Canadian.

Options Taken Up

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Paramount has exercised its options on William V. Robson, one of Prof. Baker's Yale boys, Florence Ryerson and Viola Brothers Shore, all writers.

Six months is the extension period. Pathe took up option on William Boyd for another year.

Doris Dawson will remain on the First National payroll for six months more at least. She is one of the new comers picked for development.

GARBO SAILS DEC. 8

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Greta Garbo, M-G-M, on route to New York will sail for her home in Sweden Dec. 8 instead of Dec. 15.

She will go on board the "Kungsholm," making its maiden voyage to Stockholm from New York.

Miss Garbo will return to the Culver City studios March 1 to resume her contract.

9 Technicians in Each Fox Unit for Talkers

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Production of eight and sound pictures calls for nine men in the technical department for each unit. This additional staff, headed by a recording superintendent of combined units, consists of a transmission engineer whose duty it is to see that the delicate mechanical contrivances for recording are always in tune and up to the mark.

Then comes the monitor man or "mixer," as called at the studio. He sees that the recording comes through in the proper manner and advises the microphone man when to lower or increase the volume. Similar orders are received by the amplifier man in charge of the amplification panels.

Five men are required in the recording room, one for recording on film and one in charge of recording on wax. Each has an assistant, with an extra man at all times to look after the numerous batteries required for maintenance of the sound equipment.

Warners' Studio's Lay Off

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. When "From Headquarters" is finished by Warners, Dec. 5, there will be no further production until Jan. 15, excepting Vitaphoning for completed pictures and making of talking shorts. The latter average four a week and are expected to continue at that pace until Dec. 15, at which time the Brooklyn plant goes into production. After that date the only shorts made in the west will be of such acts as cannot conveniently be transferred to the east coast.

F. N. Drops 15 More

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. First National continued its weekly reduction in studio personnel by letting out 15 more people including Adam Shirk, assistant George Landy, succeeding J. Leroy, three more assistant directors, including Ben Silvey, a number of the studio technicians and wardrobe assistants.

Shirk immediately connected with Columbia where he has become head of publicity succeeding J. Leroy Johnston. Latter has gone with Edwin Carewe Productions.

L. A. Judge Rules Out Film Theme Infringement

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Judge Leon Yankwich in Superior Court ruled in the case of William F. James and Dorothea Martin vs. Universal Pictures that themes belong to the world and cannot be copyrighted.

Only development and treatment can be copyrighted or protected, the opinion says. Evidence that Universal had infringed in producing "The Symphony" as alleged by claimants was deemed insufficient and case dismissed.

Judge pointed out that while there was a parallel between the screen story written by Svend Gade for Universal and the story written by James and Martin, the identical theme and idea were used over 30 years ago in an opera called "Linda."

Scarce Voices Prevent "Masquerade's" Dialog

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. It has been decided not to attempt dialog sequences for "The Masquerade," recently completed for United Artists by D. W. Griffith. Difficulty of getting players together and inability of some to talk is the reason.

Voice tests made of William Boyd, Lupe Velez and Jetta Goudal revealed their voices as not fitting the roles played.

L. A. to N. Y.

Oliver H. P. Garrett, Ernest Pascal, Dr. Hugo Riesenfeld, Jos. P. Kennedy, Greta Garbo.

N. Y. to L. A.

Pat Kearney, Warren Hymer, E. M. Walker, Sylvia Sydney

Brookhart Bill and Indie Exhibs

Agitating independent exhibitors at this time over the Brookhart Bill, looks and sounds like a smoke screen. For if the Brookhart Bill were passed this week by the new Congress, the picture interests could still tie up its provisions for judicial determination by the U. S. Supreme Court. That might take from two to three years. Meanwhile every indie exhib in the country could go broke.

The Brookhart Bill provides for an open buying market for moving pictures. It would have been a blessing to the pure indie exhibs had it gone into effect years ago or last year or this year, if immediately enforced. The Federal Trade Commission stilled with the same problem for five years in its joke investigation of Famous Players-Lasky (Paramount).

Now when the pure indie exhibs needs product so badly they only see dark theatres or bankruptcy ahead of them, the Brookhart Bill is held up as the hope. Whether this Brookhart Bill stuff is inspired or not can not be decided without better evidence at hand, but it has a peculiar smell at this time.

No indie exhib should solely depend upon the Brookhart Bill or any other legislative act for relief from present conditions. Just now the best recourse appears to be the indie exhib's attorney. If the indie must go broke, he had better go broke fighting, instead of lying down waiting for the bell. Even their own lawyer can't keep a theatre open, however.

Flocked to Fox

All indie exhibs had better study why the indie exhibs of Greater New York hustled over to William Fox with such a rush to sell their 150 or 175 indie picture theatres. It was because the Greater New York's foresaw that they couldn't live under the metropolitan condition, with the chains (including Fox) operating against them, to sew up all of the leading product, including Warners. And Warners not having a house in the Greater City, excepting on Broadway.

By the time the indie exhibs of New York would have secured their second runs, if they could have secured second runs, there would not have been enough left for them to get out of the pictures to make the struggle worth while. So they flocked to Fox. Those of Greater New York and others.

If there can be any protection given to indie exhibs at this time through organization and under the leadership of such a very good man as Abram Myers, then by all means the indie exhibs should exert every effort to immediately protect themselves as best they may. "As best they may" may be better than nothing.

But no pure indie exhib entirely unaffiliated or unattached from a chain or distributor should be muddled by Brookhart Bill talk. If the Brookhart Bill ever passes, and it looks too late now for any possible benefit, if it does, that Bill will be thrown into the United States Court, for its usual slow procedure to the highest court for a final decision.

Weather Forecast

Washington, Dec. 4. The Weather Bureau has furnished Variety with the following outlook for the week beginning tomorrow:

Rain or snow and cooler east of Pittsburgh; clearing and cold in the Chicago area Wednesday (5), followed by fair weather and rather cold Thursday and Friday.

Snow Friday in Chicago area will spread eastward as snow or rain by Saturday (8). Probably fair Sunday (9).

GOTHAM'S PLAN CHANGE

18 Full Lengths and 54 Sound Shorts Known as Sonoritone

Hereafter all pictures produced by Gotham and the Ascher, Small & Rogers interests will be known as Sonoritone Productions, according to Gotham offices.

It is understood a definite program for the coming season has been decided upon, calling for 12 feature length pictures, instead of 54 as first reported, and 54 talking shorts.

"Noise" Library

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Recording of sound has brought a new form of screen library, on the M-G-M lot described as a "noise morgue."

Among the records now on file are wail of infant, shriek of wind through ailerons of falling plane, snores of sleeper, machine gun bullets spattering on pavement and complete football game recorded in local Coliseum.

HOME GIRL FOR MAURICE

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Paramount has decided it will be smarter to put an American girl opposite Maurice Chevalier in his first picture, "Innocents of Paris."

Company rushed Dita Parlo from Berlin, but finally came to the conclusion it wasn't such a bright idea. Miss Parlo will be given something else to do.

Maurice Chevalier's "Innocents of Paris," his first Paramount, will be all talker and singing.

Victor Voyda is associate producer.

ROACH STUDIOS STILL

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Hal Roach Studios will be closed from Dec. 29 to Jan. 23. Sound stages and equipment will be installed.

Merchandisers Want Show Exploiters to Open Stores

National merchandising organizations are combing the picture field for men capable of applying show principles in the retail field. Among others it is reported that Sears-Roebuck have been making inquiries for reliable men to open stores in a manner similar to theatre openings. It is understood that showmen used by this company for store openings have proven immensely successful. Salaries being offered are reputed to be many times higher than those paid for similar work in the theatre field.

Other organizations, it is understood, are also scouting for showmen, some offering as much as \$200 an hour for group lectures on exploitation.

Sound Engineers May Form Own Union

Engineers working on sound in studios and now coming under the jurisdiction of Local 52 of the Studio Mechanics Union, are reported forming their own organization. They have been working under cover and are expected to go after a charter and self-government. The sound men in many cases are from radio and telephone, not previously connected with unions, and preferring their own union if belonging to any.

Wasted Time Taken Up

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Time previously wasted by picture directors and players on the sets while waiting for lights and camera angles to be re-arranged, is now being utilized by rehearsing the lines to be enacted in the next scene.

This is keeping the actors on their feet at all times. In the old days they were permitted to lounge around or play bridge for hours at a time.

U. A.'s Sound Changes

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. After making several tests with United Artist's new sound plant it was discovered many changes will have to be made before it is deemed practical.

The "Nightstick" troupe, which has been waiting for a sound stage, will go ahead and shoot the silent version first, then add sound and dialog when recording facilities are ready.

\$600,000,000 ANNUAL RENT

FBO Under R-K-O Going in For Class Film Productions, Talker, Sound and Silent

With J. I. Schnitzer as its overseer, FBO is not only set for a change of name, but the most radical reverse in production policy of any producing and distributing company in the industry. Cheap production is completely out. From now on the subsidiary of Radi-Keith-Orpheum will concentrate only on quality lines established by the biggest companies.

At a meeting today (Wednesday) the new officers and directors announced officially yesterday afternoon, will devote on the first important moves under their regime. One of these will be the expending of around \$500,000 in renovating and further building on the 15 acres occupied by FBO for its Hollywood studio. This phase will include orders for the immediate construction of four soundproof stages on the lot. It will also witness the okay for William Le Baron, retained as vice-president in charge of production, to the limit in securing under contract stars, directors and writers. FBO executives announced as retained are: C. C. Sullivan, vice-president; C. J. Scollard, treasurer, and Thomas Delehanty, secretary.

An exodus of Jos. P. Kennedy appointees in lesser executive capacities is expected, but those who remain at the home office feel certain that Schnitzer will continue the services of practically all members of the "old guard." The latter phrase they use to describe those who were with the organization prior to Kennedy's entrance.

Schnitzer, who broke into the business in 1907 as manager of the Des Moines branch of the Pittsburgh Calcium Light and Film Co., has been with FBO since its inception. Naming him as the operator of the company is genuinely regarded by the old-timers in the company as the most practical move that the bankers have made since they became interested in the industry.

Attention to Silents. Despite radio interests, no all-talker program is contemplated, according to Le Baron. Silent pictures will be given important attention.

Elimination of comedies and cheap melodramas and comedies which made FBO successful as an indie producer will mark the most radical change.

Where FBO under the Kennedy regime endeavored to economize by piece-mealizing its stories and stellar roles, after wiping out departments which had previously existed, Le Baron will go after names. As production head Le Baron figures FBO can gain greater results by familiarizing those around him with the company's policy to the point where they will automatically reflect it in their work.

The impression that RCA's Phonofilm studios were being established in New York with the intent of having its licensees concentrate their talker production in the east is denied by Le Baron, and dispelled by plans which will probably get underway immediately for soundproofing FBO's Hollywood stages.

That FBO is under the RCA control carries no significance that licensees on the coast will be able to use its facilities or will be encouraged to use them. Only FBO production will be soundproofed in its studios, Le Baron states.

While FBO will concentrate production on the west coast, it was conceded by Le Baron that there will be a certain quantity of this work accomplished in New York. Like the plans of other short makers to catch flash-acts here in order to save in time and expense, FBO will follow suit.

Now that the new regime is set. It is learned that there is to be none of the former inter-relationship which until now has existed between FBO and Pathe. This, it was heard around the home office, was due to the position which J. P. Kennedy held with both companies and which was not terminated until the an-

16m. SOUND-PROJECTOR WILL SELL AROUND \$250

DeVry Puts Parlor-Talker on Market—Claims Will Have Studio Sound Features

First amateur sound synchronized outfit for use in the home has been announced by the DeVry Corp. Equipment for the parlor talkers will retail for around \$250. It is a DeVry 16m. projector mounted on the same base with a phonograph turntable, a connecting shaft making them synchronous. An electric pick-up device carries the sound from the phonograph record to a radio or independent loud speaker. The new machine will operate with any of the electrically reproduced phonograph records, but the company has declared that regular releases of talking and singing films reproduced in the same synchronized way as in the theatre, will be issued each month. This probably means the sound shorts. It is reliably stated that the attachment, by itself, will sell for about \$125. DeVry's present Type G projector retailing for the same figure.

Pathe Coast Heads

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Joseph P. Kennedy, head of Pathe, has arranged with William Ststrom, general manager, to remain with company upon expiration of his present contract Jan. 1, as contact with New York. Benjamin Glazer is to be the production contact with the eastern offices, while Paul Bern and Ralph Block will continue to function as the production heads at the studio.

Griffith's U. A. Talker

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. After surmounting all difficulties in recording sound at the newly-completed sound stages at United Artists' studio, D. W. Griffith started work on recording the dialog in his latest U. A. picture, "Masquerade," with Lupe Velez, William Boyd and Jetta Goudal doing most of the talking. U. A. has temporarily abandoned the idea of making a sound picture with Mme. Schumann-Heink. This was scheduled as the next Griffith picture but will be replaced with "Daring of the Gods," which Joseph M. Schenck has owned for some time.

Hitchy as Pre-Release M. C. for M-G-M Talkers

Cleveland, Dec. 4. Raymond Hitchcock is doing on the film talker route. He has a contract with M-G-M to act as m. c. for Metro's talking feature pictures. M-G-M's idea is said to be for Hitchcock to introduce each Metro picture in a talking film program. Hitchcock in silent pictures did not click. His drawl and wisecracks are his chief stage assets.

OFFICIAL O. O.

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Hon. Walter Marks, chairman of the Royal Commission of England, and appointed by the Australian government to make a world investigation of picture production, is in Hollywood. Marks is making the customary tour of the studios. Announcement of his resignation from FBO was officially made.

SOUND SENDS UP RENTALS 400%

Great Increase Based Upon 1,000 Wired Houses—Others to Follow with Suggestion Sound Market of Future May Resolve Itself into Silent Film Normalcy of Past—Former Yearly Rental Income \$360,000,000

FIRST RUNS DO IT

On a basis of only 1,000 theatres equipped for talking pictures by the beginning of 1929, film rentals for the picture industry will reach a new peak, in the neighborhood of \$600,000,000, an increase of approximately 66 per cent over the average of \$360,000,000 annually, during the coming year. This new high seems assured through the prices being paid for individual talking pictures, 300 and 400 per cent higher than for silent pictures, consistently for the 52 weeks of 1929 is also regarded as being with owners of wired theatres, now or future, throughout the country clamoring for dialog pictures and holding up playdates on silent product to make way for these.

Among the first 1,000 houses to be wired are mostly first runs in key cities where the highest rentals are obtained in the ordinary course, and the negative cost of \$100,000, 000 annually, in silent production is written off. Where formerly the average cost of films runs slightly over \$3,000 per week per theatre in this group, the rentals being contracted for on talkers are on an average of \$8,000 per theatre or \$50,000, with an available outlet totaling \$400,000,000 annually in returns.

Writing Off Costs

Including the foreign market sales revenue obtainable is approximately \$640,000,000, foreign sales possibilities having dropped \$50,000,000, as compared with the average annual sales of the past few years.

At the present rate of wiring and the returns from talking pictures the investment in equipment, computed at over one-third of \$50,000,000, will be written off within 18 months. In one instance where a chain operator finds that increased grosses resulting from talkers will make it possible for him to write off an investment of several million dollars within a year, and convert it into a profit.

As the number of wired houses increases with a maximum claimed of 10,000 American houses susceptible for the wire, there may be the added amount of rentals, proportionately. Provided the increased talking product by that time shall not have shaved down rentals on all sound and dialog films through competition. The market may then become the duplicate of what the silent field has been.

Zukor Orders "Wolf" To Be All-Talker

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Adolph Zukor dipped his finger in the production broth when, after seeing at the Paramount studio, "The Wolf of Wall Street," as a 50 cent talker he gave the word to raise it to 100. No delay was involved through wait for dialog, as Doris Anderson, when assigned to it, had written it as an all-talker. "As Miss Anderson—also was the author as well as the adapter of the script—will be the first writer to get screen credit for original, adaptation and dialog. Rowland V. Lee directs silent and sound versions. Under the shift to silent, Zukor will talk with Baranova, a Russian, will sing "Love My Heart." B. P. Fineman is producer.

Joe Kennedy as Money Maker for Himself and Others in Show Trade

Weary of Touches

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. At eyes height on the door giving entrance to his inner office a director has posted a "Notice" printed in 24-point type and reading as follows: "I Do Not Loan Money—because I have been a fool long enough. I have loaned thousands to so-called friends who never pay a penny back. So don't rush in—shake my hand—ask how I feel—when you only expect to make a quick touch—because I am no longer anybody's Santa Claus. "It is no fault of mine if you owe the landlord, laundryman, grocer, tailor and finance company for your car."

GLOBE, K.C., BACK TO SILENT FILM; FIRST WIRED

Kansas City, Dec. 4. Globe, first wired house here, which led the novelty of sound pictures several months before any other house was able to use them, is also the first to cast them aside, at least for awhile. This week saw the return of the Lolo Bridge musical stock for a run and the return to the screen of the silents. House cleaned up with "The Singing Fool," "Lion and the Mouse" and one or two others, but when unable to get outstanding names suffered.

Coolidges' Slants on Talking Film Programs

Staunton, Va., Dec. 4. Showing of Fox Movietone subjects for the President and Mrs. Coolidge during their Thanksgiving vacation here, had some odd twists. During the filming of Chic Sale in "Marching On," the White House canines were included in the party viewing the picture. At one spot several dogs bark in the story. It was a cue for the real mutts and the film had to be stopped until they were lead from the room. Another was a statement from Mr. Coolidge of the value of the George Bernard Shaw and King George shots for posterity, while still another was Mrs. Coolidge humming the theme song of one of the pictures shown the remainder of their entire stay.

Royce on "Follies"

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. With arrival here of Edward Royce, Charles Judels has been taken away from task of staging the "Movietone Follies" for Fox. For time being Judels is being used for roles in pictures.

"NOAH" AT \$2 IN CHI

Chicago, Dec. 4. "Noah's Ark," WB Vitaphone special, is slated for one of the Shubert houses after New Year's. Twice daily is the proposed schedule.

Revues With Glazer

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Maurice Revues leaves M-G-M this week to become assistant to Barney Glazer, Pathe production head.

Joseph P. Kennedy to date has made money for many, including himself, in the show business.

Kennedy's own company, FBO, was a million in the red when he took hold of it. First before Radio-Keith-Orpheum (R-K-O) took FBO over with Keith's, FBO stock was at 15. R-K-O took it in at around 35 a share. Keith's was at 16 when Kennedy bought the E. F. Albee stock. Keith's went in to R-K-O at around 36 or more, according to the holders, as the Keith's or R-K-O is now around 40.

Keith's, before R-K-O got it, held 150,000 shares of Pathe common, at around 3 and estimated as worthless. Kennedy advised holding the Pathe, which the Keith people wanted to turn back for some financial reason. Later in the summer, Kennedy sold Keith's Pathe block for nearly \$1,000,000. With that money he induced Keith's to buy 40,000 shares of FBO at 15. Between the two Keith's profited almost two millions, double that circuit's operating loss up to Sept. 1 for this year. Pathe common is now at about 12.

Kennedy's Profit

Kennedy for himself held an option on 75,000 shares of Keith's (Keith-Albee-Orpheum) at 21. If Kennedy has so far sold it, price obtained is not reported, but could not have been under 36, and probably nearer 45, if sold. He also held control of FBO, which by that time (last summer) had turned over from the red to the black under his direction.

Probably the only Keith or Orpheum stockholder who sold at 21 when the Keith stock was at around 16, was E. F. Albee. Albee held slightly over 200,000 shares and received \$4,500,000 for them, his stock carrying the operating control of K-A-O.

Remaining under Kennedy's direction is Pathe, now also in the black, having shown a net profit last month of \$70,000, after having been heavily in the red. In the summer the Pathe bankers pledged an advance of \$1,000,000 to Pathe as required. So far but \$75,000 has been used, the first time that ever happened in Wall Street.

Kennedy was interested in Keith's for five months, with Pathe a little longer, and with FBO about two years.

It is said that he will remain in the show business for a spell, having other interests in view, along with John J. Murdock, his close friend and business associate. Kennedy by training, experience and instinct is a banker. He may again turn to the field. But while in the show business, Joe Kennedy has made money for himself and for all of those associated with him, along with the stock holders of the various companies he has been directing, other than Albee. The opinion in vaudeville is that Albee, by selling when he did and passing the Keith's control, saved the entire amount he received in exchange for his stock.

Town's Board Demands Theatre Be Opened

Toronto, Dec. 4. The annual situation of the board of trade appealing for a picture theatre is reported from Ft. William, Ont.

Citizens say Famous Players, while owning three houses in the town, operate none. The board of trade has formally demanded by resolution that the Orpheum be opened and operated by F.P.

Stage Director's Film

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. "The Dummy," Paramount's all-talker directed by Robert Milton, is completed and measures 6,500 feet. The director has limits he aimed to set in terms of the screen, making the dialog most busy.

British Film Field

By Frank Tilley

London, Nov. 22. Universal has been in the limelight through putting in the first all-song program outside London. It was a four-hour show at its own Manchester house, New at its own "Melody of Love" and Oxford, with the former dialog and the latter synchronized orchestration. Also Ben Bernie's orchestra and the Music Shop Movietone shorts.

Warners had a pre-view of "The Singing Fool" at the Piccadilly, and he got the sobbies. All hoke but hit 'em like tear gas. "The Terror," after about the greatest all-round razz any film ever got here, followed this week by "Homesteaders."

A further sound development here is a tie-up being arranged with the British Broadcasting Co. and the R. C. A. to put a series of disks and some personal performances on the air in connection with a series of full-length opera song-films to be made in conjunction with the German Tonbild.

More Theatre Money

Another company of I. W. Schlesinger's United Picture Theatres is increasing its capital from \$1,500,000 to \$2,650,000, by issuing 225,000 par value. Increase it to \$5 million building of theatres and to rebuild some the company already owns. The number of houses at present owned is 16, mostly neighborhood theatres in London.

Called Cinema Proprietors, Ltd., another issue is pending which will ask the public for \$1,650,000 to buy six houses now forming the Salberg circuit. On the board will be Leon Salberg as managing director.

Personal

Lillian Oldland, screen actress (Mrs. Reginald Denham), daughter, last week.

S. D. Strongtharm, manager of the Stoll picture theatre on Kingsway, reverts to the head office booking department and is replaced by W. O. Chapman and E. C. Macrae, who become joint managers.

E. O. Leadlay is publicizing Campro Co., which markets at 16-mm. home camera and projector combined for \$50.

Gaumont-British is set with its school for organizers.

Cosmo Hamilton has registered another production company, Authors Film Syndicate, Ltd., in conjunction with Nicholas Bosanquet, Capital, \$500.

When the Fox Movietone of Swaffer was shown at the Empire opening, some one discovered a swing door back of the stalls squeaked when it was opened. So every few minutes when Swaffer came a loud and hearty razz from the back. Up in the circle they seemed to think it was being done by the audience below, and when they got more laughs than any other item in the bill.

Albert Clavering has registered a new company as E. G. Guamas, Ltd., capital \$1,000. Brother Arthur is associated. May be to build that new house next door to the Home Office and the Horse Guards.

Another new Gaumont company has been registered as a public (i. e., with power to sell stock) company. Called Davis Theatre (Hammer-Smith), Ltd., capital \$1,000,000. Directors, Isidore Ostrer, A. C. and R. C. Bromhead, Mark Ostrer, Alfred, Basil and Israel Davis, all associated with various Gaumont-British enterprises.

Percy Marmont in lead for the old Wilson Barrett melo, "The Silver King," directed by T. Hayes. Hit for the Wilcox company, British & Dominion Films.

Empire Handicaps

M-G-M's New Empire did not have a very auspicious first week. Business, though good generally in town, has been thin, certainly not due to the house itself, easily the finest in London. It seems due to the program, which is strong enough, not sufficiently varied. Too much dialog stuff, a lot of which is very poor; too much music, both orchestral and organ, in one spot, and a feature not strong enough to play solo.

Film goes here are used to a two-feature program. Seldom a one-feature bill, get away unless that feature is very strong. And the New Empire's one feature, "The Lawney of the Wells," is not strong.

P. C. T. are not taking any chances when they open "Tivoli" this 26th. They are putting in a British International film, "Not Quite a Lady," one of the best pieces of entertainment-manufacture the British studios have made this year, as second feature to United Artists' "The Woman Pursued."

Theatre Money

This week \$4,875,000 more money

has gone into picture theatre grouping and building. Associated British Cinemas, British International offshoot, with a capital of \$5,000,000, has sold \$250,000 of the new stock to the present shareholders of B. I., which company has also taken up \$500,000 of the theatre stock for cash.

The other money comes from an increase in the capital of Isidore Schlesinger's theatre company, United Picture Theatres, raised from \$1,500,000 to \$2,650,000 by the issue of 225,000 shares of \$5 each ranking as preferred participating ordinary. These were offered for public issue and subscribed.

Pre-View Rush

With the end of the stoppage caused by the shortening of release period under the Films Act, a stampede to hold trade shows is beginning. A number of distributors have these already scheduled for three months ahead all over the country. Wardour, such shows fixed for the next three months in London and nine provincial centers.

Tiffany's Tie-Up

Tiffany-Stahl producing in this country in conjunction with the interests controlling its British release house, British Exhibitors Films Co.

A new company has been registered as Tiffany Productions, Ltd., with Charles F. Bernhard as managing director, with exchanges to open at Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Cardiff, Liverpool, Leeds and Sheffield. The organization will handle all the Tiffany American product and make four features a year here.

Which lets Tiffany in and gives them a quota.

Phototone's Show

British Phototone, operating a disk system on Brunswick records electrically amplified, is giving its first show this week at the Scala. Showing a number of three-reel subjects. George Smith, head here of P. D., is chairman of the company, with Count Anthony de Borsari (now engaged to Tallulah Bankhead) also on the board. The two are also on the board of French Phototone in the same capacities.

Non-Inflammatory Film Not Essential Until '32

Paris, Dec. 4.

Minister of the Interior has notified the president of the Film Board of Trade that compulsory use of non-inflammatory film has been postponed until January, 1932.

This makes it easy for the picture companies to adjust their plans to the regulation.

"Wings," \$26,000, Paris

Paris, Dec. 4.

"Wings," playing at the Paramount, broke all house records last week when grossing 651,000 francs, about \$26,000. This is a phenomenal gross for Paris.

It is interpreted by Manager Ullman, of the theatre, as not only an endorsement of the picture, but evidence that the French people, not quick to become film fans, are being sold on the five shows a day grind policy.

Roumania and Spain

Both Dodge Quotas

Paris, Dec. 4.

There is no film quota in Roumania. The new Maniu (Peasant Party) government has abolished existing film censorship and shows little disposition to interfere.

A threatened quota law in Spain has been averted by the clever work of governmental attaches.

Wilcox Negotiating

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Herbert Wilcox, head of the British and Dominion Film Company, is here negotiating for the release of two pictures a year from the United States.

Wilcox has landed Charles Wakefield, one of the Swift packing house heirs, who has \$1,000,000 on the string for two films yearly if the release can be obtained.

Negotiations between Wilcox and Samuel Goldwyn fell through when Goldwyn's terms were found unsatisfactory. Wilcox is now talking it over with Joe Schenck.

FRANCO FILMS BUYS 15 MORE THEATRES

Now Has 26—Also Large Studio in France—FBO-Pathé Connection

Paris, Dec. 4.

Franco Films, which recently purchased 11 film theatres from Gaumont, is now closing a deal to buy the Metropole string of 15 houses, creating a circuit of 26 theatres within a few weeks of launching its extensive campaign. Franco states, through Paul Kastor, its assistant general manager, that it is on the market to buy any first class house now standing and to build a number of its own. Organization is being welded together along American lines.

Franco has just completed the largest production studio in France at Nice. For the first year they will make six features, and probably some French talkers. FBO-Pathé will handle this product in America, Franco taking 30 American films for every four of their own FBO-Pathé accepts for U. S. distribution. British Gaumont, for England, and Lichtspiel, for Germany, will exchange product with Franco on a six-for-one basis.

Franco, a new company, is backed by Bank Intermediaire and DeCapitaine, head of the Franco Wycom Oil Company. It is capitalized at 25,000,000 francs, but this will be increased shortly to 100,000,000 francs. Robert Hurel, formerly with Paramount, is managing director of Franco.

Plans of the new company call for an international type of picture, as they are after foreign distribution. To guard against the faults of former French pictures not acceptable abroad, particularly in America, all scenarios will be analyzed by persons thoroughly familiar with the American market and American people.

English Houses Prefer Native Wire Systems

London, Dec. 4.

Having wired 11 houses over here, Western Electric finds itself becalmed with no further orders or inquiries to date.

Reason is the company's high installation price, with several native wiring systems only asking from \$1,200 to \$2,500. Latter devices are the ones bought. It is estimated that England will have around 800 theatres wired by Feb. 1.

Houses using Western Electric in the West End are the New Gallery, Piccadilly, Regal, Plaza, Empire, Riato and Tivoli. Two Manchester theatres have been equipped by W. E., as have one each in Birmingham and Glasgow.

Natives Walk on British

Singapore, Nov. 18.

Exhibitors here are asking First National to send them no more British-made pictures.

"Confetti," made by British First National, lost its entire native audience, walked out before the first reel had been run off.

Loew's Off Presentations In Gaumont Palace, Paris

Paris, Dec. 4.

Loew's has decided to discontinue the presentation policy at its Gaumont-Palace here. Stoppage will occur this month.

Tommy Dowd of New York was especially imported here to stage the presentations. He has been on this side for more than a year.

M-G's French Director

Paris, Dec. 4.

Jacques Feyder, considered among the ablest of French directors, has left for Hollywood under contract to M-G-M.

QUOTA PICTURE NOT WORKING OUT RIGHT

London, Nov. 20.

The quota picture things, through which some of the English boys who floated companies on the strength of distribution contracts with American organizations, isn't panning out to the satisfaction of either parties.

Would-be producers among the picture makers find themselves the object of stern criticism for lack of entertainment qualities in addition to other shortcomings due to lack of experience.

As a result a squawk is circulated that "what state product is marketed by travelers, the quota picture is getting by only with the edge of favoritism from the standpoint of sentiment, or is thrown in on the bargain counter providing the other product is sold on the standard valuation as before."

The consensus of opinion is that unless the product improves, there will be no renewal of contracts and the American distributors will take other means of getting their quota of pictures made.

Move on Foreign Made Film for Amateur Use

Washington, Dec. 4.

A move is seen against the importation of developed foreign made raw film by American tourists through a request from an American maker of raw stock, reputed to be Eastman's. It is that all raw stock made abroad and brought back by amateur photographers be taxed.

It is said that over 50 per cent. of visiting Americans going Europeward now take moving picture cameras with them. If curbing native manufacture, there is no duty when returning it, raw or developed. Stock bought abroad, then returned, either developed or not, is subject to duty.

The idea appears to be to oblige touring Americans to provide themselves with a sufficient supply of home-made product for their cameras before leaving this side.

It's another mark of the growing interest in amateur moving picture taking and making.

Canon Chase's Own Party

Washington, Dec. 4.

Final day of Canon Chase's sixth annual attempt to censor the movies here last week almost ended in a battle royal. The Canon decreed that anybody could talk for the Brookhart-Hudson bill but nobody against it.

Delegates representing organizations upholding Will Hays insisted on being heard and voting on the resolutions passed by the Canon.

This the Canon wouldn't stand for. Finally, after cleaning out the Mayflower ballroom, he succeeded in getting the vote he wanted.

Resolutions adopted took in the whole world. First day's session was reported in Variety last week. Then the Canon claimed this to "be their best chance in 10 years"; praised the possibilities under President-elect Hoover, and got \$3.50 per head at the gate.

WARNERS' LONDON STRIFE

Music Firm Starts Action—Comedian Claims Infringement

London, Dec. 4.

Warners is experiencing difficulties here with regard to rights on certain musical numbers for Vitaphone subjects. Boosey Music Publishing Company has taken action against WB for Martinelli's singing of "Pagliacci" without that firm's permission.

Billy Merson, comedian, has also brought action to restrain Warners from infringing his alleged copyright on his old song, "The Spaniard Who Blighted My Life."

"FOB" IN HOLLYWOOD

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Marshall McLellan's Hollywood-made picture for British and Dominion Film Corp. will be "Fob," from play by John Willard. "The Wolves," London stage success, will be the second production.

Both will be made as all dialog productions, with silent versions.

HEAVY DROP IN SALES ABROAD ON AM. FILMS

Estimated Not Over \$40,000,000 Foreign Gross Next Year

Present indications are that American picture distributors will not gross over \$40,000,000 on their foreign sales for the coming year. The foreign market has slipped as high as \$90,000,000 annually in film rentals.

The combination of foreign government barriers against American pictures, the increase in continental production with its ensuing limitation of play dates available to American pictures, added to the advent of the talking pictures as the major item on local production, is believed accountable for the outlook as seen at present by film men in touch with the foreign field. The talking films will be a big factor in the foreign loss of income.

Of the gross rentals available according to the number of theatres and play dates open, the net revenue to American producers will also be smaller, in proportion to the total sales, than ever before. This is due partly to the production abroad being undertaken by American producers, or production in which American producers are interested financially so that American pictures may be imported since pictures of this type are found unprofitable for distribution here in most instances and do not gross negative cost in Europe.

With distribution and printing expenses at all times reducing the net in foreign dealings the added cost of production abroad, combined with the smaller number of pictures distributed at practically the same overhead, leaves a smaller profit.

It is estimated that the total net profits from continental distribution will not reach \$10,000,000 for the 10 or 15 distributors interested in the foreign market, as compared with net profits of over \$35,000,000 in former years.

British-Gaumont Deal for PCT Not Yet Settled

London, Dec. 4.

Deal by British-Gaumont to acquire Provincial Cinematograph Theatres is not yet set, as consent of stockholders in the latter company must be obtained before PCT can sell.

Gaumont is understood to have offered \$12.50 per share for Standard Film Company stock and \$10 a share for other PCT stock needed to give Gaumont control.

If the deal matures it may revive attempts to form an independent exhibitors' booking combine.

Midlands Branch of Exhibitors' Association tabled a resolution introduced Nov. 21 asking the General Council to start a booking combine idea among members of association.

Portugal's 10 to 1 Quota

Washington, Dec. 4.

Latest reports from George Canty on the Portugal decree limiting the import of foreign-made films places the basis at 10 to one: for each 10 imported, one local produced must be exported.

Decree will also set censorship involving three main points: external and internal politics and anything immoral.

Vandamm's Features

London, Dec. 4.

Vivian Vandamm starts production in January on a series of program features. Trade name of Alvan has been formed by adding the first syllable of Vandamm's names with that of his partner, Fred Alfred, well known importer.

Empire theatre has thus far not named a station to fill the post of managing director vacated by Vandamm.

'Fool' at \$46,000 Beaten in Loop Lead 1st Time in 8 Wks. by 'Wk. Ends,' \$50,000

Chicago, Dec. 4. Plenty people in the Loop Thanksgiving. Without the holiday grosses would have been extra good. For no particular reason business started strong at first of the week and continued better. The seven heavy profit days brought rearrangement of houses to their customary rating, with all considerably beyond their normal grosses. 'Singing Fool' in its eighth week at McVicker's, at last relinquished first position to the 4,000-seat Chicago, which drew \$50,000 with 'Three Week Ends.' Oriental jumped to 14th regular second position with \$46,500 for 'Dream of Love' and a healthy stage show. Closely trailing third was 'Fool,' comparatively knocking them all cold when realized the \$46,000 is for the eighth week in a 2,200-seat house. 'White Shadows' went up \$2,000 in second week, taking \$24,000. 'Me, Gangster,' gave the Monroe the best week it has had this season with \$7,600; would have been booked for two weeks in the boys' known. Fourth week of 'Home Towners,' above previous week, with \$9,800, but had already released to Marbro and Granada, and 'Romance of the Underworld' and vaude were good at \$22,000 for the State-Lake. 'Submarine' finished two weeks at United Artists to unusual money. Estimates for Last Week Chicago (Publix) — 'Three Week Ends' (Par), with 'High Hat,' (50-75). Record gross-grabber took \$46,000 in eighth week. 'Monroe' (Fox) — 'Me, Gangster' (Fox) (sound) (2,200; 50-75). Two Fox underworld movies downtown, and giving Monroe best week so far this season with \$7,600; moved for further Loop showing at the Castle. Oriental (Publix) — 'Dream of Love' (M-G-M) and 'Hold Everything' (Publix) unit, (3,200; 50-75). Second of best picture here helping gross considerably; jumped to \$46,500 last week. Orpheum (Warner) — 'Home Towners' (W. B.) (sound) (760; 50). Fourth and last week better than third, with \$9,800, rounding out very good showing. Roosevelt (Publix) — 'White Shadows' (Cosmo-M-G) (sound) (1,700; 50-75). Started importantly at \$22,000, and bettered it second week with \$24,000. State-Lake (Keith) — 'Romance of Underworld' (Fox) and vaude (2,200; 50-75). Other of two Fox underworld films playing simultaneously in Loop and hold up prettily here with \$22,000. United Artists (U. A.) — 'Submarine' (Col) (sound) (1,700; 50-75). Second week, 'Fool' took in good \$48,000 in two weeks.

'Oh Kay' Not So Hot, But 'Romance,' \$25,000

Washington, Dec. 4. (White Pop, 350,000) About the only one the holiday didn't help was Colleen Moore's 'Oh Kay.' Another demonstration that if the picture is right, even a sure money-getting star won't do it. Others benefited materially. Fox went up \$6,000 over previous week; Palace, \$4,000; Columbia, \$3,000, and Met, \$1,000. Estimates for Last Week Columbia (Loew) — 'Woman Disputed' (sound) (U. A.) (1,322; 35-50). Excellent, \$13,800. Earle (Stanley-Crandall) — 'Oh Kay' (sound) (P. N.) (2,244; 35-50). Only disappointment; no flop, but so far from what expected from Colleen Moore after 'Lilac Time' made \$13,500 all the harder to take. Fox (Fox) — 'Romance of Underworld' (sound) (U. A.) and stage (3,432; 35-50). 'Everything' created favorable comment. Gave house top of town; \$25,000. Met (Stanley-Crandall) — 'Home Towners' (sound) (W. B.) (1,518; 35-50). First week slow starting, but started to build, never stopping, ran up second week bigger than first, \$31,000. Loew (Loew) — 'Masks of Devil' (sound) (M-G) and stage (2,372; 35-50). Big week to \$21,600.

'Fool' Couldn't H. O. In Topeka; Pulled

Topeka, Dec. 4. (Draw Pop, 800,000) Weather: Rain Rainy weather Thanksgiving Day failed to help business much, but the only cheering thing was that the tabloids are getting the money. Dark Sundays cool off the fans on any picture, and 'Singing Fool' was no exception. Held over for three days with a hope that it would go a second week at the Grand, the talker didn't do half the business it did its three opening days, and was pulled for 'State Street Sadie,' opening Thanksgiving. Rumors afloat as to what is to be of the Novelty. With straight vaudeville falling off rapidly last spring, the house recently rebranded to tabloids, but they failed to carry the house through the summer. Vaudefilm started Labor Day, but have been steadily losing favor until last week, even with a holiday gross was not enough to pay off the kitty. They got paid, but out of the kitty. Estimates for Last Week Grand (1,400; 50) (National) — 'Singing Fool' broke all records opening week, but went way of all of them on holdover. Pulled Thursday. 'State Street Sadie' got better by \$4,000. 'Fool' got \$1,500 of that. Jayhawk (1,500; 40) (Jayhawk) — 'Battle of Sexes' had no stage show and needed plenty of help. 'Me, Gangster,' last half, with stage act, helped finish week at about normal \$3,000. Novelty (1,100; 40) (Crawford) — New show record. Caused chiefly by failure of feature acts to fill contracts, management says. 'Out of the Ruins,' first half, pleased, and 'The Red Dance,' second half, slumped, making total \$1,200. Orpheum (1,200; 30) (National) — Bert Humphries Erevities, with two big supporting acts, 'The Frog' and 'King Cowboy,' surprised even management; \$1,800. Cozy (400; 25) (Lawrence) — 'Singing Fool' got some play on little, but fell below normal. 'Hold 'Em Yale,' brought take to normal, \$800. Best (550; 20) (Lawrence) — Stock vaude with stunt nights fell off from week before, but cleared away with \$900.

'Shadows' in Tacoma Goes To Good Gross at \$4,600

Tacoma, Dec. 4. (Drawing Population, 125,000) Weather: Cloudy Ken competition for downtown biz continues with two new managers on the ground, Monte Salmon for West Coast and Miller for Panjantes. Blue Mouse hitting fairly well with the aid of the all-talker, 'Home Towners.' Estimates for Last Week Broadway (WC) (1,500; 25-50) — 'Me Gangster' (Fox). Cut to 50c. Panjantes (1,500; 25-50) — 'Anybody Seen Kelly' (1); \$6,000. Blue Mouse (Hamrick) (1,500; 50-75) — 'Woman Disputed' (U. A.). Second week; \$3,500. Rialto (WC) (1,250; 25-35-50) — 'White Shadows' (MGM). Big at \$4,600. Colonial (WC) (550; 25) — 'Disaster in Paris' (Fox). Good book-keeping for this house. Showed it at \$2,700. Great here.

COSTUMES FOR HIRE PRODUCTIONS REPTILES PRESENTATIONS BROOKS 123 W. 40th St. N.Y.C.

Fannie Brice Didn't Hold Up Biz at Met

Boston, Dec. 4. (Drawing Population, 850,000) Weather: Fair Holiday and week end put the picture business here over with a smash last week. The holiday gave the houses a chance to tilt the prices up a bit and the customers did not kick at all. For the most part the bills were satisfactory for big business. Some complaint was held by the customers any near Fannie Brice's appearance at the Metropolitan. It was pointed out that she was not exactly the type of star for a house which has seating capacity of 4,000 with the back of the house about a quarter of a mile from the stage. There was much kicking about her voice not carrying beyond the front seats. As a result not the woe side might have been. Went over to the tune of \$22,000 for the first three days but business then slid and the best for the week was \$43,400. At the Keith Memorial the second best week since the opening with \$35,000. Good \$5,000 better than the week before. While the Keith Memorial is doing this big business the Keith-Ibbs theatre, lower priced and playing more of the pop style of vaudefilm, also pulling them in for \$28,000. This house hasn't suffered any way near as much as anticipated through the opening of the newer and bigger house. Seems to be plenty of business for both if the bookers will only send on the bill for them to show. State, Loew's big uptown house, up with the leaders at \$27,000 with 'King of Kings' (Pathe) reissued with grand effects. Estimates for Last Week Met (4,000; 50-60-75) 'Manhattan Cocktail' (Par) picture, feature. Fannie Brice, stage depended upon for big business; \$43,400, no big. Keith-Memorial (vaudefilm; 3,000; 50-75). Second highest gross for the week; \$35,000. Gain of \$8,000 over week before. 'Outcast' as picture. Keith-Albee (vaudefilm; 3,000; 35-50). Gain of \$28,000. 'Annapolis' (Pathe) picture. State (4,000; 50-65). About \$16,400 for week with 'Kings of Kings' (Pathe) reissued with grand effects. Olympic and Fenway — Seem to have another big hit here with 'The Terror' (Warners).

'Wired Trial' Starts Well In Seattle to \$11,500

Seattle, Dec. 4. (Drawing Population, 500,000) Weather: Cool Starting this week Seattle (Publix) is divorced from West Coast (5th Ave. and Coliseum) with Charles Hall, head man for W. C., and Bob Eber, Publix pilot. Biz in slump last week. Attractions better than average, but Christmas spirit brewing. Panjantes opened after week's close down to enlarge booth for sound. May need another dark week later on, with sound to open in about three weeks. Estimates for Last Week Seattle (WC-Pub-L) (3,100; 35-60) — 'Me Gangster' (Fox), Fancher & Marco 'Oriental' high class. Good show; \$14,000. Fifth Ave. (W. C.) (3,500; 35-60) — 'Masks of Devil' (MGM). Clever picture; good impression; \$16,000. Coliseum (WC) (1,800; 25) — 'Disaster in Paris' (Fox). Biz here. Blue Mouse (Hamrick) (950; 50-75) — 'Woman Disputed' (U. A.). Wired. Heavy hailstorm by Vic Quant, publicity for Hamrick's shows; \$19,500. Music Box (Hamrick) (1,000; 50-75) — 'On Trial' (WB). Wired. Biz opening after eight weeks of 'Fool'. All talker; \$11,500. Winter Garden (650; 25) (U. A.) — 'Rising the Wind' (U. A.). Panjantes (1,500; 25-60) — 'The Apache' (Col). First week after close down for wiring. Also first week for new manager, Earl Cook. First week; \$8,000. Orpheum (2,700; 25-51) — 'Sal of Singapore' (Pathe). Vaude billed above picture; \$29,300. President (Publix) (1,800; 25-51-25) — 'Duffy' (Duffy Players). Up to minute new comedy okay. Frances Dale and Donald Foster open next Tuesday and Kenneth Dalgarno excellent in this play. Biz light; \$3,800.



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THE GREENBIER

means magic to those who are accustomed to Continental elegance, the sumptuousness of the Orient, the sports of St. Moritz and St. Andrews.

A MEYER DAVIS ORCHESTRA is playing its fifth consecutive year at THE GREENBIER.

'Fools' Rage Lifts Up All St. L. Trade

St. Louis, Dec. 4. (Drawing Population, 1,250,000) Weather: Clear With 'Singing Fool' sweeping everything before it in the way of crowds, local picture theatregoers seemed last week to have caught the fever general. Result was a good week for all the big houses and the neighborhood leaders. Estimates for Last Week Ambassador (Sturges) (3,000; 35-50-65-75) — 'Outcast' and 'Ed Lowry' stage show. Corinne Griffith well liked. 'Red' Terhune, Zep show-during, and Lowry had a lot of fun during stage show; \$31,000. Grand-Central (Skouras) (1,700; 50-75) — 'On Trial' (W. B.) — Talker; \$18,200. Midtown (Skouras) (1,400; 50-75) — 'Singing Fool' (W. B.). Second week, sell out; \$30,200. Missouri (Skouras) (3,800; 35-50-65-75) — 'Adoration' (Milton Soper, Missouri's organizer, stepped into m. c. role and hit. 'Red Grange' starred in the stage show, but his recent court unpleasantness kept him from getting much play. 'Red' was much liked; \$23,700. Loew's State (3,300; 25-35-65) — 'Show People' (M-G-M). Stage show abandoned some time since; \$17,200. St. Louis (4,280; 35-65) — 'Sal of Singapore' and vaude. Capitol (Skouras) — 'Lilac Time,' popular talker. This theatre has been on the up-and-go recently.

Montreal's Wired Palace Off at \$16,000 Gross

Montreal, Dec. 4. (Draw Pop, 600,000) Weather: Cool Grosses did little better than previous week. Wired Palace topping the heap but not showing inuch. Opening of hockey season, with three evenings a week packing them in at the theatre for the big games, likely helps in accounting for drop. 'The Red Dance' at Palace failed to get by, probably because there have been too many Russian revolution pictures in this city of late months. Gross at \$16,000 not good enough for this house. Capitol held to previous weeks gross at \$15,000 in effective costuma picture, 'The Awakening.' 'Her Cardboard Lover' went over well at Loew's, but this one with vaude end of the program. While gross below previous week at \$14,500, good enough. Imperial played a better vaude show than picture, and 'Waterfront' was little better than filler. Around \$8,500. Neighborhoods show slight drop. Estimates for Last Week Palace (FP) (2,700; 45-75) — 'Red Dancer' (Fox). Wired. Too much Russian revolution lately. Light gross at \$16,000. Considering what this house has been getting. Capitol (FP) (2,700; 40-60) — 'The Awakening' (U. A.). 'Lilac Time' Banky had costar in this one. Gross same as previous week at \$15,000. Loew's (FP) (3,200; 35-75) — 'Her Cardboard Lover' (M-G-M). Vaude out left from previous week, due to opposition. Good vaude fitted to bring picture beyond \$14,500. Imperial (Keith) (1,900; 25-50) — 'Waterfront' (WB). Vaudefilm. Vaude took it all. \$8,500. Strand (U. A.) (800; 30-40) — Triple change. \$3,000. Empress (U. A.) (1,500; 25-35) — Triple change; \$2,000.

'Shadows' in Tacoma Goes To Good Gross at \$4,600

Tacoma, Dec. 4. (Drawing Population, 125,000) Weather: Cloudy Ken competition for downtown biz continues with two new managers on the ground, Monte Salmon for West Coast and Miller for Panjantes. Blue Mouse hitting fairly well with the aid of the all-talker, 'Home Towners.' Estimates for Last Week Broadway (WC) (1,500; 25-50) — 'Me Gangster' (Fox). Cut to 50c. Panjantes (1,500; 25-50) — 'Anybody Seen Kelly' (1); \$6,000. Blue Mouse (Hamrick) (1,500; 50-75) — 'Woman Disputed' (U. A.). Second week; \$3,500. Rialto (WC) (1,250; 25-35-50) — 'White Shadows' (MGM). Big at \$4,600. Colonial (WC) (550; 25) — 'Disaster in Paris' (Fox). Good book-keeping for this house. Showed it at \$2,700. Great here.

'My Man' at Warner's

Fanny Brice's 'My Man' will succeed 'On Trial' at the Warner's New York Dec. 21.

PROVIDENCE CAPACITY

'Mask' With Gilbert \$23,000 at Loew's State Providence, Dec. 4. (Drawing Population, 315,000) Weather: Fair The drawing power of the sheikhan Gilbert made itself felt last week at Loew's State, which elicked with bette than \$23,000. Estimates for Last Week Loew's State (3,800; 20-50) 'Mask of Devil,' (M-G-M). Capacity at \$23,000. Majestic (Fay) (2,400; 15-50) 'Fazil' (Fox); \$12,200. Very good. Strand (Ind) (2,200; 15-50) 'Night Watch' (FN). O. K.; over \$10,000. Victory (Ketting) (1,500; 15-50) 'Hit of Show' (PBO). Well liked; \$8,000.

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Minnesota, \$32,800, and Hennepin, \$17,500, Big

Minneapolis, Dec. 4. (Draw Pop, 500,000) Weather: Favorable Prosperity hold full sway along the local rialto last week. Business boomed everywhere. Strong attractions and the holiday combined to make for the exceptionally big grosses. The week started out slowly enough, but gained terrific momentum. Minnesota, as usual, set the pace, with the Hennepin-Orpheum running a pretty second. Both had one of their very best weeks in many months. 'Show Girl,' at the Minnesota, cleverly exploited by Manager Ed Smith, drew from the outset. All-around good show helped to \$32,800. Frank N. Phelps also landed the exploitation of his 'Masks of Devil' picture, 'Masks of the Devil' in faultless fashion. Although not particularly well liked by audiences, it proved a money-maker of a class. In this instance, too, a corking vaude bill figured. 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' gave the State a notable week, but did not exhibit sufficient strength to warrant a holdover. At \$16,900, it fell below hopes. 'Midnight Taxi,' good enough, did not do much for the Strand. Estimates for Last Week Minnesota (F. & R.-Publix) (4,200; 75) — 'Show Girl' (F. N.) and 'Bitter Sweet' (Warners); Publix unit. Picture scored smashing hit. Stage show made fine impression. One of best all-around programs house has had in months. One of biggest weeks in months. State (F. & R.-Publix) (2,500; 60) — 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' (U). Pulled profitable biz, but not big as expected and failed to hold over for second week. Good play from improvisers' matinees. \$16,900. Improvement over recent weeks. State (F. & R.-Publix) (1,500; 50) — 'Midnight Taxi' (Warner). Picture okeh in quality but lacked particular box-office value. \$4,500. Good and steady. Hennepin (Keith) (2,800; 40-60) — 'Masks of Devil' (M-G-M) and vaude. Unusually good show, although picture, first of the show. Picture, first of the show, did not make overly good impression. Gilbert magnet and title and exploitation helped. About \$17,500. Second biggest week in this house. Did not make next year's opening over a year ago. 'Lyric' (F. & R.-Publix) (1,300; 35) — 'Out of Ruins' (F. N.). First Barthelme picture. First of the show. Minnesota and State in some time. Star asset here and film went over moderately well. Around \$2,500. Good. Panjantes (1,600; 25-50) — 'Stood Pigeon' and vaude. Oliver Borden helped to draw. Freak vaudeville headliner real magnet. \$6,500.

'Terror,' 2d Wk. \$15,000, Leads in Portland

Portland, Ore., Dec. 4. Rearrangement of the personnel and a change of local leading film houses started this week, with the Portland reverting to Publix management and the Broadway to the West Coast. Little change in policy. Broadway will continue with Fox talks. Portland is to remain supplemented with Fanchon and Marco stage revues. Portland had record day Thanksgiving, going to \$9,000. 'The Terror' at Hamrick's Blue Mouse ran for second week and will be held. Hellig had two road shows, 'Ken Geki,' Jap dramatic company, and return of 'Rose Marie.' Estimates for Last Week Portland (Publix) (3,500; 35-60) — 'Me Gangster' film. Usual undercurrent. 'The Awakening' (U. A.) — Marco's stage idea. 'River' Geno Morgan, new band leader and m.c. \$14,000. Broadway (West Coast) (2,000; 35-50) — 'The Show' (Gandy film with sound. George Bernard Shaw on talking shorts. \$13,500. Panjantes (2,000; 35-50) — 'Anybody Seen Kelly' (1). Vaude picture, 'The Apache.' \$12,000. Oriental (Tebbetts) (2,700; 25-35) — 'Angel of Broadway' first two days. Picture changed to 'Tragedy of Youth' for rest of week. Only fair. \$8,000. United Artists (Parker-W. C.) (1,900; 25-50) — 'White Shadows' (WB). \$7,000. Music Box (Hamrick) (2,000; 35-50) — 'Wired. Second big week of 'Fool' (WB). \$6,000. Blue Mouse (Hamrick) (1,200; 25-35) — 'Midnight Taxi' (wired. Steady business. \$3,500. 'The Show' (Gandy) (1,100; 25-35) — 'Daddies'. Did well at \$4,000. Heilig (2,000; 50-62-50) — 'Imperial Japanese' (Theatrical company gave 'Ken-Geki,' two days getting around \$2,500. Last three days return of 'Rose Marie' — picture show, to \$5,000 including Thanksgiving.

'SOUND' GROSSES NORMAL

'THE PICTURE' IS STILL THE DRAW

Survey by Variety's Correspondents Discloses Talkers Have Failed in Main to Increase Bulk Grosses for Downtown Houses—Matter of Sound for B. O. Now as Silents Were

KEY CITY REPORTS

Answering a request, Variety's correspondents in the key cities listed report that the sound picture has failed to increase the bulk grosses, in the majority, of downtown picture theatres.

The gist of the reports is that the talking picture at present has reverted to the former status of the silent film, when "The Picture" was the draw, a condition that again prevails.

This survey relates of course to the present picture house situation. As former theatres are wired in towns unused to talkers, the novelty aspect may present itself for a while, as with the present limited crop of wired houses.

New York.

Sound along Broadway has meant more for \$2 than at the regular grind prices. Exception is the Strand which has unquestionably boosted its weekly gross average a third since eliminating its stage stunt for all-screen and sound programs.

Neither sound or dialog has meant much on the other sites, the Paramount and Roxy being the only theatres to have dialog in feature, and that as brief as inter-mittent. All have practically had synchronized sound pictures for which the week's figures left no doubt that it was the quality of the feature, and not the sound, which raised or lowered the total.

New phase of film making hasn't pulled more to downtown than was formerly noticeable, possibly because the big theatres all have good sized orchestras and the recording still suffers on a direct comparison. Here, the Strand is again the exception through holding its pit music to a minimum. It is the one house that has firmly entrenched itself on sound programs, the Roxy making its first real stab, and successfully, the past week in featuring two talking shorts without a full length film on the program.

Boxoffice money, for talkers, has mainly gone to the theatres playing twice daily performances. Warners being the first example, then the Winter Garden and now the Criterion and Astor are also to the front.

Chicago.

Average weekly total gross of Loop picture houses has increased around \$25,000 since installation of wiring.

One year ago the average total gross for the Chicago, Wickliffe, Monroe, Oriental, Orpheum, Roosevelt and State-Lake was \$148,000. Now it is \$173,000, with all but the Salt-Lake, wired. United Artists, also wired, not included, as it opened this year.

Individual study of comparative grosses now and a year ago indicates that houses previously with silent programs and no stage entertainment are benefited mostly by wiring. Sound pictures have caused little or no increase of grosses in houses with stage policies, although in some cases sound may have helped the houses retain its old gross in competition with the straight wired houses.

As an example of the benefits of average sound pictures, the Or-

pheum has held all but one synchronized film for more than one week, whereas in its silent days pictures of program quality were in most cases good for only seven days.

San Francisco.

With a single exception, wiring for sound has spelled lower revenues for Market street de luxe houses, based on actual draw of synchronized or dialog pictures. Exception is W. B. Wagner's Embassy, which with a straight policy of Warner Bros. sound features and Vitaphone shorts exclusively has clicked for a year or more to substantial profits. This house began going under the Wagner banner in November, 1927, was a second and third run grind, so comparisons are out of two weekly change de moods. Estimates for last week show that houses downtown, neighborhood houses have suffered, but it is a question if the sound pictures were to blame, other than curiosity which drew customers to the Embassy time and time again. A general depression has been over the town for six months, with the picture fans "shopping". Embassy, through its two Al Jolson pictures, "The Jazz Singer," some months ago, and "The Singing Fool," recently, has firmly established itself. Ordinary sound features did not click so well.

Boston.

It is stated here that houses playing sound and talking pictures have materially increased their grosses over the comparative period of silent films.

Whether the bulk grosses for the picture houses have increased during this time is doubtful. There is evidence of the talkers having made new trade.

Topeka.

The big sound pictures get business and the ordinary synchronized programs have been in the Grand, Topeka's only wired house, did less business with "The Lights of New York" than the Jayhawk did with a silent screen. This week while the crowds were being turned away from the Grand, the Jayhawk fell way down.

About the only thing that can be said as true regarding the talkers here is that they seem to have ruined the town for vaudeville.

Washington.

Wired or not wired the situation stands locally as heretofore. If it's a good picture, it gets money. Check discloses, that though the bulk grosses of the five downtown houses may be slightly higher since the wiring in general the previous period did not have the pictures nor the "names" to conjure with.

Providence.

Providence is cashing on sound, grosses having been lifted anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000 weekly.

Minneapolis.

With the novelty now worn off, the public is buying talking and synchronized pictures with the same discrimination exercised toward the non-sound product.

This is according to Edmond R. Ruben of F. & R. (Publix). "When the sound pictures first came on the market they proved a tremendous stimulus to business regardless of their merits," said Mr. Ruben. "Our houses like the Strand and Grand in Minneapolis, which had been averaging in the neighborhood of \$12,000 and \$4,000, respectively, jumped to \$16,000 and \$7,000."

"The situation today, however is different: A sound-picture now has to be good in order to draw trade. An ordinary talking or synchronized offering doesn't mean anything more to the box-office than a non-sound picture, and the bad sound attractions fall as badly as the soundless stuff which lacks merit."

"However, an outstanding synchronized and talking picture today will draw from 35 to 50 per cent more

Warfield Oke, \$28,000; "Abie," \$14,000, 2d Wk.

San Francisco, Dec. 4. (Drawing Population, 756,000) Weather: Fair

West Coast's final week of operation of the three Publix houses here didn't mean much for them. Granada, California and the St. Francis continued in the doldrums. Starting currently, Publix is operating their trio.

Warfield had another profitable week but the California didn't hold strong on the second week of "Abie's Irish Rose." Intake, however, sufficient to show neat profit. St. Francis, with extended run of "Lilac Time," recently, the California likewise failed to pan out and film will be yanked midweek for "White Shadows" (M-G).

Embassy continued to click and fifth week of "Singing Fool" up to expectations. Jolson opus has three weeks to go, then makes way for "Home Towners."

Estimates for Last Week

Warfield (Loew-WC) "Romance of Underworld" (Fox) (2,672; 50-65-90). Excellent week end and holiday business; near \$28,000. Granada (Publix-WC) "Manhattan Cocktail" (Par) (2,785; 50-65-91). Picture didn't mean a thing; \$17,000, bad.

Embassy (Wagner) "Singing Fool" (Vita) (1,367; 60-65-90). Fifth week healthy at \$15,000; three to go.

California (Publix-WC) "Abie's Irish Rose" (Par) (2,200; 65-90). Customers not too plentiful on second week; out after this week; \$14,000, fair.

St. Francis (Publix-WC) "Lilac Time" (FN) (1,375; 35-65-90). Barely hit \$6,500, but low net probably allowed slight profit; going out for "White Shadows," also second run.

business at the Minnesota or State

than a correspondingly good non-exceptionally good silent picture formerly might gross around \$20,000 at the State, the sound offering will do from \$25,000 to \$28,000 now. A particularly pleasing sound picture can be counted upon to gross as much as \$5,000 more than a correspondingly good silent one. The short sounds don't seem to mean much to the court."

Baltimore.

With sound novelty off, grosses have been slipping back to pre-sound basis.

Toronto.

Three months' trial has shown that business in wired houses has been at least third greater than average under silent policy without cutting in on b. o. average at PP silent houses.

Tivoli, Toronto, on price increase of 50 per cent has more than doubled attendance, with b. o. grosses almost 75 per cent higher than under non-sound policy.

Portland, Ore.

Although Portland grosses have risen considerably since the introduction of talking pictures, there are contributing factors other than sound pictures which may have had weight.

During the past year Portland grosses have risen from around \$60,000 to about \$85,000 for downtown houses each week. While this increase is due to the introduction of sound pictures, it is likely that the latter have played only a part in the general improvement. The opening of three new modern film houses with intensive exploitation have been the most dominating contributing factor.

Montreal.

Palace, only wired house. Silent pictures up to last July. Top gross would be \$20,000. Since wiring is contemporary with the Palace, gross has run as high as \$30,000.

Due to overflow from Palace, all downtown silent theatres have benefited.

Especially has this been the case when the Palace has held a sound picture over for a second week. It seems that the introduction of wired films has created new clientele for pictures or has tapped a source of patrons which only occasionally visit films but are now patronizing them more regularly.

Roxy's 1st All-Talking Short Bill Did Big Holiday Week at \$116,800

Mid-week holiday, Thanksgiving pushed things along and, with the two big football games in town during the last half, it accelerated grosses to a satisfactory finish. Annual exhibition of the week was the Roxy and its duo of featured talking shorts, "The Bath Between" (two reels) and "Napoleon's Barber" (three reels). House twinged with its advertising and the opening week end was heavy, but the shorts proved their staying power when the final total went to \$116,800. Wouldn't have been as high without the holiday, but that the novel program would have come to six figures anyway demonstrates the idea is okay for occasional use.

Gilbert took a new hold on his former following with "Masks of Devil" (Grand) going to \$31,400, but Loew didn't hold M-G's heavy lever a second week. Something of a critical spot for Gilbert, as a lot of the shorts were bound to lose interest. But picture showed strength and if the star can dodge a relapse U. A. apparently made a good deal. "The Bath Between" and "Napoleon's Barber" also gathered some neat coin at the Strand in doing \$39,400. Paramount climbed a little, although far short of what it should have done. "Gang Holiday" week with "Manhattan Cocktail" doing \$69,500, finished at the Rialto to \$22,700, and "Woman Disputed" bettered its second week somewhat at the Rivoli for \$21,500. The midweek Cameo's war film, "The Somme," caught \$8,500 and is holding over. "Gang Holiday" and "The Somme" had good weeks at the Colony to \$13,100.

Big Attractions.

Twice daily attractions, mostly talkers, picked up in Turkey Day, although most had been substantial on the normal weeks. "Singing Fool" is still doubling the gross of its nearest competitor, "Lilac Time," being the runner-up at \$20,750 on the Astor's screen. "Interference" stayed at capacity maybe a bit better, in \$17,800, and "The Barke" claimed \$19,900, reported leaving Warners for "My Man," due Dec. 21. "Lilac Time" did around \$13,000 on slight up days. "The Barke" coming to the Central tonight (Wednesday). "Four Devils" increased for \$10,400 at the Gateway. Having opened on Wednesday of last week, "The Viking" gave the Embassy \$7,800 by the end of the week.

Estimates for Last Week

Astor—"Jimmy Valentine" (M-G) dialog (1,120; \$1-\$2) (4th week). Holiday helped all along street; this one no exception and heavy at \$20,750.

Cameo—"The Somme" (New Era) (549; 60-75) (2d week). War film started off to excellent \$8,500; holding over.

Capitol—"Masks of Devil" (M-G)

Philadelphia, Dec. 4.

Combination of new pictures, many of them strong draws, and the "Thanksgiving" influx, beginning Philadelphia's downtown picture houses have had this season with "The Stanley" got the best call with "Slow People." Got something like \$37,000.

Fox was runner up, with "Romance of the Underworld." Grossed around \$29,000.

Estimate for Last Week

Stanley (4,000; 35-50-75) "Slow People" (M-G-M) led town. Stage show hit over \$37,000.

Stanton (1,700; 35-50-75) "White Shadows" (M-G-M, 2d week). Disappointment here, although held up by holiday last week at \$14,000.

Fox (3,000; 50) "Romance of Underworld" (Fox). Picture well liked but show bill not noteworthy. \$33,000 highest in some time.

Fox-Loew (1,000; \$1) "Red Dance" (Fox, 3d week). Has begun to show strength. Last week got \$17,000.

Palace (1,500; 50-75) "Varsity" (Par, 2d week). Not as big as expected.

Karlton (1,000; 50-75) "Home Towners" (W.C.) in first week caught on nicely. Notices amounted to raves. Almost \$9,000, high.

Little (216; 60-75) "Secrets of Soul" (New Era) for holiday business, but drew usual strong clientele and grossed about \$4,000.

Arcadia (800; 50) "Mornin' of Minnie" (Par, 1st week) picture here came as a little surprise. Did well with \$5,500 claimed. Held over.

sound (4,020; 35-50-75-\$1-\$1.50). Okay with \$31,400 and local trade belief is that Gilbert needed it; holiday swelled gross, probably reason for no second week.

Central—"Lilac Time" (FN) sound (922; \$1-\$2). Eight-day 17th and final week for around \$18,000; out with "The Barke" (FN) arriving tonight (Wednesday). Colleen Moore film had nice run, staying longer than expected.

Colony—"Gang War" (PBO) dialog (1,980; 60-65-75-\$1). Here for on second week; good for this house. "Show Folks." Par dialog film, eight weeks.

Criterion—"Interference" (Par) dialog (861; \$1-\$2) (3d week). Little over capacity at \$17,800; at present pace can easily make eight weeks.

Embassy—"The Viking" (M-G) (595; \$1-\$2) (2d week). Robbed mid-week and saw \$7,800, robust feature with silent and sound version due shortly; natural color picture.

Gateway—"Four Devils" (Fox) sound (808; \$1-\$2) (10th week). Jumped up with new shorts, but stage success hasn't as yet but believed to be "The River" or Fox's talking western, "Arizona."

Paramount—"Manhattan Cocktail" (Par) dialog (3,616; 40-65-75-\$5-\$1). Detoured previous week by around \$4,000 but not what house should be doing; \$69,500, with holiday, rather than \$60,000.

Rialto—"Vings" (Par) sound (1,960; 35-50-75-\$5-\$1). Finished fifth week to \$22,700; not quite as strong as anticipated, but tremendous across street at \$2; "Sins of the Father" (Par) current.

Rivoli—"Woman Disputed" (UA) sound (2,200; 35-50-75-\$1) (4th week). \$21,500 on semi-final to slightly beat preceding week; Talking madge film out this week for "Revenge" (Napoleon's Barber) and "The Bath Between" (Fox) dialog (6,205; 60-75-\$1-\$1.50). Two Fox Movietone silent shorts with stage production principally arranged as prologue to featured three reeler "Napoleon's Barber"; novel idea probably will be used about once every three months if shorts warrant it; went heavy on daily ads at start, opening week end big with holiday, \$116,800.

Strand—"Outcast" (FN) sound (2,900; 35-50-65-75). Corinne Griffith film enjoyed solid intake at \$39,400.

Warners—"On Trial" (WB) dialog (1,300; \$1-\$2) (3d week). Holding smartly and claimed \$19,900; "My Man" (WB) here Dec. 21.

Winter Garden—"Singing Fool" (WB) dialog (1,433; \$1-\$2-\$3) (12th week). Isn't dropped off and week end demand still tremendous; another \$44,000.

Phila's Stanley, \$37,000 to Fox's \$33,000 Holiday Wk.

"Submarine" Gives Indie Big \$22,000 in Buffalo.

Buffalo, Dec. 14. (Drawing Pop., 500,000) Weather: Rainy

Business spurted last week after the calm of the week preceding. Heavy features with holiday sure-fire.

Estimates for Last Week

Buffalo (Publix) (3,600; 30-40-75) "Masks of Devil" (M-G-M) stage show. Coiding all around bill. \$30,000.

Hipp (Publix) (2,400; 60) "Show People" (M-G-M) and vande. Up again after fortnight's slump. \$21,000.

Great Lakes (Fox) (3,400; 30-40-75) "Mother Knows Best" (Fox). "Two Tars" (M-G-M). Splendid show to good business. Estimated \$17,000.

Lafayette (Indie) (3,000; 40-60) "Submarine" (Columbia) and vaude. Picture natural here and sent gross soaring. Great business at \$22,000.

Cast of "Pale Colors": George O'Brien, Luis Moran, Phillips Smalley, Lonsden Hale, Hedwiga Reicher, Duke Martin, James Tilling directors. Fox.

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome for \$10 Year's Subscription to Variety

Par at New Top, 56; Loew Under Way, Goes to 65 1/2; Keith Slumps, 42

Operator in KLO Couldn't Hurdle 10 Percent Money and Nervous Outside Traders—Pathe Dips, but Holds Around 11 and 27—Keith Lost Million

Keith and Paramount, the only two stocks in the amusement group that have kept their feet on the ground and refused to be stampeded, came into their reward beginning yesterday. In early trading Paramount touched a new top for all time at 56 (equivalent of 168 for the old stock) in enormous trading. Fox also climbed 4 to 101.

Loew was abreast getting up to 65 1/2, its best since the stock dividend of 25 per cent was taken off. Loew dealings were not so big and size of transactions in smaller units. At the same moment Keith at 42 and Radio-Keith-Orpheum struck its bottom since the balloon ascension week before last. There was a feeling that the reported campaign for distribution had merely halted, the sponsors being unwilling to take a chance on bidding up prices with money at 10 per cent for the third session and the outside ticker crowd leery over the lean rate and a broker's loan account that is beginning to look down on the roof of the Woolworth building.

Some people believe that the R-K-O campaign isn't over yet and there will be further demonstrations. Situations here is confused. Short lines have been put up above 50. Around 42 there is likely to be a good deal of bear profit taking. Also there is a chance that the campaign manager may make a bold stroke to run in shorts. In any event it looks as though this Keith deal is going to have some task in putting its stock far up, for it does look like an attractive sale at high levels, since the bankers have a ship load of stock—maybe two ship loads—and shorts don't have to worry about paying dividends.

Pathe Cold

The Pathe thing seems to have gone cold for the present. Running Pathe common up in the face of this market is a he-man undertaking. It looks like outside speculative frenzy is quickly cooling. Lots of dabblers are in this market much higher than Monday's levels and they are going around making motions with a rabbit's foot.

Move in Paramount and Loew's was more than overdue. Paramount hasn't taken part in the recent upswing. In three months since the split up it had moved only from a low of 49 to a steady range between 51 and 52. Same is true of Loew. It had gone in more than six months the conservative distance from 50 to 60. With everything else sky rocketing, these two standard issues were bound to do something sooner or later. Yesterday's advance of about 1/2 each was in the face of high money and an irregular market. If a real forward swing should come along about this time, they would be pretty sure to go considerably further.

Warner Bros. did the expected, which is to say the most unexpected by moving from around 127 to 133 Monday, in spite of 10 per cent.

money and a drastic decline among the big industrial leaders throughout the list. It looked like bravado, although this stock is so closely held it can do anything its sponsors dictate. Yesterday the 134-135 level was held fairly well. Time for converting the old A stock into the new common expired last week. If any body was asleep at the switch, he gets \$2 for 1. Prediction is that an inspired bull drive may be undertaken now that the stock is all in one form whenever, or if ever, a market situation develops to permit a campaign. After that, it's any body's guess. Meanwhile Warner stockholders met yesterday in William Stanley deal. They will meet again next week to hold an election.

Warners' Stanley Offer

This brings up a curious situation. Stanley on the Warner offer for conversion and cash, ought to hold on a basis of 43 for Stanley against 100 for Warner common. At Monday's price for Warner, Stanley sold down to 42 instead of holding to parity around 53. When the Warner offer was published Stanley jumped from a low in the 30's to a peak of 69. Warner stockholders yesterday approved the Stanley purchase.

Keith financial statement was published during the thick of the push up, revealing a net loss in the consolidated income account of a little over \$1,000,000 from Jan. 1 to August, 1928. That checked the rise for the time being, but it was resumed later. Idea was probably that that headache showing had to be gotten out of the way, and maybe the best time to do it was while a hot bull campaign was on.

If a stock zooms, outsiders, and insiders, too, for that matter, are often blind to such trifles as statements. Witness Canadian Marconi, that jumped from 6 to 28 while its net per share stood at 2 cents for the year on the statement of its head.

Radio Corporation of America was still wild yesterday, going from 377 to 397, back to 392, and then in a delirious whirl to a new top of 410. Price movements here mean nothing. When they catch a short they skin him, the stock being a facsimile of Bakewin Locomotive, both tight corners horse high and hog tite, especially hog tite.

Radio-Keith published an offer to take up Orpheum and K-A-O stock still outstanding on the following basis: Radio-K-O Class A stock in ratio of three-for-one for K-A-O preferred; share for share for K-A-O common; two R-K-O for one old Orpheum preferred and old Orpheum common share for share. Old K-A-O preferred touched a high of 160 last week. It was low at under 80 six months ago. Yesterday under 80 six months ago. Yesterday under 80 six months ago. Yesterday under 80 six months ago.

Exhib Taxed \$7,000 by Film Board for Breach

Albany (N. Y.) Film Board of Trade has handed down a verdict in the case brought before it by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Fox against J. Beck, exhibitor of Liberty, N. Y. The exhib will have to pay the plaintiffs \$7,000 damages. Beck was charged with contract violation and of violating the copyright law. He screened 10 of the M-G-M comedies and four Fox features, holding them over for extra days, and subsequently exhibited on days not permitted by his exchange contract.

Attorney Louis Nizer, representing the plaintiffs, cited the double violation. He screened 10 of the M-G-M comedies and four Fox features, holding them over for extra days, and subsequently exhibited on days not permitted by his exchange contract.

GOLDSTEINS NOT SELLING

An emphatic denial G-B Theatres intends to dispose of its interests was made here by Nathan E. Goldstein, president. Instead of selling, it was announced that the Goldstein Brothers will build. The Goldsteins have 21 theatres in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island.

ADDING DIALOG TO 2

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. First National has turned the completed prints of "Weary River" starring Richard Barthelmess and "The Captive Woman" starring Milton Sills over to the Warner Vitaphone studios where dialog and sound effects will be added. This will be Barthelmess' first attempt at adding dialog to pictures.

Fear Death for Theatre Man Missing Since Nov. 13

Pontiac, Mich., Dec. 4. Reward of \$1,000 is being offered for the body of A. J. Kleist, Jr., missing since Nov. 13. Kleist came up from Miami, where he operated a stock theatre, and was expected to join friends at Creighton, in the northern part of the state, to go hunting. It is feared that he lost the trail and died from exposure. Kleist is rated a millionaire from property in the downtown section and several theatres, which he leased several years ago to W. S. Butterfield. At one time he was president of the Michigan Exhibitors' Association.

Bristolphone Test

Waterbury, Conn., Dec. 4. A test screening of a soundless talker, "Manhattan Cocktail" (Par) was held at Danbury last week over the Bristolphone equipment.

Two pictures (Gotham) are being prepared for sound here. They are "Times Square" and "The River Woman."

The Bristolphone studios have recruited a permanent orchestra of around 35 pieces.

DIALOG IN COMEDY SHORTS

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Smitty Comedies, Nos. 9 and 10 will carry one-quarter Phonophone dialog, now being recorded at Pathe Culver City studio. The company is following the unusual procedure of recording the dialog, which in each instance is the final half reel, before proceeding with the silent first part. Later the first three-quarters footage will be synchronized for sound.

U MAY DECIDE TO HOLD ITS THEATRES

Negotiations between Fox and Universal for the purchase of over 100 U houses by the former are not likely to materialize into a trade, according to Universal officials. It is reported Louis M. Metzger, newly in charge of theatres for U, with the approval of Carl Laemmle, is not in favor of the sale of the U chain with the exception of a few houses which it had been decided Universal does not want to operate.

Purchase of the Schine circuit by Fox, it is reported, hinges upon an agreeable arrangement with Universal. It is claimed that Universal, in addition to the 25 per cent interest in the Schine houses, also has an option to buy the circuit and that Fox would have to secure this option from Universal before proceeding.

Latest reports are that executives have decided that the Universal chain of houses will be continued, with the elimination of heavy losers, with Laemmle intending further theatre acquisitions.

PUBLIC'S SEASIDE ANNUAL

Public hold its annual meeting of home office executives at the Ambassador, Atlantic City, over the week-end, with Sam Katz presiding. Gathering an annual affair, including district managers, supervisors and other eastern executives.

Fox's "Grouch Bag"

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Fox has purchased "The Grouch Bag," an original story by Wallace Smith. It will be produced as an all-talker.

Annual Publicity

Annual Publicity as a matter of record and in the directory way arrives with Variety's yearly Anniversary Number.

This time it's the 23rd issue of that number, and out during December.

Just now the Publicity chance is in selling something. That means from producer to actor, and all before or after.

The Producers may sell plays or titles, now in demand for talking pictures. Almost every one else in the show business may sell service.

While product in stage, screen or canned form is always in demand wherever there is a theatre.

Whether individual, manager, producer, agent or product, make Variety your universal salesman—an unequaled press agent and an unexcelled exploiter.

You can get it all in Variety's 23rd Anniversary Number.

No change in rates.

Summary for week ending Saturday, Dec. 1: STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: High, Low, Sales, Issue and rate, High, Low, Last, Net Chge. Rows include American Sec, Consol. Film, Eastman Kodak, Loew, Keith, Radio-K-O, Madison Square Garden, Metro, Motion Picture Exp, Paramount-Famous-Lasky, Pathe, Warner Bros, etc.

CURB

Table with columns: High, Low, Sales, Issue and rate, High, Low, Last, Net Chge. Rows include Balaaban & Katz, Con. Film-Ent, Pathe, Loew rights, Nat. Theatre Sup.

BONDS

Table with columns: High, Low, Sales, Issue and rate, High, Low, Last, Net Chge. Rows include Keith 6's, Loew 6's, Do. ex-warrants, Par. 7's, Par.-Famous-Lasky 6's, Shubert 6's.

* Privilege to convert into new stock expired last week.

Talking Shorts

LOWELL SHERMAN and Co. (2). "PHIPPS" (Comedy skit). METRO MOVIE TONE 14 Mins.

Embassy, New York (on talking short program preceding "Viking" feature).

A subtle comedy of English ideas and manners, written by Stanley Houghton. More in the style of one of those alleged David Garrick sketches. Not for mass appeal. Slow action and lack of it principally. Mild laughs at intervals. If any value in names of principals, may be stand-off, but otherwise best worth is in nature of a certain ruler to special showing, such as at the Embassy at \$2 or in the sure-seaters. For latter a pipe. But by the time the sure-seaters save up enough to get wired there will be no sure-seaters.

All-dialog short, in parlor set. Fair technically, but tough on the ears of Betty Francisco's. At the opening, when Miss Francisco said to her husband, "kiss me" or "hit me," it sounded like "hiss me."

Miss Francisco wallowed all over the stage with her dialog. Some times it was around her and at others sounded like an echo or drifting away.

Men much better. Lowell Sherman did the little direction necessary; mostly for himself. Cyril Chadwick had one of those English dumbbell roles, so easy for any actor apparently to play. Soft for an English actor like Chadwick, and as easy for him to talk. His hardest work was getting up and sitting down again, often.

Once Chadwick was knocked down, but gently, by Sherman as the butler. That was when Chadwick struck Lady Fanny—on her face—to avoid error on name. The butler had been called as witness to the result, for a prospective divorce action for cruelty.

Cruelty in England is when your wife wants a pearl necklace and you're broke. Lady Fanny was on the make, and she was going strong for the suave butler, who confided to his ardent but silent adoration for her for three years, his term of service in the family. When understanding this situation after putting Sir Gerald on the bum, the butler cut loose, going on the make also, declaring a revolution on the butler thing, saying he now proclaims himself a Gen. and advancing the opinion Sir Gerald might secure the divorce for desertion through Lady Fanny running away, with the butler as companion.

Lady Fanny, heavily interested, invited the butler to sit beside her for a more intimate conversation. Note the thing was growing hot and he the third party in fact, Sir Gerald suggested he hock his farm in Sussex and get that necklace. Lady Fanny thought that an idea, probably knowing there were hundreds of butlers but only one titled boob for her.

So she aired the butler and he gave notice on the spot, saying he could never again bite in that household. Subtlety runs all through, in the writing, with the inference left that Lady Fanny had a few on the side and would have others, with or without the butler.

Mr. Sherman picked a spot for himself here as the butler. Right in his ally. And M-G-M has a class short, costing what the salaries may figure.

Metro had better hustle this one over to the Empire, London. It will either make or break 'em in England, where they see titles and butlers differently. Sime.

CLIFF EDWARDS (Ukulele lke) METRO MOVIE TONE Songs 4 Mins.

Embassy, New York (part of short program with feature, "Viking"). Ukulele lke with two songs and a story between 'em in this "M-G-M" talking short, okay. His final gang-song will send him across anywhere.

Opens in "one" before curtain with his uke, under cork, going right into singing. After the first song, tells one brief gag and swiftly into the other number.

As Uke knows everything there to know about any kind of canning, he's his own best director. Sime.

AARONSON'S COMMANDERS METRO MOVIE TONE 9 Mins.

Embassy, New York (on talking short bill with featured \$2 picture, "Viking").

Irving Aaronson's Commanders, one of the best and most versatile of stage bands for vaude, production or cabaret, does not show up any too well as an M-G-M talking short. It, of course, remains a question whether the short director or Aaronson arranged the routine. Presumably the director did. In consequence, for a talking short the Commanders are just another band act, whereas they should have been a short feature.

Music, talking, singing and dancing, with the center number given over to a prolonged dry vocal medley bit by an octet of the boys. This octet is slowly formed by the members of it stepping from their orchestral seats to line up on the stage. For the finish is a "wobbly walk" dance, by three of the boys and one ending it with a solo. Nothing extra and not upholding the try for a new dance title. Opening is number probably led by Irving Aaronson, of no moment.

Technical faults, which may be allowed for as his short is among the first made by Metro in its New York studio. Sound, dialog and photography muffled and shadowy at times; too much long-range photography for the full band, and close-ups switched on and off too quickly of the boys. In the entire ensemble but one personality face, that of the blonde boy in the last unit to replace it, who also appeared in the "wobbly walk" trio. That boy's face for pictures might be worth more than part of a band act.

No comedy throughout worth mentioning.

Aaronson should ask that this short be shelved and make a better one to replace it, even though he charges nothing for the work on the substitute. Short will neither bring credit to his band nor M-G-M. However, not quite as bad as that as a short, and as a short only good for a filler anywhere. With a chance the hinterland might believe it's a better short than it is. Sime.

FREDA AND PALACE VITAPHONE No. 2271 Musical Songs, 8 Mins. Greely Sq., New York

Steve Freda and Johnny Palace, standard wop comedy turn from vaude, offer their "Barch-A-Kalloop" specialty in this talking-singing short and register most favorably.

Opening on a draped set the boys warble a comedy number written around the title of the skit and played by a couple of newly arrived greaseballs trying to out-smart each other. Comedy crossfire centers around an explanation of the radio with plenty of wop characteristic gestures and disarrangement of comedy clothes worn by both.

Stepping out of character, the boys make a pop appearance and double as a pop ballad in fine style. Freda accompanies on the guitar.

Suitable short for early spotting anywhere and feature billing in the neighborhood houses catering to the Italian trade.

EDDIE WHITE VITAPHONE No. 2689 11 Mins., Comedy and Songs Clinton, New York

This record embodies a series of pop tunes and Hebe dialect gags of an unusually convincing calibre. Eddie White is a vaudevillian.

Suitable short for early spotting particularly entertaining in the smaller houses. Despite its general excellence, it is questionable for the big houses because of the material and delivery which contribute toward its value in theatres such as the Clinton.

White opens with an old pop tune, follows with a dialect gag and all teases in a similar manner until the close. He finishes with a Mammy lyric. A telephone monolog between two relatives, handled expressively by White alone, is the outstanding piece of business, registering for the strongest returns. White impresses favorably. He has put the major part of his vaude act into this record. He can do class material and should then fit anywhere. Mori.

FOX MOVIE TONE NEWS Issue 1st half week Dec. 1 4 Clips; 6 Minutes Roky, New York

Outlander of the first half Fox sound newscast the starter's stand at the Bowie racetrack with the man in the tan jacket shouting his orders to the jockeys in the \$43,000 race won by Mistep a week ago last Saturday. Contains plenty of action and a novelty, as the race track visitor seldom sees or hears what goes on at the barrier.

Navy-tennis game, with the cheering of the middles before, during and after the grid game, sounded clearly.

Mrs. Coolidge christening an aeroplane "Christopher Columbus" by smashing a bottle of some liquid beverage on the wings follows. Mrs. Coolidge's laugh and side remark to the master of ceremonies asking what she should do with the neck of the bottle that remains in her hands, sounded natural enough, and added a touch of humor.

Replica of the first steam engine built by John Stevens of Hoboken for the Pennsy system in the early 80's. Man who acts as engineer explains the historical association and at a signal from the John Stevens impersonator, the engine is started along the tracks and circles the grounds of the Stevens Institute in Hoboken.

BENIAMINO GIGLI VITAPHONE No. 517 8 Mins., Song Strand, New York

By now Gigli should be a fairly familiar soloist where the screens are sounded. In this subject the tenor thrills from Act 2 of "La Gioconda." It takes place on board ship, with various extras supplying atmosphere in costume. Principal brief title giving the libretto to explain the action, of which there is little or none.

Gigli merely comes before the camera, rests his hand on the shoulder of a supposed comrade and starts warbling. That he can sing has long since been discovered, but just how much value there is in these operatic reel-disks is still open to debate. Sunday matinee house listened patiently, with a portion of same moderately appreciative. Strand used the operative name to close a three-subject program of shorts, the other two being split between pop songs and comedy. Not strong enough to close, but maybe the management figured to chase 'em before the start of the full length feature which immediately followed.

Photography and recording in this one was good, Gigli's facial makeup also showing improvement over previous camera appearances. Sid.

GEO. GIVOT and Leonard and Hinds VITAPHONE No. 2107 Songs 10 Mins. Clinton, New York

Combination of George Givot, former Chicago picture house favorite, and Leonard and Hinds, two-jed harmony team. Do not appear together but as separate acts. Likely the deficiencies in both were eliminated and the two blended into one record.

Different sets back that theory. Givot, exaggerated and cogitate type of singing comic, sings twice, closing with his old Chi stand-by, "Peoria." Unfavorable camera work and recording ruined what slight value he possesses for the screen. Leonard and Hinds entertain without causing good or bad comment.

One of the most colorless shorts yet turned out. Bige.

BRITT WOOD VITAPHONE No. 2129 Musical 8 Mins. Clinton, New York

Britt Wood has been in vaudeville doing his harmonica tune about 16 years. Opening on a draped set with "Last Rose of Summer," and closing with "Swanee River," places him as a throwback act still sticking to material once sure-fire.

In between these two tunes Wood interpolates a harmonica selection of one composition, some boob comedy talk and a bit of simple hoofing, assisted by the unseen Vita orchestra.

Short is all long shots, giving Wood the best of it, and is an example of the sort of tunes that turn up on the Coast. Medecore all over and suitable only for neighborhood wired grind houses. Mori.

SENATOR FORD VITAPHONE No. 557 Monolog 9 Mins. Clinton, New York

"Senator" Edwards H. Ford brings to the sounded screen practically the same monolog he used in vaude five years ago. As the number of his short subject indicates, it was made long ago. He's probably using another line of chatter in vaude today, if still in vaude.

Mechanically, No. 557 rates with most shorts turned out today. As entertainment not so hot.

The Sen's stuff dwells on the dangers of pedestrianism. Ford may or may not have been the first to use that topic, but it has been done by others and still is a popular conversation among monologists. But the gag is well played out by now.

Same short caught at a neighborhood house in Chicago about a year ago. It was well received there, considerably better than at the Clinton. Bige.

WILDEY and SHEEHAN VITAPHONE No. 2113 Piano and Songs 8 Mins. Clinton, New York

Just another pianolo duo billed as radio and vaude artists and maybe with a following on the coast.

Opening with an "Aloha" song, the boys fail to show any distinctiveness and the tonal quality of the record is far from average. Then into a circus bit with one doing a side show Barker, while the other at the piano rings in a kazoo for his callopo effects. For a finish boys double as some showtown pop ballad for meagre returns.

Neither screens well, while the one who spills the midway, chatter is faulty in articulation. Turn is amateurish, viewed from any angle and only rates early spotting in the newer wired small time houses.

THE VIKING

(In Color)

Herbert T. Kalmus production in Technicolor; released by Metro-Goldwyn, Mayer, Adolph Zukor, Famous Players-Lasker, Lief the Lucky. Directed by Alf Erlanson. Written by Pauline Starke, Eric the Red. Directed by Alf Erlanson. Stars: Alf Erlanson, Donald Crisp, Lief the Lucky, Pauline Starke, Eric the Red, LeRoy Mason, Anders Randolph, Richard Alexander, Harry Lewis Woods, Albert Mackway, Robert Stewart, Torben Meyer, Julia Swayze Gordon.

"The Viking" is a story for students of American history and adults. It starts at Norway and ends at New York. R. L. at 500 years or so ago. Add 500 years after the bootleggers also found Newport a great landing place. Flaps and flaps won't go over the story, even if you're in natural colors. The natural color thing is forgotten after awhile, excepting it does show how many different ways make up on Pauline Starke may look.

It's a long heavy historical tale without relief. Students may find plenty of matter to argue over and they will find it interesting in a way.

Romance has been shoved in, with Miss Starke as Helga having three admirers, but only one, Eric, the hero. And when Lief's father, Eric, the Red, threw a broadaxe at his son because Lief had gone Christian, that was exciting during the throw—but Eric missed.

This novel writing historian, Ottile A. Liljencrantz, if he poses as a historian of the Vikings, might inquire if the director or adapter of this film story monkeyed with Lief as a Christian. For if Lief did go Christian, his men still acted like barbarians. They grabbed off maidens and Englishmen, making them slaves, and at the same time a caption said "Lief, the Just." Just what the title writer might have added.

It's pretty tough and rough to write history and make a dame pretentious, but it's even tougher to start to look like a mutiny on the primitive sail-row boat that started to discover land west of Greenland, in the third thousand year, but the mutiny never came off. It got started, however. More important on this trip with the rowing slaves "mutilating" about "turning" back to Helga's proposed marriage to Lief, aboard ship, in the Viking way. The Viking way is for both parties to drink from the same cup, after the second moon. Simple, excepting the way the mutiny never came off. Alwin, the captured English boy, who became a Viking slave, had developed into advisor to Lief and was the only one who understood Helga's idea. He was about the only one in the picture that didn't go wholly Viking on costuming and whiskers. Maybe

Helga fell for his smooth and pale face. Too much costuming, too much battling that never got over, and too much whiskering for a holding picture. That's the second history with a jazz love story stuck in. All the flaps can get out of this for their own enjoyment is a couple of kissing scenes, 4,000 feet apart between Helga and Alwin. It would have been better for popular appeal if they had set the locale in Central Park.

No sound record at the Embassy opening. Sound may be of emphasis aid to this picture, but not much else. It isn't there for the regular picture houses, even with 30 minutes of it, if that length may be cut.

Rather good performances and the best in pantomime by one of the most ungainly crew. He looked sullen, was sullen and acted sullen. That man should have frightened the blonde Helga into a brunt, but he didn't. Helga was to be shyly skip along the decks, looking for her Alwin. And Alwin was always waiting for her, gazing into the water, and longing for her. Alwin was such a fine actor either. He had a couple of sword fights and doused one fellow in a vat of beer.

Miss Starke looked fine at times and on other times—! Donald Crisp plays Lief, the strong-willed who defied his Pop, Anders Randolph as Eric, the Pop, sound and looking like a real actor. He was a fine actor for wearing a cross. That's 500 years ago, though, and nowadays may be the best pictures are those that show the past. Meanwhile the pictures of today appear to get the most money.

"The Viking" may be called a fine effort. Sure, it can play in city safety, without cutting.

SOMEONE TO LOVE

Paramount production and release. Featuring Charles Rogers and Mary Brian. Directed by R. Richard Miller. Adapted by Ray Harris, Keno Thompson and Monte Brunt. Story by R. Richard Miller. Screenplay by Allen Selig. At Paramount, New York, week Dec. 1. Running time, 70 min.

Second Paramount picture rotating around Buddy Rogers, clean-looking youth with pretty eyes and wavy tresses. The picture corroborates the department's claims about Rogers being a great favorite with the dames. It is difficult to estimate the commercial aspect of such a picture as "Someone to Love."

It's pretty flyweight in toto, but with some humor and a load of romance that can't fail to be popular with the girls of Paramount. The question is how it will be for exhibs. It's farfetched fiction from the business-like Alice Duer Miller. Standardizes her situations, to use over and over. At the same time it's a type of sugar-coated humor, that is in tune with the majority of the voters.

Rogers doesn't irritate with his good looks, and if keeping his hat size, is concisely a bet. It may be a pushover for him. To George Marion, Jr.'s titles are due most of the picture's laughs. William Austin again has had his come-back as a graduate. Austin has been established as a serene funny man entirely on a basis of the sub-titles that have been put in his mouth. He has already a word meaning beat it; "Omnia Vincit," a Latin expression signifying raspberries. They laugh every time.

Cast includes James Kirkwood, an ineffectual screen player of the second rank. Mary Brian is a sweetly stammerish self. Others parts just bits.

In a nutshell the plot hinges upon circumstantial evidence indicating a poor but honest sheet music salesman is a calculating and deliberate fortune hunter. Subsequently he puts a languishing girl's heart on a pedestal. It's a bit, established his personal integrity and marries 20 million.

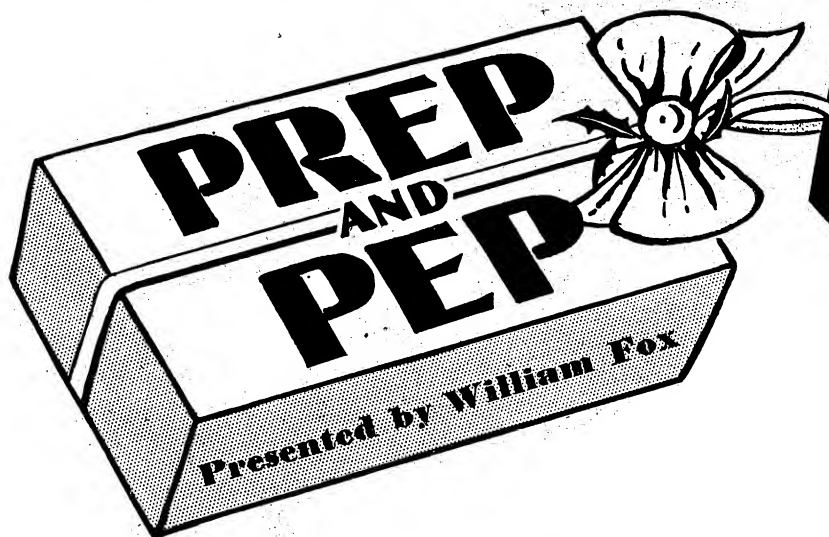
Typical Paramount quality in production, high glosses over the improbabilities. Land.

Caught in the Fog (DIALOG)

Warning Bros. production and release. Starring Conrad Nagel and May McAvoy. Directed by Howard Hawks. Titles by Joe Jackson. Running time, 70 min. At Warner Bros., New York, week Dec. 1. Running time, 55 minutes.

It's pretty tough and rough to write history and make a dame pretentious, but it's even tougher to start to look like a mutiny on the primitive sail-row boat that started to discover land west of Greenland, in the third thousand year, but the mutiny never came off. It got started, however. More important on this trip with the rowing slaves "mutilating" about "turning" back to Helga's proposed marriage to Lief, aboard ship, in the Viking way. The Viking way is for both parties to drink from the same cup, after the second moon. Simple, excepting the way the mutiny never came off. Alwin, the captured English boy, who became a Viking slave, had developed into advisor to Lief and was the only one who understood Helga's idea. He was about the only one in the picture that didn't go wholly Viking on costuming and whiskers. Maybe

Christmas Gold for Showmen from Fox!



The Ideal Holiday Feature. A rollicking tale of young love and high jinks at prep school.
Directed by DAVID BUTLER

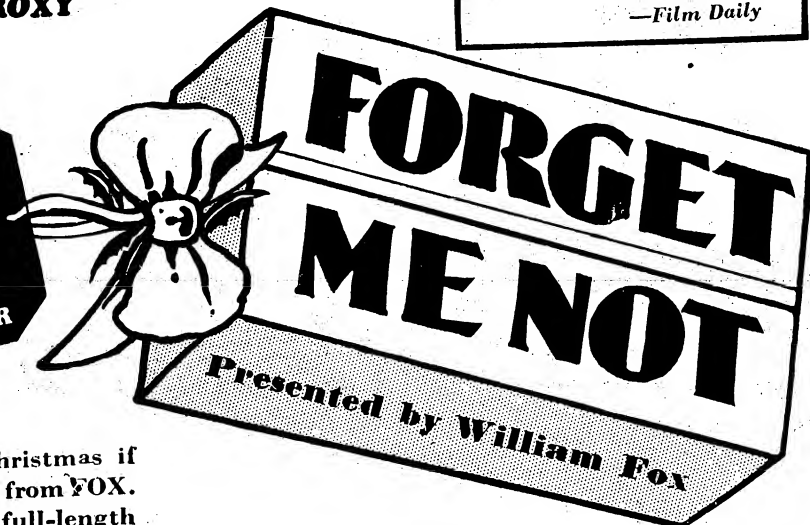
"Forget Me Not"
It proved to be 28 minutes of Movietone, artfully done and intelligently welded together in what is known as "Forget Me Not."
Here is a three reeler designed for Christmas release, but by merit worthy of showings any time in the year. It is a simple tale with Yule trimmings, yet decidedly different from the ordinary run of holiday picture: a boy and girl romance which has its beginning and its end on Christmas. Not startling in story values, but very worthwhile in point of charm and wholesomeness. As a talking picture, it ranks 'way up front with the best so far made. In production values, it is a gem. Ingenuity and cleverness in direction are manifest throughout. We recommend it gladly to all wired houses for commercially as well as artistically "Forget Me Not" merits its title.
—Film Daily

PLAY THIS PERFECT CHRISTMAS BILL!

Two Holiday Features with the Youthful Stars
DAVID ROLLINS & NANCY DREXEL

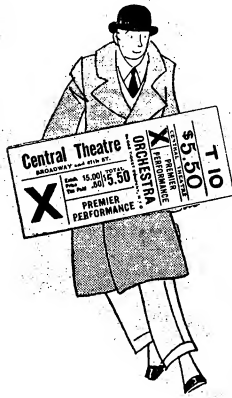
The same Christmas Week bill selected for
the ROXY

Here's your 100% Christmas presentation. A merry toyshop romance in song, talk and dance.
Story and Direction by MARCEL SILVER



It's bound to be a merry Christmas if you play this holiday program from FOX. PREP AND PEP, for your full-length feature, has sure-fire holiday appeal in its youth and prep school background. FORGET ME NOT, a condensed feature all in dialog, is a real Christmas treat that will draw like a feature. Made to order for children's matinees. A double bill that guarantees double profits.

**F
MOVIETONE
X**



FIRST NATIONALS
 >> **FIRST**
TALKING
PICTURE



Four out of Five Have Them!
 Ask any of the celebrities you know where they're going tonight . . . Four out of Five will tell you
 —To the Broadway Roadshow

OPENING OF THE BARKER

At \$5.50 Top—with Speech and Sound!
 They want to See the latest step forward in talking picture technique . . . They want to Hear **MILTON SILLS,**

DOROTHY MACKAILL,
 Betty Compson, and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. TALKING for the first time on the screen . . . They want to See behind the scenes of the touring underworld—The Carnival . . . Hear the "Hey, Rube" fight . . . See games of "chance" amazingly exposed . . . Hear the blare and clamor of the Midway . . . See how this famous Broadway hit looks in celluloid. They know this

GEORGE FITZ-MAURICE

production is going to make *History* . . . They want to be **T H E R E !**

ROADSHOW OPENING AT CAR-THAY CIRCLE, LOS ANGELES, DECEMBER 6th. From the play by Kenyon Nicholson. Stage production by Charles L. Wagner. Adaptation by Benjamin Glazer. Presented by Richard A. Rowland.



Publix Resumes Charge of Pacific Coast Houses—Staffs Organized

San Francisco, Dec. 4. Publix Theatres resumed operation of its Pacific Coast houses Dec. 2, after some 18 months' operation by West Coast Theatres Circuit.

With the split, San Francisco becomes coast division headquarters, with Publix outnumbering its West Coast opponents three to one here in the matter of houses, though in the minority in Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle.

Herman Wobber becomes the executive head of Publix coast operation. Wobber is now general manager for all Publix and Paramount distribution activities on the entire Pacific slope.

Actual physical operation is in charge of R. E. Crabbil, who holds title of Pacific Coast division manager. Charles Kurtzman, for the past few months manager of the Granada here, is San Francisco division manager, in charge of the three Publix houses, Granada, California and St. Francis.

Hapse Men
Sydney Dannenberg has been brought here from Birmingham, Ala., for the Granada, and J. C. Smith from Atlanta at the California, replacing Sam Peckner. Horton Kahn is house manager at the Granada. Joe Frazer continues at the helm at the St. Francis. Herbert Polin, recently publicity for West Coast Theatres in Portland,

is assistant to Kurtzman and will devote most of his time to advertising. Gardner Wood is in charge of local publicity, with Jewett Bubar as art director. Al Short is in charge of all music, program planning, talent, stage bands and leaders for the entire coast division.

Joe Diatch, from the Publix home office, is installed here as division booker. C. J. Martin has charge of accounting and bookkeeping, assisted by A. M. Ahlsoeg, who will also look after maintenance and purchases.

Effective Dec. 15, Gino Severi, formerly musical director at the California, becomes orchestra leader at the Granada but will not officiate as m. c.

In Los Angeles, Gus Eyessel continues at the Metropolitan, with John Nylan as house manager. Ed. R. Oimsted, formerly in the Publix home office, will do publicity for the Met. Charles Pincus is transferred to Portland as manager, with Jack Gault on publicity. Bob Blair gets Seattle, with Eddie Hitchcock handling the publicity.

West Coast Theatres now has one house locally to operate, Loew's Warfield, but with its Oakland activities recently enlarged by the opening of the new Oakland, W. C. has moved its northern division headquarters from the Granada to the Warfield building, with personnel practically intact.

Too Many Friends

Milwaukee, Dec. 4. Disadvantages of having too many friends is demonstrated here by an unique incident in the business career of L. Orlove, former manager of the Mirth theatre.

As manager of this house of less than 4,000 seats, Orlove attracted the attention of Joe Leo, vice-president and general manager of the Wisconsin Fox enterprises. He was subsequently promoted to district manager, but the customers of the small Mirth started to squawk.

They wanted Orlove back as manager, and practically boycotted the house. A lengthy petition was composed by the customers stating they missed Orlove as friend and manager and would be grateful if he were restored. Leo answered the petition explaining that Orlove had been promoted, and that as friends they should be pleased to know it. But the customers were not pleased. They want Orlove.

Orlove may yet be forced back to his old job by too many friends.

Warners After 100% of Stanley for Full Operation—May Buy Partners

Warners Brothers are understood to be after the Stanley Company stock 100 per cent, for complete operation of the Stanley chain by them. To accomplish this objective, the Warners must buy the 25 per cent of stock remaining with the Stanley-controlled subsidiary circuits' partners, Mark, Fabian, Crandall, etc.

Negotiations are proceeding looking toward this end, it is said. The 25 per cent of Stanley stock withheld by the partners as an outcome of their circuits previously merging with Stanley, carries the individual operating control of the Mark, Fabian and Crandall houses by the respective men. This is the interference, to complete full Stanley operation by Warners, that the Warners would like to remove. Of these sub-circuits included in the Stanley buy by Warners and taking in the Stanley chain proper, Fabian's is the most extensive, but wholly in New Jersey.

A report spread prior to the Warners stockholders' meeting yesterday (Tuesday), at Wilmington, Del., of a possible objection by minority holders to the ratification of the Stanley deal, for which purpose the meeting was called, did not appear to alarm those most interested. No block was anticipated in the meeting. A meeting to elect a directorate is set for Dec. 10.

Moving to Warners
Arrangements are reported under way for the Stanley picture in Philadelphia and New York to move to the Warner general office building on West 43rd street around Jan. 1. Among those to become stationary at Warners at that time is Spiro Skouras, who will be the Warners' theatre operator for the Stanley chain. It is with the idea of giving Skouras full sway that the preliminaries have been started to buy out the Stanley partners.

Nothing is reported as to any future plans, if they sell, held by Moe Mark, Simon Fabian and the others associated with them at present. All of the partners concerned have been in the show business for a number of years. When the Warner-Stanley deal went over, they disposed of 75 per cent of their Stanley holdings for partly cash and Warner stock, the latter easily convertible. The remaining 25 per cent of Stanley's, held out by the partners, amount to varying quantities. Fabian is said to be the largest present stockholder among them, his 25 per cent, reaching 100,000 shares.

New Office Annex
Warners have purchased three lots adjacent to their present building on West 43rd street and will construct shortly an annex duplicating in height and structure the present offices. The annex will be used to house all home offices of

interests absorbed by the Warner-Wall street pool.

As things now exist, First National has been ordered to stand by for orders that may keep it in its present quarters on Madison avenue for another six months, when, it is claimed, Warners will have completed construction of the new building. In that event Stanley will evacuate its Philadelphia headquarters and move into the three vacant floors on 44th street.

In the course of most recent conferences it has been practically decided, however, that First National on Madison avenue will be temporarily sufficiently accessible to Warners.

Stage Bands Out at Chi

Chicago, Dec. 4. Chicago Theatre, B. & K.'s ace Loop House, is reported quitting the stage band policy after Jan. 1, and returning to its original class presentation policy.

This was the first house in Chicago to use picture house presentations, with orchestra in the pit.

Helmer Air Co. Bankrupt

Helmer Air Conditioning Co., 103 Park avenue, engaged in the business of artificially refrigerating picture theatres, has gone broke with \$200,000 in estimated liabilities. Samuel Paik has been appointed receiver. The company estimates it has \$30,000 in claims due and also admits some cash on deposit.

Charles Althoff



"VARIETY"

"As perfect a characterization as was ever portrayed on any stage." Add. Care Jerry Cargill, 1560 Broadway, N. Y.

ALFRED BROWER
World's Fastest Russian Dancer
Direction WILLIAM MORRIS

CARLENA DIAMOND
(DANCING HARIST SUPREME)
Direction:
Walter Meyers, of Wm. Morris Agency

HELENE HUGHES ROY SMOOT
Featured with FANCHON and MARCO

BOBBY GILLETTE
and His Banjo
Master of Ceremonies
Alexander Theatre, Glendale, Cal.

Brokers With Cooneys Must Stand Trial

Chicago, Dec. 4. Frederick Pierce, G. E. Barrett and John Walker, brokers (Barrett & Co.) indicted with the Cooney Bros on charges of conspiracy to violate the Illinois securities law on stock and bond issues for National Playhouses, circuit of 10 houses now bankrupt, posted a bond of \$25,000, each, last week to insure appearance at opening of their hearing Dec. 6.

Mass meeting of stockholders last week held internal bickering. Requests from some members that Verdell, the stockholder who caused the indictments, be furnished with \$15,000 to continue the prosecution was refused. Another proposal to overthrow the present stockholders' committee and appoint a new one was likewise turned down.

Fox Takes Embassy, Waltham
Boston, Dec. 4. William Fox has taken over the Embassy, Waltham, Mass., with William Murphy its manager. House links in nicely with Fox's Poli chain in New England. Gordon is opposition to the Embassy house in the town.

Pettijohn Smoothly Tells Of Gov't and Film Boards

U. S. Government vs. Film Boards of Trade goes to trial in February. The action will be heard in the federal court, either in Chicago or New York, depending on convenience of location to the majority of witnesses.

Whether the boards will or won't join their chief counsel and chief adviser, as well as Will Hays. Charlie is certain that the boards will continue, just as any trade association functions in any trade.

But Charlie is certain that the court will definitely define a line which will mean punishment to all producer, distributor, exhibitor—who step over it.

"That's the kind of ruling we want," said Pettijohn. "We welcome the government investigation." Charlie admitted that as things stand with the boards, they may be a little over the line right now. He acknowledged his expectation of changes in the board's credit committee.

"But I expect," said Charlie, "that the court will commend the splendid activity of our women secretaries." Of the 50,000 cases they have listened to there has not been a squawk against one of them.

Charlie said he has never met Sir Joseph Ginsburg or his discredited son, Sir Joseph Ginzberg, Jr. (spelling okay).

COOL HEADS STOP FIRE PANIC

Toledo, Dec. 4. A fire in the projection room of the Eljoui, neighborhood house here, occurred Thanksgiving night when the house was crowded. Cool headed men in the audience averted panic by taking command of the situation. Damage, \$20,000.

"Leatherneck" Special

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. After completing the first editing of "Leatherneck" planned as a program feature, Pathe decided to add more scenes and embellish the present version to make a special. This will require an additional two weeks of shooting. It will be released with sound and dialog.

Olympia, Worcester, Changes
Worcester, Mass., Dec. 4. Olympia theatre here has been acquired by E. M. Loew, of Boston.

FANCHON & MARCO IDEAS
The Original of Their Type, the Most Consistent of Their Kind. And Sure-Fire at the Box Office

MISS PERSONALITY—IN THE PERSON OF
MISS RUTH PETTY
AT THE PARAMOUNT, NEW YORK
Many thanks to Publix officials and MR. FRANK FAY, MY SPONSOR;
MR. NIGGEMEYER, MY PRODUCER

JESSE CRAWFORD ORGAN CONCERT
PARAMOUNT THEATRE
NEW YORK
WEEK OF DEC. 1
"CHALITA"
(Chappell Harms, Inc.)
"A POPULAR SONG PARADE"
An Original Novelty

"Sunday" for Films Legal in Quebec; Bad Decision for Lord's Day Alliance

Montreal, Dec. 4. Lord's Day Alliance had a setback in this province when Judge Desaulniers decided picture shows are not theatrical performances and in consequence, are not prohibited from opening on Sundays.

The case arose from a complaint by the High Constable of Montreal against the United Amusement Co. in this city for operating one of its chains on a Sunday. The company was brought before Judge Marin of the Court of Sessions and there protested that the court had no jurisdiction to hear the case. A writ of prohibition was applied for in the Superior Court to prevent the criminal court from proceeding with the case. The writ has now been maintained.

Judge Desaulniers declared that a moving picture is not a theatrical performance as is specially designated in the Lord's Day Act. Under the law it is declared that Sunday observance in force on February 23, 1907, when the new law came into effect, will continue in force until modified or amended.

and furthermore that it is permitted to do on Sunday all acts which are not prohibited by the laws of the legislature in force at that date and to use the day with the liberty recognized by custom in the Province of Quebec.

Since proven that moving picture performances had been given on Sundays prior to February 23, 1907, judgment was in favor of the United Amusement Co.

This is a very important decision for picture interests here since Sunday is the best day for grosses in the week. Should it be closed to moving picture performance theatres would lose close to 25 per cent. of their grosses and many might be forced to close.

L. A. Taschereau, Premier of the Province of Quebec, said that the Attorney-General's department of the province had been instructed to appeal the judgment. He pointed out that Judge Letellier in the Superior Court had recently taken an entirely opposite view of the question and an anomalous position had been created.

Children's Act Upheld

The Children's Act, barring youngsters under 16, even attended by parents or guardians, from attending moving picture performances, passed at the last session of the Quebec Legislature, has been upheld in the courts. Judge Demers of the Superior Court quashed 50 writs of prohibition secured by local picture theatre owners in an effort to halt proceedings instituted against them in the Recorder's Court for violation of the new law.

To test the validity of the law, the theatre owners disregarded it entirely and awaited action by the police. Proprietors were accordingly summoned before the Recorder's Court but before their cases went to trial they secured writs.

It was agreed that one trial case, that of Jules Duhamel, of the Pas-

Profitable Chance

A Bronx, New York, vaudeville theatre is taking a chance with its patrons, but so far has found it profitable.

On the week-ends, when large crowds attend, the announcement is that there are no more balcony seats. Orchestra seats are 15c. higher, with the patron usually buying for downstairs.

Inside, the buyer finds the orchestra well filled, but is in the balcony. Regulars, wise to the gag, prefer to go upstairs rather than complain or walk to another house, with the same chance of obtaining seats.

While some squawks have been registered, the management does not heed them. It is willing to gamble on how long the patrons will stand for that sort of works.

time theatre, should serve as a test case.

In the week that has ensued since the rendering of the decision, there has been no change in the procedure of the theatres owners in admitting minors under 16. The youngsters are still going in without so far any action by the police.

J. L. Patenaude, president of the Province of Quebec Theatre and Cinema Owners' Association, has called a meeting of the association for Dec. 6 when the question of appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada will be discussed. To lodge this appeal \$10,000 must first be set aside to cover costs. The meeting will consider the advisability of this step and if agreed will make an assessment on all members to meet this amount.

AWARD AGAINST SCHINE

An arbitration award for \$4,756 has been given United Artists against the Schine Theatres Co., Inc., Schine's Avon, Utica, figured in a contract claim for pictures booked but not played.

Syracuse House's Own Sound Han-a-Phone

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 4.

Swan, North Side repeat house, operated by the Fitzers, joins the sound parade next Sunday when it will play Fox's "Street Angel," with records via newly installed Han-a-phone equipment.

This will be the house's first attempt to synchronize its own pictures, substituting a record set up for the producer-made score. "Street Angel" was originally shown at the Empire with the Fox Movietone score, and has also played the wired Riviera.

The Fitzers plan ultimately to replace the Han-a-phone equipment at the Swan with Photophone, installing the latter also in the Rivoli. Photophone is also set for Keith's Brighton and Syracuse.

Western Electric, first in the field here, is in the Strand, Eckel, Loew's State and the Empire downtown, and in the Riviera. Regent is also awaiting Vitaphone.

The Swan is the first house to take Han-a-phone in Syracuse.

JUGGLING RIVIERA

Chicago, Dec. 4.

Riviera theatre, recently returned by the Orpheum Circuit to Balaban & Katz because of terrible biz, is about to undergo another change of policy.

Reported B. & K. will discard vaude and use the house for sound shows.

W. C. TRIAL DATE JAN. 22

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Further postponement of the Federal suit against West Coast Theatres, Inc., was granted today (Tuesday) by Judge McCormick of Federal Court.

Attorneys for defense pleaded they were not ready to go to trial and obtained a delay until Jan. 22.

All-Talking "Wolf"

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Paramount will make "The Wolf of Wall Street" an all-talking picture.

George Bancroft, Baclanova, Carroll Lukas and Arthur Rankin will do most of the talking.

Blumenthal's Hotel Suite Offices in N. Y.

A. C. Blumenthal, realty representative for William Fox, has a suite of rooms in the Hotel Ambassador, New York, large enough to accommodate a staff of about 30 accountants, 12 lawyers, clerks, stenogs, etc.

Blumenthal is using the hotel headquarters to negotiate with theatre owners from anywhere. Mostly those now swarming to the hotel are from New York and surrounding states. A wider territory is being covered daily by Blumenthal.

Blumenthal appears to be operating for Fox in buying theatres on a basis of three for one of a theatre's net profit. Where real estate is involved, that is usually a matter of lease taken by Fox, additionally, or if with present lease without the owner interested in the land, the real estate end does not enter. Where a theatre under consideration shows by its books to have been in the red, only compensation is paid for the furnishings. The red house is customarily one of a chain, small or large, and goes with the rest.

Blumenthal has had the Ambassador space since starting negotiations for the indie picture houses in Greater New York.

Picker Books Loew's Shorts, Gene Picker is now booking the talking shorts in the Loew houses in New York.

SI WILLS

"Wanted by Everybody—Even the Police"
with "Pickin' Peaches" Unit
This Week: Missouri, St. Louis
Direction: WM. MORRIS OFFICE

BARRY SHERWOOD TENOR

First Appearance in America
Featured in Fanchon and Marco's
SALLY, O'NEILL "Mike" Idea

JACKSON and LEE

"STEPS AND LAUGHS"
Start Fanchon and Marco Greater
Stage Season
with
SALLY O'NEILL

BILLY SNYDER

The Juvenile Prince, Doing Time for
FANCHON and MARCO
with CHARLES MURRAY in
"HATS IDEA"
Direction WM. MORRIS AGENCY
P. 8.—Just finished a very pleasant
week with Hermie King in Oakland

ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR

HARRY

EDDIE

ROSS AND EDWARDS

ANOTHER STEP TO STARDOM

NOW MAKING THEM LAUGH

AT

PARAMOUNT, NEW YORK

(This Week Dec. 1)

PARAMOUNT, BROOKLYN (WEEK DEC. 8)

in Chas. Niggemeyer's "BUBBLES" UNIT

Our Sincerest Thanks to MARK LEDDY

Material by DARBY AARONSON

Personal Management, ABE FRIEDMAN, 1560 Broadway, New York

AGAIN-ANOTHER BIG ONE From WARNER BROS.

Available for you NOW DAY and DATE with BROADWAY

**OPENS
DEC. 21**
Two-A-Day at \$ 2
WARNER BROS.
THEATRE
BWAY. at 52nd ST



Warner Bros. present

FANNIE BRICE

in

"MY MAN"

DIRECTED BY
ARCHIE MAYO

STORY BY
MARK CANFIELD

SCENARIO BY
ROBERT LORD

**See
and
Hear**

FANNIE BRICE SING
HER OLD FAVORITES
AND MANY NEW SONGS

*Fannie and
Her Following
will fill your
house!"*



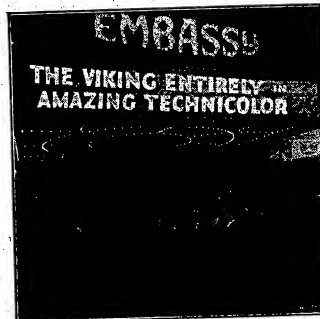
'NOAH'S ARK-TOPS ANY PICTURE EVER MADE .

FACTS

about the new marvel of this film age, the
All-Technicolor Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Sensation

THE VIKING

**Broadway's
New \$2
Smash Hit!**



**Twice Daily
S. R. O. at the
Embassy, N. Y.**

- 1—**THE NEWEST** development in modern screen progress, taking its place with the Talking Picture, is "The Viking," the first full-length feature drama made in the newly-perfected Technicolor process, the last word in the field of natural color on the screen.
- 2—"THE VIKING" is now playing at \$2 admission, twice daily, at the Embassy Theatre on Broadway, the scene of many Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Road-Show triumphs, including "Ben-Hur," "The Merry Widow," etc.
- 3—**THE FIRST** motion picture to penetrate a new period of world drama, the heroic race of the Vikings, stalwart fighters and romantic lovers, who lay claim to the discovery of the New World before Columbus.
- 4—**A CAST** of known screen celebrities, including: PAULINE STARKE, DONALD CRISP, LE ROY MASON, ROY STEWART, ANDERS RANDOLPH. Directed by R. WILLIAM NEIL.
- 5—"THE VIKING" has been singled out by the National Board of Review for outstanding merit and will be recommended to its nation-wide membership.
- 6—**THE PRESS**, as well as the public, hailed the arrival of "The Viking" as a screen achievement. Following are a few excerpts from reviews:

"The most exquisite production of this type thus far accorded the silver screen—technicolor is perfect."

—Irene Thirer in N. Y. Daily News

"Sparkling tale of romance . . . a stirring reproduction . . . pictorially exciting, dramatically entertaining . . . intensely interesting . . . stirring because of magnificent coloring."

—Aileen Brenon in N. Y. Telegraph

"A vivid tale—"The Viking" is that which is known as 'something different'."—Regina Cannon in N. Y. American
"A marvel to behold—one of the most beautiful ever seen on a Broadway screen—entirely in technicolor and told with imagination."

—George Gerhard in N. Y. Evening World

"An important addition to the season's films . . . it is the most pretentious and successful colored production yet released."

—Betty Colfax in N. Y. Evening Graphic

- 7—**MAGNIFICENT** in its color appeal, and yet restrained, it is a restful and thorough delight to the eye—a distinct advance in the art of color photography.
- 8—**JACK CUNNINGHAM**, author of the screen plays of "The Covered Wagon," "Don Q," "The Black Pirate" and many other successes, is the author of the screen story for "The Viking."
- 9—**WATCH** for sensational announcement on "The Viking."
- 10—**IT IS** sponsored and released by the house of hits—

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

it's a pleasure

Member of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc.



Iowa Indies Repudiate Nat'l Ass'n; Going With Steffes Allied States

Des Moines, Dec. 4.

At a meeting here 100 Iowa independent theatre owners voted to affiliate with the Allied States Motion Picture Theatre Owners' Association in its campaign to change present terms of arbitration clauses in existing contracts.

Previously the Iowa association had been affiliated with the Motion Picture Theatre Owners' Association of America. At the meeting here members expressed the view that chain theatres and producing companies now exercise so much influence in affairs of that group it no longer satisfactorily represents the independent owner.

The meeting was addressed by W. E. Steffes and Glenn A. Cross. Both urged affiliation with the new group.

Pulled Sound Film, Damages Are Asked

The first sound contract dispute between producer and exhibitor coming to light is on the docket of the Hays' arbitration board in New Haven.

It is an action brought by Paramount against Alfred Gottesman, New England theatre owner, claiming damages for his alleged failure to play "Beggars of Life" for the full time specified in the contract.

That the disks were imperfectly recorded is his contention, Gottesman said. He makes this declaration, he stated, after he had complained to the electric and after finding the same imperfection in several other sets of duplicate records.

A groove in the records caused a constant repetition of dialog at one part of the production, the exhibitor stated. So bad was this imperfection that he decided after running the records through the loud speaker that the sound would have to be discontinued at that point because of the break. After opening and playing "Beggars of Life" for a week in his Roger Sherman, New Haven, Gottesman said he pulled the picture and cancelled its bookings for his other houses. He said:

"Talkers are great drawers when they are good but they will kill attendance quicker than a poor silent picture when they are bad."

STAGE HANDS LICKED IN SAN ANTONIO STRIKE

San Antonio stagehands local got the worst of it in their fight to obtain an increase in salaries.

San Antonio stagehands, 17, went on strike in three houses there, Majestic (Interstate) and the Strand and Texas (Publix). They demanded an increase for the heads of all departments, refused by the theatre.

After seven weeks during which the stagehands pulled out the picture operators, the union found itself licked, through the Publix houses cutting out all stage shows and installing sound films, but engaging union operators.

The stagehands have signed again but losing about every bit of ground expected. It looks like the theatres made the conditions.

The stage hands work Saturday morning shows gratuitously and there will be no overtime in the Publix theatres, one of the things demanded by the union.

In other Texas cities including Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston, stagehands have settled on a three-year basis of no increase this year but a \$3 raise in September, 1929, and another \$2 tilt in 1930.

Picture Possibilities

- "Tonight At 12"—Favorable
"TONIGHT AT 12" (Comedy, Shumlin and Davis, Hudson). A cleverly contrived mix-up between four married couples, boy and girl with laughable finale. Written by Owen Davis. Should do as talker. *Ibce.*
- "The Sacred Flame"—Unfavorable
"THE SACRED FLAME" (Drama, Messmore Kendall and Gilbert Miller, Henry Miller's theatre). Placid mystery story within English home, interesting but with deed of a mother killing her injured 25-year-old son with overdose of sleeping drug condoned. *Ibce.*
- "Rainbow"—Favorable
"RAINBOW" (Musical, Philip Goodman, Gallo). Atmosphere of gold rush days of '49, classes as western but with sound ought to serve. *Ibce.*
- "The Jealous Moon"—Unfavorable
"THE JEALOUS MOON" (Brady & Wiman, Drama, Majestic). Fantastic dream stuff of Harlequinade character, actionless and generally familiar, appealing only because of Jane Cowl's personal performance. *Abel.*
- "Congai"—Unfavorable
"CONGAI" (Drama, Sam H. Harris, Harris theatre). Colorful play of the Far East (Indo-China) but with the heroine a courtesan. *Ibce.*

Grauman's Daily Parade

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Sid Grauman is making a profitable ballyhoo stunt out of a necessity in connection with the showing of "Noah's Ark," at his Chinese theatre in Hollywood.

Grauman uses a lot of animals in his prolog. There being no accommodations for them near the theatre, it is necessary to bring them a considerable distance each day.

Grauman stages a daily parade along Hollywood boulevard just before the matinee, with an elephant, two camels, some zebras, horses and ponies, posters hanging from their sides advertising the picture.

The parade has attracted plenty of attention.

Nina May McKenny, formerly of the New York "Blackbirds," stage, added to "Hallelujah," M-G-M.

Johnnie Morris, vaude player, signed for comedy role in "Square Shoulders" (Pathe).

Toronto's Sunday Hope

Toronto, Dec. 4.

Decision of Justice Desaulniers of Quebec that Sunday movies are not illegal in that province paves the way for agitation for a seven-day picture week in Ontario but no immediate action is planned according to Col. John A. Cooper, of the Motion Picture Association.

The Lord's Day Act was ruled as not binding in Quebec because Sunday picture performances were given before the act came into force. This is not so in Ontario where Sunday pictures have never been shown except under the guise of charity or patriotic purposes.

Hayden Stevenson signed to play the trainer in the new Collegians series, U.

Bernard Siegel added to "The Charlatan," U.

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Fred Niblo assigned by M-G-M to direct Tolstol's "Redemption," featuring John Gilbert. Production starts Dec. 15.

Emily Fitzroy added to "Bride of San Luis Rey," M-G.

Ernie Orsatti, baseballer, added to "The Duke Steps Out," M-G.

So Jin signed for lead part in "The China Slaver" (Trinity).

Carmelita Geraghty added to "Five o'Clock Girl," M-G.

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LITERATI

Lesson or Holler?

The Al Barnes Circus, Charles Cook and James Van Shyke were fined \$2,500 and costs by Justice Walsh in the Supreme Court of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, last week, after an action for damages brought by the Calgary Herald was heard. Suit was started by the newspaper which contended that it had been furnished with and published a fraudulent news article.

The action arose as a result of a publicity stunt pulled by the Barnes people a year ago last June, when Van Shyke, who represented himself as assistant to Charles Cook, general manager of the Barnes show, sent a wire to the newspaper stating that the company was planning to expend a large sum for the building of a picture studio in Calgary. As the dispatch arrived just at press time the newspaper had no time to check up on the yarn. The paper later had to publish a denial of the story to protect its readers from a probable stock selling campaign.

In handing down his decision Justice Walsh stated the evidence showed that Van Shyke had written

the article in the local telegraph office on a regular press telegraph form and had secured a messenger boy to deliver it to the newspaper office, creating the impression that it had come over the wire from an out-of-town source. As Cook's name was signed to the article and he later refused to give the paper's correspondent a follow-up story to verify the dispatch sent by Van Shyke, the justice stated that he was convinced of the deliberate character of the fraud perpetrated on the newspaper.

Rowland Field's Announcement

Engagement of Rowland Field, dramatic editor and critic of the Brooklyn Daily Times, to Dorothy Adelaide Howland, Yonkers, N. Y., was announced today (Wednesday) at a luncheon at the Hotel Ambassador, New York.

Young Field's mother, Mrs. T. Mortimer Lloyd, Brooklyn Heights, is poetess under the name of Anne Lloyd. Her "Antiques and Amber" is being brought out this week by Derrydale Press.

Telegraph's Sports Staff

Extent of the Morning Telegraph's (New York) determination to build itself into a sports daily may be judged by the staff so far assembled for this purpose. At present the Telegraph's sport personnel reads: Richards Vidmer and Jim Harrison, from the New York Times; Bob Harron, formerly of New York Post; Joe Gordon, from New York American; Westbrook Feeler, from Chicago Tribune; Dick Williams and Ben Hecht, the latter the playwright and scenarist. Hecht will cover fights for the paper. He was supposed to have started last week but went to Chicago for the opening of his "Front Page" in that city Nov. 25. Ring Lardner will also probably do plenty of sport stuff for the Telegraph, becoming an active member of the staff Monday.

Whitney Bolton will have charge of the dramatic desk and Willard Keefe will do a daily theatrical column. Another member who is likely to get stage attractions is Martha Ostensio, authoress. Head staff artist is Jean Pastore, previously with Liberty. "Fleet" Phelps, who moved in with the new regime, is news editor.

Paper claims a gain in circulation since dropping a good deal of its show stuff.

Publishing Angels

Magazine publishing now has as much angeling as show business. Would-be publishers with ideas and no money have discovered that finances can be secured for this purpose by playing on the ambitions of literary tyros commanding money.

One such person thought he could cash in on the resemblance of the monicker. He met in a social way the wife of a wealthy Park avenueite who had written some short stories but never succeeded in having them published. To her he broached the idea of a fiction mag with the lady as editor and contributor, providing she could persuade her husband to put up the cash. She got hubby to do so, and

the very first issue of the publication had one of her own short stories, easily the worst of the poor ones in the lot.

Another case is quite similar, with the come-on also a woman, putting up her own money that her short stories might see print. Deal was engineered by a publishing house which has not less than four publications under way at any one time. Idea is to capitalize on the fiction fad of the moment, with the publication to cease as soon as the demand for that particular type of fiction drops.

The feminine would-be author had dispatched a short story to the offices of the publishing house via her secretary in person. The publisher, unaccustomed to receiving contributions in this way, inquired of the secretary as to her mistress' standing, etc., and got enough information to convince him she would make a good angel.

He arranged an interview with the ambitious authoress and outlined a project whereby he would publish her stuff if she consented to put up the money for a new mag. The existence of his other publications convinced her she could make money on the investment as well as realize her fond hopes of seeing her stories in print. She agreed, and the mag was decided upon as a Western story type, although the woman never wrote a word of the sort. After two issues, in one of which the woman had published a supposedly Western story, upon advice of the publisher, her grown children stepped in and had the monetary contributions stopped.

Not always do these angeled publications suffer such a fate. A certain weekly, now a tremendous money-maker, is adding a couple of millions to those already possessed by its angel.

Golden on Nathan

John Golden, under the impression that George Jean Nathan nurses a special grudge against him, protested at an open meeting of the Authors' League of America against the critic writing a play against the American theater for the new Encyclopedia Britannica. Golden is alleged to have said that he opposed Nathan's contribution because he knew he would be slighted or panned.

"Fiction Committee" Flop

The Hearst "Fiction Committee," high-power experiment inaugurated some three years ago, has been abandoned. Prof. Burton, English professor, was engaged to head a detached unit which would select serial fiction and have other material written to order for use of the string of dailies and syndicates.

It was a costly investment. Last week the fiction department was returned to the syndicates and Bradley Kelly placed in charge. The policy of having novels written to order will be continued, as these have proven better circulation puller than even the best sellers with a few exceptions, notably "Flaming Youth" and "Bad Girl."

Small Time Gypper

Postal authorities are investigating a new stunt designed to mulect money from writers. Scheme is worked from Chicago, from which point the easy money guy operates an office in a Pennsylvania city bearing the name of a supposed magazine. This publication sends out announcements it is seeking material and will pay fancy prices. Result is a large flood of manuscripts.

Authors next hear of the fellow

from Chicago who tells them that particular magazine has forwarded on the material submitted to it, with the advice it is not quite up to standard and wouldn't he revise the work so that it can be published. He tells the author what his fee is for the revision and the writer usually sends along the money, figuring it is worth it in view of the manuscript's practical acceptance by the magazine.

Magazine then rejects the story, with the author out the money for the revision which is usually worthless, or worse.

Macfadden's School for Boys

Bernard Macfadden, who runs the New York Graphic, has a military school. His educational seat is in Tennessee and called Castle Heights Military School.

Ownership came to light when Castle Heights wrote a northern military school seeking a football date for a post-season game in New York. The two institutions couldn't get together and the game is off. Castle Heights wanted the contest for publicity purposes. It has connected with St. John's of Brooklyn and plays there this Saturday.

Winchell Syndicated

Over 100 papers are using Walter Winchell's dramatic reviews and column daily, syndicated through the Central Press Association. This makes Winchell the sole dramatic critic whose stuff is syndicated day by day, the others, like Burns Mantle, Percy Hammond et al, rewriting their stuff in a news letter for week-end use once a week.

Winchell's notices in the "Graphic" are doveltailed with his daily column that day, both being used together as part of the service. Central Press has 108 papers buying Winchell.

Mrs. Whiffen's Book

"Keeping off the Shelf" is the title of the autobiography of Mrs. Thomas Whiffen, published by E. P. Dutton. Mrs. Whiffen, 84-year-old actress, last appeared in "Just Fancy" musical produced last season, and has managed to keep off the shelf for at least 83 years. Mrs. Whiffen came to this side with her husband, Thomas Whiffen, a singer, in 1868 and has been trouping here ever since. Her memoirs are rich in anecdotes of those early days.

Dooley's Explanations

Eddie Dooley, former Dartmouth quarterback, and now on the sport staff of the New York Sun, is the author of a series of gridiron articles appearing in Sport Story Magazine, a Street & Smith publication. Stories are written around Dooley's football experiences at Hanover, giving his explanation for the choice of certain plays against Yale, widely criticized at the time by newspaper experts.

While at the New Hampshire institution, Dooley showed considerable talent for writing, being known as Dartmouth's "poet laureate." In addition to his newspaper work, Dooley has done some gridiron coaching around New York.

Well Trained Eds

Harry Maule, editor of Short Stories, Frontier and West, trains

his assistants too well. Anthony M. Rud, former asst., now edits Adventure; William Corcoran, another, handles Everybody; and A. H. Ritter, a third, is making good as editor of the Argosy All Story. Two bad editors can't be sold like ball players.

Book on Lotta Crabtree

"Troupers of the Gold Coast," or "The Rise of Lotta Crabtree," by Constance Bourke, is a new Harcourt, Brace & Co. publication. Book traces the late Lotta Crabtree's career in the gold camps of the Sierras, the variety halls and gambling saloons of San Francisco.

Miss Crabtree died a few years ago in Boston leaving a large fortune.

Sinjin Ervine's Books

St. John Ervine, guest dramatic critic of the New York World, has had three books published the past year. They are "Four One Act Plays," "The Mountain," short stories, and "How to Write a Play."

To date Sinjin has 23 books to his credit—five novels, 12 plays, one book of short stories, two on politics, one book of essays and two on theatre craft.

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Featured in "ARTISTS" Idea
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BATTLE OF SOMME

(Continued from page 19)
worth seeing. Its photography pins a big rose on one Sydney Elythe. This Somme battle film seems to try at reality from war records and therefore doesn't qualify for comparison with American-made war pictures that drive continually along with a pretty girl, athletic hero and a war background to bring out phony boloney heroism. However, that's film license. Mark.

Son of the Golden West

FBO production and release. Starring Tom Mix. Directed by Eugene Ford from story by George Fyler. In cast: Lee Shumway, Fritz Ridgeway, Sharon Lynn, Duke Lee. At Loew's New York one day, Nov. 15, half double bill. Running time, 65 minutes.

"Son of the Golden West" has a theme composed of others that have been ground out hundreds of times. But Tom Mix is in it, does his shooting and riding and careful love making in the Mix way, so that this is a safe bet for Mix audiences. Single handed, Mix shoots away a tribe of Redskins at the opening. Just before the closing, with only a bit of cactus to shield him, he pops over man after man who not only outnumber him 15 to one, but who have the additional odds of a shack to safeguard them.

Long stretches of film are used to show Mix galloping along long stretches of prairie. A bunkhouse singer not only flats vocally, according to the titles, but bores as a long distance filler in the footage. Sharon Lynn, Mix's leading lady, has little that will appeal. Personality registers mostly negative in this one.

The usual bad men overact in

this to show their wickedness. Lassoing a house in which they have hidden themselves, troopers, called by the darling telegraph wiper (Mix) manage to pull it over. This is a fitting climax to what has gone before. Waly.

Triumph of Scarlet Pimpernel

(BRITISH MADE)
Produced by British & Dominion Company. Directed by T. Hayes Hunter. Distributed in the U. S. by W. & F. Company; U. S. and Canada by Wide World Film Corp. Censor's certificate "U." Running time, 94 minutes. Preview at the Marble Arch Pavilion, Nov. 5.
Sir Percy Blakeney (Scarlet Pimpernel)
Matheson Lang
Lady Blakeney.....Marjorie Hume
Robespierre.....Neilson Keyes
Tallien.....Haddon Mason
Theresa Cabarrus.....Juliet Clouston

Another French Revolution film, with angles of the popularity of the authoress's novels and of Matheson Lang here. But direction and acting are only fair, with the crowd scenes well handled but at times rather badly grouped.

Blakeney never do, and the suspense falls in consequence. Neilson Keyes makes Robespierre a shade too starchy. He is inclined to mug and stride overmuch.

Story is a thread, concerned with Robespierre's attempts to get rid of Blakeney, responsible for saving a number of folk from the guillotine. Action is mainly devoted to Blakeney's maneuvers to outwit him and to save Lady Blakeney after Robespierre has had her abducted.

Very weak; this spot, as the lady is kidnapped and rushed over to France almost in a caption. She appears in Robespierre's house with several changes of gown and plenty of jewels.

Nothing outstanding but still fairly fast-moving and colorful melle with good sales angles for this side. Its value except as a one-day program picture in America is problematical, as its cast is not known and the subject has been done amply already. Frat.

THE OLD CODE

Recent production, released by Anchor Film Distributing Co. Presented by Morris R. Schank. Directed by Benjamin Franklin Wilson from the story by James Oliver Curwood. Adaptation by E. C. Maxwell. Featuring Lillian Rich and Walter McGrail. Cast includes Cliff Lyons, Melbourne McDowell, J. P. McGowan, Neva Berber, Erwin Strans and Mary Gordon Rhody Hathaway. At Stanley, New York, one day, Nov. 14. Running time, 65 minutes.

Concerns neither the old code nor the new. The producers never heard

of codes, rules or principles, to judge from this production.

This is the kind of a picture that proves the absence of brain matter. The story could be told in three sticks of 12-point type, with blanks and dashes as the major means of expression.

It is one of the slowest, dearest state righters ever seen.

The frozen north, also dismal and unromantic, is again the uninspiring background. A white girl, an orphan, in love with a trapper who is later beaten up twice by the villainous half-breed, disproving the contention in the subtitles relative to the heroic one's bravery.

Anywhere from three to six anti-climaxes.

Action consists mainly of lengthy subtitles, shots of people talking or gesticulating, and a couple of weakly staged fight sequences. Mori.

HARA-KARI

(FRENCH MADE)
Paris, Nov. 15.

"Hara-Kari," scenario by Pierre Lestrinque, produced by Marie Louise Iribie, who plays lead, sponsored by Artistes Reunis and distributed by Jean de Merly, is to be classed among the good local pictures released this season. Scenario is perhaps a bit off color. The technical work has been carefully nursed, the redeeming point, but the story is too slow, with scenes often repeated.

It would seem Mme. Iribie was trying to catch all the sunlights, with more concern about her role than the run of the picture, an argument against a producer playing first roles.

All the same, she and Maurice Forster, as one of the producers of "Hara-Kari," have done justice to the book furnished, while Constant Remy, Liao-Szi-Jen, Labusquiere, Toshi Komou, Michaud, Andre Berley and Wuriu worked hard to put some kick into it.

A European woman, Nicole, married a cultured Asiatic, Professor Daomi, specialist in religious rites of the extreme Orient, and soon leaves her husband to join a lover, Prince Fujiwara. Daomi, learning of her intention in time, tries in vain to retain her, to warn her of such a fatal step with a man far above her in rank.

But the lovers go to a winter resort in the Alps, where the Prince is killed while mountain climbing. The Japanese ambassador receives instruction to have the Prince's body buried according to the rites of the Shinto religion. No one in Europe can do this excepting Professor

Daomi. He is called in and accepts, despite his deep hatred for the deceased.

Daomi thus again meets his wife in the death chamber, and orders her out. Nicole seizes a knife and tries to commit suicide. Her former husband prevents her.

After his departure she is haunted with the idea of Hara-Kari as the means of crossing the Styx, but flubs when it comes to the plunge. Finally she goes outside with a revolver and kills herself under more modern methods.

Daomi returns, looks with sorrow on the corpse, and pardons his ex-wife for her conjugal infidelity.

Marie Iribie reveals much talent in her impersonation of the rather unsympathetic part of the guilty spouse, while the camera manipulation is first class. Pruning is much needed in "Hara-Kari." Kendrew.

Phyllis of the Follies

Universal production and release. Directed by Ernest Laemmle. In cast: Alice Day, Matt Moore, Edmund Burns, Lilyan Tashman. At Loew's Circle, one day, Nov. 16, half double feature. Shown with non-synchroized disc accompaniment. Running time, 65 minutes.

Highly moral and strictly conventional. Thread of story and overacted with just enough flash of backstage to work follies into title. Generally cheap production safe in the grinds but precarious for better second runs and others.

The rich bach, who meets married dame on the make, painfully exaggerated by Edmund Burns. Palming off young friend, Alice Day, as wife, Lilyan Tashman masquerades single. Little twist in situation but story open book in first reel with accomplice falling. Husband, Matt Moore, returning from phoney trip and unraveling of identities to bachelor seen thousands of times.

Titles, on same order. Laughs in spots with right audiences. Waly.

DOMESTIC MEDDLERS

Many-Shah production and release. Directed by James Flood from the story by Wellyn Tolman. Continuity by Wellyn Tolman, titles by Frederic and Panny Hatton. Photography by Ernest Miller. Featuring Claire Windsor, Lawrence Gray and Roy D'Arcy. At Loew's New York, one day, Nov. 30. One-half of double bill. Running time, over 60 mins.

Split week material in the neighborhoods. Plot lighter, but studio work, suitable

scenic settings and ability of Claire Windsor are assets.

D'Arcy and Gray behave like a couple of comedians, registering very much like a team doing a broad burlesque of heavies in the '30's. D'Arcy, as the entirely too debonaire sales manager, begins to covet the credit man's wife, early. He has Walter and Claire in his apartment for dinner. Walter passes out after a couple of drinks and the evil one lures the beautiful young wife up to a roof garden for a dance.

The whisper of scandal soon after reaches the young husband's ears with the usual suspicions arising. Did his wife and his friend do anything wrong, or no, wonders young Walter. In the end he learns of his wife's pure, sterling character and, like Sir Jos. Gishberg, denounces the menace in loud, angry voice issuing from a distorted mouth.

Ends fittingly with a severe horse-whipping for the covetous one who, after all, couldn't be blamed, considering the nifty appearance of the pulse-quicker. Mori.

SILKS AND SADDLES

Universal production and release. Marion Nixon and Richard Walling featured. Directed by Robert F. Hill from story by Gerald Beaumont. Joseph Brotherton, cameraman. In cast: Mary Nolan, Gus Hagan, Claire McDowell, Sam deGrass. At Loew's New York, one day, Nov. 21, half double bill. Running time, about 60 minutes.

Good race track entertainment along the usual lines. Scenes at the track with the young jockey double-crossing his owners for a blonde decoy have their suspense.

For a jockey Richard Walling stands in a little too high with his old Virginia employers. But this is in tune with the theme.

A safe bet for general bookings. Waly.

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HAVE YOU SEEN
FRANK DIGAETANO'S Son and Daughter
ADAM AND AMELIA
GAMBLINO
SOCKING AWAY AT THE PARAMOUNT, NEW YORK
IT'S A PLEASURE!
Much obliged to ABE LASTFOGEL and LESTER HAMMELL for Niggemeyer's "BUBBLES"
WE THANK YOU

R-K-O'S President Named, But Entire Keith Staff Is Awaiting Reorganization

Though Hiram S. Brown was chosen president of Radio-Keith-Orpheum at the board of directors' meeting last week, the entire Keith staff is anxiously awaiting the long looked for reorganization of the chain, commencing with its bookkeeping office.

Speculation has been over the selection of an actual showman operator of Keith's in the almost super-circuit. Lack of information held on the subject by anyone is almost leading the vaude people to believe that it may be the intention of David Sarnoff, chairman of the R-K-O board and the new president, to attempt to operate Keith's as at present. It is now headed by John Ford who so far has capably discharged his onerous office as general manager of the combined Keith and Orpheum circuits.

Of the two operators' names formerly mentioned in connection with their possibility of physical directing the Keith houses and policies, one is reported to have been dismissed from consideration. The other, it is said, with a president selected, filling that post, is not inclined to further consider the proffered, if it has gone to him, position of authority in any organization. He is now president of the chain operated by him.

FBO, the picture producer, the other end of R-K-O is permanently officered and directed under Brown. Jos. I. Schiltzer is general manager in charge of production. Both are holdovers and placed in their present positions by Sarnoff, as was Ford, also a holdover under R-K-O in Keith's.

Other Appointments

Other appointments made by the board last week were Maurice Goodman as general counsel to R-K-O and vice-president. B. E. Kahane is the secretary and treasurer of the company. Goodman has been general counsel for Keith's for many years. He started as a law clerk with the late B. F. Keith. Kahane previously was counsel for the Orpheum Circuit, up to its merger with Keith's.

Keith-Albee-Orpheum remains in existence as a non-active corporation and will thus remain, it is said, until its outstanding voting (common) stock shall have been secured 100 per cent. by R-K-O. Up to now it is reported R-K-O has secured 80 per cent. of R-K-O common, turning over the balance to Albee. R-K-O remains a going concern its president, E. F. Albee, retains that position by virtue of a contract held by him with Keith-Albee-Orpheum.

It is understood R-K-O in connection with the R-K-O converting R-K-O stock in that manner, assumed no Keith-Albee-Orpheum obligations. It is reported that Albee will continue on the construction of the new Keith theatres started by him. Two remain under construction, at Rochester, N. Y., and Flushing, L. I. Each is due shortly to be completed and open.

Shifting Others

No mention of any office to be held by Max Goldman, former Orpheum president, in R-K-O is heard. One story says Helman may be temporarily placed in the broadcasting enterprises of Radio Corporation of America, the parent R-K-O company. Other former executives of Keith-Albee-Orpheum may also go to R-K-O offices, with FBO mentioned as the talking short maker for their services, or R. A. C. Photo, a R. A. C. sub, with its own proposed talking picture production studio.

The new president, Brown, called the Keith and FBO heads downtown last Friday for a conversational chat. The impression left was Brown is pleasant enough and

an inference he did not contemplate any revolutionary changes in the Keith organization, immediately.

Hi Brown

Brown may leave his downtown quarters and move into the Keith offices by Dec. 15, with his resignation as president of the United States Leather Company to take effect Dec. 31. Brown's knowledge of the show business or vaudeville is of the slightest. He socially knows the Albee and Ted Lauder through the Westchester-Biltmore golf course as a mutual meeting place. Brown lives on the W.-B. grounds.

Downtown, Hi Brown at 46 is known as an organizer of unlimited ability. He walked into the leather trade when it was greatly disorganized, bringing the leather into its present position of solidity within five years. Called a hard-boiled business man, Brown is reported an unusual conciliator and is said to have early worked out his leather problem by his table persuasion through which he obtained co-operation in leather community interests.

In handling the leather trade so satisfactorily, Brown is said to have attracted the attention of big downtown business. He became very friendly with Owen Young of A. T. & T. It was due to his standing that the prestige of his name and as a result he was named as a candidate with R. C. A. that Brown was requested to become the R-K-O president. The supposition is that through Brown's record as an organizer his choice is in line with R. C. A.'s ideas for the future in the show business.

At last week's R-K-O board meeting it was officially announced that Paul D. Cravath, Arthur Lehman (Lehman Brothers, bankers) and M. Herr had been added to the R-K-O board, making the R-K-O board sound equal in its names to any board of directors in the country, not excepting U. S. Steel.

A Demoralized Keith's

Meanwhile, with the slowness in establishing the R-K-O organization, principal reason for Keith's demoralized. Its condition is becoming more so daily, with morale at the lowest ebb. This is partially due to uncertainty of the staff men, including bookers and house managers, but principally because there is no great chain operator to take hold with strong-arm authority to straighten out the chaotic condition.

Keith's, for months, subject to the costly and damaging interference of minority stockholders in R-K-O, has been reduced from that of the most important chains into a mere guesswork as to who can pull it out of its present hole. A recent statement issued by Keith's revealed it has lost \$1,000,000 the first eight months of this year. The full year may see a million amount reach almost two millions.

It will require the most skillful of direction to handle this mixed vaudeville chain. The most skillful operator obtainable will still have a heavy task to work it out. The impression among the most astute vaude showmen is that Keith's can be worked out by the right operator.

It is not expected that Brown can assimilate sufficient detail on Keith's to give it his intelligent working direction within six months. Ford, with admittedly a load enough for any one man to handle in office and routine matters of the circuit, is not looked to operate besides, it is said. Earl Sanders, at present chief booker for Keith's, is reported having his heaviest work untangling the terrific booking jam the factional interference last summer threw the combined Keith Circuit's books into.

Bookers and Agents

It is commonly believed that besides two corking executives in Keith's for its routine and general operation, Keith's needs the two best booking heads obtainable, with Sanders expected to be one of them. Most of the best vaudeville bookers at present are outside of the Keith agency.

In the Keith main booking office are over 60 agents, about 40 too many. They have been held in through as-

Franks Slugged Kosloff, Obliged to Apologize

Chicago, Dec. 4.

Musicians and masters of ceremonies seem to acquire pugilistic tendencies once they come here. They are imbued with the idea of living up to the reputation the newspapers have given this town.

Last week Art Franks, dancing comic with the Public "Hi Hat" stage unit, Chicago theatre, lost his temper, professional dignity and standing when slugging Josu Kosloff, a pianist, in the lobby of the house. Argument was trivial. Kosloff came down to Franks' dressing room, remonstrating about the unwarranted temperance the latter had displayed while on stage. Franks hauled off at Kosloff and hung up a nice-bright shiner on his eye.

Then followed a visit from James Petrillo, head of the musicians' union here, and Franks made a public apology, admitting he was wrong. Kosloff, meanwhile, carried around a lited lamp.

The incident aroused much anger around town. It is doubtful if Franks will be permitted to continue on his route.

GEORGE B. MILLER KILLED

Struck on Head by Bandits—Former Magician

Toledo, Dec. 4.

George B. Miller, 53, died Dec. 1 as the result of an attack by bandits. While held up, but not robbed, Miller was struck over the head and died the following day.

The dead man was a magician on the stage's some years ago. At one time he traveled with Thurston. More recently he had resided in this city.

2-Wk. Palace Dates For Names; Shortage

Shortage of name acts will lead to a two-week booking at Keith's Palace for names for the balance of the season, it is said. To date the probable draws have been held over whenever possible, but the repeat weeks have not been set in advance.

Ed Lewis is currently h. o. at the Palace on an original 14-day booking. Phil Baker has been engaged for the weeks of Dec. 16-23, stop of his opening week notwithstanding.

Due to the severe scarcity of material the office has found no way to set Palace bills earlier than Friday, two days before opening. In numerous instances this season acts have been booked into the Palace as late as Saturday, opening the following day.

Whiteman at Palace

Paul Whiteman will return to Keith's Palace, New York, for the week of Dec. 30.

The band of 27 at the Palace will have the Rhythm Boys (3). Latter now playing for Keith's as an act.

Boys Ushering

Chicago, Nov. 27.

Palace, two-a-day, is the last local vaude house to discard girl usherers in favor of cad cadets.

Fally Markus Adds Two

New Empress, South Norwalk, Conn., and Sanford, Irvington, N. J., have been added to Fally Markus' books.

Five acts on a split week for both.

Bookers and Agents

On the booking floor are several underpaid bookers, so many that there is a continuous internal revolt among them for the low salaries paid for the high pressure work they do. With bookers authorized to spend millions of dollars yearly on bills, the most important part of the Keith institution, most of the bookers receive less than bookkeepers.

This situation has led to many reports, none flattering to the agents or bookers involved, with acts commencing to talk. It will be the first struggle for any operator appointed to take up White vaudevillians shrug their shoulders at the suggestion that Keith's may have no operator.

"Peaches" Browning Thinks Lightly Of Slander—Believes She's Insulted

Keith's Broadcasting Stopped in Minn.

Minneapolis, Dec. 4.

Acting on orders from the main offices in New York, the Hennepin-Orpheum (Keith's) has discontinued its weekly broadcasting over local station WRHM. No reason given for the ban on the broadcasting.

It is understood the ban applies to every house on the Keith circuit.

Broadcasting by artists appearing at any Orpheum house here always had been taboo up to this season. When Frank N. Phelps, local district manager, arranged several months ago to broadcast an entire program weekly, with per centage of current bills supplying the entertainment talent, the move was regarded as a radical departure from old policies.

Hereabouts Phelps was lauded for his progressiveness and enterprise in putting over the broadcasting deal. His response to the radio exploitation on the public's part was understood to be splendid. Artists, too, were co-operating to make the other programs a success.

The sudden discontinuation of the broadcasting therefore came as a shock here.

Radio-Keith-Orpheum is a subsidiary of R. A. C., its own broadcaster with a country-wide (WEAF) network.

KENNETH HARLAN IN AIR

So Leaping Lady in His Sketch Slips Picture Actor Notice

Cleveland, Dec. 4.

While Kenneth Harlan went up in the air during his sketch playing at Keith's Palace last week, Louise Huntington, his leading lady, slipped him a two weeks' notice before the picture actor could regain his balance.

Harlan's simulated temperament in vaudeville, after faded picture engagements which forced him there, is said to have given Miss Huntington the yawns. "That is why she gave Harlan the air."

Carroll Unit Unhurt

The 30-odd members of the Harry Carroll unit in the Southern Pacific train wreck near Roseburg, Ore., Dec. 2, were all reported uninjured.

The company, playing the coast for Keith's, was en route to San Francisco from Seattle.

Principals of the unit, all in the wreck, are Harry Carroll, California Collegians (band), Demarest and Collette and the Donovan Sisters. Last named are daughters of Major Donovan of the V. M. P. A.

Josephine Baker's Flop

Berlin, Nov. 15.

Josephine Baker, colored, long a rage in Paris and ballyhooed here for months as a promised sensation, washed out before a packed house at the Theatre des Westerns. Plenty took the air before the end.

Critics unanimous Josephine has lost much of her zip and naiveté. Hal Sherman, American hoofeer, saw the house from drawing a blank.

DEMPSEY'S HEAVY PRICE

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Jack Dempsey is reported preparing a vaude act, pending settlement of his salary demands with Keith's. The ex-champ is asking heavy coin.

If the wage dispute is settled Dempsey may open out here for Orpheum within a month.

Coast Man Now Down East

New Haven, Dec. 4.

Bernard J. Hynes, formerly West Coast theatres division manager in Seattle, has been appointed manager of the Palace, American by Hirschfeld. Hirschfeld, general manager of the Fox New England Theatres, Inc. The Palace, which reopened Sunday, is the ace house of the Fox New England chain.

Ruth Shepley's resignation from "The Squealer" because of Peaches Browning, may fetch a \$10,000 slander suit by Peaches against Miss Shepley. Miss Browning, general manager, Edgar Allen, has consulted Julius Kandler to serve notice on Miss Shepley who quit the Jack Linder show when advised of "Daddy" Browning's woof-woof's advent into the meller.

The Shepley-Browning imbroglio broke perfectly in the dailies for the attraction. It smacked of smart publicity but this suspicion is nullified by the original intention being that a special part be written in by Mark Linder, author of "The Squealer," for Miss Browning. It may be that Peaches will do Miss Shepley's role as is. The latter turned in her two weeks' notice, although she was for quitting summarily only because of Equity ruling, voicing her objections to Peaches. The dailies threw a nose-jaw at Miss Shepley for her stand, recounting her impeccable legit record.

The latest wrinkle is the slander suit. Meantime, Kandler petitioned the White Plains (N. Y.) Supreme Court for a further adjournment of Katherine Murray's (Mrs. Allen) suit against Edgar Allen, naming "a Mrs. Browning" on the ground that he is too weak to try the case in court. Kandler deputized a substitute to interpose his affidavit, with the possibility that trial will be ordered to proceed regardless. The attorney is but now recovering from a critical illness.

Some sort of final action is expected next Monday when the suit filed by Mrs. Edgar Allen against her husband is slated for trial.

Efforts to settle out of court so far has been unsuccessful.

This is also the same date set for the appearance of Peaches Browning in the Jack Linder show.

Allen's Wire

Allen sent the following wire to Miss Shepley at the Forrest, New York: "If the newspapers quote you correctly, your statements regarding Mrs. Browning is a direct insult to the thousands of artists who have appeared with her and your experience should have guided you to be more diplomatic. (Signed) Edgar Allen."

Allen since his resignation from the Fox vaudeville agency has been managing Peaches. His experience with Fox is held to be the result of the Browning notoriety to which Jack Loeb, his immediate superior, objected.

"Squealer" Types

When Peaches was announced to join the show last week, Miss Shepley handed in her resignation. She was for quitting but after consulting Equity, was informed she would have to continue, playing out her notice time. That annoyed Miss Shepley further since Peaches will go into the show Monday and Miss Shepley must play out on Wednesday. At that time Louise Jessup, temporarily for Miss Shepley, will take over the role.

There was a further objection on Miss Shepley's part over the featuring of Peaches. Her agreement with Linder is sole featuring. Peaches is slated to appear in a cafe scene, but not otherwise. Linder thinks she can put "The Squealer" across. To date its business has been just so-so.

"The Squealer" deals with the Barbary Coast, Frisco, prior to the earthquake. It has a low down type act, that infested the "coast" at that period. That Miss Shepley objected to Peaches appearing in a play of that description was something of a single along Broadway, since Miss Shepley didn't mind low types of plays herself.

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MAE MURRAY

Breaking All Records at the Fox, Brooklyn, This Week

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OF THE
CENTURY
TEN EXTRA
CHORUSES

I FAW DOWN AN' GO BOOM

By B. B. JAMES BROCKMAN & LENORD STEVENS



ME AND THE MAN IN THE MOON

By EDGAR LESLIE AND JIMMIE MONACO

HAVE YOU HEARD IT?! THE GREATEST LYRIC FOX TROT NOVELTY OF THE YEAR

YOU'RE IN LOVE AND I'M IN LOVE

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A BEAUTIFUL WALTZ BALLAD

MY TROUBLES ARE OVER

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THE BEST FAST SONG ON THE MARKET
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A PERFECT SONG FOR ACTS AND RADIO SINGERS

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Personal Publicity Through R-K-O Or Keith's, Cold, Says Keith's Pres.

Use of Radio-Keith-Orpheum and Keith's Vaudeville, or the name of either, for personal publicity purposes, will not be tolerated in the future, is the report. This practice, grown less since other days, will become a thing of the past at the instigation of Hiram S. Brown, president of R-K-O, it is said.

The attitude of Brown, from accounts, toward the combining of personal with commercial exploitation was clarified last week in conference, with members of the Keith organization on the listening end. Keith's new president, it is said, offered no direct comment on the old idea of personal ballroom, yet alluded to it generally in expressing his distaste of exploitation of anything but the name of the company itself.

In the past all press matter and propaganda issued by Keith's, by the circuit itself or theatres individually, made subtle or open mention of E. F. Albee, whether the press staff related to the Albee name or not.

When not at the order of Albee himself the Albee mention was

usually inserted by someone looking for an Albee put on the bank, the peak of Albee payment for those who vainly tried to make the Albee name and that of Keith's vaudeville synonymous.

Albee went so far as to incorporate his own name with that of Keith's to make it read Keith-Albee, though the name of Albee meant nothing to the vaude patron.

No General Order

At the Keith office in New York, nothing is known of any general order sent out to the circuit's houses to discontinue radioing by Keith acts.

It is said any such individual action may have been by the house manager, pending a decision of Radio-Keith-Orpheum on etherizing vaudeville. The question it is said has not been settled whether Keith's will radio on a national basis, over the chain, or leave the subject to the local theatre.

The chances are from the account that it will be the national basis plan.

Gus Edwards and Shorts on Coast

Gus Edwards, directing talking short for M-G-M, may join Universal as musical revue producer when his contract with M-G expires upon completion of his fourth short subject.

Edwards held production costs down to around \$15,000 when joining Metro, but it is claimed the costs have doubled lately. It is believed here the same picture could have been produced for half the original cost if made in New York.

Understood that M-G's option on Edwards was not to be exercised but in some way or another got into the mail before it could be stopped. M-G states Edwards will be released if his present negotiations with U materialize.

Lina Basquette on Stage

Lina Basquette will head one of the F. and M. stage shows. She is to start the tour shortly after her marriage to Peverell Marley, cameraman, next month.

\$65 Worth of Acts

Chicago, Dec. 4. Touch time for vaude agents in the city.

One of the boys recently received a request by mail for \$65 worth of vaudeville for a Sunday date.

32 Acts Booked from N. Y. by Foster for Eng.

Harry Foster, English representative of the William Morris Agency, three days after his return to London cabled New York acceptances and dates for 32 American acts to play an average of six weeks each on the other side. Bookings on other American turns are in prospect.

All acts booked will play the Palladium, London, from two to four weeks, but not all will make their first appearance at that house. Bookings, all during 1929, include:

January

Nee Wong, Zelaya, Hill and Hull.

February

Chas. Ahearn Co.

March

Morris and Campbell, Al Herman.

April

Rodeo Boys, Lamberti, Eddie Lambert, Geo Dewey Washington, Avon Comedy 4.

May

Catts Bros.

June

Foy Family.

August

Alfred Littell, Nan Halperin, Mills and Shea, Meyakos Japs, Carl Freed Orch, Ken Murray, George Herman, Johnny Berkes.

September

Don Cummings, Vardell Bros, "Jim" the Bear, Evans and Percz, Norman Thomas Quintet, Ruby Norton, Bob, Bob and Bobbie.

October

Bernard and Henry, The Gaudschmidts.

SMALL TOWN'S SALARY

Great States at Joliet Pays \$2,000 for Act for 3 Days

Chicago, Dec. 4.

J. J. Rubens, vice-president and general manager of Great States, looked Amos 'n' Andy (Correll and Gosden) radio names, into Rubens' Riato in Joliet at \$2,000 for three days. Joliet's population is 50,000.

If the team draws above average business there, in on percentage, Riato, built as a testimonial to the Rubens family. It is 25 miles from Chicago.

Red Grange Passed Up By St. L. Daily Editors

St. Louis, Dec. 4.

Harold, otherwise "Red" Grange, didn't prove the popular "Child Harold" he would have been here last week because of the recent Papa that had legally been stuck in front of his name in court when he was reported in news items to have paid the \$300 required by law in Illinois for being the father of a child out of wedlock. The best "Red" could corner in the way of publicity in the dailies after his arrival, or before, as a general rule, for that matter, was the mere mention he was the star of the stage show at the Missouri. The booking had been contracted for long before.

If his lawyers had staved off the proceedings, as lawyers sometimes do, it is said, charged and alleged, folks 'hereabouts' probably would have been willing to give the "Ghost of the Gridiron" the benefit of the doubt, or several doubts, probably, but the tacit admission in the payment of the illegitimate child fine quered the works as far as the editors of the daily papers here were concerned.

Waring's Sounder

Waring's Pennsylvanians have been signed by F.B.O. for "Stepping High," full length sound picture. The band will double from "Hello, Yourself," currently at the Casino.

BILL GOES EDUCATIONAL

Bill Robinson, now in "Blackbirds," will become associated with the Albertina Rasch studios within a few weeks. Robinson will devote three days a week to teaching tap routines to Rasch units.

Collette D'Orville's Act

Collette D'Orville, who supplanted Trini on the road tour in "Take the Air," will go vaude with a pianist.

Marie's "I Faw Down" Copped for Song Title

The collaboration, "I Faw Down," has been incorporated into a popular song publication as "I Faw Down and Go Home!" which Donatson, Douglas & Gamble has taken over from the original publisher, Jim Brookman.

In an advertisement in the Nov. 26 issue of Variety, Marie Hartman (Hibbit) and Hartman claimed authorship of the "I faw down" expression. The ad, authorized for publication by the vaude team, further stated Miss Hartman has been identified with the expression for the past 12 years.

It is only recently that "I faw down" has been generally used, without permission, by others. It's now a standard vaude gag for a follow-up on prat falls, or as a squaring line for accidental spills.

"I faw down" is also used outside of show business; today, mostly by dames trying to look and sound cute after landing on the sidewalk or floor, mostly from out of or in speaks.

Perella as Single

Paul Whiteman is sponsoring his former piano soloist, Harry Perella, in vaudeville. The latter is doing a single.



Walter Nilsson
"World's Master Unicyclist"
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A full line of gold and silver brocade, metal cloths, gold and silver trimmings, rhinestones, spaniels, digitis, opera hats, etc., etc., for stage costumes. Samples upon request.
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DEAR ART: (The Other "Bear King")
"Bally" goled 'em! Now it's
"IRENE"
Same Place, Broadway Palace, L. A.
(And I'm Playing Madame Lucy!)
WHOOFS!!
KEN BROWNE
P. S.: Nadine Says "Hello"

MAY USHER

in "Lyrics of Life"

SCORING A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS AT
KEITH'S PALACE, NEW YORK, THIS WEEK (DEC. 2)
Direction—H. BART McHUGH

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THE INTERNATIONAL HEADLINER
EDITH CLIFFORD
OPENED FOR LOEW, NORFOLK, VA.
NORFOLK "LEDGER-DISPATCH" SAYS:
EDITH CLIFFORD, LOEW'S HEADLINER, IS CAPTIVATING
Edith Clifford is the first headliner picked for this position in many weeks who has seemingly justified the judgment of the Loew's Circuit booking office.
Many others have been nominated for this honor by the vaudeville Solomons, but few have been elected by the ticket-buying public.
Miss Clifford tops the new stage program at Loew's State this week, and is as far above the usual run of vaudeville as the tower of the Woolworth Building is above Broadway.
She sings, or rather talks, a selection of songs, and does a musical monologue that is impossible to imitate. And even her little bits of rallery are gems. She could have "carried on" an hour had she wished, judging by the applause she received.

Thanks to
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Accompanied at the Piano by **CARL KELLARD**

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You Can't Hold It Back!

"MY SUPPRESSED DESIRE"

A Chicago Rave That's Sure To Pop Over!



CHORUS
p-f
 There she goes, my sup-pressed de-sire. No one knows my sup-pressed de-sire.
 I sup-pose that you'd like to know who she is, but I'll nev-er tell.
 Here's the rea-son, it's plain to see, She just does-n't be-long to me.

by NED MILLER and CHESTER COHN

Why Did You Kiss Me Last Night?

"YA' COMIN' UP TONIGHT-HUH?"

— by AL SHERMAN, AL LEWIS & ABE LYMAN —

Here's A Nifty Novelty—Thats Got Everything!



CHO
mf Why did you kiss me last night? (whisper) Ya com-in' up to-night.
 Why did you tease me last night? (whisper) Ya com-in' up to-night.
 Why did you hug me last night? (whisper) Ya com-in' up to-night.
 huh! Ya com-in' up to - night? Why did you hold me so tight?
 huh! Ya com-in' up to - night? Why did you squeeze me so tight?
 huh! Ya com-in' up to - night? You know that it was-nt right?
 (whisper) Ya com-in' up to-night, huh! Ya com-in' up to - night? Oh!
 (whisper) Ya com-in' up to-night, huh! Ya com-in' up to - night? Oh!
 (whisper) Ya com-in' up to-night, huh! Ya com-in' up to - night? Oh!

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A **JOHN M. STAHL**
Super-Special Production
featuring
PATSY RUTH MILLER
and **LAWRENCE GRAY**

A **TIFFANY**
LONE
SOUND PICTURE

CHORUS

p-f Ev-'ry-bod-y's seek-ing for a some-one, Till the right one comes along.
long First love, sec-ond love and third love as well,
How can your poor heart tell? Ev-'ry-bod-y hopes to find a

Paul Whiteman's Great Concert Success!

"GYPSY"

A MOST UNUSUAL FOX TROT

by
L. WOLFE GILBERT & **MATT MALNECK** & **FRANK SIGNORELLI**

CHORUS

p-f Gyp-sy, you have no des-ti-na-tion, Gyp-sy, you haven all cre-a-tion, Your way, is my way to fol-low.
Gyp-sy, you cast a spell of magic, Gypsy, my love is deep and tragic
Lead me and I'll glad-ly fol-low, Throughout the land of Ro-man-y, your car-a-van,



You Can't Go Wrong
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| CHICAGO
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181 Tremont St. | DETROIT
Michigan Th. Bldg. | LOS ANGELES
'05 Majestic Thea. Bldg |
| MINNEAPOLIS
235 Loeb Arcade | TORONTO
195 Yonge St. | LONDON, ENG.
138 Charing Cross Rd. | PARIS, FRANCE
30 Rue de l'Echiquier |
| MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA,
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HARRY
HOWARD

Next Week (Dec. 10)

at the State
But America
Our America

Has Only

4 Weeks More

to

Laugh

at

HARRY
HOWARD

BORN

TO BE

LAUGHED

AT

and

LONDON

Will be Blessed

With His

Excruciatingly

Comic Entertainment

Don't You Think?

Direction

MEYER B. NORTH
JOS. FLAUM

Versatile Pit Orchestra Starting Off for Keith's

Phil Fabbolo becomes pit orchestra maestro at Keith's Riverside, New York, opening Dec. 21.

Fabbolo inducts a new policy for Keith's, that of the versatile entertaining pit band. It is the same policy Fabbolo innovated in the case of Loew's with which organization he was until annexed by Keith's.

Charley Stein goes from the Riverside into another Keith stand, probably the new Flushing.

Keith's, Toledo, Cut

A 25-percent cut has been imposed on all salaries at Keith's (vaudeville), Toledo, by the Keith vaudeville department.

The new policy, due to opening shortly, is expected to provide considerable opposition for vaude in Toledo.

Keith's is reported looking for another theatre there to replace the present Keith stand, far below modern theatre standards. Current policy is vaudeville, split-week, with five acts booked from New York.

T. O. B. A. Lops Branch

In a new effort to put the organization on a better footing the T. O. B. A., which books colored theatres, has closed down its Chicago office for economy. Hereafter all bookings will be made direct from Chattanooga, although S. H. Dudley will continue to operate his Washington office as a branch.

Milton Starry has been succeeded by C. E. Turpin as president. Sam E. Reevin, Chattanooga, is still general manager.

MADDOCK'S ACTS

Charles E. Maddock, Keith producer, says he is not altogether off flash acts of the sort with which he has been associated in vaude and is concentrating on producing unit shows for Keith's. Maddock is watching the talker situation and intends to produce another regulation vaude act next March, but is going slow on production of flash turns for the present.

CORBETT-BARRY OFF

Proposed reunion of Jim Corbett and Bobby Barry is cold. Barry has been spotted to head a production act, "The Night Watchman," routed by R-K-O, and opening at the 5th Ave., New York, the last half. Corbett is undecided whether his vaude return will be as a single or double.

MARGARET LAWRENCE'S ACT

Margaret Lawrence, suspended for nine months by Equity for walking out on Edgar Selwyn's "Possession," is entering vaude under direction of Albert Lewis, Inc.

Star is set for several weeks of R-K-O time in a reduced version of "Secrets."

7TH ST. FOR BURLESQUE?

Chicago, Dec. 4. Negotiations are reported on between Irene & Clarence, stock burlesques managers, and Keith's to take over Keith's 7th Street, Minneapolis.

The 7th Street played vaudeville until pushed out by opposition.

Reports on Rockwell-Seeley

Baltimore, Dec. 4. It is said here that Doc Rockwell has renewed his contract with the Shuberts. This means he is out of vaude for two more years, and ends rumors that he will go Orpheum, which circuit apparently had some sort of a tacit claim on his services. It is also reported, but not confirmed, that Blossom Seeley is renewing and will continue with the "Greenwich Village Follies."

Lake at Rochester

Baltimore, Dec. 4. Ethan Allen Lake, manager of the local Hippodrome, combo house, has resigned to accept a managerial position with R-K-O. He opens the new theatre in Rochester, N. Y., on Christmas Eve.

Nat Keene has temporarily taken over management of the house.

Orlando With Gus Edwards' Guido Orlando has joined the Gus Edwards office staff to handle the motion picture department.

Keith Agents

For artists' information, the following agents are enfranchised by Keith's and entitled to book acts with the circuit. Other franchise holders of the past not included in the list are no longer associated with Keith's:

Jack Boll
M. S. Bentham
Chas. Bierbauer
Ben Burke
Pat Casey
Jack Curtis
Paul Durand
Frank Evans
E. Fitzgerald
H. Fitzgerald
Marty Fokins
Lew Golder
Max Hayes
William Hennessey
Hodgdon Agency
Norman A. Hines
Anton Johnson
Keller & Godfrey
Jack Lewis
A. Lewis
Milt Lewis
N. E. Manwaring
Bert McHugh
Morris & Fell
Chas. Morrison
Fred Mack
James Plunkett
Harry Romm
Maurice Rose
Dave Sablosky
Nat Sobel
Harry Weber
Nat Wislizen

Each agency employs one or more associate or assistant agents. They are permitted to book through their respective agencies' franchisees.

The 19 producers' franchisees issued by the circuit are held by the Blanchards, Henry Bellit, C. & G. Bostock, Phil Bush, Ben Boyar, George Choos, Alex Gerber, Meyer Golden, Sam Shannon, C. E. Maddock, Phil Morris, Roger Murrell, Pau. Poole, H. Sauber, The Stewarts, Hermine Stone, Harry Rogers, M. Thor and Sol Turek.

2 Band Acts With Names

Two production band acts with names have been booked by Keith's. The turn headed by Al Herman includes 20 people; Roy Welsh band, Nancy Decker, Tommy Wonder, Smith and Gridley, Genevieve McCormick and a chorus, Charlie Morrison is the agent.

Second band act involves 13 people, with Ned Norworth as its name. Band is under the direction of Al Belasco, picture house m. c.

JUDGMENTS

Art Pubs., Inc. and Paramount Pubs., Inc.; H. N. Schmidt et al: \$8,388.

Gene Buck; H. Milgrim & Bros. Inc.: \$1,232.

Irving Theatres, Inc.; A. Fisher: \$990.

Jans Prods., Inc., and Herman F. Jans; Export & Import Film Co.: \$6,099.

A. Lyle Leverich and August A. Leverich; Jarcho Bros., Inc.: \$10,397.

Same; Greer Elec. Construct. Co.: \$17,243.

Dixie Leonard; R. J. Bulkley et al: \$1,000.

Cecil Lean; State Tax Comm'n.: \$349.

Altimoniacs, Inc.; R. Holstein: \$4,301.

Am. Music Drama, Inc.; M. Zlaten: \$2,324.

Alan Grosland; A. Sulka & Co.: \$185.

Erwin S. Kleeblatt; Mfrs. Trust Co.: \$20,851.

COMERFORD HOUSE OPENINGS

In the opening of the new Capitol, Rome, N. Y., by M. E. Comerford, in association with M. J. Kallet, the house will offer sound pictures with vaude to be played later out of the Amalgamated agency. House seats 2,500, and opens Dec. 3.

All prospective Comerford theatres will be wired, including the new Riviera, seating 1,500, Scranton, Pa., which opens with pictures Dec. 6.

Detroit House, in N. Y. Grand Riviera, Detroit, split-week presentation house, will switch from the Chicago Keith office to Keith's in New York. Date set for change, Dec. 9.

Riv will be on Wayne Christie's book in New York.

Joins Husband for Return Florence Mills, burlesque, who retired some time ago, is returning to the stage in Abe Reynolds' act. In private life Miss Mills is Mrs. Reynolds.

She replaces Evelyn Clark.

Large Number of Idle Acts May Be Increased by Added Policy Shift to All-Sound

F. P. Proctor, after having decided upon an all-sound picture policy for his 125th Street, New York, and Mt. Vernon theatres, may pursue the changed policy with vaudeville to all-sound in Proctor's 5th Avenue, New York, and Proctor's, Yonkers.

Meanwhile it is reported that R. C. A. Photophone, affiliated with Keith's through Radio-Keith-Orpheum, will have wired 40 Keith houses by Jan. 15. What alterations, if any, that will cause in the Keith vaudeville bills is not mentioned.

Proctor's converted houses have had their vaude bills booked through Keith's. The other several Proctor-houses continue with vaudeville shows.

In Yonkers, Proctor's has had the opposition of the Strand (George Walsh), idle picture house, playing to a steady and profitable business of recent months with a talking and sound picture program. Besides in Yonkers and nearby is Loew's new theatre, although Loew's is undergoing a struggle to break there.

Proctor's, Mt. Vernon, is also in the midst of opposition, but is the oldest vaude house in that suburban city.

The 6th Ave. of late has been badly suffering from poor bookings. It has been a natural vaudeville house for years, in a vaudeville neighborhood. About three years ago it was given added impetus when Proctor changed his vaudeville show at the 23d Street to straight pictures. The 6th Ave., however,

has been unable to hold its business with the vaudeville policy of late.

The Proctor all-sound policy at the 125th Street has not as yet received a full opportunity, owing to technical conditions prevailing at present.

All Proctor theatres play a split week bill. Four houses with a converted policy would mean the casting out of about 10 acts weekly on that circuit.

With Loew and Fox in and around New York changing to all-sound bills or shifting into them now and then, along with the possibility of some Keith theatres being obliged to go all-sound in the Keith adjustment of policies, the extraordinary number of idle acts just now will be largely added to.

It is claimed that there are more good vaudeville acts laying off at the present than ever before. It is also claimed there are more inferior and unknown turns on the Keith circuit currently than that chain has ever previously held at one time.

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DOBA WINNIE
CRISP SISTERS

in Their "CRISP REVUE"

R.-A.-O. Circuit

Personal Rep.: FRANK EVANS

Rochester Stock Blows; Joe Brown, Mgr., Missing

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 4. Gayety stock burlesque troupe was left stranded here this week when Joe Brown, owner of the show, was reported missing. Said to have gone in search of his wife, "Babe" Brown. His reported losses on season vary from \$2,000 to \$8,000 and bills total about \$5,000.

Performers are broke. Union stage hands and musicians refused to work for split, so theatre is closed. Billy Vaill, listed as one of the owners, returned after the crash but could do nothing. Says he has lost \$2,000 in venture.

Performers got about \$2 apiece for Saturday night's show. Monday a good crowd was on hand but stage hands and musicians refused to work, so money was refunded to customers. Press had ceased to review the shows, so situation did not get out until two days later. Meanwhile performers, several with small babies, were wondering where the next meal would come from. Bristol Hotel is taking care of them temporarily.

GUS BARTRAM and VERT SAXTON The Kentuckians In a Cycle of Songs

BOOKED SOLID IN K-A-O THEATRES AS FOLLOWS:

- Week Nov. 11—Columbus and Canton Nov. 18—Dayton and Louisville Nov. 25—State-Lake, Chicago Dec. 2—Joliet and Springfield Dec. 9—Evansville and Racine Dec. 16—South Bend and Gary Dec. 23—Belmont, Chicago; Kalamazoo, Mich. Dec. 30—Lansing and Owosso 1929 Jan. 6—Flint and Saginaw Jan. 13—Windsor and Ann Arbor Jan. 20—Pontiac and Battle Creek Jan. 27—Riviera, Detroit; Benton Harbor, Mich. Feb. 3—Rockford and Madison Feb. 10—Milwaukee Feb. 17—Englewood, Chicago; Terre Haute, Ind. Feb. 24—Salesburg and Peoria Mar. 3—Decatur and Bloomington Mar. 10—Kansas City Mar. 17—St. Louis Mar. 24—1st half, Champaign, Ill.; 2nd half, Milton Berger will fill Mar. 31—Hollywood and Uptown Theatres, Detroit Apr. 7—Akron and Youngstown Apr. 14—Cincinnati Apr. 21—Toledo and Grand Rapids Apr. 28—Billy Delaney May 5—Billy Delaney May 12—Billy Delaney May 19—Pittsburgh May 26—Cleveland June 2—Fishing June 9—Syracuse and Rochester ORPHEUM FOLLOWING

Thanks to "TINK" HUMPHREY WAYNE CHRISTY and All Chicago Bookers Booked Exclusively by BILLY JACKSON and MILTON BERGER They Still Want Us!

Theatres Proposed

Camden, N. J.—\$250,000. Owner, Variety Corp. Camden. Architect, H. B. Hall. Policy not given. Chicago, Ill.—(Also store and office bldg.) \$350,000. Owner, Blaine Bldg. Corp. Architects, L. L. Simon and Edward Steinberg. Cleveland—(Also store and office bldg.) Owner, A. E. Meade, Lakewood, Ohio. Architects, Yeager & Crothers, Cleveland. Policy not given. Des Moines—\$500,000. Owner, Blank Theatres. Architect not selected. Policy pictures not given. East Chicago, Ind.—(Also hotel, stores and offices) \$600,000. Owners, Sondak Bros. local. Architects, Newhouse & Terhune, Chicago. Policy not given. Evans, Benjamin, Harrison, Ohio, \$150,000. Owner, U. S. Army. Architect, C. K. Howell Arch't & Constr. Co., Atlanta. Policy not given. Freeport, Ill.—(Also store and apartments) \$450,000. Owner, United Studio, Chicago. Architect, same. Policy not given. Garden City, Mo.—(Also store and office) \$200,000. Owner, Synagogue, A. B. Dwight, care of architect, A. G. Salzman, Chicago. Policy not given. New York—\$300,000. Owner, Real Estate Enterprises, William Fox, pres. Architect, W. W. Altheimer, New York. Policy not given. Peoria, Ill.—(Remodeled) \$45,000. Owner, Peoria Players, Architects, Janieson & Haxton, local. Policy not given. Washington Court, Chicago, O.—(Also store and office bldg.) \$150,000. Owner, J. Gregory, Springfield, O. Architect, Midwest Engr. & Constr. Co., Columbus, O. Darlen, Conn.—Papers of incorporation filed by Edward H. Delafelt, wealthy society man, and a group of associates call for the erection of a modern fireproof theatre and office building. Residents of Darlen will be asked to help finance the new project, first theatre in the community. Appleton, Wis.—(Also store bldg.) Owner, Fischer-Paramount Theatre Corp., Chicago. Architects, Hoppe & Januch, same. Policy not given. Aurora, Ill.—\$1,000,000. Owner, Great States Theatre Corp., Chicago. Architect, Rapp & Rapp, Chicago. Fischer-Paramount Theatre Corp., same as at Appleton, Wis. Beloit, Wis.—Owner, Fischer-Paramount Theatre Corp., same as at Appleton, Wis. Chicago—(Also stores and apartment) \$70,000. Owner, J. Renjas, care architect, F. Lebowitz, Chicago. Policy not given. De Roto, Mo.—Owner, J. Rosen, local. Policy not given. Emporia, Kans.—\$225,000. Owner, H. A. McClure, local. Architect, Buller Bros. Garden City, Kans.—\$88,000. Owner, C. G. Aberill, local. Architect, F. D. Johnson, local. Policy not given. Indianapolis—(Alterations and additions) \$100,000. Owner, Company Photo-Play Houses, local. Policy not given. Indianapolis—\$100,000. Owner, J. P. Friedman, local. Architect, Wm. O. Morck, same. Policy pictures. Lafayette, Ind.—\$350,000. Company forming, care C. H. Moto, local. Architect, D. Graham, same. Policy pictures. Jackson, Mich.—(Also office and garage). Owner, Jackson Theatre and Garage Co., local. Architect, E. Ellington, Detroit, Mich. Policy not given. Monroe, Wis.—\$150,000. Same as at Appleton, Wis. Peoria, Ill.—(Remodeled and additions) \$40,000. Owner, Peoria Players, local. Stevens Point, Wis.—Owner, Fischer-Paramount Theatre Corp., same as at Appleton, Wis. Watertown, Wis.—(Also stores and apartments). Owner, Fischer-Paramount Co. Same as at Appleton, Wis. Watseka, Ill.—(Also hotel) \$50,000. Owner, G. Keith, local. Architect, Liese & Ludwick, Danville, Ill. Policy pictures. West Allis, Wis.—\$250,000. Company forming, care S. Novak, local. Architect, U. F. Peacock, Milwaukee. Policy not given. Camden, N. J.—(Also stores and office) \$250,000. Owner, Variety Amusement Corp., local. Hall N. J. Architect, same. Chicago—Owner, Rubin Bros., local. Arch't., A. L. Himelblau, same. Policy not given. Soto, Mo.—\$25,000. Owner, Jos. Rosen, 320 S. Main street, local. Arch't., C. E. Stevens, St. Louis. Policy not given. Jackson, Mich.—\$150,000. Owner, Butterfield Theatres, Inc., Chicago. Arch't., J. Eberson, same. Policy pictures. Laurelton, N. Y.—(Also offices and stores) \$150,000. Owner, Goldberg & Son, care architect, A. J. Jamacha, L. I. Policy not given. Newark, N. J.—(Also office and garage) \$450,000. Owner, Stanley Fabian Corp. Arch't. not selected. Policy not given. Philadelphia—(Also stores) \$225,000. Owner, Holme Realty Co., local. Arch't., W. H. Lee, same. Policy not given. Saginaw, Mich.—(Also stores) \$30,000. Owner withheld, care arch't., Cowles and Mutchler, local. Policy not given. West Allis, Wis.—(Also stores and offices) \$200,000. Owner, company organizing, care Steven Novak, local. Cleveland—(Also stores and apartment building) \$400,000. Owner, P. Guadagnolo, local. Architect, N. Pettit, 208 Williamson Bldg., same. Policy, vaudeville. Indianapolis—\$75,000. Owner, company forming. Architect, S. A. Craig, local. Policy not given. Zema, Blumhagen, Butterfield Theatres, Detroit. Architect, M. Finkel, Detroit. Policy not given. Middletown, O.—(Strand) (also store building) \$350,000. Owner, T. Chifos, local. Architect, F. E. Dixon, O. Policy not given. New York—(Mansion) (also office) \$3,000,000. Owners, Fox Film Corp. Architect, W. W. Altheimer, New York. Policy not given. Philadelphia—(Also stores) \$250,000. Owners, Stanley Co., local. Architect, T. W. Lamb, New York City. Policy pictures.

RADIUM QUEENS (MUTUAL) CHI. WOMEN'S KENO

Just like the rest, Nat Fields' show plays time killer for the Columbus stock rowing chickens. If Mr. Fields recognized his fortune after the first show Monday he's a broadminded pop. What was held over from the visiting troupe after the runway group inserted its six numbers seemed in no way extraordinary. The show derives its title from the fact that the visiting troupe members are attired in luminous costumes. Also in this scene, Teresina, who must be good because she's billed over and above the company name, made her only appearance, tossing the radium around under the deep purple. Outside New York, the lady must be hot. Here, where there's a lay which states just how far to the left or right the hips may go, Teresina was hardly lukewarm. If anyone rates star billing—though no one really does—it is Sidney H. Field, straight man. The way he builds a comedy scene and the way he outclasses anyone with-in eight should establish him as one of the topnotch feeders in burlesque. However, he has little competition in "Radium Queens." The few chances Bert Rose and Goof McCoy had for comedy were not used to the greatest advantage. It made little sense, perhaps, to either the comics or the audience, Rose and Goof, too, are probably better off in the stocks. Show's principal women, Gaby Fields, Mable Collins and Ina Thomas, were rather more active than the gentry. Yet they had considerable difficulty in keeping pace with the runway. Miss Wright, Miss Wright (blonde), Miss McAllister (brunet) and Miss White (plenty of s. a.). In between, the heavy runway numbers were suggestions of what might have been a burlesque show. In toto it's proof beyond question that as the turkeys weren't slain last Thanksgiving. Big.

Another racket cutting down matinee theatre attendance by women is the fancy handbook shop fast becoming a vogue. The dames may wager as little as 50c a horse. Being women they often double up on four-bit bets, each tossing 25c on a horse with a chance of receiving track odds in case of a win.

MARRIAGES Marguerite Rissler to Rube Levoy of Toledo. They were married about a month ago but kept it secret. Miss Rissler was formerly with "The Scarlet Lily."

Nanette Guilford, of the Metropolitan Opera Company, to Max Rosen, concert violinist, at the Municipal Building, New York City. Catherine O'Brien, secretary to A. J. Balaban, engaged to wed Malcolm R. Kennedy, non-pro. Belle Melrose, organist, Central Park theatre, Chicago, to James Lyons (non-pro) November 28. Helen Coyne to Arthur Jorden in Cincinnati, Nov. 27. Both are with "Social Maids" (Mutual). Marietta O'Brien ("Houseboat on Styx") to Ned Jacobs. The marriage will take place before the first of the year.

Burlesque Routes

Weeks of Dec. 3 and 10. Blue Eyes—Lynn, Columbus; 10, Lyric, Ind. 11. First show in Town—Empire, Newark; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. B. W. C. Du Loquis—Vaudeville, Pittsburgh to 15, same, Columbus. Burlesque Review, H. Ward, Boston; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. Henry Lake Cadillac, Detroit; 10, Empire, Toledo. Burlesque Review—Empire, Brooklyn; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. Dickson—The Review—Gayety, Milwaukee; 10, Empire, Chicago. Fletcher—Empire, Gayety, Boston; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. French Models—Columbia, Cleveland; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. "Frustrated" Empire, Providence; 10, Gayety, Boston. Girls—Miss Irving Pl., N. Y. C.; 10, Empire, Providence. Girls From the Pillbox—L. O.; 10, Lyric, Butler. Girls in the Temple—Syracuse; 10-12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. Girls of the U. S. A.—Empire, Cincinnati; 10, Gayety, Louisville. Golden Gate—Empire, Toledo; 10, Columbia, Cleveland. High Flyers—Garlick, St. Louis; 10, Gayety, Kansas City. Hindu Belles—Geneva, Schenectady; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. Jaxaline Brown—Blau, Worcester; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. Knitting Knives—Lyric, Dayton; 10, Empire, Cincinnati. Lady Anna—Hudson, Union City; 10, Irving Pl., N. Y. C. Little Girls—Columbia, Utica; 10, Gayety, Montreal. Salsberry—Mikera—Gayety, Baltimore; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. Moonlight Maids—Gayety, Montreal; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. Moulin Rouge Girls—Crystal, St. Joe; 10, Gayety, Milwaukee. Naughty Nitties—Gayety, Buffalo; 10, Temple, Syracuse. Nile City—Hill—Strand, Washington; 10, Academy, Pittsburgh. Nile City in Paris—Gayety, Soranto; 10, Gayety, Wilkes-Barre. Parisian Playgirls—H. & S. Arlino, N. Y. C.; 10, Empire, Brooklyn. Puss—Sisler, Hooking; 10, Orpheum, Paterson. Radium Queens—Columbia, N. Y. C.; 10, Star, Brooklyn. Red Hot—Hudson—Truender, Philadelphia; 10, Gayety, Baltimore. Red Hot—Gayety, Brooklyn; 10, Gayety, Syracuse. Round the Town—Gayety, Kansas City; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. Social Maids—Gayety, Louisville; 10, Mutual, Indianapolis. Sweet Girls—Orpheum, Paterson; 10, Hudson, Union City. Sparty Willows—Grand, Akron; 10, Gayety, Buffalo. Step Along—Lyric, Bridgeport; 10, H. & S. Arlino, N. Y. C. Step Lively Girls—Majestic, Albany; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100. Step On It—L. O.; 10, Grand, Akron. Stolen Sweets—Grand, Hartford; 10, L. O. Sugar Babies—Empire, Chicago; 10, Cadillac, Detroit. The Woman and Song—State, Springfield; 10, Grand, Hartford.

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. D. Arcey Corrigan, daughter, at Hollywood, Cal., Nov. 11. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hickey, at Pittsfield, Mass., Nov. 16, daughter. Father is of Hickey Bros. Mr. and Mrs. Irving Berlin, in New York, Dec. 1, son. Second child. Sugar for "Sugar Cane" "Sugar Cane," an all-Negro show which was disbanded when its proposed tour over the Majestic circuit blew up, has been reorganized by Coleridge Davis and will tour.

"A Really Great Dance Act"

KRAMER AND PAULINE in "CLASSICS IN RHYTHM" NOW PANTAGES CIRCUIT K-A-O Direction: ELI DAWSON—HENNESSY-BROWN Critique says: "Kramer and Pauline can rightfully challenge any couple for stage personality, cleanliness of work and industry. This smiling girl and boy are hard at dancing every second of the minute; they are out, and offer team and single work that is rare for quality. They have many new, unusual steps."



Direction MILT LEWIS "MACK" "CHUCK"

Balto Troup Sloughed

Baltimore, Dec. 4. A burlesque show was pinched last week when Police Commissioner Galtner told off several headquarters detectives to "cover" the homecoming premiere of Mickey Markwood and His Gang of Burlesquers at the Embassy Theatre, advertised as "The House of Shimmying Mammams." The headquarters men turned in raves. Magistrate Cadden ordered a command performance. The red hot mammals all sloughed over the court-room where they staged big moments from burlesque. The principals included Mickey Markwood, the Misses June Rhodes, Conie Dale, Marie de Voe, Blossom Lavelle, Viola Staeth, and the Messrs. Harry Fields, Howard Harrison and Jimmie Walters.

McClay Out of Hospital

Fred H. McClay of Mutual Circuit returned to his desk Monday after being laid up four weeks in St. Vincent's Hospital, N. Y.

CALAMITY HOWLERS PESSIMISTS HARD LUCK GUYS

We can't understand why you are squawking and complaining. Show business is great. Never been better. In fact, we're BOOKED SOLIDLY. And all tired out from signing contracts.

BILLY MARIE HIBBITT and HARTMAN and don't forget MARIE HARTMAN is the World's Champion Comedienne

N. T. G'S GIRLS
Dance Revue
38 Mins.; Full Stage and Apron
Academy (V-P)

It's not so much what these girls do, but the idea is a whole in its ballyhoo possibilities, particularly for towns where anything about Broadway is a life in news. Material itself is just familiar dance and song stuff of girl revues, but better done than usual. Size of the flash is an item also. Must be nearly a score of girls in the group.

Some as nearly as they could be taken on the fly from stage introductions were Hanley Sisters, trim steppers from the Frivolity; Grace Pearson, Marie Adams, Kitty O'Reilly, Loretta Meyers, Mickey Sider, Jane Dobbins and Olga Royce. That misses a good many. Besides there is a good looking and much undressed chorus line of eight. Another is a posing girl, whose get up would make even Mike Joyce nervous on the Columbia runway, and a generous eye-ful.

The gag here is in Nils Grandul's announcement and the ad libbing with Nils and the girls of Kramer and Boyle, who had done their turn just before, and continue through the revue wise cracking and hoking up laugh business.

Granul walks out on the apron and punctuates his interruptions from the backface member of Kramer and Boyle (Kramer, isn't it?) gets over the idea that all the Broadway night clubs have been padlocked and the girls from the floor shows are starving, with five children to feed at home, and in short here they are in all their blond and innocent state of nature.

Thereupon with no more ado the nine choristers walk through the theatre aisles, all in party dresses, which are whisked off disclosing the line in scanty silk whips and lingerie thus getting down to the main issue without loss of time and effort.

Girls come and go starting with the Hanley Sisters, trimmest pair of pint size steppers at liberty for the moment; Loretta Myers, handsome blonde, who does jazzy tap and acrobatic dance on her toes; tough girl number, a Rumanian hook dancer and from time to time a walk-around by the posing Juno who couldn't lose a single bead without embarrassing even Kramer.

There is an elaborate Indian number with a good looking, maybe Rubinska, in interpretative dance routine; and a tamborine ensemble led by another divinity whose name this reporter missed in the excitement, but who is good to look at in repose or in motion.

During all this, the girls Kramer is constantly at work in business of being deeply agitated by the proximity of the blondes, getting out of control occasionally and generally clowning to help keep the pace up. He does a tap routine with the girls, ending with a knockdown and drag out. Most of it funny in a free hand way.

As usually happens in a combination of specialties, finish is tame. Everybody is on in black and white polka dot garb for ensemble medley of character, blackbottom and varsity drag. Held 14th street for nearly 40 minutes up to 11:10, and ought to stand 'em up in Milwaukee and way points. *Rush.*

WALSH and CLARK
Talk, Songs, Dances
16 Mins.; One
American (V-P)

Much improved since last reviewed in 1925 at this house. Previous review indicated man was working along lines of Bert Wheeler and Ted Healy. No such comparison presently suggested.

BRICE and CLARKE
Song, Dance, Talk
22 Mins.; One, Full and One
Riverside (V-P)

Low Brice, the single, with Mae Clarke, looper especially in figure dexterity and a sweet foil. Inconsequence sketch structure carries crossfire with occasional song number and dance bits. Trimly framed, by Ballard MacDonald and Billy Rose. From time to time brief bits of pictures held out story sequences.

At the opening flicker projected on the painted door in "one" shows Brice at the race track handling his bankroll to bookmaker and deciding to be a bookmaker himself, since it looks like a soft racket. Miss Clarke shown looking over paddock in character of "green" visitor.

Light come up and Brice and Miss Clarke are on. She is a phone operator at the track for the first time and wants to play her only sawbuck on a horse at 100 to 1. Brice, the new bookie, takes the bet. Back to the track with the two players rooting for and against the long shot and team on dark stage made visible by spot. The 100 to 1 shot wins.

Same routine for next race where flip bookie kids girl into putting it all on a 50 to 1 selection. Wins again. Repeated for third time where she 200 to 1 makes it an even million. Couple go into mock love bit with bookie seeking to pay the girl off by marrying her.

Between flicker bits Miss Clarke does a neat dance, and again Brice sings and does a bit of stepping. They finish with a double cecent. Brice does well as the polite bit flip comic; girl a charming, easy player and a picture in the last whisper from Paris.

All first rate class vaudeville. *Rush.*

J. H. DUFFY & Singing Ensemble
Male Chorus
12 Mins.; Full
Academy (V-P)

Apparently a glee club of real class, taking a flyer here. Doesn't belong to vaudeville and would be hard to spot, but here scored on its novelty and simple, straightforward musical quality.

No attempt at showmanship. Curtain rises to disclose the group about what served for a club lounge. They go right into a number for dandy vocal effect. Follow it with "Sonny Boy" for full score. Vaudeville has heard this number in every known vocal combination, and it was a delight to hear it done in straight concert style.

Trumpet song for the finish with men marching in military formation. Mild climax only excuse was it gave them a chance to move about and there is a limit to glee club maneuvers. Possibility for pleasing use and certainly worth trying. *Rush.*

LOS CHILENOS (5)
Spanish Revue
18 Mins.; Full (Special)
5th Ave. (V-P)

Colorful Spanish song and dance revue contributed by two men and three women going over adequately in opening spot here Sunday afternoon. Both mixed twosome handle the dancing, with the other member, prima with rich coloratura, doing several vocals between the dance routines.

With Spanish garden set as background, the group opens with a song ensemble giving way to can-can on his steps. The prima returns for a solo in Spanish, with men coming back for a drunk dance that went over big. Jazz oriental by the dancing girls; another vocal by prima, this time in English, and a snappy dance finale rounded out the act.

Good act of its type and liked here. *Kids.*

RALSTONS (2)
Acrobatic
7 Mins.; Full (Special)
Hippodrome (V-P)

Man and woman equilibristic turn. They have mounted their act pretentiously with rich looking drapes and paraphernalia.

FORD and GLENN (2)
Songs and Talk
22 Mins.; One
State-Lake, Chicago (V-P)

Song team was headlined here by reason of a radio rep in the middle west. Became known in a bedtime program for the youngsters over the former Sears-Roebuck station. WLS, with moon and pop always listening in under pretense of tuning in for the kids.

Boys have been cashing in on small town personal appearances, but this is their first local appearance in an important house. Held next-to-shut spot like veterans.

Routine is made up of several pop ditties, two momentary ballad of popery chat to favorite ballad of the radio audience, and an enactment of their regular bedtime program procedure when in the studio. Stayed 22 minutes because of encores, but can cut to suit any audience. Both men are as good in solos as in harmony. Glenn is at the piano.

Worthwhile booking for any house. *Big.*

FRED STITT and Co.
Monolog
20 Mins.; One
Jefferson (V-P)

Combination of "nut" and collegiate comic. Wears exaggerated campus clothes done in pea green. Gets a tip off on the style of clowning. Goes after 'em too hard, even when his stuff is good enough for more casual treatment.

Gags for five minutes and then goes to work on cut girl audience play. Girl registers distress and says she has lost her handkerchiefs. Stitt into the aisle, finds the candy bag and feeds gumdrops to women nearby.

Girl goes to stage. They crossfire and ad lib, some of it rather good. Finish with girl singing in nice light voice. Stitt's forcible technique of peddling gag like short arm jabs is hurting what might be an earlier spot.

Next to closing classification only for the small time neighborhoods like this and then certainly not 20 minutes. *Rush.*

TOMMY MONAHAN and Coeds (7)
Songs and Dances
27 Mins.; One and Full (Special)
Columbia (V-P)

Another of the song and dance revue acts deluging vaude these days. This one runs more to the dance thing with Tommy Monahan showing more stuff as a stepper than otherwise.

Monahan says the m. c. routine. He pulls some gags; with the girls first entering in a class room. Then tells a story or two. Monahan sure steps fast and goes from one side of the stage with some dynamic dancing. His standout is a bag punching-tap imitation, also working in the girls.

In the fem contingent Monahan has Joan Masters, Lucille Arth and Tess Noel as his specialists. Miss Noel flashes nifty acrobatic dancing.

Where this style of act hasn't been done to death, Monahan and his co-ed's do it. *Mark.*

BROWN and LAVELLE
Comedy
12 Mins.; One
American (V-P)

Man and woman of widely diverse talents have framed a neat and agreeable turn, with the all-important laughs.

RYAN and NOBLETTE (2)
"Want Ads." (Comedy)
20 Mins.; Two, One, Full
Riverside (V-P)

Comedy sketch capably done and well staged. Ryan is fresh young wise cracker, Miss Noblette modernized Sis Hopkins type. Both sing at unexpected moments, but story takes up too much time, even if it does develop by means of crossfire gags.

Fresh young city man and country simp girl revealed in one-arm lunch room where she brings the food and he consumes it absentmindedly with much flip stuff, most of it funny. He flirts with another girl in luncheon and second girl's escort wants to fight. Instead row results in flip boy getting job in department store (Bloomingdale's owes act royalties).

Interval in "one" for more kidding, with girl insisting on showing the ruffie on her panties to orchestra boys to "wise" comments from Ryan. Both sing here, too, girl comedy number, man revealing a nice baritone voice.

Then into department store setting in full where flip young man after much talk frustrates jewel thief and in finish, country girl, who has changed to fashionable frock, loses her skirt, revealing the panties underneath that played so prominent a part in the earlier episode.

Truth is the sketch affair is cumbersome, the four or five people it involves must cost money, and the team would be worth about as much by themselves.

No. 3 on this bill and did fairly but no more. *Rush.*

CHERRY and ADAMS
Dancing
8 Mins.; One
Broadway (V-P)

Polite and neat appearing mixed dance team. Handicapped here somewhat in opening the bill cold and without scenery, but over fairly well. Whenever available, cloth drop would be an improvement over the olio now used.

Both do soft show singly as well as in harness and finish a series of short dance bits with a double cloog. Man is a veteran and has been around before, while the girl is unfamiliar. She's nice looking and can wear shorts. She does, twice. Might discontinue describing her single military tap as an imitation of Jack Donohue, because it isn't.

Reliable small time opener. *Big.*

CHAMPAIGN and HELLARD
Sings
(5)
Flash Act
20 Mins.; One and Full
Academy (V-P)

Flash girl production done in the manner affected by Neville Dleson staged revues. Involves Champaign, girl acrobatic stepper, and Hellard Sisters, three harmonizing and dancing girls. Behind is a line of six choristers.

Opens with a number by Miss Champaign (pretty name, huh?) introducing the girls as characters out of Mother Goose, Little Boy Blue, Little Jack Horner and the rest. Into an ensemble dance.

Follows acrobatic single, then trio in cloog routine. More acrobatic dancing by a gag who can do a handstand and hold it like a Jap kid in a risley act. Brunet girl solos a "blues" number with crooning motif. In between a chunky girl in shorts does more acrobatics, there are more ensembles and for a finish they go into the inevitable black bottom ensemble the weakest thing in the turn.

Numerous changes of drapes and swift succession of costume changes, all pretty and all abundantly revealing. Girls work with all kinds of pep and by their animation give the whole thing character, making it welcome for intermediated spot even in these days of overdone girl revues. *Rush.*

GREEN and AUSTIN
Blackface Comics
15 Mins.; One (Special)
American (V-P)

This turn threatened to be a comedy wow but insisted upon turning serious at the end. "Sonny Boy" sung by one of the pair in a voice prone to jump from one key to another let the act down 50 per cent when the tempo was zooming along at just prior to the ballad attack.

Negro drollery between two lazy bricklayers develops some infectious humor. Several important laugh moments and a general high average. Not the first comedy act slow, by dragging in (for no reason at all) a serious carol. *Land.*

"MUSIC BOX FROLICS" with SLIDING BILLY WATSON (23)
Revue
57 Mins.; One
86th St. (V-P)

In his second vaude try since leaving burlesque a year or more ago, the Sliding One of burlesque, several Billy Watsons is the hub of a one-hour musical tab show. He is supported by a mixed company of erstwhile burlesque people and some probably of vaude. A rather conglomerated family, yet one that blends nicely behind the featured member.

No programs available and no one billed outside of Watson; several faces are familiar but not recognizable by name.

Cast of 23 includes a chorus of 10, mixed singing quartet, dancing sister team, a straight man, boy dancer, singing ingenue, straight woman and Watson.

While there's a spark of talent here and there, nothing outstanding. Nor is production at a high standard. Until the flash finale, costumes seem showprow.

That goes for the chorus only though the principals probably brought their own lunch. They look somewhat better.

Also until the finale, the background-grounding comprises painted flats and house drapes. In the Chinese number, with all in Chink costume, the atmospheric drop was Egyptian.

Typical of the show is the talent in the palm should go to the boy and girl dance team, particularly the girl. A fine high kicker and a fascinating smiler, a combination that should lift her out of this turn in no time.

The ingenue sings twice when not otherwise a foil, and clicked on both occasions. Not too loud a click, but a click.

Chorus doesn't pony beyond standard kick routines and never the pep that usually accompanies youth. One of the gals is a familiar burlesquer. That probably accounts for the tempo and style, with the others possibly following her example or also from burlesque.

Watson handles all the comedy and is on often, sticking to the wheel formula throughout, although cleaning it up for vaude consumption. Every comedy bit in the show dies at the finish, a peculiarity of burlesque for which no solution has yet been found. After adhering to a fast comedy pace from the start, each bit suddenly drops stone dead with a resonant bump that murders the effect of preceding efforts.

On one occasion, Watson closed a comic incident by walking off with the feminine foil on his arm. From the moment the pair disappeared in the wings, completing the scene abruptly, there was at least 10 seconds of meaningless action. Prior to that the audience laughed perhaps a half a dozen times, never enough to bridge the gap until the next night.

In scene, yet Watson was perfectly willing to let it die without a closing punch. Five minutes of worthless work.

Majority of laughs in the revue are derived from Watson's slide, usually used to return to position after being thrown away by a run from his straight man.

It's a funny piece of business but not when repeated for an hour. "Music Box Frolics" is probably the most burlesque production ever in vaude, taking in all departments of vaude and everything in this tab. Fair hour's entertainment for any vaude house in quest of a change from the usual five-act policy. No doubt its nut is its chief virtue. *Big.*

BILLY GILBERT and CO. (2)
Talk, Instrumental (Special)
15 Mins.; One (Special)
American (V-P)

Dull and trashy. Three men, two doing Dutch, the third straight. Comedy is endless prolonging of mispronunciation, noise, sneezing and other antiquated forms of entertainment.

Not a legitimate laugh in the act, although every audience has its pushovers and the American was no exception. At this late date it is difficult to alibi such assnity. *Land.*

TOM AND JERRY
Comedy
15 Mins.; One
American (V-P)

Amplantly supplied with zest and confidence. Rapid fire gagging, everything for what it's worth and no connecting links. Imitate musical instruments, notably military band effects.

Fifth at the American and deuce for five act bills. Well liked at this house. *Land.*

Chatter in New York

Enid Meredeth back from Paris. Hot parties in Harlem nightly. Zolotoff and Byram of the Times on the job after illnesses.

Desiree Tabor, prima donna, may next be heard in opera.

Sid Skolsky and Sam Marx are titling six British films.

Dobbs Sisters break! Go to Cocoanut Grove, Boston.

Bill McCaffrey, theatre builder, is shortly Paris-bound.

Elsie Connor, minus an appendix, is back at the Carroll.

Dave Snyder, box office man, is picking 'em downtown.

Ethel Britton, sister of "Miss Universe," goes to Earl Carroll.

Leah Brice is leading one of those "little white dogs" his wife bought.

Some actors complain they can't get booked on the "audition circuit."

Harriett Fowler is back in "Rain or Shine."

Jay C. Flippen crept into a tuxedo the other night and danced with society.

Patrice Goudier is having torso paroxisms in a Boston night club.

Camille Lanier, showgirl, understudying Helen Menken in "Congoi."

Evan Burroughs Fontaine goes to the Lido, Havana, floor show.

Germaine Jaroux of "Spider" returned ill.

Peggy Blair turned in her Lincoln for \$900 and got a Buick coup.

Mae Wood's new agency started off to capacity.

W. C. Durant, playing leading man in Wall St., is a checker fiend.

Eileen Wenzel, tableau beauty, has a \$500 vanity case.

Adolph Menjou only pro at opening of St. Regis Club.

Jean Acker has one of those new porcupine hair bobs.

Sonny McLaren on American Xmas Basket Fund staff.

Jack Powell, news editor of Graphic.

Blanche Satchel playing the market successfully.

Lou Clayton bought a Buick. Thought it a golf stick.

Roxy flays a rubber golf ball while in his office.

E. Harper Mitchell, on the coast, has not quit the show business.

Weather report—Een Pollack had his raccoon ducted off.

Vanities club will be reopened shortly by the Frivolity boys.

Bob Slak hung his overcoat on a Broadway barber shop. \$90 and duets to "Show Boat" escaped.

Naomi Johnson, showgirl, laid out a gas to an interior decorator for dressing-room fittings in the theatre.

One mid-town hotel is said to have been able to ease the smokers on two segregated floors.

Capt. Churchill is going to send 21 stories up on his 49th street corner.

Ray Meyers, the former Keith booker, is now with FBO, picture producer (R-K-O).

Peggy Udell left "Cross My Heart" for "Animal Crackers." She's been suffering lately from sinus.

Guy Loomis, after two months in Atlantic City, is back, doing things and going to places.

Sloan Taylor, former city editor of the Telegraph, is covering aviation for it.

Dr. M. F. Ham is the southern evangelist billed to speak at a 57th street church.

Gloria left New York the other day saying: "I don't like Broadway. I can't make any money here. I'm hitting for the coast."

Tommy Lyman, famed for his "Montmartre Rose," opens at the Yeh, Russian club, at E East 54th.

Elinor Martin and Mildred Espy, both of "Rain or Shine," took untoward themselves husbands last week.

Lola Lane left for the coast Sunday to appear in a talking "Speak-easy."

Sam Marx, editor of "Broadway Official Guide," made Mary Jean Libbey, dancer, Mrs. Marx.

Ben Serkovich has 18 books of press notices on the opening of the Brooklyn Paramount.

Harry K. Thaw took eight football players to a benefit, paying \$100 a ticket.

Artie Mellinger's hobby is taking fellow-vaudevillians home—in his new Cadillac.

Scores of Broadwayites playing the Curb have been well oiled by a hot tip.

French authorities verified the report that Virginia Vail was nearly kidnapped while in Paris.

The automobile with New York license plate bearing number 13 is a Lincoln sedan.

Brooklyn-Paramount is ballyhooing "meet Paul Ash in person at 12:30 in the theatre lobby daily."

Early in the new year the Friars will feed Will Rogers.

Lou Schwartz opens the Bull Pen Dec. 14. It will be a dinner spot.

Mortimer Davis, husband of Rosie Dolley, entertained a large party in one of the clubs.

Doree Leslie wired her folks from Chicago that she has fallen hard for Bridge.

Sam Shipman, who inquired the identity of Al Seigel would now like to know who Bob Palmer is!

Phyllis Bam, known as "Peanuts" on the Stem, says her aunt is coming to town.

Billy LaHiff is showing Broadway to his 17-year-old son, Billy, Jr., senior at LaSalle Military academy.

Anita Bankoff, of "Rio Rita," is back on the show after having attended her father's funeral.

Olga Royce and Mickey Seiden, Ziegfeld girls, known in the night clubs, are going vaud.

Martie, only in New York three weeks, and in the Silver Slipper engaged for Fox films.

Helen Wilson, "Rain or Shine," is doing portraits of Broadway celebrities.

Crawford and Caskey, night club dancers, Fanchon and Marco, have gone to coast.

Aunt Jimima has an impersonator, billed as Mammy Jimmy, now playing the Patio, Brooklyn.

Nick Holden wept when one of his four cats died, despite General Motor and Anaconda Copper were jumping.

Edna Leedom who married and retired from the stage, still pays salary to her former personal press representative.

It is talk that Nicky Arnsstein offered a grant to the Graphic for suppression of the story he sold it a year ago pertaining to Rothstein. Boys and girls who worked in the Frivolity Club can't get in, as a result of the padlock. They only want their costumes and things.

Edward G. Ledwith is profiting by the requirements of the "talkers" that all applicants for tests have straight teeth.

Harry Bestry says he has never carried more than \$3 cash in his pocket in his life. No one had accused him.

Drexel Biddle is idolized by all the bus boys and waiters. He is always there with a merry word and handshake.

Joe Frisco says the weather is so cold his bootlegger told him to put alcohol in the last bottle sent over.

The Charlie Morrissions had a first wedding anniversary Saturday. Nice dinner, from reports, but all of the presents were promised.

Annual feed of the A. V. A. R., Keith agents' social order, will be held tonight (Wednesday) at the Astor.

Ted Branford was informed that oil had been discovered on his property in California. He hasn't gone to see yet.

Kitty Riquist, of "Show Boat," jumped into Eva Puck's role when the latter was out on account of illness.

Marvin Schenck and Benny Thau's sucker season is about over. The bookers have been taking the boys plenty on football games.

Ladies who enjoy smoking while strolling down the street with their boy friends, favor 7th avenue after midnight.

One of the m. e.'s on the Stem now points to his shirt studs and says: "How do you like my Ryan-stones?"

In the new Petroff Public unit, "The Perfect Girl," Helen Macfadden, daughter of the Graphic publisher, will be featured.

Zepp Metzger, editor of True Detective Stories, reviewed his own book, "Phantom Pingees," providing much mirth to his readers.

Eddie Cantor will preside over the next open meeting of the Jewish Theatrical Guild in the Hijou, New York, next Tuesday night at 11.30.

The Beaux Arts Cafe, which took a government slap, moved to the floor below, but with no luck, no dance permit.

For the first time Westchester-

JUGGLING ROTHSTEIN CASE

Publicity Keeps Up and Many In On It

That big time juggling act, the Rothstein case, continues its record of being on the front page for a longer period than any news matter in years.

The newspapers, police and district attorney's office are all in on the act.

At present the idea appears to be to indict George McManus, but it may turn out to be Sir Joseph Ginsburg. Sir Jos. can't recall where he was around election time.

A few gamblers called as witnesses were thought material enough to get slapped for \$100,000 each, or less on the city. They are living on the city.

By repeating the details daily, the dailies are able to devote enough space to keep up the controversy as to who shot Rothstein. The only things that haven't been denied to date are that Arnold Rothstein was shot and another important admission by all that he is dead.

Biltmore Country Club will present a New Year's Eve show. Then Broadway acts for \$3,500.

Joe Laurie, Jr., went up to Rhode Island fox hunting over the weekend. He came back with a page out of the Providence phone book, with all the Foxes in town listed.

Jean Murray rated a deek's vacation from her Carroll for good behavior, whereas Frances DeWacy is on probation for a fortnight—talking during a number.

Dorothy Knapp finds an apple on her dressing table before every performance, and knoweth not the source. You know that apple a day stuff.

Homier Metz, formerly of Telegraph, who told his mother he was eased by Ring Lardner, connected with the International News Service staff.

Billy DeBeck is knocking off a chunk at Monte Carlo. He says if "Barney Googie" goes wrong, he will still be right if they don't brace the wheels on him.

Lord Northesk, who made quite a hit with the Broadway mob following his air direction by Peggy Joyce, is homeward bound to London.

Jack Kraft started on a sneezing spree the other day. He sneezed about 55 consecutive times. When over it, Jack bawled his wife, Elsie, because she had stopped saying "God Bless You" after the 30th sneeze.

Lady Drummond Hays, only female Graf passenger, westward bound, gave a tea at the Warwick for Dan and Virginia Healy and Imogene Coca and Mrs. Coca.

Peggy Green, of "Show Boat," is making New York. Her sugar dressing dolls in the costumes of sister members of the company and selling them.

Rose Marcelle, former Childs waitress, now a show girl, gets more fan mail than any other trail on the stage. So they say for Rose. Now let the others squawk.

All the Broadwayites anxious to get a load of June Tripp, English star, got their wish over the weekend when June did the Broadway-ringsides.

Flo Kennedy is back from Europe. Bart Hogan coasting for casting. Grace Wells goes for dark vella. Sylvia Howard reported ill at Empire hotel.

St. John Ervine, in the London Observer, takes a crack at the sidewalks of New York.

Am I too sure then to be content in this country, and although I love the architecture of America, I am bored by the long, straight, characterless streets."

Some fellow may be getting a kick out of tossing frigidaire ice cubes from his hotel window into the dressing rooms of the Ziegfeld theatre. He's sure of another kick if nailed.

Peggy Higgins, sister of Elizabeth Higgins, society girl who prefers to dance, gave birth to twins, each weighing seven pounds. The father is vice-president of the Higgins Ink Co.

H. Mahlen, costumer, is going to Sarasota, Fla., to take measurements among the members of the Florida elephants will have blankets of rubs.

These gold brocaded gown coats, not unlike steel vests, are the rage among the women. They are usually worn with a red or rose-colored skirt of silk or crepe de chine.

Unable to start his Ford the

other night, Harold Friars, of the Montrealers, stopped a taxicab and presented his intractable chariot to the driver. "But first let me take off the new automatic windshield wiper," he said, tendering the gift.

Ten years ago Mike Speciale played at Rector's at Broadway and 48th. Today it's a link in the Yellow Peril Circuit, known as the Jardin Royal, and Speciale with his hand is back on the same spot.

Charles Owen and Reginald Owen, both Ziegfeldians, entered their names in the Famous Fats of Famous Stars competition, only to learn that Patricia Ziegfeld has her bear, "Jack Dempsey," in the line-up, and votes one buck each for charity.

The Hotel St. Regis roof's exclusive nite club, the Club St. Regis, with its \$1,000 annual membership fee, isn't coming out so hot. Instead of a ultra, attendance is meagre. Members are limited to bringing the same guest only thrice.

Heywood Brown and Ruth Hale, both parties of the first part, are undecided from rumors whether to go to Mexico or Paris for the finale, or neither. They won't tell, but a couple of months may.

Solly Violinsky says he is not out for a lay-off record, just waiting for the role of a neat Mexican, otherwise nothing doing.

Lew Cantor asked him he'd take a cut to play a half-trick. Solly's furling that one.

Diogenes can quit hunting if he comes to Broadway; for a maintenance worker who found a purse with \$5.90 in a 7th avenue street car, placed an ad in the Lost and Found of a local paper which cost him \$2.70.

Donald Ogden Stewart, humorist who turned actor and is appearing as "Holday" at the Plymouth, thinks Bert Kulmar and Harry Ruby are nuts. Last Christmas they sent Stewart a telegram: "Use this wire to hang the picture of Santa Claus in the dining room." Free idea.

A couple of "the boys" of Broadway spotted a fellow with binoculars in the 10th story window of a hotel in the 70s. They got a deplored in the 10th story window, placed it in a window. The binocular gent focused on it for four hours.

Richard Dix was out front at "Vanities" the other night. One of the girls of the ensemble, Wanda Stevenson, an extra in one of his recent pictures said to the girls: "I wonder if he will recognize me." The girls framed her sending a fictitious note reading, "May I see you after the show?" Wanda showed it around only getting the laugh.

Herman Hoover, stage manager, went to Dix during intermission explaining the situation. So Dix went backstage, turning the tables by visiting the little blonde.

Lady Bee and Noel staged a frosted front midnight display at the Selwyn, New York, last Tuesday. For enthusiasm Manhattan has yet to top the first 12 a. m. event which Charlott put on with the identical Lady Bee, plus Gertie and Jack, at the same theatre a few years ago.

Dance band at the Mayfair faked Yale's "Boola" on Harvard's recent big night but when the men could follow the piano on "Anchors Aweigh," the pianist holered—"don't you guys know Harvard's song?" The Mayfair best Princeton the same day it was okay. Sam Guy probably thinks N. Y. U. is a radio station.

Gil Gabriel, the critic, who razed Dennis King for the manner in which the star's body collided with theommel of his saddle in dismounting from his charge in "Three Sisters," may fight case to be informed that Dennis is an expert horseman. He rides regularly in the Fairfield Hunt, taking the jumps far better than the Prince of Wales, as far as reports have gone forth.

Meyer Gerson of Mrs. Gerson's Fudge Shop matches any and all customers for the checks, double or nothing; he or the patrons to call the coin, as the latter chooses.

Gerson's luck is sometimes uncanny, whether or not the customer-gambler uses his own coin to flip. But one day he lost three in a row and closed early.

Billy Cortez is physically impaired as a result of having fallen with 15 other dancing girls in "Good Boy" while stepping along on a treacherly.

The operator had a mental lapse. He was a bit hazy and his understudy put to the test himself proving less competent and nearly shattering the bones of the entire company.

Irene Franklin though continuing in vaudeville is writing fiction. A

SMALL TIME CHEATERS N. G., SAYS FREEMAN

Surest Thing Is Betting for Jockeys and Trainers

"I'm getting fed up on this racket thing," said Freeman Bernstein, while untangling himself out of a fur coat.

"There's but one grift left and it happens everybody will hop onto it before I can clean," he continued. "I ain't a squealer but I certainly am for that censoring of plays and books. And newspapers. They are showing up every racket.

"We boys must spend day and night to think out stunts so that we can eat, only to find them on the stage or in a book or like that. Rothstein business, spread all over newspapers. If they get paid for writing them plays and books ain't it right to cut us in. We make them possible but it done us no good. I'm going to speak to the other boys about it.

"When I started to read about that Rothstein thing and the way the papers talked about small time cheaters with marked cards against Rothstein, it got me a pain in the neck. Small time cheaters with marked cards in Times Square! Freeman," says I. "If that's so, you go to the wire."

The Ponies

"Of course, you know it ain't so but it's educating suckers just the same so I threw away all my markers and strippers. And I have sold the hot dog privilege so often for the City Hall steps, there ain't a thing left for me, excepting the ponies."

"And, kid, after all, that's the snap. You know what I done in Europe. If they hadn't slipped me the works in Vienna, I would have owned Austria by this time.

"But that racing fixing is expensive. I don't mind putting down a bet for the jock, but when you must bet for the trainer, the jock's valet and the trainer's secretary, besides taking the worst of the odds, you ain't got money enough left to bet for yourself.

"Them Pinkertons are pretty wise nugs at the track too so you can't ease in and out of the paddock like the old days. You have got to cop on the outside and to cop you must mix. To mix needs coin, that's what I am getting down to."

"You know the racket well enough and you know me, that I can put it over if I get the start. You stake me and I'll only do biz with the jocks for a while. After I get a roll, I'll sit with the trainers. Of course, kid, I can't bet less than \$200 to a race for the jock and as there are six races, besides the admission money and carfare to the track, that will be about \$1,500 for the first day.

"Even if a couple of the jocks cross me, I should mop up for about \$2,000 and that will set me in. So if you slip me \$1,500 I'll start to work."

Only Sure Fire

"That jock thing is about the only sure fire left. Them jocks are getting smart, too. There seems to be an underground. You can't bet more because they seem to get it from the books. I can cross them though by betting in the rooms."

"And most of those jocks want to buy their folks a home. They are getting hogsh, but they know me and if I ain't a walk out so they'll go if I can flash a michigan on them."

"Don't worry if you aint got the coin on hand. I'll take a check. And if you want me to walk in any of the joints tonight with a jock on my arm, name the spot and you will see what I have started to work. If I burn anyone's sugar it won't be yours."

"Never mind where you come in; aint I always protected you. Didn't I let you run my ads for nothing time and time again? You know me and when I say you're in, you're in, kid."

"Think it over if you doubt me, but let me tell you this, bo, that if we don't go to this race right away, we might as well move on, for there's nothing left."

"I've run out of rackets."

story by her appears in the current issue of Vanity Fair, another being in the Detroit Athlete. News. Miss Franklin has been invited to write a half dozen or more for another magazine. She and Jerry Jannigan are contributing skits, lyrics and music to "Almaac" to be produced soon by John Murray Anderson.

Best Xmas Present
Always Welcome
for \$10
Year's Subscription to Variety.

Stories by Jack Conway

From 1920, onward, Jack Conway wrote a series of stories appearing in Variety. Most of the stories dealt with baseball and prize fights, play-ers and pugilists. This series will be reprinted weekly. Each story carries its original head. Story below appeared in Variety of Feb. 24, 1922.

TOMATO, POOR SAP, HAS HEART TROUBLE

Con Frames a Scenario to Cure His Charge of Romance

Montreal, Feb. 21.

Dear Chick:

This troopin' with "The Humpty Dumpty" girls ain't for your little playmate. Tomato has been rushin' that fall in the show that I wrote you about and singin' the blues to me every time I mentioned the word fight. The skirt had him all hopped up that he was the makins of a second Johnson and he was beginnin' to believe it but I think I cured him.

CON

We stuck him in "Irish Justice" to play a bit and you would think he was Mansfield he got so swelled up. All he did was to walk in and take a belt on the bean from a bladder without speakin' a word. When he appeared with a Eddie Mack suit with the bit unless and refused to play the bit unless I was billed I knew the ring was in danger of losin' a good fighter and the stage about to gain a bush league hambo, so I made a match with Kid Shamrock, the Canadian lightweight champion. I warned Tomato to keep workin' out for I was about to close for the match and he swore he was in great shape and could take Leonard. I knew different, but went through with it just the same. The only road work he done was runnin' around hotel lobbies and back stage every time this dame wanted somethin'.

I arranged the match date for the Tuesday night that we was playin' here, figurin' that if a miracle happened and he did beat Shamrock it would make us a great card for the balance of the week for these Canucks think Shamrock can beat Dempsey. He is a good puncher and a fast clever kid that Tomato would have to be in great shape to beat at any time.

Fight night came along and Tomato and me bowed out of the show. The dame also insisted on seein' her hero, so I got to the manager and conned him into lettin' her lay off.

The Ice Palace here was jammed to the doors and there was pleasur of jack layin' around at even money that Shamrock would outpoint my kid. I was itchin' to bet some coin, but knowin' the way my animal had been tearin' into the hot meat without much workin' for the past month I played my lunch and didn't bet a dime.

Well, I told Tomato to box this kid for a couple rounds and see what he had, for I had never seen him step. He followed instructions to the limit and was goin' along pretty, grinnin' at his moll, from the clinches and actin' like a real champion, when Shamrock let go a short inside right that copped stupid on the button, when down he went. He was up at nine, as drunk as a sailor rocky. How he ever got away from some of the right swings that Shamrock aimed at his jaw is more than I can tell. But he staggered through the rest of the round with his arms wrapped around his head like a turkish towel.

The-Jone-is yellin' and jumbin' and down from her ring-side seat. It was the first fight she ever seen, and she think my hum is winnin'. Between rounds I went over and told her if she knew any prayers to say them that her battler don't get his brains knocked out right in her lap. She looks at me kind of dazed and says: "Why, nint he winnin'." I says: "If he's winnin' your

goin' to be a star." That shut her up for the rest of the evenin'.

Well, to shorten the agony, I done everything I could to save the kid from a kayo, but he was gettin' weaker and weaker and sinkin' fast. He was catchin' better than Steve O'Neil ever done, and staggerin' like the understander in one of them Arab acts.

Between the sixth and seventh I looked over at the moll and she was chinnin' a mite a minute and smilin' right in a guy's pan. He turned his head and I nearly dropped dead. It was Shamrock's manager. This looked like a me-sage from heaven, so I dove over to him as soon as the egg leaves and as fast as possible explained what I wanted her to do. She promised and sure enough after she got through workin' on the sap I seen that Shamrock was pullin' his clinches and knew we were safe from being stopped anywise. After the battle, the Jane plays strictly the chill for nothin', but he's so marked up he ain't even interested. As we parted company at a Turkish bath she tells him that the appointment for the followin' day is off. He asks why and she cracks, "I thought you could fight?" "Why, it's like fallin' for a blackface comedian who's run out of cork."

That was her exit and our contract spoke since. As soon as our contract runs out I am goin' to take the boy out of this troupe and stick to knittin'. That tickin' is goin' to do him more good than if he won.

Your old pal,

Con.

Police After Obscene Picture Handlers

Charles S. Sumner, superintendent of the Suppression of Vice, his chief aide, Charles Bamberger, and Deputy Chief Inspector James S. Bolan, with a squad of his picked men have begun a crusade to clean Broadway and adjacent streets of lewd films that have found their way into stages and private parties. The police do a dozen at least of such rotten films known to Sumner and Inspector Bolan. Sumner was first apprised of the films finding their way into the stages. With the assistance of Inspector Bolan they recently rounded up several persons.

The lascivious films were seized together with the machines. It was not so much the films that Sumner and Bamberger were after. They stated they wanted the gang that was putting them out.

Walter Mitchell of Bolan's staff wanted Theodore Goldstein of 2516 11th avenue, Astoria. Mitchell asserts that he paid a deposit on two films offered by Goldstein. He is said to have paid \$110 on two obscene films.

Goldstein, Bamberger stated, failed to appear for a hearing in West Side Court. He is being sought.

Victor Sigler, 35, theatrical agent of 732 8th avenue, was sentenced to three months in Special Sessions following his plea of guilty to possessing indecent motion picture films.

According to Policeman John McHugh, of the 3rd Division, Sigler was arrested July 13, after he had attempted to sell two reels of film to McHugh, believing the latter to be a promoter of stag parties from Long Island.

BEGGING DAYS

Square Full of Panhandlers—Cops After Them

With the holidays approaching, Broadway has become infested with panhandlers of both sexes. Merchants have complained to Commissioner Warren.

SIR JOS. IS AIRED AS A LOUD SQUAWKER

King of Radio in Rooming House—Happy Enough While Single

"Well, what are you going to do now for me?" sobbed Sir Joseph Ginsburg, as he placed his grip in the waste basket. "I've been kicked out of the Howards where I had the use of the phone."

"Mr. Willie told me to sue Vari-ety," sobbed Mrs. Willie gave me air. She said Variety couldn't print these things about me unless there was something in them. "Where there's smoke there's fire" said Mrs. Willie, "and you're fired." I guess I squawked too loud about Mrs. Willie's cooking.

"Of course, I don't have to eat Mrs. Willie's cooking any more, but I denounce that statement about me having deserted my child in San Francisco. I have never been married, and I am only happy when single. "Please print that I denounce everything so Mrs. Willie will know it's not so. Not that I want to go back to the Howards. I guess they need all of the room anyway, and I have found another rooming place. "I'm on my feet now, only two blocks from the Howards and as I know when Mrs. Willie goes to the butcher's, I can still use their phone."

No Widow

"Sir Joseph went in the red when asked if he had picked a rooming house operated by a widow. "I denounce that, too," he said. "I didn't ask questions as long as I got my room. But she's no widow. Her husband is away at present. I will find out more about that later. "And I want to denounce that report I will not appear on the Radio for less than \$2,500. Mr. Willie said it was an insight on figures and should have been \$250. That's where Mr. Willie said I could sue Variety, because for every Radio date I've missed since you said I would \$2,500, I can sue you for \$250 each time. Mr. Willie said so. I wish Mrs. Willie would talk as nice to me as Mr. Willie."

"You print right away that the Great Sir Joseph Ginsburg, International Star and King of the Radio, will take less than \$2,500—that he will take \$250 and if the Radio station is worried over money matters, he'll take \$200."

Sir Jos. had on a new suit and overcoat when stopping in Variety's office. He flashed his grip out of the waste basket, saying he'd better take it to the new boarding joint for a flash.

"My other shirt is in it," said Sir Jos. with his annoying smile. "I save away that gait and coat I used to wear," he said. "When Mrs. Willie told me to blow, she also told me to pack my things. As she didn't follow me and none of the servants watched me, I packed my things in Mrs. Willie's room."

"That's why I went with the Howards in the first place. I made up my mind that Mr. Willie's clothes would fit me, although I can't stand his neckties. I guess Mrs. Willie picks them out. "I don't want to denounce every-thing I told you. What did I say? Oh, yes, about Mrs. Willie making me find that new rooming house with the blonde."

Sir Joseph admitted his right name is Ginsburg and that he was born in Greenland. Sir Jos. agrees his first and only job was as writer in a Frisco sawdust joint.

"But I wasn't a singing waiter," said Sir Jos. "Don't let them say that about me. It's all right for my pal, Al Johnson, to make believe he was a singing waiter. I was only a waiter, but a good one, and that girl you keep saying I walked out on was the cashier. I didn't walk out on her; she hit me over the bean with a sealed glass and walked on me. She should have given me my week's salary before leaving. I guess she forgot it. I know her address, though. But she doesn't know mine," chuckled Sir Jos.

More Apt-Hotels

Apartment hotels and apartment houses will occupy the block front on Central Park West at 62d street (theory-theatre), 74-75th streets (Hotel San Remo), and 81-82d streets (Hotel Bessford). All have been planned by the city. The city also acquired adjacent properties on the side streets. Leo Schubert's personal holding, the Century, has been acquired by Bing & Bing. The San Remo was sold last week.

On the Square

Adopting Children More Prevalent

An epidemic of adopting children seemingly is sweeping over the childless couples of the show business. Any number of adoptions of late have been mentioned. Some homes when permitting the adoption by show people are severe in the conditions, providing for a nurse and schooling for the child, knowing the professionals will travel. Others are more lenient.

One couple adopted a girl with their reason they have no children nor relatives, and want someone to leave their property to. Another couple with an adopted daughter later had a daughter of their own. There are divergent views on the child looking pretty or being cute. Others one, it appears, through the antecedents.

The late Nora Bayes having adopted three children may have been the example for most of the current adoptions. Not much doubt but that a child in the home of the childless is a joy and solace, but the years pass and the child grows up. Foster parents also have hearts that can break. No protection like a thorough search into the past of any child's parentage.

What Would a Rodeo Do in Spain?

Spain has never seen an American Rodeo. It probably never will, unless Spain wants its bull fighting toradors to go out of business. Still some claim a rodeo in Madrid should be a panic. No doubt of it being a panic if the Spanish ever see an American cowboy turn a bull over by his horns after all of the folorerl the toradors go through to finally spear it.

A story still goes around about Bill Pickett, an American cow rodeo rider who nearly got mobbed by a Mexican audience at a bull fight. Bill was watching the antics of the bull and the torador, with all of the stall and trappings. Bill grew tired of the seemingly fruitless efforts of the bull fighter to get his bull. Bill jumped into the arena and then onto the bull, throwing it by the horns in his usual record time of 13 seconds. The Mexicans evidently didn't relish Pickett showing up the bull fighters. They commenced to throw bottles, cushions and everything they could lay their hands on at the American who thought so little of a fierce bull, he pushed him over with his hands. That's why Spain may never see a rodeo.

Affidavit of Heroism

When a white member of the "Vestris" crew testified during the inquiry held in New York to determine the why and whereof of the boat tragedy, he swore that the heroism of Leonard Licorish, colored, into ribbons. He swore that it was he and not Licorish who manned lifeboat No. 14 and that the Negro did not swim for oars as they were picked up as they drifted by.

Several days later Licorish signed an affidavit recounting his story and refuting the statement of the white officer.

Jennings Caught Mag Thief

For some time John Lanz, who runs the newsstand at the Columbia theatre corner, has been losing between \$8 and \$10 weekly in papers and magazines pilfered from his stand. John I. Jennings, the Traffic B cop who was asked to catch the thief. He did. Last week Jennings watched a man help himself to a mag and then others until he had four in his pack. J. J. J. made the pinch.

Before Judge McQuade the thief was charged with petty larceny and put under \$100 bail with the trial set for Special Sessions Dec. 6. This alert traffic cop has been doing conscientious duty on the Columbia corner seven years.

Vet Carriage Opener

For the past 24 years Black Carl Johnson, colored, has been head carriage man at the Metropolitan Opera House. When not working nights at the Met he was a messenger for Livingston & Co in Wall Street. Johnson is now in Bellevue hospital being treated for nervous collapse.

"Fator" Sent to A. C.

Leo Beard, 30, 251 West 61st street, who posed as Leo Fator, brother of LaVerne Fator, Jockey, was returned to Atlantic City, where he is to face a larceny charge for the theft of a diamond ring and \$15 in cash from Miss Cook.

James P. Malseed, chief of detectives of Atlantic City, wired, asking for Beard's arrest. It was charged that on Aug. 28, Beard, as Leo Fator, met the Cook woman in the Victoria Hotel, Atlantic City, and rifled her handbag.

When Detective George Ferguson arrested Beard he recognized him as the man who had been posing as Fator's brother and meeting various business men and sporting men. Fator had asked the police to try and locate the impostor. Ferguson has communicated with Fator and he will probably go to Atlantic City when the case goes to trial.

Tipsters Pinched for Wrong Tips and Ads

Charged with violating section 421 of the Penal Law which pertains to fraudulent advertising, David Gross, 31, 619 Avenue S, Brooklyn, and Ray Burke, 32, 395 Riverside drive, were before Magistrate Simpson in West Side Court and held in bail of \$1,000, each, for examination.

The two were arrested by Detective John F. McHugh, Inspector Bolan's staff, in an office at 1674 Broadway, supposed to be the headquarters of Jockey Butwell, racing tipster. The complainant is Henry Lauer, 2930 35th street, Brooklyn.

According to the affidavit of Lauer, on Nov. 24 he went to the Broadway address and paid \$10 for information. He said they gave him "Hat Brush" to run at Bowle in the seventh race. Lauer said that two days later he looked in the Daily Racing Horse and saw that Jockey Butwell had advertised that they had distributed "King Jerry" which won that race.

A complaint was made and Detective McHugh was assigned. The officer said he went to Jockey Butwell's office and placed a few himself and received the name of a horse which did not win. Another horse which won was advertised, the cop said, as the Jockey's information.

The detective arrested Gross and Burke. The latter is supposed to have been the man who sent out the information. Both denied having anything to do with the distribution of the information and said they were merely employees.

STRIP PARTY FIGHT

Husband Stumbled in On Undressed Quartet—One His Wife

Robert Hanover, 33, auto salesman, Hotel Harding, 203 West 54th street, sprang a surprise on his wife, Shirley, 215 West 94th street, when before Magistrate Simpson in West Side Court on a disorderly conduct charge. As a result he was freed. Hanover and his wife have been separated for about two years. A few days ago he met her and they decided to try again. He was making arrangements to furnish an apartment and went to call on her at the 94th street address to make the progress.

Entering the apartment he said his wife, attired in negligee, was there with a girl friend, similarly attired, and two men partially dressed. After that, Hanover was arrested for causing a public disturbance. The salesman storied to Magistrate Simpson and the wife denied it. Case was adjourned. Magistrate Simpson directed the wife to produce the girl friend. When the case was called the following day Mrs. Hanover failed to appear.

Astrologist's \$5 Chart, but No Fortune Telling Stuff

Mrs. Grace Ellery Williams, astrologist and teacher of astrology, residing at 171 West 71st street, was freed in West Side court on the charge of pretending to tell fortunes. Upon her acquittal at least a score of women admirers arose in the courtroom and congratulated her.

Mrs. Williams, 56, made a splendid witness. She was arrested on a warrant issued by Chief Magistrate William McAdoo on an affidavit submitted by Policewoman Mrs. Sargent Ahearn.

Mrs. Ahearn said on Nov. 15 she went to Mrs. Williams' apartment and paid \$5 for half an hour's reading. She asserted that Mrs. Williams told her that she was soon to meet a man in comfortable circumstances; that she was to make a trip to the West Coast, and that there would be "sex harmony" between her husband and herself.

Mrs. Williams admitted she spent much time preparing a planetary chart for Mrs. Ahearn, but stated it prognosticated nothing. Anything that was said by her, she testified, was indicated by the planetary chart.

Geo. Courtney's Stolen Car Is Recovered

George Courtney, welterweight fighter, living at 1815 Riverside drive, appeared in West Side court as complainant against a Negro and three white men charged with the theft of his new Buick coupe.

Courtney was recognized in court by fight fans who shook his hand as he left. He told the court that he parked his machine outside of his home. When he emerged, the coupe was gone.

The fighter notified police headquarters, giving them a description of the car and numbers. Detectives Joe Wallace and Benjamin Chrystie of the Auto Squad wired to out of town cities to be on the lookout for the stolen car.

Soon after the alarm went out, the car made its appearance in Greenwich, Conn. Henry Robertson, 28, colored, of 629 West 46th street was driving it. Beside him were Jack Dunn, 24, 342 West 46th street; Harry Hoey, 30, 225 West 107th street; Fred Marrone, 27, 60 West 107th street; Joseph Leary, 20, 507 West 48th street. They offered a plea of not guilty. All were held for the action of the Grand Jury.

FANS' FISTIC TREAT AT GARDEN UPSETS

Braddock Batters Tuffy Griffiths—Chocolate's Rough Evening

By JACK PULASKI

Fight bugs jammed the Garden last Friday night, the second capacity house in two weeks. There were close to the 15,000 Tuffy Griffiths, the lowman who won 55 consecutive battles, and they wanted to get a peek at Kid Chocolate, Cuba's ebony socking bantamweight. Both were treated rough.

The entire card was a clouting bee and for \$5.00 the boys figured they got all the money's worth. This Tuffy fellow was quoted four to one favorite over James J. Braddock, light heavyweight of Jersey. Nobody knew how the lavers got that way, because Griffiths was smacked down and hurt after the second round and showed nothing.

The betting mugs also figured Chocolate a cinch at four to one over Joe Scalafaro. The colored boy was very lucky to get a draw.

"Twas a great night for short orders here and elsewhere. Out in Detroit Ray Miller, with the odds five to one against him, knocked out Jimmy McLarnin and what a sensation that was! Up in Boston Jim Maloney whom everybody seems to have k.o.ed beat Johnny Risko. Some folks say that one was in the bag.

Doubtless the Griffiths boys, however, never went up against the boxing and socking class of a man like Braddock, same weight. In the first round Tuffy, whom they touted a second Jack Dempsey out Chicago way, did considerable weaving but Jersey Jimmy tagged him again and round after round. In the second round opened, Braddock caught Griffiths on that w. k. button. Down he went but not being ringwise, struggled to his pins at the count of three. Wasn't long before he was down a second time and again refused to get up. Out on his feet he hit the canvas three times more. Referee Kid McPartland then stopped it, actually being forced to get down and wrestle with Tuffy before he could be dragged to the corner.

The beating may be a lesson to Griffiths. Dempsey too was smacked down early in his ring career. Tuffy was lined up for three Garden appearances, but those dates are questionable now. As for Braddock he moves up as a contender for Loughran's light heavyweight title.

The Chocolate Kid, as his nickname was lettered, made the same mistake of not taking a nine-count and it nearly resulted in his knock-out. Scalafaro, who was three and a half pounds lighter than Griffiths, felled the Cuban with a right jab, the first punch of the match. Chocolate got right up and was lucky to weather out the round. Chocolate went to his corner dazed. A second immediately plastered down his shiny hair, indicated that he had mugged his own pat or else.

Scalafaro easily copped the first four rounds. Chocolate started getting in hard wallops himself and several times shook Scalafaro to his heels, also cutting his face and eyes. The Cuban has been knocking 'em dead in a row, Scalafaro being his first upset.

The draw decision caused such a rumpus that Humphries could not introduce a couple of bike riders nor the main bout principals into a good decision. Scalafaro should have won it. The latter looks a bit bald but is only 22. He is a druggist in Fordham. Sure can sock.

Vince Dundee got a popular award over Izzey Grove in the other 10-rounder. The boys are middleweights. Grove is unpopular, although a local. The fans do not like his habit of hitting after the bell. The prelims caused as much excitement as the principal bouts. Terry Roth and Al Beauregard clouded without cessation for six a couple of times but more than evened the point score. Al McElree and Abe Gaffner mixed it up in a sizzling four rounder. Draw.

Inside Stuff—Sports

Variety's Champ and Chump Picker

As a predictor of what's going on in football, Variety's gridiron specialist, Sid Silverman, seems to be the world's champion bean-bag tactician. Having tried to predict what was going to happen on nine successive Saturdays, and one Thursday, the flopping kid started 83 games in the face and got soundly smacked 34 times. For the remaining 49 struggles, the expert's magic failed to jail six times; in that these half-dozen contests ended in ties. Variety's outstanding chump in most instances actually picked the short end choices to come through and he absorbed enough punishment in betting his picks. That leaves him with 43 rights against 34 wrongs for a flivvering percentage of 558, the lowest figure he has attained in the past five seasons.

The terrible guesser was particularly in form on the first two Saturdays in October, when he went wrong on six of the opening eight games. He was also "not" on Oct. 27, when out of 14 games he was only nine taken about seven. Right six, and Syracuse-Penn State went to a 6-6 tie. The master mind, who went nuts Saturday afternoons trying to listen to three games on one radio, also booed Nov. 24 around, on which day all he pulled from the fire was four out of 10. His only good days were Oct. 20, nine of 11 coming in with one tie, and Nov. 17 with seven of 11 being right and one tie.

What the Big Ten did to Variety's selector was brutal. He never did get straightened out on Purdue, but while he had the audacity to pick Georgetown over N. Y. U., Colgate let him down terribly against the same opponent, and he lost his nerve on Oregon State.

It was a great nine weeks for anyone interested in billiards.

Being a stockholder in Variety, Sid will probably be able to laugh it all off and stick to the job, although anyone else might have taken air without waiting. If they play football again next season, he will likely go flopping again all over the map and again laugh it off. And how he laughs when he loses dough!

Matter of Match-Making

There is no question that Tom McArdle has made good as match-maker for Madison Square Garden. More color in two cards last month than the Garden saw all last season. It's the kind of boxing that the smaller clubs have been offering, and the result was two capacity houses within two weeks.

The popular scale of \$5.49 top has been a strong factor, another leaf from the other clubs. That 25 per cent tax on fight tickets priced at \$5 and over appears to be working out o.k. At first there was plenty squawking about it. Actual price at the Garden is \$4.99, plus 50 cents tax.

Ray Miller, Lightweight Contender

New York fight fans were more pleased at Ray Miller's knock-out of Jimmy McLarnin in Detroit Friday because Miller lives in New York, although introduced in the ring as a Chicagoan. McLarnin was the most feared little man in the game, but Miller charged and beat Jimmy. Any time he goes left for the fight, the contender could beat Jimmy. Any time he feels that way about an opponent, he comes back with the bacon. And he feels the same way about Sammy Mandell, the lightweight champion. Miller knows, because he tagged Sammy in a gym tilt, whereas McLarnin could do nothing with the champ in their title match last summer.

Anyhow, McLarnin is growing into the welterweight division. At 137 1/2 pounds he outweighed Miller by five pounds. Miller has been forced to give weight concessions to get good matches. They wouldn't pay any attention to him around the Garden, but now the boy is in the big money. Hal Hixon, master of ceremonies and acrobatic hooper, is handling Miller. Hal seems to know his onions as a handler of boxers. Dave Brown, who has a hunk of the Parody Club, is also interested in Miller.

Grind Bikers at It Again

Close to 10,000 people turned out for the opening of the annual six day bike race at the Garden Sunday night, a record attendance according to Harry Mendel, assistant to John Chapman and Boswell of the bike game. The race this year started at 9. It helped the attendance materially. Italians are probably the most rabid of bike fans but the sport has a firm foothold among all classes.

The race ends at 11 Sunday night making it a 146-hour grind of aches and pains that leads to nowhere. A few of the ticket buyers know what it's all about during the early stages of the race because of the crowded track.

Chatter in Loop

INACCURATE BIOGRAPHIES (J. J. Garrity)

John (Stone Wall) Garrity, general western manager for Jake and Lee, is the husband of Charlotte Lavin. Miss Lavin is this office's favorite actress, having understudied more parts and people than any other understudy ever understudied.

Stone Wall also is the father of Jack Garrity, Jr., who's learning to be what his father hopes won't be an usher at the Culver Military Academy. John, Sr., believes the two Shuberts are the 12 Apostles, and that has been his creed in life. He hates anybody that comes in on a pass. Meantime he's sore because the Shuberts don't own every theatre in town.

Little is known about Stone Wall's boyhood, other than that he must have been young—once. A youth named Harry Garrison graduated from the Fuscalosa grammar school in 1901, but that couldn't have been John, Sr. A fellow named Tom Garrick was knocked over by a garbage wagon while trying to salvage a pin, but still we're not getting anyplace.

John likes golf and Jake and Tee if that helps any.

Abe Lyman, union musician, is legging the loop in a new \$200 raccoon coat. First pups have been promised to Jimmy Petrillo.

Opening night crowd for "Front Page" included quite a few local celebrities requiring bodyguards for public appearances.

Just a Gag

New m. c. at B. & K's Oriental has signed a testimonial stating he bought his wrist watch from Mark Bros.

That's a jewelry firm, but also the firm name of B. & K's hottest local rival. It's a laugh out here.

Harry Munns, theatrical attorney, got homesick after only three days of New York.

Bessie Love of pictures is here for a week with friends.

Hostess' Bracelet Duly Left at Jeweler's

A charge of grand larceny preferred against Howard B. Luther, 29, draughtman, 25 West 51st street, was dismissed in West Side court. The whole affair, it seems, was a misunderstanding.

Luther was arrested by Policeman Eichner, West 30th street station, in the Star Dance Hall where Edna Egan had been spotted as a hostess. Miss Earl charged Luther with the theft of a diamond bracelet valued at \$160.

According to her story, on Nov. 2, Luther took her bracelet and promised to have a clasp fixed. She said he promised to return it in a couple of days and that she did not see him again for some time. When she did meet him he told her he did not have the ticket with him and refused to say where he had left it.

In court Luther produced the jeweler's receipt for the bracelet and turned it over to the hostess. He said he had no intention of keeping it but had had time to get it

NEW YORK THEATRES
WILL ROGERS (Pinch-Hitting for Fred Stone) and DOROTHY STONE In A Rousing Musical Comedy "THREE CHEERS"
CHARLES DUFFY GIVES 3 CHEERS FOR HIS 2 BIG HITS
The Smartest Play in Town HIGH ROAD A Comedy by Frederick Lonsdale

NEW AMSTERDAM THEATRE
Erlanger, Dillingham & Ziegfeld, Managing Directors
ZIEGFELD'S Latest
EDDIE CANTOR in "WHOOPEE" with ETHEL SHUTTA and GEORGE OLSEN AND MUSIC
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Oregon-Stanford—And How!

By Sid Silverman

For a team that was supposed to be train weary and with a mediocre season of three defeats behind it, the Oregon Aggies gave a pretty good imitation of a whale of a football team up at the Yankee Stadium last Thursday. It was one of those days when the winning team had everything. Nothing was wrong and everything clicked. In trimming N. Y. U. 25 to 13 the Oregon farmers reminded strongly of Zuppke's '25 Illinois team which reached Philadelphia to play a strong Pennsylvania squad with just a prayer and Grange. In case you don't recall, the well known redhead side-stepped, changed pace, cut back and twirled Penn into a 24 to 2 defeat behind a line which completely smothered the Penn forwards and gave Grange his second big pass to get started.

Oregon played just such a game against Meehan's highly touted outfit. These Westerners had no Grange but they had four or five backs who could grace any squad with distinction as a quarterback. In Maple, the captain, who continually outgassed the N. Y. U. defense and seemed to be two plays ahead of every man on the field. It was a remarkable exhibition when you consider that these boys had just hopped off a train from the full cross-country jaunt.

Called Oregon "Ham Team"

And this is the bunch Pete Reynolds called the next thing to a joke. Reynolds, who formerly coached Syracuse on the West Coast especially to scout State for Meehan. He came back and told Chick, "they've got a ham football team out there," and then proceeded to give the scrubs the Beaver plays to try against the varsity. Maybe Pete scouted the wrong team.

No question that the uptown contingent was a bit stale. When three and four men on a good team hit a runner and can't hold him, that team has had too much football. It's the price N. Y. U. paid for Carnegie victory. The other four days of rest by Lamm, Man, New York's highly valued tackle, being out means nothing as there's no basis to believe that he would have been less tired than the rest of the Purple and White outfit. And N. Y. U. was what was the other half of Meehan's contingent. Its best would have had a very busy afternoon with Oregon as it played on Turkey Day. It came from behind not to win, but to romp.

If anyone computed the yardage gained from scrimmage the results must show that the Beavers outrushed N. Y. U. yard for yard to one on a dry field, the kind New York likes. From the time N. Y. U. scored its first touchdown, in the opening three or four minutes, this column doesn't recall N. Y. U. being in possession of the ball inside of Oregon's 30-yard line until the last three minutes of the game when Bioridan, N. Y. U. back, intercepted a pass and ran some 30 yards to the Aggies' 30-yard stripe. This ultimately led to New York's second touchdown. Prior to that Oregon was forcing the play deep into Oregon territory, which had in N. Y. U. yards, were being done all afternoon, and spent most of the fourth quarter peppering the localities end zone with passes instead of playing a defensive game on the strength of an 18 point lead.

Maple Game's Highlight

Strong's long gallop of 45 yards in the opening minutes was his sole rocket of the minute. This eventuality put N. Y. U. on the visitors' 10-yard line where they held, intercepted a pass, took the ball and weakly kicked out. Strong stepped off a 16-yard dash on the resultant march to a touchdown from the 35-yard mark. After that he simply looked like a god, his timing back presented a fine strutting, his stuff by a line which was allowing the defense through to blanket him or run him across the field to the sidelines. His was a game but losing fight unwarranting the mitered razzing directed at him and his team by the New York stragglers throughout the second half.

Going further into the individual phase of the game, no player stood out on the field like Maple. His leadership and selection of plays was

as brilliant as his forward passing. There were times when N. Y. U. actually didn't know where the ball was as Maple mixed up off tackle cut backs with forwards, and sweeps, later a spin pass or two and a delayed buck from kick formation which N. Y. U. never seemed able to fathom. Make no mistake about it, Oregon had a diversified offense and Maple put it on display for full worth.

A couple of instances will show how the Beaver captain was out-guessing N. Y. U. Along in the third period, a punt was made as perfect as any as has ever been booted, hitting the boundary line one yard short of the goal strip from about Oregon's 45-yard line. Oregon immediately went into kick formation, New York put eight men on the line to block the kick and Maple, from behind his right guard, took the pass from center, broke through a hole as wide as a room and flashed along the side line until when they finally caught him, the ball was 34 yards up the field. This put New York in the hole again, for when Oregon was forced to kick, Follet muffed the punt and the Beavers recovered 18 yards from home.

The westerner's third touchdown in the second period was also typical of Maple and the way his boys were ripping things up. Hughes, Oregon's pre-game shoeless kicker, ran the kickoff after the second, touchdown to midfield, a gaining yard or two and then Sherwood broke around his right end on a lateral to the opponent's 29-yard line. A pass put the ball on the 6-yard line, an offside penalty then brought it back to the 11 and Sherwood outran the New York secondaries around his right wing for a touchdown. The score wasn't allowed, offside again, so on the next play from the 16-yard line Maple flattened one out to McKalip, end, who grabbed the pass with one foot over and the other inside the end zone.

New York was switching from a 6-2-2-1 defense, in mid field to 5-3-2-1 when Oregon had the ball inside its own 30-yard line as a result of a punt. Maple raised havoc with this five-man line. He delayed the kick, took formation with the supposed punter taking the ball after a fake to a halfback, plus the 8-yard start his line was giving him, was good for anywhere from 3 to 15 yards after time after time. Oregon adhered to a 7-1-2-1 defense throughout the game and was content to bump through Stringer's passes. One peculiar incident was Strong catching his own pass after it rebounded, from a charging Beaver's arms. He gained about three yards on the play, running ahead 13 after the boomerang bounce.

Those Oregon Ends

On this seaboard nobody knew much about Oregon before game time. A few football men understood the Beavers were supposed to have the best ends on the coast. That wasn't deemed sufficient to stop the boys from trying to do it seem feasible in lieu of State's mediocre season. But these ends were good. Mighty good. Other than the routine business of getting down the field under punts and not permitting themselves to be boxed or taken out of the play, at which they were expert on this day, the way these boys tore down and cut in to get under May's defenses was sensational. Whitlock was far enough out front to snatch his captain's 45 yard heave when it came down late in the first period and another and later explosion came as McKalip reached up with his right hand and speared another long one. The same boy was waiting for a 35 yard loss to settle when interference ruled this pass complete.

Sherwood was particularly dynamic in carrying the ball. He wasn't so much elusive as fast and powerful. In fact Maple, Hughes, Gilmore, Owen and Kerr were fighting for every inch. One back was down and up three times in 40-45 yards from a point where he was first flattened, and that was a gain itself. It gives an idea of how N. Y. U. was tackling. In reverse ratio, when a Manhattan runner was tackled he stayed that way. Oregon demonstrated some nice punting. The punter was not the N. Y. U. ball carrier was falling back towards his own goal. Oregon continuously used a shift,

Stanford's Spelling

Practically all New York dailies commented with some surprise upon the Stanford cheering section which suddenly cropped up between halves of the Army-Stanford game Saturday, to spell out S-T-A-N-F-O-R-D and A-R-M-Y with pieces of cardboard faced in red and white.

Actually, the Stanford cheering section consisted of one cheer leader, who had come on from the coast, and about 700 seatholders in Section 45 of the Yale Stadium who were absolute strangers to each other and to the collegiate exhorter, but who succumbed to a winning personality and the spirit of the occasion.

Between halves Stanford's line active representative showed himself as a leader. He asked the crowd whether they'd go through for him. Meanwhile the colored cards were passed along the first 26 rows. Between the heels of certain seat-holders appeared painted letters. Those who had their feet on the letters called for turned the white side of their card to the front at signal, everybody else holding red, and that's the way it was done.

It was a remarkable demonstration of what an amiable personality can do with a football crowd. At that point when the cheer leader wanted to change colors in a wave, having each row reverse its card as its number was called, his voice gave out, with the mob behind him taking up the count to complete the effect.

It's probably the first time a cheering section was 90 per cent in favor of the other team.

pattered after Notre Dame's well known side step. From the stands the backfield on close formations looked to be almost in a square on either the right or left side of the line. The forwards included Schell, a giant tackle, who kept unraveling the pile by picking up the players of both sides in each hand.

Oregon's No. 1 player is named Hokum. That doesn't go for the team as it played here. It's hard to believe that an eleven which has lost three big coast games can come on and make a move. Eastern squad look as bad as these boys made N. Y. U. appear. If the other Pacific teams are that much better, on a comparative basis, at this writing there is no telling what Stanford will do to Army. These Oregon big boys deserve a great big hand. Give it to 'em.

STANFORD 26, ARMY 0

And after watching Stanford knock the props out from under Army, the remarkable part of the two Coast demonstrations is still that two teams can travel 3,000 miles and play the brand of football these schools did. Warner's boys showed the basically sound and hard driving type of play for which their coaches are famous. It looked particularly cyclonic because of the Cadets' almost complete surrender. The Soldiers were practically in a hole for 60 minutes on Saturday and couldn't get out except by the whistle. With the punche in their attack game, even Marcell putting water away and the Army found itself in trouble for the rest of the day after this fullback's first boot only carried 34 yards from his 23-yard line to Stanford's 43.

The future lieutenants, looked tired after the opening three minutes and the shape they were in was indicated when N. Y. U. was forced from the field on the sixth play of the game. No alibi for the Pointers. On their best day they'd have had all they wanted from these westerners. The old, old story was again told and it didn't take long. The answer was in the Cardinal forwards, who were continuously under an out charging the eastern representatives. Invariably they had that advance time fraction and zest to their drive which had the Army first line of defense, or offense, off balance when the impact came. So much so that the Cadets never stopped. Warner's reserve play twice in succession with the running back cutting in at his opposite tackle for anything up to 20 yards at a clip.

Stanford's backs looked slow in starting, yet they may have been

taking their time to pack their holes. They had plenty of card. The difference between the teams is summed up in that Stanford punted but three times throughout the game. That's more eloquent than their 27 first downs. Whenever the Army did happen long enough to take the ball the Cardinals were so deep in military territory that they were either making a final dash for a first down or shooting for a touchdown.

Cagle

A good team often looks bad when being beaten, but Stanford had enough to make Army look worse than that. For the Soldiers there wasn't anybody on the field but Cagle, and this sparkling back more than once seemed to be wearing a distressed expression. No more daring exhibition of forward passing has ever been given than by this boy. His complete indifference to the oncoming Stanford ends was superb. He seemed to know that he could outrun them to the sidelines or take flight in full retreat and still get off 30 passes. His confidence was fully justified. He did this throughout the afternoon and on one of these plays connected for a touchdown. The fly in the ointment was that out of a group of three Army receivers an ineligible lineman caught the ball. It was one of the rare occasions upon which any Soldier was uncovered and smacked of irony in that there were three loose but bunched with the outlay snatching the heave. Had it been good it would have tied the score at the time.

This happened from what started out to be a legitimate end run. Cagle ran with around left end and he couldn't make it and so tore for that side line. Seeing the defensive right half had him blocked, he simply stopped, about faced and retraced his path to keep on running until he spotted someone to throw to. Plenty dangerous, because he was always being edged back toward the end zone. On his jaunts of doubling back on his trail, only once did Stanford block any of these passes, and that came when Cagle's protecting left halfback took the Cardinal's right tackle instead of the end. Army recovered the ball, but it left them with third down and 10 yards to go. Cagle got 20 of these back around his left end on the next play, but he was still 'way short and the Cadets had to kick again. It was pretty much of a one-man fight and splendid in its futility.

Cagle's passing stands out not so much for its accuracy as because of the times when in full flight. Neither Maple or Hoffman duplicated this, both Coast boys being set when letting the ball go for more than 15 yards. The big Stanford captain did some nice aerial work himself, an unusual feature of which was his respect for the being equally stock still, set and waiting for the pass. It was as though they had signs on their backs to "keep off" and the Army believed it. The Soldiers must have been employing a zone defense and evidently were afraid to move off post.

Army's High Tackling

Among Army's other defensive defenses the boys developed an epidemic of high tackling. It was seldom a Soldier ever grabbed an opponent around the waist, leaved alone the knees. Most of the day they were grabbing shoulders, necks and spilling the angle at which Warner's youths were wearing their helmets. This not only resulted in many an extra yard gained against them but was the basic cause of Prentup's 70-yard center for Stanford's final score.

Prentup shot wide around his own left end and after quickly developing a forward line back yard cut out missed him with a high dive; then the Cadet right tackle duplicated the mugging board antic and also missed. Another Army man took a shot at Prentup, missed him as had the others, and by this time the ball carrier was close to the third house yard line and being forced west when he wanted to go east. Had either of these three men nailed the runner there would have been a 10-yard loss on the play. After the third man had dubbed his opponent Prentup, probably figured he'd given enough of a scare, chance so decided to make up some lost ground by cutting in short of the sideline. With the pack in full flight toward him, Prentup veleged through the mass and came out on the other side with a clear field for a 70-yard dash. The Army's 7-2-2 defense having been drawn in by the big game center on behind the line of scrimmage. A

pretty run but inexcusable so far as Army is concerned.

Grandstand Guessing

Army's defense was adequate for the extent to which this department must be given the power in the Stanford line. With Army's weakness in replacement known throughout the season, some question Bill Jones' adopted plan of pouring a constant stream of substitutions into the defense. But, however, that's the second time grandstand stuff and doesn't mean much. Jones probably knew before game time that his boys couldn't stand the gaff over the full route. Witnesses realized the same thing not long afterward.

More grandstand stuff was that the Western forward pass plays didn't appear to have the deception to mystify a defense to the extent Army was being fooled. Yet, there must have been many a dummy running around down there to further befuddle a fogged Army mind. Other than the fact that the passes and passes, the Cadets couldn't fathom spin plays. Time and again Hoffman and Fleischer plunged through with knees high for neat yardage on these individual whiffs after taking to a co-worker. The only reason the fact about Stanford after attack was his weak lateral passes, and they only tried five or six of these. Army looked as if it could have used such a play to turn on Cagle's burning speed.

The Cadets were lucky to get off at half time only six points to the west. Following the start of the third quarter, when Army made an initial false, reached the Stanford 15-yard mark, it was all Stanford again. From here the Cardinals, without losing the ball, rushed it to the defenders' 7-yard line where Army finally held and kicked to his own 44-yard stripe, a terrific effort as the Cadets were punting this day. About the best indication of the westerners' superiority came right here when in just three plays they were again but 12 yards from the Cadets' goal, and without a pass having been thrown. On this march the third touchdown was born.

Big Weekend for Coast

It was a big football weekend for the Coast. Both Stanford and Oregon had great days and deserved every yard and point they gained. Oregon put on the most spectacular display, Stanford played the more orthodox football, and in defeat N. Y. U. looked better than Army.

That three Pacific teams, including Southern California, can each score four touchdowns against two first line eastern teams and a good middle western outfit (Notre Dame) is a bitter pill to swallow for fans east of the Mississippi. That it may be easier for a team to come from a warm climate into moderately snappy weather is about the only consolation. Both Oregon State and Stanford got great weather breaks and perfectly conditioned fields in the Frank Stadium. It's also true that the Cardinals and Meehan wanted this firm footing.

The argument of successive tough games may go in the case of N. Y. U.—but what about Stanford's 13-13 tie with California and then a 3,000-mile train ride?

Soak! What a season.

TOLEDO'S NEW DEAL

Toledo, Dec. 4

Addison Thacher, veteran light promoter, re-entering the game here after a long absence, rang the box office bell on his first venture. Ad is introducing new ideas in his army fights.

First was having three 10-round battles instead of one main bout and a lot of prelims. Next was forbidding smoking.

Par. Champ Out

George Hommel lost his Paramount stallo golf championship when in the semi-final he succumbed to Art Smith in a 3-hole tapping. Smith won at the 19th hole.

Smith will play the winner of the Gordon Jennings and Dr. H. J. Strathairn match for the handicap championship.

QUARTER'S FATHER'S SPREAD

Father of Herb Fleisher, Stanford's 240-pound-quarterback, threw a dinner party for the Cardinal team after the Army game Saturday in the Crystal Room of the Ritz. Four hours later the Maxfield got an enjoyable one of its largest parties in the school. Western grid spread went over to "New Moon" as the evening entertainment.

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15 YEARS AGO

(From Variety and Clipper)

The phoney picture producing racket had not yet been discovered in a big way, but the easy money boys were doing nicely with the scheme of coaxing bankrolls for territorial gambles in state right films. Wild catting threatened the stability of the trade.

Film theatres faced extinction for the 47th time. Now it was a proposed N. Y. ordinance requiring 22 inches between rows of seats.

Film Attractions Co. was making the first screen version of "Three Musketeers," which since has been done half a dozen times.

Freake of the legit season was the top business being done by Cyril Maude with "Grumpy" at Wallack's, far out of the theatre zone at 30th street and Broadway. Gross was above \$10,000 with many uptown houses starving.

Post office was after Walter E. Cunningham on charges of misuse of the mails. Cunningham had plastered the country with advertisements of "Texas Gunpat Reducer," together with Tex's declaration that that was what had made her figure what it was.

George B. Cox and "Andy" Freedman sold their interest in the Shubert properties to Samuel Untermyer for \$800,000.

American Society of Authors and Composers was in its formative state. An announcement it would seek legislation calling for music performance royalties membership jumped from 14 to 400.

50 YEARS AGO

(From "Clipper")

Greenwich Village, without its own theatre since the loss of the Columbia, now flocked to the new Folly, Twelfth and Greenwich street, which opened with an opera bouffe in which Annie Yeaman in tights appeared as a page.

Description of the new house, last word in equipment, mentions that the balcony has two rows of arm chairs like those of the orchestra, four rows of upholstered benches and the rest plain wooden benches.

Apparently there were no dance schools for aspiring stage amateurs, but one Ripley advertises that he will train ladies and gentlemen in trapeze flying and acrobatics for the stage. His place of business was in Bond Street.

Jerry Cohen advertises his readiness to book "The Mollie Maguire" melodrama in which he played a coal miner. Replies were to be made to his agent, Cameron & Co., 27 Ann street, New York.

Southern baseball clubs were trying to reorganize. The Memphis club alone had lost five of its best players by death in the yellow fever epidemic.

Bertha Van Herg, professional pedestrian, had a falling out with her manager and dismissed him. In reprisal the manager told the world that the hot foot dame was really a former dressmaker named Maggie Gangross.

The excitement of the fall in a sporting way came from rowing contests, football being an unknown quantity. Instead of its classic mauling match on the gridiron with the Army, the Naval cadets held autumn games, with the stands filled with Washington society watching the middies do 100-yard dashes and put the shot.

The principal football game of the week was a contest between Columbia and Princeton, played in Hoboken. Nassau scored six goals and 10 touchdowns to Columbia's zero.

Inside Stuff—Pictures

One petulant studio executive awaiting arrival of sound equipment suggests that a Western Electric license to record and reproduce is not necessarily a license to do just that.

The exec's idea is that it is a temporary disbursement, so far as his company is concerned, in that the studio has found itself not to make use of other devices. This practically ties its hands.

A comparative check on the film required to make talking and silent pictures, shows that the ordinary 12-word title uses eight feet of film in the silent version, while it requires 14 feet of film to get over the same number of words in the talking version.

Using this as a basis, the average six reel all talking picture would be equivalent to a two short act play.

One of several New York writers brought to Hollywood was called into the office of the scenario department chief and told that the company wanted a couple of stories for a male star. More or less familiar with the star's work, the writer responded by turning in two stories which he thought would suit and into which he had tried to incorporate a unique twist or two. The scenario chief shook his head, said the stories as stories were okay but not for this star. Then he took the writer into a production room and had one of the star's more recent pictures run for his benefit. At its end, he said to the writer, "There you are. That's the story we want. Follow that formula. Change the names and places and general back ground but stick to that plot and you'll be okay."

Hazel Flynn, known as Rob Reel, motion picture editor for the Chicago American is now in Hollywood seeking interviews with screen personalities for future use in this department.

Studios conducting their own radio broadcasting stations here are using this means of training their inexperienced players in the use of talking or singing through the microphone.

Dialog sequences inserted after an interim succeeding the close of a silent version of a picture bring strange hours to the players when engaged in other pictures.

As a result of William Davidson working in a stage play and Carl Stockdale in pictures at First National and Warner Brothers on the coast, it was necessary to make the hours for inserting dialog in Douglas MacLean's "The Carnation Kid" between midnight and 6 a. m.

One of the blond screen stars under contract to an organization known for its efficiency in cutting down expenses, was ordered to take her annual two-week lay off at the conclusion of her last picture. This came so sudden the girl could not make any plans for a trip, but when the studio asked her to come to the studio for fittings of costumes to be worn in her next picture, she immediately ordered a plane and flew to New York, planning to be back at the end of the two weeks.

Meanwhile the producer had all plans ready to start work on the picture, but now it will have to be delayed another two weeks after the star returns in order to have the necessary costumes made and fitted.

Executives of the M-G-M lot at Culver City now have their choice of three private dining rooms in case the food or menu in one does not please them they can go as guests to the other.

A year ago an executive's dining room was constructed on the lot at which Louis B. Mayer and his associate producers had their daily lunch. Then Marjorie Davies had a dining room installed in her bungalow and the executives would come over for a bite now and then.

Now with C. B. DeMille moving over to the lot and also being given a bungalow he has brought along his cook and he is holding open house for the M-G-M executives.

A delay in shooting time was encountered on a First National set recently with a group of semi-nude girls sitting on some old fashioned rawhide seated chairs were called into action. The cameraman noticed the imprint of the rawhide strips on the girls' fair skin, like welts of a whip, and refused to grind until the marks had disappeared.

Scarcity of independent pictures for spring delivery, predicted some time ago by a producer, is already being felt, according to the same man. He cites a South American buyer who has increased his usual bid for known independent product by 50 per cent. In addition, exchange men are writing in asking the producer not to hold finished pictures until the stipulated date of delivery but to forward them as completed and they promise to "lift" without delay.

To confirm the belief that the scarcity is on, the producer cites the action of a Hollywood Boulevard theatre recently showing an independent film made in Hollywood three years ago.

When Richard Rowland left his general manager's desk in First National he quit a job that paid him \$250,000 a year. Since then he has declared to friends that he is through with pictures and will be satisfied to play around.

Playing around has meant more money for Rowland than the average film executives make in a life time. Sources that now say that since last August to the present week he has let wise moves on the stock market increase his bankroll by \$1,500,000.

Inside Stuff—Vaudeville

Keith's heaviest losses from accounts during this year so far have been the west, over what was formerly the Orpheum Circuit. In the larger cities, with a couple of exceptions, the grosses have been off badly, while in the smaller towns where the week's intakes have held up to what looks like substantial figures for the towns, \$12,000 or \$13,000, these have barely been enough to break even. Trouble appears to be the overhead, including cost of bills, the bills having been booked in for this season from last summer.

The big town exceptions, and but recently, are Minneapolis (Hennepin and Casses City (Main Street). Since getting a better picture break in those towns, Minneapolis especially with M-G-M, the houses have delivered in black for the first time in quite a while. Main Street must do around \$15,000 for evens.

The biggest big time two-a-day Keith house outside of New York and the only one in Chicago, the Palace there, continues to flop around weekly in the red. It has no opposition between New York and San Francisco.

By way of showing how anticipated vaude Sunday concert profits are being a headache, the following is the stage hand expense for just one Sunday in a Broadway house. Carpenter, \$41; property man, \$36; electrician, \$36; head flyman, \$35, and three grips (each \$28.16), \$74.48. Total, \$232.48.

No way for house to luck off a cent unless playing at night only.

Clifford Fischer, in New York for years as an international vaude agent, and of more recent times on the Continent as producer and agent, is looking after the German bookings for the French firm, on a commission split.

Shortly after the Keith house managers had been called together and instructed by John Ford to furnish no acts for benefits, unless first ap-

proved by the Keith office management, a Keith house man in one of the Boroughs is said to have phoned Ford. He is reported to have advised the Keith office boss that a letter on the Keith stationery signed Wm. J. Sullivan had been received by him, asking for a detail of acts for the N. Y. A. Bohemian \$3 feed night, and also for a fraternal benefit.

The manager is said to have been instructed by Ford to wholly disregard the letter.

Louise Groody was booked to open last Sunday in Keith's Palace, Chicago. To make the jump she had to leave Keith's Coliseum, New York, on Friday night. That left the Coliseum without its advertised headliner for Saturday, the biggest day of its week.

The Coliseum in the far upper Broadway section has trouble enough to keep from being slaughtered weekly by Fox's Audubon, nearby.

It's likely John Ford can get that idea by now, and when Hy Brown is able to grasp it, he will know something of vaudeville and a lot about the Keith booking force.

Kouns Sisters substituted.

Two booking men in the Keith office saw the same comedy act (new) the same week. One said he thought he wouldn't play the turn for over \$500 a week. The other asked the salary and when told it was \$900, said he would pay it. The act went into picture houses at \$1,000.

Mrs. Wilda Richards, killed in Los Angeles by an auto and buried from Campbell's Funeral Parlors, New York, last Saturday, was struck while attempting to dash across the street. She was 72. Accompanied by Mrs. William Masaud, her sister, Mrs. Richards, was standing at the curb. Seeing what she thought was a safe opening for crossing, Mrs. Richards started. Mrs. Masaud attempted to save her. Mrs. Masaud was badly bruised in the effort and was still walking with difficulty when the restriction clause in the booking contract, Keith's has been lying low on the talker question. Numerous acts playing for Keith's at the present time have appeared in film form, many are currently making sound shorts and others have signed for talking shorts.

On the Stanley-Fabian (New Jersey) circuit, playing Keith's vaude, acts are making personal appearances at theatres with their film reproductions on the same bill.

Acts playing for Keith's will probably not be restricted from free-lance picture work until R-K-O determines just what policy it will adopt in the future. Until now there is no record of an act cancelled by Keith's vaude department because it made a talker for an outside company.

On several occasions agents have advised their acts to lay off the talkers until learning what methods R-K-O will pursue.

Lauder sent the letter to agents when John Ford, Keith general manager, happened to ask Lauder what the booking department is doing to enforce clause seven in the Keith contract. Lauder's somewhat delayed answer to Ford was the letter to agents. That is about as far as Keith's has gone into the matter.

With the exception of Ted Lauder's letter to agents reminding them of the restriction clause in the booking contract, Keith's has been lying low on the talker question. Numerous acts playing for Keith's at the present time have appeared in film form, many are currently making sound shorts and others have signed for talking shorts.

On the Stanley-Fabian (New Jersey) circuit, playing Keith's vaude, acts are making personal appearances at theatres with their film reproductions on the same bill.

Acts playing for Keith's will probably not be restricted from free-lance picture work until R-K-O determines just what policy it will adopt in the future. Until now there is no record of an act cancelled by Keith's vaude department because it made a talker for an outside company.

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Inside Stuff—Legit

Edward Sothern Hipp, dramatic editor of the Newark Call, accused by name in his column Mary Lawlor, Doris Eaton, Clarence Norstrom, Don Bailey, and Lulu McCornell, principals in "Cross My Heart," of laughing and kidding on the stage during most of a performance at the Shubert, in that city.

Hipp stated the remarks were audible to many in the house.

The question of rehearsal payment was solved to the satisfaction of the producing company in Hollywood in the case of the leading man of one talking picture at least, when the actor was put to work under the microphone with no rehearsal. The leading man had been on a stage tour when engaged to arrive in Hollywood the night before the picture was scheduled to start. Next morning, he was taken to the studio stage where the company was assembled. The director in a few words described the action, told the actor what he was to say, yelled "Interlock!" and the picture began, while the actor was still trying to figure what it was all about. When the film was released, critics were not too enthusiastic about the actor's performance.

Tom Barry, author of one of the season's hits on Broadway, "Courage," at the Ritz, has not seen his play as yet on the stage. About a week before Barry left for the coast, he called upon Lou Cantor, producer of the show. Lou told Tom he had cast the piece and started to call off names.

Barry bolted when hearing the first, saying, "Butcher it, kid, but take the blame yourself." He immediately arranged to go west for the talkers. Barry's getting his royalty checks but hasn't written back east about the cast.

Current issue of the "Satevepost" has an article by Peggy Wood, legit, titled "Ladies and Ticket Buyers" in which she discusses the psychology of the theatre going public.

Joe Lebang is credited in the yarn with being an advanced student of psychology and his cut rate ticket agency is given a great boost by Miss Wood. Joe might deny that he knew anything about psychology but would have to admit that the space devoted to his business would have set him back about two and a half grand if he had had to pay the regular advertising rates.

Robert Montgomery, legit, lost the leading male role in "Fifth Avenue," United Artists picture, not because he failed to make the grade in talker tests, as reported but because he did not match up well with Vilma Banky in the rushes of scenes shot around New York, it is claimed. Montgomery did not leave for the coast last week with the company that was on location in New York.

The opening night of "Rainbow" at the Gallo there was a 15 minute wait in setting the prairie scene, a rope snapping in the counterweight system and fouling a set piece which was flown. Jim Thomas, the show's carpenter, shinned up more than 35 feet and hanging by his knees applied the rope. The crew were in a quandary how to get Thomas down. He solved that by jumping 20 feet on top of a covered wagon. The latter was one of the set pieces which had pierced the cye.

Heyday for Legit Talent in N. Y. Talker Studios Now; Dramatic People Engaged

Legit actors as a class, and the names particularly, are on the crest of a wave with all of the New York sound studios contemplating dramatic people exclusively in their film dialog production.

There seems to be little doubt that from now on actors with business acumen, and possibly a break, can collect plenty of sugar. The legit gets a double break through being able in many cases to hold down a job with a show while simultaneously doing their stuff for the talkers.

Paramount's Astoria studio thus far has been the chief buyer of legit talent. "The Hole in the Wall," which went into production Dec. 3, has an all-legit cast, including Claudette Colbert, Edward G. Robinson, David Newell, Louise Glosser, and Barry McCollum, Donald Meek, Alan Brooks, George MacQuarrie, Katherine Emmett and Nelly Savage.

George Abbott directed a two-reel talker, "The Bishop's Candlesticks," for Paramount. The incidental cast includes Walter Huston, Charles Abba, Josephine Hill and Duncan Penwarden. Extras and atmosphere from the play "Gentlemen of the Press," including the versatile Russel Crouse, appeared in "Candlesticks" as soldiers.

Among other legit recently appearing for Paramount have been G. P. Heggie, Reginald Owen, Herbert Marshall and Jeanne Eagels.

Walter Huston will make his stellar debut in talkers in Paramount's "Gentlemen of the Press," scheduled for early January, with Millard Webb, former First National director, officiating.

William Collier has been signed for dialog supervision on Richard Dix's picture which Garrett Port is adapting. Edward Cronjager, cameraman on 20 Richard Dix features, has arrived from the coast to start work Dec. 15.

Tests for Pathe

At the FBO studios in Harlem the only activity last week was the talking of tests by a representative from the coast of Pathe. Tests were to line up likely talent from the legit, with view to shipping them to the coast.

All of the studios are in the "test" stage, trying to get legit who fill the bill under the new requirements. It's golden opportunity for those who can cash, but the studios aren't bothering with any old body.

Production at the DeForest sound studio is presaged by the purchase of a group of old Sanger and Jordan operettas, including "Floradora," "Chin'ese Honey-moon," "Chocolate Soldier," "Merry Widow," "Chu Chin Chow" and "The Silver Slipper."

Morry Ryskind and William Grew, playwrights, and S. Jay Kaufman, theatrical reporter, have been added to Paramount scenario staff. They will work under Joseph Santley and James R. Cowan on shorts exclusively.

Speakeasy Legit Cast

Warren Hymer, from legit, last in the "Grey Fox" left for the West Coast yesterday, signed by Fox for a part in "Speak Easy." Hymer, a son of John B. Hymer, playwright, is the third legit actor signed for the picture.

Leola Lane and Paul Page, signed for the leads, having left with the company that was shooting exteriors in New York last week.

CONNERS GOES NATIVE

Barry Connors, playwright, has gone native. He is coaching the Westport, Conn., high school production of his play, "Applesauce." Connors lives at Weston, near Westport.

Ned Sparks on L. I.

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Ned Sparks, signed for a comedy part in "Nothing But the Truth," will leave Dec. 10 for Paramount's Long Island studio where the picture will be made.

Sparks had the same role in the stage version of "Truth."

Missed "The Ladder"

She claimed Jersey City as her home and was gently apologetic when reaching the box office of the Music Box.

"You see," said the J. C. lady, "I'm giving a bridge party tomorrow night and I would like you to donate two tickets for it to Paris as my prize."

"I wouldn't have bothered you, but foolishly I delayed my bridge party until after 'The Ladder' had left."

Hotel's Sleuthing Dick Causes \$90,000 Suits

St. Louis, Dec. 4.

A suit filed by Mrs. Florence Lucas Boyer against the Coronado Hotel, the doggiest hostelry in St. Louis, asks \$60,000 damages from the Coronado "for humiliation suffered on Oct. 17, when a house detective and the assistant manager entered her room after a phone operator had thought she heard a man's voice on the phone in her room."

The hotel employees, the plaintiff charges, "intimated she had been guilty of misconduct," whereas her sister, Hager Lucas, was with her in the room at the time, and no one else, she claims.

Attorneys for the two young women declare they will prove that Miss Lucas had a deep cold at the time and it caused the phone operator to think there was a man in the room. The sister, Miss Lucas, also filed suit for damages, asking for \$30,000.

The Coronado, opened a few years ago, is situated at the Grand Boulevard theatrical district.

Walter's \$8,500 Talker

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Eugene Walter clicked with Fox by turning out his first talking subject "Friendship" within three days at cost of around \$8,500. Walter wrote story and directed picture, pre-heard at 1,900 feet length and found okay for early Roxy, New York, showing. It had cast of five men, including Robert Edson, Donald Gallagher and Paul Fung.

Held to Praise Offer

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 4.

In the case of L. C. Cooley against Rexford Bellamy, business manager of the Ralph Bellamy Players, at the Princess here last season and lately playing in Evanston, Ill., the jury directed a verdict in favor of the defendant.

Cooley sought \$100, the amount of prize money offered for the best title for an unnamed play presented by the company last April. The prize money went to another, and upon testimony of two of the judges that they did not see a second entry of the winning title, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Bellamy.

Coburns' "Cold" Xmas

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coburn, now rehearsing "Falstaff," will open cold in New York, the premiere being Christmas Night at the Coburn theatre (formerly Daly's).

Set date means the withdrawal from that house of their revival of "The Yellow Ticket."

ALL-MIDGET ROAD SHOW

Gus Hill is planning an all-midget road show.

If it goes through the undersized troupe will push off around the holidays.

Paramount Signs Pat Kearney

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Pat Kearney, author of "A Man's Man" and who dramatized "An American Tragedy," has been signed by Paramount.

He will write dialog.



MARY JANE

Replacing Ruby Keeler in "Whoopie." The Washington "Times" said: "Every now and then some performer seizes opportunity and gives it a hearty welcome. Mary Jane, nominated to fill the spot vacated by Ruby Keeler, stopped the show cold. A youthful freshness and a pair of dancing shoes tapped their way to thunderous encores."

Direction

RALPH G. FARNUM
1560 Broadway

QUIET EQUITY CHI MEETING ON AGENCIES

Gilmore Asks for 'Unfair' Affidavits—Stock Actors Complain Against 'Hams'

Chicago, Dec. 4.

Frank Gilmore, head of Equity, called a special meeting of the organization's members last Tuesday (Nov. 27) at midnight to inform them of the status of Equity's fight against casting agencies refusing to sign the new contract agreement. About 400 members attended the meeting in Corinthian Hall of the Capitol building.

Stating that Equity was prevented by temporary injunction from enforcing any rulings against agencies classed as unfair, Gilmore said the names of these agencies nevertheless were known to members and that, in some cases, they were acting accordingly. To oblige anyone who didn't know which agencies had agreed to follow the Equity contract and commission rulings, lists were read by two persons in the audience. To protect himself in case anything happening might be construed as violating the injunction, Gilmore said of the "fair" and "unfair" lists being read: "I'm not saying anything, but if you read anything wrong I'll whistle." He didn't whistle.

Aske Affidavit Signatures

Later Gilmore asked that four different form affidavits entrusted to Frank Dare, local head of Equity, be signed by members having complaints against agencies that might be used in the legal fight. Claiming that individual signatures would be obscured in a large number of affidavits, Gilmore promised no individual signer would stand the possibility of being discriminated against by agencies. One member displayed reprints concerning the Equity agency controversy from two papers, one of them Variety. Commenting upon their attitude Gilmore said, "You have your own paper, read it."

Meeting apparently was held to line up members behind Equity in the controversy as many are lukewarm, or two agencies are interfering with the agencies. Also to secure signatures for the affidavits.

Stock Group's Complaint

Toward the close of the meeting several stock players took over the floor to complain that Equity has no rules to keep amateur actors out of membership. Result, it is claimed, is that there are now junior Equity members with probably but one performance to their credit who are offering themselves at ridiculously low salaries. Gilmore replied that it was practically impossible for anyone to pass on a performer's

Back-Stage Pinochle Players Are Driving Gilbert Miller Far Away

Football Applause

Over at "New Moon" Saturday night, Evelyn Herbert was wailing a solo when a few late Stanford football players started to arrive. Cardinal rosters in the audience gave the victors heavy applause as they came down the aisle, and then doubled it for Miss Herbert, whom they hadn't so much interrupted as smothered.

Between acts Miss Herbert stepped down to the lights to flippantly remark that she was going to give up singing for football, as "there's more applause in it."

Gilbert Miller, on the eve of sailing to London, Paris and doubtless the Riviera, is going to declare himself to newspaper men. He has requested them to call at his office at three this afternoon (Wednesday). It is expected to be like their scene in "Gentlemen of the Press."

Miller says he is going to quit producing, or that is what he says he is going to say to the boys. Seems it isn't difficulty in the quest for hits, but rather the expense of putting on shows or here.

What has irritated Miller most is the cost of stage hands, plus their inclination to play pinochle at times when they are supposed to be on the job and are getting paid for it. He also laments the high costs of settings, salaries and so forth.

Seems a letter from a Continental manager, who put on a production over there for only \$9,000, burned up Gilbert to the point of stating he would withdraw from the field over here.

Recently the producer addressed Equity's Council, setting forth the difficulties and hazards of presenting shows and blaming high costs for the wiping out of the road.

Ethel Barrymore III; May Return Mid-Week

Boston, Dec. 4. Ethel Barrymore is to have an operation for an abscess in her ear performed today. She is at the Phillips House, a private ward of the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Miss Barrymore was annoyed all of last week by the abscess but would not accept the suggestion of her medical adviser for the operation. Yesterday the pain became acute.

Miss Barrymore expects to return to the Wilbur and resume in her new play, "The Kingdom of God" tomorrow (Wednesday). It is considered doubtful of such a quick recovery. There is no understudy for the star and the house is temporarily dark.

Performance called off last night, with house sold out for weeks. Miss Barrymore has scored heavily here. Last week, her first in the new piece, the Wilbur did \$21,000.

Stock Ass'n Preparing To Meet Talker Onset

The American Theatrical Stock Managers' Association will hold a convalesce in New York City Dec. 31 to Jan. 3 at the Hotel Lincoln.

Purpose of the meeting will be a general conference and discussion of accomplishments of the new organization during the past six months, also introduction of a plank for lower royalties on stock releases, which a special committee, to be chosen during the session, will take up with play brokers.

With sounders figured to cut in deeply on the stocks during the next few months, producers are attempting new economy schedules.

Losing the Injine

St. John Ervine is going away from here. The English author-critic is due to exchange Broadway for Piccadilly just after New Year's when his four months' agreement with the New York World expires.

Ervine has succeeded in evoking many kicks about his criticisms of New York's shows. Some of the latter contingent feared he might tuck indefinitely, but in his Monday column St. John readied Broadway for his exit.

NO JUDELS RENEWAL

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Fox will not renew its contract with Charles Judels. Contract expires Jan. 15.

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome for \$10
Year's Subscription to Variety

A. F. of L. Fails to Endorse Agents' Union

The American Federation of Labor convention adjourned in New Orleans last week without endorsing the Association of Theatrical Agents and Managers union. The resolution to endorse was changed, putting the matter up to the executive council.

It is understood that the protest from the Organized Legitimate Managers' Association was not the actual incentive for the non-endorsement, but rather the mood of other theatrical unions, such as the stagehands, musicians, Equity and the transfer men. These unions felt that the status of the A. T. A. M. should be threshed out and that they should not be placed in the position of being asked to walk out on sympathetic strike in support of a small group.

It further appears that the A. T. A. M. will have to be representative in its own field before it can secure the support of other unions. Whether it can establish that status is yet to be proven.

Geo. Nash's Memory Is

Overworked by Rewrites

A complaint against George Nash, who featured the cast of "The Real Thing," was filed with Equity by Dan Conway and Andrew Martin, new managers from the latter demanding arbitration. Saturday the show was withdrawn for recasting after playing two try-out weeks on the subway circuit and the arbitration was canceled.

The managers complained that Nash mixed cues and sliced speeches, alleging his memory was in error. Nash retorted by claiming the play was being constantly rewritten and it was impossible to be letter perfect in a role the lines of which changed almost daily. The supporting players are reported to have backed up Nash.

Eight weeks must elapse before the show goes on again, to void Nash's run of the play contract. Since the attraction did not play more than four weeks, no notice of closing was required.

IN NAME ONLY

Two shows with the word "nigger" in their titles are being readied for New York. Neither deals with Negroes.

"Nigger Rich," which opens in three weeks, is a story about Wall Street.

"Poor Nigger!" is about whites, written by Lucille Webster.

potential qualities before he had been seasoned by experience.

This is the only meeting Gilmore has scheduled on the agency question. During his visit here he made a special trip to Kansas City on the same subject, but called no meetings.

Equity and the casting agencies still await the decision of Federal Judge Goddard on the matter of whether the test suit against Equity's new rules-limiting-agents-frees belongs in the state or federal courts.

Before the argument to vacate or make permanent the stay was held, Equity's question of jurisdiction came up and argued before Judge Goddard. The latter has been busy with padlock cases, the given reason.

Shows in N. Y. and Comment

Figures estimated and comment point to some attractions being successful, while the same gross accredited to others might suggest mediocrity or loss. The variance is explained in the difference in house capacities with the varying overhead. Also the size of cast, with consequent difference in necessary gross of seats. Variance in business necessary for musical attraction as against dramatic play is also considered.

Admission list applies on tickets over \$3.

'A Most Immoral Lady,' Cort (2nd week) (C-1,094-\$2.85) - Early days last week (Thanksgiving) not good; holiday trade in good chance, with first week \$12,000 gross, mostly lower foot.
'Angela,' Ambassador (1st week) (C-1,200-\$4.00) - Excellent first performance; book by Fanny Todd Mitchell; lyrics by Mann Holliner, score by Alberta Nichols; opened Monday.
'Animal Crackers,' 44th St. (7th week) (M-1,223-\$6.60) - Only few extra matinee last week; usual Wednesday afternoon show switched to Thursday; in eight performances 'Crackers' got \$12,000 without holiday price boost.
'A Play Without a Name,' Booth (2nd week) (D-708-\$3) - One of our favorite notices, but trade should have been better; around \$8,000.
'Back Here,' Klaw (D-850-\$3) - Another of last week's new ones; taken off Saturday; house dark.
'Billie,' Erlanger (10th week) (M-1,520-\$3.85) - Better business last week, easily \$10,000; no musical competition, doubtless kept this musical from high grosses.
'Blackbirds,' Colored revue riot capacity business compares with any show in town, though capacity and scale limit gross; over \$20,000.
'Congal,' Sam H. Harris (2nd week) (D-1,057-\$3.85) - Started like hit; opened Tuesday last week at \$5.50; first week performance close to \$20,000 despite some adverse notices.
'Courage,' Ritz (9th week) (D-945-\$3.85) - Rated among accessories; good agency call; business steadily improved and appears slotted at over \$14,000.
'Diamond Lil,' Royale (35th week) (C-D-1,117-\$3.40) - Solid gold; length of run; bettering \$10,500 lately.
'Exceeding Small,' Comedy (7th week) (C-852-\$3) - Getting support from cut rates, but little agency call; around \$6,000 weekly.
'Front Page,' Times Square (17th week) (C-1,057-\$3.85) - Played extra performance and in nine shows went to \$25,500.
'Gentlemen on Bush St. (15th week) (C-980-\$3) - Getting enough to make profit both ways, though moderate grosses from start; about \$7,000.
'Good Boy,' Hammerstein's (14th week) (M-1,400-\$6.60) - Going along to fairly good money, week by week; bettering \$25,000; profit both ways.
'Good News,' Channing's 46th St. (60th week) (M-1,413-\$5.50) - Another week to go for longest run show on list; \$18,000 and better lately.
'High Road,' Fulton (14th week) (C-914-\$3.85) - Extra matinee last week; nine performances, \$20,000 profit; business, average gross lately around \$13,000.
'Hello Yourself,' Casino (6th week) (M-1,477-\$5.50) - Best figure last week at \$25,000; no added matinee; has climbed; should land for run.
'Hold Everything,' Broadhurst (6th week) (M-1,118-\$6.60) - Extra holiday notes added in shooting gross of this favorite up to new mark of \$33,000.
'Holiday,' Plymouth (2nd week) (C-D-1,012-\$3.85) - Several fresh hits arrived among last week's 10 premiers and this one outstanding; over \$20,500; class show that should stick.
'Jaragan,' Longacre (11th week) (C-D-1,018-\$3.85) - Expected to stick through reported leaving for road soon; business, average gross lately around \$13,000.
'Jealousy,' Maxine Elliot (7th week) (D-924-\$3) - Reported to be excellent trade for first performance; eased off last week; \$9,000.
'Just A Minute,' Century (9th week) (M-2,890-\$2) - Under cover, but dittons going fairly well; but leaves for road after another week, where it has better chance; \$14,000.
'Little Accident,' Morosco (9th week) (C-D-1,388-\$3) - Should make run; improved to point profitable both ways; \$14,000.
'Mima,' Belasco; date of opening indefinite; early this week; diff. with lighting system cause of delay.
'Mr. Monopenny,' Cosmopolitan (8th week) (D-1,500-\$5.50) - Final last week for intended indefinite stay, but business dropped too much; \$8,000; house dark again.

ETHEL BARRYMORE TOPS \$21,000, HUB SELL OUT

'Blackbirds' Another at \$34,000—Football Crowds and Holiday Give Big Week

The best week's business this season, especially for legitimate, and for the first time every show topped \$10,000, on a holiday occasion. Hooley Cross and Boston College football assured capacity for Friday and Saturday. These days, the show topped \$10,000 for the first time. 'Blackbirds' at the Tremont bids fair to be the biggest consistent money maker. Last week with nine performances gross ran to \$21,000. 'The Red Rover,' veteran musical here and which showed signs of weakness, topped \$10,000. 'Connecticut Yankee' at the Majestic doesn't seem to have got word of mouth advertising. But even at that and up against opposition it got \$10,000.

Ethel Barrymore, 'The Kingdom of God' was a smash from the start. The show sold out the first week, and a week ago the advance sale had taken care of the current week. The agencies took big blocks. Capacity business opening week at \$21,000, the biggest non-musical gross this season. Mrs. Plske in 'Much Ado About Nothing' at the Hollis suffered from Barrymore competition; \$10,000 a week. It is thought she would draw the society crowd last week. At the Plymouth William Hodge in 'Straight Through the Door' surprised everybody in final week by hanging up \$11,000. In the three weeks on repeat did remarkably well.

The American Opera Company, Colonial, a disappointment.

Estimates for Last Week

'A Connecticut Yankee' (Majestic, 6th week) Has a couple of more weeks. Last week \$12,000. Better by \$5,000.
'The Red Rover' (Shubert, 6th week). Biggest business of the engagement with \$24,000, up \$4,000.
'The Kingdom of God' (Wilton, 2d week) - Advance sale for the season. First week \$21,000. Capacity entire week; a big advance sale and setting society play.
'On the Beach' (Plymouth, 1st week) - Follows William Hodge into this week. With a repeat show, 'Straight Through the Door,' Hodge finished with \$11,000, or \$2,000 better than week before.
'The Guardsman' (Theatre Guild). In the final week Mrs. Plske in 'Much Ado About Nothing' did \$10,000. 'The Guardsman' has reached \$60,000. Looks very good.
'Blackbirds' (Tremont, 5th week). Again the biggest money maker with last week's \$21,000. Since she opened. Did \$34,000. Good for another month at least.
American Opera Co. (Colonial, 2d week). \$15,000 a disappointment.

Belongs to the Shuberts

Marle Dane appearing on tour in 'Rio-Rita' must leave the show and report to the Shuberts. That was the decision in an arbitration over the rights to her services. Miss Dane being given one week to withdraw from the Ziegfeld attraction. It was a case of dual contracts. Miss Dane signed with the Shuberts personally. On or about the same time a casting agent signed her with Ziegfeld for 'Rio-Rita'. The casting agent was unaware of her agent's action but admitted he had the right to sign for her. The arbitrators decided her personal contract with the Shuberts should take precedence.

Zieggy's Chi House?

A syndicate headed by Lee J. Lesser has secured an option on the southwest corner of Michigan avenue and Eighth street for a \$15,000, four-story apartment and theatre building. Lesser says Florenz Ziegfeld has agreed to take over the 1,700-seat theatre for 25 years at a rental averaging \$14,000 annually. Ziegfeld hasn't signed yet. Construction is supposed to start in March.

Mayan for Talkers

Sam Salvini is negotiating to transfer to Louis Bard, local exhibitor, his 40-year lease on the Mayan, local legit house. Deal is expected to be closed this week. Bard will establish the house for talkers with two performances and reserved seats daily. Understood Salvini will draw a bonus of \$200 a week from Bard for the period of the lease.

'So to Bed' Quits Philly, Up to \$16,000 From \$6,000 Start

Frisco Biz Picks Up, Song, \$23,000; Carillo, \$6,100

San Francisco, Dec. 4. Business picked up consistently with the legits, Thanksgiving holiday helping materially. Two arrivals clicked smartly. Leo Carillo came into the Alcazar for Henry Dufly with 'Lombardi, Ltd.' and gave house its biggest intake in months. At the Columbia, Felix Young made his local debut as a producer with 'The Marriage Bed.' Excellent notices all around.

'Desert Song' continued to set the pace, and with holiday intake had a mighty successful week. 'Squall' running six weeks here and took to the road for two weeks before returning to the Belasco, Los Angeles. 'Mother's Millions,' Dufly's production at his President, has caught on and looks good for a moderate run. Sid Goldtree's 'Easy for Zee Zee' profited through newspaper publicity over the connection of Nana Wortova, playing lead role, in the slaying of a reputed North Beach gangster and her baron.

Curran - 'The Desert Song,' third week of return engagement prosperous; jumped up around \$23,000; also profitable.

Columbia - 'The Marriage Bed.' In for two weeks only; initial week about \$13,000. Satisfactory. 'Squall' departed after six satisfactory weeks; final was a good \$12,000; George Arliss in 'Merchant of Venice' current. Alcazar - 'The Marriage Bed.' Up to bang start; first week topped \$6,100; great; long run in sight. President - 'Mother's Millions.' Shows improvement on second week; \$4,600. Green Street - 'Easy for Zee Zee.' Sure-seater showed another nice profit by registering \$2,400.

L. A. GROSSES

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Emphasizing nudity as its chief recommendation, the Shubert revue, 'The Right Girl,' \$20,000 in its first week at the Biltmore. Everything else hit by influenza epidemic and prevalent panic among those not in the house themselves. 'The Royal Family' reported \$12,000 for fifth week at Belasco. In Hollywood the Vine Street was the leader, with \$3,600 on opening week of 'Her Cardboard Lover.' Hollywood Playhouse grossed \$5,500 second week of 'Lady Next Door.' Tenth week of 'Shannon's Broadway' with last night, \$5,000 even. Downtown President took \$4,500 with 'Nightstick,' fourth week, while 'Silver Cord' at Figueroa Playhouse copped \$3,500 on second week.

Estimates of the Week

'Dracula' (Broad, 4th week) - Still going strong, with extra matinee in week in nine performances. That was about \$1,500 under capacity. Stay until the 22d. 'Luckee Girl' (Shubert, 2d week) - Musical comedy, break in opening because of scarcity of musical opposition. With heavily tilted scale. Thanksgiving, checked at \$30,000. 'Marco Millions' (Garrick, 1st week) - Third Guild offering in for two weeks. 'Arms and the Man,' \$20,000. 'Relations' (Walnut, 2d week) - Opened this week. 'And So to Bed' jumped from about \$6,000 to \$16,000 in last week, without extra matinee. 'The Fenian' (Forsyth, 6th week). Best week here, with better than \$26,000 claimed. Two weeks to go. 'Trial of Mary Dugan' (Keith's, 7th week). Town's long stayer had a fine week, with \$20,000 claimed. No end in sight for run. 'The Fenian' (Adelphi, 2d week) - Melodramatic tryout got fine notices and picked up satisfactorily. Claimed \$13,000. 'Musical' (Lyric, 2d week) - This Willard Mack melodrama showed little and off the boards Saturday night. Around \$8,000. 'The Erlanger' is dark this week. 'The Fenian' got under \$12,000 there last week. The Chestnut is also dark after the departure of 'The Right Girl,' which grossed around \$17,000 in final week.

SUING GOETZ FOR SERVICES

Milrics Productions, Inc., coined from the syllables of the names of Fred K. Ahlert, songwriter, arranger, and Taylor Aronson, is suing E. L. Goetz and Charles Frohman, Inc. for \$2,515 in City Court arising from services rendered for the 'Paris' production. This is the Irene Bordoni musicomedie in which Aronson appears with his commanders. The company which he and Albert Goetz had special arrangements for the show and demand payment for services.

Thanksgiving Week Developed 3 Or More Likelys from 9 New Shows

Thanksgiving week brought an almost record number of indicated successes. No fewer than five out of the nine premieres appear to be in the money and that number may be increased.

Two of the new shows drew exceptional first week grosses, a third was not far behind, another started its second week with more promise than the first, while among the new hits is a little theatre success that may be moved to a large house.

"Holiday," at the Plymouth, got \$20,500, playing one extra matinee; "Comrades at the Sam H. Harris, got well over \$20,000 and was relatively bigger, playing but seven performances; "The Age of Innocence" grosses at the Empire, also in seven performances; "A Most Immoral Lady," at the Cort, got about \$12,000 and claimed strong lowly reviews; "The Perfect Alibi" (in the mand Charles Hopkins theatre looks like a cinch for a run. It is opposed in the mystery play field at present.

"Whooper" is expected to be Broadway's new leader. It opened at the New Amsterdam Tuesday, with a bulk of the tickets for subsequent performances being in the hands of the brokers. Last week saw "Three Cheers" and "This Year of Grace" leading the musicals and the field, both playing nine performances and both approximating \$15,000; "Animal Crackers" again got \$42,000; "Show Boat" \$41,000; "The New Moon," \$40,000; "The Perfect Alibi," which has been slipping, \$35,000; same for "Vanities"; "Hold Everything" reached a new high level at \$33,000; "Treasure Girl" improved somewhat, \$32,000; "Three Musketeers" about the same, but is leaving; "Rainbow" established itself as substantial, getting \$30,000 at the Gallo, with agencies jumping, \$25,000; same figure for "Rain or Shine," which is leaving and "Good Boy" due out soon also; "Billie" over \$20,000; "Back Here," \$18,000; same figure, compares with any musical because of its limited capacity house; "Good News," \$18,000, leaving next week; a bit more for "White Lilacs," "Just a Minute," \$14,000, leaving next week, too.

"Front Page" held its lead spot but has two contenders as mentioned above. It got \$22,500 in nine performances last week; "Paris" in the usual eight performances, \$21,000; "The High Road," with an added matinee, about \$20,000; "Strange Interlude," \$16,000 (capacity right along); "Little Accident," "The Jealous Moon" and "Courage" \$14,000; "Jarnegun," \$13,000; "Midnight at 12," \$11,000; "Diamond Lil," nearly as much; "Night Hostess," "This Thing Called Love," "Jealousy," "The Grey Fox," "Young Love," and "The Squealer," \$8,000 to \$9,000; "Gentlemen of the Press," \$7,000; "Exceeding Small," \$6,000; "Tin Pan Alley," \$5,000. In addition, "Back Here," "These Few Ashes" closed Saturday, leaving the Mansfield again dark; "The Sacred Flame" will be withdrawn from the Miller, which gets "The Lady of the Orchids" (first called "So This Is Love"); "Mr. Moneybags" blocks the Cosmopolitan; "The Dark Mirror" due out at the Cherry Lane; next week "The Sign of the Leopard" will re-light the National; "Wings Over Europe" relights the Beck, and "Tomorrow" again postponed, relights the Lyceum.

35 Current Buys Premium agencies have climbed again, the better 35 attractions thus classed. Most of them are not so good, but the brokers continue to make deals for the most likely of the new shows. Six of last week's arrivals are among the buys' list which, of course, includes "Whooper" for an indefinite period; "Treasure Girl," "Angela," "Amambassador," "Scandalia" (Apollo), "A Play Without a Name" (Booth), "Hold Everything" (Broadhurst), "Hello, Yourself" (Casino), "The Perfect Alibi" (Charles Hopkins), "A Most Immoral Lady" (Cort), "Vanities" (Earl Carroll), "Blackbirds of 1828" (Empire), "The Age of Innocence" (Gaiety), "The Perfect Alibi" (Erlerange's), "Animal Crackers" (Forty-fourth St.), "The High

Shows in Rehearsal

- "Fioreta" (Earl Carroll). "Polly" (Arthur Hammerstein). "Granite" (George M. Cohan). "Wings Over Europe" (Theatre Guild). "The Joy Peddler" (Irwin Franklyn). "Hello, Daddy" (Lew Fields). "Follow Thru" (Schwab and Mandel). "Mims" (David Belasco). "One Mile Up" (James Cooper).

Road" (Fulton), "Rainbow" (Gallo), "Three Cheers" (Globe), "Good Boy" (Hammerstein's), "The Sacred Flame" (Henry Miller's), "Tonight at 12" (Hudson), "The New Moon" (Imperial), "Strange Interlude" (John Golden), "Jarnegun" (Longacre), "The Three Musketeers" (Lyric), "The Jealous Moon" (Majestic), "Young Love" (Masque), "Little Accident" (New Amsterdam), "Paris" (New Amsterdam), "The Grey Fox" (Playhouse), "Holiday" (Plymouth), "Courage" (Ritz), "Congal" (Sam H. Harris), "The Front Page" (Times Square), "Show Boat" (Ziegfeld), "This Year of Grace" (Selwyn).

Cut Rates

Good business reported in the bargain ticket field last week. More than 30 shows are offered there, a number of buys shows being represented as usual: "Good News" (Chanin), "Just a Minute" (Century), "Good Boy" (Hammerstein's), "Rain or Shine" (Geo. M. Cohan), "White Lilacs" (Casino), "Treasure Girl" (New Amsterdam), "Americana" (Liberty), "Angela" (Ambassador), "Skidding" (Bays), "Gentlemen of the Press" (48th St.), "This Thing Called Love" (Bijou), "Tonight at 12" (Hudson), "Tin Pan Alley" (Republic), "Young Love" (Masque), "The Royal Box" (Belmont), "Mr. Moneybags" (Cosmopolitan), "Nite Moments" (Vanderbilt), "Diamond Lil" (Royale), "Exceeding Small" (Comedy), "Jealousy" (Elliot), "Sun-Up" (La Verne), "On Call Girl" (Waldorf), "The Grey Fox" (Playhouse), "The Dark Mirror" (Cherry Lane), "Three Musketeers" (Ritz), "The Wild Duck" (49th St.), "The Sacred Flame" (Henry Miller), "The Lady Lies" (Little).

Chanins Lose Again On Contract Clause

Holding that Chanin's complaint is defective, Justice Mitchell refused to enjoin "Tin Pan Alley" from moving into the Republic. New York, where it opened Monday night after being housed in the Chanins' Biltmore for four weeks. With the denial of the injunction, the complaint was thrown out as against the Lang-Forbes Corp., owners of the show, and Oliver D. Bailey, lessee of the Republic. Saturday night when the show was being moved out of the Biltmore, the attraction encountered a more, of ominous males who attempted to stop the physical removal of the props, but without success.

Chanins are endeavoring to test anew the rental clause in their contracts, similar to that in Shubert and Erlanger houses, that a show cannot re-open within eight weeks in another house. Lang-Forbes Corp. contended that the contract was nullified because the attraction had fallen twice beneath the \$10,000 stop limit.

The switch to the Republic is not so much a matter of better terms as the desire by the producers to take advantage of transfer trade on a 42d street location. Benjamin Pepper of O'Brien, Malvinsky & Driscoll represented Bailey in the defense of the injunction suit.

Last year the Chanins lost a similar case involving Phil Rosenwasser's (Phil Rossett, Inc.) "Oh, Ernest," the adverse decision being predicated on a matter of alleged faulty punctuation by the Chanin legal staff. This has since been corrected.

Future Plays

"Dyed in the Wool," by Clara Beranger, picture scenarist, for production by A. H. Woods. It's a satire on the Reno divorce system.

"The Actress Body" is being cast as Richard Herndon's next. Robert Sterling is entering the producing field on his own. It will shortly put on a new musical, "Cheer Up."

"Children of Darkness," starring Ina Claire and produced by Jed Harris went into rehearsal last week and bows in at the Broad, Newark, N. J., Dec. 24, with New York to follow. Support cast includes Arthur Byron, Richard Bird, John Harrington and Edmund Rigby.

Harris is also reading another "Serena Blandish," by S. N. Behrman, for rehearsal next week and opening at the Broad, Philadelphia, Jan. 7. Ruth Gordon and Constance Collier have already been engaged for the latter.

"The Right Angle," by Len Hollister and Lester Lonergan, went into rehearsal last week, Richard Steele producer. It bows in at New Rochelle, N. Y., Dec. 13, and comes to a New York house two weeks later. Cast includes Clark Gable, Lester Lonergan, Paul Wood, Raymond Bradley and others.

"Gasoline Gypsies" will reach production shortly under managerial sponsorship of George (Lefty) Miller with cast headed by Dorothy Appleby. Now casting and due for rehearsal in two weeks.

Fioreta" (meaning little flower in Italian), Earl Carroll's new musical opera, started rehearsals Monday at the Carroll theatre. It opens in Baltimore, Dec. 24.

James La Penna is taking another leg up, this time backing the new play, Philly Wood, "The Circus," in rehearsal.

"Comediennes," by Helen Broderick, of the vaude team of Crawford and Broderick will reach production via John Murray Anderson. The piece will be produced simultaneously with Anderson's proposed new play, "Hello, Daddy."

"Dark Alley," which rehearsed a week and then stopped to permit one act to be rewritten, is now scheduled to open after Christmas in Detroit. An earlier date is also being considered.

"Merry Andrew," by Louis Beach, who wrote "The Goose Hangs High," to be produced by Lawrence Rivers, Inc. Due to open Jan. 7 at New Rochelle, N. Y.

Lollita Lee, understudy in "Front Page" has been playing the role of Molly Malloy at the Times Square for two weeks. She replaced Dorothy Stickney, who suffered a nervous collapse. Miss Lee is from the coast, where she played opposite Lionel Barrymore in several stage attractions.

"Cheer Up," to be presented by Robert Sterling, was known as "Sweet Lady" last season, at which time the attraction stranded in the middle west. Thomas Ball originally had the show, against which claims for \$5,000 in salaries are on file with Equity.

"A Night in Venice" in rehearsal next week. Shuberts.

"POLLY'S" 3 COMEDIANS

Harry K. Morton and Frank McCormack have joined "Polly" Arthur Hammerstein's new musical, in rehearsal again. It was withdrawn for recasting, following a two-week try-out in Philadelphia last week. Leon Errol was to be engaged for Earl Carroll's new musical instead, which also has Fannie Brice. Fred V. Allen remains in "Polly," which with the addition of Morton and McCormack now has three comedians. The role intended for Errol has been split between the latter two.

Joan Carter Waddell is replacing Barbara Newberry in "Polly." John Fundley has been cast as the juvenile, leaving "Just a Minute" to make it.

Miss Newberry may do a vaudeville act with Roy Royston, who recently closed in "Ups-A-Daisy."

GUY MINSTRELS CLOSED

Guy Bros' Minstrels, closed show carrying 11 people, closed last week after striking since September.

Chi's Big Splash for "Front Page" Gives Show \$25,000 in First Week

Other 4 Openings Quiet—"Interference" Out After 3 Wks. to \$35,000—Unexpected Tues. Slump

No Money in Acting

Ward Moorehouse of the Sun is not so hot about acting. Last week he became one of "The Gentlemen of the Press," which the lobby paraders saw the people from whom the stage characters were drawn talking to the authors. They were all there. The gang.

Despite the hurrah opening, show didn't have a substantial advance outside of the premiere. Management went into a heavy ad display last week. Looked as if the gang had overdone it for the boys. First week found the sale unsteady but the piece is a pronounced hit, figure the \$25,000 for the first 10 performances.

Others So So This attraction was the only outstanding card among five openings. "Golden Day" is being cut, notices and landed in the fairly good gross column, but due to a stiff scale, "Paris Bound" is at the Bar, his and previous week's grossing satisfactory figures. "Nobody's Girl" was left at the post at the Majestic while "Blossom Time" interference upon to get the repeaters. It is filling in at the Studebaker.

5 Shows Out

Five more shows are off Broadway's list, two in this group having been abruptly added to Saturday's closings.

"The Sacred Flame," presented by Gilbert Miller, closes at Henry Miller's this Saturday after three weeks. English piece started with \$8,000 pace, dropping to \$6,000 second week.

"Mr. Moneybags," presented by Channing Pollock, will meet at the Cosmopolitan, where it moved from the Liberty last week. Fairly good grosses claimed at first, but attraction too expensive to operate, and lost money at \$12,000. Last week's takings, around \$8,000.

MR. MONEYBAGS Opened Oct. 18. De Rohan (American) thought it would have been hailed a masterpiece if written by a Russian or a Hungarian. Other reviewers found it "obvious and transparent."

"Back Here," presented by W. A. Brady and I. H. Hook at the Klaw, stopped Saturday. Single week.

BACK HERE Opened Nov. 26. A second string chore.

"These Few Ashes," presented by Shaw & Nathan, closed at the Mansfield Saturday. Played five weeks, starting at the Booth. Favorable notices but little business.

THESE FEW ASHES Opened Nov. 5. Mantle (News) termed it "an agreeable little piece for the non-exacting playgoer," while Anderson (Journal), the only major reviewer to catch it, was slightly favorable in an indefinite sort of fashion. Variety (Rush) gave it about six weeks.

"The Dark Mirror" will be taken off at the Cherry Lane. Cheerless play with no chance on Broadway.

Plaza Stock's Salary

Plaza Players, stock, folded at Englewood, N. Y., Saturday after seven weeks. An extra week's salary was claimed by the players in lieu of notice.

J. C. Buckner, who managed the stock, countered by claiming he was forced to suspend because of foreclosure proceedings on the theatre, and that he was not involved in that transaction.

Sylvia Sydney's Film Date

Sylvia Sydney, left, last-as-female lead in "Gods of the Lightning," has been signed through the Small office to a two-year contract with Fox.

She will leave next week for the Coast to appear in a full-length feature titled "Through Different Eyes," by Milton Gropper. Film will have dialog sequences.

Chicago, Dec. 4. "Front Page" at the Erlanger, with excellent reviews, running a couple of story and whatnots, cracked out a \$3,000 opening gross. Special writers attended which gave piece extraordinary space in addition to 100 per cent plaud by critics. Between acts the lobby paraders saw the people from whom the stage characters were drawn talking to the authors. They were all there. The gang.

Despite the hurrah opening, show didn't have a substantial advance outside of the premiere. Management went into a heavy ad display last week. Looked as if the gang had overdone it for the boys. First week found the sale unsteady but the piece is a pronounced hit, figure the \$25,000 for the first 10 performances.

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Trade dropped Tuesday, going below Monday. Slump brought out in front of the picture being "Five o'Clock Girl" announced its retaway until Dec. 23 when "The Living Corpse" was introduced. "Interference" turned over the Garrick to "Grand Street Follies," which will hold until Xmas night when "Lovely Lady" will be withdrawn. "Interference" wasn't far below the original prediction of \$35,000 total gross for its three weeks.

"Good News" ended 41 weeks at the Selwyn with a record. "News" left town with records. The Selwyn is now dark until Xmas and "Coquette." "My Maryland" led the field for the show, giving the holiday matinee. "Her Unborn Child" got nowhere at the Central, closing last weekend and also leaving the house dark until Christmas. "Durgy" continued its furious gallop at the Blackstone, furnishing every indication that the Guild's engagement will hold up until the end.

Estimates for Last Week "Grand Street Follies" (Garrick, 1st week). Experiment for this town; no advance sale; "Interference" away off at less than \$35,000 in its three weeks.

"The Front Page" (Erlanger, 2d week). Leading non-musicals and counted to stick at the top during matinee sales; midweek ads denoted a management scare but nothing to worry about here; smashed out \$25,000.

"Nobody's Girl" (Majestic, 2d week). A little lull; "Back Here" and "Desert Song" announced Xmas week with "Bill" possibly out before then; figured around \$10,000.

"Golden Dawn" (Grand, 2d week). Small hit; with opening gross about \$22,000.

"In Abraham's Bosom" (Playhouse, 2d week). Drawing its own clientele; enough to hold around \$8,000; a little profit for house; not a hit; "Bill" possibly out before then; figured around \$10,000.

"Shannons of Broadway" (Cort, 4th week). Kicked up with a slight profit; word will be easily obtained with grosses around \$8,500; house never in red at this figure.

"Five o'Clock Girl" (Woods, 4th week). Failed to make grade; having sporadic demand; doubtful if engagement will show an average of \$15,000 for six weeks.

"Paris Bound" (Harris, 2d week). Close to about the breaking gross for either of the shows; (Adelphi, 15th week). Expected to hold around \$16,500 and less until Xmas when strength of piece will determine how long engagement will last.

"Porgy" (Blackstone, 5th week; 11th for Theatre Guild). Still in demand; assures success for wind-up of local engagement of Guild; slightly under \$20,000.

EVERYBODY GOES TO MARKERT



*Wise producers refuse
to accept imitations
and insist upon
the original*

Which Is the Reason for

6 ORIGINAL RUSSELL E. MARKERT DANCING UNITS NOW APPEARING CURRENTLY ON BROADWAY

¶ 16 AMERICAN ROCKETTS IN JONES & GREEN'S "RAIN OR SHINE,"
AT THE GEORGE M. COHAN, NEW YORK

¶ 16 RUSSELL MARKERT DANCERS IN GEORGE WHITE'S "SCANDALS," AT THE
APOLLO, NEW YORK

¶ 16 RUSSELL MARKERT DANCERS IN SAM H. HARRIS' "ANIMAL CRACKERS,"
AT THE 44th STREET, NEW YORK

¶ 16 RUSSELL MARKERT DANCERS IN THE "NEW AMERICANA," AT
THE LIBERTY, NEW YORK

¶ 32 ROXYETTES THAT FAMOUS DANCE UNIT AT
THE ROXY, NEW YORK

RUSSELL E. MARKERT

DANCE DIRECTOR and STAGE PRODUCER

WM. V. POWERS, *General Assistant*

Bin Sues for Profit of Thomas' Broken Promise

Bernard K. Binberg, theatrical realtor, and the late Edward R. Thomas, publisher of the Morning Telegraph, each owned one-half of the capital stock of the Longacre Square Theatre Co. (Astor theatre), controlling the property on the northwest corner of Broadway and 46th. A provision was that neither was to sell without the consent of the other.

Thomas did so and Binberg did not. Bin (as he is known) is now suing Mrs. Lucy Cotton-Ament, widow of the deceased newspaper publisher, formerly known as Mrs. Lucy Cotton Thomas, and Rufus J. Trimble, the executors of the Thomas estate for \$80,260 with interest from 1917.

This is not an action for breach of contract but for a share of Thomas' profits as a result of his having violated their agreement which Thomas had with Binberg's brother, Meyer R. Binberg, who died in 1908. Justice Townley in Supreme Court in a lengthy legal opinion has refused to dismiss Bin's complaint. Mrs. Ament (who recently sold the Telegraph to Joseph A. Moore) and Trimble made a motion to that effect, but Justice Townley seems affirmatively inclined, citing legal precedent, to substantiate Bin's unique grounds for suit.

Prop Plane Victim Sues Reed for \$100,000

Mervin Williams, 23, 411 East 51st street, is being legally represented in a \$100,000 claim against Carl Reed, producer of "Tomorrow" which opens this week at the Lyceum, New York, as the result of a serious accident backstage during rehearsal of the show. Williams and Howard Allen, 19, 330 West 58th street, were the two victims, both confined to Bellevue Hospital and in too critical a condition to be removed from the accident ward. Allen's legal claims are unknown and not being handled by Julius Kandler, who only is acting for Williams.

Both were passengers in a prop actual-size airplane which smashed to the stage when a cable snapped. Both are seriously hurt, with fear expressed for their recovery. As far as Williams is concerned, Kandler was advised that if he lives it will be six months before he can leave the hospital. Williams was a \$250 a week actor with the show. Six cables supported the airplane which had a real motor working. This has been eliminated as the result of the catastrophe, with a substituted prop employed.

Patrolman Kane on the 46th street beat (where the backstage entrance to the Lyceum is located) made no arrests at the time of the accident, being unable to fix any blame.

Both the victim's spines are injured, their condition making it impractical to thoroughly diagnose them for a full estimate of the injuries.

Charlotte's Road House Going

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 4. The old Charlotte auditorium, for 29 years the only theatre in this city, is soon to be razed. Its site will be occupied by a new skyscraper office building and theatre combined.

Constructed in 1901, the auditorium is owned by the city. For several years past it has been operated under lease arrangements by Grace Brown, who has rented out the building to such road shows as were inclined to break a jump here.

STOCKS CLOSING

Blanche Wilcox shut her Gordon Square stock at Cleveland, after two weeks.

Jefferson theatre stock at Portland, Me., reported closed for good Saturday. Stock ran for two years but recently constant changing of members killed off biz.—Theatre dark.

Buddy Wattles' Bride

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.

Duane Thompson, screen actress, has announced her engagement to Buddy Wattles, musical comedy juvenile. The wedding will take place in December.

Ervine's Opinions

The morning World's critic, St. John Ervine, brought over from London to review Broadway, witnessed two new productions last week. He thought: "Holiday"—Bad. "Age of Innocence"—Good.

GALAGHER ACTING

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Donald Galagher, brought from New York by Fox to function as dramatic director on talkers production, has been added to list of players for current short output.

AHEAD AND BACK

Dan Maurice, formerly of West Coast theatres, now handling publicity for Fox-Poll house in Bridgeport. Frank Braden is covering similar berth for Fox in New Haven.

Dayton Stoddard back with "A Most Immoral Lady" (Cort). E. J. Kelly back with "The Jealous Moon" (Majestic).

NO. 3 "BLACKBIRDS"

Low Leslie is organizing a third company of "Blackbirds" to go into rehearsal in two weeks.

It will head for the Middle West with California as its ultimate destination.

Premium on Guild

Subscription memberships for the Theatre Guild are at a premium. List closed last June with 32,000 subscribers.

A New Jersey member entitled by his subscription to two balcony seats the fourth week of each Guild production, was offered \$5 to transfer his privilege. He is holding out for more.

MACGREGOR'S OWN MUSICAL

Edgar MacGregor is to do a musical of his own writing, with lyrics by Henry Myers and music by Arthur Schwartz.

ROBT. CRAIG JAMS UP

Finally Appeared in "Rubicon" After Holding Curtain

Cleveland, Dec. 4.

Robert Craig jumped up the performance of "Rubicon" by the Little theatre stood last week when he refused to appear.

It was five minutes before the management could convince Craig his place was on the stage. Curtain meanwhile had been held.

Georgette Cohan was in the five-verging play. One night performance was given before an audience of 60 people, including the dead-heads.

Albertina Rasch

... in accord with the dance trend of today, recognizes the increasing importance of Tap Dancing evidenced by the insistent demands of managers.

Bill Robinson

... the world's most prominent star of Syncopated Rhythm, is now associated with the Rasch Studio and will teach Tap Dancing. Classes are forming every week. . . . Acknowledgment by foremost managers is tending Albertina Rasch for her ability in turning out the best trained and greatest number of dancers who have attained professional careers.

[Write for Detailed Information]

Albertina Rasch Studio

113 West 57th Street
NEW YORK CITY

Phone: CIRCLE 8232

Plays on Broadway

AGE OF INNOCENCE

Gilbert Miller stars Katharine Cornell in Margaret Ayer Barnes play, dramatized from Edith Wharton's novel...

Under auspicious sponsorship and with a brilliant star, Katharine Cornell's newest at the Empire is a dreary play...

It is patent that Mrs. Edith Wharton's novel of the same name might have been interesting reading, but as dramatic stuff, whether Margaret Ayer Barnes or another dramatist handled it, there is much lacking...

A play of the '70s, during Doss Tweed's regime in New York, it is a charming contemporary comedy...

The Countess Olenka (Miss Cornell) being the interesting character she is, and Rolfo Peters, the legal enthusiast he is characterized to be, the central characters develop a familiar familiarity...

Miss Cornell is excellent in her role and Arnold Kooff, in a tender scene with the star, scored roundly...

CONGAI

Drama in three acts and six scenes, presented by Sam H. Harris at the Liberty Theatre Nov. 23...

"Congai" has something of an edge in its title, a term of a strange land—Indo-China, Asiatic possession of the French...

marry another. Kim never knows until later that a son is born of their union...

Thi-Linh readily agrees to become the mistress of a Frenchman who is visiting the land to get atmospheric novel effects...

The middle aged colonel takes Thi-Linh to himself. She is quite a lady in Paris frocks and imposing hair...

Thi-Linh has planned to return to her jungle with Kim but the charge of murder is to be faced...

Helen Menken catches a fine picture of the half-breed girl Thi-Linh, suppressed in the early scenes...

In a cast of many names, Ariadne's perfume is a provocative one. Pitch and playing become higher as the play proceeds...

The curious Oriental music by natives, some of whom are real, and a Sengalese dancer added to the setting and lights...

NEW AMERICANA

Revue in two parts. Presented at the Liberty Nov. 29. Sketches by J. P. McEvoy, lyrics by Irving Berlin...

J. P. McEvoy, humorist and lyricist, is the one to write the "Show Girl", the fellow whose skits in "The Comic Supplement" later formed the nucleus of a "Polka"...

In the original version "Americana" was a sort of white and black revue. J. Rosamond Johnson was head of the colored singing section...

"The Barn," which George M. Cohan has in rehearsal, has been recaptured "Granite." It opens at the Apollo, Atlantic City, Dec. 24...

Mantle's 10 Best

Burns Mantle's annual selection of the season's 10 best plays has again made its appearance in book form...

closing in a trombone solo; not good there. With Snyder present are two pantomimic comics...

Julius Tannen is the principal featured player in the new Liberty production...

The satire and burlesque of "Americana" ran along lines of radio, talking pictures, taxicab Chicago and the stage...

A burlesque on "Strange Interlude" with the characters on skates, (air. An impression of Roxy's with the overflow crowd restrained by ropes, very good...

Renames Show "The Barn," which George M. Cohan has in rehearsal...

Under more favorable conditions there might be a chance for this breezy, unpretentious little operetta...

Under more favorable conditions there might be a chance for this breezy, unpretentious little operetta...

Under more favorable conditions there might be a chance for this breezy, unpretentious little operetta...

Under more favorable conditions there might be a chance for this breezy, unpretentious little operetta...

NOBODY'S GIRL

Chicago, Nov. 28. Operetta in three parts, presented by Adams Productions...

Under more favorable conditions there might be a chance for this breezy, unpretentious little operetta...

Under more favorable conditions there might be a chance for this breezy, unpretentious little operetta...

Under more favorable conditions there might be a chance for this breezy, unpretentious little operetta...

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Under more favorable conditions there might be a chance for this breezy, unpretentious little operetta...

Plays Out of Town

producing this new drama, "Cafe de Dance," reported as having been a great success on the Continent...

It's a play of the Spanish nits club, a sort of Andalusian "roadway," except that women instead of liquor head the bill...

Show opens with the floor show flopping for want of a star. Seems that the proprietress is an ex-tango queen who trains the kids only to have the comers skip for Paris...

Leonard Ceely, from operetta, plays the heavy and has a couple of vocal numbers. Marian Draper is the slinky who would sacrifice her purity for art...

Bernie and Baker get something else to worry about besides their golf.

Cast Changes

Katherine Carrington out of "Little Accident," with Edith Van Cley supplying. Julian Nea succeeded Jeff Gaines in "White Hostess"...

American Plays in Germany

Sent Manuscripts to Felix Bloch Erben, Berlin, Wilmersdorf 1

School of the Theatre PASADENA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE ASSOCIATION Complete course in all Dramatic Arts given in a regular production...

EVELYN HOLEY "GOOD NEWS" LONDON Keith-Albee Circuit

Radio Rambles

By ABEL

Vita's Columbia Hour
 Keynote of the Vitaphone hours on the Columbia network Mondays is to play Warner Brothers and Vita's good will. Miller and Farrell, the subjects of a forthcoming Vita short, or shorts, will be guest artists this week. Wind-up is always a plug for Vitaphone and its forthcoming equipment and installation "in your local theatre."

'S'Too High
 Rosa Ponselle, as General Motors' guest star, gave out plenty of high notes and the usual spurge about "my public," pay-off and the cue for tuning out. Those high registers are strictly as you like it.

More Records
 Lesser stations, particularly the Jersey broadcasters, are still churning out legal and official authority to etherize mechanically reproduced music. The commission's primary objective at the time was to avoid deception and misinformation, such as had previously existed when it was stated that "Paul Whiteman will now play the latest jazz hit" or "John McCormack will now sing for you."

This doesn't mean that the broadcasters aren't flirting with complications from the time when they were not the disk makers, the artists themselves should squawk. They've been getting away with murder unless the disk artists figure it's a good plug for their releases. It's obvious, also, that some of the phonograph record manufacturers might think likewise, especially when records are performed in connection with announcements advertising the addresses of local music merchants. But fact remains it's to hook up canned recordings with radio commercialism, especially when the stations exact tolls for the time and utilize the disks to constitute the programs.

WMCA's Brooklyn Troubles
 Donald Flamm may accept this as this reviewer's opinion that WMCA doesn't come through as being Brooklyn as before. Information is seemingly concerned about this and has made special request for response, probably because of other complaints, as to whether or not the baby borough receives the Hotel McAlpin station as well as previously.

In a well put speech the station announcer mentions that WMCA's mission is one of service and never requests anything in return, excepting this one time, when it would like to know if Brooklyn, particularly, can get the station as it used to. Answer is decidedly no, with WMCA now on the level as a super-hot which can get everything but diptheria.

Why?
 Why do the NBC stations, both WEA and WJZ, continue with that dull recital of the day's and following day's programs as they free ad circulation in the daily press dropping off? Doesn't seem so.



TAVERN
 A CHOP HOUSE
 OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT
 156-8 WEST 48TH STREET
 East of Broadway

Best Xmas Present
 Always Welcome
 for \$10
 Year's Subscription to Variety

since they're getting as much space as ever devoted to the gratis publication of the daily programs. Hence, why the borsome resume of the evening's features? It's a time-killer and an imposition.

The Stetson Shoe Parade of Sundays is a martial ballad although given a bit too much to the balladry and too little to the military band.

Masonic Whoopie
 Rubey Cowan, songwriter, was in charge of a Masonic whoopie Mecca Temple which WMCA etherized. They made Helen Kane give all her put-puts and poop-poops. Danny Healy also was a while performer with his taps. It was a 50-50 benefit show for the American's Xmas Fund and the Masons' own charity. Characteristically "Sidel-walk of New York" is the theme for the band broadcast from the East Side's nice club, the Rainbow Inn on 4th street and Second avenue. A good comb it is, too.

Plays Nice Organ
 Lew White clicked big with a request program Sunday night. The program nicely, winding up with two Ethelbert Nevin favorites. Heed from his own organ show, the same as White who also employs his Kimbals in his own studios for broadcast purposes, featuring the "Hesperus" program with "Golden Dawn" selections, the operetta including several rich compositions.

Absent-Minded
 Announcers are wows sometimes. Either they overstep or, like Roger Bauer at WOR in exploiting Harold Lloyd's "Orchestra" program from the Club Mirador, they forget not only not to mention the attraction or the place but also the station. The mention of either would have been a cue to check up, but at least two in Variety's office Monday night heard four selections go by with heavy an announcement. However, Leonard's is unmistakable. As Sid piped, the forte featuring of the fiddle sounded like Al Jockey's in his palest years ago. Leonard, besides his own individual skill, has behind him a truly smart rhythmic dance organization and by now is probably a contract for radio time. He has one of the smoothest bands on radio.

Radio's Band Bookings Costly to Name Bands

There is some feeling against the National Broadcasting and Concert Bureau's position in relationship to the National Broadcasting Co. as regards the booking of talent by advertisers. NBC has prerogative of accepting a contract for radio time and the use of its facilities with the provision of also okaying the talent for it. As a result, as happened in one instance, the advertiser had a "name" band selected and a price fixed. The NBC asked for an audition as per regulation. After the audition, NBC agreed that the band was worthy but offered to give the advertiser twice the number of men, in this case 35, at the same price. The advertiser naturally favored the larger personnel, especially in view of the fact that the value of a name band leader is subjugated to that of the product being exploited. The NBC is in a position to furnish twice the number of men at the same figure because of the several units they have engaged on the straight weekly salary for whatever use desired. Sometimes the men are around for days doing nothing; on other evenings the same combination may officiate on three different commercial hours or half hours.

Gershwin Orchestrating Concerto for Damrosch

For Walter Damrosch's next concert at Carnegie Hall, George Gershwin's new concerto, "An American in Paris," will be the jazz feature with the composer as piano soloist. Composition will be further distinguished through Gershwin making his debut as orchestrator of the piece. Heretofore he merely sketched the motif of the arrangement. Moods of an American getting blue in Paris, his homesickness and his subsequent descent into Montmartre to drown his nostalgia in the underlying development of the Gershwin piece.

WCCO TO MAT WITH NBC Dailies Wire Agencies OVER COLUMBIA CHAIN For Radio Transmission

Minneapolis Station Wants Programs From Both Chains —NBC Withdraws Service

Minneapolis, Dec. 4. WCCO, premier northwest radio station and one of the biggest and most successful in the United States, has been deprived of all NBC programs as a result of its efforts to buck the latter's edict prohibiting stations associated with it from using other chain's programs. At the same time, WCCO officials have made it known through the press here that the fight for independence started by them will be a bitter finish and will be carried to the Federal Radio Commission which it is declared, has approved the WCCO action in breaking away from the chain program monopoly.

WCCO always has been a member of the National's red and blue network, leasing facilities of WRNH, another local station, to broadcast some of the programs, H. A. Bellows, its manager and former member of the Federal Radio Commission, recently decided to retain only the red network programs and to discontinue the National's blue network in favor of the Columbia chain programs. When M. H. Bellows, head of the National company, threatened Bellows with deprivation of the red network programs if those of the Columbia chain were taken on by the local station, Bellows issued his declaration of independence and started his fight to compel abolition of the National's company's requirement for particular chains. For the present at least, WCCO must get along entirely with Columbia programs and its local staff, KSTP, rival St. Paul station, immediately grabbed the National's red and blue network programs.

SOCIAL CIRCUIT GIVES DAVIS RECORD HIGH

Probably a record for outside dance booking was Joe Moss' 400 men working one night last week with 15 Meyer Davis orchestras that same evening. This month until Jan. 15 is the peak of the social season. Davis' orchestras, 200 to 300 men, have been averaging 200 to 300 men nightly. That record high of 400-musicians playing the Society Circuit at the Park Lane, Pierre's, Marguery, Ambassador, Ritz, St. Regis, Barbizon, etc., also established an endurance record for Moss personally. As the New York manager for Davis, Moss is quite a personality as a leader and is worn out by a beaucoup wumpum for personal appearances. That day, from 4 p. m. at an afternoon tea dance until the wind-up at 6 a. m. the following morning at the Park Lane, Moss was diving in and out of taxicabs and taxis, switching from afternoon cutaway to a dinner jacket to formal evening regalia, to coincide with the time of his appearances.

Johnston's Sax School Elevator in Feist Move

Merle Johnston, one of the most popular instrumental soloists on the radio, has opened his own saxophone instruction school in New York. Johnston is on nine commercial radio hours and also a recording artist. Rudy Wiedoeff, acknowledged pre-eminent saxophone soloist, has similarly retired to devote himself to the administration of his late brother's estate (Herb Wiedoeff), a dance orchestra leader, and also a dance orchestra school in San Francisco. Johnston is continuing professionally active with the school as a side line.

Billy Jerome Resting

Billy Jerome, the Grand Old Man of Tin Pan Alley, and still active at 62, has been resting for a rest by his doctor's order for the first time in his very active career. At 63 also, in face of contemporary youthful competition, Jerome, whose trick punch lines are famous in the song world, wrote a hit song, "Get Out and Get Under the Moon."

Albany, Dec. 4. A number of the leading New York radio stations, as well as chain programs, are entering the wireless field for the transmission of news. Within a week the New York Herald Tribune, the Times, the World and the Scripps Howard chain all have incorporated companies to engage in business of this kind. Scripps Howard Wireless, Inc., whose purpose is to carry on the business of a public service corporation, was incorporated in Delaware, United Press-Wireless, which will engage in the transmission and reception of messages, has been incorporated in New York. All five companies have a capital stock of \$100,000 each.

CHICAGO ALSO HAS ITS DUBIOUS ETHER ADS

Meeting of Stations and Press to Watch Advertising—Studio Mgrs. Don't Want Censor

Chicago, Dec. 4. At a meeting of representatives of local radio stations, newspaper radio departments and civic business associations last week, plans for the elimination of misleading and fraudulent advertising via radio were discussed. A committee was appointed to draw up a code of ethics to be used in judging advertising. Station managers, however, indicated they would rather pass on their own programs, than entrust censorship to an outside power.

Situation here probably is even more acute than around New York. Blind speeches, a common practice on several stations. One of the foremost studios has accepted advertising guaranteeing to grow hair on ivory bones. Another is broadcasting one of those sure-thing treatments for what have you? A real estate agent offers to broadcast for nothing in order to peddle a book of songs he wrote for a stiff price. One station was announcing a half dozen radio special bargains on one program. Prize contests, with the entrants names later used as sales leads, are a general practice.

Swing Orchestra Allowed

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Los Angeles Musicians' Local granted the request of Panchon and Marco that swing orchestras be permitted in West Coast houses in the Los Angeles area. Instead of the man taking off on day end week the new plan will provide that they work six consecutive weeks and then lay off the seventh. Then the swing orchestra will play that one week. The houses in which this system will operate are Loew's State, Metropolitan, Egyptian and Boulevard in Los Angeles; Colorado, Pasadena, Alexander in Glendale, and Dome, Ocean Park. It goes into effect Dec. 14 with the swing orchestra going into the Egyptian in Hollywood first.

Elevator in Feist Move

Jan. 1; 15 Piano Rooms
 Leo Feist, Inc., takes possession of its new professional studios Jan. 1 in the new building on Broadway and 50th street. Total square footage of the new quarters will be 5,000, or 4,000 more than the present location at 711 Seventh avenue. Fifteen piano studios will be housed in Phil Krimholtz's department. A private elevator, exclusively for Feist visitors, will insure express service. The elevator was the determining factor in the Feist move, since the music firm was located two flights high on a walk-up and found that the lazily inclined professionals had a decided weakness for lifts.

ENFORCE 15-MINUTE RULE

Washington, Dec. 4. Announcers have got to stick to the 15-minute station announcements, says the radio commission. Complaints have been so numerous of violating this rule that the commission now says that it must be as often as possible but absolutely every quarter of an hour.

DISCS ON RADIO OF BIG NAMES

Minneapolis, Dec. 4. Broadcasting of Al Johnson, Paul Whiteman, Vincent Lopez, etc., phonograph recordings is regularly engaged in by several Twin City radio stations. It's an inexpensive way of providing entertainment for advertisers of an economical bent. When Whiteman and his orchestra played at the Minnesota they refused to go on the air during the theatre's weekly broadcast, the explanation being given that certain of their contracts prevented them from doing so. Yet, Whiteman and his orchestra in their best numbers are heard over the radio every week via phonograph recordings. Stations make no effort to deceive the listening-in public. The numbers always are frankly announced as phonograph recordings. But what do the listeners care as long as it sounds exactly like and just as good as the real stuff?

Harms' Goodwill Better Than Shuberts' Musical

Feeling himself morally obligated to Harms, Inc., which originally introduced him to the Shuberts, Charles Schwartz, co-composer with Mariel Pollock of "Well, Well, Well," the Jack Pearl show, has withdrawn from the creative end of the production. Miss Pollock will write the musical on her own. The piece is adapted from a Montague Glass lyrics Eckert Goodman story, with lyrics by Max and Nat Lieff. Shubert and Harms have split, the Shuberts now doing their own music publishing with Maurice Rubens, composer, in charge. Ed Bloeden, formerly of Bilbo, Bloeden & Lang, Inc., has also allied with Shubert's music firm. Schwartz isn't sided to Harms, but has had most of his stuff published by that firm. Charles Miller of Harms had brought him over to meet J. J. Shubert, who assigned him to interpolate one song in "Red Robe," which Harms is publishing, with Schwartz's natural assumption Harms would exploit the rest of his stuff. When learning the Shuberts are to publish their own music, Schwartz withdrew, preferring the good will of the Harms firm.

HERE AND THERE

Howard Emerson, conducting his orchestra at the Patio, Brooklyn, N. Y., has another band unit at another Schwartz house, the Mark, Jamaica, L. I. Emerson was previously presentation feature there.

"SILVER BELL" BANJO ACE
SAMMY CARR
 SOLOIST WITH PAUL ASH at the New Paramount Theatre Brooklyn, N. Y.
 ILLUS. CATALOGUE FREE
THE BACON BANJO CO.
 INC.
 GROTON, CONN.

The Outstanding Song Hits from the New 1928 Earl Carroll's "Varieties"
"Blue Shadows"
"Once in a Lifetime"
"Raquel"
 Sing Them—Play Them—Buy Them
ROBBINS MUSIC CORPORATION
 Publishers
 799 Seventh Avenue, New York

Whisperlows Rabid for Mat. Biz; Easing Out All Stalling Barflies

Times Square speakeasies are going in for kitchens more and more as side-lines to the liquid dispensaries. The theory is that "they can hold more with food under their belts."

The speakeasies also figure that they're not assured clicks unless their matinee, draw is of sizeable proportions. The nite, trade is accepted as a matter of course, no matter how much the gross may be, but if they can't get the femme in for a little cocktail or the steady for an occasional beer ball, a self-respecting joint it's not quite "in."

assurance with which the whisperlows also take their permanent for granted makes one marvel. Without seeming thought to a padlock or official molestation, the newer spots are fixing their rooms up elaborately, including more sumptuous fixtures and conveniences, including elaborate kitchen facilities. This confidence is answered by the "protection" they rely on from the local gendarmerie.

To protect themselves further, a strict admission basis only to those they know is carried out by some. Paradoxically, there are others which keep their doors open until 9 or 10 p. m., and only get the latch into operation with the advent of the theatre letting out, the favorite wandering stew's hour.

The "nice" speaks don't want souses; only those who know how to carry their liquor. The barflies with a quarter investment for the initial beer around which to stall until they can ease themselves into a convivial drinking group are quickly given the ozone. It means the loss of a sale of that one drink, or maybe more, if the affable barfly knows his routine well enough to ease in with a group of bar patrons, but the house doesn't want that sort of income, appreciating it will ultimately cost them the good will of the spenders.

One loft building has three speaks on as many floors, with the un-welcome ones shunted from speak to speak.

Leading Organists in New York

BILLY BARNES
"ORGANIST MODERN"
Loew's State Theatre, Times Sq., N. Y.

Eddie Schwartz
Featured Organist
Keith-Albee Theatres,
New York
Proctor's Fifth Ave. Theatre

MEEDER
AT THE ORGAN
E. F. ALBEE THEATRE,
Brooklyn, New York
Thanks to FRED KINSLEY

Connecticut's Most Beautiful
BALL ROOM
500 Couple Capacity
FOR RENT
Located Over Lyric Theatre
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.
A Great Opportunity for An Experienced
Dance Hall Man to Cash In
Apply to **M. L. SAUNDERS** FOX-POLI PALACE
Bridgeport, Conn.

Whiteman Ends First Lap

Paul Whiteman winds up the first lap of his concert tour next week, returning to New York Dec. 10 where he will record, until the first of the year.

Whiteman's all-talker Universal production, "King of Jazz," with Wesley Ruggles to direct, goes into production March 15, having been set back a month.

Paul Schoeffel came on from Universal City to tour with Whiteman for autobiographical scenario material and is now back on the coast. Mabel Wayne and L. Wolfe Gilbert, theme songwriters for Feist's are completing the special song matter which Whiteman will feature in the talker.

Whiteman's Sunday night concert at the Auditorium, Chicago, last week, at 60-40 to a \$3 top grossed \$4,800, or \$300 better than his last Chi concert at the same hall.

Toronto Cafes Picking Up; Four Will Use Acts

Toronto, Dec. 4. Night clubs, failing here dozens of times, at last seem to be making some headway.

King Edward Hotel is using a few acts, the Old Spain has just begun taking one or two through the Loew office, and the Silver Slipper is coming in after Christmas. Most elaborate restaurant in town is also billed to open with floor show Feb. 1.

Chinese Disk Names

Washington, Dec. 4. Malay and Chinese artists that have box office value in the Far East are being placed under contract by the German makers of Parlophone for records. These contracts are giving the artists a sliding scale from \$1,000 to \$5,000 monthly on a yearly basis.

Sales are reported as large. German manufacturers first attempted to sell the popular numbers without "names" only to have them flop.

Organist as M. C.

Des Moines, Dec. 4. Acting as a pinch-hitter here while Jay Mills was transferred to the Riviera at Omaha from the Capitol, Herbie Koch, organist at the Capitol went over as m. c. He did some peppy work at directing, piano solo and hoofing.

N. O. Still Lively

New Orleans, Dec. 4. Quite a few of the less pretentious cabarets have been padlocked, but the main night clubs of the town are still in the running. In certain districts every second doorstep is a speak.

For a town that's reported being cleaned up, New Orleans is more alive than ever.

JOE LEWIS AT PARODY

Los Angeles, Dec. 4. Joe Lewis' former Chicago cafe favorite, victim of thugs in a Chicago hotel about three years ago, is en route to New York. He will open at the Parody Club Dec. 11 as m. c.

THOSE BOYS PADLOCKED INTO NEW NITE CLUB

Durante Trio, With Silver Slipper Shut, Going to Rendezvous

With plenty of cigars and his wife alongside of him, Jimmy Durante expects the surgeons to blast Friday in the Flower Hospital at 64th street and Avenue A. Mr. Durante selected a hospital on the east side to feel more at home. He has been there since Monday. Jimmy says the operation will be a minor, meaning he won't allow over 16.

Mrs. Durante told her husband to go to the hospital after the Silver Slipper was padlocked Friday. "You're not going to hang around this house again," said Mrs. Durante, who has had to look at the schmozzles for about 14 years. Consulting his own doctor, whom Jimmy always pays off in laughs, the doc said James would have to lose his sense of humor. That is the first thing that will be cleaved from Durante Friday.

If recovering, and the chances are 800 to 1 that he will, just to spite his wife, Durante with schmozzle Clayton and blackface Eddie Jackson, will amble up to the Rendezvous in the Winter Garden building next Tuesday or Wednesday, to make fun.

Rendezvous is being prepared for their grand entrance by Johnny Irish, Tom Marlowe and Charlie Sherman. While in a Shubert building the Shuberts have no piece of it and may not want one since they were mentioned as defendants in the Little Club padlocking action started this week.

On and Off

Padlocking is the cause of the schmozzles vacating the Slipper after a record week with the gross. Tuesday evening a U. S. marshal hove onto the Slipper's door with a padlock and keys. He told everyone to get, but they wouldn't get, as the Slipper's attorney was downtown trying to secure a stay.

To stall a U. S. marshal is not as funny as the schmozzles, but some bright mind informed the marshal he could not lock the place until the porter changed his clothes. The marshal agreed it would be wrong to lock in a porter for a year.

Word was immediately dispatched to the porter to change everything but his clothes. Even with all of that, occupying one and one-half hours, with the marshal fretting, the stay did not end at five.

Whereupon the marshal locked it up and blew, taking the keys with him. Ten minutes after up came the lawyer with the stay and another marshal. But the No. 2 marsh had no key. Marsh No. 1 could not be located.

"But her open," said the attorney. Marsh No. 2 started to bust.

Up comes a cop. "What's all this?" said the cop. "Opening 'er up," answered the marsh.

"You can't break in on my beat," said the cop.

"Read this," said marsh No. 2. "I can't read on duty," said the cop.

"Can you see this badge," asked the marsh, turning on a pocket lantern.

"Oke," said the cop, and he helped to bust her open.

Whereupon the Silver Slipper again did business.

But on Friday the stay was vacated.

Little Club on Padlock List

The Little Club, in the basement of the 44th Street theatre, 216 West 44th, is on the padlock list along with Gus Weiss and Samuel J. Weiss, its operators, as defendants. Technical co-defendants are the Shubert Theatrical Co. and Lee Shubert, landlords, and Herman Katz, the headwaiter at the Little. Weiss has since retired from the racket and, as S. J. Weiss & Co., is in the stock brokerage business, downtown.

Phil Baker had been mentioned as a headliner for a new floor show at the Little. Other padlockees are the Germaine Restaurant, 27 West 44th, with Augusta L. Germaine, proprietress; Harry and Lou Silver, and Harry Gordon's alleged speak at 121 West 51st; the one at 42 West 49th street, and the Club Shadownland, Inc., formerly known as the Golden Gate, 102 West 53rd.

Mirador Title Dispute

Edward J. Churchill, president of the Club Mirador, Inc., former class nite club at 1650 Broadway, New York, would enjoin Harry J. Susskind and the Mirador Restaurant Corp. from the use of that name, petitioning the Supreme Court to that effect. A referee, Philip J. Dunn, 165 Broadway, has been appointed to pass on the injunction issues.

Susskind contends that Churchill's Mirador was a financial flop; which is conceded, and that the Secretary of the State of New York approved a charter for the Mirador Restaurant Corp.

Churchill's claim is that his Club Mirador, Inc., was an exclusive membership club while Susskind's covert-catching cafe is indiscriminate. Churchill points out to the Mark Strand's verdict against the Harlem Strand theatre as an analogous situation, while Susskind, in his papers wants to know why Churchill is all het up about a flop cafe venture.

The room is beginning to click for Susskind who has Bill Duffy, Charles Aronson and the Slipper-Frivoly mob associated. A new revue is credited for the draw.

Tex at Hotel Harding?

The Harding hotel, on 54th street, near Broadway, is due to enter the list of night places with Texas Guinan in charge of the show. The hotel is said to have been acquired as a spot for Miss Guinan. The Harding has over 50 rooms, which exempts cabarets from New York's 3 a. m. closing law.

Tex's new spot will be located on the hotel's street floor.

SONG PLUGGING ON VITA DISKS

Lester Santley, of Leo Feist, Inc., has devised an ultra-modern medium for song exploitation with a Slide-a-phone, a set of slides with synchronized musical accompaniment to include singing and comedy dialog. A 12-inch record, running four minutes, carries a Feist song which the booth operator reproduces on the usual Vitaphone turntables and projects the slides to synchronize with the lyrics.

While an expensive plugging stunt, Feist will get the cost back through rentals, just as with some of its special material slides of the past which are paid for by the lesser exhibitors. Public and Stanley circuits have booked the Feist Slide-a-phone subjects as talking shorts.

First release is on "I'm Sorry, Sally." The second will be "I'm Betting on You" with an applause wager idea utilizing the house organist. "High Upon the Hilltop" will probably be the plug song.

Feist has contrived this device for the wired houses as a means to plug its usual catalog and disprove the theory that the colored slides in picture productions will destroy the popular music business.

Feist has recorded these disks on what is known as Vitaphone stock, i. e., three-inch "thick" disks which insure their non-breakability. The record carries the same selector, on both sides of the disk so that the operator can pick up any side for convenience and, at the same time, it give the disk double wearing value.

LEADING ORCHESTRAS DIRECTORY

IRVING AARONSON
and HIS COMMANDERS
Now featured with
Irene Bordoin's "Paris"
MUSIC BOX, NEW YORK
After Theatre: Club Richman

FROM DETROIT
JEAN GOLDKETTE
Orchestras
VICTOR RECORDS
Office: 512 Bank Tower
DETROIT

PHIL FABELLO
and His
ORCHESTRA
Opening Dec. 25
RIVERSIDE THEATRE
New York City

DICK GASPARRE
and His
ORCHESTRA
HOTEL PLAZA, New York City
Personal Rep.: H. SCOTT FATON
Permanent Address:
48 W. 50th St., N. Y. C. Circle 10397

TOM GERUNOVICH
and His
ROOF GARDEN ORCHESTRA
Exclusive Brunswick Artists
ROOF GARDEN CAFE
Broadway and Kearney Sts.
San Francisco

VINCENT LOPEZ
and His **ORCHESTRA**
ST. REGIS HOTEL
New York City

MAL HALLETT
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
TOURING N. E. BALLROOMS
Personal Management
CHARLES SHEWAN
Salem, Mass.

JELLY ROLL MORTON
and His Red Hot Peppers
Victor Recording Artists
The Organist of Jazz and Stomps
8th Week, Rose Daneland
Communicate for Open Times
Management M. C. A.
Permanent Address: Variety, New York

GEORGE LIPSCHULTZ
Columbia Recording Artist
Conducting
SIR FRANCIS DRAKE HOTEL
Concert Orchestra
SAN FRANCISCO

PARISIAN RED HEADS
America's Greatest Girl Band
WEEK DEC. 2
Hennepin-Orpheum, Minneapolis
Permanent Address
28 West North St., Indianapolis, Ind.

GEORGE OLSEN
AND HIS MUSIC
F. ZIEGFELD'S "WHOOPEE"
Starring Eddie Cantor
NEW AMSTERDAM, N. Y. C.
Office: 20 West 43rd Street
New York City

WILL PRIOR
And His Concert Orchestra
at
United Artists Theatre
Los Angeles

PHIL PHILLIPS
AND HIS
ORCHESTRA
TOURING PANTAGES CIRCUIT

PAUL WHITEMAN
And His Greater Orchestra
CONCERT TOUR
Office:
1560 BROADWAY, N. Y. C.
Personal Director
JAMES T. GILBERT

News From the Dailies

This department contains rewritten theatrical news items as published during the week in the daily papers of New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and London. Variety takes no credit for these news items; each has been rewritten from a daily paper.

NEW YORK

Mrs. Rose Douras' estate, valued at \$10,000, has been bequeathed by her probated will in New York to her children... Judge Bernard J. Douras, who had valued \$500, Marlon Davies receives one-half the estate...

"Red" Moran, slayer of two Brooklyn policemen and whose execution is set for Thursday evening next week, will get a short reprieve because the usual prison theatricals will be going on at midnight...

Short circuit in the Capitol's roof sign created much excitement on Broadway late in the afternoon. Trifling damage.

Anton Kleigl, expert in stage lighting and maker of Kleigl lights for picture studios, left a net estate of \$405,000. Widow is sole beneficiary. Kleigl died abroad in May, 1927.

Pola Negri had luncheon with G. B. Shaw in London in the Irishman's London apartment and afterward said she had obtained permission to make a film version of Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra"...

LOS ANGELES

Mrs. Lillian R. Fraser, widow of Earl A. Fraser, Ocean Park amusement and concession baron, was victorious in her legal battle for her share of the \$500,000 estate left by her husband. She was killed in an automobile accident last June...

SHAFFER'S 'BIRTH' SHOW

(Continued from page 1)

how to birth control. One of Variety's hard-bolled sobbies had been chosen to catch the doctor as he spoke to women only this week. She had been instructed not to take notes and so escaped the annoyance of the ladies of Brooklyn had to undergo. The sobber from Variety was still hard-bolled...

Varley's eldest cried stated that some things Dr. Shaffer had said she could tell to no one but her husband or someone she knew as well. But, she added, Dr. had said really nothing other than his new exposition on controlling the kids...

Giving herself this pat on the back for intelligence, the sobbie refused to write down in detail everything she had heard or seen at the Shubert-Brooklyn. She said that she wanted to be interviewed by the homeliest member of the staff. In that way, sobbie claimed, she could

Cast of "Strong Boy", Victor McLacelen, Leatrice Joy, Clyde Cook, Farrell MacDonald, Tom Wilson, Slim Summerville, Kent Saunders, Jack Pennick. John Ford directs. Fox.

BARNES-CARRUTHERS

Fair Booking Ass'n., Inc. 121 E. W. WANTED FOR 1929 SEASON STANFORD NOVELTY ACTS SUITABLE FOR OUTDOORS Largest Fair Booking Agency in America

INDOOR RACKET GONE

Few Roofed Circuses This Winter—Ban On Games Blamed

Indoor circuses seem to be shot. Compared with other years the game is decidedly off. Comparatively few are now being promoted.

East particularly seems off the indoor events because the gaming has always been depended upon to bring in a side profit. In three towns the local kick was the same—not a chance to run with the games.

Fight on Midget's Estate

Chicago, Dec. 4. Che Mah, Chinese midget, who retired from circus appearances 20 years ago and died in March, 1927, at the age of 87, leaving an estate of \$100,000, is claimed in death by two women who seek his estate.

Che Mah died in Knox, Ind., and the fight for his money is being staged there. Lousia Coleman of New York claims she was the midget's common law wife in 1901, living with him in Chicago and bearing him a son. The boy is said to have died in 1920.

Mrs. Norah Cleveland Mah of Lancaster, Pa., states she was married to Che Mah after he left Miss Coleman and is therefore the sole heir to the estate.

WILLIS A. PICKERT

Willis A. Pickert, 73, actor, died Nov. 20 at his home in Miami Beach, Fla.

Mr. Pickert's stage days dated back to Harrigan and Hart, when he was one of their supporting dancers. He was billed as "the lightest man on his feet in America."

Mr. Pickert organized a stock company, headed by his three daughters, which toured the south and midwest for years. The Four Pickerts were on the stage for 7 years. For 14 years Mr. Pickert lived in Miami Beach.

He is survived by the widow and three daughters. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Miami Beach.

MONTE BAYLY

Monte Bayly, 49, general secretary of the English Variety Artists' Federation, died in a London hospital Nov. 21 of heart disease. He had been in the hospital since August.

Mr. Bayly had played in vaudeville in America for years before the war and in England. He had been a journalist, having been on the staff of the old "St. James Gazette" and also contributed to "The Player," "Variety Fair," "Das Program," "The Era" and "The Performer" (official organ of the V. A. F.). He had been a member of the union since its inception in 1906.

LOUIS LIGETY

Louis Ligety, 47, Hungarian actor, died at the Angelus Hospital, Los Angeles, Nov. 27, as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident Nov. 16.

Ligety is survived by his wife, Amalia, and a son, who reside in Los Angeles. Funeral services held Dec. 2 in Los Angeles.

GEORGE B. MILLER

George B. Miller, 53, died Dec. 1, following an attack during a holdup by bandits in Toledo, O. He was formerly a magician. A news story appears in this issue.

August (Gus) Muller died Nov. 27 at his home in New York of kidney disease. He was doorman and elevator runner for Anne Nichols, who had been connected similarly with several theatres over a long period, being well known to old-timers. James K. Hackett composed a lyric to him. It was called "Step Lively, Gus."

John F. Corrigan, 62, property man at the Music Box, New York, dropped dead Nov. 23 of heart failure at 46th street and 8th avenue. He was connected with the theatre since it opened.

The wife of Bernard Becker, assistant manager, Fox's Academy, N. Y., died recently.

Death: Broad

Paris, Nov. 25. Clara Ratka Wendler (nerv. 1st. div. Berlin). Ed Hardy, 35, street-chase jockey, died in Paris. Mme. Beranger, French picture actress, died in Paris.

OBITUARY

VALENTINA ZIMINA

Valentina Zimina, 29, film actress, died of influenza Dec. 3 in Hollywood, Cal.

Miss Zimina in private life was the wife of Elwood E. Hopkins, editor and publisher of the Standard Casting Director, printed in Los Angeles. Miss Zimina and husband were stricken by the flu at the same time. The latter is now reported out of danger.

Miss Zimina was a colorful actress of Russian birth and serving with the famous Women's Battalion of Death for three years, having been in a Siberian prison, only to escape and making her way across Asia, then to Hollywood. Her family was all killed in the Russian revolution.

Miss Zimina was the daughter of an opera singer, her mother having a reputation in Moscow for stage talent. The former had appeared in the original "Clauwe-Souris" Co. in Moscow, and when on the Pacific coast had appeared for two seasons with Kolb and Hill in musical comedies.

She was married in 1926 in Los Angeles to Mr. Hopkins. Florence Hopkins, authoress, living in New York, is a sister of Mr. Hopkins. Interment in Hollywood.

WILLIS A. PICKERT

Willis A. Pickert, 73, actor, died Nov. 20 at his home in Miami Beach, Fla.

Mr. Pickert's stage days dated back to Harrigan and Hart, when he was one of their supporting dancers. He was billed as "the lightest man on his feet in America."

Mr. Pickert organized a stock company, headed by his three daughters, which toured the south and midwest for years. The Four Pickerts were on the stage for 7 years. For 14 years Mr. Pickert lived in Miami Beach.

He is survived by the widow and three daughters. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Miami Beach.

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FILM HOUSE REVIEWS

(Continued from page 34)

Built up for plenty applause, leaving an opening for entrance for star.

Miss Greenwood's first offering, comedy song with her husband, which she plays and in writing, stopped the show. She encored, scored, and speecied her way off. Babe Kane, instead of doing "Babe Kane" as usual, which the peasants expected, followed with "Break Me Down," a drag type of a number. Chorus stomp, Babe finishing with her hot stepping.

Al Lyons did a musical bit in one, accompanied by a trio, and caught applause after a speech announcing his band was leaving next week. "Do Your Duty" (film) and a newsreel filled the remainder of the bill.

COLONY (Wired)

New York, Dec. 2. Little wonder the early first Sunday breakfast frolic in the early aft by Benny Rubin had to shield his eyes and gaze out into the audience wanting to know "are we alone?" Almost literally, the stage entertainers were alone, the cash trade being pathetic for the first show with hardly a couple of hundred admittance in.

Tiffany-Stahl's "Marriage by Contract" (sound) is the feature, coming over from the Embassy where it played three weeks ago. It is a good program picture and cannot be held accountable for the poor gross the opening Sunday show.

Nor are Benny Rubin's jazz assistants, Jimmy Carr's Silver Slipper bandmen, to blame. Both proved their worth the week preceding with effective comedy impressions, garnering more laughs (from the stage) than the Colony walls have resounded with either from stage or screen in many a week.

Rubin was as effective Sunday as far as his and the stage presentation's material was concerned, ad, though the show is a decisive ad, a fault of lack of numbers rather than their own efforts.

Doris Carson from "Americana" and Thelma Edwards from "The Jazz Assistants" both are dance specialists of different types. Miss Carson is hotly tosy and nite clubbish in tempo.

Her place of the ditty presently employed, Miss Edwards' ballad, "Was It a Dream?" is a hapless song selection. Both their temp intrudes a few showmanly.

Carr's clown song portion was a deaf-and-dumb pantomime interpretation of a "Sally" which gave him a distinctive impression with another song last week.

Rubin for his end gave well and his Mitroskoff's "The Sisters in an Irish Prime" dialect contribution. Jimmy O'Brien, faking at the Ivories, scored with his Irish comedy song, but not in an decisive manner as in the past, due again to the sparse attendance.

Universal news reel (silent), the personable "Pompeii" (silent), M. G. M. talking short, and an animated cartoon reel round out the show. Abd.

BRANFORD (Presentation)

Newark, Dec. 2. Current show, "Dutch in Action," won the \$100 prize offered by this house and "Sunday Call" for the best M. S. Author of the week.

But it is regrettable that Miss McCurry is not responsible for much in this show, as there is no Dutch and little action. Little but her title was returned to the outfit to feel like a regular author now. Aside from the setting, which is patently Cruill's, the show has two ideas, one not as in the past, due again to the sparse attendance.

Previously used here. Set is novel. Opening shows stills of fish moving across a scrim which, when illuminated from behind, reveals a submarine. A big ellipse, cut in the set shows the interior, in which is seated the band. Charlie Melson starts off by enumerating the scenes supposed to have been omitted on account of show's length. Mamm Sinters (3) follow in song and dance. Raymond and Caverly, in elaborate naval regalia, pull rags and end with a parody on "Humpty Dumpty." Then kids a rendition of "Mother Macreee."

A huge red, purple shell half opens and discloses Beth Challis, gold spangles. She has not improved since her former visits, but perhaps too much was expected. However, her London rendition of "That's My Weakness" was excellent. Implications. Scene finishes, but with the principals on. Carlo Peterson does some wild gyrations for the curtain.

Weakness of the show should not hurt business, as this is football week. Starting Monday games of the difference will be shown down with the school having the largest attendance receiving a silver trophy. It is no place for a nervous old lady, but great for the boys.

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VARIETY'S CHICAGO OFFICE

HAL HALPERIN in Charge
Woods Bldg., Suite 604
Phones: Central 0644-4401

CHICAGO

Professionals have the free use of Variety's Chicago Office for information. Mail may be addressed care Variety, Woods Bldg., Chicago. It will be held subject to call forwarded or advertised in Variety's Letter List.

Heided by the Moscons, the bill at the Palace this week is okay. Looks like the production department went for a stack on this layout. Expensive sets, costly costumes and several money acts in on the nut.

The Moscons for some reason are spotted early, third. About the only thing different in the routines is that Louis is thinner. Out of the hospital after an operation on an infected foot. He took it easy here and left the brunt to Charlie. The boys' company of 15, including six great looking dolls, brings out Dorothy Van Alst, a sightful who can dance. The Mollies are only strong for this kid, not without cause. Berna Doyle, another prancing maid, also billed.

Show starts waving with Elsie and Paulsen, standard ice skaters who still whirl plenty. Turn is attractively dressed, carrying two special sets and a lineup of gals. In latter's place is an accordionist who is not funny. First half closed with Louise Groody in a suspense comedy, skit called "Three in Love." Light stuff for Miss Groody, who is a fav in this town. Earl Oxford and Wally Chrisham, assistants to Miss Groody, may be the type, but they also delivered them out. Alone Miss Groody delivered a couple of her old show numbers that clicked.

Joseph Regan after intermission and pleased with a diversified program of songs. Crawford and Broderick, following everything next to shut, sponsored a singing contest. For a windup there is an afterpiece with several of the acts participating. It is "The Sad Case of Mary Dugan," travesty on the play with Miss Broderick as Mary. Not as hilarious as the program indicates, but gets by. Good attendance Sunday afternoon, lower floor better than three-quarters filled. With the R-K-O bookers continuing sending on shows of this kind, the Palace stands a chance to get back in the money. Loop.

State-Lake

Two of the three turns featured here on outside billings are new to vaude in Chicago. Other five act right out of the catalog. Combination, with one exception, makes as smooth and tight a layout as they could want for six bits.

Strange but true, the exception was a boy who for years has bowed to wholesale applause. As the pianist and vocal soloist in Waring's Pennsylvanians, Tom Waring was a w. As a vaude single he's far enough from it to make him seriously consider a new routine. He abandoned the single idea entirely. Trouble was plain Sunday. Tom's songs are all the same—slow, crooning numbers. One of the slowest acts of its kind in the halls. He deuced and took a quick bow.

Headline turn is a strong local radio favorite but new to the big houses here. For years Ford and Glenn (New Acts) have been doing a bedtime story program for WLS, the former Sears-Roebuck station, and have been capitalizing with

personal appearances in the small towns where Sears-Roebuck radio programs were an important part of life. Next-to-closing and the boys held it without a quaver.

Fifteen Mules opened and Norwood and Hall, third, veteran turn, are working substantial comedy dialog. Norwood is the thirty small town shelli who believes the gal who gets the should swoon in ecstasy. Jim McWilliams, next-to-closing at the Palace, a few weeks ago, was fourth here, which gives a good idea on the local vaude. McWilliams, Ford and Glenn and Tom Waring, the three features, all used pianos in one. Looks bad but in this case, McWilliams conveys the impression of ad libbing his nut chatter while socking the keys, and laughs are seen anywhere. Fifth are Hooper and Gatchett in their A. B. R. sketch, with a Paris setting. Feature comedy turn for most pop-price bills, and among the best in results here.

Brothers look like father and son, while woman might be the mother. Turn nicely routine and carries heat drop. Picture, "The Thrill Hunter" (Col.) Loop.

George Rosener, now with "My Maryland," goes with Balaban & Katz for a tour over the Oriental route, opening March 16. Rosener will do an m. c. and act besides aiding in production.

Pickwick theatre, Park Ridge, first modernistically designed picture house, opened by William H. Malone.

Federal Judge James Wilkerson last week issued temporary injunctions against 46 roadhouses, speaks and whatnots, charged with violating the prohibition law.

Granada cafe was among numerous places raided on booze and gambling tips by Chicago detective

tures, photos, engravings, statuary and other lobby displays, has been put before a committee of the City Council for study. Principal amendment is that all such posters, etc., must first get the sanction of the chief of police before they can be exhibited.

National Hockey League games, now in full swing, are putting some thing of a dent in theatre attendances. Three games a week, and unless fickers put on good show they've got heavy opposition.

BUFFALO

Western New York observers report some of the long length synchronized and sound pictures made by one of the leading sound producers are being exhibited in this territory on competing machines with good results. Cited as evidence of the possibility of interchangeability, it permission can be obtained.

Shea's Court Street, at present housing the Mordant stock, is reported due for closing around the 1st. Business for the stock, after two years, is reported off.

William F. Raynor, manager of the Lafayette Square, has been made general manager of the Monument Theatre Corp., replacing M. Slotkin. Slotkin has been asked to contract with Raynor for another year.

Experience of Shea-Publix here in exhibiting "Three" simultaneously at three neighborhood houses is reported unsatisfactory. Picture was first roadshowed and then played two weeks at Shea's Hip where it established a record. Simultaneous showings at the North Park, Balley and Kensington were reported to have started strong but to have fallen off in the middle of the week.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

By CHESTER B. BAHN
Wieting—All week, "Simba"; Dec. 13-15, "Trial of Mary Dugan."
B. F. Keith's—Vaudfilms.
Thelma—Mutual's "Girls in Blue."
Syracuse—Indie vaude-dims.
Strand—"The Haunted House," Strand Debutantes, stage band.
Empire—Romance of the Underworld and Motown.
Loew's State—"West of Zanzibar."
Eckel—"Beggars of Life" and Vita.
Regent—"Stand and Deliver" and "The Final Extra" and "Riding for Fame."
Harvard—"The Warning" and "The Rock."
Brighton—"Publicity Madness."
Palace—"Sporting Age" and "Thanks for the Buggy Ride."
Riviera—"Don and the Mouse."
Swan—"Two Women of Knights" and "Thief in the Dark."

Kallet's Regent, managed by George E. Williams will test out the five-act Saturday matinee for youngsters on Saturday, when the first episode of "Tarzan the Mighty" is shown, along with the regular program.

Miriam Stewart, leading woman for the Regent stock here, has joined Frank Wilcox's Schenectady troupe as ingenue.

Harry and Helen Savoy, juvenile and dancer, respectively, and Jimmie Francis, straight man, have joined the Savoy burlesque stock.

Capitol, new Kallet-Comerford Romc house, soon to open, will have 1,250 seats, or half the capacity, on the main floor.

Little Theatre idea is fast spreading in central New York. Studio Players, recently formed in Mexico, bow in Thursday, presenting a bill of three one-act plays. Mrs. Blanche Baker is directing. Community Players, of Cortland, another new group, gave its first production last week. Prof. Earl C. Selgfred directed.

Writing has sounded the death knell of still another veteran house orchestra. Band at the Strand, Oswego, got its two weeks' notice Saturday. The house one of the Shine chain, has its wiring nearly completed. Lee J. Springall, director, plans to keep the band together for dance work.

Strand—Debutantes—girl—stage band, out at the Strand since the late airplane accident that resulted in the death of Ernie Mills, its leader, returned to the bill Monday with Edith James Bacon, violinist, at the helm. Rose Noble, drummer, badly hurt in the same accident, is recovering, but it is doubtful if she will be able to play again.

Temple in its first week of Mutual burlesque, clicked to \$9,000 in six days, the initial offering, "Hinda Belles," bowing in on Monday rather

than Sunday. Temple cut heavily into the business of the Savoy, playing burlesque stock, and is also credited with hurting Keith's to some extent.

Syracuse Empire Theatre Corp. has been organized here to succeed the Marc Buckland-Albert P. Knut-pran membership, operating the Empire, local de luxe house. New concern is a \$50,000 closed corporation, with Jacob Silverman as the new money interested. Buckland is president; Kaufman, vice-president and secretary, and Silverman, treasurer.

DALLAS

By HARRY GOLDBERG
Palace (Publix) "3 Week Ends."
Majestic—"Sunrise," stage.
Ethel—"Varsity," Vita.
Old Mill—"Private Life."
Capitol—"Submarine."
Ritz—2d runs.
Arcadia—Pictures.

J. H. Landers, asst. mtr. Palace, follows shift of Emil Bernstecker to the Boston Met (Publix) as manager.

Elz assumed a holiday atmosphere on Elm street. For the first time this year, first runs were doing s.r.o.

Dent chain has three more houses in purchase of Palace, Majestic and Queen.

Raymond Willis has replaced Jack Caldwell at Arcadia organ.

BOSTON

James J. Hayden's stock in Brockton, Mass., is getting the first stock production of "The Address" week of Dec. 17. Brockton is Edgar Davis' home town.

Henrietta Crossman, in "Crashing Through," week of Dec. 10, at Keith's St. James. Guest star, "Charley's Aunt" revived at Republic theatre as holiday approaches.

Hockey brings record-breaking crowds to new Boston Garden, which seats about 17,600.

Edith Barrymore at the Wilbur and "Blackbirds" at Tremont, hits.

When in Chicago Visit These Hits

SAM HARRIS Matinee Wed. and Sat.
ARTHUR HOPKINS presents

MADGE KENNEDY

IN "PARIS BOUND" A COMEDY BY PHILIP BARRY

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Good Seats at the Box Office The Up-to-date Newspaper Farce

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As presented 2 persons in 20 minutes. Theatrical New York, with J. Harold Murray. Ethel Lynn, Harry Sawyer, Bert Wheeler, and Marie. Variety Show. 10-12 ABERTHINA BASHI DANZON. 10-20 Ziegfeld classified 15-20-25-30-35-40-45-50-55-60-65-70-75-80-85-90-95-100

CORRESPONDENCE

All matter in CORRESPONDENCE refers to current week unless otherwise indicated. The cities under Correspondence in this issue of Variety are as follows and on pages:

Table with 2 columns: City and Page Number. Includes BOSTON, BRONX, BUFFALO, CHICAGO, CINCINNATI, CLEVELAND, DALLAS, DETROIT, LOS ANGELES, MILWAUKEE, MINNEAPOLIS, MONTREAL, NEWARK, NEW ORLEANS, PORTLAND, ORE., PROVIDENCE, ROCHESTER, SAN FRANCISCO, SEATTLE, SYRACUSE, TOLEDO, TORONTO, WASHINGTON.

Monroe and Grant, trampoline team with hoke props, closed strong. Film is "Stolen Love" (FBO). Main floor good, shelves light. Sing.

Malcolm Megly, production manager for R-K-O, was here last week, giving activities the once over. Max Gordon is expected this week.

American

Billy Diamond-Gus Sun office books seven showing acts into the American variety night. Acts stand chance of drawing Assn, Sun, or other indie time, as local bookers turn out to look the other way. Best in the lineup last week was Phil Phillips Co. comedy sketch with singing. Ran 12 minutes and used special full stage set. Scene is in the tough part of town, with a girl and a girl paraded beside a lunch wagon insulating each other. Gal is helped by the lunch wagon owner, who holds her up with which she is to talk. Hot humor for the lesser citizens and Phillips handles it right. May Weir Co. (3) also hit with classic and pop instrumental work. Assisting are two men, one cornet and the other banjoist, who do some incidental singing. Sure for the small stands. Orpheus Pour, male soloist, has a couple of acts, one of the boys dressed for comedy and all appear in femme outfits for a hoke finish. Oke for houses like the above, but the vocal talent but enough comedy to hold it in next-to-closing here.

Six Top Tops, pyramid and tumbling act, benefits through the head man being able to speak an intelligible brand of English for fair comedy chatter. Closed strongly and can do it in other places where acrobats rate high. Rogers and Renaud (New Acts) flopped in the douce with talk and songs. Four o'clock houses opened without even being billed. Incidental humor is rather terrible. "Fangs of Justice" (Bischoff), dog picture, with photographic accompaniment, completed. Moderate attendance. Sing.

Academy

Nothing particularly bright or selective in these five showing turns. Lyric Duo were first. Man and woman, both singers, and the latter doing some piano accompaniment. Of the two, woman has the best pipes and is more audible. Both are dressed in Spanish attire and mainly sing Italian songs.

Brogan and Veix, male team, no panic. Ancient bit of the sock with a good musical trio. Middle-aged man plays accordion, and just plays. Two girls try hard with hanjo and sax but just can't make it. Pop song by one of the girls rated the only thing.

Bobby Brown, nut monologist, garnered some laughs mainly because he is good-natured and his Brown material is catch-as-catch-can, but evidently many haven't caught up with his zags. Lattel Bros. and Adelaide, novelty act, stood out.

squads Thanksgiving Day. Considerable gambling paraphernalia was confiscated in the cafe. Strada made 225 arrests during the Thursday holiday.

Charles "Slim" Timblin had his salary attached for commission at the Palace by Milt Schuster, agent.

Hillside Amusement Co. purchased the Crystal theatre, 63d and Ashland, from Rosario and Salvatore Deocoma.

Benefit performance for the American Theatrical Hospital Assn will be given Sunday afternoon (Dec. 9) at the Erlanger.

TORONTO

By GORDON SINCLAIR
Alexandra—"And So to Bed."
Empire—American Music Drama Co.
Princess—Keppele stock.
Victoria—Conway stock.
Hix—"The Great East."
Loew's—"Mask of Devil"—vaud.
Tivoli—"Lilac Time" (2d week).
Uptown—"Wedding March"—stage play.
Pantages—"Mating Call"—vaud.
Blue—"Four Sons"—vaud.
Palace—"Take Me Home"—vaud.

Phillip Hazza is now in charge of the eastern division for Educational.

Carlton, Winnipeg, has been sold by Black & Armstrong to A. R. McNichol. Land on which it stands brought \$3,400 a foot.

Neighborhood to cost \$22,000 is being erected at Dundas and Spadina streets, Toronto, by Harry Starkman.

Top price for Paul Whiteman at Massey Hall this Thursday is \$2; lowest Whiteman has ever been scaled here. Sell-out will bring \$7,000. Present indications are for \$6,000 house.

Madeline Kenney, "Leon the Great," hula hooper, paid a \$50 fine for giving an indecent performance at a road house here. She danced nude as a stag dinner and pleaded guilty.

MONTREAL

Palace—"Jazz Singer." Wired.
Capitol—"Wedding March" (Par).
Loew's—"Docks of New York" (Par).
Imperial—"Take Me Home" (Par).
Princess—"Simba" (2d week).
His Majesty's—American Music Drama Co. (three nights).
Gayety—Burlesque.
Orpheum—"Eva the Fifth" (stock).
Strand—Films.
Empire—Films.

Despite the heaviest snowfall of the season, which left three feet of snow banked on the sidewalks and held up traffic, "Jazz Singer" started out Saturday with packed lobbies and lines.

New theatrical poster bylaw, authorizing strict censorship of pic-

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**VARIETY'S
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W. B. Wagon, operating the Embassy (films) has returned from a three weeks' eastern trip.

Felice Greenberg has resigned as superintendent of Loew's Warfield building here, a position she has held for several years, to become publicity and exploitation directress for Alleen Stanley.

J. P. Slivey, house manager of the Embassy, was released by Police Judge L. T. Jacks on suspended sentence following arraignment for giving a theatrical performance at 1 and 6 a. m. Arrest grew out of a midnight premiere for "Singing Fool," a dormant oratorio being invoked. Judge Jacks treated the accusation lightly.

Harry P. Muller booked Joe Marks, stage comic, for a tour of the J. C. Williamson, Ltd. circuit, Australia, to start late next year. Muller is sending the Two Davys to Australia, Dec. 12.

Max Dolin, Jr., son of the violin-leader of the National Broadcasting Co.'s orchestra here, now leads the Varsity Serenaders three nights a week over radio KTAB. Outfit is made up entirely of college youngsters.

Harry Singer here to personally supervise installation of Photophone in Golden Gate, Junior Orpheum house. This and Hill Street (also Orph. Jr.) first circuit of this circuit's houses on Coast to be wired.

John Ivan, in stock out here, to New York to join Margaret Anglin show.

Eastern Hotel Company, located opposite Southern Pacific's Townsend street station, filed suit for \$5,000 damages against the Sells Floto circus charging show's bill-posters adorned wall of hostility.

Maison Pardue
FORMERLY
Nestle Co.



EVELYN HERBERT
LOVELY STAR OF
"THE NEW MOON"
writes to the *Maison Pardue*:
"I feel I must write and tell you what a joy my Circuline Permanent Waves is to me. I have had four and my hair is in perfect condition. The waves are so natural that a number of my friends believe I have naturally wavy hair."
Signed, EVELYN HERBERT

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1650 BROADWAY
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SAVE AT LEAST HALF
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Not Lewis
THEATRICAL OUTFITTERS
1650 Broadway New York City

with paper showing a girl more or less in a state of undress. Hotel alleges its business has been injured through tourists, arriving at the station, being misled as to character of place and going elsewhere for accommodations.

American Broadcasting Company has included KSL, Salt Lake, and KLZ, Denver, as part of its Pacific coast chain system.

Mabel Riegelman, operatic prima donna, last heard here with the Chicago Grand Opera Company, and who has been making her home here during the winter, met with painful burns when, in disconnecting a table lamp from a floor socket, she was hurled backward through a short circuit. Her body was severely burned, but her condition is not fatal.

SEATTLE

By DAVE TREPP
Metropolitan—Stratford Players. President—"This Thing Called Love" (stock).

Fifth Avenue—"Show People" (stock).

Seattle—"Adoration" and stage show.

Blue Mouse—"The Woman Disputed" (wired).

Coliseum—"Win That Girl!"

Pantages—"Companionate Marriage," and vaude.

Orpheum—"The Haunted House," and vaude.

Music Box—"On Trial" (wired).

Winter Garden—"Take Me Home."

Columbia—Dark.

Columbia is wired for reopening on December 8, probably using "Wings" or "The Jazz Singer," with 25-cent scale until 6 p. m.; thereafter 35, M. G. Winstock to be manager. "This Girl" Laertes house, on Second avenue, has found the town moving away from it.

Emil Bondeson, of Henry Duffy's President, in making a strong bid for West Coast, he holds a free show for children. Youngsters do not seem to have the drama habit in this town. Some inducements are result of the present generation will be entirely a movie clientele when they grow up.

Jim Loughborough is here as new general advertising manager for West Coast, being in direct charge of Fifth Avenue and Coliseum. He is general publicity supervisor for all houses in the north-west, under guidance of Charles Thal. He succeeds Herb Polln, who returns to San Francisco for Public.

Frances Dale arrives next week as new leading lady for Henry Duffy Players; Charlotte Broadway going to Vancouver; Ernest Combs coming as new leading man; Kenneth Diagnean leaving for San Francisco and New York; Edwin Vall, of Vancouver, has arrived as new director; Ferdinand Munter going as director to Vancouver.

Al Pinklestine and Al Rosenberg are to open a wired theatre in Everett, Wash.

Bob Blair, manager of the Seattle, announces promotion of Vic Chanon, out of the ranks, to his assistant. H. Wareham, former assistant manager here, has gone South. Chanon and Marco show up to continue indefinitely, probably until March, according to Blair.

TOLEDO

Palace—"Night Stick" (stock).
It a Temple (wired)—"Home Towners" (film).

State (wired)—"Lonesome" (film).
Pantheon (wired)—"Haunted House" (film).

Princess—"Varsity" (film).
Valentine—"Revenge" (film).
Rivoli—Vaudefilm (Pan).

Keith's—Vaudefilm (R-K-O).
Empire—Burlesque (Mutual).

Changes in cast and policy of Wright Players, stock, at the Palace, announced last week as leaving as leading man this week for New York. Mabel Mohaffie has succeeded Mary Newton as leading lady, Miss Newton also going to New York. The Palace will be wired this week according to G. H. Trader as stage director, coming here from the Albee, Providence. R. T. Wark henceforth starts Sunday instead of Mondays. Tuesday matinee added to Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

Refusing to sell a ticket to a Negro, Manager Jack O'Connell, of the Vita-Temple, has been sued for discrimination. Case is expected to be postponed until it dies a natural death. Local press laying off to avoid stirring up trouble in the city's extensive colored belt.

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By HARDIE MEAKIN
Belasco (Shubert)—Cook musical stock.

National (Erlanger-Rapley)—"The Actor's Interim."
Polk's (Shubert)—"Night in Spain."
Gayety—Stock bur.
Strand—Mutual bur.

Columbia—"Woman Disputed" (2d wk).
Fox—"Outcast."
Fox—"Win That Girl!"
Little—"Marriage of Bear."
Metropolitan—"Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Palace—"Moran of Marines."
Arthur Ryan, for years with Houdini, in town last week in advance of Guido's "Strange Interlude."

Cortez and Peggy, dancers in "A Night in Spain" at Polk's currently, are doubling to Davis' Club Chanteur.

Such a loud squawk went up following the elimination of Nelson Bell's "Behind the Screens" column in the Post the m. e. has asked the theatre managers to drop in as a body and talk it over.

Rialto and Keith's have yet to announce reopening.

H. Ennis has succeeded Bill Henley with the advertising end of Polk's. Ennis' son is on the door and helping to sell tickets, along with Ringling-Barnum circus during the summer.

MINNEAPOLIS

Metropolitan—"Good News"
Shubert—"Abie's Irish Rose" (Eunbridge stock).

Menepin-Orpheum—"Power" and vaude.
Pantages—"Power of the Press" and vaude.

Palace—"Movie Mad" (McCall-Bridge musical tab).
Minnesota—"White Shadows" and "Wonderful Girl," Pixie unit.

State—"Mother Knows Best."
Strand—"Woman from Moscow."
Lyric—"Just Married."
Grand—"While the City Sleeps," 2d loop run.

Eddie Dundstedter is back at the Minnesota console after being in Chicago to make disks.

Frank N. Phelps, district manager of R-K-O houses in this section and located here, is in New York this week. Ed Smith, manager of the Minnesota.

"Good News" with the Chicago company, and the Metropolitan this week, had the largest advance sale of any attraction playing here this season.

"Buzz" Valbridge is billing towns within a half-mile of more than 100 miles for "Abie's Irish Rose," current at the Shubert.

NEWARK, N. J.

By C. R. AUSTIN
Shubert—Vaudeville—"Gamblers."
Broad—"Jim Penman."
Proctor's—Vaude—"Stolen Hours."
State—Vaude—"Brotherly Love."
Wings—"The Actor's Interim."
Mosque—"Wings" (2d wk).
Branford—"Varsity" stage show.
Rialto—"Woman Disputed" (3d wk).

Terminal—"Mother" (3d wk).
Capitol—Double bill.
Goodwin—"Wedding March."
Empire—Burlesque.
Orpheum—Burlesque.

Contrary to opinion here, the Stanley-Fabian lease on the Mosque expires early in the fall of 1929. This removes an apparent obstacle to the success of the new Fabian for the big Mosque, 6,000 seats, on the same site of Broad street. It would have to either hurt the Fabian with big pictures or go hopelessly in the red. The Mosque has been a steady loser losing proposition, although perked up with sound pictures. There have been several losing weeks with sound this fall, and while a week like the present week, "Wings" may make up for many bad ones, it can't atone for all, and there are not many "Wings."

Mosque is owned by the Mystic Shrine, which has imposed several burdensome restrictions upon the use of the house. It is the impression, even among the Shriners, that the S-F lease has much longer to run. Leased for something like \$50,000, with kick-backs making the net rent around \$60,000. At the time the Mosque was leased, the Shriners were still a long way out, so that the Fabians which they can drop another unprofitable house and then exchange some 3,200 seats in two towns for one, and all in a nearby locality, the Mosque being the worst located of the three. The Mosque neighborhood is developing rapidly, and about the house a suburb is away by 1930, that will be another story. The solid success of the Fabians' Stanley, Jersey City, has converted S-F to the idea of big deluxe houses favorably located.

With the exception of the Mosque with "Wings" business decidedly off the activity, the lot picked up by Friday, but in general very disappointing, with no excuse. Curiously, sports have not been noticeably strong here either, and it looks as though amusements of any sort had run into a slump. General business good. Theory of Adam A. Adams, part owner of the Newark, that existing conditions have lessened the money available for entertainment may be one answer.

Orpheum (highly successful colored house) is wired. Inquiry at the theatre failed to elicit the name of the equipment. This leaves only the Newark and Capitol without preparation for talkers in sight.

Contemporary, the great woman's club here, is pushing a move to have state censorship. Following their attack on dance reviews in the theatres, officers of the club attacked beauty shows, bootlegging, doperings, etc. They said in one section of Newark there were 300 unmarried mothers. Further, it was asserted that existing conditions have lessened the money available for entertainment may be one answer. The other accusations have more or less ground, but the club's buying does not connect with anything known.

Ray Nichols, bandmaster at the Sanford Irvington, has succeeded Les Stevens as m. e.

Branford is trying to forestall the Christmas slump by offering \$1,000 in jewelry etc. in connection with Abelson's, local house. Punell to the idea lies in the fact that the winner must be present to get his prize, which, of course, calls for two weeks' attendance.

NEW ORLEANS

By O. M. SAMUEL
Tulane—"Firefly."
Saenger—"The Red Dance."
Loew's State—"West of Zanzibar."
Palace—Rogers' Musical.

Col. T. C. Campbell, manager Tulane, is back in town after a long siege of illness. Sam Blair, who relieved Campbell, is still on the job and will remain until the latter is his old self again.

An English company in "The Beggar's Opera" got \$7,000 at the Tulane last week, house and troupe making money at that figure.

Races got away to an overflow crowd. Rather a cheap lot of beetles in the stables, but better nags are en route. Same old game, same old gang, and the real story of it has never been written.

CLEVELAND

By GLENN C. PULLEN
Hanna—"The Skull."
Ohio—"Vagabond King."
Colonial—"Unborn Child" (3d wk).
Little—"Gods of Lightning."
Alhambra—Stock.
Play House—Rep.
Columbia—Mutual bur.
Stillman (wired)—"Foot" (5th wk).
Palace—"Air Circus" vaude.
Allen (wired)—"Awakening."
State (wired)—"Week Ends" stage unit.
Hip (wired)—"Romance."
Cameo (wired)—"Haunted House" (2d wk).
105th—"Freedom Press" vaude.

E. H. Sothern took a nose-dive here, his dramatic recital pulling in less than one-fourth of a house.

William F. McDermott, Plain Dealer dramatic critic, is spending the week in New York covering the latest hits for his sheet.

Young-Wolfe Amusement Co. building theatre in Springfield, O. Company recently opened new Palace, Marion, O.

Vincent Percy has been let out as city's official organizer at civic auditorium. Edward Arthur Kraft succeeds.

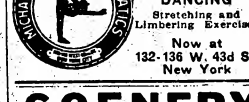
Harry Dell's new play, "The Sophisticates," will have a tryout at the Little this month.

E. J. Sindler plans to turn his dance-and-dine spot, the Frolics, into a nitery.

J. A. Shay of New York to erect theatre and business block in Ash-tabula, O.

Harry Brown, Jr., now manager of Colonial, Akron.

Larry Clark, formerly straight in "Record Breakers," Mutual bur, is m. e. in the Pirates' Hold nitery.



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LOS ANGELES

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Orpheum had to grab local talent to head the show last week. Of late eastern bookers have been leaving it to Harry Singer to get the weekly bill topper, so he grabbed Eddie Nelson, who just closed in "Good News". Nelson is a native son and had the good will of the Newcast, who came up from the audience to help make it a jubilee. Those who performed included Babe Kline, Billy Taft and Lester Cole. Then Billy Dooley, now in pictures, and Johnny Burke, ditto, came on and made it a perfect evening for them. Show finished with the Newcast, and Seed and Austin, who also tore things wide open. Manuel Yega, acrobat, opened well. Hope Vernon, vocalist, in the deuces. Darcie and Darnell, in their crossfire, whammed. Eubie Blake, formerly Sissle and Blake, and his 11 colored cohorts, featuring "Broadway" Jones, got Nelson a hot run for top appreciation. Max Gruber, animal acrobat, closed. Show films completed this bill.

Pantages Jean Barrios, femme impersonator, easily carried honors of the bill. His closest opponent, Phil Phillips and orchestra, was the only other hot spot. Opening with "Broken Toys," crippled acrobatic clowns, the bill started slowly. John Green, Co. dancing, were bad. Imitations of a hen laying an egg, old wheezes, and other imitations failed to entertain. Jean Barrios, well staged and presented, was a wow. Took legit bows, etc., after his encore. Gordon and Groff, songs and stories, fair. Phil Phillips and his 12-piece band, assisted by Marguerite Coulou, able acrobatic dancer, scored nicely. "Red Lips," Duce RCA talking news, International newscast, and Patie Review, completed bill.

Bruce Fowler, former member of the United Artists here, has become manager of the "Westing" succeeding Jed Buell. Buell is managing several Universal houses in Southern California.

Houston Branch has been assigned to write the silent version of

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"The Missing Man" for Pathe. The talking version of this picture is being made first under the direction of William F. Claxton, who is co-author with Melvior Longpel. Horace Jackson wrote the talk version.

Harry Singer, western representative for Radio-Keith-Orpheum, is making a tour of the houses in the north and northwest which will bring him back here the end of this week.

It is understood he is making changes in the personnel of several of the theatres in the territory.

Dr. Hugo Kirsensfeld, musical director for United Artists, has returned to New York to synchronize Ronald Colman's recently completed picture, "The Rescue," and John Barrymore's "King of the Mountain." He will also score Tiffany Stahls' "Lucky Boy," featuring George Jessel.

Constantin Bakulinikoff, musical director at the Criterion, will make a series of musical shorts for U. A.

Fue Fung, brought to Coast by Fox as technical adviser on Chinese effects for "Behind That Curtain" is en route to New York. His contract was for two months and as for story it was decided to let him return and possibly come back when the camera grinds on this Earl Derr Niggar story.

Three new houses will be added to the West Coast Theatres chain within the next two months. "North Park" has recently completed talking pictures. It is to open Jan. 17. Redlands at Redlands opens Dec. 28, operated by West Coast, Jr., and Riverside at Riverside opens Jan. 11.

Newton I. Steers, president Du Pont-Pattie Film Manufacturing Corp., has returned to New York after a short business trip to the West Coast.

"Daddies" will be the next Henry Duff production at the Hollywood Playhouse. "Lady Next Door" is current. Robert McWade will play the leading male part. Tiffany-Stahl studio is announcing its location to all aviators. Studio name has been painted on top of the buildings in huge letters.

Warners are wrecking a one-story publicly and production building on the Sunset boulevard lot. It is to be replaced by a three-story structure to house the electrical and technical departments as well as the former occupants. A turn-out is being dug from the main office, under a stage in the rear of the administration building, permitting access to the remainder of the lot without crossing the stage.

Richard Thomas, independent producer, has turned manufacturer of a special metal camera tripod, an invention of his father, W. M. Thomas. He has an office and a factory in Hollywood. Manufacturing commences Dec. 2.

James Diamond is back from London, where he turned first camera on "When Knights Were Bold" for British Dominion Film Corp. Film cost \$200,000 and features Nelson Keyes.

Dorothy Arzner replaces Mal St. Clair to direct "The Wild Party."

Ernest Ince, scenarist and playwright, is en route to New York to stage the Broadway production of his play, "The Marriage Bed."

Al Jolson and his bride will leave the end of this week for Honolulu for several weeks.

"Sleeping Out" by Robert Milton and Bates Hunter, will be put on at the Columbia in San Francisco by Milton New Year's week. Later it will be brought to Los Angeles.

Will Prior, orchestra conductor at the United Artists theatre, signed a three-year contract with Union Theatres of Australia as musical director. Prior will leave Dec. 18 and

go direct to New York for a pleasure visit. He sails for Australia Jan. 31. Prior will be replaced by J. Spohn, who is Glaxco's chief conductor, at the United Artists.

Leo McCarey, supervising director at Hal Rosson's studio, is following example of his chief by personally directing a comedy this week. Laurel and Hardy are the players.

Rupert Julian is planning to play a minor part in his own production of Ben Hecht's "The Green Ghost" for M-G-M. Julian is trying to sign a cast of players with English accents for the picture, which will be a talker. As most of the other producers seem to be doing the same thing at present, he is having considerable difficulty. An Australian himself, Julian is going to fill one breach in the cast himself.

As Richard Barthelmess will not begin production under his new First National contract until March, he may leave for Havana, upon completion of "Weary River," now practically finished.

Oliver H. P. Garrett is en route to New York for a month's vacation.

Jimmie Gilroy, stage juvenile, with Christie to play juvenile lead in untitled Sandy McDuiff film comedy.

In a last-minute switch, Universal decided against Conrad Veidt for the title part of "Charlatan" and signed Holmes Herbert. Universal officials stated that as the company had bought the dialog rights to the story and had already been talking to an all-talker, they were playing safe in using Herbert, who has already scored in a number of talking films. He, it was said, although a foreigner, has previously been successful in memorizing English lines without an accent, but he has had little or no talking picture experience. No substitute part is in sight for Veidt at present.

Henry Duffy has bought coast production rights to the new New York plays, "Girl Trouble," by Barry Connors; "This Thing Called Love," by Edwin Burke, and "Skidding," by Aurania Rouverol, a Los Angeles play, which has been successful in memorizing English lines without an accent, but he has had little or no talking picture experience. No substitute part is in sight for Veidt at present.

A junior polo club, composed of a group of picture kids ranging from 7 to 12 in age, was organized last week. It is under the auspices of the Beverly Hills Saddle Club.

"Merchant of Venice," starring George Arliss, will start a two-week run at the Elthorn, starting Dec. 17. Fred's escort will have the femme lead.

"The Torch Bearers" will be presented by the Pasadena Community Players, Dec. 11-22.

Charles Royal, actor and playwright, has taken Alameda street flyer in stock, playing in "Lombard, Ltd.," with three different companies on his way to his former home in Vancouver, B. C.

Neal Neely, screen actor, has gone to Salem, O., to spend the holiday season with his family.

Joseph Schildkraut, screen actor, recuperating from appendicitis operation at Hollywood Hospital.

Lucille Gleason Webster, appearing with "Shannons of Broadway" at 321 Captain, Hollywood, in Osteopathic Hospital with influenza, condition not serious.

PORTLAND, ORE.

Portland—"Me Gangster." Broadway—"The Circus." Pantages—"The Apache." Oriental—"Tragedy of Youth." United Artists—"White Shadows of South Seas" (2nd week). Music Box—"The Terror" (2nd week). Blue Mouse—"Midnight Taxi." Dufwin—Henry Duff Players. Heilig—Rose Marie road show.

Floyd Maxwell, manager of the Portland for many months, has returned to the Broadway, with the passing of the Portland from West Coast control to that of Public. Maxwell went to the Portland from the Broadway and has been senior West Coast manager in Portland under Richard Speler, division manager.

New manager of the Portland is Charles Pincus, who was in charge of the Public house at Houston, Texas. He will have Harry Wareham as assistant manager.

Eddie Hitchcock, West Coast publicity man, who came here to open the Portland theatre last spring, will leave West Coast and has been appointed Public's exploitation man for the Northwest, with

headquarters here and at the Seattle theatre, Seattle. Bart Wheeler, assistant to Hitchcock at West Coast, will assume charge of the West Coast publicity in Portland.

Bart Wheeler, West Coast publicity man, went to see the George Arliss road show production of "Merchant of Venice" in Portland this month. He said he knew little of Shakespeare, but he understood George Arliss was to become new West Coast division manager here. Asked why he came to this starting confusion, Wheeler said that all through the show Arliss had kept talking about three thousand duets.

DETROIT

By JACOB SMITH
Cass—"Silent House." Next, "Burlaque." Bonstelle—"White Headed Boy." Shubert—"So This Is Love." Lafayette—"Dark." Cadillac—"Dainty Dolls" (burlesque). Wilson—Opens Dec. 10 with "Rosalle." Pictures Fisher—"West of Zanzibar" and stage show. Madison—"Wedding March." State—"Man Who Laughs." Adams—"Singing Fool." Fox—"Napoleon's Barber." Michigan—"Brotherly Love." Capitol—"West of Zanzibar."

"Singing Fool" went out of synchronization the second performance for about 500 feet. Audience took it as a great joke and loudly applauded.

Owen Bartlett and orchestra, a Goldkette unit, has left the Book-Cadillac and is going to the Empress Club. Succeeded by Freddie Bergen who has been at the Detroit Athletic Club, also a Goldkette unit.

Sophie Tucker, booked for four days at the Hollywood, held over for full week.

Colonial theatre reopened with sex picture.

Opening of "Follow Thru" postponed to Dec. 24.

Ellis L. Markley, manager of Isis theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich., was arrested for permitting sale of liquor and groceries to be given away in his theatre, which is against the state law. Pled not guilty and released under \$200 bond.

MILWAUKEE

Pabst—"Elmer the Great" (stock). Garrick—German stock. Empress—Burlesque (stock). Gayety—Mutual (burlesque). Alhambra—"Caught in Fog" (sound). Garden—"Homesteaders" (sound). Majestic—"White Shadows" (sound). Merril—"Nothing to Fear" (film). Palace—"Outcast" vaude. Riverside—"Avalanche" vaude. Strand—"Mother Knows Best" (3d week). Wisconsin—"The Patriot" (sound).

Writing is on thick and fast in the downtown district. Garden, Majestic, Alhambra, Wisconsin, and Strand are already wired. W. E. stringing is going into the Merril, Princess and Miller. Bristolphone into the Empress. Photophone into the Riverside, and Biophone into the Butterfly.

Morris Zaldin, treasurer of the Gayety, has been transferred to the Gayety, Minneapolis.

L. K. Brin will operate the new

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theatre being built at Menasha. At present he operates the Garden and Majestic here. House will be sound equipped and open Jan. 1.

Davidson reopens about Dec. 17. Stock, now at the Pabst, goes in with road shows, returning to the Pabst.

Harry Feldman and Florence Drake have rejoined the stock at the Empress.

KANSAS CITY

By WILL R. HUGHES
Shubert—"Burlesque." Orpheum—"Oberfelder-Ketcham Players" (stock). Wm. Courtenay, guest star. Gayety—Mutual (burlesque). Globe—Loie Bridge Players (musical stock). Mainstreet—Vaude and pictures. Loew's Midland—"West of Zanzibar" (film). Newman—"On Trial" (film). Pantages—"Companionate Marriage" (film). Royal—Pictures.

"The Spider" was this week's attraction of the Oberfelder-Ketcham Players at the Orpheum. William Courtenay was guest star. Vaude acts in the play were Sanford and White, skaters, and Hale and Dyer, known to radio fans as "Ike and Mike." Marjorie Rambeau will be the next visiting star at the Orpheum. She opens Dec. 9.

American Royal stock show reported a record with 11,000 admissions. That's nearly 10,000 over last year.

C. C. Perry, resident manager of the Newman and Royal since the houses were taken back from Loew, has been promoted to manager of the Denver districts for Public with headquarters in Denver. He has been succeeded by L. J. Finske, manager of the Royal. Selden Swiger, from the Public managers' school, comes to the Royal.

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Miller Bob
Moore Al & Bd
Morgan Chas
Morrison & Mona
Muriel & Finer
Murphy James
North Bobby
Owen Dick
Palmer Henry
Parker Jack
Petrella T G
Powers Albert
Purcell Chas
Pym, Fred & Peg
Rankin Billy
Rogers & King
Rogers Chick
Rogers William
Roth Dunn
Ruth Sis
Rutherford John
Shaw Rita
Sherman Frank
Sherman & Willson
Snick Roy
Smith Thomas
Steinbeck Bruno
Stevens Gus
Sylvester & Vance
Walters & Babette
White Mabel
White Pierre
Wright Theo M
Wynn Ray

CHICAGO OFFICE

Beinfair F E
Belle & Coates
Brunnes Merritt
Buckley Jack
Burke Minnie
Chase Billy
Dean Sid
Downey Wm
Dwayne Dully
Downey Esther
Doyle Jimmy
Duncan Bert
Fuller & Jewell
Gifford Wm
Gilbert Bert
Gordon Claire
Hammond Al
Harris Oliver
Herman Lewis
Hickman
Hogan & Stanley
Howard May
Howard Myrtle
Imman Warren
Irving Rose
Jensen Fritzle
Kehoe Miss
Kline Catherine
Kinson Roy
Knight Frank
LaMare Jackie
Lange Howard
Laurin & LaDare
Lee Irving
Lester H & C
Ed Hart, now managerial supervisor of the Proctor houses in New Rochelle and Mt. Vernon, House Manager in N. R. is F. M. Merrow. E. Workman holds the same berth at Mt. Vernon.

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SINGLE ROOM, BATH, \$2.00 PER DAY
DOUBLE ROOM WITHOUT BATH, \$14.00 PER WEEK
DOUBLE ROOM WITH BATH, \$17.50 AND \$21.00 WEEKLY

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BILLS NEXT WEEK

(Continued from page 37)
BRIDGEPORT
Majestic
42nd hmf (6-9)
Raymond Bond Co
Irving Edwards
Hotel Hamilton
Jim Burchill
(One to fill)
Raccoons (3)
(Others to fill)
HARTFORD, CT.
Ed Davis Gang
(2 to fill)
WATERBURY
Palace (3)
Frank Farnum Co
(Two to fill)
WORCESTER
Palace (3)
Al B White's Eng
(Two to fill)
NEW HAVEN, CT.
Palace (3)
E Costello Girls
Jean Grassano
Owen McQuinn
Wm & Joe Mandell
SPRINGFIELD
Palace
Ed Davis Gang
(2 to fill)
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Astor
E Dougherty Orch
Carlton
Coryzer Davis Orch
Chantrel
Meyer & Peggy
Walter Kolk
Meyer Davis Orch
Club Madison
Betty Lee
O'Donnell Orch
Hamilton
Skull'd-B'mbrst Or
Lorus
Irvin Boornstein Or
Swanee
McWilliams Orch
Wentling
Venus
C W Davis Orch
C Warden Park
Max Lowe, Snt
Meyer Davis Orch

CINCINNATI

By JOE KOLLING
Shubert—"Lovely Lady."
Taft—Stuart Walker stock.
Cox—National Players stock.
Albee—"Manhattan Cocktail"—vaude.
Palace—"Woman from Moscow"—vaude.
Empress—Mutual burlesque.
Capitol—"The Terror" (sound) (2d week).
Lyric—"Abie's Irish Rose" (sound) (2d week).
Keith's—"Tempest" (wired) (2d week).
Strand—"The Wind" (film).
Erlanger-Grand is dark for the sixth straight week.
Paul Whiteman's orchestra due for two concerts at the Taft Auditorium Dec. 7, return for a week in January as the special attraction at auto show.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

By DON RECORD
Lyceum—"War Song" (last three days).
Temple—"Cock of the Roost" (stock).
Rochester (wired)—"Foreign Legion" and vaude.
Eastman (wired)—"Captain Swagge" (film).
Fay's (wired)—"The Home Towners" (film).
Regent—"Varsity" (film).
Piccadilly—"Manhattan Cocktail" (film).
Victoria—Stock burlesque.

PROVIDENCE

Opera House—Festival of Grand Opera.
Modern—Stock ("Most Adorable Liar").
New's State—"West of Zambiar," wired.
Strand—"Outcast."
Majestic—"Varsity," first talker.
Albee—Vaudefilm.
Fay's—Vaudefilm.
Victory—"Lonesome," wired.
Empire—"Frivolities," burlesque.

"Abie's Irish Rose," on its third visit last week, cut usual \$250 down to \$1 and did fair business. Third string reviewers who did stuff for dailies found plenty of enjoyment in the immortal opera. About \$4,000 on week.
John Boyd, new leading man of Modern Players, scored in "Common Clay." Modern may throw out its queer star system in favor of permanent troupe.

CHICAGO

Golden Pampkin
Johnnie Ryan
Cecil Lehman
Babe Sherman
Theater Terry Bd
Fay's Grandpa
Guy Lombardo Bd
Green Mill
Roy Sedley
Suzanne France
Joe Carter Louie
Gus & White
Roy Warner Bd
Lido
Tex Morrey

Carlton theatre, lemon of the Fay chain, now been dark for three weeks. House is attractive enough yet never has been a money maker.
Production is in for two weeks of grand opera. Owing to the large Italian population opera is popular. Elite has come out to catch opera of "Abie"

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BRONX

Congress, Stehman & Greenberg house, on all-sound policy.

Reports Shuberts negotiating with J. Greenberg to book the house the latter will build at 184th street and the Grand Concourse. In that event the Shuberts will drop the Bronx opera house.

All-Bronx bill at Keith's Royal this week, containing only acts living in this borough, comprises Jimmy Sava, Harrington Sisters, Helen Arden, with Dave Jones, Hal Hennessy and Jay Burk; Paul Decker and Marion Murray, Doc Baker and Lang and Haley. Idea was Manager Raymond Elders's.

Little or no business at America, Bronx stock burlesque house, formerly Miner's Bronx, is resulting in cash changes almost daily. It's nothing unusual for a week's show to finish with a completely different cast from the one that started it.

Realignment of the clerical personnel at the N. V. A. club lists the departure of Mr. Worn and Miss Murphy. Former was a Mrs. Worn and Miss Murphy was a Mrs. Worn.

"Strange Interlude" booked here Dec. 6 postponed indefinitely. George Jessel in "War Song" coming in for three days instead. "Mary Dugan" scheduled for Dec. 10-12.

Cuker-Kondoff Company will vary fare with musical, "Queen High." Star not yet engaged. Irene Ditcher will play in Maugham's "The Letter," probably mid-December.

Temple 2nd of better than \$100,000 with "The Spall," considered good at top rate. 1st and week 1,000. 2nd and week 1,000. 3rd and week 1,000. 4th and week 1,000. 5th and week 1,000. 6th and week 1,000. 7th and week 1,000. 8th and week 1,000. 9th and week 1,000. 10th and week 1,000.

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BALLAD FOX TROT

SHY LITTLE VIOLETS GROW

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REVENGE

by LEWIS, YOUNG & AKST

THEME SONG OF "MY MAN" PICTURE

IF YOU WANT THE RAINBOW (YOU MUST HAVE THE RAIN)

by DIXON, ROSE & LEVANT

A NEW BALLAD FOX TROT

THE SUN IS AT MY WINDOW (THROWING KISSES AT ME)

by LEWIS, YOUNG & MEYER

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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1928

64 PAGES

B'WAY LEGITS IN PANIC

One Chance in 25,000 Unknown's Script Being Accepted for Picture Plot

Chance of selling an original script for screen purposes, as attempted through the mails in most instances by unknowns, is approximately one in 25,000.

A recent survey shows that out of 100,000 unsolicited scripts submitted during the period of one year four eventually landed and appeared in picture form.

Estimates from the major film companies show that over 2,000 scenarios flow in with sickening regularity every week to about 10 offices, giving each reading department about 200 scripts weekly to go through. No scenario department can even attempt to wade through this mass of material and most of the manuscripts are therefore returned unread.

Despite this condition and attempts made to dissuade the well meaning amateurs from sending their brain-children out on perilous journeys, the number of scenario schools has shown little decrease while some of the best grade of national magazines, including those selling at 25 and 35 cents, are still carrying display advertising from writing schools of various types.

Broadcasting in Costume

The National Broadcasting Co. staged a novelty at its Sunday broadcast of the Acousticon Hour when some 200 guests attended to witness the actual etherizing. The artists were made up in costume, such as Richard Keene as Svengali, Itra De Beaum also in character, among others, this being the first time talent made up in detail for a broadcast performance.

The applause went out over the air as it has in the past when similar important hours were etherized with invited audiences attending. In those instances conventional evening attire sufficed for the artists.

The novelty of making up in character had a psychological significance for the NBC officials, who will test whether the make-up had an effect on the quality of the etherized performance.

Harry Lee of Lyons & Lyons books the Acousticon programs.

Rough Talk Thru "Mike" Brings on Cafe Raid

Newark, N. J., Dec. 11. Club, Alabama, at Bradford Place and Arlington streets, watched the cops trowle in early Sunday morning. It was the joint's own fault. Some 75 prisoners, of both colors, were taken.

Dance band had been broadcasting when someone in the place started to use language strong enough to reach the "mike" and sufficiently florid to burn up listeners. The raid followed. Booze was found. It is charged.

Hully Gee!

An accredited Hays' representative, lecturing in the south, is reported advising husbands to study the antics of their wives' favorite motion picture actors. The lady is of the opinion that if husbands will make love like screen actors, home will be a happier place.

The subject discussed by the speaker was the influence of motion pictures on the American home.

Kahn \$210,000 in Red On 'Americana'; And Off

Roger Wolfe Kahn closed his "New Americana" revue Saturday at the Liberty, New York, \$210,000 in the red.

Kahn may take his orchestra with the Williams Sisters out of the revue into picture houses for a fresh try to pay off. He had his father, Otto H. Kahn, interested with him for a percentage, but Roger Kahn intends to pay off independently, having exhausted his father's generosity as far as this venture is concerned, although the banker-father is willing to come to his financial aid.

Kahn is also to devote himself to theme songwriting for Jack Robbins as another means to promote some wampum for the ill-fated legit venture. "Americana" was originally produced by J. P. McEvoy, who contributed the skits. Filled with McEvoy's mismanagement, the 21-year-old composer of the Intimate revue took the show over on his own, with himself, his father and Don Voorhees financially interested.

The second edition, despite the new material, was panned by the Thanksgiving night reviewers, the show melting in 10 days.

110 Screen Tests Made For Talker's Woman's Lead

Over 110 screen tests, costing more than \$20,000, have been made to date by John W. Considine, Jr., directing the Harry Richman talking picture for United Artists at Cosmopolitan studio, New York, in an attempt to find a leading woman. The production of this picture scheduled to start many weeks ago, is still being held up indefinitely pending this selection.

The list of available talent in New York has been pretty well exhausted without results.

The tests are still going on, but there is a possibility the picture may ultimately be abandoned.

BUSINESS 'SHOT,' BUT FEW HOLD UP

Worst Season in Years for Musicals and Dramas Along the Artless Artery—Expensive Musicals Tumble Over—Period of Season Doesn't Figure

25 HOUSES ARE DARK

The legit managers went into a panic early this week. Business dropped off so heavily after Thanksgiving that radical action was taken. At least 10 attractions will lay off on Broadway next week (week before Christmas) and resume on the Yule holiday.

That does not tell the whole story. What with the definite closing of another 10 shows, there will be more than 25 houses dark on Broadway, which means nearly 50 per cent of the total number of theatres operated with legitimate attractions this season. Last season there was continuous darkness along Broadway, with anywhere from a couple of dozen houses unlighted. This autumn conditions are worse, untenanted theatres being present since Labor Day. Attempts to light the dark spots failed because more and quicker flops were produced.

Dark Even Xmas Week
It seems certain that the Christmas to New Year's week, the only period that Broadway was 100 per cent filled with attractions last season, will find at least some houses dark.

The movement to close down next week was reported started by the Shuberts Monday, and at once eight attractions adopted the idea as logical, several others joining the group. At the time of going to print a check-up was incomplete, and it is probable that other attractions will lay off.

Heretofore an attraction on Broadway closed only after a switch of Christmas, using a switch of theatres as the excuse. Never before has anything like the present shutting down even been contemplated. Under Equity rules attractions may lay off the week before Christmas without salary liability. Managers have only taken advantage of that rule for touring attractions. If the latter lay-offs are included, there will likely be over 40 shows marking time next week.

Break for Agencies
Producers are sure to get a break through the wholesale shut. (Continued on page 51)

"Change for a Match?"

After the benish market over the week-end, the Broadway slogan was "Got change of a match?"

Referring to the many margin gamblers nicked.

Promotion Gag Girl Club Formed In Loop for Ash Refuses to Switch

Chicago, Dec. 11.

Paul Ash Every Week Club, of 3,000 loyal devotees of the red-headed maestro formerly doing his stuff at the Oriental, has done the nose-thumbing act at its sponsors.

The sponsors are B. & K. and Bill Pine, staff press agent. The club has informed Pine that it is not to be considered an ordinary master of ceremonies club and will not switch its affections to Brooke Johns, new m. c. at the Oriental.

At Ash's farewell dinner several weeks ago Johns was introduced by Ash himself as a great guy. The girls weren't convinced. Ash bulled, cajoled and flattered the flaps, but they wouldn't sway.

This spirit of the girls is a head-ache for B. & K. and Pine. The club was formed as a promotion gag, but reaching the stage, where its members furnished a complete Sunday morning audience for the Oriental. Continued growth of the club, fondled and coddled by B. & K., is now a boomerang.

Given every possible leeway, the girls are utilizing their personal acquaintance with local picture critics and are filling the fan mail columns with protests that the new Oriental m. c. is too "high-hatty, hogs the spotlight, and in general makes a poor substitute for Paul Ash."

70-Year-Old Lady Backer

A new wrinkle in song plugging is a 70-year-old dowager who is paying Vincent Lopez and one of two of the other prominent radio maestros from \$100 to \$200 weekly to feature a "Gliding Gondola" waltz. It is as yet unpublished and regarded favorably by the show people.

The society woman's interest in the song is because of her two nephew proteges, Bagley and Romelli, who will debut with "Floretta," the Earl Carroll forthcoming operetta, which they composed. "Gliding Gondola" will be the theme waltz under a different title. The same woman is angeling Carroll.

From Granny Down

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Augustina Lucia, 76, screen extra and mother of 18 children, was discovered working at the Paramount Studios with six of her own children and four grandchildren, all in the same picture.

Bad for Nerves

Stagger joints with radios have gone curfew on the ether apparatus until evenings.

The morning programs were anything but soothing to the nerves of patrons with hangovers in the speaks.

'MIMA' HAS BELASCO ON HIP FOR \$300,000

Rehearsed 8 Weeks on Full Pay and Huge Overtime—Elaborate Equipment

With "Mima," the Molnar allegory, due to open tonight (Wednesday) at the Belasco, New York, one of the most remarkable rehearsals in theatrical history closed.

A series of dress, light and music rehearsals have been in progress nightly for two weeks. Over 300 cues, and the mechanical effects are the most complicated of all times. A complete orchestra is in the files. The action cannot be seen up there. Cues are flashed with lights and still must synchronize to the split second.

For eight weeks the rehearsals have been in progress, the house being dark for the purpose. For three weeks the entire cast of 65, including Lenore Ulric and other high-priced principals, have been on full salary. The musicians and stage crew, also, have been on pay with heavy overtime and double-overtime, some drawing as high as \$250 weekly during the extra rehearsal period. Since a complete score has been composed for "Mima," the union scales are all rated at musical show terms.

It is estimated that when David Belasco riues up on his new venture he will be not less than \$300,000 on the nut. An entire new lighting plant and system was installed and the unique set is equipped with machinery inside that looks like the works of a U-boat. The boxes and pit have been steel-lined and riveted and air lofty bridges and perches high in air are light, practical and made of metal.

Rehearsal costs and the loss in keeping the theatre closed amount to around \$150,000.

FLOP HOUSE BENEFIT

Buffalo, Dec. 11.

Mayor Schwab is sponsoring a benefit for the Defunk Hotel, Buffalo's glorified municipal flop house. It will be given at the Erlanger, Dec. 15.

Talent, as usual, will be recruited from the other theatres.

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196 Foreign Actors Entered U. S. in One Year and 280 Foreigners Left

Washington, Dec. 11.—Annual report of the Commissioner General of Immigration discloses that 196 foreign actors entered the country during the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1928.

These were divided as follows: One African (black), two Argentine, 20 German, four Finnish, 10 French, three Italian, one Hebrew, 26 Mexicans, two Russians, five Scandinavians, eight Scotch, five Spanish, 10 Spanish-American and one "other peoples."

Leaving exceeded those entering by 84 the total "emigrant" class being set down at 280. Division by nationality is about the same except in the instance of 93 departing Chinese.

These figures cover those declaring their original intention to be that of remaining here to become citizens.

On those that entered on temporary permits "for business or pleasure" numbered 1,337 with 1,265 departing. Latter figure includes many that came over during the previous fiscal year.

Checking incoming musicians declaring their intention of remaining, a phase that aroused Congress recently because of restrictions abroad against Americans, the number is set at 627 plus 976 coming in under the "pleasure or business" phase. Against this 1,045 departed.

White Woman Sorry She Slashed Friendly Negro

London, Dec. 11.—Gwendoline Travers, white dance mistress, expressed regret but pleaded provocation when brought to trial on charge of having slashed face of William Taylor, colored, now appearing in "Virginia" at the Palace.

Both admitted having been on friendly terms.

Openings in London

London, Dec. 11.—Among yesterday's (Monday) vaude openings were Sella and Alex, comedy dancers with a Continental reputation, who did three dances and had enough stage to even tax the patience of the Coliseum audience accustomed to such things. Act untold no outstanding merit.

At the Alhambra Rosita Barrios, assisted by Four Casto Brothers, South American guitarists, proved too weak for headlining.

Peggy O'Neil, in one of her rare excursions into vaudeville, has provided herself with a far superior sketch than usually utilized by legit stars. Entitled "Out of the Rain," Miss O'Neil is doing very well with it at the Palladium.

In this same house the Joe Thomas Saxonet registered as much above average and scored splendidly.

Dora Maughan, also on the bill and on a return engagement, did a bit of show stopping all alone with Walter Fahy out, due to an indisposition.

Joe Termini made his London re-appearance at the Holburn Empire yesterday next to closing and had no difficulties. Termini is just back from an Australian tour.

Cecil Sorel's Antique Furniture for \$172,000

Paris, Dec. 11.—Antique furniture collection owned by Cecil Sorel brought \$172,000 at auction here. The famous Du Barry bed, which the actress took to America with her on her last tour, and expected to bring around \$40,000, sold for \$8,500.

One report here is that the star bought the bed herself because of the low bidding.

In Case

London, Dec. 11.—In case of the King's demise, West End arrangements are that all theatrical and film performances will immediately cease.

Audiences are to be notified from the stage, will sing "Aldie With Me" and leave the theatres, which may possibly remain closed until the day after the funeral.

Perugia Jams Himself Again with Golder Girl

Paris, Dec. 11.—An echo of the tragic Jenny Gold-er suicide was heard last week, when the sister of the late revue star was asked to call upon Perugia, millionaire shoe manufacturer, who flitted Jenny just before she took her life.

Perugia, acting upon advance information that Jenny's sister was going to revenge the suicide, sent word he wanted to see her regarding settlement of Jenny's will. Allowed to cool her heels in an outer office for some time, Perugia suddenly burst in upon her to snatch her hand bag, looked for weapons and, when finding none, inquired about the report of her intention to shoot.

The girl flew into a rage and the man quickly disappeared.

Rushing into the main office screaming she would kill Perugia, employees seized the girl and finally quieted her.

Perugia has been in hiding ever since.

Palladium with Coogan Got \$15,000; Lowest Wk.

London, Dec. 11.—Palladium (vaudeville) fell slightly below \$15,000 last week. That leaves little margin of profit and is the house's worst week since reverting to vaude.

It was Jackie Coogan's third week with the youngster contracted for four, management doubled the boy into the Whitecap Rivoli, selling him at a \$750 loss rather than hold him for a fourth week.

Jackie did big in the East End, whereas the West End had remained more or less indifferent.

Lily Elsie's Divorce

London, Dec. 11.—Lily Elsie, now appearing at the Globe with Ivor Novello, has filed suit in Edinburgh for divorce from her husband, Major John Bullough. No grounds are mentioned in the petition and there is no indication as to present whether Bullough will defend.

Miss Elsie was London's original "Merry Widow" years ago.

Termini's Say-So Enough

London, Dec. 11.—Dero has been booked to open at the Palladium (vaudeville) April 1 by Harry Foster.

Recommendation of the act came from Joe Termini.

TRUOX SHOW THIS WEEK

London, Dec. 11.—George Broadhurst and his wife, Lillian Trimble Bradley, have arrived here to attend final rehearsals of "Out She Goes," written by Mrs. Broadhurst.

Show opens this week at the Criterion and ends Ernest Truox's five-months' search for a play. Three leading women include Nora Swinburne, Miriam Segar and Jeanne Decasals.

PHIL PLANT'S QUICK TRIP

Paris, Dec. 11.—Phil Plant, millionaire husband of Constance Bennett, was on board the Paris when it sailed from here Sunday (Dec. 9).

Plant must make a hurried return, however, if he wants to be here for his divorce action which is expected to reach the calendar some time next month.

French "Show Boat"

Paris, Dec. 11.—Lucien Boyer is writing the lyrics for the French version of "Show Boat."

Production is listed for the Chatelet this winter.

Bookings in Paris

Paris, Dec. 11.—Among recent bookings here are the Runaway Four to open at the Empire (vaudeville) Dec. 28 and Al Shayne going to the Riviera for dates starting Jan. 15.



WILL MAHONEY

The St. Louis "Post Dispatch" said: "To say that Will Mahoney is the greatest comedian in the country would reflect unduly on a number of very worthy funmakers, yet there is indubitably a flare and flavor to Mahoney's madness not to be found in others. Mahoney richly merits the tremendous applause he gets."

DIRECTION
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Bootleg Lemonade

Lemonade is selling for the same price as beer in Havana cabarets, 40 cents a drink, while some liquors such as Bacardi and Cognac Domecq are selling for 38 per cent less, 30 cents a drink. Rum, Negritta and Martell at 40, with practically the entire balance of the liquor list at 50.

Cabaret prices are little higher than the general retail rate, but the service includes two jazz orchestras in some of the places.

BUCHANAN'S NEW HOUSE

Leicester Sq. Site to Have 2,500 Seats and One Balcony

London, Dec. 11.—New theatre to be erected upon the site of the present Shakespeare House, in Leicester Square, will be under the management of the Jack Buchanan Syndicate. It will open in 18 months.

Plans call for 2,500 seats laid out in American picture house fashion with but one balcony.

Josie Baker Wants to Get Back to Paris

Paris, Dec. 11.—Josephine Baker wants to return to a Paris show. She is now on the Continent and negotiating for a Paris comeback. There's a chance the colored cooch dancer and singer may go in the next Moulin Rouge revue.

Mistlinguett is currently out of the Moulin Rouge show, through illness. She is expected back by Xmas.

Josephine Baker, an American negress with a pro rep here among her own people, sensationalized Paris for over two seasons. She did it principally through a state of undress and her gyrations on the stage.

Paris has been the only European city that took so kindly to Miss Baker. Marrying an Italian title or announcing she had, did not appear to make Miss Baker a more valuable stage attraction anywhere. Some Continental cities were rather rough to Josie, and others did not care enough to book her.

To Miss Baker is due the rage for colored performing on the Continent. It has existed in some circles ever since Josie hit Paris with the smash.

Since leaving New York Miss Baker has not returned. Any time she cares to, headline honors await her in Harlem.

W-T IN WEST END!

London, Dec. 11.—There is a strong rumor here that Williamson-Tate, the Australian firm, will invade the West End musical comedy field next year on a large scale.

"YEAR OF GRACE" CLOSING

Leaving, Pavilion, Dec. 22—New Version at Manchester March 5

London, Dec. 11.—"This Year of Grace" closes at the Pavilion Dec. 22 after a run of over 100 performances. Charles B. Cochran will open his 1929 revue in Manchester March 5 for a three weeks' break-in prior to a West End opening.

Jessie Matthews, Tilly Losch and Sonnie Hale have already been engaged for the new show. John Hastings Turner is writing the book, and Cole Porter the music and lyrics.

Frances, the Pin Sticker, Headache for Whitehead

Havana, Dec. 6.—Charles Whitehead, reported as a big stockholder in the Coca Cola Company, and who won't go aboard his vessel because of Miss Porter, cartoonist, is on board, plans to leave from here for Sevilla to attend the exposition there.

Whitehead's voluntary withdrawal from his own ship follows Miss Porter's impersonation of Miss Porter in reply to the owner's remonstrance when she appeared on deck scantily clad during a dinner party at which Whitehead was host.

Guests, including Miss Porter, immediately left for shore. When there she got into another argument with Whitehead finished with the man treated for 19 pin wounds and Miss Porter entered on the police record.

Twice escaping from the cops, Miss Porter finally fled to the yacht where the local constabulary was powerless because the boat being under the American flag.

When the case is heard in court the end of this week it is expected Miss Porter will be deported.

Harry Tate's People Won't Obey Orders

London, Dec. 11.—Harry Tate is in a predicament. Supposed to sail Dec. 20 for New York and a new Shubert show, his company, with him for years, some for 15 and 27 years, and whom he pays the year around, have gone on strike. They insist upon spending the holidays at home.

The troupe has informed Tate they will join him immediately after Christmas if he cables them. No decision yet, but Tate will sail.

Little London Profit And Shows Leaving

London, Dec. 11.—Few shows here last week could boast of a profit on the past seven days. Exceptions to the rule were "Funny Faces" (Windsor) and "Lucky Girl." Latter place is moving to the Pavilion very soon.

Plays due to leave the West End after Christmas are "So This Is Love," "Winter Garden," "Truth Game," "Globe," and "Cardboard Lover," from the Lyric.

Several others are undecided whether to quit or not.

"Glamour" Has None

London, Dec. 11.—"Glamour," by the author of "Full Moon," opened last night (Monday) at the Embassy and is lacking in that merit which makes its West End presentation at all likely.

It is a commonplace drama of stage people, the usual incongruities being amateurishly written and produced.

REVIVING "AUNT" AGAIN

London, Dec. 11.—"Charley's Aunt," still dear to British hearts, will pop up again as a revival.

It is scheduled to return for four weeks and makes its reappearance on Christmas Day at the Gaiety.

PARIS "MARY"

Paris, Dec. 11.—Al Woods will collaborate with Wyn upon the production of "Trial of Mary Dugan" here. Play is due at the Apollo in the near future.

Sasha Guitry and Yvonne Printemps will appear in this piece. Eddie Jones, general stage manager for Woods, is now over here and will aid in directing the French version.

PLENTY OF SEX IN PARIS PLAYS

Youngsters' Morals Theme of One

Paris, Dec. 11.—Newcomers to the lineup of Paris attractions continue to harp on sex themes. In one a father and mother are nearly wrecked by imitating the loose habits of their youngsters. In another a wife risks tragedy in intruding on her husband's dalliance. The first is a flop, the second looks like a fair prospect.

"L'Exemple" ("The Example") is a three-act play by Robert Coulong given as the first of a series by the Escholiers at the Michodiere, produced by Pierre Audebert. It was mostly done and audience response was negative. Story tells how a father seeks to teach his son how to make money, and, being led by the aggressive young man instead, is led into dishonesty. At the same time the mother, taking a cue from her very modern flapper daughter becomes involved in an intrigue that nearly wrecks the tranquility of the whole family.

"Echec a la Reine" ("Check on the Queen" (term in chess) is extremely risky, as recalled by Jane Renouard in her new play and comedy by Paul Nivoix, and relates the story of a wife, who, feeling herself neglected, resorts to intrigue to arouse his jealousy. Old in idea, but fresh and startling in treatment.

Victor de Cottens produced at the Folies Wagram a French version of Granichats' Vienna operetta "Orloff." The translation by Roger Ferrol and Georges Merry brought favorable comment. In the east are Boucot, Andre Bauge, Marthe Ferrare and Rudoock's girls.

Other highlights of the last few days are Sheldon's "Romance" in French at the Athenee and Bennett's "Love Match" at the Albert Premier, the latter favorably received. Margaret Vaughn and Joan Antill have the leading roles.

London Raw and Foggy

London, Dec. 11.—Weather the past week has been raw and foggy although the week-end, including Monday, developed a frost. No new play produced in the West End so that kept the front out of the theatres (strictly British).

Business is indifferent everywhere with the exception of solid hits, but the general belief is that there will be an improvement guided by the King's condition.

Paris, Dec. 11.—Weather has turned cold here. It hasn't hurt theatre attendance.

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Dept. of Justice Intends Moving With Other Cases Against Picture Industry

Washington, Dec. 11. Further cases against the picture industry are to be brought by the Department of Justice as a result of its investigation now in progress, says the annual report of the Attorney General to Congress.

In that portion of the report prepared by Col. William J. Donovan, assistant to Mr. Sargent, it is stated:

"In January, 1927, the Department instituted a thorough and comprehensive investigation into and practically every phase of the motion picture industry. This investigation is still being pursued vigorously, but due to the fact that it has covered a very large field it has required minute study of detailed data and information.

"As this work has progressed and as conditions believed to be illegal have been disclosed, the decision has been made to submit without delay to the proper court the determination of specific questions so that stability and certainty could be established in the industry. A group of three such cases has been already instituted and from the present state of the inquiry it would seem that other cases will necessarily be brought to clarify fully the entire film industry."

Three cases referred to are the proceeding under the Sherman Act against the Hays organization, several producer-distributors and the 32 film boards of trade to test the arbitration boards, against First National and practically the same line up as in the other case to test the system of credit, and the Chicago case growing out of the theatre lock-out and the alleged denial of film to the houses not lining up in the move.

Arbitration

Report states that the arbitration test is particularly important as several other industries are setting up like methods of arbitration.

Col. Donovan but briefly refers to the changes made in the rules and regulations of the film boards which were accepted and approved prior to the opening of the present investigation.

Department has previously admitted that it was believed these changes would stop the ever mounting number of complaints received from exhibitors. The investigation started in January, 1927, and referred to in this report, was practically forced on the department by the independent exhibitors.

Since its institution almost every merger, whether gone through with or just thought of, has been gone over by the department.

Many believe that further expansion of Paramount has been held up due to the Justice officials telling them to hold off.

Col. Renting at Met. \$2,500 Daily Sound Stage

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Columbia Pictures have contracted with the Radio City to use the W. E. sound equipment and stages at Metropolitan studios for dialog and sound to be added to "Younger Generation" and "The Donovan Affair."

Understood rental is \$2,500 a day for stages, with tenant to furnish own crew and all help but he recording crew.

Inter. and Metro's News Reels Taking on Sound

International and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer newsreels, both Hearst interests, have gone sound, and will debut in the spring. Five of 10 sound trucks have been ordered from Western Electric. The initial cutting involves approximately \$700,000.

Trucks cost \$45,000 each with trucks of lighter equipment at a minimum price of \$25,000.

W. E. WON'T CUT INSTALLING PRICES

Within two years Western Electric says there may be a 10 per cent reduction in the present prices of its talker devices. A number of reasons are cited with a request that squawks be made at headquarters.

Theatre owners are not alone in the cry against price. Producing companies with recent installations in projection rooms are loud in their squawks. It developed that of these First National was taxed \$10,000 for a single room while Universal paid out \$12,000 to get its 60 seats set for preview sound.

First Nationalists declare that such prices cannot prevail. One official said the apparatus on Madison avenue could not have cost over \$1,100 to make.

Charges of 100 per cent and more profit on their equipment are ridiculed by Western Electric. They refer to their earnings of a year ago, saying that they were 5 per cent on a \$2,500,000 turn out.

"We will never sacrifice quality for price, although we are now making every effort to reduce price and retain quality," this W. E. executive continued.

Standing Committees Appointed for Academy

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Douglas Fairbanks, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, appointed the following standing committees for the ensuing year:

Cancellation Committee: Mrs. J. P. Reed, William Siström, Percy Heath, Reginald Barker, Rod La Roque.

Membership Committee: J. Stuart Blackton, Hallam Cooley, E. H. Allen, Charles Rosher, Winifred Dunn.

Ways and Means Committee: Harry Raff, Conrad Nagel, Fred Niblo, Fred Pelton, Jane Murfin.

College Affairs: Milton Sills as chairman, with authority to appoint members as needed. Same power is entrusted to M. C. Levee in regards to the Finance Committee.

The Public Relations Committee is in charge of Fred Niblo and Joseph M. Schenck. Merit Awards Committee is in charge of Benjamin Glazer, Alex B. Francis, Irving Willat, J. J. Gain and A. George Volk.

St. Clair Leaves Par.

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Malcolm St. Clair, director with Paramount for several years, has left after a series of disagreements on stories assigned to him.

St. Clair had several months yet to go on his present contract but was released by mutual consent.

N. Y. to L. A.

Leo Morrison, Thomas Jackson, Paul Dorcas, Lou Hyman, Roy J. Dromery, Robert Benchley, Edna Kirby, C. R. Memmillo, John D. Tippett, Abe Cavies

L. A. to N. Y.

(Clive Brook, Paul Bern, Erwin Gelsey, Carl Laemmle, Jack Ross, N. M. Schenck.

Actor Refuses to Believe He's a Hit

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Johnny Arthur, generally conceded by critics to have scored a real hit with his work as the secretary of the murdered man in Warner Brothers' talking version of "On Trial," doesn't believe it and has never seen the picture since it was released.

Arthur, essentially a comic, started to play his part in the picture with the idea of provoking laughs when possible. When he reached his final confession scene, he was a bit uncertain as to just how to play it. He started with some comedy touches, but when the company didn't seem to respond too jovially he decided that drama was what was wanted and threw all the drama he had in his system into the big scene. When he came off the set he was limp as a dishrag from his efforts and was conceded by the company to have done some excellent dramatic work.

Arthur thought so too, and, with considerable hope, attended a pre-hearing of the picture in a wired neighborhood house. When his big scene came the audience burst into gales of laughter, after which Arthur turned up his coat collar, pulled his hat low over his eyes and hurried out of the theatre. Audiences continue to laugh at his confession scene and Arthur still refuses to believe that it is a compliment to his work, despite what the critics say.

And he consistently refuses to go near the theatre where it is playing.

Far Rell, "School" Bunker, Is Pinched in Syracuse

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 11.

Harry Bennett Far Rell, self-styled director and producer of Mayo Productions, is under arrest here today as a result of the activities of the "Moving Picture School" he conducted at 132 North Glenoove road. The school was raided by Genevieve Saarl, policeman, and detectives after an investigation conducted by Stephen Toadvine of the local Better Business Bureau.

Six boys and girls, all of whom had been accepted by Far Rell as potential stars were "emoting" for the director when the officers paid their visit.

Far Rell glibly explained to his "class" that the policeman was a staff writer of a movie magazine assigned to interview him, and called off the rehearsal with the assurance that his protests would be notified of the next session.

Investigation of the Far Rell School resulted from a "blind" ad, run in the classified columns of the local Hearst daily reading: "Ladies and Gentlemen. Splendid opportunity to study for the movies. New types wanted." The address was a box number.

Arrest of Far Rell disclosed that he had promised his pupils an immediate trip to New York, where he claimed to have a wealthy backer. He offered every student a contract to be signed at the time the backer was interviewed in the metropolis, and measured all for costumes, which were to be worn in the story being rehearsed, "Under Two Flags," which already has been twice done as a film.

Far Rell told the police that he produced three pictures, "Lady Audley's Secret," in 1918; "Winchester," in 1920, and "The Girl Outcast" two years later. He said his first wife, now dead, starred in all three.

Far Rell also gave the police the name and address of his New York connection. No such party was known at the place.

"It's a very large building," Far Rell explained, when grilled.

The students Far Rell had enrolled included one, Joseph Green, 17, who has been lame since infancy.

Reports Persist of Fox's Offer Standing to Purchase Loew Control

CONTROLLING ALL NATIONAL PUBLICITY

Reports persist that William Fox holds strong hopes of securing by mutually agreed upon purchase the stock control of Loew's. It is said control could not be obtained otherwise.

No Loew executive can be located who will admit having heard anything of the kind, with some making the positive declaration of not having been informed if any such thing were possible. While with the Fox heads, the information appears to be freely held that Fox has dangled a buy proposal for Loew's.

One Fox exec when asked how the matter stood, said:

"I really don't know. I hear the bankers are now talking it over."

While another story is that inside of Loew's has divided upon any control sale, with one for and the other against. Who compose the different sides are not known, nor will any Loew man admit that much either.

Late last week Nick Schenck issued an angry denial of the story printed in Variety the week before, with Schenck having had eight days previously to enter the contradiction. The denial was emphatic enough. It made allusions to "malicious" and "stock manipulation," but it did not seem to have made any impression upon the Fox people, at least.

Two picture men were talking this week of the Loew-Fox reports. One said:

"Do you believe it is possible? If that deal ever goes through, it naturally will take in United Artists and Paramount must follow."

To which the other answered: "Anything is possible these days. It's merging time."

Paramount Making Up Contract Between Nat'l Advertisers and Actors

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Paramount is getting out a contract for players and national advertisers who wish to give the actors free publicity.

This contract specifies that the privilege is given for the use of photographs for advertising and publicity purposes in the United States and foreign countries for a specific period.

The contract provides this advertising publicity is to be used for a minimum number of window displays, minimum number of billboards and a minimum number of daily newspapers and periodicals, with the names of the periodicals incorporated.

The contract says all photographs and all advertising and publicity matter before released must be first approved by Paramount in writing for text and space.

The final paragraph states it is agreed that any photographs, advertising or publicity matter used by the advertiser shall carry no endorsement or suggestion of endorsement, either by the player or by Paramount.

Par is the first of the producing companies on the coast to use any such contract for its players with national advertisers.

Weather Forecast

Washington, Dec. 11. At Variety's request the Weather Bureau furnished the following outlook for the week beginning Wednesday (12):

Fair with mild temperature Wednesday except rain Wednesday over portions of the Ohio Valley and lake region.

Thursday (13) rain or snow and colder west of Appalachian Mountains.

Fair and moderately cold Friday and probably Saturday (15).

Coldewey's Elevation

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Anthony C. Coldewey, who made a record as scenario editor at Warner Brothers, has been promoted to the post of assistant associate executive with the company.

This will give Coldewey editorial supervision of the field production as well as supervision over the scenario department.

Graham Baker, scenarist, who has done good work, was promoted to the post vacated by Coldewey.

Kaufman's Comedy Skit As Par's Talking Short

"If Men Played Cards Like Women," one-act play by George Kaufman, is being produced by Paramount as a talking short.

Rights were purchased from the French Publishing Company, according to report, for over \$3,000. Another one-act sketch, "The Knife," is being made by Fox Movietone, while M-G-M is producing "Seven Candles."

Musician Accepted on Test—No Experience

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Lew Ayres' 19, studio musician, was given a voice and screen test while playing on a set at the 16th studios and signed to a contract.

Ayres has had no previous experience before the camera or on the stage.

Horton Tangled Up With Stage and Screen Work

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Edward Everett Horton's original deal with Christie to make two talking shorts has been called off. Instead, Horton will make six two-reel talkers.

Horton now has a unique setup so far as pictures and stage work are concerned for the next year. He recently took a lease on the Vine Street theatre for his own stage production. They will keep him busy nights and matinee days. Then he engaged to make three talking feature films for Warner Brothers during 1929. This contract is contingent upon the demands of his stage work.

Now his new agreement with Christie is subject upon both his stage efforts and the Warner contract.

DeForest Loses in Canada; Patents' Validity, Point

In the first clash in court over talker rights, DeForest lost in the preliminaries on a technicality to Western Electric.

The Quebec (Canada) Court refused the inventor's petition for an interlocutory injunction restraining the electric company from operating its devices in Canada.

The ground for denial as cited by the Court is that De Forest had not established in Canada the validity of the patents on which he alleged an infringement in his application.

The action was started when the Canadian company of the inventor made the Palace and its WE wiring the test case. The Northern Electric Co. of Montreal, subsidiary of W. E., defended the action.

Colony's Museum Bust

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Hollywood Motion Picture Museum, founded and operated for the past four months by Harry Crocker, closed for lack of attendance and interest on the part of the tourists.

Crocker is returning all the historical articles pertaining to the picture industry to their owners, practically everything, was bound to him.

'CEASE AND DESIST' ORDER

Camera Takes Effect on Youthful Footballers, on Field and Screen

Newark, N. J., Dec. 11. Football week in local picture houses means too much fat down and whoopee for Jersey students, and Principals of high schools in the Oranges and Maplewood have gone on record as opposed to having films taken of their institutions' annual grid contests. This action, of course, is not final, but the academic heads are petitioning state educational authorities to stop it.

Shooting of the local games is generally done every fall for Stanley-Fabian's Branford and Stauley theatres here. This leads to a heavily billed "football week."

The screening of the various games is on successive nights, the theatres inviting the respective student bodies and their cheer leaders to come, see, be entertained and merry. And the kids like that "merry."

Last week at the Branford over-enthusiasm led the house management to oust a few, but this happens every year. It is also said, and denied, that one night the youngsters chased Charlie Nelson, m.c. off the stage.

School heads' objection is that the frame-up is purely a commercial proposition, and that it draws the students away from their homework. No complaint from Newark schools has as yet been made.

Anyway, the high school heroes may be stopped from seeing themselves flashing across the screen doing 'dynamite' breakin' their necks for alma mater and the glory of the camera.

3 Syracuse Wired Houses With Current Silent Films

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 11. Three Syracuse de luxe houses, all wired, currently are playing silent pictures.

The Strand has "Companionate Marriage," Empire, "The Foreign Legion," and the Eckel, "The Fleet's In."

The Strand and Eckel are using synthetic synchronizations, record set ups, played over the Vitaphone equipment. The Empire is relying upon the organ alone for accompaniment.

Saturday and Sunday business at the latter approximately 8,000 admissions. Whether this unusually good draw is due to the picture or the absence of a mechanized score has Albert P. Kaufman, managing director, puzzled.

Aimee as \$50,000 Talker

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. It is reported that Aimee Semple MacPherson, Los Angeles woman preacher, has signed with Paramount to do a talking picture. Story means public gal's bit as \$50,000, with production to be made early in 1924.

HATTON IN CHRISTIE COMEDY

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Raymond Hatton and Fay Wray precede the main title of a picture as "presenting."

Talking R. R. Drama

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Paramount plan to make the first of a double sound railroad drama. It will feature Fay Wray and Mabel Cooper to start Dec. 30. Story work is being written the story.

U's Efficiency Rules

Lou Metzger, general manager, is starting a bulletin board campaign for new U good will end economy.

From now on wire biz must be divided between Western and Postal.

Relatives (the word is in the notice) must use slot machine 'booths, especially erected for them, instead of private phones where the company has to pay the nickel.

Employees can use private phones for personal use, but only for two calls daily; one outgoing and one incoming.

The final notice is being sent to all chain houses of the company in the form of big yellow cards. Its black type reads: "Turn out the lights. Let us keep expenses down."

3 Current Film Favs; Rogers, Asther, Miss Page

Buddy Rogers, Nils Asther and Anita Page are the current leaders in the rabid movie fans favor. Asther is building despite he does not answer his fan mail due to the peculiar position he is in.

Pending an expected adjustment of the situation in January at which time Asther is scheduled to work with M-G-M on a regular basis he claims he cannot afford to answer his fan mail. Dames are said to squawk when letters to the new fav go unacknowledged.

Lon Chaney has discontinued answering fan letters. He has a secretary go through the mail. Where coins are enclosed for photographs the money is returned with a form letter. Other letters go to the basket.

As a result Chaney autographs are considered rare. The old standard goes for one of someone else is literally true on the Chaney autographs. Fans who trade among themselves in such mementos demand heavy premiums on a genuine Chaney sig.

Film "Show Boat" at \$3?

Universal is after a Broadway house for "Show Boat." If successful the picture will come in early in January.

A likely perch is the Embassy; where, if U leases the house, the film will have a \$3 top.

Producing company is still negotiating with Ziegfeld as to inserting dialog, with it claimed this will not retard the opening date to any extent it completed.

Jolson's "Mammy" Next

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Al Jolson's next talking picture for Warners will be "Mammy." It will go into production Jan. 15.

Young Laemmle Asso. Producer on U Films

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Carl Laemmle, Jr. will be associate producer of Universal. For the first time in many years a name other than that of his father will precede the main title of a picture as "presenting."

FED. TRADE IN WEST COAST CASE

Decision Anticipated Against Pacific Slope Chain, Now Under Fox Ownership—First Exhibitor Ruling Against, If Predicted Decision Comes Out

"PROTECTION" MATTER

Washington, Dec. 11. An order to "cease and desist" is to be issued against the West Coast Theatres, Inc. (circuit), by the Federal Trade Commission, by the theatre operating company will be told to stop using its great buying power to secure almost unlimited protection and to keep film features from the opposition houses through other objected to angles.

That this will be the action of the commission is practically a foregone conclusion amongst those here familiar with the procedure of the business controlling body.

It has been almost two months now since Bruce Brownlee, representing the Rothechild angle because of the now existing Paramount tie-up, was here to make his final plea. At the same time Saul E. Rogers appeared for William Fox, now controlling West Coast, asking that the case be held open to allow him to file briefs and make an argument in behalf of his client.

This was denied, the commission holding to its original agreement with previous counsel that the case would be closed without further argument.

At the close of that session the commission took "the case under advisement."

A check of any number of cases discloses that when a dismissal is made it is forthcoming within 15 to 30 days at the most. It is a fairly simple routine to close a proceeding in that manner.

The 60 day lapse from that final hearing leaves but one course probable—the "cease and desist" order.

When the expected order is issued it will put the phases of the picture industry under a legal ban by the commission. In the Paramount case on block booking with the attack made on the producer-distributor. In the forthcoming instance the exhibitor will become the target.

West Coast case has been before the commission since May, 1923. At one time it was believed the case was closed following agreement between counsel on a stipulation. This document, when brought before the commission, was disapproved and the proceeding gone ahead with.

No Defense

Principal defense of the theatre owning company has been to deny the authority of the commission. Claim was that the films do not move in interstate commerce and the attempt has been made to deny the charges in fact the disapproved stipulation practically admitted them but with the statement that such practices were no longer reported to.

Acquisition of the West Coast circuit by William Fox brings in a new fact as do other changes in the line-up of control. However, the original parties to the proceeding, which is in two dockets, 1319 and 1320, are, in 1319: West Coast Theatres, Inc.; West Coast Theatres, Inc. of Northern California; Venice Amusement Co. Hollywood Theatres, Inc. All Star Feature Distributors, Inc. Educational Film Exchange; Principal Pictures Corp., H. M. Turner, Fred Dehnken, C. L. Langley and F. N. Livingston; partners doing business under the name and style of Turner, Dahnen and Langley, and Messrs. A. L. Gore, Michael Gore, Sol Lesser, Adolph Kemish and Dave Bushon. Docket 1320 carries most of those named in the other

FBO Going in for Big Time Talker Film, Pays \$85,000 for Ziegfeld's "Rio Rita"

Bessie Love's Studies

Bessie Love, who has done a comeback as a picture actress on the talkers, is spending several ambitious weeks in New York City.

She is taking daily lessons in singing from Jeanette, dancing from Ned Wayburn, and dialog from a dramatic coach. Versatility is the life of trade in talkers, according to Miss Love (M-G-M).

RCA Photophone's Special Showing in Schenectady

Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 11. This city claims to be the only one to have talking pictures with everything manufactured here, where it is being used.

Proctor's wired for R.C.A. Photophone, the General Electric's talking picture device, and with all the equipment in and almost ready to be started, will have this.

The entire talking outfit from the wire and cable up to the most intricate part of the machine, was made at the local G.E. plant.

No date has been set for the first public showing but it is understood R.C.A. officials, G.E. officials and show world personages are to be invited. The reason seems to be that the local house is going to get a lot of extra paraphernalia that is not yet ready for the market but has been perfected and only waits the public showing before production begins.

In connection with this apparatus G.E. is doing a big business on the talker outfit and men are being hired daily to work in that department. This together with the increase in production of several thousand G.E. refrigerator units weekly is giving the local theatre owners something to smile over as more people are moving in here and work for those here is becoming more regular.

Mack Makes Talker; Co. Rehearse 3 Weeks

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Willard Mack, directing M-G-M's all talker "Hunted," in which he is also starring, is of the old stage school and, as result, broke all records to date for talking picture rehearsals.

Mack refused to let the cameras crank a foot of the picture until every member of the cast was letter perfect in his part.

Accent Sends Dita Parlo Back to German Home

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Dita Parlo, German screen actress brought here recently by Paramount to play opposite Maurice Chevallier, will return to Germany shortly.

She found the accent of her voice would not meet requirements of the American talker.

Miss Ralston in Support

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Esther Ralston, Paramount, 10, reports to the leading woman class, opposite Emil Jennings in "Cafe de Paris."

Miss Ralston was made a star by Paramount in the fall of 1916 and since that time has starred in eight pictures for it.

Following its revised policy for big time material under RKO, FBO is negotiating with several legit producers for rights to some of the hits not already acquired by other film companies. During the past week J. I. Schnitzer, newly appointed FBO operator, has spent considerable of his time with legit men and their representatives.

Schnitzer this week moved into the office of his predecessor, J. P. Kennedy, upon his return, visiting his sanctum long enough to clean out his desk and ease himself in the "Pathe headquarters."

FBO has closed with Flo Ziegfeld for "Rio Rita." This show will be one of the company's biggest talking attractions on its new schedule. FBO paid \$85,000 for screen-sound rights to the Ziegfeld opus.

William Le Baron, FBO production head, closed with the coast Sunday. It is said he has been instructed to endeavor to eliminate Tom Mix with his next picture, the fifth of the six Mix is under contract to make, because of FBO's new policy which allows no western. Mix, it is learned will not have FBO contract renewed, regardless of the outcome of Le Baron's efforts.

U. A. Stars Opposed To Any Trade Merging

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Nicholas M. Schenck remained on the west coast just 12 days and is now en route to New York. While here, Schenck discussed with his brother, Joseph M. Schenck, president of United Artists, the matter of the latter's organization consolidating with M-G-M.

No headway was made on the proposition. It is understood that Charles Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford are opposed to U. A. merging.

Third of Pop in 10 Weeks

Chicago, Dec. 11. In round figures, Chi's population is a little over 3,000,000. "Singing Fool" is in its 10th week at McVickers, has played to nearly 1,000,000 admissions and still going strong.

That already is an all-time record for any stage or screen attraction in Chicago.

Bushman Seeks Relief From Wife's Alimony

Baltimore, Dec. 11. Francis X. Bushman, through counsel in this city filed a notice of appeal from the recent decision of the Circuit Court of Baltimore County, granting alimony to his former wife, Mrs. Josephine F. Bushman.

The court had granted the first Mrs. Bushman \$10,000 a year, plus \$4,000 for the support of her children. She claims that the picture actress is \$50,000 in default on payments.

Film "Rosalie" for Cosmo With Marion Davies

Los Angeles, Dec. 12. Arrangements have been made with William Randolph Hearst (Cosmopolitan) and Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr., whereby M-G-M is to make the screen version of "Rosalie" as an all-faller.

Marion Davies will be starred and Charles King opposite. Production to start March 1.

Sylvia Picker Elevated

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Sylvia Picker, appearing in comedies with Fay Wray at Burton King, has been elevated in an unusual manner by Executive

HELPLESS INDIE EXHIBS

Warners Pay Off F. N. Stockholders And Name New Board of Directors

With slightly over \$4,500,000 Warner Bros. Monday paid off and retired the old directorate of First National, carrying over only Robert Lieber on the board of 10. The board was named as the consummation of this final step in the series of moves by Warners for the acquisition of this producing company. The new board, two less than the former, is without a chairman. One may be named at their first official meeting in January. It is expected that Herman Starr will officiate in that capacity as well as president of the F. N. subsidiary.

Starr, a big Warner stockholder and one of the most important executives in the brothers' company, although he has never been identified by any particular title, is the choice of the brothers as overseer of First National. Moving into the Madison avenue quarters occupied by Irving Rosshelm before the end of the week, Starr will sever all former duties with Warner pictures to concentrate on their new interests.

Starr is the fifth man in the past five years to get the title of president of First National. The long rule of Lieber, when the company was controlled by franchise holders, was rapidly exchanged among John J. McGurk, Clifford Hawley and Rosshelm.

The new directorate is regarded as 75 per cent. Warner, with the exception of Starr.

(Continued on page 27)

W. E.'S OTTERSON 2D TALK BUT NO CHANGE

Wire Interchangeability Price, Etc.—W. E. "Invincibility"

"We are not out to pick a quarrel," says J. E. Otterson in his second statement to the trade on Western Electric's talker position.

The second of the series started by the president of Electrical Research Products is supposed to be in answer to the trade's questioning concerning price, interchangeability, etc., and the future.

Otterson makes his belief in WE's talker invincibility quite clear, even through a maze of words, when he professes that there will be no cheaper equipment on the market until W. E. makes it. He has no prediction as to when that may be. As for all the smaller exhibitors, Otterson states that he has no answer for the entire masses. He qualifies this by speaking of 800-seat houses which have long forgotten price because of the take-in they have since realized.

Also the Indies that be and come along, Otterson expects that most of them will die naturally. There is no such thing as interchangeability other than the agreement with the sister electric, General, it is also gleaned from the statement.

W. E. is "jealous" of its position as father of the first successful talker, Otterson continues, and naturally is out to protect its interests. Indies who manage to live will have to answer for their patents in court, Otterson states.

In protecting its patents and maintaining its quality producer likeness has much in common with W. E. Otterson says in regard to other incidentals raised by preachers of interchangeability.

The ERP head says 2,500 people are now concentrated in three eight-hour shifts on talker equipment output in W. E.'s Chicago plant.

Misc. Play Rights

Another problem developed by talking pictures is the matter of buying old plays for screen use. It is found that many old plays are subject to secured rights. Rights of all sorts are held, southern rights, New England, west of Chicago, Canadian, English, Scandinavian and other rights that interfere with a clear title to a script.

Warners recently encountered trouble in London when several suits were filed against them by English subjects claiming the English rights to songs and stories used in Vitaphone subjects.

Weight-Reducing Molly O'Day Is Losing Out

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

First National will not exercise its option on the services of Molly O'Day. Miss O'Day's efforts to reduce weight during nearly two years while with the company have been reported. In the early summer she went to extremes and had tissue removed from her hips in an effort to make her figure conform more to prevailing studio ideas of what the femme form should be.

Miss O'Day has not been assigned to any picture since the operation.

Barbara Bennett for Lead In FBO's 'Stepping High'

It was expected yesterday that Barbara Bennett would be selected as the woman lead for the talker production by FBO of "Stepping High." It is to go into production next Monday, with Bert Glennon directing.

Morton Downey will appear in the picture, opposite Miss Bennett. He will sing some songs during the action. Other roles have been cast, with the Waring's Pennsylvanians for the cabaret scene.

Robert Kane will be the general production manager.

Picture to be made at the FBO-Pathé studio in New York is expected within two weeks.

\$125,000 for "Front Page"

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Howard Hughes, of Caido Productions, has paid Jed Harris \$125,000 for the screen rights of "The Front Page."

It will go into production in April with Lewis Milestone directing. An all-dialog picture is contemplated, with Louis Wolheim in the Osgood Perkins role of the managing editor.

Worthing Minor, representing Jed Harris, has arrived in Los Angeles to supervise the staging of the piece by Belasco and Butler at the Belasco theatre Dec. 30.

Casey Robinson, Director

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Casey Robinson, who wrote titles and later supervised for Sam Sax, is now a full-fledged director. He is to handle the megaphone for "Listen Baby" for Pathé. It goes into production the end of this month.

The picture will be made under the supervision of William Counselman.

B & K-U. A. Deal

Chicago, Dec. 11. While a general denial is out, an inside report says there is talk between the parties of Balaban & Katz operating the United Artists theatres here and in Detroit.

ST. JOE THEATRE FORCED TO CLOSE

Rivoli, Neighborhood 1,000-Seater, with Unused Wire Equipment for 8 Months, Unable to Obtain Available Product—Publix as Opposish Grabbed All

NO 1ST OR 2D RUNS

Unrelenting pressure by the producer-controlling theatre chains forcing independent exhibitors out of business in practically every part of the country through virtual monopoly of film product is concretely evidenced in a complaint registered by Edward P. Deskey, independently operating the Rivoli, Riatio and Revere, St. Joseph, Mo.

Rivoli, 1,000-seater, neighborhood, until recently one of the major first run houses in St. Joseph, closed last week because, according to Deskey, no product was available. Previously Deskey appealed to the Kansas City Film Board of Trade through a letter. He also sent a letter to the Hays organization in New York.

The Rivoli was first forced into a second run sound policy by the opposing forces in the territory. Local exchange managers, it is reported, urged Deskey to take this move. The house was then unable to get even second run pictures.

The entrance of the Public-Cooper house, Missouri, in St. Joseph, was followed by the purchase of all available first run product from Warner Bros., Paramount, Fox and Metro for that house, leaving the Rivoli without first run pictures because of the following arrangements in force through previous contracts:

Tiffany-Stahl, sold to another theatre, first run.

Universal sold first run to the Colonial, former U house, now leased by Public-Cooper.

First National, sold first run to Baker, F. N. franchise holder.

Pathé specials to the Missouri. FBO product only open.

House stage not large enough for vaudeville or tabs.

Useless Wiring

After going second run, being overbought on the type of product, the Rivoli could not get any film since the Publix house, playing less than 75 pictures a year, must first show all the pictures.

The Rivoli, twice or tri-weekly change house, was left without pictures for more than six months. He was obliged to close when, with five pictures, due from Warner Bros., the latter pulled four last week.

The Rivoli is wired but for eight

Academy, Over Objections, Adopts Coast Magazine as House Organ

\$50,000 for Talker Act

FBO is paying George Choo, production manager of Waring's Pennsylvanians, \$20,000 for their use in its talking picture of "Stepping High," and Fred Waring will receive \$30,000. The latter sum includes the bonus paid Waring and the actual film work for his band in the picture, limited to 12 days.

All of the company excepting the woman lead for the film under engagement, Bert Glennon, director, expects to be finished by New Year's when he is going to the coast. Glennon will return to New York in time to start the Ina Claire talker for Pathé-FBO around March.

Choo is the producer of "Help Yourselves" at the Casino, where the Waring's are appearing at \$5,000 weekly without being featured.

months never used its equipment. There was no difficulty in contracting for second run pictures for the Rivoli. The house had under contract, "Subject to availability, after first run at the Missouri," Paramount, Warner Bros., Fox, Metro, and Pathe. The Missouri has all of its product under contract, cannot use one-third of it since most of the pictures are played a full week, but the Missouri has excessive protection terms.

This whole arrangement left the Rivoli one picture a week from the major companies, 60 to 90 days after played in the Missouri, when three pictures a week by the Rivoli are needed.

The Public-Cooper house has contracted for more pictures than can be used, it is claimed, eliminating the Rivoli, through monopolization, as a competitor in either the first or second run field.

From the producer-distributor angle are to be considered rumored disagreements with Deskey on price, the latter being reputed unwilling to pay as much as demanded. Deskey claims readiness to pay.

The closing of the Rivoli seems likely to form the basis for a suit against the producer-distributors and the Hays organization though it is understood that legal action could not be started until Deskey first files an official claim with the Film Board of Trade. That understanding is according to the opinion of the Film Boards of Trade.

Should Deskey fail to recognize the Film Board of Trade as a just body of law-givers or as a body of any kind it does not appear as if there would be any hindrance to such legal action as Deskey may be inclined to take.

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. At the direction of the board of directors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Douglas Fairbanks, president of the Academy, signed a contract whereby the Hollywood Magazine, semi-monthly publication, becomes the official house organ Jan. 1.

Much objection was put up against the Academy going into the publishing business. It was pointed out that the Academy, having reserves of only \$20,000, could not step into a business which it knew nothing about and expect to buck the competition offered by fan magazines which have been in existence for years.

It is understood the producer-trio of members on the board of directors objected to the proposition. They claim the establishing of a house organ magazine would only bring trouble to the organization with the possibility of petty politics creeping into the columns of the publication. They pointed out that the prime purpose of the Academy is constructive work for the industry, and at no time to enter into any business enterprises which might have a political significance or bearing.

Hollywood Magazine, founded about two years ago, has made little headway on the coast. It is understood that several prominent members of the Academy are stockholders in it.

Fox's Talk "Follies" Looks Like \$850,000

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Fox is going ahead with its "Movietone Follies" but has given up the idea of having its various directors shoot individual scenes. Marcel Silvers, director, will handle the megaphone alone. He is being aided in the staging by Edward Royce, with Fanchon, of Fanchon & Marco, training the girls and staging the dances.

Fox has already spent over \$100,000 on this picture and it is expected that more than \$750,000 will have been disbursed before it's completed.

29 Baby Stars Picked

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

WAMPAS, at their meeting last night, submitted 29 baby star candidates for 1929. They will select 13 at the first session in January.

The 29 mentioned were the three Young sisters, Polly Ann, Loretta and Sally Biane, Ethlyn Claire, Betty Boyd, Helen Harris, Anita Page, Josephine Dunn, Mona Rico, Lupita Tovar, Raquel Torres, Jean Arthur, Phyllis Crane, Thelma Todd, Kathryn Crawford, Nancy Drewel, Helen Twelvetrees, Doris Dawson, Diane Ellis, Lila Hyams, Lola Lane, Maude Dudley, Nora Lane, Doris Hill, Jeanette Loff, Carol Lombard, Caryll Lincoln, Helen Foster and Merna Kennedy.

The 13 final selections will be ordained at the WAMPAS frolic at the Shrine auditorium Feb. 14, along with a stage show. Tickets, five bucks each.

Those working on the show: Edward Royce, producer; William Newberry, business manager; Norman Mannings, production; Sam Cohen and Oliver Garvey, publicity.

Sam Co. for 2 Films

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Preserving the same continuity of characters in the screen version that S. S. Van Dine did in his mystery stories, Paramount is planning to use the same cast for all talk versions of "The Greene Murder Case" that played in "The Canary Murder Case."

This will bring William Powell back as Philo Vance, Lawrence Grant as the detective partner and Eugene Pallette as the detective.

Silent Short Comedies Pushed to Rear by Talk Shorts and Newsreels

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

A constantly increasing demand for short sound subjects and sound newsreels is gradually forcing the proverbial two-reel silent comedies into the has-been class.

Exhibitors with wired houses see no need of the silent comedy to round out their nightly programs so long as they can secure the sound shorts.

This makes the market so uncertain the old line producers, as well as the smaller operators, are abandoning the silent comedies until they can secure facilities to add sound effects or dialog.

Christie, Bennett and Educational are the only operators remaining active because of their

ability to make the shorts sound and silent.

Hal Raach is closing his studio until such a time as sound equipment can be installed, while Stern Brothers plan to re-open shortly with provision in sight to add sound to their product.

LANFIELD STAYS WITH FOX

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

A recent report said Fox would not exercise its option on Sidney Lanfield, writer, when the option came up in January. Lanfield has an optional three-year contract with the company, with the next option falling due May 1.

At present Lanfield is working on the story of "Big Time" which Howard Hawks will direct.

Publix Hops Met Into L. A. Lead, \$26,000 Town Still Fighting Flu; State, \$25,000

Charlotte Greenwood Saves Loew House—"On Trial" Off, \$16,500—Boulevard Up, \$7,800

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. (Drawing Population, 1,450,000) Weather: Unsettled. With more than 200,000 cases of flu reported to health officials in the county, trade was naturally wary of Metropolitan jumped into the lead with "Varsity" on the first week of the Met being back under Publix direction. Loew's State with a weak picture, "Do Your Duty," heading the stage show. Had it not been for the Greenwood draw, house would hardly have hit more than \$16,000. Grauman's Chinese was not hit as bad as other houses with "Noah's Ark." Film ran a bit ahead of previous seven days counting \$26,000. "On Trial" was not as popular as it has been with its other talkers. Gross diminished considerably below previous week and "Interference" bowed out of the Carthay Circle after four and a half weeks. "The Barker" at \$5 top for the premiere performance did more than its predecessor on its final days at this house. Companionate Marriage, with the Judge Lindsay trimmings and his personal appearance, did not get far at the Criterion. United Artists had the imported "Loves of Casanova" and despite strenuous endeavors was in the brodie class. "Woman Disputed" with a hot picture, "The Girl," beaten out by more than \$1,000 by the Boulevard with "Brotherly Love."

Estimates for Last Week Grauman's Chinese (UA) "Noah's Ark" (WB) (3,588; 50-15-50) (5th week). It counting turkey day, around \$18,000 for 10 days. Boulevard (WC) "Brotherly Love" (M-G) (2,164; 25-50). Dane and Arthur picture with flu again hit, heavy at \$7,800. Carthay Circle (WC-Miller) "Interference" (Par) (1,800; 25-15-50). Final three days brought in \$1,750. Criterion (WC) "Companionate Marriage" (FN) (1,600; 25-75). Looks as though folks believe in regular nuptials instead of Judge Lindsay theory; \$7,000. Egyptian (WB) "Woman Disputed" (UA) (1,300; 25-75). Neither screen feature nor Armand Kaliz on stage meant a great deal; \$6,000. Loew's State (WC-Loew) "Do Your Duty" (FN) wired (2,242; 25-51). Charlotte Greenwood saved week; around \$25,000. Metropolitan (Pub) "Varsity" (dialog) (Par) (3,585; 50-15-50). Helped house which had Publix doing better than \$26,000; house out of red.

United Artists (UA) "Loves of Casanova" (M-G) (2,100; 25-51). Imported picture and Lupino Lane, heading stage show, didn't make much of an impression; \$9,850. Warner Bros. (WB) "On Trial" (dialog) (WB) (2,756; 25-75) (3d week). Not so hot for this stamza; around \$16,500.

New Orleans, Dec. 11. Outstanding film draw of last week was Loew's State, "West of Zanzibar." But big dropped the last two days, with Xmas shopping blamed. Total of \$17,000 meant a very healthy profit for Loew's State. "The Red Dance" no so hot at the Saenger, which needs a few click pictures. The house ought to be doing business at this season, with many visitors and shows. At the south's premier theatre have been rather weak of late. Especially unimpressing were recent Publix units. Most seem "itcastless." "Hit of the week" ran along swimmingly at the Orpheum to the rather neat gross of over \$10,000, with a couple of appealing vaude acts aiding materially. Strand had a tough session with "Battle of the Sixes," while the Tudor was no great shakes projecting "Lonesome."

Estimates for Last Week State (2,218; 50)—"West of Zanzibar" (Chaney) remains corking, card, \$17,000. Saenger (3,568; 65)—"Red Dance," \$16,300, about \$4,000 below normal for this time of year. Orpheum (2,400; 50)—"Hit of Show," Orpheum showing material advance and up to \$10,000. Strand (2,200; 50)—"Battle of Sixes," fell away early and never recovered. Slipped to \$3,200. Tudor (800; 50)—"Lonesome," ran to \$3,000.

Keith's, Syracuse, Off Again with \$12,000

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 11. (Drawing Pop., 220,000) Weather: Cool

Whether it's the approach of Christmas or some other and less apparent cause, business was off in the city film houses of all classes last week, while Keith's (vaudfilm) hung up another not-so-good gross of \$12,000, second in a row. Loew's State (wired) (1,700; 40)—"Haunted House" (F.N.) did about \$3,000, or drop of \$1,000 below top set by "The Outcast." Empire (wired) (1,600; 40)—"Romance of Underworld" (Fox) better than "The Outcast." "The Barker" (wired) (1,500; 35)—"Begonia of Life" (Par). About \$5,000. House with synthetic synchronization with records.

Estimates for Last Week Keith's (vaudfilm) (2,398; 30-50)—Business off about \$4,000 from \$16,000 figure house had been hitting more or less consistently during fall. Strand (wired) (1,700; 40)—"Haunted House" (F.N.) did about \$3,000, or drop of \$1,000 below top set by "The Outcast." Empire (wired) (1,600; 40)—"Romance of Underworld" (Fox) better than "The Outcast." "The Barker" (wired) (1,500; 35)—"Begonia of Life" (Par). About \$5,000. House with synthetic synchronization with records.

"Show People" Best in Seattle, Does \$15,800

Seattle, Dec. 11. (Drawing Pop., 500,000) Weather: Cool

Town's sone sound. The Seattle is using its wiring for the first time with "Varsity." Manager Bob Blair, now that the house is divorced from second run talkers, "The Barker" who like sound, and the billing is "The Screen at the Seattle talks." Columbia also opens with second run talker, "The Girl." An epidemic of colds, bordering on the flu, is hurting big somewhat. Holiday buying cutting in a little. Good attractions are getting out the pay customers.

Estimates for Last Week Seattle (Pub-L) (3,108; 25-60)—"Adoration" (FN), with Billie Dove, "The President" (F & M). Up somewhat, \$15,000. Fifth Ave. (WC) (2,500; 25-60)—"Show People" (MG)M. Started off at \$15,000. Coliseum (WC) (1,800; 25)—"Win That Girl" (Fox). Rousing college story. Hits laugh spots. Good. \$3,600. Blue (Hamrick) (950; 50-75)—"Woman Disputed" (UA). Wired. Second week. \$7,000. Music Box (Hamrick) (1,000; 60-75)—"The Girl" (WB). Second week, okay. \$10,000. Winter Garden (U Chain) (650; 25)—"Take Me Home" (Par) and "First Kiss" (Par). Split week. Pair, \$2,400. Very bad. Pantages (1,500; 25-60)—"Companionate Marriage" (FN). Picture billed over vaude. \$2,000. Orpheum (2,700; 35-11)—"Haunted House" (FN). Lita Grey Chaplin on stage big magnet. Very good. Curiously, \$11,200. President (Duffy) (1,800; 25-11-25)—"This Thing Called Love" (Duffy Players). Frances Dale and Donald Foster as leads. \$3,700.

ALL BUFFALO OFF

Picture Houses Drop Below Previous Week's Grosses Buffalo Dec. 11. Business slid off several notches here last week, due to the approach of the holidays. Estimates for Last Week Buffalo (Publix) (3,800; 30-40-75)—"Reverence" (U.A.), "Step On It" stage. Good bill, but off; \$27,100. Hip (Publix) (2,400; 60)—"Manhattan Cocktail" (wired). \$17,000. Grand Lakes (Fox) (3,400; 30-40-75)—"Home Towners" (Fox). Good picture, but under \$18,000. Lafayette (Inl) (3,000; 40-60)—"Oh, Kay" (F.N.). This one slipped plenty, with neither picture nor vaude meaning anything. \$13,500.



"R-r-r-r-o-l-l-o, Ball!" NORTH CAROLINA LEADS! Meyer Davis opens the latest Bowling Alley establishment in the South at Charlotte. Sport, Recreation, Entertainment and Music are synonymous with Meyer Davis.

Montreal Getting Shot On Holidays and Kids

Montreal, Dec. 11. (Draw Pop.—600,000) Weather—Wet and Cold Worst week of year due to Christmas slump hit the town and grosses were away down below normal. Not much chance of catching up before end of year as conditions will be no better and may even be worse, since the Children's Act, barring youngsters under 16 from attending flicks even when accompanied by parents, is in force again and hundreds are being turned away with parents. Neighborhoods feeling the slump more than any. His Majesty's billed American Music Drama Company to play Monday to Wednesday, but called it off on score of members of cast being ill. Theatre dark all week.

Estimates for Last Week Palace (F.P.) (2,700; 45-75)—"Jazz Singer" (Warner) (wired)—Fine picture, which if played couple of weeks ago would easily have grossed \$20,000 and maybe record. Christmas slump pulled it down to about \$16,000. Loew's (F.P.) (3,200; 40-60)—"Wedding March" (Par)—Another good one that failed because of conditions; \$3,000 cut on previous gross and no better than \$12,000. Loew's (F.P.) (3,200; 35-75)—"Docks of New York" (Par) Vaudefilm—Ran close to red, but not because of picture or vaude, both well up to average \$11,500. Imperial (Keith) (1,900; 35-50)—"Take Me Home" (Par) Vaudefilm—Above average film and good vaude could not drag in crowds; \$7,000. Strand (U.A.) (800; 30-40)—Triple change; \$2,500. Empire (CA) (1,500; 25-35)—Changes.

"What the Dr. Ordered" Ad Stuff for "Mother" on Sex Angle Did Trick

Minneapolis, Dec. 11. (Drawing Pop., 500,000) Weather: Cold "Hear what the doctor prescribed for a sex-starved girl who wanted a safe sex?" has been the headline for "Mother Knows Best" at the State. And the public came to hear and see in droves. This Fox production was the outstanding draw of the week here and did a surprising big. Elsewhere, for the most part, they have been trying to sell this picture from the mother angle. Here Harold Finkelstein, Eddie Ruben and Ed. Selbel. State press agent, decided to experiment with a sex angle. The fruits of their ideas were tip-top takings. Gross exceeded all initial expectations. "White Shadows" at the Minnesota had a sex angle, but different—love, primitive and unashamed, turned in a disappointing total. Manager Ed Smith made a special plea for the picture with screen announcement leading the picture as one of the year's best. The critics raved, too. But patronage dropped very low, even as newspaper week. Still, gross sized up as highly respectable and would have been considered good for an ordinary attraction. Hennepin suffered from a weak screen, "Power," and vaude below the recent high standard. "The Woman from Moscow" has unenviable honor of being the worst picture of its worst week of the season. The first real cold spell of the winter did not help recovery. It practically every instance a drop from the previous week. Effects of Christmas shopping also beginning to be felt. Estimates for Last Week Minnesota (P. & R.-Publix) (4,200; 75)—"White Shadows" (M-G-

M-G-M's 'Shadows,' Sound, Went Over Bristolphone's Wires—\$14,000 and H.O.

"Wedding March" Perfect Sound Flop in Topeka

Topeka, Dec. 11. (Drawing Pop., 80,000) Weather: Clear "Wedding March" with sound, Topeka's first perfect sound flop. Pulled off at the Grand after two days, not having drawn the price of the advertising. Manhattan Cocktail finished the week did some better, but new low record for house. Everything in town fell off last week, pre-Christmas slump getting an early start.

Estimates for Last Week Grand (1,400; 50) (National). "Wedding March" panned right and left by everybody. That was first week of year. Manhattan Cocktail substituted; \$2,000. Jayhawk (1,500; 40) (Jayhawk). "Masks of Devil" called one of Gilbert's worst. Without sound "Avalanche" last half pulled enough to get high gross for week; \$2,500. Orpheum (1,200; 30) (National). Stock tailed burlesque tailed to \$1,200. "The Girl" (F.N.) film first half charged with part of reason. "Kit Carson" last half; \$1,250. Novelty (1,100; 40) (Crawford). Evenly two-for-one policy last half failed to do anything for fading business. "Power of the Press" first half and "Phantom City" last half no draw. Excellent acts, but they didn't pull; \$1,100.

"Terror" in 3d Week At Portland, \$10,000

Portland, Ore., Dec. 11. "The Terror" retained popularity in third week at Music Box. Blue Mouse playing to good patronage in 2d week of "The Midnight Taxi." Estimates for Last Week Portland (Publix) (3,500; 35-60)—"Varsity," film. Fair. Gene Morgan, m. c. ducked out without saying goodbye. Music Box (Hamrick) (2,000; 35-50)—"The Terror," 3d week. Strong. \$10,000. Blue Mouse (Hamrick) (1,000; 35-50)—"Midnight Taxi." Audience pleaser. \$4,000. Outwin (Duffy) (1,400; 25-11-25)—"New Brooms." Did well. \$5,500.

Milwaukee, Dec. 11. (Drawing Pop.—650,000) Weather: Cold

The new vaude in Grandader crop in last week when Brin's Majestic, showing its first sound picture, "White Shadows," copped. Vaude houses were again in the lead. Majestic plays the MGM sound picture on the Bristolphone and got away to a flying start with the place named at all times. Picture holds over, doing better than \$14,000. "Mother Knows Best" left the Strand after three weeks, with business in the slump the third week. "Caught in the Fog," at Alhambra did fairly, while Jennings in "The Patriot," was so-so at the Wisconsin. "The Homesteaders" did well enough at the Garden to hold over another week. Merrill, last of the silent houses, to go off this coming Friday.

Estimates for Last Week Alhambra (U) "Caught in Fog" (WB) (1,800; 25-35-50)—Sound helped. Good play for a while and around \$8,500. Garden (Brin) "Homesteaders" (WB) (1,200; 25-50-75)—Show well liked and built up. Ran into end of week well above \$7,500. Majestic (Brin) "White Shadows" (MGM) (1,500; 25-50-75)—First sound in this house over Bristolphone working and led street with \$14,000. H. O. "Nothing to Wear" (Col) (1,200; 25-40)—Failed to click very strong. May be due to non-sound. "The Barker" (F.N.) probably Christmas depression. Not \$3,200. Palace (Keith) "Outcast" (F.N.) (2,400; 25-50-75)—Vaude featured. \$15,000. Riverside (Keith) "Avalanche" (Par) (3,000; 20-25-40-50-60)—Vaude big bet here. \$9,500. Strand (Fox) "Mother Knows Best" (WB) (1,200; 25-50-60)—Dropped badly on last week of three week run. \$7,000. Wisconsin (F.N.) "Patriot" (Par) (2,800; 25-35-50-60-75)—Failed to click big. No stage show and little else to offer. \$13,000.

'Adoration' Shows Class In Tacoma with \$6,200

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 11. (Drawing Pop., 125,000) Weather: Cool Tacoma was despite approach of holiday season and people spending part of spare kale for gifts. Don and Iris Wilkins seem set for good spell at Broadway, the pair being liked. Estimates for Last Week Broadway (WC) (1,500; 25-50)—"Adoration" (FN) \$4,200. Very big. Pantages (1,500; 25-50)—"Anyone Seen Keith" (U). \$2,000. Rice (U.A.) (1,200; 25-35-50)—"Show People" (MG)M. \$3,200. Colonial (WC) (250; 25)—"Mating Call" (Par). \$2,100.

"Uncle Tom" With Sound, \$13,000, Met, Wash; H.O.

Washington, Dec. 11. (White Population, 450,000) Weather: Cold Fox with "The Girl" and the Palace with "Moran of the Marines" ran neck and neck last week, both just sliding over \$20,000. Fox added Fox show "The Girl" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" did enough to stick for a second week at the Met. Switch in bookings give the Earle a U.A. picture this week and sends the future Clara Bows back to the Palace. Estimates for Last Week Columbia (Loew)—"Woman Disputed" (UA) (sound) (1,232; 35-50). \$13,300 first and \$9,900 2d week, not bad. Earle (Stanley-Grandy) "Outcast" (FN) (sound) (2,244; 35-50). Dropped even lower than preceding disappointing week; \$11,800 about four below new standard intake. Fox (Fox) "Win That Girl" stage show (3,432; 35-50-75). Under previous week but with holidays near, no complaint at \$20,100. Palace (Loew) "Moran of the Marines" (Par) (sound) (2,372; 35-50). Drop here, but not to same extent as chief opposition. Close enough to make \$20,100 a tie.

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome for \$10 Year's Subscription to Variety

Wednesday, December 12, 1934

Xmas' 1st Sock—Roxy Dives \$35,000; German War Film Surprises, \$40,400

\$2 Talkers Feel Pressure—\$71,200 for Capitol—'Barker's' Half Week, \$7,450—'Fool' Down

They're shopping—but not at the theatres.

Broadway felt the first Xmas pressure last week and film grosses added to that stock market pressure...

Against this the other two big grinds were decidedly off. 'Riley the Cop' & title which kept the women away, left the Roxy slide to men away...

plause and hisses. A surprise and the real business of the street went to 'Behind the German Lines' at \$40,400...

'Marriage by Contract' down the previously played a week. 'The Somme' twice daily talkers were inclined to roll with the annual blow...

Week's opening was 'The Barker' at the Central. The first \$5.50 profit brought \$7,450 from a Wednesday night...

Estimates for Last Week Astor—'Jimmy Valentine' (M-G) dialog (1,120; \$1-\$2) (5th) inkling...

Capitol—'Submarine' (Col) (4-6-820; 35-50-75-\$1-\$1.50). Previously at Embassy for run...

Central—'The Barker' (FN) dialog (922; \$1-\$2) (3d week). First talker dubbed \$7,450 end of week...

Criterion—'Interference' (Par) dialog (861; \$1-\$2) (4th week). Dropped away a little but \$14,500 not bad...

Embassy—'The Vikings' (M-G) (656; \$1-\$2) (3d week). First full sojourn; \$30,000 profit reported...

Paramount—'Someone to Love' (Par) (3,666; 40-45-75-\$5-\$11). Rogers-Erwin combo again showed lack of strength...

Rialto—'Behind the German Lines' (T-a-Par) (1,960; 35-50-75-\$1-\$1.50). First full sojourn; \$30,000 profit reported...

Rivoli—'Woman Disputed' (UA) sound (2,200; 35-50-75-\$5-\$11). Tal-mader picture; \$20,000 profit reported...

Granada, Now Publix, Very Good at \$23,000

San Francisco, Dec. 11. (Drawing Pop. 750,000). Weather: Unsettled. Last week saw Publix once more operating its own picture house...

Granada, ace Publix house, got a break through three holdovers last week in 'The Singing Fool'...

'Able's Irish Rose' in a third week at the California. With aid of several theatre parties on successive nights got a satisfactory gross...

Orpheum's junior house, Golden Gate, clicking consistently, took a jump last week...

Warfield, Loew-W. Co.—'West of Zanzibar' (M-G-M) (2,672; 50-85-90). With Lon Chaney sire and son...

Granada (Publix)—'Varsity' (Par) (2,714; 50-85-90). Heavy credit for draw, Henry Busse, m.c. rapidly entrenching himself...

California (Publix)—'Able's Irish Rose' (Par) (2,200; 35-50-75-\$5-\$11). Third and best; \$9,000. Profitable. Second at St. Francis (Publix)—'Lilac Time' (FN) (1,375; 35-50-75-\$5-\$11). Extended run; \$14,500...

Victory, Prov., Wired In Good Week at \$8,000 Providence, Dec. 11. (Drawing Population, 315,000). Weather: Pleasant. Flappers with Shaw and King George on the bill...

Estimates for Last Week Capitol—'Submarine' (Col) (4-6-820; 35-50-75-\$1-\$1.50). Previously at Embassy for run...

Central—'The Barker' (FN) dialog (922; \$1-\$2) (3d week). First talker dubbed \$7,450 end of week...

Criterion—'Interference' (Par) dialog (861; \$1-\$2) (4th week). Dropped away a little but \$14,500 not bad...

Embassy—'The Vikings' (M-G) (656; \$1-\$2) (3d week). First full sojourn; \$30,000 profit reported...

Paramount—'Someone to Love' (Par) (3,666; 40-45-75-\$5-\$11). Rogers-Erwin combo again showed lack of strength...

Rialto—'Behind the German Lines' (T-a-Par) (1,960; 35-50-75-\$1-\$1.50). First full sojourn; \$30,000 profit reported...

Rivoli—'Woman Disputed' (UA) sound (2,200; 35-50-75-\$5-\$11). Tal-mader picture; \$20,000 profit reported...

'Zanzibar' Only Fair In Balto, to \$16,000

Baltimore, Dec. 11. Announcement that Lester Bryant is to install a dramatic stock in the additional movies in the theatre from the film rank possibilities...

Estimates for Last Week Century (Loew)—'Show People' (Wired) (2,200; 25-50). Equaled draw of 'Cardboard Lover'...

Stanley (Loew, Stanley, Crandall)—'West of Zanzibar' (Wired) (3,666; 25-50). Last Chaney film; \$16,000. Big tie-up with local Hearst press...

Rivoli (Wilson Amusement Co.)—'Romance of Underwood' (Wired) (2,000; 25-50). Good advance; \$16,000. Close corporation, and has financing drains of other theatre...

Valencia (Loew, U. A.)—'His Private Life' (Wired) (1,500; 25-50). Pretty good week compared to last; average first runner in this up-state house...

New Garden (Schanbergers)—'How to Handle Women' and 'A. J. Vananda' (3,200; 25-50). Little under average; \$16,000. Week of vaudeville bookings...

Parkway (Loew, U. A.)—'Reverence' (Wired) (1,500; 25-50). No word when at downtown Stanley, and did nothing to talk about here. Pre-holiday slump figured; \$2,800.

Toronto Censors Butchered 'Mating Call' at Pans

Toronto, Dec. 11. (Drawing Population, 700,000). Weather: Cold. Canadian exchanges recently cut heads ordered by censors as to affect an entire film story...

Tivoli (FP)—'Lilac Time' (FN) (1,400; 35-50). Scored week strong; practically capacity at \$15,000 with 11 a. m. opening and midnight closing...

Uptown (W. P.)—'Wedding March' (Par) good campaign and stage show helped boost this one well above average at \$15,000...

Loew's (Loew) (3,600; 30-60) 'Masks of Devil' (M-G). Matinee biz strong, evenings slightly off; \$12,500. Seldom Gilbert picture spotted in this house...

Keith's Memorial Off \$7,000 Last Wk., \$27,000 Boston, Dec. 11. Clara Bow in 'Three Weeks Ends' at the Metropolitan grossed \$43,900...

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Jannings Lets Chicago Slide, \$39,000; Oriental-McVickers Top, Each \$40,000

Loop Generally Off—'Wildcat' Dropped with \$11,000 at Orpheum—\$26,000 for Banky at U. A.

'On Trial' Fails to Inveigle Enough in K. C.

Kansas City, Dec. 11. As though the pre-holiday weeks were not bad enough, a cold wave, coupled with a near epidemic of flu, came close to putting the financial touches to the show...

Newman with 'On Trial' thought the picture would stay for at least a couple of weeks, but it did not draw as expected and went out...

Loew's Midland—'West of Zanzibar' (4,000; 25-35-50). Didn't help Lon Chaney any. Talking short subject; \$15,000.

Mainstreet—'Annapolis' (3,200; 35-50-60). Musical comedy program, something new, fitted nicely with opening big, but balance of week not up to average; \$12,000; low.

Royal—'Land of Silver Fox' (2,000; 25-50). Fine-Tin picture and publicity read 'Hear him talk, bark, snarl, whimper, yelp'...

Pantages—'Companionate Marriage' (2,200; 25-35-50). It was at this theatre that the couple who started the companionate marriage held up fairly. Stage show held up fairly well...

Uptown's picture was 'Italy and the Cyclone'. In second week the picture featured in 'So This is London'; the screen feature was 'A Reno Divorce'.

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'On Trial' Fails to Inveigle Enough in K. C.

Chicago, Dec. 11. Weather: Cold, favorable. After a previous seven days of great business, pictures headed into pre-Christmas slump...

Chicago (Publix)—'Sins of the Fathers' (sound) (Par) (1,700; 50-75-90). Dropped with \$11,000 at Orpheum and is held over...

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COSTUMES FOR HIRE PRODUCTIONS EXHIBITIONS PRESENTATIONS BROOKS COSTUMES 123 W. 40th St. N.Y.C.

Comparative Grosses for November

Below is a table of grosses during November for towns and houses as listed. The high and low gross figures for the theatre are given, with the title of the picture, week played and gross for that week. When theatre also employs stage show that is indicated.

NEW YORK

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
CAPITOL High \$98,200 Low 30,000	"The Wind" \$78,400 Stage Show	"Show People" \$83,700 Stage Show	"Show People" \$78,250 Stage Show	"Masks of Devil" \$81,400 Stage Show
PARA-MOUNT High \$39,000 Low 49,100	"Woman from Moscow" \$75,200 Stage Show	"His Private Life" \$65,100 Stage Show	"Home-coming" \$65,300 Stage Show	"Manhattan Cocktail" \$69,600 Stage Show
ROXY High \$143,900 Low 70,000	"Dry Martini" \$65,000 Stage Show	"Red Dancer" \$120,200 Stage Show	"Red Dancer" \$91,850 Stage Show	"Napoleon's Barber" (all talking short bill) \$116,800 Stage Show
STRAND High \$74,000 Low 15,000	"Show Girl" \$44,000 All Sound Program	"The Terror" \$40,100 All Sound Program	"The Terror" \$18,900 All Sound Program	"Outcast" \$39,400 All Sound Program

CHICAGO

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
CHICAGO High \$71,000 Low 33,000	"The Racket" \$44,000 Stage Show	"Masks of Devil" \$46,000 Stage Show	"Fazil" \$46,000 Stage Show	"3 Week Ends" \$50,000 Stage Show
McVICKERS High \$58,000 Low 13,000	"Singing Fool" \$48,000	"Singing Fool" \$48,000	"Singing Fool" \$48,000	"Singing Fool" \$46,000
MONROE High \$12,500 Low 2,700	"Plastered in Paris" \$5,100	"Win That Girl" \$3,900	"Dry Martini" \$4,100	"Me, Gangster" \$7,500
ORIENTAL High \$52,000 Low 29,000	"Companions" \$36,000 Stage Show	"The Grass" \$40,000 Stage Show	"Outcast" \$48,000 Stage Show	"Dream of Love" \$46,500 Stage Show
ORPHEUM High \$16,900 Low 4,800	"Home Towners" \$12,500	"Home Towners" \$10,400	"Home Towners" \$9,500	"Home Towners" \$9,800
ROOSEVELT High \$31,000 Low 9,000	"Mother Knows Best" \$18,500	"Mother Knows Best" \$16,000	"White Shadows" \$22,000	"White Shadows" \$24,000
STATE LAKE High \$34,000 Low 16,000	"Show Folks" \$20,000 Vaude	"Singapore Mutiny" \$20,000 Vaude	"Annapolis" \$22,000 Vaude	"Romance of Underworld" \$22,000 Vaude
UNITED ARTISTS High \$40,000 Low 16,000	"Revenge" \$28,500	"Revenge" \$23,500	"Submarine" \$26,500	"Submarine" \$23,000

SAN FRANCISCO

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
WAR-FIELD High \$36,140 Low 16,700	"Masks of Devil" \$27,000 Stage Show	"Beggars of Life" \$27,500 Stage Show	"Outcast" \$29,000 Stage Show	"Romance of Underworld" \$28,000 Stage Show
GRANADA High \$34,100 Low 6,200	"Battle of Sexes" \$17,000 Stage Show	"His Private Life" \$15,000 Stage Show	"Woman Disputed" \$19,000 Stage Show	"Manhattan Cocktail" \$17,000 Stage Show
CALIFORNIA High \$34,000 Low 6,200	"Lilac Time" \$19,000	"Lilac Time" \$14,000	"Abie's Irish Rose" \$22,000	"Abie's Irish Rose" \$14,000
ST. FRANCIS High \$22,200 Low 5,200	"Dancing Daughters" \$7,300	"Dancing Daughters" \$6,000	"Revenge" \$8,000	"Lilac Time" \$6,500
EMBASSY High \$24,300 Low 7,000	"Singing Fool" \$21,300 (Record) All Sound	"Singing Fool" \$22,000 All Sound	"Singing Fool" \$19,500 All Sound	"Singing Fool" \$15,000 All Sound

BUFFALO

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
BUFFALO High \$12,000 Low 17,000	"Docks of N. Y." \$26,000	"Woman Disputed" \$22,000	"Masks of Devil" \$30,000	"Masks of Devil" \$21,000
HIP High \$28,000 Low 6,000	"Moran of Marines" \$26,000	"Craig's Wife" \$17,000	"Show People" \$21,000	"Mother Knows Best" \$17,000 All Sound
GREAT LAKES High \$40,000 Low 6,000	"The Terror" \$20,000 All Sound	"The Terror" \$16,000 All Sound	"Mother Knows Best" \$17,000 All Sound	"Submarine" \$22,000
LAFAYETTE High \$28,000 Low 7,000	"Show Girl" \$21,000	"Gang War" \$21,000		

MINNEAPOLIS

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
MINNE-SOTA High \$15,000 Low 20,000	"Woman Disputed" \$30,000 Stage Show	"Docks of N. Y." \$27,000 Stage Show	"Varsity" \$26,000 Stage Show	"Show Girl" \$32,800 Stage Show
STATE High \$24,000 Low 4,500	"The Tempest" \$14,000 All Sound	"Sunrise" \$16,000 All Sound	"Revenge" \$11,000 All Sound	"Uncle Tom's Cabin" \$16,900 All Sound
HENNE-PIN High \$18,500 Low 6,000	"Show People" \$17,000 Vaude	"The Cameraman" \$16,000 Vaude	"Beau Ewans" \$16,000 Vaude	"Masks of Devil" \$15,500 Vaude

BALTIMORE

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
CENTURY High \$27,000 Low 15,000	"Moran of Marines" \$21,500 Stage Show	"Varsity" \$21,500 Stage Show	"Woman f'm Moscow" \$20,000 Stage Show	"The Wind" \$21,000 Stage Show
STANLEY High \$28,000 Low 15,000	"White Shadows" \$23,000	"Revenge" \$16,000	"The Awakening" \$16,000	"Masks of Devil" \$17,000
VALENCIA High \$7,000 Low 3,000	"Wings" \$4,600 All Sound	"White Shadows" \$5,600 All Sound	"Avalanche" \$3,600 All Sound	"Napoleon's Barber" \$3,600 All Sound
PARKWAY High \$6,000 Low 2,500	"White City Sleeps" \$2,800 All Sound	"Woman Disputed" \$3,700 All Sound	"Wings" \$4,500 All Sound	"White Shadows" \$4,800 All Sound
NEW High \$13,000 Low 6,500		"Melody of Love" \$3,000 All Sound	"Lonesome" \$6,500 (New low) All Sound	
NEW GARDEN High \$14,000 Low 9,000	"The Cheer Leader" \$11,500 Vaude	"Hot Heels" \$8,000 Vaude	"Don't Marry" \$10,000 Vaude	

KANSAS CITY

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
MAIN-STREET High \$30,000 Low 8,000	"The Tallest" \$16,000 Vaude	"The Cavalleri" \$14,000 Vaude	"Haunted House" \$13,000 Vaude	"Outcast" \$20,000 Vaude
LEWIS MIDLAND High \$28,000 Low 11,000	"Woman Disputed" \$18,000	"Revenge" \$18,000	"Show People" \$19,500	"Masks of Devil" \$19,000
PANTAGES High \$26,000 Low 6,000	"Black Butterflies" \$9,700		"College" \$12,200	"The Crash" \$10,200
NEWMAN High \$33,000 Low 8,000	"Singing Fool" \$12,000	"Fleet's In" \$14,000	"Varsity" \$14,700	"Docks of N. Y." \$12,000

LOS ANGELES

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
CRITERION High \$23,800 Low 1,800	"Wedding March" \$14,500	"Wedding March" \$12,200	"Lilac Time" \$12,400	"Lilac Time" \$9,000
EGYPTIAN High \$14,000 Low 6,000	"Battle of the Sexes" \$9,500	"The Cameraman" \$9,000	"Revenge" \$7,100	"The Patriot" \$7,500
LEWIS STATE High \$48,000 Low 13,500	"Masks of Devil" \$21,000 Stage Show	"Show People" \$33,000 Stage Show	"West of Zanzibar" \$25,000 Stage Show	"Outcast" \$25,500 Stage Show
METRO-POLITAN High \$57,800 Low 16,500	"Take Me Home" \$22,000	"Moran of Marines" \$24,700	"Private Life" \$16,500	"Manhattan Cocktail" \$20,000
UNITED ARTISTS High \$37,380 Low 6,180	"Woman Disputed" \$11,500	"The Awakening" \$20,500	"The Awakening" \$13,500	"Hit of Show" \$10,000
WARNER BROS. High \$38,800 Low 16,000	"Singing Fool" \$28,000	"Singing Fool" \$28,000	"On Trial" \$27,000	"On Trial" \$21,000

SEATTLE

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
SEATTLE High \$22,000 Low 12,000	"Moran of Marines" \$16,000 Stage Show	"Docks of N. Y." \$13,000 Stage Show	"The Outcast" \$14,000 Stage Show	"Me, Gangster" \$14,000 Stage Show
FIFTH AVE. High \$24,250 Low 11,000	"Dancing Daughters" \$18,000	"Air Circus" \$12,000	"White Shadows" \$16,300	"Masks of Devil" \$16,000
BLUE MOUSE High \$14,200 Low 6,000	"Perfect Crime" \$10,000 All Sound	"Perfect Crime" \$7,000 All Sound	"Midnight Taxi" \$9,500 All Sound	"Woman Disputed" \$10,500 All Sound
MUSIC BOX High \$17,000 Low 8,000	"Singing Fool" \$9,300	"Singing Fool" \$8,700	"On Trial" \$8,500	"On Trial" \$11,500
GARDEN High \$3,800 Low 2,500	"Michigan Kid" \$2,600	"Fleet's In" \$2,900		"Burning the Wind" \$3,200
PAN-TAGES High \$22,500 Low 4,800	"Mother Macree" \$6,300 Vaude	"Stool Pigeon" \$6,200 Vaude	"The Apache" \$8,800 Vaude	"The Apache" \$8,800 Vaude
ORPHEUM High \$16,000 Low 6,800	"Water-Front" \$9,100 Vaude	"Goodbye Kiss" \$10,000 Vaude	"Show Folks" \$11,000 Vaude	"Sal of Singapore" \$9,300 Vaude

TOPEKA

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
GRAND High \$9,000 Low 2,800	"Tenderloin" \$4,000 All Sound	"Lights of N. Y." \$2,900 All Sound	"Singing Fool" \$9,000 (Record) All Sound	"Singing Fool" \$4,000 All Sound
JAYHAWK High \$4,600 Low 1,900	"Moran of Marines" \$3,900	"Varsity" \$3,100	"Take Me Home" \$2,500	"Battle of Sexes" \$3,000
NOVELTY High \$3,200 Low 1,200	"Submarine" \$2,200 Vaude		"The Crash" \$1,600 Vaude	"Out of Ruins" \$1,200 (New low) Vaude
ORPHEUM High \$2,200 Low 450	"Farmer's Daughter" \$800			"Prep and Prep" \$1,800

(Continued on page 20)

Arbitration Still On Between W. E. and Warner

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Samuel Undermyer is now sitting as arbitrator, listening to testimony and examining documents, in the long-standing disagreement between Warners and Western Electric.

The claim was made by Warners two years ago when they were in financial difficulties and W. E. they alleged, did not keep faith with them. At the time W. E. bought back the exclusive Vitaphone rights they had granted Warners and instead issued them a license to use the device.

It was agreed that Warners were to receive a percentage of royalties on Vitaphone collected from other licensees by W. E. The quarrel hinged upon the terms. Warners declined a proposition to accept 37 1/2 per cent of the eight per cent of gross rentals from other licensees' productions which W. E. was to receive.

The whole tangle was finally referred to Undermyer to see what he could do to satisfy both parties. Meantime Warners are holding up their own talking device which presently lacks proper amplification in the hope to make a new deal with W. E. for amplification. Their talking device can sell for \$2,500.

Karl Dane Fooled Woman and Colony

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Karl Dane, M-G-M comedian, was only joking when he introduced Thais Valdamer as his wife. The latter has filed suit for \$75,000 alleging she was seduced on a promise of marriage made last June, Nov. 12 Dane walked out. Meanwhile she had been living with him.

All Hollywood was fooled as well as Thais. It was commonly understood the pair were married.

Par Abandoning Westerns

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Paramount followed M.G.M. in abandoning production of western pictures by announcing it will make one more Zane Grey story, then quit.

This leaves First National as the only big line company in westerns. F. N. has three more Ken Maynards to complete its 28-29 program and after that, it is undecided what action it will take on further production of the western type of picture. Experience has proven to the big line companies western pictures are a losing proposition because unable to get distribution in first or second run theaters.

Trade Paper Transaction Probed by Stockholder

Adebert B. Sweetland, former president of the Exhibitors' Trade Review, picture trade paper (not Exhibitors' Daily Review), has been ordered by the Appellate Division (N. Y.) to deliver all papers, accounts and books for inspection by James M. Davis, minority stockholder in the publication before Sweetland sold it to George C. Williams recently.

While Sweetland was two-thirds owner of the stock, Davis on behalf of himself and the other minority stockholders wanted to know more about the deal, which originally involved \$75,000 but was later reduced to \$30,000.

When Williams bought the picture paper he paid \$10,000 in cash with the proviso that another \$10,000 would be paid in cash within four months if everything was found to be satisfactory, and the balance of \$55,000 would be paid in gold bonds. Williams eventually balked at some of the representations concerning the Exhibitors' Trade Review and settled for \$30,000; which was paid—Davis wants to know what became of the dough when Sweetland took the \$30,000.

Sweetland appealed from a lower court ruling to the same effect that he produce his papers and records. The former Exhibitors' Trade Review is now called Moving Picture Review and Theatre Management. It is published by Edward H. Causery, with Harry Ormiston, managing editor.

Amusements Join Moderately In Recovery From Big Crash

The amusements as a group shared moderately in the second day of the recovery from last week's collapse of prices on the Stock Exchange. Prices tell the story: Loew topped at 84 from Saturday bottom of 58 1/2; Paramount steady at 52 from 49 1/2; Fox, 92 1/2 from bottom of 88; Warner Bros. touched 111 from slump to 101, but eased off a point and two in the momentary setback around 2 o'clock. Keith did a quick recovery to 39 1/2; then slid back a bit.

The point and the moral of the whole market movement first violently down and then cautiously up, was that the stocks that had been most boldly manipulated up were the first to take the toboggan and the last to take on courage for a stand on the upside. That broadly covers the group although individual considerations of estimates of 35 net.

Reiteration for Paramount, all this year for Paramount, all unofficial but entirely credible, helped that stock. Loew had done very little in the way of keeping pace with the big bull market and was in strong position. It is "35" its regular quarterly 50 cents and its \$1 usual extra, Dec. 13, and lastly it did not have a large and weak long following among the public, attracted by sensational ticker performances. Its extreme drop was from 66 to 58 and by yesterday noon it had made up three-quarters of the loss at 64, opening a number of complaints within itself and outside. It was in the midst of an inspired advance under frank and unblinking auspices. It had been shoved up rapidly from 33 to 51, and even before the cyclone hit the list Thursday, the short sellers had picked it out as a soft spot. A tip on the stock was industriously circulated, much touting originating in brokerage offices with "ground floor" information.

Stocks Melted

The tip was predicated on the boom in Radio Corp. which had skyrocketed to 420. When Radio whole list broke and then Radio was swept into deep water, Radio-Keith melted under fire. From its level of 45 early last week to the bottom on Saturday nose-dive went to 34 1/2, 11 points in three days. If it had not had strong banking support probability is it would have broken worse than that. Warner was another that harbored a state longer following that had been in and out all the way up from 75, taking profits on bulges again and again and finally tied in above 130. These were shaken out pretty completely. There appeared to be little support coming from stock's sponsors. It was the last of the amusements to get into action both Monday and yesterday, and even when it had made progress yesterday it seemed to find difficulty in holding the advance.

Fox's Surprise

Fox staged a surprise. It had long been gossip among traders wise in showdom that Fox was not a buy for the immediate advance, Summary for week ending Saturday, Dec. 8:

STOCK EXCHANGE

High	Low	Sales	Issue and rate	High	Low	Last	Net
46	27 1/2	2,400	American Seat (3)	27 1/2	25 1/2	27 1/2	- 1 1/2
20 1/2	15	7,100	Consolidated Film (2)	15	14 1/2	15	- 1/2
10 1/4	10 1/4	6,000	Eastman Kodak (8)	10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4	- 4 1/4
77	40 1/2	112,000	Loew (3)	40 1/2	39 1/2	40 1/2	- 1 1/4
130 1/2	90 1/2	100,000	Do ex war	90 1/2	89 1/2	90 1/2	- 1 1/4
51 1/2	17 1/2	134,500	Keith	17 1/2	17	17 1/2	- 3 1/2
100	75 1/2	6,400	Do par (47)	75 1/2	75 1/2	75 1/2	- 1 1/2
11 1/4	7 1/2	128,000	Fox Class A (4)	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	- 1 1/2
34	18 1/2	9,200	Madison Square Garden (2)	18 1/2	18 1/2	18 1/2	- 3
27 1/2	24 1/2	1,300	Met. (1,80)	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	- 3
15	14 1/2	1,800	Motion Picture Cap.	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	- 2 1/2
10 1/2	9 1/2	202,000	Paramount-Film-Lasky	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2	- 3
34	8	8,800	Pathe, Class A	8	8	8	- 1 1/2
85 1/2	54 1/2	24,000	Pathe, Class B	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	- 1 1/2
8 1/4	3 1/2	402,000	Param-K-O	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	- 1 1/2
100	91 1/2	100	Universal, par (8)	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	- 2 1/2
138	89 1/2	301,500	Warner Bros.	89 1/2	89 1/2	89 1/2	- 2 1/2

that its sponsors stood ready to support it around 95, but were not disposed to bid it up at this time, the company using all its energies in its expansion program. On the second day of the break (Friday) Fox got a tough break that affected its fortunes throughout the period of danger.

At the Thursday close at 97 somebody learned of a stop loss well under that level. By a quick and boldly executed maneuver some bear put in a selling order that touched off the stop, the stock opening at 90 for an overnight drop of 7. That killed off Fox. Its sponsors rallied it almost immediately to 96, but they couldn't hold, and successive waves of selling were launched against it. The low was recorded Monday, presumably on forced selling of margin accounts. Yesterday the stock had recovered to 92 and seemed to be holding its own.

Shubert gave way easily from the high 70's to 67, but was up yesterday again around 72-73, displaying recuperative powers that surprised those traders who believed the stock had been in process of distribution.

Stanley Plan

Stanley shared in the panic in Warner, the New York issue (old stock) going to 39 and the certificate to the Philadelphia Bourse to 54, from 48 and 61 respectively. Stanley had been doing very well up to the Warner break. The New York stock is old Stanley, holders of which had failed to avail themselves of the conversion privilege. That has now expired. Market information was to the effect that a new deal will shortly be arranged for taking in the outside stock. That seems still to be on the carpet, judging by the ticker recovery from the low.

The forecast is for easy money the rest of this week, with general tightening up of credit after that until the return flow of capital after the turn of the year. Market commentators generally figure upon a moderate rally for a few days and then the so-called secondary reaction, normally due about a fortnight after the rebound from the bottom of a wide break. Other things being equal, this ought to hold good for the amusement stocks, with the possible exception of Radio-Keith.

Stumbling block there is that the recent advance was supposed to be staged to attract public buying. Now that it has broken and its outside holders have been burned up, there is no public for pools or cliques or syndicates to sell Radio-Keith to. There does remain the element, however, on the break there must have been built up a large short account. There was little evidence yesterday that shorts had done any major covering. An outstanding short account of large dimensions is an element of strength and if the stock's backers care to and are strong enough, they could probably run the issue up on a covering movement when and if that comes.

CURB

104	60	1,800	Bul & Katz	60	57	57	- 3
33	12 1/2	15,700	Con. Film Ent.	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	- 2 1/2
38 1/2	17 1/2	764,500	Do ex war	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	- 2 1/2
38	16	4,600	Loew rit.	16	16	16	- 2
			Univ pic.				

BONDS

101	88	\$2,000	Keith 6's, '46	95	95	95	- 3 1/2
114 1/2	100 1/2	13,000	Loew 6's, '41	114 1/2	114 1/2	114 1/2	- 1 1/2
		2,000	Do ex war				
86 1/2	70	1,000	Pathe 7's, '37	81	78 1/2	78 1/2	- 1 1/2
101	86 1/2	30,000	Par-Pam-Lasky 6's, '41	101	100	100	- 1 1/2
94 1/2	80 1/2	35,000	Shubert 6's	94 1/2	91	91	- 3 1/2

ISSUES IN OTHER MARKETS

All Quoted for Monday Over the Counter	
New York	
Quoted in Bid and Asked	
20	19
20	19
3	3 1/2
11	10

2,000 Free Tickets as Rent for Indus. Short

Security of sound and dialog pictures has forced Universal to book other than its own productions into the Colony, New York. Last week the Colony had Tiffany-Stahl's "Marriage by Contract" recently at the Embassy, and this week "Show Folks," a Pathe film.

Universal has "The Last Warning" and "Give and Take" ready in silent versions and both will be booked in the Colony to try for runs at popular prices when dialog sequences are added.

As a silent industrial short this week the Colony is showing an industrial titled "New York Stock Exchange," made by the Visigraphic Picture Corp. for the N. Y. Stock Exchange. Scenes on the floor of the stock exchange are shown, also how stock transactions between buyers and sellers at distant points are handled by brokers. The print was loaned to Universal for showing recorded Monday, presumably on forced selling of margin accounts. Yesterday the stock had recovered to 92 and seemed to be holding its own.

Picture Club's Dinner

The Motion Picture Club on December 17, night, is giving a dinner in honor of its founder, Al Lichtman; also to induct the new officers.

Directors added to the board include Sam Katz, David Loew, John C. Flynn, E. H. Goldstein, Frank Walker, James L. Ryan.

Nick Schenck Returning

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, Inc., supposed to leave last Thursday, departed for New York today (Tuesday).

Sonoratone Balks at Advancing to Producers, Who Won't Invest Own Coin

Catching Laughs

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. To secure a more definite gauge as to the proper footage of blank film to allow for laughter in talking pictures, Paramount is trying the experiment at previews of using microphones and recording needles.

The length of the outburst is marked on paper. It may be translated in terms of seconds according to the size of the record.

Blank film then is inserted to cover the average interruption.

Goulding, Test Master For New Pathe Talent

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Joseph P. Kennedy signed Edmund Goulding four weeks ago to write the screen treatment and dialog for "Clothes," Gloria Swanson's next picture for U. A. He completed the script within a week, which was much shorter than expected, and now he is being retained at the Pathe studios, devoting his time to making tests of unknown players in Pathe's search for screen talent.

Goulding is giving complete screen and voice tests to an average of 25 applicants per week.

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. The fusion of Sonoratone, Sol Lesser and Franklin Warner on one side, with Ascher, Small and Rogers and Gotham on the other as producers may not go through.

The producers are unwilling to put up their own money to produce pictures, while the Sonora (Ericephone) people feel that they are primarily sound engineers and not film producers or financiers for film producers.

The producing group want Sonora to put up \$500,000 for production purposes. Mendes and Company, New York bankers, have \$3,500,000 ready and waiting for Sonoratone the moment all parties to the deal agree, it is said.

Sonora wants this sum for concentrating on manufacture and sale of Ericephone sound equipment and thinks the picture men should do their own financing.

Sonora is reported ready to equip sound studios for a maximum of \$15,000 and to provide reproducing equipment for theatres at a moderate sum. This, they feel, is all they should be expected to do.

Goldberg with Phonofilm

Jesse J. Goldberg is in charge at the DeForest Phonofilm studios in New York. His deal was made with the Schlessingers before M. A. Schlessinger is an independent picture producer.

Annual Publicity

Annual Publicity as a matter of record and in the directory way arrives with Variety's yearly Anniversary Number.

This time it's the 23rd issue of that number, and out this month.

Just now the Publicity chance is in selling something. That means from producer to actor, and all before or after.

The Producers may sell plays or titles, now in demand for talking pictures. Almost every one else in the show business may sell service.

While product in stage, screen or canned form is always in demand wherever there is a theatre.

Whether individual, manager, producer, agent or product, make Variety your universal salesman—an unequalled press agent and an unexcelled exploiter.

You can get it all in Variety's 23rd Anniversary Number.

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| Gilbert Brown | J. K. Hutchins | Jimmy Starr |
| Mabel Brundige | Bland Johaneson | H. David Strauss |
| Regina Cannon | Maurice Kann | Irene Thirer |
| Betty Colfax | Quinn L. Martin | Richard Watts, Jr. |
| Eileen Creelman | Louella Parsons | W. R. Wilkerson |
| George Gerhard | Rose Pelswick | Kath. Zimmerman |

FIRST NEW YORK

Dec. 5th at Famous Legit House

Shouts for Sills!

Milton Sills at the peak of his career. He climbs right up the ladder to the topmost rung." —*Daily News*.
Sills' best picture since "The Sea Hawk". —*Eve. Journal*.
Sills supreme. Fine characterization." —*N.Y. Telegraph*.
Exceeds in merit any previous screen performance." —*N.Y. Graphic*.

Marvels at Mackaill!

Dorothy Mackaill is excellent." —*N.Y. Times*.
Walks off with whatever honors are lying about. There is an artistry and a finish about Dorothy's work which render a joy to behold. There's a restrained balance which is startling." —*Eve. World*.
Runs gamut of emotions." —*Los Ang. Examiner*

Triumph for First National!

First National has put out a completely engrossing movie. Fine three-star entertainment. There is realism—there is sparkle—there is plenty of action. Never a dull moment." —*Daily News*.
Will be here a long time. Promises to be a carnival business at the Central." —*N.Y. Post*.
Unquestionably among outstanding film achievements of the year." —*Los Ang. Times*.
First National should feel proud. Bound to be one of the year's winners. Intensely interesting." —*Daily Review*.
The picture is there. Unusually clever." —*N.Y. Times*.

THEN LOS ANGELES

Dec. 6th at Carthay Circle

Stunned by Spectacle!

A natural... one of noteworthy photoplays of year." —*Los Ang. Express*.
Stunning entertainment... Highly artistic... Boasts more realism in one reel than is contained in many another entire production." —*N.Y. American*.
Sizzling entertainment—snappy titles—elemental drama—laborate production—marvelous acting—great thriller." —*Mirror*.
Big spectacular shots are thrilling. Behind-the-tent stuff is as intimate sort which "gets" you." —*Daily News*.
All that rich inside stuff on the racket is here." —*Mirror*.
Cheers for Compson!
Betty Compson gives a sterling performance." —*N.Y. Times*.
Looks lovely and gives a fine performance. She is wholly intriguing." —*Daily News*.

Drama Delights!

"The real thing, if I am any judge of swell shows... Acted capably by a cast of uniformly high merit... Would be unfair and beside the truth to suggest that it had come through in any style save a grand one." —*N.Y. World*.
"The picture is there. Go to it... Here's entertainment for you. Plays tricks on your emotional funnybone." —*Film Daily*.
"Faithful, well acted, and brightly produced. Deserves success." —*N.Y. Herald-Tribune*.
"Will remain at the Central for months. Stirring in the extreme." —*Eve. World*.

Talking Thrills!

"Talking sequences most effective." —*N.Y. American*.
"The sound and talk with the din of the show grounds, the haunting melody of the calliope, the raucous cries of the spiccers, have added immeasurably to the story." —*N.Y. Telegraph*.
"Talking sequences are so effective that one can't help wishing there were more of them." —*N.Y. Telegram*.

Fanfare for Fitzmaurice!

"George Fitzmaurice did a marvelous job in the direction. He left nothing undone or overdone." —*Exhibitors' Daily Review*.
"Has caught the color of the carnival with the exactitude and niceness that stamp him as one of the screen's finest megaphonists." —*N.Y. Telegraph*.
"Fitzmaurice triumphs." —*N.Y. Telegraph*.

"Dorothy Mackaill and Betty Compson lose few opportunities to reveal their pulchritude, facial and bodily." —*Eve. World*.

Furore Over Fairbanks!

"Particularly good was Douglas Fairbanks, Jr." —*N.Y. Herald-Tribune*.
"Walked off with the acting honors." —*Exhibitors' Daily Review*.
"Found favor with the first night audience... Extremely appealing." —*Daily News*.

They Loved the Laughs!

"Excellent comedy." —*Los Ang. Herald*.
"Tom Dugan, a comic-faced young man who stutters, put the house in uproars at the premiere." —*Daily News*.
"The circus brawl is amusingly and excitingly pictured." —*Sun*.
"Genuine laughs." —*N.Y. Telegram*.

When have you ever seen so many unrestrained superlatives lavished on a single production?—Read this

ALPHABET of ACCLAIM

- Acting marvelous
- Best since "The Sea Hawk"
- Completely engrossing
- Daring
- Excellent
- Fine
- 'Gets' you
- House in uproars
- Intensely interesting
- Joy to behold
- Knockout cast
- Loud praises
- Marvelous job
- Nothing undone or overdone
- One of the year's winners
- Pleasure to watch
- Quite credibly tough
- Real thing
- Swell comic relief—stirring in the extreme—sizzling entertainment—stunning
- The picture is there
- Uniformly high merit
- Vital
- Wholly intriguing

X Marks the spot twice a day—every day—by

BRKER

talking PICTURE

With
MILTON SILLS
DOROTHY MACKAILL
Betty Compson
Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.
a GEORGE FITZMAURICE
Production

SHOT TO
IMMEDIATE
CAPACITY AT
\$200





GOLDEN MELODIES OF GERSHWIN

That jazz-shot spirit of Youth today how perfectly Gershwin captures it! And how masterfully this same invincible spirit is dramatized and given to all the world in the fine new group of F B O Sound and Dialogue Attractions . . . all eight of them!

*Simple melodies that touch the heart!
Blaring "Blues" that stir the jaded!
Dialogue and Sound Effects that ring clear and true!*

FBO'S EIGHT PRODUCTIONS WITH SOUND AND DIALOGUE ARE STUNNING EXHIBITIONS OF MODERN SHOWMANSHIP..... SMASHING BOX-OFFICE RECORDS EVERYWHERE.... AND WINNING THE ACCLAIM OF THE MOST SEVERE CRITICS OF THE TRADE AND DAILY PRESS!

FBO

SOUND AND DIALOGUE PRODUCTIONS SYNCHRONIZED BY RCA PHOTOPHONE

FBO NOW OFFERS EIGHT SOUND AND DIALOGUE ATTRACTIONS

"HIT of the SHOW"	"GANG WAR"	"JAZZ AGE"
"CIRCUS KID"	"BLOCKADE"	"LOVE in the DESERT"
"PERFECT CRIME"	"TAXI 13"	

Coming shortly! Sensational All-Talker-Feature-Noveltty with Mighty Box-Office Names

BOOK THEM ALL TO DAY and look your audience straight in the eye when the show is over!

Leo Invites You



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Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's
EPIC OF THE KLONDIKE

THE TRAIL OF '98



(and more!)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS OF THE TRAIL OF '98

CITY	THEATRE	DATE	HOOR
Utica	Stanley	12/16	11:15 A.M.
Albany	Ritz	12/16	1:00 P.M.
Atlanta	Capitol	12/16	3:00 P.M.
Boston	State	12/18	10:00 A.M.
Syracuse	State	12/16	11:00 A.M.
Rochester	Eastman	12/17	10:00 A.M.
Buffalo	Shea's Bailey	12/17	11:00 A.M.
Greensboro	Carolina	12/16	3:00 P.M.
Columbia	Ritz	12/16	3:00 P.M.
Chicago	Chicago	12/18	Midnite
Cincinnati	Orpheum	12/18	11:00 A.M.
Cleveland	Stillman	12/18	10:15 A.M.
Dallas	Old Mill	12/16	10:00 A.M.
Denver	Denver	12/16	10:00 A.M.
Des Moines	Des Moines	12/17	10:00 A.M.
Detroit	United Artists	12/18	11:00 P.M.
Indianapolis	Palace	12/18	10:00 A.M.
Louisville	United Artists	12/18	10:00 A.M.
Kansas City	Plaza	12/16	11:00 A.M.
Wichita	Palace	12/16	3:00 P.M.
Los Angeles	Uptown	12/18	11:00 A.M.
Memphis	Palace	12/16	10:00 A.M.
Milwaukee	Garden	12/18	10:00 A.M.
Minneapolis	Strand	12/18	10:00 A.M.
New Haven	Olympia	12/17	10:00 A.M.
New York	Astor	12/18	11:00 A.M.
Okla. City	Capitol	12/16	10:00 A.M.
Omaha	World	12/17	10:00 A.M.
Grand Is.	Capitol	12/18	11:00 A.M.
Philadelphia	Karlton	12/16	8:00 P.M.
Pittsburgh	Aldine	12/16	2:00 P.M.
Portland	United Artists	12/18	11:00 P.M.
St. Louis	State	12/16	10:00 A.M.
Paducah	Columbia	12/16	10:30 A.M.
Columbia	Hall	12/18	10:00 A.M.
Salt Lake	Pantages	12/18	11:00 A.M.
San Fran'co	Warfield	12/18	9:30 A.M.
Seattle	Egyptian	12/18	2:00 P.M.
Baltimore	Stanley	12/16	8:00 P.M.

We are giving a show for exhibitors, and a show that will mean a great deal to each one who attends. This screening to be given in 39 cities is in our opinion the most important of its kind ever held and one that will have a great bearing on your theatre. We'd like you to study the time and the place of the showing in your territory. We shall look forward to seeing you and your family at this screening.

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it's a pleasure!



Not Much Talker Work Around N. Y. Studios Last Week; Shorts Mostly

Some talking short production at M-G-M's sound studio and a dialog feature, "Hole in the Wall" at the Paramount plant in Astoria, was the total of all activity in the New York studios last week.

Further preparation work has again delayed FBO in the launching of its first all-dialog effort, "Stepping High," now scheduled for the latter part of this week.

Bryan Foy is getting set to push off Dec. 17 at Warner's studio in Flatbush and activity is anticipated at the DeForest studio. Beyond generalizations nothing is forthcoming from Fort Lee where Paramount and Peerless studios are supposed to be awakening from their long slumbers.

Toward the end of last week, Robert Florey, directing "Hole in the Wall" for Paramount, was about one day ahead of schedule. Richard Dix will not get into production until after the first of the year, a delay of two weeks for various reasons.

Harling on Music
Frank Harling, of Public Theatre's music department, has been appointed musical director for the Paramount studio on talking shorts.

Among those appearing in "Hole in the Wall" were girl dancers from Boris Petroff's Public unit, "Blues." Marie Gambarelli put the gals through their paces for a cabaret scene. Marcia Kagno, age 4, from the Bay Ridge district of Brooklyn, discovered by accident

has an important child role in the picture.

Nick Grinde functioning as director-in-chief of shorts at M-G-M last week completed subjects of Phil Spitalny, Jan Garber, Vincent Lopez, George Lyons, and the Eight Victor Recording Artists. M-G-M has engaged Raymond Hitchcock, The Revelers, William O'Neil, and Rafaelo Diaz, the opera singer, for future subjects.

CAMERAMEN AND SOUND

Changes Brought About in Duties and Members

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. The first cameraman on major sound stages no longer turns a crank. He, too, is now a supervisor—one who supervises in fact. Where formerly it was the duty of first camera to pay attention to lighting in addition to operating, he now is relieved of the latter and gives his whole time to lighting and to inspection of lines, lenses and other details.

Instead of one second cameraman at all times there now are three, all kept busy only when long, medium and close shots are being made at the same time. Where these are photographed simultaneously the dialog necessarily matches in. A camera chief at one of the studios admitted that in the course of time the number of contract cameramen undoubtedly would increase, as it is most essential on sound work to use only thoroughly experienced men.

Fox Preparing for Talker Work East

For the purpose of concentrating Movietone staffs in the 56th street building, New York, Fox is erecting an annex in a vacant area in the property accommodating headquarters.

The annex will be used by various film departments now housed on the 56th street side.

The movement is the first big step to be made by Fox in a new production policy and definitely signifies an increase in eastern talker work.

The scope of these new plans will be determined early in January when Winfield Sheehan arrives.

Mrs. L. Reed's Divorce

Los Angeles, Dec. 12. Naomi Childers Reed, formerly picture actress, was granted decree of divorce on grounds of desertion from Luther A. Reed, director and scenario writer.

Mrs. Reed testified that her husband left her and wrote a letter in which he was sending her his usual check and said he was taking an interest in the fact he was going to keep it permanently and that she had better not try and rent a place there. He said he did not want to come back as they could not agree and that she might get sarcastic as she had in the past.

ROGELL NEGOTIATING

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Al Rogell completed his two year contract with Charles R. Rogers after directing 19 pictures over a period of three years.

He is now negotiating for a contract with other Hollywood producers.

BARRY NORTON STARRED

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. William Fox will star Barry Norton in "The Command to Love," all-talking picture to be made from the play, by Henry Bernstein.

McElwaine's Added Work

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Donn McElwaine, publicity director Pathe studio, has been named western editor Pathe Sound News Weekly. In addition to his publicity duties.

Eihel Olene Heading New Free Call Bureau

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Eihel Olene, who has been private secretary to Fred W. Beetsom, executive vice-president of the Association of Motion Picture Producers and who recently was appointed executive assistant to him, will be promoted to head the free call bureau established by the Association on January 1st.

Miss Olene was selected from among 15 candidates as her experience in general, through her work with Beetsom, is said to have best qualified her. Eight other people will be used in the Call Bureau, which will be located in the Louis B. Mayer building at Western and Hollywood boulevard.

Educational Takes on RCA Photophone Process

Though Educational holds an agreement as distributor for Vocafilm, it has decided upon the RCA Photophone sounding process for its own pictures. That arrangement was entered into recently.

E. W. Hammoms of Educational retains his distributing agreement with Vocafilm but will not be able to exercise it until some Vocafilm product manifests itself. To date little of market value has appeared.

Vocafilm has been made much of a football hereabouts for publicity or other purposes. It was publicized as the talker medium for the legit producers of Broadway. They seemed to believe it was true until someone asked them for money. Since the Vocafilm hasn't been heard much of.

PATHE RENEWALS

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Pathe has renewed its option on Ralph Block, associate producer, and William Cowlesman, production supervisor and writer, for another year.

This was followed by renewal of option on William Boyd, one of the stars in the Ralph Block unit. It means this unit will remain intact for another year.

Selznick, Agent, After Legits

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Myron Selznick is enroute to New York to sign a number of players from the legit stage for picture work.

Selznick recently bought out the interest of Felix Young in the agency which bore both their names.

U's 9 Talkers

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Universal now has nine all-talkers on its forthcoming program.

These are "Broadway," "The Shannons of Broadway," "The Climax," "A Bargain in the Kremlin," "The Minstrel Show," "The King of Jazz," "Collegiate," "A Christmas Carol" and "The Play Goes On."

PATHE OPTION PEOPLE

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Pathe has new agreements with Alan Hale under which he will be a featured player in "Huggin' and Tug' Garnett," directors. Options have been taken up on Eddie Quillan and Jeannette Loff, players; Stanley Smith, playing in "The Royal Family," and David Abel, cameraman.

5TH AND LATEST TITLE

D. W. Griffith's weakness for changing titles is evidenced by his latest production which has been known successively as "La Playa," "The Love Songs," "Honorables," "The Heart Song," and is now called "Lady of the Pavements." United Artists will release it.

2D SILENT DIRECTOR

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Arthur Gregor, for Pathe, will direct the silent version of "The Missing Man." It was first made as an all-talker by Benjamin Glazer, who functioned as producer and director.

Haines and Bessie Love Opposite

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. William Haines is to be starred in "Lord Byron of Broadway" by Nell Martin.

Bessie Love is to have female lead.

Rothacker Taking It Easy

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Waterson Rothacker has returned here. He has no business plans.

Demand for Cheaper Wire Device

With the demand for a cheaper wired device than is now obtainable from the electric, there doesn't appear to be a business-like method by any of the other device manufacturers to fill the demand. This demand does not come alone from independent exhibitors. There are chains with smaller houses that can not stand the high Western Electric of General Electric tap.

These chains seem willing to take a chance on the "interchangeability" angle if the smaller priced device is okay. But none of the other and cheaper wire makers when advertising say where their equipment is, in theatre operation or on demonstration. If their device is marketable and at a reasonable figure comparable to the electric, it would be good judgment for them to arrange a demonstration or mention theatres at different points where the device may be heard in operation.

There's a great deal of prospective wired business in the smaller theatre at present and that at present may not always be present. All the wire makers can't do anything better than to grab the wiring and the money while the fever is on. For the fever may cool off from the signs.

It is on the record that in a new sound town, i. e., first wired house locally, the novelty draws for the first few weeks, with a dwindling gross, however. After that, unless "The Singing Fool" has gone in to push off, the natives wait for what they think is a good picture, sound, wired or silent. An exhibitor or chain grows to know that it's either the sound, dialog nor silence that is drawing after those first few weeks—it's just the picture.

Fox's Six All-Talkers

Between the last days of December and the first of August, Fox will release six all-dialog pictures.

Production will be headed by "In Old Arizona," in which 70 per cent. of the action is exterior. The picture is due to have its first showing Dec. 22 at the California, San Francisco, and will open in New York at the Roxy. "The River" (Fox) is reported as the successor to "Four Devils" at the Gaity.

Others of the half dozen are "The Ghost Talks"; "Hearts in Dixie" (Negro film); "The Vallant"; "Speakeasy" and "Through Different Eyes."

Colored Film Unit-Stock

An all-colored talker is being made by Paramount-Christie of Octavus Roy Cohen's "The Melancholy Dame" on the west coast. Its principals include Evelyn Preer, Edward Thompson, Spencer Williams, Roberta Hyson and Charles Olden.

Arvid Gillstrom is doing the directing with Alfred A. Cohen supervising.

The Preer-Thompson colored unit on the west coast will play dates as the Lafayette Players.

FLU LANDS ON EXECs

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. The flu seems to have a penchant for picking on picture executives. Two of the M-G-M producers are on the sick list at home: Harry Rapf and Eddie Mannix.

On the Pathe lot Benjamin Glazer is the victim, while at Paramount Dave Selznick is the one hit.

All are expected back after a 10-day stay in bed. Condition of none is serious.

Tom Mix Laid Up

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Tom Mix is in Hollywood Hospital again. He is having trouble with an old injury to his leg and besides has a touch of the flu.

Gordon Opposite La Plante

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Huntley Gordon will be opposite Laura La Plante in "The Hanted Lady." Wesley Ruggles directing.

Roxy on His Back

S. L. Rothafel (Roxy) will spend the remainder of the week resting in St. Luke's Hospital, New York. A minor operation was performed on his nose yesterday (Tuesday).

Chas. Rogers Changes Studios

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Offices of Charles Rogers Productions have been moved from First National studio to Universal City.

Basquette-Marley, Jan. 7

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Lina Basquette, film actress and widow of Sam Warner, will marry Percival Marley, cameraman, Jan. 7 in Hollywood.

W. E. Stands for G. E.

An agreement has been reached between the closely allied Western Electric and General Electric wire-by-Warner Bros. will be allowed to sell Vitaphone productions to all theatres equipped with RCA Photophone disc machines. All other producers on Western Electric equipment, Paramount, M-G-M, United Artists, Fox and others will probably also be granted permission to sell Photophone-equipped theatres.

No permission has been granted Warner Bros. or any other producers to sell pictures to houses equipped with wire equipment not made by G. E. and W. E.

THANK YOU!

FANCHON and MARCO

for Giving Me Another Great Fanchon and Marco Idea to Work With at

LOEW'S WARFIELD

SAN FRANCISCO

RUBE WOLF

FRANK JENKS

M. C. and Orchestra Leader

Appearing with Public Units

METROPOLITAN THEATRE

LOS ANGELES

VINCE SILK

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Golden Gate Theatre

Los Angeles

Says "Hello, Ferrell and Handley!"

BRADFIELD

Broadway Theatre Portland Ore.

RIGHT NOW!

JESSE

STAFFORD

and His

ORCHESTRA

Featured With All

Fanchon & Marco 'Ideas'

Playing Loew's State

Los Angeles

BRUNSWICK RECORDING

6 STEPPING FOOLS

Now in Our 8th Week

Warner Bros. Theatre

HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

FANCHON and MARCO Present

Boopeep Karlin

DANCING SONGSTRESS

IN THEIR IDEAS

DORIS WALKER

JUST COMPLETED

A VITAPHONE

NOW AT

United Artists Theatre, L. A.

JACKSON and LEE

"STEPS AND LAUGHS"

Start Fanchon and Marco Greater Stage Season with

SALLY O'NEILL

JOE and WILLIE HALE

PUTTING THE LAUGHS IN

FANCHON and MARCO'S "SAXOPHOBIA IDEA"

Direction: WILLIAM PERLBERG

WM. MORRIS AGENCY

FANCHON and MARCO

PRESENT

WILL KING

in "CHICKENS A LA KING"

A BOX-OFFICE TONIC

"Ladies and gentlemen, this issue of Fox Movietone News brings to you in sound and picture, the WORLD'S NEWS"

*Spoken by the
Voice of
Movietone News*



3 Times Every Week

Fox Movietone News brings to you from Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America the latest and most important NEWS, presented as only the only comprehensive talking newsreel can convey it.

Last week—

King George of England

Next week—

King Alfonso of Spain

A Royal Entertainer

This exclusive ticket-selling feature supplied free of cost to all theatres playing issues A, B or C

THIS WEEK

the three issues of Fox Movietone News include the following important news events:

Issue A

70th U.S. Congress shown in session. The first time the House has ever been shown on the screen. Nicholas Longworth, Speaker of House, tells of session's plans. Chief Clerk reads President's message to Congress.

America's royal guests, Heir Apparent to Swedish throne and Count Bernadotte, King's nephew, here for the Count's wedding to American girl, the nation's leading social event of years, deliver interesting messages to America. Another royal voice recorded exclusively on Fox Movietone.

Issue B

Congressman Britten reads reply of Premier Baldwin of England to proposal for internationally important arms conference.

Polish army review on tenth anniversary of infant nation is seen and heard at Warsaw.

Gertrude Lawrence and the Lee Kids, Jane and Katherine, exhibit their pets at New York pet show.

Issue C

Stanford-Army Football classic is seen and heard at Polo Grounds, New York.

"Bossy" Gillis, Mayor of Newburyport, Mass., leaves jail and wisecracks about his recent enforced vacation at town's expense.

Emily Post, authority on etiquette, tells the proper way to meet people.

U.S. Cavalrymen drill and charge with drawn sabres at Fort Sam Houston.

It isn't Movietone news if it isn't filmed by FOX!

Booked By PUBLIX

CALIFORNIA THEATRE, SAN FRANCISCO

World Premiere
Saturday, December 22nd

First and Only Outdoor
All-Talking Feature

IN OLD ARIZONA

Presented
by
WILLIAM FOX

Directed in Dialog by
RAOUL WALSH and IRVING CUMMINGS

With This All-Talking, All-Star Cast:

EDMUND LOWE

"Quirt" of "What Price Glory" in another hard-boiled characterization that's tailor-made.

DOROTHY BURGESS

A screen find from the legitimate stage, with plenty of "it."

WARNER BAXTER

Always a good actor, in this talker he's a great actor in a great role.

FARRELL MacDONALD

No better character actor on the screen. He's perfectly cast.

IVAN LINOW

The giant of "The Red Dance." He's Russian and plays a Russian immigrant—'nuf said.

FOX talks profit with this TALKER

Handling Audiences in Wired Houses New Item Now Up for Adjustment

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Motion picture crowds at talkers will need entirely different handling than those of the silent days, according to exhibitors in wired houses. They admit, on the basis of the experience they've had to date that, not only do the fans have to be educated to the dialog films, but they'll also have to make some radical changes in their conduct in theatres.

Silent film audiences have become accustomed to having people come in and go out at any time, squeezing past and shutting out a view of the screen momentarily on their way to the aisles. It didn't matter much, either, when you came in, because the thread of almost any film story could be picked up anywhere after looking at it five minutes.

But talkers are something else again. Coming late, it's harder to pick up the story that has been developed mostly by conversation and those who push in to an inside seat shut out not only sight of the screen but their shuffling blocks out speeches that may be important.

As a result, the complaints are beginning to come in and the exhibitors are trying to find some way out. They plan to educate the fans as much as possible to come at film starting time by putting heavy emphasis on the exact starting hours in their advertising.

Intermissions

Another suggestion advanced is the division of the talking picture into three sections, like acts, with brief intermissions of not more than two minutes. Under this system, no one would be seated except during the intermissions and at the end of the picture. In this way, everybody would see all the picture without interruption and none of the important speeches would be lost.

This would solve the difficulty to

Loud Speaker Ballyhoo

Lobby ballyhoo for "The Barker" consists of a typical barker's spiel via remote controlled loud speaker. In addition to using some of the lines of the title role in First National's dialog film, the unseen barker at the Central theatre, New York, gives the Broadway listeners a teaser synopsis of the plot of the play of carnival life, puts in a plug for the bar and the featured players and winds up his discourse with "let 'er go, boys," the cue for the callopie grind.

a large extent in the neighborhoods and some of the first run houses, but it would strike a snag in the downtown houses, patronized chiefly by transients who drop in any time and leave the same way. Exhibitors admit that this is the problem they are facing and they haven't found the solution as yet.

Quebec Exhibs Agree to Bar 16-Year-Olds

Monreal, Dec. 11. At the meeting of the Quebec Theatre and Cinema Owners' Association last Thursday it was decided to take up an appeal against the decision of Judge Demers that the Children's Act was constitutional.

To show their good faith in the matter, the theatre men agreed to bar children under 16 from their theatres, as enjoined under the law, until such time as the appeal is lodged and any further infractions of the law can be prevented by injunction. This means that the youngsters will be barred from the theatres until next February, at the earliest, and the gain of the school holidays at Christmas will be lost. Many theatre men protested, but it was carried by a majority, and all are adding by it loyally.

Local grosses dwindled the past week and will probably continue, due to the barring of the 16-year-olds and under. Parents in this city, mainly, the habit of attending the film house with their youngsters since the theatres defied the law last March. They resent it the more as much on the theatres as on the government.

Indie Talking Shorts Maker's New Process

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Anthony J. Kydas, one time Pennsylvania exhibitor and for eight years producer under brand of Sunset Pictures, has taken a lease of the old Charles Ray studio and begun production of single-reel talking shorts. There will be 24 singles, mainly vaude skits. Also there will be 24 two-reelers.

The device used is that of Tolefilm Picture Corporation, composed of W. T. Lackey, producer; Ward Wing, director, and Ralph Like, inventor. The disk system of recording is employed.

Besides the two shorts made by Kydas, one each has been made by Alf Goulding Productions and Nat. Cordish.

U'S Winchester, Va., House Universal has opened another chain house, Capitol, Winchester, Va., 1,500 seats.

Fox-Schine Deal Closed

Fox has about closed its deal for the Schine Circuit, up-state New York and surrounding territory, about 65 houses in all.

Universal is concerned in the transfer through holding minor shares of the Schine string, also contracts for U pictures. It is presumed the U end has been pacified. Fox's negotiations with Walter Reade for the latter's string of theatres in New York and New Jersey are said to have good still for some weeks. Fox states they may be taken up any time now, while Reade says he thinks the deal is cold.

Talking Picture Road Show with Vocafilm for Rayart's Customers

Vocafilm, revamped as Filmtone, is being used by Rayart Pictures for its first road show picture, "Should a Girl Marry?" Five acts made in the Vocafilm plant on 5th Avenue go with the road show. They consist of "1812 Overture" by the Filmtone Harmonists, "The

Dancing Colleens," "At the Night Club" with Shaw's Hawaiians, Radio Franks and Val and Ernie Stanton.

Rayart is sending out its road shows in co-operation with its state rights franchise holders. State rights are given preference to take the road show talker or to take the silent version only. A couple have expressed a preference for the silent version.

The road shows will play non-wired houses with all equipment and technical staff carried and dates played on sharing terms.

DeForest talking pictures some years ago were roadshowed around the country and more recently Hanaphone and other devices of a portable character have used the roadshow method.

"Bombing" Campaign in Birmingham Keeps Up

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 11. Stink bomb war on Birmingham theatres continues to rage. Rialto and Princess have been victims almost continuously in the last two or three months.

R. M. Kennedy, manager of the two houses, has appealed to police begging them for protection and officers have been placed on guard. But the bombing continues just the same.

The bombs are believed to have been thrown in the front of the theatres by driving past the houses in automobiles. To prove that they are good shots the bombers have missed the Princess so many times that a shoe store nearby has offered a reward for their capture.

Comparative Grosses for November

(Continued from page 10)
PORTLAND, Ore.

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
PORTLAND				
High \$19,000	"Take Me Home" \$11,500	"Beggars of Life" \$17,500	"Outcast" \$14,000	"Me, Gangster" \$14,000
Low .. 11,000	Stage Show	Stage Show	Stage Show	Stage Show
BROADWAY				
High \$24,000	"Mother Knows Best" \$11,000	"Show People" \$13,000	"Masks of Devil" \$14,000	"Air Circus" \$13,500
Low .. 9,000				
PANTAGES				
High \$18,000	"Sinks and Satins" \$12,500	"Stool Pigeon" \$13,000	"Man, Woman and Wife" \$12,000	"The Apache" \$12,000
Low .. 9,000	Vaude	Vaude	Vaude	Vaude
ORIENTAL				
High \$18,000	"Butter and Egg Man" \$9,500	"The Cop" \$10,500	"Craig's Wife" \$7,000	"Angel of B'way" \$8,000
Low .. 6,000				
UNITED ARTISTS'				
High \$14,000	"Revenge" \$12,700	"Revenge" \$10,500	"White Shadows" \$9,000	"White Shadows" \$7,000
Low .. 8,000				
MUSIC BOX				
High \$22,000	"Singing Fool" \$12,100	"Singing Fool" \$10,000	"The Terror" \$19,100	"The Terror" \$15,000
Low .. 10,000				

ST. LOUIS

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
AMBASSADOR				
High \$46,880	"Sawdust Paradise" \$34,000	"Companionate Marriage" \$37,500	"Beware of Bachelors" \$35,100	"Outcast" \$31,600
Low .. 24,260	Stage Show	Stage Show	Stage Show	Stage Show
LOEW'S STATE				
High \$47,000	"Me, Gangster" \$17,000	"Forbidden Life" \$16,900	"Revenge" \$14,900 (New low)	"Show People" \$17,200
Low .. 14,900				
MISSOURI				
High \$28,875	"Haunted House" \$23,900	"Varsity" \$25,700	"Home Towners" \$23,700	"Adoration" \$23,700
Low .. 15,500	Stage Show	Stage Show	Stage Show	Stage Show

TORONTO

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
SHEA'S HIP				
High \$15,500	"Win That Girl" \$13,000	"Captain Swagger" \$13,500	"Power" \$12,000	"State St. Sadie" \$11,000
Low .. 8,000		Stage Show	Stage Show	Stage Show
LOEW'S				
High \$18,000	"Show People" \$12,000	"Brotherly Love" \$13,000	"The Wind" \$11,000	"Woman from Moscow" \$10,000
Low .. 7,000				
UPTOWN				
High \$20,000	"Mother Knows Best" \$20,000 (Record)	"Mother Knows Best" \$14,000	"White Shadows" \$13,000	"Man Who Laughs" \$13,500
Low .. 6,000				
PANTAGES				
High \$19,000	"Take Me Home" \$11,900	"Obey the Law" \$15,000	"The Outcast" \$10,500	"Do Your Duty" \$13,000
Low .. 7,100	Vaude	Vaude	Vaude	Vaude
TIVOLI				
High \$16,000	"Four Sons" \$11,000	"Four Sons" \$12,000	"Four Sons" \$7,000	"Lilac Time" \$16,000 (Record)
Low .. 3,700				

WASHINGTON

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
COLUMBIA				
High \$17,200	"Two Lovers" \$8,000	"White Shadows" \$13,000	"White Shadows" \$10,300	"Woman Disputed" \$13,300
Low .. 5,500	All Sound	All Sound	All Sound	All Sound
EARLE				
High \$24,000	"The Terror" \$19,000	"Show Girls" \$15,000	"Varsity" \$13,500	"Oh, Kay" \$13,500
Low .. 6,000				
FOX				
High \$36,200	"Dry Martini" \$18,300	"Caught in Fog" \$22,300	"Napoleon's Barber" \$19,500	"Romance of Underworld" \$25,000
Low .. 14,500				
MET.				
High \$20,000	"Companionate Marriage" \$10,000	"Beggars of Life" \$9,000	"Home Towners" \$10,000	"Home Towners" \$11,000
Low .. 8,000				
PALACE				
High \$24,100	"The Wind" \$17,000	"Magnificent Flirt" \$6,000 (New low)	"Battle of Sexes" \$13,500	"Masks of Devil" \$21,600
Low .. 6,000	Stage Show	Stage Show	Stage Show	Stage Show

Theatre Held Up for \$5,500
Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

A lone bandit raided the office of the Metropolitan theatre and relieved John Nylan, assistant manager, and C. J. Long, cashier, of \$5,500. He grabbed Nylan's wallet to boot. The thief escaped in a car parked in front of the theatre.

AL LYONS
AND
NEAL CASTAGNOLI
Featured in
FANCHON and MARCO IDEAS
WEST COAST CALIFORNIA THEATRE, SAN DIEGO INDEFINITELY

BILLY SNYDER
THE JUVENILE PRINCE
Now Doing Time for
FANCHON and MARCO
in "HATS" Idea
with CHARLIE MURRAY
Direction: WM. MORRIS AGENCY

SI WILLS
"Wanted by Everybody—Even the Police"
with "Pickin' Peaches" Unit
This Week: Missouri, St. Louis
Direction: WM. MORRIS OFFICE

ALFRED BROWER
World's Fastest Russian Dancer
with Fanchon & Marco's
"Hollywood Sensation"
This Wk.—Loew's State, Los Angeles
Direction WILLIAM MORRIS

BARRY SHERWOOD
TENOR
First Appearance in America
Featured in Fanchon and Marco's
SALLY O'NEILL "Mike" Idea

Nadine Wayne
and
Douglas Keaton
FEATURED LEADS
Broadway Palace, Los Angeles
Staged by LEO LE BLANC
Direction: ABE SUGARMAN
LYONS and LYONS

NOW IN SECOND YEAR
"B. B. B."
More Than a Master of Ceremonies
At COFFEE DAN'S, Los Angeles, Cal.

ORIGINALS ADAPTATIONS
HOWARD J. GREEN
Management, Edward Small Co.
TITLES CONTINUITIES

BOBBY GILLETTE
and His Banjo
Master of Ceremonies
Alexander Theatre, Glendale, Cal.

HELENE HUGHES
ROY SMOOT
Featured with
FANCHON and MARCO

WOODS MILLER
"SONGS PLUS PERSONALITY"
Featured Soloist in
Fanchon and Marco's "SOCIAL CLIMBERS" IDEA

TELL 'EM WITH TRAILERS
NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE
SELLS SEATS

Now talking pictures become the greatest entertainment in the world!

PARAMOUNT QUALITY TALKING PICTURES

For Release Between January 1st and July 1st, 1929

4 QUALITY ALL-TALKING SHOWS

"INTERFERENCE" plus Eddie Cantor in "That Party in Person" and Ruth Etting

"THE DOCTOR'S SECRET" plus Borrah Minnevitich and playlet "One Word".

Jeanne Eagels in **"THE LETTER"** plus Eddie Peabody and Giersdorf Sisters.

"NIGHT CLUB" plus "Pusher-in-the-Face" and "The Bishop's Candlesticks".

22 QUALITY ALL-TALKING FEATURES

"Canary Murder Case"; "Wolf of Wall Street" (Bancroft); "The Dummy"; "A Genius Is Born"; "The Hole in the Wall"; "Close Harmony" (Rogers); "Nothing But The Truth" (Dix); "The Studio Murder"; "Gentlemen of The Press"; "The Woman Who Needed Killing"; "Through the Night"; "The Tong War"; "The Wild Party" (Bow); "Darkened Rooms"; "Here Comes the Band Wagon"; "The Saturday Night Kid" (Bow); Menjou All-Star; Bancroft All-Star. (*Silent versions also.)

17 TALKING SOUND FEATURES

"Abie's Irish Rose"; "The Shopworn Angel"; "Innocents of Paris"; "The Carnation Kid" (MacLean); "Redskin" (Dix); "Wolf Song"; "Sins of the Fathers" (Jannings); "Behind the German Lines"; "Black Eagles" (Bancroft); "River Boat"; "Homecoming"; "Two Shall Meet"; "Looping the Loop"; "The Man I Love"; "Ellis Island"; Dix Special, MacLean-Christie Special. (Note: All these pictures have silent versions.)

52 TALKING SINGING SHORTS

13 Paramount-Christie Two-reel Short Features, including the famous Octavus Roy Cohen colored stories. 28 Paramount Talking Acts, fifteen in Two Reels, thirteen in One Reel, with such stars as Eddie Cantor, Ruth Etting, Walter Huston, etc. 6 Song Cartoons, 5 Famous Composers — All Paramount Quality — the class of the market!

Very Soon **PARAMOUNT SOUND NEWS**

PARAMOUNT

SILENT AND TALKING PICTURE HEADQUARTERS



A TRIPLE BOX-OFFICE THREAT

THE SPIELER

The Greatest Picture of Carnival Life Ever Screened!
 The glamor and tragedy of street show life as IS—reeking with realism and color, and packing a devastating WALLOP — with a great cast.

with ALAN HALE, RENEE ADOREE, FRED KOHLER and CLYDE COOK. A Ralph Block Production. Adapted by Hal Conklin and Tay Garnett. From an original story by Hal Conklin. Directed by Tay Garnett.



THREE IN A ROW

all ready to CRASH THROUGH to new records! That's the Triple Box Office Threat offered by PATHE in "THE SPIELER", "GERALDINE" and "SHADY LADY". One great picture is something to shout about. Two in sequence is something to rave about. THREE IN A ROW—there's a record to SHOOT at! And we'll go on record with the prediction that these three productions will ALL be ranked among the outstanding successes of the year. "THE SPIELER" has already been picked by Photoplay as one of the six best. Well—"GERALDINE" and "SHADY LADY" are just as good!

Paste This Prediction In Your Hat—And Get Busy!
ALL IN SENSATIONAL DIALOGUE AND SOUND



It Speaks the Language of Real American Youth! Built on laughs, loves, 'whoopie' and thrills of Young America—made for entertainment.

Geraldine

from the story by BOOTH TARKINGTON with EDDIE QUILLAN, MARION NIXON GASTON GLASS and ALBERT GRAN. Supervised by PAUL BERN. Directed by MELVILLE BROWN.



Another Phyllis Haver Sensation! The blonde star in the type of role that never fails to 'click'—and this is one of her best.

PHYLLIS HAVER IN The SHADY LADY

with ROBERT ARMSTRONG and LOUIS WOLHEIM A Ralph Block Production Title Suggested by Leonard Praskins and Richard L. Sharpe Directed by Edward H. Griffith

Pathé  Pictures *talking Box-Office*

Shubert Houses With W. E. Wiring; 4 More Keith Houses for Same Wire

The Shuberts are wiring a number of their theatres with Western Electric devices. Contracts for installations in four houses were signed this week for the Sam Harris and the 44th Street, New York; Opera house, Philadelphia, and the Majestic, Boston. Despite the wiring orders reports of their tying up with the Warners are denied at the Brothers' headquarters, other than that Warners have rights for two of the Shubert plays.

In the new batch of 107 contracts secured by W. E. during the past three weeks are also four new Keith houses. These coming at a time when Radio with its photophone had absorbed the entire Keith chain have given rise to considerable conjecture. They have revived beliefs in responsible sources, repeatedly denied officially, that eventually the record will show W. E. handling the equipment end for both electric. With the additional Keith houses to W. E. after RCA had declared that it would wire the entire circuit other than those theatres secured by Western before the consummation of the RCA deal, comes also the boast of a Western official:

Michigan Vaude Mgrs. Ass'n Charlie MACK

Booking the most extensive circuit of vaudeville and presentation theatres between New York and Chicago
Michigan Theatre Bldg.
DETROIT
Standard Acts, Write or Wire

HERMIE KING

Musical Master of Ceremonies
Direction Fanchon and Marco
Oakland Theatre, Oakland

Split Talker Into Acts

Toledo, Dec. 11.—"Home Towners" (W.B.) talker, was given a heightened effect as a replica of the original play by Manager Jack O'Connell, of the Vita-Temple. O'Connell split the talker into acts, drew away the curtains and lighting the house for a couple of minutes at the end of what he deemed acts.

"We have made 888 of the 900 installations to date."

On several installations attempted by RCA during the past month in New York nothing has materialized to date. One chain house is delayed because of wrong parts in its installation and another, Proctor's 125th Street, went floozy on the night it was scheduled to open with Photophone.

Publix to Stage Carter Cartoon Unit

Publix production department is working on a unit based on Ad Carter's comic strip, "Just Kids," and to feature Carter in person. Other members will represent characters in the daily cartoon.

Unit will be routine for stage band frontage and titled "Cartoon Show."

Sound for "Viking"

"The Viking" was synchronized last week at M.G.-M.'s sound studio in Harlem. It is expected that the sounded version will replace the present silent version now showing at the Embassy, New York, with orchestra accompaniment.

"Trail of '98" was also synchronized last week.

Strong Exploitation By Up-State Exhibs

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 11.—Exhibitors operating local deluxe houses are going in strong for exploitation stunts strong these days.

Walter D. McDowell of the Strand lit on all six for "Companionate Marriage," current. One of his mildest was the broadcasting of reprints of page 125 of Judge Ben Lindsey's book, with the assurance on the reverse that it was "just a glimpse." McDowell made a tie-up with four local book shops in the printing and distribution of the throwaway.

Two telegraph stories appearing locally during the week were reproduced in the Strand's display copy. Both concerned with Judge Lindsey and his theories were "naturals" for exploitation purposes.

Perhaps the best bit of showmanship was McDowell's use of a Fox Movietone Newsreel subject in which Judge Lindsey expounded his "companionate marriage" doctrine as a prolog to the picture. McDowell played the newsreel some time ago and recalling that, induced the Fox exchange to loan the subject for the run of the First National release.

Albert P. Kaufman, of the Empire, booming "Fazil," placed strips on local taxis calling attention to the fact that "This Car is Heated" while his picture was "Hot as Sahara."

William K. Saxton, of Loew's, tagged thousands of autos with a close imitation of local police tags for motor violations to exploit "West of Zanzibar."

Hays Re-elected St. Louis Pres.

St. Louis, Dec. 11.—Everett H. Hays, manager of the St. Louis theatre, has been re-elected president, for the third year, of the St. Louis Theatre Managers' Association.

U. A. Sales Meeting

United Artists will hold its first national sales convention for the entire sales division in Chicago, Dec. 14-15.

All previous conventions have been attended by officials only.

Gottesman's Opinion of Film Boards And What He Did in Derby, Conn.

Ignoring a talker contract violation because he figured he wouldn't get a break in the New Haven Film Board, Alfred Gottesman at the same time opened a 1,500-seat house and played a silent and vaude program.

Gottesman, who has several New England first runs wired by Western Electric, re-opened the Commodore-Hull, Derby, Conn., a house that went dark a year ago when Arthur Friend's company capsized, without sound only because, he says,

the electric was too slow with the equipment.

To counteract the nearest talker opposition Gottesman ballyhooed the merits of silent drama and the worth of livestock in the pit. Biz has been close to RSO, he says and he will let anyone take a slant at the sheet who is dubious.

This exhibitor who is Fox's only first run indie competitor now has nine houses with his recent acquisition of the Capitol, Middletown, and Palace, Norwich, Conn., both 1,500 seats.

Billing on 40-Mile Radius For Talkers Downtown

Theatres in the larger cities, getting talking equipment first, are stealing business from the smaller towns and going into neighboring cities, where houses have not yet been equipped for extra business. It is reported that in some districts centrally located theatres pepper the adjoining territory within a radius of 40 miles with exploitation on talking pictures.

Conditions for the smaller houses have been affected largely through this new maneuver, while the high grosses attributed to talking pictures in many instances are reported due to the draw upon out-of-town trade.

It is said that the 40-mile radius is not an exaggeration where there are good automobile roads. In other districts farmers will take a 15 or 20 mile gas buggy ride to see the talkers.

SHORT'S NEW TITLE

A change of title on the Lowell Sherman talking short, now at the Embassy, New York, is from "Phipps" to "Nearly Divorced."

It is the first talking short of M.G.-M. to have its title altered after release.

On the contract matter brought against him by Paramount, Gottesman claims that without an arbitration board in New Haven the hearing would be just a waste of time. The exhib says that he is ready to go into a law court and prove his contention that the records with "Beggars of Life" were so poor that he had to pull out the show and cancel bookings in his other houses.

As for the penalty involved in letting the Film Board ruling go by default, Gottesman says he welcomes a cash deposit basis on future bookings; that this will end contracts with two film companies which he says he welcomes.

CARLENA
DIAMOND
(DANCING HARPIST SUPREME)
Direction:
Walter Meyers, of Wm. Morris Agency

COMING EAST SHORTLY!
BABE MORRIS
Queen of Tap Dancers
Personal Direction
FANCHON and MARCO
Featured in "ARTISTS' Idea"
Touring West Coast Theatres

I take this opportunity to thank my many friends for three pleasant years I have spent in Chicago for Balaban & Katz—Publix Theatres.

**Opening at Paramount
Theatre, New York, Dec. 15th**

BENNIE KRUEGER

P. S.—A Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year to All

Equipment and Service Cost for Talkers Stops Small House Operators

Exhibitors operating smaller theatres, split week stands and down, are reported unable to consider buying talking equipment, despite the acknowledged popular call for this type of entertainment on account of the high rentals demanded for film and records.

In small houses prices for sounded shorts, not necessarily dialog, run as high as \$100 for a comedy for three days, plus \$7.50 per day per record. A two-reel comedy, with two records, represents a total rental of \$145 for three days, \$15 daily for the records. This figure compares with a previous price, in the same locality, of \$40 for the silent comedy.

In asking prices on feature pictures, sounded but not generally dialogued, the average for a three-day stand runs around \$300. In addition there is \$7.50 per day per record; \$45 daily for a 6-reel picture for the record rental only. On the three days the rental for one sound picture on this basis is \$435, where a silent picture at \$100 would have been top price.

From the general understanding, most of the smaller theatres do not stand any chance of being able to run talking pictures on the present basis. The purchase of equipment is now being given smaller consideration since various equipments may be purchased at different

prices. The inability to get film at prices which would reasonably insure a profit is the major obstacle. With practically no competition in talking picture distribution, the smaller theatres are obliged to figure on the prices asked. Where drawing population is limited, no possible way of figuring on a profit has yet been conceived.

In addition to film and record rentals, there is a service charge of \$175 monthly demanded by General Electric for Photophone and \$160 monthly by Western Electric for Movietone. The value of this service is problematical, but it is forced on the theatre owner with the contracts for purchase.

It is understood that approximately 2,500 contracts for equipment have been corralled by W. E. and G. E., mainly the former. There is a balance of over 10,000 theatres capable of running talking pictures at a profit if able to get pictures at lower rentals. The rental of records of \$7.50 daily for each reel is considered a particularly difficult payment for small operators to meet. The records cost less than 25 cents to manufacture.

Sam Katz Held Home

Sam Katz is ill at his home in New York and away from the office all this week.

Using Phonograph Discs In Wired Houses for Films

Wired houses are reported using ordinary phonograph records on Vitaphone turntables in connection with comedies, novelties and other shorts not synchronized.

This situation has been reported from houses which have dispensed with their orchestra and organist, and depend almost entirely, if not entirely, upon sound product. With the available supply of talking shorts giving out or not being rated so hot, houses have been booking silent stuff and cuing with phonograph records to suit.

The records are not always very apropos the subject. They start after the picture and end before it but the houses figure the value of the picture offsets. It has been discovered that when selecting records those of slow tempo and no pronounced musical changes are best as they blend to anything.

Fox in Syracuse

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 11.

Brighton theatre, 1,750-seat de luxe neighborhood, first of its kind in the city, has passed from the Frederick Ullman interests of Buffalo to Fox; it marks the latter's first invasion of the Syracuse Riado.

The Brighton, which had its formal opening in early November, closed Saturday when Fox took possession. M. W. Korach will be in charge when the house reopens, probably Christmas day by which time it is expected the theatre will be wired for photophone. The latter device had been contracted for by the Ullman interests when the theatre was under construction.

Fox Going After Midwest Houses To Completely Sew Up Three States

U's Colony Cut Out More Indie Sounders; W.E. Silent

Western Electric's tactful stand in not forcing contract holders of its equipment or sound privileges to toe the mark at this time is bearing fruit. In one case the first big producer licensee and chain owner to violate its installation contract, Universal, has gotten back on the straight and narrow without a word of reproach from the electric.

Universal, without WE's consent or knowledge, according to authoritative sources, booked an indie sound and ran it over W. E. equipment in the Colony, New York. This was a cartoon with Powers' Cinephone reviewers, but got thumbs down by a W. E. inspector. The latter said that the Powers system overloaded the conduit and that the synchronization was not there.

W. E. said it would confer with U on further use of Powers' sound over its equipment, that it would advise against it until a better quality could be secured.

Universal was confident it was okay and would continue it, they said, regardless.

Meantime before the W. E. conference had time to materialize, Universal made no further bookings, without a word from Western, it is maintained at U home office.

Indies Still After Myers

Chicago, Dec. 11.

Abram F. Myers, Federal Trade Commissioner, continues to receive approaches from the independent picture exhibitors, headed by W. A. Steffen, to lead the indies in their present business dilemma.

No report as to how Myers is receiving the proposals. It is said a Steffen committee of indies has called upon him in Washington.

The only certain phase is that the indies appear set upon securing Myers as their leader. They are prepared, it is claimed, to meet any of his demands in connection with that post.

Mechanicville "Sunday" By Special Election Vote

Mechanicville, N. Y., Dec. 11.

This city of about 10,000 has voted for Sunday movie approval by a plurality of 396. Vote was 1,534 in favor and 638 against.

The first Sunday show was Sunday night and the response was encouraging. Movement had been agitated for some time and the city council passed an ordinance at a meeting Nov. 26, authorizing the election.

Albany is now the only city without Sunday shows in this vicinity.

Okla. T. O. Just Meets

Oklahoma City, Dec. 11.

Oklahoma state body of the M. P. T. O. A., in session here last week, considered the alternative of remaining with the Woodhull organization or shifting to the Allied National body lately started. The decision was left with the executive committee with authority to act finally.

Otherwise it was a perfunctory session. A committee was appointed to keep in touch with affairs at the state capital and do what it could to oppose legislation adverse to theatrical interests.

Among those present were Gov. Henry S. Johnson, "Pete" Woodhull, of the National Association, and H. A. Cole, president of the Texas exhibitors.

B'way in B'klyn

The Paramount theatres in New York and Brooklyn are playing the same features simultaneously, with the unit slows playing the New York house, shifting to Brooklyn the following week.

Another step in line with the policy of "bringing Broadway to Brooklyn" was the inauguration of the Paramount, Brooklyn of Saturday midnight shows. The New York Paramount has a midnight showing of the feature every night in the week.

Chicago, Dec. 11.
Reports of deals are as thick here now as in New York.

Joe Leo, vice-president of Fox, formerly Midwesco in Wisconsin, is after control of several western states, through absorbing competition.

Foremost is the story he has everything but the signatures for taking over the Fischer Paramount circuit of about 12 houses in Wisconsin. If the deal goes through Fox will take over all properties and equities, including sites selected for future building. Fox will do the building. Around \$250,000 down payment is involved, with rental of about \$150,000 for several years.

Also reported hinging on the success of that deal is the probability of Leo taking over three Universal houses in Wisconsin, at Kenosha, Racine and Sheboygan. These in addition to the Fischer Paramount holdings would give Fox control of Wisconsin.

Great States and F. & R.

A consolidation rumor links the Fox interests in Wisconsin with Great States of Illinois and Finklestein & Rubin in Minnesota. Each outfit has more or less complete control of its state, with exception of Great States in Chicago. Merging of the three would afford tremendous influence and buying power.

Leo was sent here by Fox to look after the Fox interests in the Ascher chain, in the hands of receivers. Operating the circuit for the Chicago Title & Trust Company, Leo displayed such marked judgment he was given charge of the Midwesco Wisconsin chain, which Fox purchased from West Coast and Saxe Bros. It is reported Leo's operating methods have pulled the circuit of over 40 houses out of the red. The circuit is said now to be turning a weekly profit.

DLOWRY
Master of Ceremonies



SKOURAS BROTHERS
AMBASSADOR
ST. LOUIS, MO

It Will Be a Bear of a Production

"FIVE O'CLOCK GIRL"

Starring

MARION DAVIES

Directed by

ALFRED E.

GREEN

Released by

M-G-M

And, History Will Repeat—

The original motion picture film...
workable long rolls...colored film base...
duplicating film...panchromatic negative
...the history of the important developments in American motion picture materials is a factful story of this Company's cooperation with the cinematographic industry.

Obviously an association that has borne such fruits in the past can be expected to repeat in the future. For the year 1929 Eastman resources and Eastman cooperation are pledged once more to the further advancement of the motion picture art.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

VILMA BANKY

now
a



scores Great HIT

in the
**Samuel
Goldwyn**
Presentation

"The Awakening"

Dallas

Journal: "Keeps audience interested. Miss Banky gives best portrayal of her career. A highly dramatic story."

Times Herald: "Vilma Banky is destined to win immeasurable favor in the eyes of the movie-loving public."

Dispatch: "Her first starring role, and she makes a go of it. A remarkable piece of direction."

Cleveland

Plain Dealer: "The picture was made for the box office. It will be a success. Miss Banky is great. I recommend it highly."

Press: "Vilma Banky is prettier and more interesting than we remember having seen her before."

News: "Easily gets the top position among this week's new pictures."

Montreal

Daily Star: "Banky surpasses anything she has done so far. A delightful picture."

Herald: "Gripping film. Banky never more convincing, appealing and more inspired."

Gazette: "Does what is the most human acting of her career."

by
Frances Marion
with

Louis Wolheim
and
Walter Byron

VICTOR FLEMING
production

One of the 17 new **UNITED ARTISTS PICTURES**

They All Talk! - and How!

MELODY OF LOVE

Carl Laemmle's 100% Talking Picture
Featuring Walter Pidgeon, Mildred Harris, Tom Dugan, Jane Winton, Jack Richardson. Story by Robert Arch. An Arch Heath Production. Sound Supervision by C. Roy Hunter.

THE LAST WARNING

With Laura La Plante, Montagu Love, Roy D'Arcy, Margaret Livingston, John Boles, Burr McIntosh, Bert Roach. From the novel by Wadsworth Camp and the stage success by Thomas F. Fallon. A Paul Lenz Production. Supervised by Carl Laemmle, Jr.

GIVE AND TAKE

George Sidney and Jean Hersholt, with George Lewis, Sharon Lynn. From the Broadway Stage Success by Aaron Hoffman. A William Beaudine Production.

The COHENS and KELLYS IN ATLANTIC CITY

Starring George Sidney, with Vera Gordon, Kate Price and Mack Swain. A William James Craft Production.

THE CHARLATAN

With Holmes Hebert, Rockliffe Fellowes, Margaret Livingston. A George Melford Production. Written by Ernest Pascal and Leonard Frankins.

THE SHAKEDOWN

With James Murray and Barbara Kent.
Story by Charles A. Logan. A William Wyler Production.

COME ACROSS

A Smashing Melodrama of the Underworld. With Mary Nolan.
A William Wyler Production.

THE GIRL ON THE BARGE

With Jean Hersholt, Sally O'Neil and Malcolm McGregor.
From the Cosmopolitan Magazine Story by Rupert Hughes.
An Edward Soman Production.

YOU CAN'T BUY LOVE

Fast-moving Drama of the Restless Spirit of Youth.
Story by Beatrice Van. An Ernst Laemmle Production.

RED HOT SPEED

Starring Reginald Denny. With Alice Day.
A Joseph Henabery Production.

HIS LUCKY DAY

Starring Reginald Denny. With Lorayne Duval.
Directed by Edward G. Cline.

CLEAR THE DECKS

Starring Reginald Denny. With Olivo Husbronck, Lucien Littlefield. A Joseph Henabery Production.

IT CAN BE DONE

Starring Glenn Tryon. With Marlan Nixon.
A Fred Newmeyer Production.

THAT BLONDE

Starring Laura La Plante.

ONE RAINY NIGHT

Starring Laura La Plante.

DANGEROUS DIMPLES

Starring Laura La Plante.

LONESOME

Paul Fejos' Masterpiece.
Starring Glenn Tryon and Barbara Kent. Photography by Gilbert Warronton. From an Original Story by Mann Page. Supervised by Carl Laemmle, Jr.

SHORT SUBJECTS

BAILEY & BARNUM, THE
THREE BROX SISTERS, ZIMMER-
MAN AND GRANDVILLE

"THE COLLEGIANS," (Fourth Series),
starring George
Lewis, Dorothy Gulliver, Hayden Stevenson, Church-
ill Ross, Edith Phillips. Directed by Nat Boss.
Supervised by Carl Laemmle, Jr.

(Note: Two negatives, talking and silent,
on all Universal talking pictures, excepting
"Melody of Love.")

and they all say -

CARL LAEMMILE

Leads the Way!

L. A. PAPER VOTE ON TALKERS VS. SILENTS

259 Questionnaires Sent to Theatregoers—141 for Talkers; 104 Against

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Picture fans in this town prefer the talker to the silent cinema, but at the same time they are unanimously against the elimination of the silent drama. This was brought out through a questionnaire by the Los Angeles Herald.

That publication distributed 259 questionnaires among what they considered representative groups of the picture-going public.

On the question as to preference of talkers against the silent, the former won out by 141 to 104. The next query was on the elimination of the silent picture. Only 38 want it scrapped, while 215 said, "By all means keep on making them."

In answer to the question as to whether an orchestra or synchronized score was preferred, the vote was 192 to 57 in favor of the house music. Only 60 were in favor of limiting sound in pictures to sound and music, while 173 voted against the limitation.

Then came the important query whether they liked the part talkers. One hundred and fifty-three objected against this brand of product, with 98 in favor.

There were 165 who said their interest in talking pictures was increasing, while 77 voted the other way. In answer to the question as to whether their interest was waning as the novelty of the sound and talker wore off, 50 admitted it was, and 190 replied no.

In answer to the all-important question as to the talkers being a good enough substitute to lessen their attendance at the theatres showing stage plays, 223 declared that the spoken drama could not be replaced by the image-conversation, while only 31 held that it could.

Only 134 of the 259 voted on their preference of players.

ELLMAN DISTRIBUTING

Chicago, Dec. 11. Henry Ellman, with the Columbia Pictures Corp., has sold his interest in the Chicago exchange. Ellman says he is going into the talking picture distributing field handling machines and pictures for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

DIRECT FROM

Warner Bros. Theatre
Hollywood, Calif.

TOMMY ATKINS SEXTET

with

NELL O'DAY

Stage and Screenland Favorite
Dancers

Return Engagement at

ORIENTAL CHICAGO

Indefinitely

Appreciation to Brooke Johns and Lou McDermott

Direction WM. MORRIS OFFICE

FINE BICYCLING EXHIB \$11,500 IN CINCINNATI

Cincinnati, Dec. 11. The largest award ever given against an exhibitor in this territory was rendered against the Pella Theatre Co. by the Arbitration Board on charges of "bicycling," amounting to \$11,500.

Eward is in favor of Pella, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, United Artists and First National. Elmer Shard and Mrs. John Weing are partners in the Pella Theatre Co., which also operates the Lyric and Emery in Reading and the Endroia in Lockland, all suburbs of Cincinnati.

Alleged "bicycling" dates back to May 1, 1924, according to charges filed. Copyright protection bureau representing national and regional distributors made an investigation and the charges resulted. Shard also was fined \$1,500 for same offense in relation to his operation of the Monte Vista in another suburb.

Al Boyd's New House Taken by Warners

Philadelphia, Dec. 11. It is reported that the new house under construction by Al Boyd has been taken over by the Warner Brothers.

The theatre is nearly finished and is due to open Dec. 27 with the talking "Interference" picture of Paramount's.

Through securing the Boyd house, Warners remove it as opposition to the Stanley theatres here. Warners now control the Stanley chain.

A recent rumor was that Fox had been dickering with Boyd. Boyd was formerly the Stanley firm buyer, leaving the circuit some months ago, before the Warners stepped in. There is a question as to just when the Fox lease on the local Fox-Loeum expires.

While the booking of a Paramount special for the opening of the new house is not altogether understood locally, the Stanley houses here may have booked up the available Warner talkers.

Gov't Selling Toledo Theatre for Taxes

Toledo, Dec. 11. Owing income tax of \$23,405, the Government has seized an advertising to sell the local Empire theatre here at auction Dec. 31. A first mortgage of \$150,000 is on the property.

Hays and Exhibs

The Hays organization is not investigating indie talkers. It figures that exhibitors are wise enough on those things.

But exhibs should not be too harsh with all of the Indies, a Hays spokesman contributes. There might be one or two who have a gold vein. What prompted this thought he would not reveal, except to say that his cook collected \$3,500 this week for Muscle Shoals property she had paid \$250 for a couple of years ago.

Fox's Cleveland Sites

Cleveland, Dec. 11. Two sites for the proposed new 5,500-seat theatre are now being considered by Fox representatives, according to well substantiated reports.

It will probably be built on the old Euclid Avenue Baptist Church site at E. 18th street or else in the Terminal Depot project on the Public Square where, it is understood, the Van Swergens will erect a theatre building.

During the past few months the Fox interests have considered five possible sites.

Skourases Buy in Granite City

St. Louis, Dec. 11. Skourases Brothers have bought the Washington Granite City, Ill., from Louis Landau. Property valued at about \$300,000.—Seats 2,000, with an air dome adjacent seating 1,200, will be closed for sound.

"Just Off B'way" Indie

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Chesterfield will start production Jan. 3 on "Just Off Broadway," original and continuity by Arthur Hoerl. Frank O'Connor will direct.

LITERATI

"Well" Over Here

"The Well of Loneliness," the Lesbian novel, by Radclyffe Hall will be published in this country after all. Following the banning of the book in England, Alfred A. Knopf, who had the American rights, decided he would avoid a probable repetition of the publisher's trouble over here and gave up the idea. Covici-Friede acquired the rights to the work and will bring it out late this month. The writer is a woman.

Rose Ellerbee Dead

Rose L. Ellerbee, 67, one of the best newspaperwomen in Los Angeles, died Dec. 4, at her home there after an illness of several months.

Miss Ellerbee was a feature and staff writer of the L. A. Times and was also a fiction writer for Youth's Companion, Lippincott's Magazine, Ladies Home Journal, Liberty and Collier's. She was the author of two novels, "Ropes of Sand" and "California Yesterdays."

She is survived by a sister. Burial was in Hollywood Cemetery.

Serial Writer With Fox

Robert F. Burkhardt, author of several current newspaper serial novels, has quit the job of news editor on the Los Angeles Record to join the Fox publicity department.

Income from "Wings"

John Monk Saunders' work in novelizing Paramount's "Wings," published by Grosset & Dunlap, will net him \$25,000 under the royalty of 10 cents a copy when the sales reach 250,000 copies. Sales already are in excess of 200,000 and still climbing. Previous record for a similar book is 100,000 copies, for "The Ten Commandments."

Escape and Scoop

Hood MacFarland, Tribune news editor of the Herald Tribune, nearly lost his job, Jim, but in return for the scare got a beat for his present connection, Evening World, on Whitey Sells' shooting fray in the General Sessions court here.

Jim, in Paul Gulick's U publicity department, was awaiting jury duty five feet away from the bull pen when Whitey started blazing away with shots that killed a guard and laid several spectators low.

Young Mack's first thought was to get the old man at the Beekman exchange. White and trembling he shot the word through to Mack just in time to reach an edition before the others picked it up on the City News tape.

Nobel Prize

Some dissatisfaction is being expressed with the award of the 1928 Nobel prize for literature to Sigrid Undset, Norwegian woman novelist. The dissenters declare Thornton Wilder should have gotten the prize for his "Bridge of San Luis Rey," but that the judges were influenced in favor of the Norwegian woman because Nobel was a Norwegian, also.

One of Those Sugar Boys

The Daily News, New York, will shortly go to trial in the case of an elderly man in Canadagua, N. Y.,

who alleges Andy Gump, cartoon character, is a burlesque of himself and he ought to have his wounded feelings salved with some sugar. The case hinges upon the fact that Sidney Smith, the cartoonist lived in Canadagua between the ages of five and 11.

Via Am. Merk

Leonard Hall, with Photoplay, aspires to do for the Episcopal Church what Herbert Asbury did for the Methodist. Asbury, a descendant of a Methodist bishop, has been kidding the church of his youth for the past several years, mostly in the American Mercury. The latter mag published Hall's first yarn about the Anglicans last month. Hall, too, is from a family that produced its full quota of clergymen.

Selling Photos Abroad

Walter Benesch Miller, who operates a special press service in Berlin. (Continued on page 51)

WARNERS PAY OFF

(Continued from page 7)

ception of Lieber. Denial that Lieber had forced his own retention by refusing to part with all of his stock was made by Warner officials. They declared that he had sold his interest in First National "long ago."

The keeping of Lieber is regarded as a diplomatic move on the part of Warners among old line First National men. Those possessed with an inside knowledge of the progress of the company's absorption view the new directorate as a "dumpty board" and the retaining of Lieber more as a peace offering to the remaining minority stockholders, particularly Fox with his big one-third.

The continuance of Spyros Skouras on the board is not regarded at First National with any significance other than added strength for Warners since they have figured him as a Warner man for some time. Skouras' knowledge of the producing company together with his operating title of the Stanley theatre chain under the Warners cause him to be regarded by First Nationalites as one of the most valuable men on the board.

The Bankers

Warner bankers, Goldman-Sachs, have MacDonald as their representative while Hoyt of Hayden-Stone is also sitting in. The latter bankers have directorate privileges as they put out First National's first preferred stock, it is reported, of which 22,700 shares are still said to be outstanding.

On the board also is Robert Perkins retained as secretary of FN. None of the other company's executives is a director, with the exception of Rosshelm. No changes have yet been made in the big posts. Warren Boothby continues as treasurer while Ned Depinet remains as vice-president in charge of distribution.

Although spokesmen in the Warner headquarters this week are declaring that First National will be operated independently of the brothers, FN men understand the heads of Warner departments to be their superiors. Orders from 44th

street to Madison avenue will all come to Starr who will go on record as having executed them. Up to press time the details in which First National will be carried on had not been worked out. During the past week Warner executives had either visited First National or taken other means to familiarize themselves with their new charges.

37 Features

Under Warners, First National's output for 1929-30 will be 37 features, a reduction of about 13 over the turnout in previous years when the company was independently operated.

The new policy excludes all independent product which FN occasionally had distributed. The unit system will be done away with, business managers for supervisors being tabbed superfluous jobs. In the cases of two units now operated by Ray Rockett and Ned Marin, both men will be instructed that they will have to hold down two jobs and go away with their b. m.s.

Jack Warner Supreme

Belief is strong in responsible FN quarters that the Warners within the year will dispose of their Sunset Boulevard studio and move into Burbank.

Under the new regime Jack Warner is supreme production authority over First National although Al Rockett will continue with the title.

The First National directors who cashed their interests Monday include: Abe Soblosky, Barney Balaaban, H. Richards, Albert E. Smith, A. H. Black, John McGurk, M. L. Plunkelstein.

BRITISH FILM FIELD

(Continued from page 6)

them whether he had seen and wanted them or not.

Mr. Greenhill, said the Referee, was an honest witness whose evidence must be believed. After going over figures the Referee gave judgment for defendant on the claim and on the counterclaim for \$132,552 with six per cent interest for eight years, 200 shares in Universal Picture Corporation to be transferred to the plaintiff company.

Execution was stayed pending an appeal by Universal against this judgment.

Morris Greenhill was largely concerned in raw stock at one time, in the Britton deal with J. B. Timpetts. He tried to get the United Artists' concession for this country and at one time claimed to have it. This blew and he was figured to have paid out very heavily on the crashed deal both in money and many hundred thousand feet of raw stock.

His son is husband of the daughter of John Cecil Graham, of Paramount.

MARK SANDRICH

DIRECTOR

Just Completed a Feature Picture

"RUNAWAY GIRLS"

For Columbia Pictures

FRANCES WILLS

SUPREME DANSEUSE

PUBLIC UNIT

"STEP THIS WAY"

Direction: WM. MORRIS

"Please, Mr. Shubert, I can't come to rehearsal until I've finished reading 'Angel Child!' I laughed myself sick over it last night! And I'd be no good to the show this morning! Keep it away from my understudy!"

Angel Child

By GRACE PERKINS

"'Angel Child' is delightful. I enjoy every minute of the reading."—David Belasco.

"Don't miss it!"—The New Yorker.

"A steadily absorbing novel about show business. I recommend it."—Walter Winchell.

"The best book on stage life I have ever read and I have read them all."—Thomas E. Dixon.

"A most delightful and charming ingly piece of work."—William A. Brady.

"Knowing how true it was, I adored it."—Mrs. Owen Davis.

"In 'Angel Child' Miss Perkins has drawn a golden-haired little girl as innocent as the 'Tom Shilob' in 'The Sign of the Cross' and I have never read anything like it."—The Sign of the Cross Guide.

At Bookshops \$2.00

RAE D. HENKLE CO., Publishers, NEW YORK

REVENGE

(Continued from page 14) To nearly drown huge bears' growls. Orchestra work is regular. "Revenge" opens in card introductory of characters. This part is very effective in color. Hely.

SHOW FOLKS

(DIALOG)

Public production (Ralph Block) and release. A synchronization and effects. Directed by Paul L. Stein. From Philip Dunning's story. John Kraft's titles. Colony, New York, week Dec. 9. Running time, 70 minutes. At Eddie Quillan Rita.....Eddie Quillan Rita.....Lina Basquette Owens.....Robert Armstrong McNary.....Cora Kent Kitty.....Bessie Barricelle

The 10 minutes or thereabouts of dialog at the finish doesn't cover "Show Folks" earlier fillings as a picture, but probably will go a long way with the exhibitor and fairly far with the consumer.

It's another column of inside stuff on what may or may not be show business. It's sloppy, mushy and sobby. If not for the fine comedy performance of little Eddie Quillan and the infrequently laughable titles, there would be little to the film.

Phil Dunning's story of a mixed dancing team in love with each other must have been manhandled in the transfer to the screen. It isn't original and it isn't authentic.

The cry finish is reminiscent of "Excess Baggage," extremely so. Boy and gal hoover have split. The gal has signed to star in a big Broadway revue (producer has a yen for her). Boy can't work without the gal. He gets another partner and a date at Keith's—theatre not mentioned, but he's happy to have landed on the "Big Time"—but the new dame walks out after the opening show flop. The only gal after all scrams from a revue rehearsal in costume and rejoins Ed-

die at Keith's. They do the old act and stop the show.

Eddie and Rita teamed up when Eddie found her behind a counter in a theatrical prop store. She tried to sell him a trick duck, and he sold her half of his act—the "and Partner's" half—Eddie Quillan and Partner's.

They split while playing the floor in a class supper club over a meaningless little argument.

From the film it appeared Quillan did his booking direct. McNary, owner of the theatre where he breaks in his two-act, books small time dancing acts across the dinner table. He must own more than one theatre; because he drove up in a liveried wagon. Unless he doubles in the box office. His pal is Bob Owens, the big revue producer, and Owens falls on his ear for Rita backstage at the break-in slide.

After the split with Eddie, Rita signs a body-and-soul contract with Owens after accidentally seeing a story in Variety, one of those rumor things about Eddie reported marrying his new partner. It was on page one. News must have been scarce that week.

Rita, half of a straight dancing act, is described several times in the titles as Eddie's "feeder." Feeders in a dance act and straight men in sister teams.

At last a pair of picture dancers can dance. Miss Basquette should, because that's what she used to do. Quillan, in his first feature after a two-reel comedy past, is a surprise, both as dancer and all-around performer. Lina is best when dancing.

Some shots from the wings are excellent. Their show-stopping performance at Keith's closing the film, is in sound and realistically recorded, though they took a dozen bows without giving an encore.

Quillan, Basquette, Armstrong and Bessie Barricelle latter in a small part, all get in on the closing dialog in Eddie's dressing room. Build-up for the talk thursty: Ed-

die has flopped at the matinee. He is downcast and alone in his dressing room. How he picks up the act in comes Rita. She lies to Eddie, telling him she's been fired from the revue and wants to do the old two-act. Eddie, who has been waiting for Eddie's flop and his new partner's walkout while rehearsing for Owens' revue.

Owens, who has followed Rita from his own theatre to Keith's, spills it when asking Rita why she walked. Eddie refuses to permit her to go on with him, and he takes her by the ear and escapes from Owens' grasp and on with Eddie.

After the click, Rita returns to Eddie's dressing room to square her note. Plan is strictly literary and would serve better for a series of short stories than as the thread of a screen narrative. But it is a touch of originality.

Picture's chief merit is the remarkably good acting of Mary Boland. Not that she's any cinema beauty, but she does extremely well for the simple purposes of this tale. Rest of the cast also good. Men in continental pictures usually have all four corners of the head, or are the headache on this side, particularly the polite society actresses.

Anna has just started to work in a mill and as her first wages, gets the ten-mark note. Aged mother hides it in the bible and background note. He is a knife wiper. The money; it goes to a patron in change and presently it leads to the murder of the customer by the blackguard who is then headed for the gallows.

Anna's mother tries suicide by gas as a result. Anna, roaming the streets, is taken in by a fortune teller, the hands of the white slavers. Anna escapes, still pure, and her mother recovers. Anna goes back to her first love and the film ends.

Meanwhile the further journeyings of the bank note are faithfully recorded—too faithfully, for the situation is a little overdone, creating a staggering amount of film—until it flutters back to Anna herself in time to go back into the family bible for the closing clinch.

The story gets a little more when Anna rushes away from the arms of a too insistent wooer in one of those hitch woods, terrified, pursued. Reaching the river bank a woman is floating away in the water. He offers his whole bank roll to a rescuer. He is bested and springs. He would be suicide up, it's a bedraggled street walf. Anna turned the first corner and was on her way home.

For the same reason, for general release, out. Rush.

Paramount production and release. Story by Louis Grey, adapted by J. Walter Ruben and Sam Mintz. Otto Messmer directed. At Broadway, New York, week Dec. 2. Running time, 60 minutes.

Jack Dunton.....Jack Holt Grace.....Doris Hill Kitty.....John Barrow

A western, but superior to the average, is an intellectual story in an interesting manner and has a pair of corking leads in Jack Holt and Bacalova.

The chief purveyor of push runs away with her role, gaining sympathy in her meancest moments and having but a few brief chances to vent that Barbara Fury. She's not for this picture, yet the picture can thank her for a share of its value.

Floy wades through in a stolid manner, bends back and chin up, but with no alternative. He plays an honest gambler whose purpose in life is to care for the boy he has reared since childhood. He's a fence. He cheats at cards so the boy can go to mining school and lives in sin with a dance hall gal, but still he's a quiet, honorable guy.

That's the sort of role they used to reserve for Harry Carey. Only one gun play, short and snappy. Photography high grade; direction apparently good.

A "Puck" slide (hence title) well staged. Davis Hill and John Barrow, juvenile leads, gool looking kids and therefore competent in this picture. Miss Hill bears a resemblance to Fay Wray. Whether she can trounce as well as Fay isn't known.

There's enough of everything in "Avalanche" to sell it to women as well as men. In addition, considerably better than many of the parlor dramas played for a week in the presentation houses.

For exhibs willing to chance a western—but a good western—for a chance of pace, here it is. Big.

MICHAEL OF BRAIN (RUSSIAN MADE) Laboratory experiments recorded by Sockin at Moscow for distribution as a popular science operation. Directed by Prof. Ivan Pavlov, assisted by group of Russian scientific authorities. Running time, 15 minutes. At 5th Avenue Playhouse, week Nov. 17.

Mike Mindlin pulled this one several weeks ago at special morning performances at \$2. Now it's so-called popular priced, which means \$7.50 as a rule and one luck Sunday.

Castina no stones at the scientific standing of Prof. Pavlov or the other engaged guys with trick names. A heavy can grab from the title shot in a dark theatre. This is Mindlin's private gag. In

with love's young dream in any but a tragic manner.

However, he did his best to give it a sombre turn during the entire footage and then grudgingly touched off a dumpy comedy incident near the finish and ended it happily. It is the happy ending and that single comedy touch that give it its principal merit for American exhibition.

The good news is that the method of unfolding a story. All the incidents here are held together by the adventures of ten-mark note. Plan is strictly literary and would serve better for a series of short stories than as the thread of a screen narrative. But it is a touch of originality.

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the privacy of his own home. Mindlin must have many a giggle about this art thing. If any body fell for the \$2 tax on the picture, it must have been a deep below.

Film reminds one of elementary textbooks. One hygiene one used in the schools to scare the kids on cigarets and booze. Scientifically it's kindergarten stuff, dressed up in pompous scientific patter.

Opens with five minutes of library shots in a zoo showing all Noah's ark being fed. After that another 10 minutes of pen and ink charts illuminating intimate details of the nervous system of a frog. Original Russian explanatory matter is retained, with an occasional translation to make it intelligible. English having been added on top of the Russian.

After that they experiment on dogs to show that if you feed a pup often enough within sound of a "barking machine" his attention will presently associate dog biscuits with the measured taps of the machine. The answer to which is, What of it?

Picture has some rather shocking textbooks. One shows a dog paralyzed on one side after a stroke which has been removed by an operation. Another pitiful spectacle alone simulating shows a monkey epileptic by removal of a part of the brain.

Numbered in the chamber of horrors is the spectacle of a 22-year-old idiot eating unaidedly, stationing soup, purpose being to show that his reactions to food are identical with a child of 2. Still another sequence is an intimate study of a parrot victim in the act of smearing bread and milk all over his bed, the idea being that parrots dress the motor centers no good.

And so on to the accompaniment of such scientific catch words as "sensory stimulation," "instinctive impulse," "unconditioned reflexes." It is scarcely conceivable that even the film art bugs will fall for this stuff. If it is an educational subject, Dr. Kahn's medical museum on the Bowery (authorities closed it years ago) was an art gallery. Rush.

FLOATING COLLEGE

Tiffany-Stahl production and release. Directed by George Crane from the story by Stuart Anthony. Continuity by Stuart Anthony. Titles by Paul Perez. Photography by Harry Jackson. Featuring Sally O'Neil and William Collier, Jr. At Lewis' New York, one day, Nov. 30. One-half of double bill. Running time, 60 mins. Pat Boxby.....George Lane George Dewey.....William Collier, Jr. Frances Boxby.....Sally O'Neil The Dean.....Harvey Clark King.....George Harris Nathan.....E. Lawrence Miss Cobbs.....Virginia Sale

Lightly, frothy flap picture, partly dealing with school life on board a floating college. Should appeal in the second run and neighborhood theatres. Plenty of slow spots, but not enough to hurt the speed. A few strong laughs spotted smartly during the middle of the picture help considerably.

Sally O'Neil, photographing excellently, plays the precocious (Continued on page 31)

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SALLY

(Herself)

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of the Movies

Starred in

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COMING EAST SOON

Exclusive Management, IVAN KAHN

JONATHAN SMITH, Associate

HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

UNEASY MONEY

(GERMAN MADE)

Directed as a Fox-Burton picture. Made in Germany. Cast includes: Karl Freund, assisted by Berthold Viertel. Story by Karl Freund. Cast includes: Mary Nola (formerly Ingeborg Wilson), Werner Puetzner, Oskar Homolka and Vladimir Sokoloff. Running time, 70 minutes. At Playhouse, New York (sue seated), at 5th Avenue and Sunday.

A little better than the average recent Continental, but still a long way from screen material suitable for general American release. This one tells a fairly straight romantic story, and how it must have pained the German director to deal

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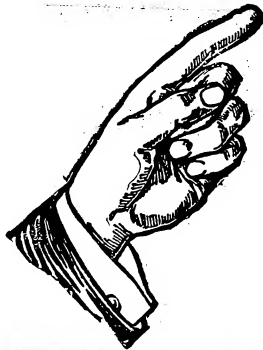
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MR. FOX, MR. ZUKOR, MR. LASKY, MR. LAEMMLE, MR. HAMMONS, MR. SCHENCK, MR. BRANDT, MR. HOFFMAN,
HAS IT EVER OCCURED TO YOU
THAT



Harry
Jolson

AL JOLSON IS NOT

THE ONLY

CLEVER

JOLSON — HE HAS A CLEVER BROTHER

HARRY JOLSON

FOR MANY YEARS A STANDARD FEATURE ACT FOR KEITH AND ORPHEUM

TO YOU

PRODUCERS OF TALKING PICTURES—

Here is a **NAME With the Greatest PUBLICITY VALUE**
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Read Press Comments Throughout The United States On
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Unfailing Ability To Entertain His Audiences

BUFFALO "TIMES"

"Columns could be written on Harry Jolson. Suffice it to say he out-Jolson his famous brother, Al. He stopped the show."

CINCINNATI "INQUIRER"

"Harry Jolson's record as a Keith-Albee star for the past seven or eight years attests to his ability as an entertainer of exceptional merit and ample proof that all of the stage talent in the Jolson family was not cornered by Al by a long way. According to many critics he is the possessor of a more colorful singing voice than his brother."

UTICA "DAILY PRESS"

"The name Jolson alone assures satisfaction. That and more was evidenced when Harry completed his act. Mammy songs, at which Al is supposed to rule supreme, are done brown by Harry."

WASHINGTON, D. C. "POST"

"Harry Jolson, Washington's own, undoubtedly captured the honors yesterday."

ATLANTA "JOURNAL"

"Harry Jolson, blackface comedian extraordinary, saves the bill. Jolson sings popular songs in a manner that Atlanta has never heard before and will never hear again unless Harry comes back next season. Jolson has a rich baritone voice and he would be a riot on an all-world program any time. Worth the price of a season ticket alone."
Kenneth Luffin Engon

ALBANY "KNICKERBOCKER PRESS"

"Harry Jolson is a master of song and fun. Yes, he is Al Jolson's brother—and Al's pretty good, too. But so is Harry, so just forget all about the brother business and allow that Harry Jolson is a good entertainer."

SCRANTON "TIMES"

"Harry Jolson proved yesterday that he is a very clever man in his own right, who has fought his own way to the front and overcome hard knocks through ability. He went like a whirlwind and is entitled to all of the compliments that were showered upon him as well as the applause."

ST. PAUL "NEWS"

"Al Jolson has forsaken the stage to become a movie star, but his brother Harry is still carrying on the family mission up and down the country with his can of corks, mammy songs and jokes."

ROCHESTER "DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE"

"Harry Jolson appeared in blackface and sang a variety of things, including mammy songs, a 'blues' number and imitations of operatic stars. His work was not merely clever, it was expressive interpretations and burlesque. The audience heartily approved of it."
G. L. D.

KANSAS CITY "STAR"

"Harry Jolson came to Kansas City as a godsend. Harry has the original Jolson disposition; is a hard worker, and won more applause at the opening show than any other act."

DETROIT "JOURNAL"

"Harry Jolson offers about twenty minutes of splendid entertainment. The act Sunday came near stopping the show."
Harold Heffernan

LOS ANGELES "EXPRESS"

Monroe Lathrop, dramatic critic of the Los Angeles "Express," in reviewing the Orpheum show, said:
"It is going literally from the sublime to the ridiculous to record that the big reception of the day was given to the ebony clown, Harry Jolson. Harry has an authority all his own, a better natural voice than Al, and a true instinct for effective foolery."

NEW ORLEANS "GLOBE JOURNAL"

"Harry Jolson, said to be a brother of Al, but let it be said to his credit he does not try to capitalize on the relationship, gets away from the conventional negro stuff. He has an excellent singing voice, new songs and plenty of bright chatter."
C. G. S.

INDIANAPOLIS "NEWS"

"Harry Jolson has a melodious voice and knows how to deliver his songs. He makes no effort to imitate his celebrated brother but uses a method all his own which is very effective. His act is high class in every respect."

REP. FOR PRESENTATION THEATRES WM. MORRIS
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HARRY JOLSON TO APPEAR SOON in the
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PERMANENT ADDRESS —
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FLOATING COLLEGE

(Continued from page 25)
young girl, romantically inclined, with a swimming instructor as her prey. The older sister, Frances, desiring the young lad for her own, influences her father to arrange an ocean trip to keep her out of trouble.

BOHEMIAN DANCER

(GERMAN MADE)
(Ufa production. The first German sound film. Synchronization called Berlin. Main title doesn't mention Ufa. Stars: Frederic Zelnik, Lya Mara and Harry Liedtke. Running time, 75 minutes. At Fifth Avenue Playhouse, week Dec. 1.

Typical second class Continental picture. Stars to American eyes are frumpy and awkward, action is dull and slow, directing is feeble and infantile. Which sums up close to zero.

This is a particularly bad example of the German output, because story is a light romance with chance for dainty comedy by leading woman. They give a role that would be meat for a Clara Bow to Lya Mara, who would be none the worse for dieting and has no comedy knack whatever. A big woman in a boyden character is probably the American fan's pet abomination. In this case it's particularly flagrant.

Mildred Roselle

Return trip within a month to Stanley, Jersey City, Dec. 9

WHAT A SENSATION!
Branford, Newark, Dec. 16
NOW AT THE Grand Theatre Vancouver, B. C.
JACKIE SOUDERS and his Orchestra

JESSE CRAWFORD ORGAN CONCERT
PARAMOUNT THEATRE NEW YORK
WEEK OF DECEMBER 8th
"I LOVED YOU THEN AS I LOVE YOU NOW"
(Pickin' Cotton)
"BLUE SHADOWS"
"YOU'RE THE CREAM IN MY COFFEE"

parently an equipment delivered complete with the film and consisting of libby's disks and a phonograph to run them. The actual setting doesn't keep pace with the action with any success. One passage worth noting is an Austrian fox hunt and the hunt dinner. While they are holding the pack of dogs in before the start, the musical accompaniment is a galloping number appropriate for the finish of a close horse race. Change-over of disks (assuming it is a disk system) do not keep pace with the action. Musicals are frumpy and much too loud for this house.

The Isle of Lost Men

Rayart production and release. Directed by Duke Fyfe. Harry Johnson stars. In cast: Tom Satchell, Sailor Sharkey. Running time, 62 minutes.

This is a great indie meller. Built on a theme of incorporating all of the villainy of the high seas and set on a little island. The chance for a furious action would keep even an intelligent audience in suspense. No question about it for the grinds.

The Isle of Lost Men had been carefully directed, would be 100 percent for the better second runs. But rough edges overlooked by the megaphone have also been passed up by the cutting room. The chance now is for a little retelling here and there to smooth over such sequences as an earless lifeboat beating a barkentine under full sail to the island.

DOLLY

Comedy reel evidently turned to feature Dolly Davis, local star, under the direction of Jean de Meter. "Dolly" is sentimental to the extreme, with a scenario not particularly brilliant and moth-eaten on novelty.

While acting on the French Riviera, a young man meets Dolly with her jargon like, 'o-m-god, de Moxie.' Dolly is sentimental to the extreme, with a scenario not particularly brilliant and moth-eaten on novelty.

While this has the effect of hood-winking her father, so far as his young wife is concerned, it irritates him to find his daughter indulging in an amorous adventure with the elegant stranger. When he discovers an affair with Robert he insists on their engagement, much to the girl's delight and out of spite becomes coquettish, stylish and ultra-modern, which captivates Robert's heart.

JEALOUSY

(GERMAN MADE)
Ufa production. Lya de Puili starred. Directed by Axel Fyfe. In cast: Werner Kraus. Running time, 58 minutes. At 21th Street Playhouse, sure seater, week Dec. 1.

Feature length film made out of

about enough material to support a short sketch. Same story has been used score of times for just that purpose. Never a fascinating sketch at that. In the typical Continental manner, which means heavy, with slow action and sombre background.

Miss de Puili has been in this country for two years, so picture must be of far back date. It looks like it.

Direction is only fair and costuming almost grotesque. Picture's chief merit is rather good handling of crowds and some striking settings. Not much in the title. Generally another emergency booking for sure seaters lacking a better novelty.

Story has arresting start in what seems to be the murder of a woman by her husband but which turns out to be a scene in a play. With camera panning the sequence is displayed on the cinema stage play with audience applauding the performance. Author makes a speech and friends in a box applaud. At after theatre supper friends tell of how they all wrote in his play (them-husbands don't get jealous in real life and bump off the sweet woman. Then and there playwright's seat is empty at the hands of husband and wife and the rest of the hour is devoted to showing growing discord in the family to prove playwright's case.

CELEBRITY

Ralph Block production and Pathe release. From play of same name by Willard Keefe. Ray Garnett, director. Cast includes: Louise Brooks, Lina Basquette. In cast: Lou Brooks and Freta Brunette. Running time, 65 minutes.

As an inexpensively produced film Willard Keefe's saga of a pug doesn't rate with the previous stage presentation what a talker it might have made. In sound could have been the classic of the ring. It oozes with opportunities for new technique. Keefe's tale of the beefy pug, smooched and belittled by his snooty little manager, because the plot thought of highlighting his slugger as a literary light only to give the Kid give a competent ghost writer the air to write his own poems, is adhered to the letter in the picture, though lacking the details of the original.

WEEK-END WIVES

(BRITISH MADE)
London, Dec. 1.

British International Pictures production. Released in United Kingdom by British Film Co. in America by Wide World Pictures Corp. Directed by Harry Lachman. In cast: Eileen Genda and Rex Taylor. Photography by Jack Cox. Censors' certificate "A". Running time, 100 mins.

Very good. Nicely directed, has pace, well cast, dressed and set. Just about the standard of first-class American parlor comedies on all points and actually looks as if it were made in Hollywood.

It shows that regular pictures can be made here. Tinting is better than usual, some of the wording being snappy. If there were doubts why Estelle Brody could do anything but low comedy, this film eliminates them. She does a French husband, no, she checks on her friend husband, and handles it expertly. Monty Banks is the better for being out of slapstick for once. As a character scared of the unknown it is seen to better advantage than in his other films made here to date.

Jameson Thomas plays a marriage-tired husband, who in a new role for him, as he usually is condemned to heavier does it nicely. Credit Harry Lachman, forming with M.G.M. of the program with direction. There is a refreshing absence of the defect on this side of telegrapher's work. Some things on the New York and Deadville work in the picture. This one has been made for the Continent as well as for home. It's just about snappy enough for sure seaters. In cast: Louise Brooks, Lina Basquette, Freta Brunette, Rex Taylor, and Jack Cox. Running time, 100 mins.

Tyrant of Red Gulch

FEO production and release. Directed by Robert De Lacy from story by Oliver Drake. Continuity by Oliver Drake; titles by Randolph Bartlett. Starring Tom Tyler, with Frankie Darro featured. Cast includes Barney Furey, Harry Woods, M. Stern and Josephine Burks. Running time, 60 mins.

Substantial western, typical in plot, characters, surroundings, and undoubtedly produced in the best interests of that elusive patronage in uncharted parts of the country. In addition to the tall, slick-haired hero, Tyler, there is the tiny Frankie Darro, juvenile featured player who screens remarkably well and plays more convincing than he. Most of the more mature cast members. Boy is at a disadvantage, however, in an unbecoming role.

Action is laid amid the mountains encircling a Mystery Valley, where prospectors have become lost in their search for a lost mine. The entrance to the valley is spoiled upon by a ringleader of a gang working the mine with the lost prospectors as prisoners. Girl is an orphan whose tyrannical uncle is none other than the menace.

DRIFTWOOD

Columbia production and release. Directed by Christy Carmine. Screen play adapted from story by Richard Harding Davis. Columbia Pictures Corp. In cast: Alan Roscoe and Freta Brunette. Running time, 70 minutes.

South Sea island story with main characters a prideful prosaic and a rum-soaked derelict. This one looks as if someone has taken Richard Harding Davis' yarn and merged it with "Rain" and "White Cargo." Average flicker for houses where adult men spend their leisure time, picked up by those catering to the kiddies. Plot has Marceline Day giving her boy friend the slip when his snout touches the island of Luva on its way to Sydney. Barlow, the yachtsman, owns the greater part of the island, and when the girl gives his superintendent, Alan Roscoe, the chin the latter threatens to have her deported by the consul for being an unmarried woman without visible means of support. To marries Don Alvarado, the derelict, he staking him to \$10 for the privilege of sharing his bed on board.

THE DANGER RIDER

Universal production and release. Starring Hook Gibson. Directed by Henry Macrae from story by W. James Archer. Starring: Harold Neumann, cameraman; Eugene Green, editor; and Gene Baugh, producer. Running time, 90 minutes.

Revival in westerns would be assured were they all as good as "The Danger Rider" in this one gets a chance to get out of the old story rut. There are some fairly novel angles and a yarn, close knit for a western, that makes it at a fast tempo. Great for Gibson houses and a good second on any big double-feature bill.

"The Danger Rider" has a different locale and less of the dizzy hard riding that strains audiences' eyes when too consistent. A story with a reform farm captained by a pretty dame and Gil-

son as the fun-loving son of the warden who masquerades as a notorious convict, give the fans a dressing they will enjoy. Weekly.

BEYOND THE SIERRAS

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production and release. Directed by Nick Grinia from story by Frances Swelton. Continuity by Jack Newville. Starring Tim McCoy, Cud Jinks, Lila Becher, Roy P. Arvey and Polly Moran. At Loew's New York, week Dec. 7. Running time, 85 mins.

One of the best of the "Tim McCoy" pictures yet seen. It has strong action, interesting, quick-moving continuity, plausible situations and a boatload of irresistible comedy contributed by Polly Moran. It should prove a worthwhile attraction for the western inclined houses.

Miss Moran's mugging brings genuine returns. In addition, Tim McCoy and Sylvia Becher, despite inane facial contortions during some of the love sequences, do well because of their hearty and well-upending attractive appearance. Story of a well-known type, including the masked avenger, claim jumper, bandit, duels, pistol battles, horse riding, fast fights and so on. Pretty scenic decorations.

CRIMSON CANYON

Universal production and release. Directed by Ray Taylor from story by Hugh Hagan. Continuity by Hugh Hagan. Starring Henri de Valois, Wilbur Bralton. At Columbus, one day, Dec. 7. Running time, about 90 minutes.

"The Crimson Canyon" is just one of those things with a running wild yarn, a happy ending, pistol battles, the grinds should consider their patients on this one. A lot of irrelevant stuff gets to the screen in a monotonous way. Mine, a girl, a father and a daughter, delightful stranger, couple of sham fistfucks, 'em all and ropes the reel. Some Sennett antics get reaction in hollower heads.

Universal bought film rights to "The Drake Murder Case," written by Charles A. Loring. To be directed by Edward Laemmle.

Tom Reed assigned to title silent version "Show Boat," U.

Universal bought film rights of "Flaming Daughters," original by Beatrice Van. U. also has screen rights of "The Luxury Husband," novel by Maysie Greig.

Lina Basquette's contract with Pathe expires Dec. 31. It will not be renewed.

John Ford assigned by Fox to direct "King of Kybre Rifles." Little Billee signed by WB for "The Flaming Youth" talker.

Lola Moran added to "Movietone Folies," Fox. Ann Preston added Clemaphone's "Tabes in Hollywood." Sylvia Plicker added to "Chorus Girl," Christie.

"Wives Won't Weaken," first of a new series of Educational comedies starring Jerry Drew. Cast includes Al Cooke, Betty Doyd, Estelle Bradley, Robert Graves and Al Thompson.

Jason Robards and Thelma Todd added to "Trial Marriage," M.G.M.

Robert Castle added to "Title of the Alps," Ear.

UNWED MOTHERS

Percentage Booking Anywhere—Send Dates—SAMUEL CUMMINS. Public Welfare Pictures Corp. 723 Seventh Ave., New York

Watch for News of QUALITONE
The Voice of the Screen
Samuel Freedman, Hollywood, Calif.
WILF AILEEN
CUSHING and HUTTON
4th YEAR with FANCHON and MARCO
Featured in Their "SILHOUETTE" Idea

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In the distinguished ZIE

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*Does us the dist
of singing the tremen*

MY BLACKB

BLUEBIR

by **IRVING CAESAR**

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FROM YOUR
DEALER,
OR DIRECT!

Salary-Cutting Looks Imminent In Keith's—Order Not to Raise Any

The Keith booking jam is forcing salary values to a considerably lower level than they have been for years. One result has been to make conspicuous the salaries paid acts working for Keith's under blanket contracts signed several seasons ago and with one or two seasons still to go.

An Irish tenor who previously considered himself underpaid now finds that his salary of \$475 weekly is not only phenomenal to the new crop of Keith bookers but irritates them to such an extent that they have forced him into a unit against his wishes, so that house managers won't know what the tenor is getting.

About the only acts getting salary boosts this season have been the turns holding blanket contracts with automatic hoisting of the ante each September.

The most numerous group of sufferers from the Keith jam is band acts. The curbs are lined with orchestra boys.

An order is reported lately issued in Keith's not to raise any salary.

TEAM REFUSED NO. 2

Castleton and Mack Did Not Open at Palace

Castleton and Mack, booked to open at the Palace, New York, Sunday, withdrew from the bill after refusing to appear No. 2. Jerome and Evelyn substituted in the place of a last-minute booking.

The team had not contracted for the Palace but was included in advance billing.

Recently Castleton and Mack settled the claim filed against them by C. B. Cochrane, the London producer, through the V. M. P. A. Cochrane claimed they walked out after playing six weeks in England on a long term contract.

Amount of settlement with Cochrane represented an advance for transportation, or about \$300.

Agents Meet Execs

At Moskowitz Fundig

Charlie Moskowitz, Loew's exec, staged a fundig at the housewarming of the new house he built for his parents at Kew Gardens, L. I. It occurred Saturday night. Everybody went clowning in the park, the principal scene of the noise.

The agents got very friendly with some of the Loew execs. After calling one outstanding "Mister" official by his first name, an agent caught himself in time through the fog and added, "I was only fooling."

Sam Lyons and Johnny Hyde of the rival Lyons and Morris offices were making big steepees, with Sam's Blackbottom tying Johnny's open-faced free-for-all routine.

Royston Stays in Act

Ray Royston, recently of "Ups-A-Daisy," and Barbara Newberry will form a new vaude combination opening Dec. 16, under direction of Charlie Morrison.

Miss Newberry last appeared in vaudeville with William Holbrook. Royston, under Equity's quota ruling, cannot play in another American legit piece for the next six months.

ALL-FILM CAST

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. An all-film cast will play a condensed version of "The Bad Man" over the R-K-O circuit, starting Jan. 1.

The players are Edwin August, Marion Bentley, Fritzie Brunette, James Harrison, Dan Mason, Jack Perrin and Jack Richardson.

Eddie Cantor Talking Film of Life Story

Eddie Cantor is to make a talking film production of his autobiography, "My Life Is in Your Hands," probably for Paramount. He will donate all proceeds to his pet charity, Eddie Cantor Boys' Camp of which Daniel Lipsey, boyhood pal, is treasurer. Lipsey is a financial genius with the Manufacturers' Trust Co., whom Cantor credits with making him a millionaire.

Cantor donated half of the \$10,000 the Statepact paid him and David Freedman, his collaborator, for the serialization rights, to the camp, and is also waging a pro-Knax campaign whereby \$130 of the book sells for also goes to the camp. The \$180 includes the dealer's profit and the royalty, the remaining \$120 going to Harper's.

The Jewish Daily Forward, New York Yiddish daily is running Cantor's story serial, which is translated by Dav. Freedman's father, Yankee Freedman. The Forward paid \$1,500 for the Yiddish serialization rights, big money for that daily, this also going to the camp.

R-K-O'S BOARD

Of the 25 on Radio-Keith-Orpheum's imposing board of directors, only three might be classified as showmen. They are John J. Murdoch, E. F. Albee and Marcus Helman.

Remaining 22 comprise six bankers, five lawyers and 11 of miscellaneous classification.

They are Monroe Gutman, Paul M. Mazur, Arthur Lehman, Elisha Walker, Edward F. Hayes, Joseph P. Kennedy, Paul D. Cravath, Maurice Goodman, Ben Kahane, Walter P. Cooke, R. C. Hunt, lawyers.

The 11 miscellany and their other jobs are David Sarnoff, vice-president and general manager, R.C.A.; Owen W. Young, chairman of General Electric and R.C.A. boards; Gerard Swope, president G.E.; James G. Harbord, president R.C.A.; Edward M. Harden, of Campbell, Staring Co.; Edwin M. Herr, president Westinghouse Electric; H. P. Davis, vice-president Westinghouse and chairman National Broadcast- and Co.; M. E. Wlesworth, president N.B.C.; Hiram S. Brown, president R-K-O; Louis E. Kerstein of William Filene & Sons, Boston merchants, and Mrs. Catherine L. Kohl, widow of Charles E. Kohl of former Orpheum Circuit.

Single feminine member of the board is Mrs. Kohl, a holdover from the Orpheum board of which she has been a member since the death of her husband, one of the founders of the Orpheum Circuit. In recent years Mrs. Kohl has taken little active interest in board affairs other than retaining her share of stock, preferring to let all business through her bankers.

Four of the five officers of Keith-Albee-Orpheum (vaude subsidiary) are on the R-K-O board. They are David Sarnoff, board chairman; Hiram S. Brown, president; Maurice Goodman, vice-president; and Ben Kahane, secretary-treasurer. John J. Ford, not on the board, is general manager and a vice-president of Keith's.

Bert Williams' Widow Ill

Lottie Williams, former actress and widow of Bert Williams, the colored comedian, lies seriously ill in the Wiley Wilson Hospital in Harlem. She retired from the stage when her husband had been looking after his estate.

The nearest relative is Lottie Taylor, niece.

The last big royalty check paid by Victor to Bert's widow was for \$66,000. Royalties are still coming for songs Bert sang for the Victor.

The estate also owns the property at 2111-2113 7th avenue, New York. Other revenue coming to the estate is royalty paid by Moran and Mack for the use of former Bert Williams materials.

BUSTER WEST AT \$2,250

Chicago, Dec. 11.

After laying off name attractions for a while, Buster West is again stepping out for feature acts. They have signed Buster West for two weeks at the Granada and Marbro theatres.

West opens Dec. 19 at a salary of \$2,250.

F. & M. "Idea" Coast Unit Coming East For General Bookings Anywhere

VAUDE AUTHOR'S CLAIM

W. J. Nelson Says "State St. Sadie" Copied from "Dip" Sketch

William J. Nelson, vaude actor and author, has retained Abner J. Rubin, attorney, to start a \$100,000 plagiarism action against Warner Bros., Vitagraph, Inc., Vitaphone, Inc., and Melville C. Rossmann.

Nelson claims that "State Street Sadie," W. B. production, is based on a vaudeville sketch entitled "The Dip" in which he has been playing since 1922.

According to the complaint Nelson made a scenario of the sketch in 1926 and submitted it to Warner Bros. and Melville C. Rossmann. It was returned.

35 Vaude Actors Meet And Organize in Chi

Chicago, Dec. 11. A belated move to organize vaude performers was made here at a meeting of 35 performers in the Van Buren hotel Thursday night.

Although it was claimed the meeting intended to call the organization the Chicago Actors' Union, apply for affiliation with the American Federation of Labor and to arrange working agreements with the musicians and stage hands' unions, the proposed union seems in effect a reorganization of the old White Rats.

The 35 actors present included no standard big time names, although several are well known in the intermediate ranks. After agreeing that conditions have become pretty bad for performers through the inroads of sound pictures and lack of organization among vaudevillians, those present agreed to the following purposes of the Chicago Actors' Union:

- No free shows.
- Not more than two splits weekly.
- No free tryouts.
- Affiliation with the stage hands and musicians.
- Affiliation with the A. F. of L.
- Better working conditions generally for vaude performers and chorus girls in vaude and burlesque.
- To apply for a charter.

A report of an impending society of vaudevillians in New York is now augmented by the claim it has over 300 tentative members, mostly of or from comedy acts.

It is said to be under the promotion of a sketch comedian, in vaudeville for some years.

The New York project, regardless of its development, is not thought to have any current relation to the Chicago reported organization.

Dinehart Goes With Show

Allan Dinehart, sidetracking vaude, goes with Sam H. Harris for "The Marriage Bed."

Lathrop Brothers

Four Feet with a Single Thought



Direction MILT LEWIS

"MACK" "CHUCK"

Miss Patricola

Was a Sensation Last Night at the TIVOLI! Hear 'Em Rave!

Only 2 more days to see and hear her—in PERSON—in the Tivoli's biggest show!

Chattanooga, Tenn., Week Dec. 4th

Palace, New York
This week (Dec. 9) Only

THE
EARLE BOYS

"Fast Stepping Youth"

with
Henry Santrey

Management
GEORGE PANTZER
1607 Broadway, N. Y.

EDDIE MAYO
and His
HARMONICA RASCALS

BREAKING THE HOUSE RECORD NOW
LOEW'S STATE, NEW ORLEANS

AMERICA'S FAVORITE HARMONICA BAND
A GREAT BET FOR TALKIES

Thanks to J. H. LUBIN and MARVIN SCHENCK
Direction—JOHNNY HYDE

DORA **WINNIE**
CRISP SISTERS
in Their "CRISP REVUE"

Lunch with us at
"The Whiling Well Tea Shoppe"
132 West 45th Street

K.-A.-O. Circuit
Personal Rep.: FRANK EVANS

Walter Nilsson
"World's Master
Unicyclist!"
O-H-O-O!
Featured Fanchon & Marco
"Up in the Air Idea"

Lathrop Brothers
Four Feet with a Single Thought

Direction MILT LEWIS

"MACK" "CHUCK"

Miss Patricola
Was a Sensation Last Night at the TIVOLI! Hear 'Em Rave!

Only 2 more days to see and hear her—in PERSON—in the Tivoli's biggest show!

Chattanooga, Tenn., Week Dec. 4th

Warner-Stanley Booking Agency Rivaling Keith's; Over 20 Houses to Start

Warner Brothers, by acquisition of the Stanley Company and subsidiary theatre interests, may establish a theatrical booking agency that, taking in all branches of show business, would rival Radio-Keith-Orpheum's proposed bureau.

It is practically set that the 20 odd Stanley and Stanley-Fabian houses now booking through Keith's will drop out of the Keith office to join an agency established by Warners and Stanley, and that, in addition, the agency will book all theatres included in the deal, besides the tie-up with Warner Bros. talking films and the radio.

The Stanley theatres now with Keith's are booked as follows: 18 by Harold Kemp; Davis, Pittsburgh, by Wayne Christie, and the Perry, Erie, all under the supervision of Dave Beehler. Of Kemp's 18, eight are in northern New Jersey and vicinity and about 10 in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. The three Stanley-Fabian houses in the same sections are presently booking independently.

The circuit's 10 weeks of picture houses are booked direct by Stanley through its Acme Booking Agency.

The proposed agency will, in all probability, be under the supervision of Bill Goldman, of Skouras Bros., with Beehler retained as chief booker, and several bookers now with Keith's handling the individual houses. Kemp also has been mentioned.

In charge of theatre operation, including booking will be Spiro Skouras, of St. Louis, reported as foremost behind the agency movement.

Such names as Al Jolson, Fannie Brice and others now under contract to Warners for films will be available to the agency at the same time insuring the theatres of stage names as well as on the screen.

Withdrawal of the Stanley group from Keith's will be a blow to the Keith booking office, particularly the Family Department, booking most of Stanley's theatres, with Beehler and Kemp having desks on the Keith floor.

The Warner radio exploitation, now limited to hour programs over station WOR, New York, probably will be extended, with Warners or Stanley hooking with a broadcasting chain.

2d Rough Spot Did Trick; 'Shines' Out

Leonard Harper's "Monkey Shines" vaude revue came to grief at the Lafayette (Harlem). Harper was unable to meet salaries Saturday. The girls had refused to appear at the Friday night midnight show unless their palms were crossed. Management gave them a fiver or so and that rough spot was passed. Harper's outfit had played four weeks out of town.

Money for Flashes

Loew's is paying \$3,200 on a route for Al B. White with a 20-piece mite club revue.

Douglas and Lockwood, with 20 people, are getting \$3,000 weekly from Fox for 10 full-week stands.

JOHNNY FRANKLYN BACK

Johnny Franklyn is back from Saranac Lake. He spent the past year there. Franklyn is readying for a comeback in vaude, with Helen Devlin as partner.

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome

for \$10 Year's Subscription to Variety

R-K-O BOARD MEETINGS REGULAR THING NOW

Board and other meetings in the Radio-Keith-Orpheum offices seem the regular thing now. They are held paramount apparently to the business of reorganization at present.

H. S. Brown, the new K-R-K-O president, appears to be absorbing details of his new connection. He is not giving his entire attention to the vaudeville circuit, not severing relations until Jan. 1 with the U. S. Leather Company. Brown is quoted as having said he will go about the work of reorganizing Keith's, muchly as he had done with the leather trade.

John Ford continues as general manager of Keith's, with Maurice Goodman and Ben Kahanne, R-K-O executives, also figuring in the circuit's operation at present.

No operator of the entire circuit has been reported as yet, nor is it known if the plan to nominate a sole operator has been abandoned.

Business along the Keith Circuit, particularly on the Orpheum branch in the west, is said to have shown no improvement of late.

Reports crop up of outside bookers, of whom were formerly with Keith's, being returned to that agency, with others there at present leaves. There is no authority for any of the rumors.

SUNDAY SHOWS FLOP

Hammerstein and Majestic Discontinue Sabbath Vaude Bills

Sunday vaude concerts in New York are flopping. Returns last Sunday put the finish on two such undertakings.

After three successive tries Hammerstein's theatre, 64th and Broadway, called off all further Sunday nights. The Shuberts, following a slump at their Majestic, have also cancelled further Sunday shows there.

Earl Carroll and Columbia theatricals are continuing their Sabbath shows.

Licorish on Route

Lionel C. Licorish, the colored hero of the Vestril tragedy, isn't sailing away as expected, but will make a tour of Keith houses in the east.

It is understood that a resolution will be presented in Congress asking that the Congressional Medal for bravery be awarded the negro.

Morris Repudiates Woman

William Morris denies he's handling Mrs. Ruth Keyes, the self-styled "free-lance model" who figured notoriously in the Arnold Rothstein assassination.

Mrs. Keyes was supposed to have been interested in bookings as an attraction.

NEWSPAPER MAN AS MGR.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 11. Thomas C. Stowell, Albany newspaper man, has been made resident manager of Harmanus Bleeker Hall, Proctor vaudeville house. He replaces Joseph Saperstein, who resigned to become manager of the new State, pictures, at Ithaca, N. Y. Stowell is president of the Legislative Correspondents' Association and the Albany correspondent of the New York Herald Tribune. He was a staff member of the Associated Press at Albany and has been the Capitol correspondent for several state newspapers.

It is understood that Mr. Stowell will continue with his newspaper connections, temporarily at least.

Lawrence Quits Yates

Larry Lawrence has withdrawn from the Irving Yates Agency to align with Singer and Ward, Pantages agents. Phil Corchia has succeeded Lawrence with Yates.

KEITH'S FAMILY DEPT. Piazza Starting With 8 Weeks in Chicago

Chicago, Dec. 11. Ben Piazza, head of the western R-K-O offices, is considering the formation of a family department for that circuit's vaude in this territory. Plans are said to include the appointment of a prominent western independent booker as its head.

Family books will probably be on the fourth floor of the State-Lake building to handle very small-time vaude with proportionate salaries. It will not be confused or associated in any way with the regular circuit.

At the start this family route may include around eight weeks. Later, perhaps, it will take in the present coast circuit. Piazza is also reported conferring with E. V. Richards, of the Sanger company, to secure 35 days of southern time.

This is the first time the former W. V. M. A. circuit has actually gone out after new business since C. E. Bray was in charge.

Dows Again Issue The Canning Contract

Despite the previous reported truce between A. & B. Dow Agency and the Vaude Mgrs. Protective Ass'n. some weeks back when Dows announced they would attempt exclusive control of standard V. M. P. A. contracts, the agency has again begun issuing two forms of contracts.

According to performers, the Dows are issuing the sew-up variety only when having qualms that a desired act may jump, but are handing out the former contract closing clause slip to acts they are not so particular about. The latter clause gives both parties option of closing or being closed after the first performance. Any act signing it would not vamp except by request.

The Joker contract has been a thorn in the side of the V. M. P. A. for years and the basis of many complaints against the agency through several houses on the agency's books canning right and left after the Monday matinee with the ultimatum of taking a cut or else.

Some weeks ago the Dows settled several outstanding claims with V. M. P. A. and announced that hereafter none but the standard contract would be employed by them.

Claire Ulrich Appeals

Baltimore, Dec. 11. The Whitehurst-Ulrich suit was revived when arguments on an appeal taken by Claire J. Ulrich-Whitehurst to prove that she is the legal widow of the late C. E. Whitehurst, Baltimore theatre owner, were heard in the Annapolis Court of Appeals.

The appeal is from the Circuit Court of Baltimore where Judge O'Dunne decided that the theatrical manager and promoter had never married the plaintiff and that the alleged signatures in a prayer book were forgeries.

Claire J. Ulrich-Whitehurst claims a widow's share of the estate. This is the second time the litigation has been before the Court of Appeals. On the previous occasion counsel for the Whitehursts tried unsuccessfully to have the \$15,000 advanced by Whitehurst heirs to Miss Ulrich returned.

Claire Ulrich met Whitehurst while she was appearing in a revue on the Century Roof in this city.

Schwartz Trying Big Acts

A. H. Schwartz is playing big acts in day and two-day stands in his neighborhood houses in Brooklyn and Long Island. It's a pre-holiday move to bolster biz and may become permanent.

GRIFFIN'S APT. HOUSE

Los Angeles, Dec. 12. Gerald Griffin, tenor, has just purchased a 34-apartment house on South Alvarado Street. His wife is operating the place while Griffin is playing for Fanchon and Marco and making Vitaphone shorts.

L. & L. LOSES TWO

Nate Stein, who came in from the Coast to join Lyons & Lyons as picture booker, left the New York agency after two weeks.

Another L. & L. departure is Arthur Sells, who the agency a short time as vaude booker.

Margaret Budick's Husband Died Before Divorce Notice Arrived

FRED C. CURTIS FACES 5 YEARS FOR FORGERY

Fred C. Curtis, former New York vaude agent, is in jail in Goshen, N. Y., where he was placed following a conviction there a month ago for forgery. He faces a one to five year stretch, but may have his case reopened and bail extended pending a retrial.

New York agents upon learning of Curtis' predicament took up a collection to pay an attorney to proceed toward obtaining Curtis' release.

The story of Curtis' incarceration is a complicated affair. Curtis and Joseph Nill formed the Beacon Point Amusement Co., with headquarters in Goshen. Curtis was given a personal note and it was this note, issued by a man now in California, which caused the trouble.

Curtis took it to a Goshen bank where the Amusement Co. had an account. The note was never discounted.

As Nill and Curtis had had differences over their partnership Nill brought matters to a crisis by turning the note matter over to Goshen authorities.

Attorney Louis E. Alperman of New York, who represented Curtis, says Curtis in no way profited by the note issuance, Curtis getting the worst of it when it was found the maker had not made good.

Attorney Alperman says the bank did not bring the action but that Curtis' business partner did.

Goshen attorneys have since taken a hand and a motion for a new hearing before the local judge is expected to bring either a dismissal or retrial.

Curtis has been active in New York vaude for a long time. Some years ago he was booking the Milcs houses, then booked through the New York Pantages office.

He has a wife and son, the former an actress at the time of their marriage.

Bobby Connolly Divorced

Reno, Dec. 11. Mrs. Madeline Connolly has been granted a divorce from Bobby Connolly, dance director, and given custody of one child.

Connolly was awarded the boy, William, aged 6.

Dowlings in Talker

Ray Dooley leaves "Vanities" Saturday. She is going to the coast with her husband, Eddie Dowling, who is to make a talker.

Arabian Agency

Pasha and Hantoot, Arabians, have been granted an agency franchise by Pantages. Only Arabian vaude agents.

Judge Lindsay's Monolog

San Francisco, Dec. 11. Judge Ben Lindsay is the headliner at Pantages this week, in a monolog on his "Marriage" book.

MARY WENT AWAY

The Washburn and Wilson Sisters' act had been booked by Loew's but the blond pianist, Mary Washburn, suddenly quit.

Miss Washburn went to Paris.

SAVOY LEAVES PAN, CHI.

Chicago, Dec. 11. Paul Savoy, now with the Pantages office here.

Stock In, Vaude Out—Bayonne

Dramatic stock applicants vaude at the Opera-House, Bayonne, N. J., this week. Formerly played five acts on a split booked by Harold Kemp of R-K-O.

Vaude Out of Hackensack

Vaudeville policy folded at the Lyric, Hackensack, N. J. The house had been five-act split week stand, booked out of Keith's. It will reopen with dramatic stock.

Chicago, Dec. 11. Margaret Lehman, one of the four members of "Headlin' South" who applied for divorce during the Show's two week's run in Chicago, has called it off. She's a widow.

Through Attorney Phil R. Davis Mrs. Lehman filed suit against Emile Lehman on charge of desertion, claiming he left her in 1918 after one year of married life. Davis inserted the customary legal notices, addressing one to the army camp at Fort Benning Ga., where Lehman was supposed to be serving as a private.

A camp official answered the notice by informing Mrs. Lehman her husband had just died, and where old she want the remains shipped? Mrs. Lehman appears as Margaret Budick.

Charges of cruelty, drunkenness and adultery have been filed in a suit for separate maintenance by Gladys Garrett Arnold against Albert E. Arnold, musician, formerly with the Buddy Fisher orchestra. In addition Mrs. Arnold has filed a prescription for \$100,000 against the girl in the case. She claims the femme used to call for Albert in her big gas buggy, take him some place and even talk about paying for a divorce.

Mrs. Arnold is represented by Attorney Irving N. Esemann. Marriage was in 1921. There is a six-year-old son.

Went Bye-Bye

Elinor Patterson Codman, former society girl, who three years ago made her first stage appearance as the nun in "The Miracle," has asked for a divorce from Russell Codman, Jr., son of a millionaire banker and realtor. She charges Codman with desertion, stating he went bye-bye six months after their marriage in May, 1926.

The second wife of Charles Kaley, m. c. at Marks Bros.' Marbro theatre, won a divorce on grounds of cruelty. Kaley didn't contest. Marriage was in January, 1928, and separation more than a whole month later.

Kaley's first wife, Hannah Williams, had the wedding bells annulled by an obliging mother.

Ritchie Feels Punk

James Ritchie, 40-year-old bachelor until he eloped with Betty Meyers, cafe worker, wants to be single again. He has filed a bill to annul the marriage, claiming it has not been consummated.

He says Betty didn't like his apartment and refused to live in it, took \$500 from him in three days and made him feel punk generally.

Miss Huntington's Reply

Detroit Dec. 7.

Editor Variety: There is no foundation for the report I had given my notice to Kenneth Harlan. I have no intention of so doing.

In being associated with Mr. Harlan I have found no signs of temperament in his make-up, and it is a pleasure to play with him.

Louise Huntington.

LEO MORRISON BACK ON COAST

Leo Morrison, agent, leaves for Hollywood tomorrow (Thursday) to close contracts for talking pictures for several under his personal management.

It's his second trip to the coast in the past six months. He will be away six weeks.

1500 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

William Morris CALL BOARD

Among Talking Picture Contracts Closed

The Four Marx Bros. (Paramount-Famous-Lasky) CHICAGO: 1111 BUTLER BLDG.

More Amer. Acts Accepting English Dates—Vaude Over Here Too Chaotic

An exodus of American acts to England seems imminent on the basis of recent bookings okayed for 1929 by General Theatres Corporation of London. Contracts in most cases call for six to eight weeks with options.

Chaotic conditions in America make the foreign dates particularly

attractive. Acts formerly asking long term bookings are now willing to cross the pond for two months.

Fred LaReine, independent English agent, is the latest to place American acts with G. T. C. on a wholesale basis. Definite dates are set during 1929 for the following turns:

Will Morris, Brown and LaHart, Ethel Anderson, Sampsel and Leonard, The Three Students, Montrose and Reynolds, Joe Mandis Trio, The Rattisons, Yvonne, Alexander Bros. and Evelyn, Milt Collins, Archer and Belford, Apollo Trio, Walsh Charland and Co., Vardell Bros., Carlton and Bellew, The McRays, La Kota Wayne.

In addition the following have been okayed but not assigned playing dates: Bob Fisher, Don Valerio, Dippy Diers, Bobby Henshaw, Henry E. Toomer, Arthur Nelson, Hal Sidare, Stevens, Nelson and Stevens, The Strollers, Helen Johns' Glorious Girls.

These are additional to the list of acts placed in England for next year through the Morris office.

A freak show entitled "A Trip to Coney Island" sails for London Jan. 28. All acts open at Holborn Empire or Palladium.

KEITH'S TURNS DOWN OWN PRODUCED REVUE

Doc Baker Revue (3), produced, routined and bankrolled by Keith's production department, has been informed that no further Keith bookings are available and advised to look for time on any circuit that desires to play it.

After producing the Baker act and playing it around for a time, Keith's production department, it is said, found itself unable to secure bookings at the act's salary for a long period. From accounts, it was a case of the production department building the flash without advance consideration of the act's value to the vaude circuit against its necessary salary demand.

Cambria May Produce B. & K. Units in Chi

Frank Cambria, Publick producer in New York, is reported about to return to Chicago to produce units for the Balaban & Katz (Publick) houses there.

Cambria's return would cut the New York producers' list to three. There is a possibility Jack Partington, now head of the Publick production department, may again personally produce eastern units.

Publick New York producing quartet is now composed of Paul Osgard, Boris Petroff, C. A. Niggemeyer and Cambria. The last two came from Chicago.

Pan's Flu Cut of 25%

San Francisco, Dec. 11. Pantages is first house on coast to penalize an entire stage bill because of slack business due to prevalence of "flu."

All acts playing the Pan house last week and currently were notified before opening of a straight 25 per cent cut. All the acts stuck.

MARRIAGES

Jack Jones (Melody Four) to Florey Joice, dancer, in Kansas City, Dec. 3, shortly after Chill Willis, basso with the quartet, obtained a license to marry Hattie Chappelle. All of Bridge stock in K. C.

Ruth Durrell, night club singer, to "Rubber" Goldberg, owner of Claremont Tent, Cling and nitery. William V. Mow, picture actor, and Esne Ward, proprietor of a Hollywood, Cal., book shop, Dec. 4, at Los Angeles.

Leota Lane to Mischel Picard, New York manufacturer, in Philadelphia Oct. 9, where "Luckee Girl" in which the bride is playing is on a run. The other half of the Lane Sisters, Leola, has gone to the coast for Fox pictures.

Tom Timothy, jazz maestro at the Frivolity Club, married Mary McKee, non-pro, of Jackson Heights, L. I., Dec. 9. They will be at home in Woodside, L. I.

Duane Thompson, film player, to Buddy Wattles, stage, Dec. 9 in Los Angeles.

Theatres Opening

Christmas is the opening day for the new Keith Palace, Rochester, N. Y. Seats 3,000. Usual Keith vaudefilm.

Alfred Gattesman of New York opened the Commodore Hull theatre, Derby, Conn., vaudefilm policy, last week. Al-Unger is manager.

INCORPORATIONS

NEW YORK
Hanna Engineering Co., Inc., Manhattan; musical devices; \$20,000. Horace W. Hanna, A. T. Hanna, Charles Lamb, Ray William Production Corp., Manhattan; pictures and theatricals; \$20,000. William Edelson, Emma Dresdner, Gene Hotel.

Entity, Inc., New York; theatricals. Gustav Blum, Ethel Blum and James C. Bluman.

Edited Pictures System, Inc., Manhattan; \$10,000. Isley Boons, Walter A. York, Ross C. Andrews.

Shone Theatrical Enterprises, Manhattan; employment agency. Elsie Klein, Sam Reiner, Stanley Rosenthal.

Membrane Tinting Pictures Martine Corp., Manhattan; 600 shares. Meyer Irlowitz, Herbert S. Cohen, Joseph Reiner.

W. M. Amusement Co., Richmond; \$10,000. Lewis Moses, Isidore Welt, Elias Moses.

Artistic Mornings, Inc., Manhattan; manager theatres; 100 shares. Samuel E. Piza, Edith M. Pidgeon, Claudia E. Piza.

Hugo Amusement Co., Kings; theatricals; \$1,000. Cap B. Sahn, Mollie Segal, Rubin Heller.

Motion Pictures Synchronization Service, Manhattan; 200 shares, no par. Mollie Segal, Isidor Tanus, Hilda Lifschitz.

LOEW'S LADY HOUSE MGRS.

3 Women Now Acting as Assistant Managers

It won't be long now before some Loew houses may have women managers. This crops up through the recent assignment of three femmes to assistant managerial posts.

Alice E. Josephs is now assistant manager at Loew's Prospect and was formerly head usher at the State, New York. Prior to that she was a Loew cashier at the Capitol, N. Y.

Phylliss Page is assistant at Loew's Brevoort, Brooklyn. Miss Page appeared in "Irene" and also ran a stock troupe in Brooklyn. Shelle Janis, former assistant to Louis Cline, production manager for Horace Liveright, is the third feminine house exec and is stationed at Loew's Plaza, Corona, L. I.

Novelty, Topeka, Sold

Topeka, Dec. 11. Novelty, last of the Crawford houses in Topeka, has been sold by L. M. and Roy Crawford to Lawrence Breuninger of the Lawrence Amusement Co. House has been unsuccessful since switching to vaudefilms from tabloids last season.

Breuninger will install RCA Photophone equipment in the Novelty and play a combination sound film and vaude, with three acts booked through Keith's, Chicago.

Non-union under the Crawfords, the Novelty will employ union musicians and stage crew under Breuninger.

PALACE, HARTFORD, CLOSES

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 11. Fox's Palace (Poli) closed here Saturday, by order of Herschel Stuart, general manager of the Fox New England chain.

The Palace played vaudefilm, with the vaude to be shifted to the Fox Capitol, formerly straight pictures.

It is reported there are a few other Fox-Poli theatres Stuart has decided to effect a change of policy, in the readjustment of the recently purchased circuit by William Fox.

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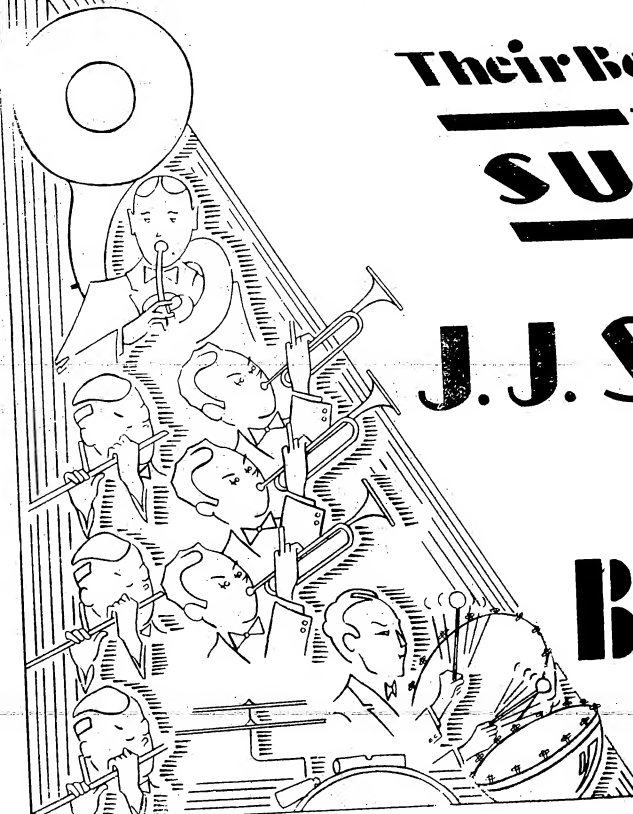
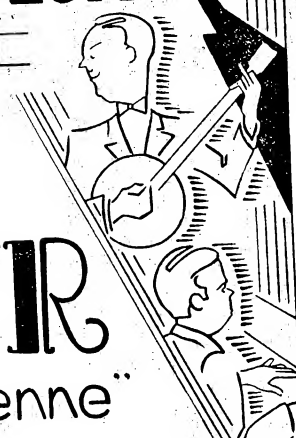
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NEW SHOW

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ROXY

(Wired)

New York, Dec. 8. Roxy goes into the park under the influence of the Sokovino feature, "The End of St. Petersburg" (Russian made). Result is a little more and a little less for the generosity of fans, the relieving touch being in the color splash revealed in the presentation. On the normally staid program, however, judgment is to be put on pictures that has had the ballyhoo of a run on Broadway at \$2, regardless of its popularity appeal. Perhaps Roxy is counted on a pull from new source of patronage, the intelligentsia and a foreign element.

In its broad aspect it isn't a gaudy popular show in the sense of drawing the flaps and women generally. Presentation has a world of beauty, and artistically makes a fine balanced bit of variety. The very unity is achieved at the cost of that variety and novelty characteristic of the house.

Entertainers of the cabaret in the mode of "Chauve Souris." It is done in a riot of color and motion and in all respects is as gorgeous as any of this kind of heavy fare done in New York. At the same time as good as anything isn't good enough for the Roxy. The Russian film has been the best routine in vaudeville and vaudeville, and the novelty is gone. Even the overture is Russian, Tschalkowsky's "Fourth Symphony," also being heard. It is done in New York. At the same time as good as anything isn't good enough for the Roxy.

Following overture a dance bit with a light music and a story line. Stage has three toy houses built of cards, backs only showing. Front opens out revealing Knave, Queen and King. Spades heavy, is worked out in pantomime of the age-old triangle. Nice bit for six minutes.

Beatrice Belkin sings "Caro Nome" from a solo coloratura solo to a fan audience that maybe would have liked "Sonny Boy."

Tip of dance ensemble by the Market girls. Also presenting forward deck of a battle ship and girls in gob get up of white and blue doing a hornpipe to "Tinafore" music. One of the best in the line both of idea and execution the idea has had in a long time.

Twelve minutes of combined silent and sound, a story line, with opening flip silent—Par views of Florida estate where Hoover will rest when he gets back. Closing flip also is silent, a picture of the Atlantic Fleet, returning to Brooklyn Navy Yard, shots taken from Brooklyn Bridge and other angles with music. "Angels" hovering about, and the New York skyline as a background. Smashing bit of photography.

Straight into the presentation designed as a prolog to the feature. Serves that end admirably and ends in a thrill, but the idea is confined mostly to costume and title.

Some incidental dancing, but it's the Russian sort, which means little to the general. On the flash, it's in the real Roxy mood. Some excellent dancing, excellent music, numbers and a whole of a finish, with the whole troupe singing the march number from "Song of the Flame," with flame effects projected, terrific and enveloping the whole proscenium opening. Picture starts on same theme with ensemble still dimly visible and later the picture opens through film opening. Picture is off with an introductory thrill and under the best possible auspices.

Program in the cabaret is a reproduction of a famous Moscow rendezvous. Ayre de Moscow, where Russian entertainers that style has been gradually indicated. Those considered as specialists are Hans Wiener, Viola Philo, M. Vodny, Douglas Stanbury, Harold Van Dusen, George Liebmann, Nina Sergeeva and Gregory Dnestroff. But only the regular Roxy staff people are to be identified in the program.

Item that stood out was a grotesque dance by a woman, soloing in a sort of limp acrobatic dance, arising from its bizarre novelty.

Push.

UPTOWN

(Wired)

New York, Dec. 10. Eddie Laughton in his three weeks as m. c. at Jack Arthur's Uptown has shown steady improvement, although not gradually giving himself less to do. This week he builds his show around a night club and has some snappy numbers with out spending much dough.

Opens with a rousing "The Firey." Half dozen hoopers on grey and black silk outfits cut like men's gipsy and fish layouts, do well-timed tap dance with heels and hands lighting up in freely effect, joined by second half dozen as chauffeurs.

Next dance pantomime of man-about-town being raised to night club and comedy bit on pay off with nickel tip. Nice start.

Club in Chinese roof garden effect with acts coming in from a side elevator.

Laughton, playing straight, has a neat getaway on gag with Roy Locksley, trumpeter in the band. Trumpeter with his dog, who has a neat solo. They build up no introduction for Jones and Celeste, gas house pair, who do a tough-guy dance with a weak ending.

In the hoofing is their Jones slides back with a sissy boy stut-

ing number that goes for laughs but bores toward the end. One verse enough.

Arthur has always been strong on giving kids a chance. This time it is Dorothy Johnson, chubby sixteen-year-old, who wears one of those sea-green mermaid things and plays a mean saxophone. She has gotten off nicely as the youngest sax player. Helps her song along with some effective eye work and gets the kid some extra applause.

Works up nicely and has strength. As the number used is from "Black Birds," it's fast, warm, and doesn't suffer in the hands of this instrument. The single scaled Public emporiums.

Only other specialists in the unit are the Phelps or Love Twins. Program name is correct. Griffin then announced the latter. Anyway, two blondes who harmonized and then highkicked their way to an exit.

Bob's idea in the dog and Corwey are presumably get away from hoofing and adagio teams. It is different and this particular gathering revealed no hesitancy in singing "The Dog and Corwey."

Gamby-Halo dozen opened in phosphorescent costume for an arm and leg effect, later doing a short work around into 4th street with stomps. Meanwhile, Pay un-

lost a pop at 'em during the band specialty and trailed this by his two numbers on boards for time and the pit. Finishing lyric very good, mimicking a St. Louis blues singer trying to do a straight ballad. It set the flaming youth, with the "Vanities," there evidently won't be any objection from those who stand under the new marquee which now runs "way around into 4th street."

Unit is backed by impressive music, Carmin Vitale, the usual mechanic, the design and Dolly Tree for the worthy costumes.

House continues to ignore the value of the pit for over half of six minutes although having some of the shots, all from Manny Cohen's boys, synchronized. Seasonal toys and a horse race were among those on a record of the week stuff that fooling anybody. Unless this management decides to give its screen news a break it doesn't seem to be worth the effort.

Build into anything on the basis of four clips in six minutes, silent or screaming.

Jess Stafford went through his accustomed seven minutes playing a film theme song and using a medley of tunes from Broadway musicals.

Strand is carrying out only part of elaborate lobby ballyhoo. First National used to put it over at the current events and comedy and zepp still effectively.

Rest of program includes Fox Movietone newsreel, Vitaphone short, and a few minutes worth of current events and comedy.

The newsreel is best of the openers. Coolidge's clay duck shooting, without word spoken, and Swedish count telling how he picked American wife, get more laughs than many specialized two-reel specialties.

Vita No. 2281 gets by when boys all play together. Solo stuff too camera shy and artificial in Vincent Rose and Jackie Taylor Hollywood Montmartre Orchestra routine.

Wired

New York, Dec. 8.

Lead dog for the Public sled is Conlatting the pro-Xmas era with a showman's touch and a Paul Durcard unit titled "Topsy Turvy Town." Screen feature is in "Three Week Ends" (Par). The combo may be able to shove this house over \$7000 an apple with a crowd here able to reach in some weeks. A snowy and blowy Saturday prevented a strong start for the climb; still buyers were out in the middle of the afternoon.

Stage unit seems fixed for the women through a fox trotter over the "Ladies' Column" will exclaim "Guts!" in their own right. The dog and his trainer, known as Ford and "Whitey," are doing a full seven minutes in front of the show. The dog is doing a fox trot. Pay doing straight plus a prop grin he'll have to chisel off by the end

of the week. Animal does an amusing drunk and has a neat stair climb finish to bed for a solid applause finale. Act accomplished its purpose here, no matter how you look at it.

Klick in the stage exhibition is late through Pay doing two songs. The first is "The Dog and Corwey" which 12 Gamby-Halo girls hit a routine to tell Fay the tempo's bad. They then about face to direct the crowd. The second is "The Dog and Corwey" Works up nicely and has strength.

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having the effigy of Mrs. (Gossip) Grundy. Gals were made up in Grundy fashion and rocked and swayed their chairs while they chattered. The riot pulled one of those race-off finales, not so good idea for a compact revue of this type.

Mertz Boyd, programmed, absent speaker. The riot pulled one of those race-off finales, not so good idea for a compact revue of this type. Mertz Boyd, programmed, absent speaker. The riot pulled one of those race-off finales, not so good idea for a compact revue of this type.

Next scene is interior of nursery, with the 12 animals in high coats. One falls to sleep and they begin a chant of "I Lay Down and Go Boom." Catchy novelty and used as a production number it elicited. Another drop, before which a couple of the girls did a bit of harmony.

Kids are not programed, from chorus, but are good to look at, youthful, and can chant. Morgan did a come bit with his old trusty, Chuckie Callahan, as a foil. Same couple at another interval, with a girl, did another bit.

Stafford's bit got the chance and moved to the stage for a couple of hot specialties. Combo, intact for more than five years, is great entertained asset and are here for first time in a long time. Griffin then took his whack at the buyers for heavy results, after which Alfred Brower's jazz Russian stepping also roared. Morgan did burlesque of the Brower date, then the girls stayed before the finale, which had them mounted on stair platform against background which gradually brought a color light effect. View curtain descended. As this was going on Mildred Harris did ballroom dance with Roy Bradley, with Morgan doing his shuffle. Also sound news and a fashion review in color.

SANFORD

(Presentation)

Irvington, N. J., Dec. 9.

Much entertainment in the show Louis R. Golding has provided this week. Called "Evening at the Night Club" (Fox) it's a good one. Roy Nichols, band leader, is now m. c. and popular. Needs just a little more snap and self-assertion. Opens before 8:15 with a song. The girls start stage with words implying shooting. Lights reveal dice game. Band number, but band doesn't sound quite so good as usual, possibly because they haven't been together long.

Balabanon Five, accordion players, brightly dressed, are fine players. They are followed by Charlie Spree, comedian, follows and Nelson and Nelson, last week at the Roxy, acrobats on stilts, over big size feature, with Paul Ash and Knight, song and dance, well liked. Spree back for a little too long followed by a Balabanon who does wrong accordion solo. City squares being framed by borders and wings of wine-colored stuff designed in spangles. Show end went 8:30 closing.

News all Fox, "Our Gang" comedy and "Show Girl" (FN) feature. Very brief organ solo sounded good. House nearly full Sunday night. Ausin.

FOX BROOKLYN

(Wired)

Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 9.

Plenty of specialties in the Fox's Brooklyn these days, a tactical gesture of managerial generosity in view of the new Brooklyn Paramount's opposition. The latter is still in the "do or die" stage if not sensationally with Paul Ash. Fox's has been less than that with Charles Previn in the m. c., a situation that is not so positive. The feature is of over-seating this particular sector of downtown Brooklyn.

The all-talker program from the Roxy has been switched to the sister stand in Brooklyn. "Napoleon's Barber," the Movietone three-reeler from Arthur Caesar's playlet, and a Vitaphone short of Charles Rogers in a comedy sketch which went nine minutes and was nicely accepted.

LOEW'S STATE

(Wired)

Los Angeles, Dec. 7.

They brought Gene Morgan back here after a six months' absence. Then, too, they staged "Hollywood Scandals," starring Mildred Harris in former wife of a movie star. Harris also inducted Jess Stafford and his Brunswick Recording Orchestra, considered a local institution. A short scene of Morgan's first appearance started applause with hearty whistling, unusual hereabouts in greeting a Jester of ceremonies.

"Hollywood Scandals" in its own is the foremost of the mass stage units that Fanchon and Marco will put-on-for-national-tours. It is not too expensive and yet is a brilliant flash. Opened with Stafford and his troupe in the pit for over half of six minutes. Morgan hit the rostrum and, after the greeting subsided, told the gang that they were to see. The old story of the play starting in with the two lovers, a dog, and concluding with the happy ending. Morgan can entertain. He delivers at all angles and sells a show for a dollar.

Drop flew to disclose 12 Sunlight Beauties in front of another drop

dance teams, followed. Drona Beach with her clawing tiger novelty dance was all right; ditto Roy Brothers, eccentric colorists. Like Holt and Essley, the Rio pulled one of those race-off finales, not so good idea for a compact revue of this type.

Charles Previn, who doubles from pit at the State, did a good one in the "maestro-m. c." doing that sort hereabouts, although Herb Straub, at Shea's, Buffalo, and others in points west are going in for that more and more.

Show opened with Frederic Fradkin, associate conductor, violin soloing a Schubertiana couple of the "Dream of a Boy" from Victor Herbert's "Naughty Marietta" and the immortal "Kiss Me Again."

Vanity Fair was the motif of the Leo Seltzer (Globe) show, followed by Fox Movietone News and the "1812 Overture" of Tschalkowsky's as prelude to "Napoleon's Barber." The latter was a good one, with the accompaniment of a vivid pyrotechnic display, with the threatening image of the Little Corporal appearing in the clouds. The latter, realistically interpreted the musical theme of the overture which found its inspiration from Nap's first trap in the Russian campaign.

CONGRESS

(Wired)

Chicago, Dec. 7.

They've earned the acts here. That goes both ways. In place of startled performers, staggled and pit orchestra the Congress had "star vaudeville acts in sound." For the first time in its career as a vaude house this west side stand is making money. The Congress has operating expenses is responsible.

This is probably the first vaudeville house of more than 3,000 seats to can't take it. The result of new life is a reliable prophecy as to what's in the air for big weak sister vaude stands all over the country. The result of the review is three Fox Movietone shorts, "Tone Newsreel" and sound presentation of "Battle of the Sexes" (TA). Short included: Beatrice Lillie, Joe Cook and Nina Tarasova in a sketch.

Nina was a problem to this unpretentious audience. It seems her over had killed her. The result of new life is a reliable prophecy as to what's in the air for big weak sister vaude stands all over the country. The result of the review is three Fox Movietone shorts, "Tone Newsreel" and sound presentation of "Battle of the Sexes" (TA). Short included: Beatrice Lillie, Joe Cook and Nina Tarasova in a sketch.

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Only remnant of the old days is Louis Lohman, solo organist, who still encourages community singing. No music, no dancing, no singing seen. Movietone news had Bowie race shots. Mrs. Coolidge soaking a plane with a bottle. King George, called a "big shot" by the big shot. Chi whet pit. Mrs. Coolidge's indecision as to what to do with the broken bottle brought highest reaction.

E. M. Glueksmann, house manager working out of the Lubliner & Trinz office, is showing judgment in the program, especially as to spotting. The latter also is handled for full value.

Both Ass'n. and indie vaude flopped here. It took sound programs on a three-split week at 40 cents top to bring blue skies. And sound has outlived its novelty stage in Chicago.

COLONY

(Wired)

New York, Dec. 9.

Except the permanent stage crew—Benny Rubin and the Jimmy Carr band—it's quite doubtful that the Colony presentation's salary list exceeds \$400 this week.

The three new faces on the stage are three girls, all dancing. Rubin also dancing, although much better than the girls, so it's a dancing show. Viewing the performance of two of the three specialty girls Sunday, they had better get back in line. The program is a bit of a control gag. The dark one, called Corvoda, was on twice in what were described as Spanish dances. Gowns and costumes were Spanish, but the girl was not. She's a good looking girl though.

Third girl, athletic type with a curly mop of hair, received a hand-stand attention. She was around before. Her handstands and stunts were slick to nothing Sunday. That one week, it list

(Continued on page 40)

PALACE (St. Vaude)

Vaudeville as it was and hasn't been in a long time...

The answer to all this is the return of several tried-and-true vaudeville favorites...

Sandy Lang and Co., opening with their classy skating routine on rollers...

Frank Jerome and Evelyn, subbing for Castleton and Mack...

Mason and Keeler thrived, and a more than sufficed. The broad face attempt to dispense with the wealth making for many guffaws...

Closing, and doing 44 minutes—too long—was the super showman of stage handstand...

Santrey pulled a new one in lighting effects, using the house light along with the stage borders...

Rae Samuels and Brown and Whitaker swapped spots...

Entering last, Paulo, Paqueta and Chikita—Castilian—propagandists, closed and were wasted...

A bouquet to Lou Forman once again. The way he conducts a vaudeville show should be everybody's business interested in this phase of variety presentation...

RIVERSIDE (Vauffim)

Excellent vaude layout the first time...

Leo Beers, a deuce spot bet, brings to mind the fact that he was one of the first to originate the ultra modern on vaudeville life...

Vaness receives valuable support from three talented and well-groomed girls...

HIPPODROME (Vauffim)

Good bill here and good attendance Sunday night...

Chaz Chase, the pantomime comic who eats ukuleles, neckties and other articles in rivalry of the genus many great...

Eddie Stanley, with a sorrel-topped girl billed "Ginger," another valuable asset to the rigide department...

An eight-act show at the place maintained by five acts would be as good a vaudeville bill as any...

STATE (Vauffim)

An eight-act show at the place maintained by five acts would be as good a vaudeville bill as any...

Three New Acts out of five at the State this week—Olivera, Bros. Freeman and Whitaker and Young...

similar labels, it can't possibly mean much. There is a mixed team that should get the billing...

Academy (Vauffim) (Wired) Those distressed mortals who have sunk their dough in production acts only to discover that it ain't what it used to be...

Keith Memorial (Vauffim) (Wired) Although not as yet wired, house seems to be holding up better than the pessimists predicted...

5th Ave. (Vauffim) These all-girl bills don't jell. Come of ailing and features use up the appropriation and what's left to pick from on low price basis...

81st Street (Vauffim) Everything comes under the head of Ted Lewis here this week—bill, business and value received...

Amber Roof (Vauffim) Pre-holiday economy or something walloped attendance Monday night. Show carded was better than the average American bill...

10 (New Acts), and they prospered accordingly. (Miss) Bobbie Brooks and Edna Rush are a recent combination...

Drop in "one" flies at their demand and they go into mild comedy business of pushing the baby grand down front...

Paulsen Sisters, pair of handsome women in balancing, done in fine acrobatic style, did extremely well...

Keith Memorial (Vauffim) (Wired) Although not as yet wired, house seems to be holding up better than the pessimists predicted...

Jack Osterman shared first honors this week with Nellie and Sara Kouns. Osterman put in a raw pull for himself in the matter of "Osterman Night" at the Cooagan Grove...

Joe and Pete Michon, on third, really put the bill over, however, the house going with great routine...

Everything comes under the head of Ted Lewis here this week—bill, business and value received. It has been a long time since that Lewis can't be followed, that nothing but a final curtain can get him off the rostrum...

Never was a tougher audience than the one at the 81st Sunday night; tough on everyone else because the Lewis crowd and that's who they wanted to see...

Opening were Clifford and Gray, mixed loop juggling team and their partner, a young girl. Face counts as much as the repetition hoop tossing in this turn...

Walter and Norman Nelson, survivors of the former Fur Nelsons, opened with hoop manipulation and diabolo spinning. Routine is the old one, but it makes the grade for the spot...

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wanted to Lewis. He's the bird they came to see. At last, Ted Lewis, Mr. Why, certainly everybody's happy. Mr. Why, why ask such a foolish question?

Credit for Sunday afternoon capacity split three ways. First and most important, it's a habit in this physical comedy while the boys outside supplied an impulse to get indoors...

The 8th Street has been going in heavily for flashes lately and if they have good response for "Morocco Bound" is a perfect booking...

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Film House Reviews

(Continued from page 38)

JEAN RANKIN and Blue Belles (9) Girls' Band 15 Min.; Full stage 5th Ave. (V-P)

A bet here and now for almost any house and a picture house prospect...

Opening has nine girls in usual orchestra arrangement led by trim tall girl...

Throughout half a dozen of the girls are out front for some kind of specialty...

Girls are real musicians. For one number they all play violins...

Girls are young and have fair average of good looks...

LEON LEONARD CO. (5) Collegiate Revue 25 Mins.; One and Full (Special) Riverside (V-P)

Rah, rah song and dance stuff with a wisp of a story about an Arrow collar ad...

Leon Leonard is the light comedian, a little John Gilbert himself...

A generally fresh and breezy act although 25 minutes is too long...

ANDERSON and BENNETT Comedy 15 Mins.; One Riverside (V-P)

Bob Anderson and Stan Bennett combine several different brands of comedy...

One does a monoeled limy up in the hills after moonshiners...

JULIETTE BELMONT AND BOYS Songs and Instrumentals 14 Mins.; Three 5th Ave. (V-P)

Juliette Belmont is not a newcomer to vaude...

Miss Belmont first essays a "St. Louis Blues" her vocal standout...

SONNY HINES and GIRLS (5) Dance Revue 12 Mins.; Full (Special) American (V-P)

Pretty fair, Sonny Hines is a slim and semi-contortistic youth...

"FRESHMAN AND CO-EDS" (8) Songs and Talk 25 Mins.; Special State (V-P)

Light musical company of three men and as many girls...

Salary list looks light; as light as all of the six players...

Collegiate theme. Motion picture opening could be greatly improved...

The three boys finally wed the three girls.

One of the boys sings. His is the only voice. Another is a stout comic...

Joe McGRATH and Elsie TRAVERS Singing, Dancing, Comedy 13 Mins.; One Broadway (V-P)

Little Joe McGrath, with his freak tenor as freaky and pretty as ever...

Miss Travers, comely blonde, is in short dresses throughout...

Turn has been playing around the middle west for about a year...

"WHIRL OF YOUTH" (11) Revue 16 Mins.; Full (Special) State (V-P)

To most audiences, besides its entertaining qualities, "Whirl of Youth" will be commended for its scenic neatness...

Atmospheric changes of scenery are made possible without a stall in "one" or a wait through the use of a revolving centerpiece...

Standout out, "way out, is a mixed dance team. Place them in a class act in a class house and give them a class in their wit...

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DAILEY PASKMAN'S MIN. STRIPLS (20) Blackface 25 Mins.; Full (Special) American (V-P)

Having its roots in radio work this act represents a pretty feeble total for the combined efforts and talents of 20 persons...

Membership constitutes half a band. These musicians are okay but too few in number...

Merely numbers never have meant much as entertainment and this is largely a case of quantity rather than quality.

"ROMANCES" (8) Dance and Song 21 Mins.; Three Full Sets (Special) 81st St. (V-P)

Looks as though Joseph R. Parker accepted prod of this act...

Who's the nut in the Keith office? Whoever he might be, he booked a lot of pretty scenery...

Does he think a public as near to Times Square as 81st street is going to be satisfied with some fairly nice scenery and no talent...

Is it fair to place a sextet of artists before an audience and have them jeered at because some unknown producer liked pretty scenery...

The first street audience actually placed their tongues between their lips and exhaled...

The three ballet girls in "Romances" are terrible. The adagio team and the tenor are handicapped enough without them.

Every booker in the Keith office should be ordered to the 81st street this week to see "Romances"...

DIANA and DEMAR REVUE (4) Dances 20 Mins.; Two and Full (Special) Academy (V-P)

Fanciful idea not backed by class. Featured dance team is able enough but lacks distinction.

It's a tale told in a curio shop. The clerk, in frock trousers, of course, sings of the legends associated with various knock-knocks...

Production, as regards scenery, etc., pretty. In fact, the act's chief asset.

OLVERA BROS. (2) Equilibrists 8 Mins.; Full Stage State (V-P)

Rather youthful looking hand-hand and pole team, but a corker. Neatly dressed in novelty sailor suits...

Can open them all, also spot in the picture houses.

Mason and Lee have split as vaude team. Jack Mason will do a new act with Nan Bell...

Bervens and Pia have dissolved. Bervens will do an act with Helen Roland.

Louise Groody, with Earl Oxford and Wally Chrisham in miniature musical.

Kitty O'Connor, female baritone. Billy Barry and the Liscombe Triplets.

Frank J. Corbett and Joe Sully, 2-act.

Bill Smith, single.

"Honey," musical revue by W. B. Friedmaner, four principals and eight girls.

George P. Murphy and Vic Casmore, 2-act.

Chilton and Thomas have temporarily stage separated, owing to the anticipated visit of the stork in the Thomas family...

Walter Rosemonts Rollickers, with Jack Henry and Wally Friedmaner.

Herman Cline, Jr., and Frank Mahoffe, vocal.

week, probably was enough. Entrance hand larger than the finish.

Jimmy O'Brien and Sid Hawkins, the vocalists in Jimmy Carr's band, were in fine voice and sold the show's one production number nicely...

Rubin on and off throughout, mostly on. If a Hebe dialectician ever sees permanency in a picture house it will be Rubin...

Carl Laemmle, caught catching the show, must have admired Rubin for his courage.

Non-credited short subject (silent) on the New York Stock Exchange very work. Scenery looked like propaganda from the Exchange...

One talking short, Leo Beers, on the M-G-M Movietone, not so good.

John Phillip Sousa and his band of 60 is handing the jazzmanics of this town a sharp jolt...

Running through a gamut of light and heavy airs, all his own command, he speaks in an essential manner...

Due the Sousa booking the regular Public unit slated here was switched to the Oriental.

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sons but the physical architecture of the theatre.

Dave Schooler, the affable m. c. heading the Capitolians, is at it, doing the andante from Gershwin's now famous "Rhapsodie in Blue"...

Rubin on and off throughout, mostly on. If a Hebe dialectician ever sees permanency in a picture house it will be Rubin...

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ORIENTAL

(Wired)

Doris Arden, picture critic for the Journal, asked her readers for opinions of Brooke Johns, the Oriental's new m. c. Ann Pauley wrote that...

Current Oriental stage show, "Oh Teacher" is much revised at the Oriental...

"Oh Teacher" is much revised at the Oriental. It goes back to the Paramount route...

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CHICAGO

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STATE

(Wired)

Zdarsky, guest conductor, and the house orchestra of 20 pieces, called their current stage presentation "Mardi Gras"...

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BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Verne Buck, daughter, at Ravenswood Hospital, Chicago, Dec. 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Curtis (Marion Dunn), Dec. 10 in New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Curtis (Marion Dunn), Dec. 10 in New York.

Among the Women

By The Skirt, Jr.

The Best Dressed Woman of the Week
RAE SAMUELS
Palace (Vaude)

Rae Samuels' "Tomato Red"

Palace bill this week deserved a larger audience than it had Monday afternoon. The names may have frightened away the people, as the acts have been known for years and years in vaudeville. But it is a darned good show and well put together.

Rae Samuels, with all new songs, never looked better. Her gown was a tomato red net made buffante. Hips were encircled by a pointed design of rhinestones. A shoulder corsage was of a matching shade. The earrings were silver and Miss Samuels' ankles looked as ankles should look. And why? Because she wore stockings. The young miss at the piano was in black lace over white.

Russ Brown, just back from a little trip into the legit, was a scream, as he always is. Mr. Brown's partner, Jean Whitaker, wore a lovely shade of green velvet, with a cocktail packet of net embroidered with crystal. Always lovely is Marguerite Keeler, in a sketch with Homer Mason. Miss Keeler had a rose chiffon made with a suggestion of a jumper. Rhinestones were abundantly used for trimmings.

The Watson Sisters were nicely dressed and made a change each. Fannie might be said to have made three, as she discarded a black satin coat to an ensemble and displayed a black dress made with a pleated skirt having bands of silver strass. The evening gown was purple velvet draped to one side and trimmed with diamond arrows. Kitty wore a chateausse taffeta set in with lace ruffles and edged with rosebuds. The second dress was pink satin much embroidered in colored tones.

Mary Horan (with Henry Sautrey) has been well rehearsed by Anna Seymour, but will not be seen at Seymour's place. Miss Horan, after the bustled dress of plaid silk, did one number in a blonde satin pleated skirt and short packet effect.

Evelyn (with Frank Jerome) was very nice in a white full skirt having rows of colored ribbon at the hem. A short bolero jacket was of many colors in a clever needlework design. A green dress followed having atrocious pink feathers.

Sandy Lang had his three assistants nicely dressed in all the numbers. The girls looked especially well in short white skating costumes. Closing the show is a Spanish act called Paulo, Paquita and Chikita, in the all too familiar dress of their country.

Eddie Cantor and a Beautiful Chorus

What a combination are Ziegfeld and Seymour Felix. In "Whoopee" Ziegfeld has another smash and Eddie Cantor is a fortunate boy because he has been surrounded by a chorus that for looks can defy the world. Their every number was so applauded opening night that they had to take a bow by themselves, and due to the splendid work of Felix. "Principals women of the east mean little." "Whoopee" is Eddie Cantor and the chorus.

Ziegfeld invariably starts his girls off dressed simply so their first dresses were of ruffled net and flowered bonnets with long ribbon streamers. Color scheme was white and yellow, a favorite combination of this manager. Olive Brady, in front of these girls, was in pale tan leather jodpurs and a blue shirt. Cantor, with a song, had six lovely creatures in riding habits behind him, each a different model and needless to say the last wore, in a gypsy camp the costumes were breath taking. Some of the dresses were ankle length while others were very short. The longer dresses were in velvet in very tiny tufts forming a sunburst. Shorter ones were of taffeta tucked so finely in the sunburst design they had the appearance of paper.

Ruth Etting, who had appeared previously in a blue velvet riding outfit, also had a costume made of chiffon hangings in several shades. Mary Jane, a nice little taper, wore a rose beige two piece suit. Ethel Shutta wore several cowgirl costumes and Frances Upton, making her first appearance, wore a real Ziegfeld offering.

In an Indian setting six show girls were Indian chiefs, so gorgeous as to be indescribable. On brown and white ponies came six more girls clad just as they were brown. "Whoopee" will probably use a few calendars before it's put away for all time.

Helen Menken's Admirable Work

Helen Menken, in "Congal," will remain at the Sam Harris theatre so long as the class draw lasts. It's not for the masses. Miss Menken is doing admirable work. In other hands the title would fall considerably. Play has been put on in sumptuous style.

Miss Menken, wearing several native costumes, is also seen for one act in a modern buffante gown. It is white tulle sprinkled with rhinestones and accented with a very long sapphire line at the back.

A beige ensemble shown in the last scene. A beige ensemble shown in her well known Chinese character.

A Play Without an Excuse

Theatre Masque is housing a play for which there is no excuse. It is called "Young Love," has four characters, two sets and James Rennie, who is its only saving grace. Rennie is too fine an actor for this display of dirt. Dorothy Gish does well considering everything but Tom Douglas is also wasted as is Catherine Willard.

Some risqué plays are so cleverly done they are not offensive, but this is not the case with "Young Love." Miss Gish first appears in a tan crepe sport dress with brown velvet ribbons lacing the front of the bodice. Her second dress is Alice blue with diamond buttons. A scalloped rounce encircles the sides and the back. Miss Willard looked very thin in a flowered chiffon and much heavier in a beige coat and dress.

Irene Bordoni's Gowns

Miss Irene Bordoni is in an amusing piece called "Paris" at the Music Box. It is admirably suited to her individuality and affords her an opportunity to interpolate a song cycle legitimately. Louise Closser Hale gives a delightful performance as a straight laced Yankee mother who suddenly goes flapper, and cannot be said to be less entertaining than the star. Arthur Margetson makes an attractive leading man.

Miss Bordoni's entrance costume, was a striking ensemble of rose trimmed in grey with grey shoes and two platinum fox fur worn with a tiny hat. Later she changed to a grey crepe gown which was supposed to appear maidenly and conservative but somehow didn't. A buzz of comment was occasioned by a coat of Zebra fur in black and white, worn with a white flower turban, extremely becoming. A white crepe gown underneath was pretty.

For her specialty—Miss Bordoni—chose a huge feather costume with silver bodice and a skirt made entirely of small white ostrich tips which curled and gave a rathless stir and cotton looking effect. With this she showed a lovely ensemble with a feather trailing down one side. A gorgeous rose feather costume, made in similar design but of shaded uncurled pink feathers, worn with an extremely high hat with feathers, was a vision and really might be worn in the preceding act to advantage. A negligee of pastel striped material with green chiffon sleeves was a trifling stir in effect.

Miss Hale looked well in a long chiffon afternoon gown in two tones of tan with a cape and a huge red hat. Later she wore a gold sequin evening gown wired at the hips.

Facial Blemishes

Fem personality singers who depend almost entirely on their cuteness to get them over with a theatre or night club audiences have so far proved a flop in talker tests taken in New York.

As this type of performer is shot for shorts in close-ups mainly, many a successful stage and night club singer is learning for the first time of facial blemishes she never suspected.

Gray Matter

By MOLLIE GRAY

Synchronized German Film

Fifth Ave. Playhouse is a hide-away movie, but many a bright thing comes out of blackness. Material such as "The Bohemian Dancer," German effort, should be encouraged.

This sound picture provides some unexpected laughs when the mediocre synchronization got lost. Sounds of the hunt, music, dogs and horses were on as the hunters were having lunch.

Lya Mara tries hard to be agreeable in the American heroine manner and succeeds occasionally. She looked most attractive in large hats, though her marcel was good looking, too. A silk frock, trimmed with many tiny buttons, was most becoming, and also a silk lace dress.

Contradicting Macfadden

"Isle of Vanishing Men," not Manhattan, is rather interesting in spite of some gruesome moments. It's a detailed picture of the Ki-Kias, a tribe of savages.

Troupe will never appear in vaudeville because scientists say they'll disappear within a decade. This is an absolute contradiction to Macfadden's theory that the less clothes the healthier. And the film calls for a stage when it would have hoped the scientists weren't wrong. The darkness of the 5th Ave. Playhouse seemed appropriate to set this in.

Loew's 'Igh 'At Orchestra

Loew's State has become very considerate of its orchestra, refusing to seat people during the overture.

Private Performance

Entertainment at the Riverside is like a private performance. This was a Monday matinee and very private.

Vanessi, who seemed to have the Monday matinee blues, delighted all and sundry, out of the necessary qualification because the lights failed at a vital moment. From her filmy white with an occasional bead pattern through the ruffles, into her famous peacock number for a gorgeous train, to a brief black affair, spangled in gold and silver, she carried herself and her distinctive bob. She believes in climbing the golden stairs even though she has to supply them herself. Curtains of purple velvet were rieh.

Leon Leonard Co. were collegiate to the extent of calling themselves, "Campus Sweethearts," three pairs. Lovely girls and boys. Sweater frocks here, too, and then party ones of violet organdy for one, beige crepe for another, and black velvet top and bottom of some white satin, for a third. Ray and Dot Dean usual.

Orchestra did itself proud for a little group in the overture.

Western Sight Seeing

"Avalanche" (film) is another sight seeing trip conducted by Zane Grey. Jack Holt, Doris Hill and Eucelora go on a camera shot scenery occasionally, but not enough to spoil the view. Doris was sweet in old fashioned clothes and tightly curled ancient hairdress. Bacalnova is as fine as always, her wide brimmed hat and slip skirt riding outfit doing very well by her. Several handclaps on camera shot being especially good with rocks firmly filling the lens.

Tim, Polly and Roy

Col. Tim McCoy is a busy hero in "Beyond the Sierras," far beyond Polly Moran who turns Spanish, but she's a laugh in any language. Picture is just too romantic including two for all rights. Roy D'Arcy leading the gang with his teeth as usual. When the whistles start

the minute the film breaks it's a hit. The girl gave Tim a chance to prove he really is an actor.

Dorothy Revier's Frocks

"Sibmarina" is a thriller and interesting. Dorothy Revier had to step down from angelic roles for this and does a good job in her black satin frock with a scarf collar and a black crepe coat had polished ribbon trimming as did her small hat.

An ombre silk negligee was good looking without trimming. Miss Revier's white one being embroidered in black.

Hey, Hey, Slap, Slap

Loew's State has a good show, "Whirl of Youth" finishes with a little of that hey, hey, slap stuff, but for the rest is a routine of striking results. They work fast in a tambourine number in what an unappreciative person might call a Woolworth ballet, wisps of chiffon to the banging of tin covers. Harrison and Fisher, adagio and not the artists are spending the night being especially fun. They work fast for striking results.

"Freshmen and Co-Eds" has a plot so the girls can change from sweater frocks to evening gowns. A blonde wore a good looking black taffeta gown with rays of gold beads shooting from the right hip where the draped skirt hung longer. Another girl showed a red crepe gold beaded gown with pleated flares. The lone brunette appeared, for no reason at all, in a white bathing suit and later in a beaded crepe gown of white over pink. Her satin slippers worn with it were a pure white, a startling contrast to the not so white gown. Louise Squires, with Bert Gordon, stood wrapped in white black, gold stripes and her dignity.

RITZY

Hope Williams' Hit

Hope Williams has made a real hit in "Holiday," the Philip Barry comedy at the Plymouth theatre, and is the first genuine "society" actress to attain distinction since the late Clara Bloodgood began as a super and became a star. Before she came to the stage, Mrs. Williams made her professional debut. She had previously been in the amateur productions of the smart Junior League. Her family connections are of the very best. Her father was the late Waldron Williams, and her mother died as Mrs. W. Eugene Kimball. Her sisters are the ultra-conservative Mrs. John T. Terry, Jr., and Mrs. William Ross Proctor, Jr. Her husband is R. Bartow Reed, Yale '20, and 's the son of Mrs. William A. Reed.

Like Ina Claire, Jeanne Borels and Mary Hay, she finds Clifton Webb an amusing escort.

The Movies Missed

Mr. and Mrs. John Livingston Thomas are honeymooning in California. She was Adelaide Kip Rhineland, who divorced Julian S. Chaconneau. When Julian lived in Brooklyn, he spelled the name Shackno. After a protracted sojourn in Paris, he is back in New York. His fashionable friends consider him handsome enough for the movies.

There is a Chaconneau daughter, Phil. Mrs. Thomas succeeds Vida Dodie Thomas, Vida having been previously Mrs. Mackay. The recent wedding was attended by a brother, Philip Kip Rhineland, but not by the other brother, Leonard Kip Rhineland, who is still engaged in litigation with his dusky wife, Alice Jones.

About The Stimpsons

In this department Oct. 24, commenting on the passing of Mrs. Augusta E. Stetson, it was stated that Mrs. Stetson had died at the Rochester home of her nephew, Harold Stimpson, whose wife was said to be in Paris for a divorce. The more accurate version appears to be that Mrs. Stetson appears to have died in New York. The Stimpsons have been married for over 20 years.

Uncommon Chatter

By Ruth Morris

Fox Terrier, Paramount's Hit

Paramount is head over heels in everything but entertainment in its presentation "Foxy Terrier Gowns." It is so named for its final effect which has a drop of crazy hues lowered, upside down, from the flies to meet the wildly patterned hoodpoms of the stage backing. Seems hardly important enough to christen an entire presentation.

An odd effect is achieved in a chorus number in which the girls appear in black velvet abbreviated costumes. They perform on a dark stage against a black velvet drop, leaving nothing but the arms and legs of the dancers visible. Not new but always effective—especially when interest is heightened by a clever routine.

Thelma's Twins dance prettily and look nice in petaled pink chiffon frocks which deepen in shade toward the hem-line. A Moonlight Ballet number follows on a costume transformation—with brief skirts being removed during the dance and adjusted as high flaring collars. Otherwise nothing—except an amazingly clever and pathetically tiny fox terrier.

Those Two Girls

Elbow Giza and Clara Bow, those two girls from the Christian Endeavor Society, pooling their talents in a picture called "Three Week-ends" should have been enough to call out all the fire engines in the vicinity of the Paramount; but the finished product wouldn't trouble even a bucket brigade.

The three week-ends are as quiet and circumspect as a strawberry festival. Even Clara's newly acquired henna rinse doesn't help to raise the temperature.

Speaking in French

Miss Wayne, of Fulmer and Wayne, has a silver and tulle gown that was becoming at the American Monday. Her attempts to keep the orchestra in tempo can be described as nothing short of "doubtful"—a French term.

There are four girls in the Frank Dobson act who dress in varying degrees of sports clothes. They are all pretty and could look much more attractive if a little more attention were given to style. The dancer in the Goslar and Lushy act made three costume changes—the first green satin with ostrich feather skirt; next a much more becoming black bouffante, and third, a short fringed ballet arrangement.

Reasons for Choking

Should a husband choke his wife seems to trouble the German film, "Jealousy," presently at the 56th Street Cinema. It was all perfectly serious and all perfectly silly.

The film had moments of interest because of the acting of Lya de Putti, but for the greater part she was smothered under the most showy hoop-skirts and most heavily decorated costumes in captivity. Her gown and de-dizened tara grounds enough for any good choking.

Too Many S's

With fog-thick as soup and crooks thick as thieves, "Caught in the Fog," at the Strand, has possibilities. But the director, scenarist and cast saw fit, not to use them. About as dull as they come—even with the stolen jewels changing hands every other minute.

The picture has one or two vocal sequences, better left unspoken. Whispering Jack Smith was all that was needed in the first one, in which May McAvoy and the mob skirted as they missed their nefarious plans. Such a crackling sizzle of S's.

Miss McAvoy still films beautifully—and vocalizes abominably.

Dark Blue Now

Darker shades in evening dresses are being stressed in many shops. Dark blue (formerly frowned on for evening wear) is given considerable prominence. One is in a more brilliant blue crepe, with decollete outlined in closely sewn seed pearls which terminate in an inserted bow. This tendency to encrust bows into fabric either in sports or evening gowns is very popular.

Another model, made simply in black moire, has a top of net and a lower skirt section of the transparent material. Very effective.

Chatter in New York

Jack Kearns leaped to the coast. Bert Lahr nursing sprained back. Demarest Dore may go to Africa. The celebs are playing Percy's. Ben Serkovich is under cover. Darling Sisters split again. Three Mikeeys cured one fellow. Tex Guinan recommended Joe Lewis for the Parody's m. c. Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Amey are leaving Saturday by auto for Miami. Heywood Brown celebrated his 40th birthday at Barney's. Phone operators in Asia have to understand 14 languages. Jack Curly will start a six-day bike race uptown. Denicotined cigs fast seller with the girls. Joe Levy has opened The Castle on the Hudson with a revue. Helen Kane in Paramount's Richard Dix talker. British War Veterans made \$7,200 clear on their ball at the Plaza. Louise Taylor dropped 10 pounds rehearsing for Dan Healy's revue. Jeanne Fayal, of "Hello Yourself," doubling in night club. Harry Pearl sporteth a new sedan. Can a fellow love a girl whose first name is Sue? Tommie Lyman and Joe Pani opening club. Wealthy playboys giving Harlem big play week-ends. Doris Eaton departs for Los Angeles. Pearl back in town. Midge and Cassie Hanley at Parody club. The know girl is the yesgirl, says Arthur Gordon. Vivienne Sigal taking pills for one of those early winter sniffles. Karl K. Kitchen on Tatter, society sheet. Dorothy Britton, "Miss Universe," has a speaking part in "Vanities." Lew Cody calls for Europe in Jan. Alice Weaver returned from the Fox lot west. Dick Watts of the Herald-Trib is now its film critic. Lillian Bond is stepping from chorus to principal. Al Seigel is out of Tony DeMarco's act because of tardiness. Nate Raymond, out on bail, is around the club belt. Covert \$20 per at Richman's, New Year's. Dorothy Peterson back from Europe. Harry Delson volunteering in the late-hour retreats. "That's a very nice dress you have off," comments the Broadwayite to his girl friend nowadays. Eugene O'Neill's personal bar in Bermuda is getting world renowned. Joseph Daniels II is press agent of Tex Guinan's place, to be in the Harding. Polly Walker takes dancing lessons in the morning and vocal afternoons. Paul Gulick and Jerome Beatty helped pack Christmas packages at the Park Central for poor children. More than 20 Broadwayites awaiting final decrees to announce their latest marital choices. The big oil tip dropped another 1/4, resulting in low blood pressure along the Artery. Greta Lewis of "Just a Minute" extracted from rehearsal of night club revue. Mother disavows hours. Val Vestoff, dancer, now singing. Lew Price and wife leaving for coast flickers. The first of Harlem's colored houses to use sound pictures will be the Renaissance. Arthur Byron, Jr., son of the actor, has sold a drawing to the New York Times. George Robbins is again associated with Samuel Nathans' theatrical luggage man. Roxy, fast becoming known as the world's chief golf nut, is now in receipt of his ninth set of clubs. Peggy Blake, showgirl, departed for California to look after her real estate. A little girl in one of the musicals who took a tumble and failed, is clipping the film for Xmas cards. Lou Brown is wearing a male raccoon coat. He'd hate to be embarrassed. John O'Connor of the Telegraph and "Broadway Racketeers" is abed with grippe. Lou Davis spends his winter going over the latest films he keeps of his golf scores in summer. Samuel Chotzinoff, music critic

of the New York World, has purchased a farm at Redding, Conn. Harry Ruby says let the stocks drop; all his stuff is bought on margin. Brilliant plunger! Ned Welsh, former ship news reporter on Mirror, will be a pursuer of the "Leviathan" beginning Feb. 6. Larry Lewis' must II-tempt reporter in "Gentlemen of the Press" wears a plug hat off. Burton Davis' wife has a cat cathedral, real feline shrine, with an original Steinlein etching. Judge Gus Dreyer is off the bench for a month. He will look over Times Square. Former adagio dancer is now a non-complaining Turkish bath rubber. "Let's go to the Club Rothstein" is the cue, referring to the Park Central Hotel's grill. Dona Rose is setting the Stem pace for dress. Latest awe provoker pale green gown of lace with detours hither and yon. In a group of multi-millionsaires at a recent banquet Henry Ford was the only one who wore patent leather shoes with dress outfit. Whenever Charlie Schwab has a new story he tries it out first on the newspapermen, for he says they never fake a laugh. John K. Hutchins, movie critic of Post, swerved over to Theatre Arts magazine. Evening Post wants young collegian for the job, or did. For his radio work for, Wall street firm tendered Arnold Johnson, the orchestra man, 200 shares of stock. Mary Jane feels badly because St. John Ervine said she was inconsiderate in taking too many encores in "Whoopie." Jack Miley has resigned from the Fox newsreel to return to newspaper work on Hearst's American, New York. Gene Brady, showgirl, elected "Miss Hold Everything." Claire Harper elected "Miss Treasure Girl." Contest in Tarrytown. Eddio Cantor's nightly recreation is to drive his own car home to Great Neck, L. I., with Mrs. Eddie. No driver. Peonies, the club entertainers organization, held one of its regular periodical dinner-dances at the McAlpin, Sunday. Big motor lorries of Broadway are giving passengers plenty of ozone since the carbon-monoxide story hit page one. Paul Whitman is addicted to toy steam engines. Five of them. Takes 'em apart and puts 'em together. Margaret McCarthy has been doing a single at the Csanova. Sister Pansy, married, had to lay off for some days, without excuses. There were 988 guests at a party thrown in celebration of the marriage of Conde Nast's son to Donald Brian's daughter, Suzanne. Delicious comments of approval met the cars of a blonde sub-deb whose ermine wrap was lined in rose. Victor Herbert's only son, Victor Herbert, Jr., is floating around the nite clubs and in the brokerage business without any concern in music. More men are wearing blue tuxedos and blue ties with sapphire studs. Lay out looks darker than regulation black at night. Durante's trio's salary is \$2,500 with Ziegler's "Show Girl" and \$3,000 with the Rendezvous nite club. Permitted to double. Copy boys of the New York Times wore high hats and carried sticks to the bi-annual party given Mr. Oehl's employees at the Park Lane. Crosby Gaige is concerned in the publication of "Elizabeth and Essex," brilliant biography of the former British queen. First edition limited to 400 copies, at \$20 per. There is a plot under way on Broadway to get Noel Coward to make the rounds of the high places. Tommy Smith, of Demi-Light, the Finlander. Vera Caspary, former editor of the Dance Magazine, is now editor of the Official Metropolitan Guide. Eddie Miller's Times Square throw-away. Collegiate foot initiation season is with us again along Broadway with the silly fol-de-rol of aproned umbrellas, grotesque costumes and bizarre makeups. John J. O'Connell, Jr., film critic of The Sun who has been in one of the movies of the series of the

octopus that wrote "Gentlemen of the Press." Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Beeson have been spending a fortnight in New Orleans. Mrs. Beeson's father recently underwent a serious operation at a local hospital. A society girl on the ringsides wears a chain of gold around her neck on which is strung little golden hearts, each of which she maintains represents a proposal. New apartment building in the upper 30's offers single room apartment at \$1,000 per annum with one year lease; \$1,200 on six-month lease; \$1,400 on three-month lease. Arthur Gordon's side line is a Stock Exchange house connection. He may blow the nite club thing to go into the brokerage end exclusively. Selling a story to Liberty is no guarantee when it will be published. Mark Hellinger collected \$500 twice for two years 11 and 14 months back. They have yet to see printer's ink. After premiere of "Whoopie," Flo Ziegfeld went back stage to give the dancing girls each a \$20 gold piece. It was acknowledged for their performance in the Seymour Felix staged numbers. Ed Strong, theatre and race track operator of Cleveland, is laid up at his apartment in the Hotel Warwick, New York, with a cracked right leg. He turned on the hot water faucet of his shower bath. Ben All Haggin, artist and boulevardier, forgot to pay for a Chrysler. Simon, Stewart & Foy, New York agency, has taken judgment for \$3,434. A showgirl with a Solomon head had two boy friends, each of whom claimed the same dinner date with her. She agreed to eat lunch with the first and dinner with the other. They tossed a coin for the hour. A New York talking picture truck went down on Long Island to catch a duck farm quacking. Everything okay until developed, when the only sound heard was the ocean, four miles away. Jack Whiting's mother chaperoning her son's new trick dress tie in action at a midnite show. Mrs. Whiting is Jack's famous and affectionately well known "Tish," who loves him despite his golf. Jimmy Quigley, not the one in the Rothstein case, has left his 48th street place and opened the Great Neck Tavern. Quigley's new place was erroneously stated to be in North Hempstead. An author in expressing an opinion about the manager who recently produced his play said: "He cannot indulge in alcoholic drinks but to atone for this he surrounded himself with a staff that has not been sober for three years." Marxes as Marks Saturday night the Marx brothers ad libbed about the stock market for five minutes in "Animal Crackers" at the 44th street and the audience roared. On that day Wall Street was panicked and the Marxes got a bit singed. Radio went down 72 points and Groucho said

ever an English play hits town, to get a few snappy British wise cracks for their reviews. That misleads readers into believing Chicago critics can write English. Sport has never been seen in a Tux or bugtall outfit. He's saving that for his first Shubert booking, at which time he'll go out on his yacht in full dress. Sport is high in Masonic circles and higher yet in politics. Knowing his oats, he kissed Mayor Thompson good bye and followed the Louis L. Emmerson campaign for governor. All Thompson has now is that kiss. As a member of the Managers' Ass'n, Sport dished out several hot talks that have been procured for formula speeches by the Y. M. C. A., and have also been recorded on Victor records by the Hill Billies with guitar accompaniment. A he-man and a regular guy. (This for protection.) In his department headed "Letters Posted to the Drama Desk," Fred Donaghy, Tribune critic, used a standing introductory note telling letter writers what he isn't interested in. It reads as follows: "Communications about plays, actors and such may be addressed to Mr. Donaghy. However, there is no space for complaints about the charges imposed by ticket-brokers, about the broken trackbacks

beneath the seats, about the department of ticket-sellers in the box-office, or about other matters whose correction lies readily within the power of the theatregoer who is offended or annoyed." Duffy Cornell, news editor of the Examiner, has squawked about the character with his name in "Front Page." The character is invisible, talked to over the phone by players, but is accused of having diabetes, among other things. Following the squawk, Duffy's name was removed from the script. Virginia Dale, Journal drama critic, is back on the desk after fluency. Fred McQuigg of the American seems to be growing a goatee. Social Battle Social registers battling here, and not with orchid powder puffs. Joseph Rheinstrom, selling dames in writup with photo at \$350 for "Who's Who in Chicago Society," was arrested on a warrant sworn out by Mrs. Marion Moore Hall, western representative of the "Social Register." Charge was racketeering. Getting nothing on Rheinstrom, cops released him and gave him the venture the okay. Rheinstrom thereupon swore out a warrant for arrest of Mrs. Moore, charging false arrest and malicious prosecution.

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Chatter in Loop

Inaccurate Biographies (Urban J. Herrmann)

Subject of this week's thesis is Urban J. (Sport) (Scartooth) (Wool) Herrmann, half owner and manager of the Cort. He's always half something or other. The Cort is a local aquarium which until six years ago was the gold mine of the legit theatres in Chicago.

With Harry Frazee to keep his feet on the ground, Sport erected the Cort out of bilpaster paste and gravel. After the house was built he inquired around about getting a Shubert show, but was told to go button his nose. That got Sport mad. He bankrolled several ticket speculators along the right in order to sell out his house no matter what was playing. Usually it was no matter what.

Ever grateful, local speculators hold a Sport Herrmann testimonial dinner every other era, and shower him with tributes in vegetables or fruit. Sport more than returns the compliments. As one speculator to show you his Herrmann scars, then run.

Sport is some kind of librarian for the city, becoming famous as the man who burned all school history books that mentioned England or King George. The truth, unimpaired by the critics, is that Sport ran out of coal at the Cort. The drama critics call on Sport when

Stories by Jack Conway

From 1920, onward, Jack Conway wrote a series of stories appearing in Variety. Most of the stories dealt with baseball and prize fights, plays and pug. This series will be reprinted weekly. Each story carries its original head. Story below appeared in Variety of March 3, 1922.

TOMATO CLEANING UP TRAMPS ON BUSH TIME

Con Steering His Meal Ticket Against Set-Ups—Hopes to Make Garden

Syracuse, N. Y., March 29. Dear Chick:

Tomato is still cleanin' up the tramps in the bushes and goin' like a house afire. The last guy we boxed was all set for a semi-final at the Garden, but Tomato knocked all that out of him and he will be content hereafter to stick to the home burg and fatten up on the soft ones.



CON

His name was Sally Regan and he could certainly put on the dog. His first seconds climbed into the ring with green sweaters on with this bird's monicker plastered all over the front and back of the sweaters. Tomato saw them climbin' through the ropes and said to me, "What am I supposed to fight here tonight, a ball club?"

But the sweaters and the oxygen tank didn't help Regan a bit, for after lettin' him show his stuff for two rounds, Tomato began to rip in body punches and this dancing master started to fold up. He was a foot taller than the champ, but before the sixth round he looked like one of Singer's Midgets.

Every time they got in a clinch Regan would nearly go to his knees tryin' to pull away from the smack-tin he was gettin' in the portico. He would roll his eyes and look over at me like a dying haddock. I kept pointin' at the ring floor and yellin' "There's a nice soft one, Regan, with paddin' on it." I think he wanted to take a tank but I talked him out of it.

In the sixth round I yelled to him, "What'll you take for the sweaters?" and the poor tramp nearly choked tryin' to answer me. Tomato kept cross-firin' to him in the clinches, askin' him if he had any place to go in the early part of the fight, but he got after the fight, and that is what he had in mind. Whatever his plans were about divin' Tomato copped him on the old button in the seventh and he didn't need to quit after that.

The referee took one peek at him and didn't even start to count, just motioned to the sweaters to enter and carry out their gladiator. I immediately wired Willie Connors at the Garden tellin' him that we was ready to take the fight that Regan was booked for and that we didn't want to know who we was to box or anything. I knew that it was a certainty that Leo Flynn could scrape up a boy Tomato's weight if we give him three or four weeks' notice, so I may grab the match yet. If you see us billed hop in a taxi and come down and rest your peepers on a real championship contender. This kid has got more stuff than 80 per cent of these high-priced tramps and he has never seen more than a grand for his bit at any time in his life.

When he reads about Tender, Dundee and the rest of them birds pulling down ten and twelve grand for 15 rounds, it's all I can do to stop him from hoppin' on a short and committin' assault and battery on one of them guys on the streets of your fair city. He has a lame brained idea that if he heat one of them eggs in a street fight that he would cop enough publicity to demand a chance inside of four ropes. I know he will catch on in the big town, for he has been beatin' the toughest boys we can find in the slicks and they ain't all set-ups. It's like a guy hittin' 400 in some bush—he must have somethin'.

I haven't given baseball a rumble for next season, although I have several offers to manage minor league clubs. This racket is a lot softer if I can keep the kid busy, but you know how it is when the sun hits these knucklers. They like to loaf as much as anybody and I don't blame them at that. Many a night when I'm handing Tomato the water bottle and puttin' colodion on a busted lamp I think to myself that it's a tough racket for a pug. It's all right for a manager to stand over in a corner and yell instructions, then baw' the guy out, but when you're in there catchin', gettin' kicked around like a round bottomed cuspidor, and then stagger back to your corner to have some gink say, "Why, you big bum, why didn't you box him?" It reminds me of Walter Kelly's story about the English lightweight who was boxin' at the National Sports' Club and takin' an unmerciful lacing. Between rounds his manager climbed up in the ring and said to his battered pug, "Don't mix with 'im, box 'im, avoid 'im." The kid gulped deeply from the water bottle and answered, "Avoid 'im, gov'ner, I shan't 'ave to leave town."

"Yes, pal, it's all right for the clever guys that they throw a pair of gloves at and their fighters, but these poor gibonies that get battered up for four or five years before they get hep to the fact that there are only two punches in a fighter's catalogue—it's murder; watch 'em close."

If you see us billed at the Garden look me up at the Cumberland.

Your old pal, Con.

MUST RESPECT COPS

Judge Dreyer Said It—Citizen Spat on Patrolman

"While I preside on the Bench I will see that the uniform of a patrolman is respected," said Magistrate Dreyer in West Side Court in imposing a suspended sentence on Walter W. Weingarten, 30, traveling salesman, of 320 West End avenue. The salesman was arrested by Traffic patrolman J. E. Callahan of Traffic B. The latter declared that Weingarten spat upon him from an auto at 42d street and 7th avenue.

Weingarten, with Edward Fixman, attorney, of 50 West 54th street; two other men and one woman, said the officer, were in a car returning from the New Amsterdam. They were in evening dress.

As the auto reached the crossing where Callahan was directing traffic, he alleged that Weingarten spat upon him. He placed him under arrest.

Callahan said that Fixman threatened to send him to the "rats." Callahan told the court that Weingarten had apologized. Stating it was an accident.

"Your Honor, it is quite trying to regulate traffic during the theatre hours without having persons committing the nasty act of the defendant," said the officer. The court agreed.

Toronto on New Year's

Toronto, Dec. 11. Preparations for the annual New Year ding-dong are in full swing for about 30 local joints. Lighter stores are slated to remain open evenings prior to the high jinks night.

King Edward Hotel will slap a \$25 cover charge on all couples, stiff sock for the locals.

DIDN'T ASSAULT ACTOR

Robert Calhoun, 23, a carpenter of 514 79th street, Brooklyn, was acquitted in Special Sessions of a charge of assault made by Kirk Ames, actor, of 345 West 12th street, Greenwich Village.

Ames claimed that Calhoun uttered an argument Oct. 8 punched him and threw him into a fountain in the courtyard of the apartment where the actor lives.

Alleged Magician Fined \$50

John Torralba, 34, of 91 Division street who claims to be a magician, was fined \$50 in Special Sessions on his conviction of selling indecent articles.

He was arrested on the complaint of agents of the Vice Society.

The Mayor Knows

The effect of the higher learning in Chicago attributes this repartee on the part of the 100 per cent American, Mayor Thompson.

A showman was sitting directly in front of the Mayor at the premiere of "The Man With Red Hair." The Chi Mayor's companion observed, "It's a sadistic play."

Thompson agreed "Yes, very sad."

Eatin' and Robbin'

Two well dressed youths, armed, ate a meal in China Land, 157 West 43d street, walked to the hat girl, Lu-na Murphy, got their hats, and coats and then proceeded to the cashier's desk where they menaced the manager, headwaiter and casiler and copped \$247.

Keeping their guns played on their victims they backed their way out of the restaurant while a score of couples and the orchestra watched them leave.

Detectives from West 47th street were notified.

Dance Hall Grabbers Must Move Away From B'way

Police Captain Edward Lennon of West 47th street is ridding Broadway of corner lizards who park themselves outside of dance halls and cabarets and annoy homeward bound honestes. Lennon has assigned a special squad of young cops to clean up this element.

Patrolman Joe Curtin arrested Ray Rogers, 28, trainer for bike riders, and Edward Mellon, 25, also a trainer, in front of the Orpheum Dance Palace, 46th street and Broadway. Curtin ordered the pair to move on. Instead, he asserted, they remarked, "What, move for a New York cop when we won't move for a Chicago 'bull'?"

This was plenty for Curtin. He had both by the neck and into the station house. In court, repentant, they told Magistrate Dreyer how sorry they were. Now know the "Big Steak" better than Judge Dreyer. He directed they be fingerprinted and will impose sentence later.

Cops Play Checkers

With Women's Charges

Newark, N. J., Dec. 11. Much excitement still being caused here through charges brought by Contemporary, big women's club, in regard to vice in the city.

Charges of nude dances on stairs have not been pressed as yet, but the latest batch refers to the debauching of minors in local hide-aways. It is stated that conditions repeat those in Dover, N. J., where eight men were recently indicted for their attacks on school girls.

Police officials, naturally the last to suspect such conditions, worked up quite an argument with the women who stood their ground. Police captains are being called together and told to stamp out the evil, even if it doesn't exist.

As this is being printed in all papers and those divekeepers who can't read have telephones, the result is almost certain.

Hand-Book Maker Guilty

Frank Gorman, 38, restaurant owner of 201 6th avenue, was found guilty in Special Sessions of making book on the races.

He was sentenced to 30 days but sentence was suspended during good behavior.

Gorman was arrested by officers of the 3rd Division in front of 158 West 47th street, Oct. 9.

The Count in Pictures

Count deBosdari, engaged to wed Tithulsh Bankhead in London, is interested in talking pictures over there.

The count is reported pretty well over the American coast.

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome for \$10

Year's Subscription to Variety

Old Doc Shaffer Just as Smart in His 'For Men Only' Sex Show Lecture

In the second and final week of his Brooklyn, N. Y., ballyhoo on "Love, Marriage and Divorce," Dr. S. Albert Shaffer, M.D., Ph. D., drew a healthy house for both lectures Monday night at 50c a head for men only. That's the uniform scale for the four frolics the Doc Women Only (first week) and For Men Only on the low-off week. The big graft is the \$1 take for the three pamphlets which, after discounting the 20 per cent kick-back to the publisher, represents about 300 per cent profit to the medicine show.

Dr. Shaffer, assisted by Dr. A. C. Herting, N.D., O.D., Ph.G., who glowingly prefates the pamphlets with a rave about the "master," has a third assistant in a Dr. Lerch, a very convincing spellbinder and glandular exponent and is the personification of a glorified Y.M.C.A. mentor. A Rotarian go-getting, square-shootin' propagandist and a high-pressure salesman. He's the convincer for the book sales and his oratorical prowess is probably attested to nightly by the added number of book purchases after the ushering staff had thrice made the rounds of the house from row to row. Probably 70 per cent of the average attendance goes for \$1 a set of the pamphlets, this being the side and easy money, the big shot of the outfit.

The stags get a better break than the fennecs, four "living models" being brought out by Dr. Lerch during his convincer spiel on the glandular duct relationship to sex. The girls in one-piece bathing costumes are so-so, of about the same average to be encountered in any musical tab show. They do nothing but step forward from the ranks while Dr. Lerch speaks about glands and its effect on particular physical development and manifestations.

Pelvic Charts

"Dr. Shaffer Speaks on Sex" reads the longest display outside the Shubert (formerly Teller's Shubert) in Brooklyn. He does all that but little or nothing beyond what is not generally known. He uses two charts for illustrative purposes, cross-sections of the feminine and masculine anatomy, especially that of the pelvic region.

The Doc hints significantly and directly at certain phases but having planted the seed, without irritating the curiosity through too incomplete discussion, that's patently the comedown for the Questions and Answers sessions on Wednesday and Saturday. Those are probably the big

gate draws and perhaps the cause of many repeaters.

Nothing that the Doc disseminates, of course, is technically open to molestation. Studiously pointed for incidental humor, the Doc mentions something that if he did fetch a copper into the premises, but, fortunately, nothing like this has ever come to pass in all the 30 years of his professional activity, he says.

Without mentioning who and what the Hygienic Anatomical Educational Association, Inc. is, this impressively chartered organization headquartered in the Franklin Trust Bldg., Philadelphia, so it is stated, is the copyright owner of the pamphlet publications. Dr. Shaffer is also ballyhooed by the m. e. as a man of vast professional and educational experience, as a practicing physician and consultant in hospitals and clinics and as an educator in the faculties of colleges and universities. No place identified.

He is a henkin gut with a respectable little paunch and smirkingly shy and unprepossessingly shuffling in gait; with a convincing personality without being commanding or domineering. He is cautious in driving home his purpose of chiding careless mankind for social ineptness, and does not assume any condescending manner or mode, landing it all in one-of-us spirit, so as to include himself in everything. Perfect for the peasants.

Neat Work

Dr. Shaffer speaks intelligently, cautiously, not too subtly but delicately, in a manner that would not prejudice even the donkey gendarme on the beat, and yet at the same time clicks with the intent and purpose of it all.

The "Love, Marriage and Divorce" billings of his Stage Presentation, which carries a prominent "1928 copyright" line, is based on the assumption that the great majority of his audiences of both sexes are married.

It's a great ballyhoo for the gate, the lurid banners, with their rhetorical positions about happy marriage, perpetual honeymoons, domestic felicity, etc., shaping up attractively for pull-'em-in sidewalk propaganda.

The Doc could repeat in Times square at one of those empty legit houses and do big to a six-bit or even a buck gate. It must be quite worth while at 50c, considering the book sales. This sort of 'sex show' seems beyond police or censorship while it remains a stage lecture.

On the Square

Bos Cutting Rates

Sandwich men are hollering murder. Seems the boys who carry the fore and aft banners in Times Square have not been getting enough to eat and sleep on.

Come some of the woozy los from below the silver and gold line and are picking up the banner jobs at 50c a day.

Wabby Devils

The Fox people seem to be having the hardest time imaginable to keep those four circuitous acrobats swinging in that electrical first sign for "Four Devils" at the Gaiety, New York.

The electrical mechanism persists in getting out of kilter with the outside electrical crew continually fixing it.

More Women Store Sleuths

Never before in the New York stores have so many fem-detects been employed for holiday service.

In other years a few have been hired, but most of the sleuthing by men. Store operators believe that the shoplifter is more suspicious when a man is around than when a woman is on the job.

Song Singing Ballyhoo

One of the numerous auction rooms in one of the avenue sectors close by T. S. spring a nifty on its competitive neighbors last week by having one of the boys apparently on the auctioning staff sing a song.

This was used as a ballyhoo and its success may lead to others supplying a little indoor concert before the bidding gear is pulled.

Brandy and Soda for \$1.50

Brandy and soda is the favorite drink in the class bars around the square these days. One of the spots that maintains a \$1.50 tap for anything but the bar-own pours or shivers has of late been shining out a pool of brand Scotch, the operators showing little consideration for their regular trade because of an expected padlock soon after New Year's.

Some of the Metroy bar and such are being held back by the lobby who are looking forward to a nice holiday trade with a resultant price tit per case.

World's Champ Taster

Mr. D. Campbell, who stars in "The World's Champ Taster" in Madison Square Garden, is out with another promotion, the "world's champ taster."

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15 YEARS AGO

(From Variety and Clipper)

Large sounding auspices for a new sex picture is not a new device. "Inside of the White Slave Traffic" was being peddled to state rights under sponsorship of "Sociological Research Film Corp." Film was dug up from the shelves and shoved out to grab publicity value of reformers' drive against red light plays just at its height.

The Keith office made a small concession to pleasure by opening a special department devoted to screen features.

Sheet music sales were lower and lower and the cost of retaining vaudeville singers to plug numbers was getting higher and higher. Publishers were trying, without much success so far, to get together to control the situation.

Christy Cabanne was directing Mae Marsh in a three-reel drama and Thomas H. Ince was negotiating with David Belasco for the film rights to "Madame Butterfly" and "The Darling of the Gods."

Jones, Linick & Shafer, up and coming managers, of Chicago, took over from Harry Askin the lease of the LaSalle on West Madison street, Chicago.

First aviation picture had Marc McDermott in film called "The Stolen Plane," aerial shots being trick studio stuff.

Reliance opened a studio on the New York-Yonkers city line, and there were many other studio projects near New York. Fort Lee had recently come to the fore in this respect.

John Barrymore's first film, then being made by Famous Players, was an adaptation of the Nat Goodwin play, "An American Citizen."

50 YEARS AGO

(From "Clippers")

The first performance in America of "H. M. S. Pinaroff" was given in the Boston Museum. World premiere had been in the Opera Comique, London, the previous May and the Gilbert & Sullivan classic was still running. Of the Boston cast Marie Wainwright played Josephine, George W. Wilson the Admiral and Lizzie Harold Little Buttercup.

Annual meeting of the Baseball League association in Cleveland amended its constitution to cover outlaw players by forbidding any league team to play any other team upon which there was a player expelled from a League club. The Spalding baseball was made the official ball at this meeting, putting an end to the wrangle over dead or lively sphere.

Victorien Sardou, then writing for the Comedie Francaise, went to Nice for the winter to finish a play.

George Johnson, manager Music-Rentz Female Minstrels, was arrested in Atlanta charged with giving an obscene performance. The Atlanta Commission, country wide authority, took the occurrence lightly, commenting that the Benzie girl "showed a little more girl and a little less clothes than most visiting attractions—but not much."

Advertisements were not so much. The mob at the Bowery theatre took exception to a performance and a riot started. Iose Eytling made a speech from the stage begging them not to wreck the place.

The exhibit invented the revolving stage yet, but one man, turned the turn of the job. He called "business scenery makers."

Inside Stuff—Pictures

Nick Schenck sent out a somewhat belated denial Dec. 6 to Variety's report of Nov. 23 that William Fox wanted to buy control of Loew's. Schenck said in his denial that neither Fox nor anyone else can. No one hardly thought Fox could, but that didn't stop and hasn't stopped Fox from wanting to.

In the Schenck denial, sent out by the M-G-M press department, Nick suggests the report was spread for "possibly the idea of stock manipulation." Nothing in that. No one in either the Loew or Fox organization knew Variety had any intention of printing the story, and the story as printed came to Variety from two outside sources, with each considered reliable.

"Hunting Tower," the English made full length talker with Harry Lauder, to be distributed over here by Paramount, is said to have been completed without Lauder's songs. Lauder left England for an Australian visit. With the print with Paramount, the Victor plant at Camden, N. J., is reported trying to fit some of Lauder's old song discs into a record for the films.

Harry Cohn, production head of Columbia, in making pictures for dialog and sound, is working on a basis different from other producers. "The Younger Generation," now being adapted to sound, was first shot completely in its silent version. After that the picture was previewed a half a dozen times without the high spots located.

Retakes were made of scenes which were to be used for the incorporation of dialog and sound. Latter added through Western Electric sound apparatus.

Harold Lloyd in the making of his next picture is going to function on the same basis, first making the silent version complete and after locating the laughs and high spots, the dialog and sound will be added.

Fox's sound news came in for a panning in the mid English way when show and sound, is working on a basis different from other producers. "The Younger Generation," now being adapted to sound, was first shot completely in its silent version. After that the picture was previewed a half a dozen times without the high spots located.

It was the first public speech King George had made in four years. Fox, through Jack Connolly, its foreign celeb locator, got an exclusive on it. Just how Connolly turned this feat no one on either side knows. But the short has been shown in London and over here, as part of the Fox sound news reel.

In England and with the King III, exhibitors found the price of the King George bit in sound was \$500 weekly. They squawked and the news was squawked. Usual price over there for Fox Movietone News is reported at \$250.

Editorials asked how Fox had secured the record, if the King had consented to his exhibition in England, and why the price had gone up; also why the King in talk and action should not be exhibited by Fox and the exhibs without charge? There didn't appear to be anyone around who cared to answer.

It's quite likely the King knew he was being photographed but if he knew it was also in speech is another matter. The camera truck was in front of him at all times and followed him as he walked from the platform, with the Queen, to his car. The women in the States will like the way Queen Mary is dressed for the civic occasion.

"The House That Shadows Built" in an autobiographical sketch of Adolph Zukor's life in book form by Will Irwin. Published by Doubleday, Doran and Co. at \$3.50. Mr. Irwin found as many human touches in Mr. Zukor's earlier life as in the days following his advent into the film trade.

After his first mercantile struggles and set-backs in the fur business, Zukor married in 1895 a niece of Morris Kohn and a sister of Al Kaufman. Twice does Mrs. Zukor figure importantly and fondly in this tale of her husband. Once when Zukor, mentioning reverses, found that his wife had rented a cheaper apartment and moved there without his knowledge, and again when suspecting he required money, she pawned all of her jewelry for him.

The author and probably Zukor credit Daniel Frohman with having saved Zukor from bankruptcy, sometime subsequent to his picture operation and when it looked the darkest for Zukor's future. Frohman, president of the Actor's Fund at present but a foremost legit manager in those days, heard Zukor's recital of misfortune and needs. Zukor asked for no money, what he wanted was advice. Frohman gave him neither, leaving and saying he would think it over, calling again. On his way back to his office, Frohman decided. He withdrew some securities, ordered them sold and immediately returned to Zukor's office, placing a check of \$50,000 on his desk, telling Zukor to repay him when out of the jam. Frohman never mentioned the incident, but some years later Zukor did.

The remainder of this interesting biography to all show people and others who like to know of the amazing rise of a remarkable man is of Zukor's forward march, to his present day when he is just as remarkable and just as farseeing as he was before and on the day that Frohman saved him from going broke.

The show business holds many an absorbing business romance, but none more graphic nor poignant than that of Adolph Zukor.

Ben Christensen, FN director, has established a record in two consecutive pictures in that every camera set-up is represented in the completed picture. In "Haunted House" 384 scenes were in the script, with 5,800 feet in the picture as finally cut. In "Seven Footprints to Satan" the script contained 379 scenes and the completed subject measured 5,500 feet.

Christensen since in the U. S. has been handicapped by a more or less prevailing sentiment that a sense of humor combined with a bump of economy could not be found in a foreign director. At M-G-M, for three years he directed but two pictures and a prolog. At FN he is making four a year.

Will Hays is reported quite close to Herbert E. Hoover. Hays has often conferred with President Coolidge. Politically, Mr. Hays is said to be closer with Mr. Hoover.

John Gilbert, screen actor, was one of those who tried his luck in the recent ball market and followed stocks closely at one of the Hollywood brokerage offices. After the first visit, he found it necessary to resort to wearing ovalish black glasses to hide his identity in order to be able to watch market changes and avoid the customary pestering from fans that film stars are annoyed by.

Reily Gardner, M-G-M secretary, has devised her own method of checking on screen dialog, since so many of Hollywood's talking pictures have demonstrated that the conversational dialog is a detached screen as it looks on paper. She dictates and makes changes accordingly before submitting the script to studio executives.

The new 22-story city hall building in Los Angeles has proved a find to the picture industry. This city has a 125-story hotel built on corner of the city. As a result, when the film makers wanted any tall building structure they had to construct miniatures or use stock shots of New York or Chicago. A special dispensation granted the city the right to build beyond the height limit and the picture industry is already being benefited. The structure has been completed only a few months and is already being

Inside Stuff—Vaudeville

Ann Danaher's \$7,228 judgment against Johnson & Lowenstein Inc. the agents, since split, has been ordered reopened by court. The actress sued on a seven-week guarantee contract at \$1,000 a week, and judgment went by default through a technical oversight. Johnson & Lowenstein must pay her \$125 in court costs before the default is opened for a legal adjudication of the issues in due course.

During the first and only time Carl Laemmle saw him work, Benny Rubin tore a ligament on his right ankle and broke a small bone, at the Colony, New York, Sunday afternoon. He later found out that Laemmle had been in the house for that show. Rubin had his ankle bound with adhesive and continued dancing the rest of the week.

It happened during the second show when, in response to a request number for any dance, someone asked "Hollywood." Rubin went into a dance bit on his toes when the accident happened on the stage. He didn't stop, doing a difficult acrobatic dance. For the finale punch of the stage show. Between the second and third performances the first-aid treatment with adhesive plaster to keep the foot bound in shape took place.

Due to the high cost of gold leaf, all names have been removed from the inner office doors in the Lyons & Lyons agency, New York. Frequent and numerous changes in the personnel the cause.

From reports the sign painter has done \$500 worth of lettering in the L. & L. office in the last few months. At one time one office door held close to 10 names, with all later changed at one time or another.

With bookings not so good, some of the idle vaudevillers are going in for side lines. One has hooked up with a pertumery concern and is making territory in N. J. on commission. Another is making offices with smoking accessories. Another has the concession for selling a new cigarette roller.

One act has been submitted daily by four Keith agents in the past two weeks, with each agent doing business with a different booker.

To date, the matter of abolishing Keith's 2 1/2 per cent. collection agency, the question hasn't advanced beyond the talk. Though the agency was to have been discussed at an R-K-O board meeting last week, it was not.

As one Keith official stated some time ago, it's up to the agents to help themselves. The R-K-O owners of Keith's have more important issues, for them, to settle. Meanwhile, the agents can't lose anything by taking the initiative.

The no-raise-salary order for the remainder of this season, coming out last week in the Keith office, is said to have been issued by Ben Kahane.

Inside Stuff—Legit

Los Angeles actors are pretty well burned over the tactics used by the director of one of the legit production companies in picking his casts. The custom is for this director to summon a dozen or so people for each role, all to come to the theatre at the same hour. Then he lines them up on the stage, hands the part to the actor and orders him or her to read it, in the presence of the other candidates. If the reading isn't satisfactory, the director grabs the script, says, "Very bad. You won't do," dismisses the actor with a wave of the hand and after a quick glance around tosses the part to another one with a "here, you read it."

The players feel that they are unnecessarily humiliated by this line of action which continues until the director finds someone who satisfies him.

The Yiddish impresario, Max R. Winner, has his case for a share of Sigmund Romberg's earnings in the courts again under an old contract where a 10-year sharing agreement is alleged. For a time Romberg was financially embarrassed, but with his "New Moon" and other operettas clicking, the matter is being revived.

"Cross My Heart," folding lately, was Sammy Lee's own first production. It represented much money and effort.

Shuberts closed the McIntyre and Heath show a couple of weeks ago. First plan for the troupe was to have had Eddie Leonard associated with the veterans. That fell through when Leonard accepted a talking picture starring engagement. He is now on the coast preparing to make the film.

In the current issue of the American Hebrew, a who's who cites many persons for outstanding achievement during the past year. Those of the (Continued on page 54)

photographed from every conceivable angle and has appeared in virtually every film in which a high building flash was needed.

Not until the strugglers arrived did Abel Carey Thomas, Warner's attorney, take his eye off the box office at the Central, New York. The opening night of "The Barker," the first big First National picture to be premiered since the brothers got control of the company.

Major Ale Warner also stood in the lobby until the Central was well filled. While there Dick Rowland, in his blue shirt, passed in like an express to pipe the last picture giving him screen credit as the producer.

Walter Eberhardt, talker publicist for First National, can't get away from his title. Even his first magazine article purchased by an underworld specialty publication had its title changed from Walter's "Justified Murder" to the editor's "The Murderer's Voice."

More than 25 per cent of the actual time consumed in making sound pictures on the coast is used in listening to the "play-backs," a wax record on which the player's voices have been registered and immediately reproduced through loud speakers after each scene is played.

This enables the director to detect any flaws and if necessary re-shoot the scene immediately.

Broadside of carnival and circus lot pictures recalls "The County Fair" which Maudie Tounour made as a four-reeler about nine years ago. That story, adapted from the play of the same name which made heavy dough for Neil Langford, the actor, and Klaw and Erlanger, is perhaps the basis of the present vogue for tent atmosphere.

"County Fair" had its all important horse race carnival stuff, etc. and was produced 26 scenes at the time.

A part of the Warner-sherbert understanding appears to be that Warner will set up open some of the Shubert theatre, by filling them with mostly talking pictures. That explains why the Shuberts are anxious to place the wire equipment in their chosen theatre.

M-G-M takes care a new wide-angle lens which is said will correct all of the optical distortions of talking picture productions. It enables close-up of larger group. Instead of the usual long shots now in vogue.

Fake Dramatic Schools Revived; Talking Pictures New Chump Bait

The sounder craze has brought a new harvest for the fake dramatic schools around New York and elsewhere. The fake schools had petered out on dramatic instruction due to the trend of picture craze and it was figured more chumps would go for the audible screen stuff than the other racket.

With sound pictures practically in infancy the schools are reaping a harvest from two classes of applicants, new chumps and graduates of legitimate dramatic schools unable to obtain employment in the legit field and convinced the sound picture course is a necessary adjunct to their previous dramatic training.

A check up shows at least 20 of the fake schools operating in the theatre district area with others spotted uptown and downtown. The take is anywhere from \$50 to \$250 for the course, the smaller fee, of course, charged by the piker crop who figure a little is better than nothing and with an eye to quick turnover.

Several schools have in their employ former employees of legit casting offices, who before going into the new racket compiled a list of novices gleaned from the casting agency cards. The latter cards usually contain a history of the player also noting experience, if any, and making the compilation perfect for the canvassing list purpose.

The usual routine is a letter inviting the prospect to call at the "casting agency branch" of the school if available for an engagement. When calling they are put through the usual routine and when admitting lack of experience they are given the sales talk on the activity of studios producing sound pictures.

Once in the pupils are put through the usual routine. They are rehearsed for playlets and when perfected are put in for a second take, that is if they seem amenable to another tap for a test sounder. If they all go for it, next morning they are bundled into a bus and plotted to a suburban studio. Here the screening and recording are accomplished. With casts of the playlets having five or six players the tap is generally \$50 extra each for the test. With this accomplished the course is over and they are now available for the employment department and the machinery of the school ready for another crop.

"Graduates" may invite their friends to peruse the completed sounder at the studio and also may purchase records of the talk stuff at \$2.50 per record which provides another handsome sideline for the school and the recording company. Most go for the record stuff.

Several hundred that have already gone through the grind of this routine are now incorporated in the coin as well as then content to sit back for an engagement call for talkers. The industry is practically too young for squawks yet but there'll be plenty later. This is the routine of the larger schools. Some of the smaller ones through inability to put on the extra nick they just provide a routine course and a recording session with the chump having to go for \$10 if he or she wants to take the record home for the Victrola.

The schools are careful in their guarantee of employment, making it verbal and not incorporated in any literature sent out which would call for an inquiry by the post office authorities.

The racket looks good for some time unless the authorities step in as they did in the instance of fake dramatic and motion picture schools of acting.

Duffy Quits Vancouver

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 11. Duffy Players, at the Vancouver theatre-for-eight-months, will close this week. Company is said to have operated at a loss.

Henry Duffy, here last week, commented on the losses and declared it possible that he may build his own house here in the near future. Vancouver is the old Orpheum.

BIVERA'S LATEST STOCK

Keith's Rivera, Brooklyn, went dramatic stock again this week when J. J. Leventhal took over the house and transplanted the Fulton Players from the Fulton, Brooklyn.

HUNGARIAN PLAY BATTLE

Raymond Nivvens' Company in Row Over Lights

South Norwalk, Dec. 11. A Hungarian play, "Nem, Nem Sari," presented by a Chicago troupe, had its one night stand in the Whitcliffe section of this city last week-end in a battle royal in which members of the cast participated.

Raymond Nivvens of New York who is piloting the troupe through the Magyar communities of Connecticut was arrested for starting the fight.

Nivvens said that the theatre owners cut off the electricity after the performance before the audience was half out and just as he started to move some baggage from the place.

The people are in jail and another is in the hospital with a head injury from a hammer blow.

Cast Changes

Edgar Kent has succeeded Walter Vonnegut as Prof. Leeds in "Strange Interlude" at the Golden, New York. Latter reassigned to road company of the piece at Buffalo this week.

At Saxton, juvenile lead in "Hello Yourself," left the cast Saturday. An understudy stepped in. An attempt was made to get Walter Plimmer, Jr., for the role which he left after a scrap with Choos over wardrobe. Plimmer is in stock.

Michael Markham replaced Graham Velsey in "Night Hostess."

Vivian Osborne leaving "Three Musketeers," succeeded by Ruth Lyons.

"Front Page" on Coast

Premiere \$3 Per

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Burt Miner having staged the Chicago version of "Front Page" is here directing the Coast troupe of the same play. Show is due to open at the Belasco Dec. 30, with a sprightly advance already starting.

New York and its \$16.50 premieres will probably laugh itself to death when it hears this first night is going to cost the seat holder just \$3.

With the picture mob making these opening nights highly festive affairs, someone's missing a lot of dough at \$3.

Rolf Harold is on to play the Os-good Perkins role of the managing editor.

Paterson Stock Ends

J. J. Leventhal's dramatic stock at the Lyceum, Paterson, N. J., closed last Saturday after an up and down 13 weeks. The house went dark, but may reopen after the holidays with similar policy under Sam Geneen, lessee.

Leventhal's has left only the former Fulton, Brooklyn, troupe switched over to the Rivera, Brooklyn, last week. Leventhal, however, is dabbling heavy on legit production.

Pre-Viewing Legits

Cleveland, Dec. 11. George Davis, dramatic critic of the Cleveland Press, Scripps-Howard sheet, is pre-viewing legit attractions.

Davis catches the shows at an out of town spot and paws 'em two days before they get here, and the theatre boys are squawking.

Arty Bowery

New York's Bowery will go arty for the first time next month when the Royal, formerly Miner's Bowery, will house a new art theatre group calling themselves Co-operative Art Players. The new tenants will attempt legit dramas. They will fumigate the house for the new policy.

Previously the Royal has taken it on the chin with stock burlesque, among other busts.

FIXING "PLAYMATES"

"Playmates" foidal for repairs after two weeks' tryout. Reopens again in two weeks.

I. B. Norris produced and Joseph Byron Totten staged it.



DORYS LE VENE

Tuesday evening, Dec. 13, at Steinway Hall, New York, Dorys LeVene and Kenneth Rose will be heard in a piano and violin sonata recital.

For the first time in New York at the recital shall be played the Gretschmidt sonata.

Miss LeVene is the brilliant pianist who was especially favored by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Rose is associated with the Ward-Belmont University of Nashville.

TEN OF 'EM LEAVE B'WAY

A flock of shows went on the skids, 10 going off Broadway this week including a couple which exited suddenly on Saturday.

"Rainbow," presented by Philip Goodman, will be withdrawn from the Gallo this week, playing

RAINBOW
Opened Nov. 21. Anderson (Journal) hailed, "a beautiful and tuneful operetta." Notices generally favorable, although Garland (Telegram) termed it "a gas which is gone wrong."
Variety (Ibe) said: "should register moderately well."

but three and one-half weeks. It is one of the most costly failures of the season. Business was rated at nearly \$30,000 but last week slipped 'way off.

"Rain or Shine," presented by Jones and Green tours from the Cohan after having played 45 weeks. This musical drew big money, bettering \$35,000 for months.

RAIN OR SHINE
Opened Feb. 9. Drew raves. "Funniest show we have ever seen" wrote Littell (Post) while Atkinson (Times) described it, "A prolonged orgy of 'shriek-variety' (Abel) stated "should click heavily."

and was a standout show last season. It held over through the summer and did very well early in the fall.

"Three Musketeers," presented at the Lyric by Flo Ziegfeld, will also go on tour, laying off next week. It has played 40 weeks and averaged over \$14,000 for weeks. Lately around \$20,000. Both of these shows figured to do much better out of town.

"Just a Minute," presented by Morris and Green, goes to the road

JUST A MINUTE
Opened Oct. 8. There were a lot of openings that night. Variety (Sid) thought it a good road attraction but dubious for New York.

from the Century after playing 10 weeks. Opened at the Ambassador, doing moderate business there. Regarded as a good road show.

"The Lady Lies," presented by Barter, Santley and MacGowan,

THE LADY LIES
Opened Nov. 26. Tossed to the second stringers. Variety (Mor) predicted: "Will live briefly, and mostly in cut rates."

will close at the Little in its third week. Draw rather good notices but little trade.

"New Americana" was good off at the Liberty last Saturday, its second try lasting but nine days.

Both Sides Claim Edge On Agency Decision

The awaited decision on Federal Judge Goddard on the question of whether the U. S. courts or the New York state courts should have jurisdiction in the action of Willie Edelsten against Equity and its officers, in a contest over the legality of Equity's casting agents' rules, was handed down. Attorneys on both sides differ as to the intent of the court's ruling and both claim to have been favored.

Edelsten obtained a temporary injunction against Frank Gilmore and others of Equity, restraining them from invoking the rules. Nathan Burkan for the complainant contended a tortious act, injuring his client. Question of jurisdiction was then set by Paul N. Turner for Equity.

Judge Goddard in his decision continued the restraint against Gilmore as an individual, but dismissed the writ against John Emerson, Paul Dullzel and Equity, the ruling reading:

"I see no good reason why the court should reach out for jurisdiction over such an association and I doubt the wisdom of doing so where the state court has jurisdiction."

Equity sought to force the matter into the state courts because of the New York law limiting employment agency fees to five per cent for 10 weeks, whereas the U. S. Supreme court ruled such a law was illegal.

The point of diversity of citizenship was brought up. Edelsten being a native of Holland and a resident of England. Equity contended it has a number of alien members. A similar contest was argued in the Coronada case, which Judge Goddard was inclined to disregard and to rule on the precedent of other cases. Equity contends the Edelsten case was collusively brought, with others interested.

Early this week it was stated that attorneys for both sides would file briefs with the court as to the intent of the decision and that Judge Goddard would sign the one coinciding with his own. Even counsel for Equity differed though it is clear enough the writ against Gilmore is continued.

NOTHING TO FOLLOW

Chicago, Dec. 11. With the Shuberts unable to follow "Five o'Clock Girl" at the Woods, with a suitable attraction, the musical show will now linger on until after the holidays instead of pulling out.

Miss Colbert's Talkers

Claudette Colbert, now playing the lead in "Tin Pan Alley," has been engaged for two full-length talkers for Famous Players-Lasky at the Astoria studios. Her first assignment will be the fem lead in "The Hole in the Wall," mystery-spiritualistic screen drama, which goes into production this week under the direction of Robert Florey.

Her second picture will most likely be the screen version of "Gentlemen of the Press," the adaptation of which is now under way, with a more prominent part for a fem leading woman being written in. Miss Colbert will continue with "Tin Pan Alley" while making the talkers.

Small office handled negotiations for Miss Colbert with Paramount.

Five days for first version, done at Mansfield.

In addition, "Tin Pan Alley" folds up at the Republic. "Three" closed after one week at the Totten.

NEW AMERICANA
Opened Nov. 29. Atkinson (Times) spoke for his contemptuous opinion of the show. "Dull, mediocre entertainment."
Variety (Ibe) stated: "Not there."

This Saturday sees the conclusion of two revivals, "The Yellow Jacket,"

THE ROYAL BOX
Opened Nov. 20. Passed up by major scribblers. Variety (Waly) rated it "Worthy divertimento."

at the Coburn, and "The Royal Box," at the Belmont.

FUTURE PLAYS

"Scars," by Warren Lawrence and a new producing corporation headed by the author, behind.

"The Marriage Bed," Sam H. Harris, gets under way at Philadelphia Dec. 24. Cast includes Anna Davis, Allan Dinehart, Mildred McElderton against Equity and its officers. In a contest over the legality of Equity's casting agents' rules, was handed down. Attorneys on both sides differ as to the intent of the court's ruling and both claim to have been favored.

"Poppa" went into rehearsal last week with H. S. Kraft producing. The piece opens cold at the Biltmore, New York, Dec. 24.

"The Great Lady Deadlock," starring Margaret Anglin, goes into rehearsal next week with Murray Phillips, casting agent, as producer. The piece opens cold at a New York house late in January.

"Back Seat Drivers," by Larry Johnson, opens cold at Wallack's, New York, Dec. 24 with Roy Walling as producer. Cast: Hugh Cameron, John Lyter, Gladys Feldman, Sylvia Farnese, Cyril Ring, Tobatha Goodwin, Len Hollister, Olga Krowlow.

"House Unguarded," Bernard Steele, producer, in rehearsal under direction of Lester Lonergan. Play is by Lonergan and Len Hollister. Cast includes Kay Strozz, Clark Gable, Mildred MacLeod, Philip Ward, Raymond Brames, Jerome Daly, Frank Knight, Henry Crossen.

"Cheer Up," musical by Jack McGowan, Buddy Green and Delos Owen, opens at Werba's Flatbush, Brooklyn, Dec. 24. Felix Productions behind. Cast: Don Barclay, Marion Fairbanks, Ruth Donnelly, Florence Fatti, Flo Stengel, Ebbie O'Rourke, Dina Favis.

"Black Belt" may be produced in New York after all by George Abbott. All-Negro cast of 48 with only one white principal, a police sergeant. Wallace Thurman, colored, co-authored "Black Belt" with a white writer named Rapp.

"The Ferguson Family" will be opened in a Shubert house, probably the Little Theatre on Christmas eve by Gustave Blum. Cast includes: Jean Adair, formerly of "Machinal," Halliam Bosworth, now playing in "Exceeding Small," Alan Ward, Marlene Francks, Arthur Kohl, Dora Mathews, Thelma Paige, Spencer Binyan, now in "Jarnegan," George N. Price.

Jacob Weiser will shortly take another fling at legit producing with a comedy, "The House of Sloman," New casting and due for rehearsals after the holidays.

Walker Whiteside's revival of "The Royal Box" ends at the Belmont this week. Whiteside retains the house, however, for another, "Sakura," which went into rehearsal this week and scheduled to open two weeks hence. "Sakura" was done on the road by Whiteside, but is new for New York.

"One Way Street," mystery melodrama by Benj. Boyett, produced by George Lederer, is set to supplant "Rain or Shine" at Cohan's, New York, Dec. 24. Musical departs for the road. Cast includes Gertrude Hitz, Joan Blair, Alec Swenson, Robert Hudson, Donald Blackwell, John R. Hamilton, Walton Butterfield, Rose Harte, Bert Wilcox, Jean Clarence, W. H. Lee, Crimmins, Thomas Carnahan, Harry Jenkins, and Nishu Maru.

Richard Herndon is sidetracking "The Actress Boy" in favor of "Gypsy," by Maxwell Anderson, which went into rehearsal this week. Clairborne Foster heads the cast. Due at the Klaw, New York, just after Jan. 1.

"The Brass Ring," by Philip Duning and Ruford Armitage, which tried out last spring, is being refurbished for another try by John Golden.

"This Queen of Sheba," sponsored by Mindlin and Goldreyer, folds up for repairs instead of coming in next week. It resumes after two weeks of revision.

"The Grand March" is the proposed title for the musical comedy version of "The Big Parade" which Eddie Dowling will present during the winter. James Hanley and Joseph McCarthy, new song writing team, will do the score. Laurence Stallings and Dowling are doing the book.

Maude Fulton's Dialog
Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Maude Fulton will prepare both the silent continuity and the dialog for "Big Time" to be made by Fox.

Author Didn't Like Commonwealth Cast or Producer; Busts Up Rehearsal

A proposed revival of "Fellow Workers" is off again through Carl Kuhlman exercising authors' prerogative by declining to okay the project. James Murray, accredited producer, had lined up Kuhlman claims to have waived advance royalties on the piece but didn't like the commonwealth business either. He figures that if Murray couldn't guarantee salaries for cast he was not a producer.

Kuhlman busted up the rehearsal last week by taking his manuscript and walking.

"Fellow Workers" was previously tried out for one week last summer in Paterson, N. J., but shelved through lack of finances. At that time Sidney Carroll bankrolled with hopes of interesting a additional money.

Kuhlman claims he'll convert the play into a novel, and stick to fiction writing.

White Tries Bargain Scale for "Mary"

Cincinnati, Dec. 11. "Manhattan Mary," operated by George White, is at the Shubert here at a scale of \$1 to \$3 nights and \$2.50 matinee, although the advance advertisements set the tariff at \$1 to \$4.40.

When the call was not up to expectations. White phoned from New York instructions to cut the scale for the show starring Ed Wynn. Huge lobby and sidewalk signs were put up and the attraction opened Monday night to a sell-out.

Show played Kansas City and Cleveland to the \$4.40 top on the way here from its Chicago run. Slash of prices came in the face of no opposition, the Erlanger-Grand being dark for the seventh week.

"Yankee Doodle" with Newport Set's Author

"Yankee Doodle," operetta by Shafter Howard, Junius Jones and Kenneth Milliken, goes into rehearsal next week, Fortune Gallo produced. Howard is a member of the board of directors of the Newport Casino Theatre Co. (summer stock).

For the past three years he has had the symphony orchestra there playing his operetta selections as a special feature of the summer program. Howard is said to have spent over 20 years on this single production.

Cast of Stage Players

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

All but one member of the cast of Mary Pickford's first all-talker, "Coquette," has had stage experience. The one exception is John Mack Brown, who will play opposite the star. In tests, his voice is said to have registered okay.

The balance of the cast, now complete, includes John Sainpulis, John Gates, George Irving, William Janney, Louise Beavers.

3 Operations

Dr. Phillip Grausman operated on Arch Schwyn, Eva Puck and Margaret Illington for appendicitis, all at the Harbor hospital and reported in favorable condition.

Schwyn's case was that of hernia but the appendix was removed at the same time.

E. D. Smith at Studio

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Edward D. Smith, formerly general manager of the Erlanger enterprises on the Coast and who formerly directed the El Capitan theatre here, has succeeded Reeve Houck, mayor of Culver City, as assistant to E. B. Greenwood, gen. business mgr. at the M-G-M studios in Culver City.

Lane's Legit Flyer

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Lupino Lane, stage and screen comic, has gone into legit production and taken a lease on the Hollywood Music Box. On Christmas night he will open with "The Hollywood Music Box Revue." He will head the cast himself.

On the Cuff Staff

Students of show business hiring out as voluntary help is a new racket.

It's welcome saving to several casting offices doing a buck and wing and unable to retain salaried help.

One caster has secretary, office girl, field man and press agent all on the cuff, hoping to learn the inside.

Despite the slim business, the office looks profitable.

Producing on Hot Air Cold as Good Racket

Fewer commonwealth companies thus far this season and general unwillingness of actors to be lured into gambling arrangements have practically accomplished the swan song for short roll producers and driven most out of operation.

Equity's drive against notorious sharpies who had hoodwinked players desperate for employment into commonwealth shows is credited for the drop-off. While Equity could not forbid its members to take a chance, it nevertheless wised them up on the previous standing of certain producers and advised against engaging with them.

A check-up on gambling shows has proved that the best actor promoter at least of it, while the promoter and after production, both before and after production, and in many instances derived additional revenue from stock rights and picture sales.

2 New Names to Screen

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Wm. K. Howard will direct a full length talker for Fox which will bring two new personalities to the screen in the leading parts. The players are Paul Muni, known on the stage as Muni Weisenfreund, who will be starred, and Marguerite Churchill, New York actress, who will play the femme lead.

The story is "The Valiant" which was a Lamb's Gambol sketch, afterward played in vaudeville by Bert Lyell. It was written by Holworthy Hall and Robert Middlemass. Eugene Walter is writing the screen dialog. Production begins Dec. 21.

French Authors Ask 50% Royalty Increase

Paris, Dec. 11.

Directors of the smaller theatres in France threatened to keep their curtains down permanently, looking the playwrights out, rather than agree to the 50 per cent increase in royalties asked by the Authors and Dramatic Composers' Association.

The battle will be a lively one, as the writers are asking for 12 per cent, where they got 6 and 8 before.

Nichols-Laemmle Case On

Trial is dated to commence this week, perhaps today, of the infringement action instituted by Anne Nichols against Universal pictures for damages.

The damage alleged is of a Universal film copying the best portions and general scheme of Miss Nichols' "Able's Irish Rose."

A great measure of preparation has been put upon the case by each of the parties.

Charles E. Hughes is associated in the trial with O'Brien, Malcevinsky & Driscoll, attorneys for Miss Nichols. M. L. Malcevinsky is appearing for the firm.

Sherman Goes Legit

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Lowell Sherman has been signed to appear in "Poor Nigger," by Louella Glesgen, who will produce the play in New York this spring.

Jane Altemus Goes Films

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Jane Altemus, stage actress, who came to the coast to appear in the production of "The Silver Cord" by E. D. Repertory Theatre, Inc. has been signed under contract to appear in "The Silver Cord" by E. D. Repertory Theatre, Inc. She has never appeared in pictures.



WILLIAM SULLY

Mr. Sully is now playing the Gus message of a "Good News" at the Chanin Theatre, New York. Mr. Chester Bahn, in the Syracuse "Herald," said of his performance: "Bill Sully did not miss a bet last night. He, in the vernacular, wowed 'em."

Direction

RALPH G. FARNUM
1560 BROADWAY

'GAY PAREE' IMMORAL, CHARGED; 5 ARRESTED

Four Players and House Mgr. Face Los Angeles Court Hearing

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Four players in "Gay Paree" and the house manager of the Biltmore are under arrest on charges of giving and permitting an obscene and immoral performance, on action of the vice squad, which witnessed a performance.

Police acting on letters from citizens protesting against the show, witnessed a performance and took exception to the "A Warm Reception" sketch as indecent.

The five will have a hearing before Judge Shelton tomorrow. Defendants are Frank Gaby, Stanley Rogers, John McDowell and Charles E. Perry of the cast and Val Kennedy, house manager. All were admitted to ball in \$50.

On top of that the vice squad went over to Main street and arrested 11 performers in two theatres there under similar charges, serving notice that dirt shows are out for this community. Then Capt. Plummer and his men took a whirl around the burlesque establishments and looked over several night clubs where word had gone abroad of "hot" shows.

When Shubert's "A Night in Spain" played here last Spring, the police received a number of complaining letters, but the authorities figured they were all phones and designed as publicity stunts. It is said the complaints about "Gay Paree" came from citizens whose standing gave them weight and a general drive on dirt shows resulted. A portion of "Paree" against which specific objection is the episode programmed as "A Warm Reception."

Police censors objected to the business of Gaby's trousers slipping down in the bedroom scene. Also to the lines spoken by Miss Terry, who lies in bed, with Gaby apparently preparing to join her.

After the arrests the lines and episodes objected to were deleted. In an interview Capt. Plummer declared reves coming from the east and inference of comedy, and announced a general cleanup all around.

Among those taken in the Main Street raids were Lee Parker, Manuel La Ripa, James Bolton, Carl Robinson, Jean Guymond, Louise O'Brien and Helen Walker. The court will have a hearing in the same court Jan. 2.

Gershwin for Ziegfeld

George Gershwin is going to work on the musicalization of "East of West," which Flo Ziegfeld wants for his next show to follow "Show Boat" at the Ziegfeld. New York agent, Anthony McGuire is to do the deed; Ira Gershwin the lyric. The Gershwins turned down Fox's offer and are working on an original musical for the screen.

Rehearsed 'Whole Day'

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

Screen directors now making talking pictures are considerably annoyed by the rehearsals necessary before they can photograph a scene. They are accustomed to having the actors for the silents go through the action once or twice and have the cameras grinding within 15 or 20 minutes.

As a result, actors accustomed to weeks of rehearsal before the opening of a legit production are getting a laugh out of the comment of one of the film megaphonists who, upon being complimented for the first reel of a dialog picture, said, "It ought to be good. We rehearsed it a whole day."

'Just a Minute' Holds On With Salary Guaranteed

"Just a Minute," musical, came within an ace of folding Monday, but continues another week at the Century, New York, through Shuberts reported as having guaranteed the current week's payroll at Equity.

The show was unable to pay salaries for the past two weeks with Equity paying out of the bond money and liquidating the amount Monday. Morris and Greene, producers, were notified by Equity Monday morning that unless additional security was up Monday afternoon it would close the show.

The musical opened at the Ambassador several weeks ago and figured a chance if the gross had not been heavily mortgaged to liquidate previous debts. It moved to the Century with a \$12,000 weekly guarantee from cut-rates and has bettered this figure somewhat since the jump, but with outstanding debts again grabbing most of the intake.

The show closes next week as previously planned and is scheduled to go on tour a week later, providing the producers can arrange the necessary security demanded by Equity.

FIELDS AND FLORIDA

\$5,200 Wkly Comedian May Leave 'Vanities'—Carroll's 'Fioretta'

W. C. Fields, with a run-of-the-play contract in "Vanities" at \$5,200 a week, is flirting with the idea of going to Florida for the winter. A picture possibility also in. An account for Frank Fay being placed under contract by Earl Carroll. If Fields blows—and it will be a friendly arrangement with the understanding he may rejoin the new spring edition of the revue—Fay will step into the shoes of "Fay's Otherwise." Carroll's "Fioretta" the Fannie Brice-Leon Errol-Lionel Atwill show with Dorothy Knapp, now in "Vanities," playing the title role.

Carroll is also flirting with Anna Case, Johann Gadjick or Anna Fitzal or a similar opera diva for the grand duchess role in the operetta. Fay joins "Vanities" Dec. 31.

\$60,000 Net from Benefit

The Metropolitan Hospital realized \$60,000 gross Friday night from its benefit at the Eddie Cantor show, "Whoopie."

The first four rows went at \$500 a pair and the entire first floor, taken over by the hospital, was also high scaled because of the charity.

Johnny Osborne Downtown

Johnny Osborne, who was managing the Galety, also the Globe before it got "Three Cheers" for William Fox, has been placed in charge of the Fox's Academy of Music. Jerome Reilly followed him at the Galety.

Janny's Son in Talker

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

William Janny, son of Boss Janny, stage producer, for several years head of "Coquette." Janny has had no business since "Coquette" and was one of the first to need tests for the Mary Pickford picture.

SEATS FOR RICH DEAF WIRED TO ORDER

In co-operation with the New York League for the Deaf, the Acousticon company, makers of an instrument to aid the deaf, are installing their apparatus at their own expense in the Martin Beck theatre. The Theatre Guild takes over the theatre on Dec. 10. Two rows of seats will be wired and reserved for deaf persons; and if the experiment is a success and other theatres wish to install the Acousticon instrument an additional 50 cents charge will be added to tickets for equipped seats.

The Acousticon instrument has been installed in the Metropolitan Opera House for some time and also in a number of churches, but to date no such apparatus has been permanently placed in any Broadway theatre because of the comparative instability of legit theatre management.

However, the Acousticon has been constantly put to private use in the Broadway theatres. Many wealthy people afflicted with deafness phone the Acousticon company before attending a show and have the apparatus installed before they attend.

Talker Right Prices Soar for One-Actors

Rights for well-known one-act plays wanted for production as talking shorts are being held for prices as high as \$10,000 and \$15,000, it is reported. The average price paid for originals for full length silent features is \$1,500; silent screen rights for short stories bring an average of \$4,000, and novels \$7,500 to \$12,000 average.

Play brokers and reputable authors approached by the major producing companies claim that the sale of a one-act play for talking production practically ends its value for vaudeville use and therefore demand high prices.

Value of screen rights for some of the less successful legitimate productions also increased because of possibilities in talkers with play, which may have better chances as talking screen material than on the stage.

Project Halts When Angel Stubs Toe on Equity Bond

Another attempt to launch a musical with non-Equity cast went bust last week with producers suspending rehearsals temporarily to engage in sugar chasing.

The piece was "Vodoo" and was being floated by Lehman and Seller, newcomers, so much so that they were unaware of Equity's bonding demand. They found out all about both when they attempted to cast the show but once in tried the non-Equity cast angle which didn't go either.

Ruth Shpley Quits Show As Peaches Comes In

Ruth Shpley left "The Squealer" last Saturday, although her two weeks' notice did not expire until today. Actress gave notice upon learning the "Peaches" Browning was engaged to head the cast.

Miss Shpley complained to Equity that she did not care to be associated with such notoriety and also questioned Jack Linder's right to star Peaches over her.

Equity at first took the position that Miss Shpley would have to play out the notice time, but later advised Linder it would be more satisfactory all around if Miss Shpley were permitted to withdraw before Peaches opened. Peaches started Monday night.

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome

for \$10

Year's Subscription to Variety

Shows in N. Y. and Comment

Figures estimated and comment point to some attractions being successful, while the same gross accredited to others might suggest mediocrity or loss. The variance is explained in the difference in house capacities with the varying overhead. Also the size of cast, with consequent difference in necessary gross of profit. Variance in business necessary for musical attraction as against dramatic play is also considered.

Classification of attraction, house capacity and top prices of the admission scale given below. Key to classification: C (comedy); D (drama); R (revue); M (musical comedy); F (farce); O (opereetta).

Admission tax applies on tickets over \$3.

*A Most Immoral Lady, Cort (1st week) (CD-1,094-\$3.35). Annual pro-...
*Angela, Ambassador (2d week) (M-1,290-\$4.00). Critics panned this musical; offered in cut rates right after opening; not over \$10,000; dark next week, then moves to Central.

from Beck last week; slipped to around \$5,000; will lay off next week.
*On Call, Waldorf (6th week) (CD-1,101-\$3). Hooked up to get by at small money, principally from...
*Paris, Music Box (10th week) (C-1,000-\$4.40). One of best gross getters on list; affected last week...

Ruth Draper and Shawl Hub Sensation, \$11,000

Boston, Dec. 11. Ethel Barrymore's Wilbur theatre engagement stopped short when the star fell ill. Star returned this week.

Ruth Draper's Plymouth theatre engagement was the feature. With two matinees and six nights she played to \$11,000, a record for a monologue, she was booked in for Wednesday, Dec. 12, and is playing out this week a matinee.
*Blackbirds, at the Tremont at \$25,000 still leads; gross was down about \$2,000 last week but \$6,000 but all theatres are feeling the holiday. Four Shubert houses are to be dark next week.

Estimates for Last Week (Majestic, 7th week). Dropping lower all the time but expected to boost with 'Bossy' (Glilis) closing; \$13,000.
*The Red Rose, (Shubert, 7th week). At \$20,000, low high figure per week, \$12,000.

*The Kingdom of God, (Wilbur, third week). Illness of Ethel Barrymore caused suspension, reopened Monday, \$13,000.
Ruth Draper (Plymouth, second week). One of the sensations of the year. A single doing \$11,000, eight performances, \$11,000.

*The Guardsman, (Hollis, Theatre Guild, second week). Practically a sell-out; an subscription to do up to money for eight weeks of Guild pieces. Last week, \$20,000.

*Blackbirds, (Tremont, 6th week). Held up by illness. Going strong. In to stay; \$28,000.
*The House Boat on the Styx, (Colonial, first week). American Opera Company, New York, \$13,000 and total of \$28,000 for two weeks. Very poor.

*Redemption, (Alexander Opera House, one week). Alexander Moissi financed by Morris Gest, \$12,500.

Other grosses last week: 'Cardboard Lover', second, Vine Street, \$3,100. 'The Silver Cord', third, Shubert, \$2,400. 'The Lady Next Door', third, Hollywood Playhouse, \$5,300; 'Shannons of Broadway', 11th, El Capitan, \$5,000; 'Nightstick', 4th, President, \$3,900.

Silvernail on Fox Staff. Clarke Silvernail goes with Fox talkers for three years through Sidney Phillips. Silvernail is an actor, author and director. He will do the latter two chiefly for the screen.

port; estimated at less than \$18,000.
*Wings Over Europe, Martin Beck (1st week) (D-1,183-\$3). Presented by Theatre Guild; written by Robert Nichols and Maurice Browne; opened Monday; third Guild show.

*Whoopie, New Amsterdam (2d week) (M-1,702-\$6.60). Jumped to lead in agency demand and to lead of Broadway in point of gross; five previous performances over \$45,000.

*Young Love, Masque (7th week) (CD-700-\$6.60). Eased off somewhat; \$12,000. Estimated at \$8,000; expected to stick until after holidays, pace then determining continuation.

Specialty Theatres. Little Theatres. *Perfect Alibi, Hopkins; highly rated mystery play in 300-seat (3d week).
*Major Barbara, Guild (4th week). Callaghan's. Held Jan. 1; probable to be moved about Jan. 1; 'Caprice' due to follow here.

*Macbeth, Knickerbocker (4th week); revival.
*The Wild Duck, 49th St. (4th week); revival.
*The Yellow Jacket, Coburn (6th week); final week for revival.

*Fastest Gun on Earth, (3d week); unusual.
*Givie Repertory, 14th St. Eva Le Gallienne.
*Sun-Up, La Verne; revival.
*Three, Totten; closed Saturday; one week.
*The Royal Box, Belmont; closed Saturday; \$8,000.

Ervine's Opinions

The morning World's critic, St. John Ervine, brought over from London to review Broadway, witnessed two new productions last week. He thought: "Whoopie"—Good. "Angela"—Bad.

Engagements

Lynn Overman, Martha Lorber; London's "Little Accident" in April. Selva Ronson, "These Few Ashes," Charles Howard, Frank Fay, new Carroll show.
Dorothy Hull, "Precious." Hugh Cameron, "Back Seat Drivers." Glenda Farrell, "Skidding." Virginia Crowe, Madeline Embank, Evelyn Calman, Gloria Gray, Club Mirador, New York City.
*Marlene Francks, "That Ferguson Family."
Barry O'Neil, "Potiphar's Wife." Charles H. Angle, Rita Gould, "The Street Wolf."
Audrey Maple, "Angela." Dorothy Eilin, William Challee, "Celia Avramo, Three."
Theresa Conover, "Hello Daddy." Joe Erns, "Diamond Lil." Blanche Yurka, "The Lady from the Sea."
Margie Finley, "Good Boy." Victor Garland, Jed Harris, Rose Gallagher, for "Blossom Time," Chicago.
Ellen Atter, "Fiorella." William Ingersoll, "Brothers." Allan Ward, Rita Paige, George N. Orice, Arthur Kohl, William Bosworth, "That Ferguson Family."
Mary Murray, Ray Walburn, Jean May, C. W. Van Voorhis, "One Mile Up."
Phyllis Poval, "The Barn." May Ediss, "Potiphar's Wife." Marjorie Marquis, Ethel Morrison, Katherine Reece, John Seymour, Arthur Shaw, "Faustal." Sylvia Hoffman, William E. Morris, "Poppa."
Lucy Monroe, "Polka." Aaron Lebedeff, "The Litwick Yankee."
Ann Orr, Noel Francis, "Well, Well, Well."

AHEAD AND BACK

Ann Grosvenor-Ayres, p. a. for Richard Herndon's "Actress Body," in rehearsal.
Burton Davis has succeeded Clarence Taylor as assistant to Walter J. Kingsley, general press representative for Florenz Ziegfeld, Herman Leonard p. a. for Steele Productions.
Lee Blanchet is now general press agent for Arthur Hammerstein, George Holland having resigned.

Village Group Lights

The New Playwrights Theatre, Inc., homeless since relinquishing the Cherry Lane, Greenwich Village, New York, to the Lennox Hill Players, has effected an arrangement to become alternate tenants of the Provincetown Playhouse, for the remainder of the season.
The Playwrights had been angling for the Grove Street, deal falling through when the current German opera troupe renewed its lease for another year.

In Duffy's Stocks

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Gay Seabrook and Emerson Treacy will head the cast of "Take My Advice," Duffy stock production which follows "Nightstick" at the President Dec. 16.
*So This is London, also Duffy's, opens the same date at the El Capitan, Edmund Breese and Lawrence Grant head cast.

"GOOD NEWS" SUCCESSOR

"Follow Thru," the new Schawl and Mandel musical will supplant "Good News" at Chamin's, 46th New York, Jan. 27.
Cast of the new one includes Jack Hanley, John Sheehan, Irene Delroy, Madeline Cameron, Zelma O'Neal, Jack Barker, Don Tomkins, Margaret Lee and Frank Kingdom.
"Good News" will lay off week of Dec. 14 resuming the week following for the last two weeks of its New York run.

CHANGE STOCKS AT CANTON

Canton, O., Dec. 11. Supplementing the Cannon Players, after 35 weeks at the Grand, the Grand stock opened. Leister & Nudins have taken over the playhouse.
*The Butterfield 8, with Fisher, Day, Pritchard, Daniel Poole and Mary Lou Kromer, of the Cannon Players, continue with the new company.

CRAZY CHI UP IN LULU TIME; PAGE, \$25,000

"5 o'Clock Girl" Lingers "Rita" Still Smash—Cut for Pre-Xmas

Chicago, Dec. 11. No one can ever tell what's going to happen in this class by a couple to abide with the pre-Xmas lull, alone comes a wave of prosperity, not high but noticeable.

"Front Page" is a wallon at the Erlanger. Unsteadiness of the first week having been washed away, and "Rio Rita" is the musical sensation. Nothing has approached it this season for advance orders.
"Grand Street Follies" encountered the identical atmosphere as greeted the first local visit of Charlotte Revue. Sating was over the heads of the Sunday mob. Plays of this type haven't a chance here opening on Sunday. Too many bootleggers who clean out the specs ahead of the advance orders.
Cuts at the Garrick made a farce of the premiere.

"Five o'Clock Girl" just missed getting into the hit class by a couple grand and recalled the rush to Boston to play two more weeks here and then Pittsburgh and Newark. Precedent is being established at the Grand for advance orders when "My Maryland" will lay off to reopen Christmas. Several houses are contemplating cutting out Xmas eve performances.
"Madison Square Time" will omit the Sunday performances hereafter, while "Front Page" will do away with the midweek matinee until after Xmas.

Estimates for Last Week (Woods, 7th week)—Changes in route holds it here two weeks longer; slightly under average of \$20,000; spurts in fourth and fifth weeks; splendid management.

"Porgy" (Blackstone, 6th week, 12th week for Theatre Guild) still holding up with societies; still engaged to smash windup.

"Grand Street Follies" (Garrick, 2d week)—Wide difference of opinion on the Grand strength; no better than \$12,000.

"Paris Bound" (Harris, 3d week)—About the pace predicted, moderate; around \$12,500.

"President of My Dugan" (Adolph, 16th week)—Back of slight depression is post-Xmas call; good enough with \$13,000.

"NoBODY's Girl" (Majestic, 3d week)—Just a filler; reported \$11,000.

"Golden Dawn" (Grand, 3d week)—Picked to crack out some high grosses during holidays; currently holding \$12,000.

"Abraham's Bosom" (Playhouse, 3d week)—About \$6,000 again; good money for house.

"Rio Rita," (Illinois, 9th week)—Rat on the run. Knocking out \$28,000 to \$14,000.

"Blossom Time" (Studebaker, 3d week)—Sunday performances out; matinee pull fine; anything over \$13,000 supports recent engagement.

Frisco Grosses

San Francisco, Dec. 11. With a single exception legions want to see "The Last Week."
Geary—Geo. Arliss. Six days \$28,000. Great.
Carrara—Desert Song. On to bogged. Fourth week \$16,000; bad.
Columbia—"The Marriage Bed." Caught on but only 2 weeks. Final week \$12,000.

McCormack—Lombard, Ltd. Carrillo gets full credit for draw. Held strong at \$5,900. Long stay in prospect. Duffly stock \$5,300.
Started slowly but is building. Third week did well at \$5,300.
Green St.—Easy for Zoo Zen. Bettered \$1,900. Profit.

Gilpin Released

Charles Gilpin, local colored actor who went to the West Coast for Fox movie-tone, has been released. George Reed, unknown in eastern colored dramatic circles, replaces him in "Hearts of Dixie," filling short box in production.

L. A. Grosses

Despite publicity gained through arrest for obscenity, "Gay Parade" fell to less than \$20,000 in its second week at the Biltmore. Show looks shot for this season.
"Re-opening Tuesday" for a return engagement, not so hot, getting \$9,000 with six performances.
"Royal Family" continued its pace with \$12,500 in sixth week at the Belasco and still looks good.

Other grosses last week: "Cardboard Lover", second, Vine Street, \$3,100. "The Silver Cord", third, Shubert, \$2,400. "The Lady Next Door", third, Hollywood Playhouse, \$5,300; "Shannons of Broadway", 11th, El Capitan, \$5,000; "Nightstick", 4th, President, \$3,900.

Clarke Silvernail goes with Fox talkers for three years through Sidney Phillips. Silvernail is an actor, author and director. He will do the latter two chiefly for the screen.

port; estimated at less than \$18,000.
*Wings Over Europe, Martin Beck (1st week) (D-1,183-\$3). Presented by Theatre Guild; written by Robert Nichols and Maurice Browne; opened Monday; third Guild show.

*Whoopie, New Amsterdam (2d week) (M-1,702-\$6.60). Jumped to lead in agency demand and to lead of Broadway in point of gross; five previous performances over \$45,000.

*Young Love, Masque (7th week) (CD-700-\$6.60). Eased off somewhat; \$12,000. Estimated at \$8,000; expected to stick until after holidays, pace then determining continuation.

Specialty Theatres. Little Theatres. *Perfect Alibi, Hopkins; highly rated mystery play in 300-seat (3d week).
*Major Barbara, Guild (4th week). Callaghan's. Held Jan. 1; probable to be moved about Jan. 1; 'Caprice' due to follow here.

*Macbeth, Knickerbocker (4th week); revival.
*The Wild Duck, 49th St. (4th week); revival.
*The Yellow Jacket, Coburn (6th week); final week for revival.

*Fastest Gun on Earth, (3d week); unusual.
*Givie Repertory, 14th St. Eva Le Gallienne.
*Sun-Up, La Verne; revival.
*Three, Totten; closed Saturday; one week.
*The Royal Box, Belmont; closed Saturday; \$8,000.

Broadway Legits in Panic

(Continued from page 1)

down on Broadway. The brokers have three dozen shows on a buy basis and say they would be happy if but one third of that number remained open.

Houses definitely dark next week are: Shubert's, Cohan, Lyric, Republic, Little Liberty, Klaw, Lyceum, Gallo, Garrick, Comedy, Walcott, Channin's 46th St., Mansfield, lack's, Ambassador, Belmont, 48th Biltmore, Ambassador, Carroll, Jolt Street, Cosmopolitan, Century, Cohan's and Hampden's.

Most are expected to relight Christmas with the resuming attractions and the new shows which include: "One Way Street," Cohan; "Sakura," Belmont; "Robe," Shubert; "Poppa," Biltmore; "Rothphar's Wife," Craig (new houseboat); "Falstaff," Coburn; "The Lark," Liberty; and "Hello Houseboat," Mansfield. Next week only "The Kingdom of God" is certain, it opens the new Ethel Barrymore theatre.

Last week "Whoopee" was the whole works on Broadway. Opening at the New Amsterdam it got over \$45,000 in seven performances. "Angela" at the Ambassador was rated under \$10,000. It closes next week, then goes to the Century, for cut rating. "Three" at the Totten lasted the one week; "Singing Fairbirds" downtown at the Provincetown may linger.

Cochran's Revue \$40,000. "This Year of Grace" stood up in great fashion getting \$40,000 last week; "Three Cheers" likewise, with takings something over that mark; "Hold Everything" held its pace of \$30,000; "Blackbirds" lost no ground either, colored show got \$19,000 again. "Show Boat" held its autumn pace too, grossing \$40,000 and really being with the leaders; "Animal Crackers," slipped, but got \$35,000; "The New Moon" off only slightly at \$38,000 and another sure success; "Scandals" rated about \$30,000; "Treasure Girl" better than expected, \$26,000; "Vanities" slipped under \$30,000 (dark next week); "Good Bye" slipped to \$19,000; "Billboard" under \$20,000; "Hello Everything" a bit over the mark; "Good News" (dark next week); "White Lies" (dark next week and may not resume); "Rainbow," stopping.

"Holiday" jumped into leadership of the non-musicals, grossing over \$21,000; "Congal," second at \$20,500; "Front Page" went into third place, at \$19,000; "Age of Innocence," \$18,000; "Paris" and "High Road," about \$17,000; "Strange Interlude" claimed \$16,000; "A Most Immoral Lady" improved, getting \$14,000; "Jarnegan" and "Courage" \$12,000; "The Royal Box" hit more; "Jealous Moore" as much as \$12,000; "Tonight" at \$12,000; "Diamond Lil" \$9,500; "Young Love," "So This Is Love," "Jealousy," "Grey Fox," \$8,500, with the field straggling downward under \$4,000.

Last week the musicals dropped as much as \$3,000 over the previous week. Among the dramas the decline measured from \$1,200 upward. "Rainbow" was a big disappointment, closes this week; "Rain or Shine" goes to the road; so does "Three Musketeers"; "Just a Minute" also; "The Lady Lies" stops, as do "The Yellow Jacket," "The Royal Box," "Tin Pan Alley" and "Gentlemen of the Press" (may resume Christmas week at the Ambassador). "New Americans" stopped last Saturday.

Plan of Buys. There are still plenty of agency buys, 36 in number. Several will be gotten rid of after this week, but the brokers face a lean two weeks and the dumps to cut rates are certain to be overboard. The buys: "Treasure Girl" (Alvin); "Angela" (Ambassador); "Scandals" (Apollo); "Mimu" (Belasco); "A Play Without a Name" (Booth); "Hold Everything" (Booth); "Hello Yourself" (Casino); "The Perfect Alibi" (Charles Hopkins); "A Most Immoral Lady" (Cort); "Vanities" (Earl Carroll); "Blackbirds" of 1928 (Elding); "The Age of Innocence" (Empire); "Billie" (Eldinger's); "Animal Crackers" (44th Street); "The Fish Road" (Fulton); "Rainbow" (Gallo); "Three Cheers" (Globe); "Good Boy" (Hammerstein's); "The Lady of the Orchids" (Henry Miller's); "Tonight" at 12 (Hudson); "The New Moon" (Imperial); "Strange Interlude" (John Golden); "Jarnegan" (Longacre); "The Three Musketeers" (Lyric); "The Jealous Man" (Majestic); "Jealousy" (Maxine Elliott); "Little Accident" (Morosco); "Paris" (Music Box); "Sign of The Leopard" (National); "Whoopee" (New Amsterdam); "The Grey Fox" (Playhouse); "Holiday" (Plymouth); "Congai" (Sam H. Harris); "This Year of Grace" (Selwyn); "The Front Page" (Times Square); "Show Boat" (Ziegfeld).

Trade in the bargain agency varies as it does in the premium places. Offered at cut rates regularly this week: Musicals—"Good News" (Chanin); "Just a Minute" (Century); "Good Bye" (Hammerstein's); "Rain or Shine" (Geo. M. Cohan); "White Lies" (Casino); "Hello Yourself" (Casino); "Treasure Girl" (Alvin); "Angela" (Ambassador); "Rainbow" (Gallo); Comedies—"Skidding" (Bayer); "Gentlemen of the Press" (48th Street); "This Thing Called Love" (Blou); "Tonight" at 12 (Hudson); "Tin Pan Alley" (Republic); "Nite Hostess" (Vanderbilt); "Diamond Lil" (Royale); "Exceeding Small" (Comedy); "Jealousy" (Elliott); "Sun-up" (La Verne); "On Call Girl" (Walldorf); "The Grey Fox" (Playhouse); "The Dark Mirror" (Forrest); "The Squares" (49th Street); "Courage" (Rialto); "Jarnegan" (Longacre); "The Lady Lies" (Littic).

By arbitration Dorothy Appleby was awarded \$700, the equivalent of two weeks salary, against Aarons and Freedley. Miss Appleby was engaged for "Hold Everything." During rehearsals she injured a knee and was indisposed for a couple of days. When she returned the managers refused to reinstate her and a two weeks' claim was filed with Equity.

Another arbitration also resulted in an award of two weeks' salary to Asya Kaz and Thalia Zanou, dancers engaged for "Cafe Tendance" (now "Cafe de Dance"). Show tried out and closed for repairs. It was to have been put on again by the original sponsors Greg Phil Baker, Ben Bernie and Greg Rytouf, but the second try was called off by the team's engagement was for the latter date.

Shubert now has the show.

Des Moines Road Show. Des Moines, Dec. 11. George Clark, manager of the Shrine auditorium, has taken a time lease on the local theatre, which is to be a road show theatre. Clark will continue to manage the Shrine auditorium for the Shrine organization.

This transaction puts control of both houses under the single management of the Shrine auditorium, which is to be reserved for dramatic plays and road show pictures.

Harold Cavanaugh, manager of the Berchel for 16 years, has announced that he will take a vacation.

Long Cot Sojourn for Pair Hurt at Rehearsal. Marvin Williams, 23, and Howard Allen, 19, will be in Bellevue Hospital for several more weeks and are not yet out of danger as the result of the accident during a rehearsal of "To-Morrow" in which they had parts.

A prop aeroplane crashed on them. The nature of their injuries is not definitely indicated, but it is believed skull fractures and spine injuries of a serious nature were sustained. Accident occurred about two weeks ago at the Lyceum theatre, New York.

YOUNG TENOR MAKES DEBUT. Providence, Dec. 11. Morton Davis, young American tenor, made his debut last Wednesday (Dec. 5) at the Providence Opera House, singing the role of Turiddu in "L'Pagliacci Rusticiana." Turiddu possesses a voice of unusual range and power. Despite natural nervousness, he gave a creditable performance.

Shows in Rehearsal

- "The Barn" (George M. Cohan).
- "Children of Darkness" (Jed Harris).
- "Cheer Up" (Felix Productions, Inc.).
- "A Night in Venice" (Shubert).
- "Back Seat Drivers" (Roy Walling).
- "Potiphar's Wife" (Whitbar Productions).
- "Dark Alley" (McBride Productions, Inc.).
- "Playmates" (H. B. Norris).
- "Sakura" (Walker White-side).
- "Gypsy" (Richard Herndon).
- "Poppa" (H. S. Kraft).
- "One Way Street" (George Lafford).
- "Valse Doodle" (Eprtime Gallo).
- "Lady Deadlock" (Murray Phillips).
- "Easy Come, Easy Go" musical (Lyle Andrews).
- "Fistic Thrills" (Coburn).
- "He Walked in Her Sleep" (Lawrence Rivers).
- "That Ferguson Family" (Gustav Blum).
- "Alamacs" (John Murray Anderson).
- "Great Andrew" (L. & S. Productions).

he had been cleaned out seven times. For days Groucho has been fooling his family, putting on his golf clothes and then watching the ticker until the close. With him usually are four Jap butlers from nearby homes.

Ratell Bros., brokers, got the palm, Monday morning. While ticker hounds waited all a tremble for trading to start, the firm's market letter concluded, "for the time being we advise caution."

S. & S. Steiny theatre, Astoria, L. I., announced a gala anniversary week. After playing the first half to good business, the management discovered they were celebrating the wrong week.

It's The Graphic. Carroll Pierce, member of Keith's publicity department, has been given a by-line over the Monday vaudeville column in the New York Graphic, afternoon tab. The column, an eulogy on Keith bills for the week, leads the reading matter on the page, with no more than two or three inches of anything other than Keith advertising and cuts of Keith acts currently in New York shows.

Thatcher Is Talking Of Starting Stocks

Hartford, Dec. 11. Local dailies carrying a story that James J. Thatcher intends establishing his own stock company in this section, probably Hartford at present contemplated and at Parsons, has made a report that Thatcher is again after the stock production end of the former Poll, now Fox, circuit. Fox-Poll has three or four houses in New England possibly available for stock at present or in the near future. Thatcher was the stock producer for many years for Poll and had the entire run of stock things in that circuit. Understanding the Poll situation, Thatcher is reported to have gotten the idea he might again take hold of the stock production end of Fox by the second try would mean that he must finance and take the chances on it, instead of Poll assuming that burden as in former days.

It is said that Herschel Stuart, general manager of the Fox-Poll chain, has decided to let Thatcher start around with his own stocks. Stuart has decided upon other policies for theatres he decides call for another style of entertainment, other than vaudeville or straight pictures.

LITERATI

(Continued from page 27) In the distribution of picture news and photographs to the German and Austrian press that he receives from Hollywood studios, is said to be profiting heavily. A complaint has been registered with Wampas from the foreign office of one of the largest picture companies that Miller sells his stuff to and does not give credit to the studio from where it originated. The complaint declares that his methods of operation greatly hamper the foreign publicity department of the company and Wampas has been asked to make an investigation.

Rascal's Mag Deferred. Burton Rascoe is reported to have deferred his proposed article monthly. No reason known.

Suicide Reason

Another reason why authors may commit suicide. Paris Nights, Philadelphia fiction monthly, pays from \$7 to \$15 for a story. And authors have to wait until publication.

James Forsyth, formerly in Variety's Chicago office, has started a news service bureau called the Compass News Service and is writing a Chicago column for the Grand Rapids Chronicle and other papers. It is titled "The Big City."

Chi Treasurers Worried

Chicago, Dec. 11. Local Shubert house treasurers are looking with apprehension at the removal of two of their fellow workers from Shubert theatres. Let out are Ralph Grossberg of the Majestic and William Krona, Krona.

Grove is replaced by Frank Lyons, former manager of the Princess and also treasurer, Milton Schmidt, treasurer of the Garrick, is relegated to assistant.

The report is that the Shuberts wanted to create a job for Lyons. Meanwhile it is also believed that this movement may be the beginning of a general housecleaning of Shubert box office men.

New York Chatter

(Continued from page 44)

Louella. This was shortly followed, it is said, by the Hearst executive office advising Miss Carewe to use the air mail, as an economical move, without admitting her news was too fast, for the Hearst papers or Miss Parsons.

So the citadel of the chief chatterer is again secure, in Hollywood.

Falling for Face Lifting

The prevalent face-lifting craze has gotten a hold on the mules. Ming-doctors around town report they're reconstructing as many actors as actresses and as many tired business men as showmen wives. The old boys have a break on the dames. They grow sideburns to hide the scar.

Mike for a Mike

Mike Goldreyer, Mike Mindlin's partner about five years ago when they produced "The Last Warning," is doing publicity for "This Queen of Sheba." This is his new show starring Greta Nissen at \$1,000 a week with settings by Lee Simonson.

Nute Over Mutt

One of the Spanish screen actresses returning to the coast after a good-will tour of Europe, had the usual coterie of press representatives at the depot to meet her.

Several news photographers prevailed upon her to pose for them. Among them was a newspaper man, who wished to get an unusual picture, and asked the star to pose with the dog she brought from Europe, but the star claimed she did not care to remove the beast from its cage or disturb it.

When the newsreel man suggested using another dog that happened to be in the crowd, she put up her hands and said: "Oh, no, no, no! If my Pido smelt another dog on my clothes, it would break eyes lectie heart."

"Jealous Plays"

"Jealous plays" seem to be growing in popularity by that mob of young women who have found that the "Broadway suicide" scheme has lost out. A couple of jealousy things have been on view lately. One worked and the other may.

A youth from England with his brain nearer his feet was made the biggest chump, but had a return trip anyway out of it. And it brought back the other chump, of course, the one who could afford it. It is double-edged, with two parties to each end. It may wind up in Paris.

As these jealous things must be done publicly to secure circulation and get to the sources aimed for, the idea reaches out for meanwilled knickers.

Mrs. Leslie in for 25 Per Cent

Mrs. Leslie was broke and stuck for a while in a comeluck with his now sensational "Blackbirds" revues, two companies of which, one on Broadway and in Boston, are cleaning up, with a third in the offing. He propositioned Mrs. Lew to see if she could realize some funds on her babies.

Mrs. Lew thought it would be a cute idea to be formally declared in for 25 per cent of everything for her investment, knowing that Leslie, whichever way it happened, would protect her money. It turned out optimistically and she's collecting.

Suite Own Offices

Morton Davies' former suite in the Cosmopolitan studios at 127th Street and 2d avenue, now the M-G-M synchronized picture studio, has been converted into the private offices of Louis K. Sidney and Major Edward Bowes, including conference room, private production studio and audition studio.

Mrs. Davies, when producing locally at the Cosmopolitan studios, lived in a large suite.

L. A. Examiner's Special

For the first time in its career the Los Angeles Examiner will publish a special Christmas Jubilee number for which it will solicit screen and stage people for personal advertisements as well as other civic and industrial leaders.

Date of publication set for Dec. 24.

Clifford Dowdy is editing Stage Studies, new fiction monthly. Dell Co., publisher.



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Hundreds, yes hundreds, each smartly unique and endowed with the select and telling touch for which the name of Nat Lewis is worshiped. Let Mr. Lewis personally select your Christmas remembrances. You will experience real joy in the utter correctness of his choice. A few tempting suggestions are made, but Oh there are so many others, space does not permit their mention. In ordering, please mention sizes where necessary.

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And Practical Things for Stage Wear, Too

In giving to friends in the profession, have you considered the possibility of practical work-a-day things that are dear because they contribute to success in one's life work? Such gifts are assured a gracious reception if packed in a charming Nat Lewis Christmas Box.

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| Silk Opera Stockings.....\$2.75 to \$12.50 | Tights, Priced at...\$13.50, \$16.50, \$27.50 |
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Tin Pan Alley's Tune and Word Makers Mostly West, Wondering, Like Others

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Tin Pan Alley is moving to Hollywood.

Since the coming of talking pictures the film capital has become the new "blue heaven" for the song writers.

A year ago scarcely a tune maker on the coast. Today a flock of names are here and more are coming every week. Now as many lyric and melody builders of reputation on the west coast as in the east.

Many of these were engaged east by film producing companies, but many others have come out to free lance.

The theme song idea started it. Some of the song writers have already come and gone. Producers are floundering through this problem, as they are every other phase of talking pictures which brought them plenty of puzzlers without warning. They are experimenting all along the line.

In the main the tunesters who have fopped have been the hot jazzists, who found themselves stumped when called upon to turn out sentimental love themes heavy enough to carry a big picture.

But the market is definitely here for all who can make the grade and, admittedly, should be more important a year from now than at present.

Bills to Limit Radio Station Power Go In

Washington, Dec. 11. With the second session of the 70th Congress just getting underway both Senator Dill and Representative Davis have introduced companion measures in the Senate and House to hold all stations to no more than 10,000 watts power, except for experimental purposes and only after midnight and before six in the morning.

Both of these legislators were active in framing the radio control law.

Another affecting broadcasting comes from Representative Huddleston who wants to make radio a public utility and subject to interstate commerce control.

GROSSMAN LEWIS FIRM

Chicago, Dec. 11. Bernie Grossman and Eddie Lewis have jointly gone into the music business on their own.

They have taken space in the Woods building.

The Outstanding Song Hits from the New 1928 Earl Carroll's "Vanities"

"Blue Shadows"
"Once in a Lifetime"
"Raquel"

Sing Them—Play Them—Buy Them

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3 Big English Music Publishers May Merge

An amalgamation of the three outstanding British music publishers conferring in New York city, will save the firms of Lawrence Wright, Francis Day & Hunter and Campbell-Connelly a gross of \$500,000 per annum, it is estimated, through the elimination of act payments, gratuities for radio inclusion and all the other evils which the American music experienced some years ago.

Wright, representing his own firm, John Abbott of P-D-H, and Jimmy Campbell of C-C, are in New York discussing the feasibility of a merger into a parent organization. The underlying objective to fortify themselves against an occurrence such as is being experienced by the contemporary American music men where powerful cinematic interests, bankers, and others, are stepping in to assume control of the music publishing field. The music of synchronized sound pictures is also a momentous one in Great Britain, as it is here.

The merger of these three publishers is along the same lines which have been discussed by the 10 leading American publishers. There was one proposal for these 10 leading firms to sell all their copyrights to the Radio Corporation of America for \$20,000,000, part cash and the rest in equivalent stock in the R.C.A. The need of the electrical companies for exclusive musical copyrights lends new importance to the music publishing business.

Wright and Spier & Coslow, newcomer among American music publishers, \$25,000 for the foreign rights to their catalog for two years. This is a minimum guarantee.

Campbell, Connelly Company, two years ago, when the firm started, gambled with Spier & Coslow for \$1,000 for the same rights, including the rest of the world outside of the United States and Canada. Campbell-Connelly offered \$5,000 for the same rights Wright paid \$25,000.

Paul Specht Gets Plum In Inauguration Event

Washington, Dec. 11. Paul Specht will have a 40-piece orchestra here for the Charity Inaugural Ball. This ball for the past several inaugurations has come close to filling the void left when the incoming Presidents have banned the official gathering.

Specht was selected by the Hoover-Curtis Club of New York. Ed. Gordon and his Palais Royal orchestra will be on hand also through the Hoover-Curtis outfit.

Specht was here last week along with Matthew Quay Glaser, campaign manager for Curtis, when all details were set.

Ball will be held either in the 6,000 capacity auditorium or at the Mayflower hotel.

"SHOW BOAT" FILM SONGS

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Billy Rose completed the lyrics and music for three songs to be used in Universal's screen version of "Show Boat." Titles are "Ming nolia," theme waltz, "Shoes Make Me Walk," negro spiritual, and "I'll Never Love Anyone Like I Love You."

All three will be published and recorded to exploit the picture.

Snowden, Banjoist, Indicted

Washington, Dec. 11. Elmer C. Snowden, colored banjoist, charged with non-support of his minor child, Christine Snowden, has been indicted here.

Snowden's wife, professionally Gertrude Wells, had a warrant sworn out for him.

Snowden was formerly with the "Rung Tang" orchestra. Miss Wells also had her own orchestra several years ago.

PETRILLO RE-ELECTED

Chicago, Dec. 11. With no opposition ticket running, James C. Petrillo was re-elected president of the Chicago Federation of Musicians for his seventh term.

Am. Soc. Protected

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers is protected for at least four years more against the possibility of losing the 10c. per score per year income from picture theatres through the continued wiring of the houses because of contractual provision.

When the American Society closed with Western Electric and Photophone, the agreement specifically provided that the new agreements were contingent on the continued payment to the A. S. C. A. P. of the 10c. per score tax which is the bulk of the society's income.

JURY VINDICATES JERRY VOGEL'S CLAIM

Awards Exploiter Full 25% of Sheridan's Proved Song Profit

That Jerry Vogel's award of \$23,000 against Frank Sheridan over the now famous "Marcheta" song case was thus limited is explained only by the absence of documentary proof to establish any greater claim by the song exploiter.

The records of foreign rights royalties, mechanical royalties and some sheet music established Sheridan's earnings of \$92,000 net on "Marcheta," of which Vogel was entitled to one-fourth. The greatest bulk of the sheet music income was undetermined because of the destruction of the records and books for the high peak years of John Franklin (Sheridan's) Music Co.

Frank Sheridan, or John Franklin Sheridan as his full name was alleged to have made \$400,000 on "Marcheta," a flop manuscript which he purchased from Victor L. Schertzinger, picture director and songwriter, for \$50 in 1913. It lay dormant until 1918 when Vogel, expert music man and now the head of the Plaza Music Co.'s music department, saw its possibilities and alerted his friends, such as Vincent Lopez, Ben Bernie, Fred Warling, Eddie Elkins, et al., to lend their co-operation to plug "Marcheta" into the big hit it became.

Frank Sheridan, as he calls himself professionally, being a quondam legit and picture actor (latterly working in Hollywood) was all appreciation to Vogel for his perspicacity in making a hit out of a dog's manuscript. He had ceded Vogel 25 per cent. of the profits and had already deposited almost \$11,000 to Vogel's account, but stopped further payments.

In total, now, Vogel will have realized about \$33,000 for his efforts in making almost a half million dollars for Sheridan. Vogel sued for \$100,000 of this, crediting \$11,000 and claiming \$89,000 due, but owing to the missing records the jury before Justice Henry L. Sherman in N. Y. Supreme Court had nothing to base their award on excepting the subpoenaed books of the Victor and other mechanical companies; the \$20,000 in foreign royalties and another \$20,000 in sheet music sales during 1925-6-7. These were the lean years, of course, the peak having been reached from 1918 on, but with the absence of the books Vogel had to content himself with what the jury could tangibly base their computations on.

Sheridan's Confession

Sheridan as much as admitted in court that Vogel was responsible for the hitdom of "Marcheta." An autographed copy of the song signed by Sheridan was an important piece of copy, reading: "A marcheta, it is a monument of your faith in it, Jerry boy."

The jazz maestros mentioned above and other prominent music men appeared in court as allies of Vogel to effect justice for the popular plaintiff whose intensive application to the exploitation and popularization of "Marcheta" was well known.

Richard J. Mackey, of O'Brien, Malevinsky & Driscoll, brilliantly prosecuted the case for Vogel. After several technical set-backs, one of which cost the law firm an advance of \$1,250 to defray the traveling expenses of Sheridan and his wife from Hollywood for the second trial,

3 Radio Stations Around N. Y. Stand For Ether Stock Selling and Safety

All Musical Instrument Sales Dropped Off in '27

Washington, Dec. 11. In every phase of the musical instrument industry a startling drop in the value of their product is recorded for 1927 as against 1925 in the biennial census taken in 1928.

A drop of 21.3 per cent. is recorded on the summarized total. Value for 1927 being set at approximately \$8 million as against 12.5 million dollars in 1925.

Piano industry valuation of its entire output went from 121 million in 1925 to 75 million in 1927. A drop of 25.4 per cent. Organ manufacturers of all classes combined had a valued product of 16 million in 1925, whereas it was set at 12 million in 1927. A 25.5 per cent. drop. Musical instruments not classed with the pianos and organs went from 20 million in 1925 to 17 million in 1927, being 12 per cent. off.

Wind instruments, brass, went from eight million to six million; wood, from \$631,000 to \$1,544,000 the latter being about the only increase shown on the two years and tying in with the never trend in instrumentation against the brass heretofore so popular.

Perforated music roles took it hardest of the lot, the output being valued in 1927 at just about half that of 1925. It dropped from \$67,067,000 in 1925 to \$32,610,000 in 1927.

WCCO Rebels at "Trust"

Minneapolis, Dec. 11. Condemning WCCO, leading northwest radio station, for its "Declaration of Independence" in refusing to submit any longer to the National Broadcasting Company's dictum concerning programs, Star, local evening publication, urges the public to support the station in its fight.

"Radio station WCCO," declares the Star editorially, "deserves not all the greater support and interest of radio listeners in the northwest for its unprecedented refusal to take dictation from a radio monopoly. In declining to submit to the National Broadcasting Company's dictum that its chain of programs be used exclusively, WCCO has taken a forward step that is being discussed and lauded in all parts of the country."

Rube Wolf Leaving Frisco After Two Years as M. C.

San Francisco, Dec. 11. Rube Wolf is leaving Leo's Warfield, after two years as m. c. for the house.

Wolf may open at Leo's State, Los Angeles, shortly after New Year's. Both houses are operated by West Coast Theatres circuit.

FEB. 1 FOR LIDO, MIAMI

Harry Rosenthal's orchestra will be at the Club Lido, Miami, when that class Florida night club opens Feb. 1. Rosenthal will also have a band in Palm Beach to play club dates and parties.

Chick Endor and Ramon Hestita, now at the Club Lido, New York, will also be on this Miami site, which will be under the management of Ned Hayward, one of the operators of the New York spot.

he was again halted by a jury disagreement.

At that trial the amount of the damage award could not be reached, although Justice Coffin, the then presiding Justice, expressed himself tartly at this delay of justice on the part of a jury. At the second trial, which lasted four days, the witnesses were not recalled since Sheridan admitted Vogel's 25 per cent interest in the net profits of the song.

Sheridan, when he had a hole in the wall in the Astor theatre building for an office, bragged that he would had the song they wanted and the music merchants and the whole world had to come to him.

Stations WAAZ and WGPC of New Jersey and WABC of New York, with an ether circulation around New York and at a 100 mile radius, are the only three stations selling unlisted stock via radio bulletin.

The Newark Chamber of Commerce is particularly concerned with this problem, but since the stock speculators stay "within" in the law there isn't much that can be done about it.

By invitation or infection through rhetorical questions as "how much would you be worth if you bought General Motors 10 years ago for \$10 a share?" (or whatever the premise may be), the gulls fall for stocks in almost anything at prices from \$15 to \$30 a share. The former is the most popular.

Most of these concerns sell stocks in loan societies under a Jersey law permitting loans of not over \$300 on an interest charge of 3 percent, compounded monthly on the unpaid balance. These concerns are regulated by state ordinance and usually thrive, but the radio sales merchants inflate the value of the stock through exaggerated income, selling stock above actual value.

Ray Long With Youmans

Ray Long, editor of Cosmopolitan and an officer of the Hearst periodical group, is associated with Vincent Youmans, the composer, in the music publishing field. Youmans is publishing his own music through "Rainbow," which Philip Goodman has at the Gallo, New York.

The Long association figures in Youmans' lease on Hearst's property, Cosmopolitan theatre on Columbus Circle.

Addy Britt will be general manager for Youmans shifting over from Waterston's.

BANJO ACES
Use B & D
"SILVER BELL"
BANJOS

TELEGRAM
New York, Dec. 5, 1928.
Last Sunday night the executives of the station were very much pleased with the soft pedal over the air. Sounded like a vi-braphone. I did six numbers. Playing tonight on Station WOR between eight and eight-thirty. Letter follows. Best wishes.
ROY SNECK.

Illustration of a Banjo

THE BACON BANJO CO.
INCORPORATED
GROTON, CONN.



TAVERN

A CHOP HOUSE

OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT
156-8 WEST 48TH STREET
— East of Broadway —

Orchestras Wanted
Traveling orchestras or suitable ball-room attractions, communicate with
Manager, PALAIS ROYAL
HARTFORD, CONN.
CAPACITY 1,000

FOUND 48 LAUGHS IN JAMES SCHNOZZLE

Jimmy, the Durante, Forgot to Say He Once Had Lost His Appendix

At the Flower Hospital on 64th street Monday, when Jimmy Durante received his bill for the week ending that day, he squawked.

"I paid \$100 coming in here, yelled Schnozzle, "and now look at what they want to let me out. Let me out!"

But they wouldn't let Jimmy go. He can leave next Saturday or Sunday, they said. It's always "two weeks" in the show business, Jimmy moaned.

And that was the end of an imperfect week for James Schnozzle. When he entered the rest cure place they asked him what he wanted to be operated for. Jimmy held a conference with Mrs. Schnozzle. They decided appendicitis would be the best stall for back home at Flushing.

Jimmy took some laughing gas and when he stopped the hyena stuff, the hospital people advised him they had been unable to find any appendix. Jimmy recalled that some years ago he had lost it in a prior operation. But Schnozzle, as long as they had his joint opened, they had better try again for he had felt funny all last summer when laying off, and Eddie Jackson says you can't be funny laying off.

The next time they gave Jimmy ether. After a thorough search found 48 laughs, piles of them, under Jimmy's fourth rib on the right side. Waking up the Schnozzle to inform him of the goldmine, Jimmy asked for the ether again, and told them to cut out the laughs; they must be stale anyway.

Nurses Liked Him
Nothing happened otherwise to Jimmy Durante, although he shows a big scar that he denies was originally made when his wife threw a platter at him. But the hospital people asked Jimmy to string along as the nurses liked to hear his stories.

Schnozzle now knows more living nurses than any other entertainer. He invited all of them up to the Rendezvous and guaranteed there would be no extra charge. After getting his bill, Jimmy balked on that no cover thing.

When Schnozzle leaves the hospital he will be flanked by blackface Jackson and Lou Clayton, all of them doing an off to Buffalo. Jackson was crying about their tough season so far, having only worked eight days at the Silver Slipper, but Jimmy was cheerful, suggesting that Eddie put another mortgage on the house. Lou Clayton, the business man of the trio, started to figure up their gross between the Rendezvous and Ziegfeld's "Show Girl." It developed that while Jimmy was under the ether, Lou had signed for the new Ziegfeld show, with the trio to be featured.

No Faking, Says Jim
If the Dr. consents, James and his companions will open at the Rendezvous some evening next week. They should have been there Tuesday, but Jimmy refused, saying it would look as though he

had been faking to go out of a hospital Monday and into a 'nite club Tuesday.

However Monday the Rendezvous sent out wires signed by the trio, stating they would open last (Tuesday) night.

Jimmy had the Casey Jones room at the hospital, No. 518. Some of his girl friends sent him flowers and a taxi driver sent him a basket of fruit. He gave the flowers to the nurses and ate the fruit.

"This is the worst week I've ever spent," remarked blackface Eddie Jackson. "I know where Jimmy could have had an operation for half the money, don't I Lou?"

No Pay-Off Finish For B'klyn Nite Club

Midway Gardens, night club in the fashionable Bushwick section of Brooklyn, N. Y., has done a Brodie.

The self-palcoed club because of inability to keep up with the monthly rental surprised the performers of the floor show when they reported as usual Thursday. They had not received salary for the past two weeks, but most strung along. Some of the chorus girls were in a financial panic and had been compelled to eat at the club or not at all.

The Gardens was promoted by Moe Epperson, who formerly operated a Roumanian cabaret on the lower east side, New York. Epperson is reported as having floated the venture on a shoe string. When landlord and other creditors closed in he ran out.

The collapse was the culmination of obstacles that foreshadowed the enterprise from outset. Before opening, Epperson was opposed by residents in his application for cabaret license, but finally got it. The neighbors' children high-hatted it.

Another Village Bust

Spanish cabarets, figured to supplant futuristic joints and help Greenwich Village to a comeback as a night life playground, have thrown up the sponge.

Most of the places were located in the Spanish districts of the Village. The locals wouldn't go for the gyp prices and sightseers couldn't find them because of location far out of the usual cabaret area.

Just another bust for the Village.

Dapper Dan, Underworld Boss of St. Paul, Killed

Minneapolis, Dec. 11. A bomb planted in his automobile killed Danny Hogan, St. Paul underworld boss, and also known as Dapper Dan, who last summer operated Hollywood Inn, gambling resort just outside the Twin Cities. The bomb exploded when Hogan started his car. He died within a few hours.

Asked by the county attorney in a moment of consciousness regarding the identity of the crime's perpetrator, Hogan only smiled and said, "You know nobody has it in for me."

NEW SONGWRITERS

Lou Clayton of the three Schnozzles, otherwise Clayton, Jackson and Durante has bust out as a songwriter with Jo Seiltman, protegee, as collaborator. Latter was at Saratoga for a year and half and has returned to New York.

Roxy and William Morris agency are putting a heavy plug on "Plant Your Smiles and Let Them Grow" on behalf of the songwriters.

PARODY'S NEW SHOW

Parody Club's floor show, opening tonight (Wednesday) with Joe Lewis featured, also features Pearl Eaton, one of the three Eaton girls, and besides a chorus of eight, has Vee Carroll, Stanley Sisters, Don and Jerie, Jane Dubbins, Kiddie Young, Martie Martelle and LaVerne Lambert.

Art Landry's orchestra for the music.

TWO YEARS AND \$500

Toledo, Dec. 11. Emanuel Broadway, 53 former operator of the Broadway cabaret here, drew two years in Atlanta on plea of guilty to conspiracy to violate the dry law.

He was also fined \$500 on plea of guilty to maintaining a nuisance and possessing liquor.

Prohibition!

A Times Square speakeasy puts up its latch to "keep out the drunks."

The oasis has an open door until 9:30 nightly, but after that hour the doorman assumes his duties to keep out the wandering drunks, bartenders and lishes.

ROAD TRADE SWITCH

Pelham Places Battling for Business—Joas Smutz at Castilian

Pelham road houses are battling for business in this cold weather as they did in the summer.

Jack Goldman's Castilian Royal, with Goldman having added two partners new to the nite clubs, now has Joe Smutz, former headwater at Woodmansten Inn. Smutz commands his own trade to an extent and is a bear at handling a restaurant staff. His presence at the Castilian was immediately felt in discipline and discipline.

Woodmansten has eased off in its lucrative trade, through inability of Vincent Lopez to personally appear. Its band has been cut to seven pieces. Gene Geiger continues the association with Lopez, and also that of Pelham Heath, right opposite Castilian. Pelham Heath looks to be on the business slide. It was not any too healthy when recently taken over by Geiger. Geiger has the kitchen at the Rendezvous, where Chick Jackson and Dinty Moore open this week. Geiger held the lease on the place and permitted its transfer to the trio's backers for his kitchen piece.

With Castilian getting a look in on about the only road business patronage of this season, on New York Island, shortly up the same road, is paring with it on the breaks. Hunter Island has done a brisk come back this season, through the personal attention now given to it once more by its sole owner, Arnold McLellan, who has returned to Hunter Island and its most popular orchestra, Dinty Moore's combination.

A new out of town orchestra of 11 pieces, mostly young boys, is at the Castilian.

The Pelham road section has a new police captain.

Ideal Nite Club in Minn. And Without Set-Ups

Minneapolis, Dec. 11. Plans have been announced in the Twin Cities for the establishment in the midway district of one night club unique in the United States. The club will utilize the services of the nation's best orchestras and other high-priced entertainment features, but will be "bone dry," even ginger ale being barred from the premises. Dance hall impregnable, and the recent St. Paul dance marathon, will operate the night club. It will seat 600.

Food will be served, and there will be a soda fountain, but set-ups will be taboo and only couples and parties admitted, Lane says. No "stags" or unescorted women permitted on the premises, he declares. An admission will take the place of the usual cover charges.

Hotel Plaza's Nite Club

The conservative Hotel Plaza has gone nite club with its grill, now the Club Plaza. It will be a late-hour room and capable of staying open as far beyond the 3 a. m. curfew law as desired as a hotel.

E. Scott Paton, who conducts the Fair Mall club dansants at the St. Regis, is in charge at the Club Plaza. Dick Gasparre is the dance band feature.

Mount Royal's Rates

Mr. Royal Hotel, Montreal, desires it to be known that it is not requiring three-day reservations over New Year's, that its rates are \$4 to \$6 single and \$7 to \$10 double. It's New Year's Eve dinner is priced at \$12.50 per person but that includes souvenirs, favors, covert, etc. This in reference to Variety's story recently that Montreal hostellers were holding out for high tariff.

Night Club Reviews

CONNIE'S INN

(HARLEM)

New York, Dec. 7. Connie Imerman has a beaucoup hot-ty-totsy black-and-tan opera and his Harlem basement cafe on Seventh avenue and 131st street. It's the ideal colored floor show entertainment, hot and low-down, without aspirations for class of the white man's standard, but giving out a fast, coo-ty entertainment. All the double entendre of Aframerican innuendo about easy riders, etc. It's a Leonard Harper revue including 12 Annapolis high-yallers with principals bringing the company personnel to 22. Some of the girls are almost white. A first suspicion is that they are ringers until they throw that business around a bit and the latter, in turn, works off the camouflaging whitening.

The torso tossers are the hottest-thing-show for a buck covert. That's all Connie tacks on, with the ante doubling to a deuce Saturday nights, and worth it any time. The personnel is anonymous, with no billing or program for a guide although that uncanny "Snake Hips" Tucker, doubling from "Blackbirds," gives out a torso tossing specialty that's a bear. The show tunes being restricted, Tucker does a similarly routined dance as his "New Low Down" from "Blackbirds," merely set to another air of similar tempo.

The diminutive comedienne is a tireless worker. Two of the principal exponents shake like nobody's business. As the night grows long and the troupe hot the incidental coo-ty by-play is plenty low. There's a leading couple that sings and dance, the man of whom is a looker and a great picture type. A little lighter complected, he'd pass for Spanish, and there's no telling but that he could get away with it reasonably if the idea were practicable.

There's some special material of note by Fred Fisher, now writing theme songs for M-G-M in Hollywood. The Le Roy Smith band, a

crack septa aggregation, dispenses a tonic dannaption that's irresistible.

Connie himself occasionally takes the floor for a little speech such as introducing Bill Robinson, who was there tonight. Bojangles went through a routine with the girls which he had staged.

Connie's floor opera is very worth while. It forms many new town cafe diversissement, Abel.

MONTEREY

New York, Dec. 8. Former Kentucky Club, now Monterey and under management of Jack Edwards, with Leo Bernheim associated. It's a cellar place on West 49th street, with nothing dusky remaining other than the colored orchestra.

Rather a good floor show for the moderate covert cover. Eight lively chorus girls after five principals, including Harry Spear as m.c. Spear is youthful of appearance in look, and also sings.

Chiefly among the floor principals is Frankie Morris, a girl singer of pop songs with a delivery. Miss Morris puts over a number in a style approaching any of the males, while her "Sunny Boy" gets close to the point Al Jolson sent the ballad song to. Just why this girl should be in a floor show is one of those theatre problems. As a filler for a wait or fitted into a musical, she could get over and be of value.

The Monterey is good drop-in place chorus girls after five principals, including Harry Spear as m.c. As a different place it's a change of pace for the nite belt rounders, and a spot early or late.

MIRADOR

New York, Dec. 7. A rather well set floor show by Roy Mack is directing attention to the Mirador, one of the Bill Duffy interested nite clubs, with Harry Susskind holding a piece. The Mirador. (Continued on page 58)

LEADING ORCHESTRAS DIRECTORY

IRVING AARONSON
and His COMMANDERS
Now featured with Irene Bordoin's "Paris"
MUSIC BOX, NEW YORK
After Theatre: Club Richman

PHIL FABELLO
and His ORCHESTRA
Opening Dec. 25
RIVERSIDE THEATRE
New York City

TOM GERUNOVICH
and His ROOF GARDEN ORCHESTRA
Exclusive Brunswick Artists
ROOF GARDEN CAFE
Broadway and Kearney Sts.
San Francisco

MAL HALLETT
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
TOURING N. E. BALLROOMS
Personal Management
CHARLES SHRIBMAN
Salem, Mass.

GEORGE LIPSCHULTZ
Columbia Recording Artist
Conducting
SIR FRANCIS DRAKE HOTEL
Concert Orchestra
SAN FRANCISCO

GEORGE OLSEN
AND HIS MUSIC
F. ZIEGFELD'S "WHOOPEE"
Starring Eddie Gantor
NEW AMSTERDAM, N. Y. C.
Office: 20 West 43d Street
New York City

PHIL PHILLIPS
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
TOURING PANTAGES CIRCUIT

FROM DETROIT
JEAN GOLDKETTE
Orchestras
VICTOR RECORDS
Office: 812 Book Tower
DETROIT

DICK GASPARRE
and His ORCHESTRA
HOTEL PLAZA, New York City
Personal Rep.: H. SCOTT FATON
Permanently at
48 W. 80th St., N. Y. C. Circle 10507

VINCENT LOPEZ
and His ORCHESTRA
ST. REGIS HOTEL
New York City

JELLY ROLL MORTON
and His Red Hot Peppers
Victor Recording Artists
The Originator of Jazz and Stomps
39th Ward, Rose Daneland
Communicate for Open Time
Management M. C. A.
Permanent Address: Variety, New York

PARISIAN RED HEADS
America's Greatest Girl Band
WEEK DEC. 9
Orpheum, Des Moines and Cedar Rapids
Permanent Address
28 West North St., Indianapolis, Ind.

WILL PRIOR
And His Concert Orchestra
at
United Artists Theatre
Los Angeles

PAUL WHITEMAN
And His Greater Orchestra
CONCERT TOUR
Office:
1560 BROADWAY, N. Y. C.
Personal Direction,
JAMES F. GILLESPIE

Leading Organists in New York

BILLY BARNES "ORGANIST MODERN"

Loew's State Theatre, Times Sq., N. Y.

Eddie Schwartz

Featured Organist
Keith-Albee Theatres,
New York

Proctor's Fifth Ave. Theatre

MEEDER

AT THE ORGAN
E. F. ALBEE THEATRE,
Brooklyn, New York

Thanks to My Able Attorneys

Messrs. O'Brien, Malevinsky and Driscoll

with

RICHARD J. MACKEY

as the Trial Counsel

Ably Assisted by RALPH VATNER and MURRAY BRENSILBER,

the

“MARCHÉTA”

Case was decided in my favor on December 7, 1928, before the Hon. Henry L. Sherman, Justice of the N. Y. Supreme Court and a jury of 12 tried and true American citizens

In July, 1924, Frank Sheridan, the defendant, endorsed a copy of the song—as follows:
“‘Marchéta’ is a monument of your faith in it, Jerry, boy.

“(Signed) FRANK SHERIDAN.”

MY CLAIM FOR 25% OF THE NET RECEIPTS OF THE SONG, “MARCHÉTA,” AGAINST FRANK SHERIDAN AND THE JOHN FRANKLIN MUSIC CO. HAS BEEN FULLY SUBSTANTIATED BY JUDGE AND JURY, AND MY VICTORY IS COMPLETE.

*I TAKE THIS MEANS OF THANKING MY COUNTLESS FRIENDS,
 AMONG WHOM ARE:*

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| DORA ALEXANDER | ABEL GREEN | ABE MEYER |
| ELLIS ALTMAN | F. B. HAVILAND | CHARLES O'FLYNN |
| BEN BERNIE | FRED HAGER | JACK ROBBINS |
| JACK BREGMAN | JOE HIGGINS | J. C. ROSENTHAL |
| ARTHUR DENVIR | LOUIS KATZMAN | BEN SELVIN |
| EDDIE ELKINS | JOE KEIT | ROY SMECK |
| MAX FISHLER | PHIL KORNHEISER | MIKE SPECIALE |
| LOU GOLD | ROBERT LEWIS | FRED WARING |
| ERNIE GOLDEN | VINCENT LOPEZ | LOUIS WEIPPERT |
| | | DAN WINKLER |

AND MANY OTHERS, FOR APPEARING AS MY WITNESSES AND GIVING ME ALL THE ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE AND THEIR GOOD WISHES

Gratefully and Sincerely,

JERRY VOGEL

News From the Dailies

This department contains rewritten theatrical news items as published during the week in the daily papers of New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and London. Variety takes no credit for these news items: each has been rewritten from a daily paper.

NEW YORK

Staff of magazine *Life* reorganized. Robert E. Sherwood, editor and film reviewer, leaves, but Robert Benchley continues as dramatic editor. New editor is Norman Anthony, coming from editorial desk of *Judge*.

A memorial window in the "Little Church Around the Corner" in tribute to the late John Drew was dedicated. Window is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Devereux, son-in-law and daughter of the dead actor.

Cables brought news of the death in Europe of Jamie Del Rio, divorced husband of the screen star, Dolores.

A. P. Shanghai, China correspondent, cabled illness of Eugene O'Neill, from a nervous breakdown and bronchitis. Playwright reported not in danger.

Fay Compton, English actress, now on her way to Hollywood for pictures, was divorced from her first husband by Mrs. Wavney Trew in London. Suit is undecided.

Frances Alda went to court to defend suit by the painter who decorated her Great Neck home. She said the work was unsatisfactory. The star not long ago bought the \$175,000 Fitzmaurice estate in Great Neck and a number of similar suits have been filed.

CHICAGO

Investigation of the nationwide drug syndicate formerly headed by Arnold Rothstein resulted in the arrest here of June Boyd, former show girl, and confiscation of \$50,000 worth of narcotics in her hotel room.

Lucille Yancu, marathon hooper had a tooth pulled while she hooped in Canton, O., last week.

Garrett Leverton, professor of dramatics at Northwestern University, told his classes sound pictures are reviving interest in the stage. He claims people in large cities will not put up with the sound imitation for long, and eventually will flock to legit houses. He gives picture houses a chance in smaller towns.

Writing a novel, John Gannon stabbed his car over a curb and got some hot dope first hand for the book. The wife lived, and John has been sentenced to a year in the workhouse.

LOS ANGELES

Jean Arthur, whom paramour wants to make his wife, says she is in the divorce court. She brought suit against Julian Ancker for an annulment. The complaint alleges that the couple were married secretly at Ventura in July, 1927, and that they did not live together as man and wife. Also it is alleged that the young woman has a "no marriage" clause in her contract with Paramount. Studio officials do not know of the existence of any such clause, and say they did not know of the marriage until the annulment proceedings were made public.

Marcelle De Avre, screen extra, arrested for driving automobile while soured. Miss De Avre was driving an automobile owned by Walter White, her escort, whom she deserted in a Beverly Hills cafe and took his car without permission. White refused to prosecute.

Federal agents prosecuting an alleged "obscene movie ring" seized 23 reels of the filthy films in a quietly conducted raid on a Hollywood office of the ring. Officers declare that hundreds of prints, made from the negatives, are in circulation throughout the country.

Judge Walter S. Gates, in Superior Court, issued a temporary injunction at the request of Douglas McLean Productions, restraining Sue Carol, screen actress, from working for any other picture company pending the McLean contract suit against the actress. Production company alleges Miss Carol agreed to a six months' contract for \$150 to \$200 a week with a five-year option. When the company attempted to exercise its option they charge the actress had arranged to work for Fox.

Following the passage of a bill by the City Council, appropriating \$3,500 to improve the acoustics of the new City Hall, Chairman Pearson Hall suggested hiring movie sound department acoustical experts to advise the city engineers on the improvements.

Ruth Livingston, scenario writer,

after pleading guilty in Superior Court to a charge of forgery, was placed in prison for three years. She was accused of forging Mrs. Nina Kraus's name to charge account slips of several department stores. She is being held at the jail hospital until her physical condition warrants release on probation.

Charged with murder in connection with the death of John D. Callcott, former theatre manager, and Archie Malton, J. W. Montgomery, guitarist of the Westminster Gun Club, will be tried at Santa Ana Dec. 19. He is being held without bail.

Josephine M. Thompson, film extra, charged with issuing seven bad checks to Hollywood merchants, was granted respite until Dec. 24 by Municipal Judge Baird to repay the misappropriated money. Judge Baird said if by that date the amount of the checks, \$35, was made good by the girl he would dismiss the charge.

Leo J. Maloney, screen actor, will be tried before Municipal Judge Baird on Jan. 2 on a charge of intoxication.

Matty Kemp, juvenile screen actor, settled his contract dispute with Mack Sennett out of court. He has been released from his contract and is free to leave.

Noah Behry went into the heavy stuff at home. His wife, Marguerite, says Noah chased her out of the house at the point of a gun while in her night clothes. She has brought suit for divorce.

Complaint states that Becy became cruel toward his spouse in 1924, kept up until May 4, 1927, when they separated. Complaint alleges hubby accused wife of consorting with Mexican peons and negro men. To further humiliate her, Becy told friends about the alleged association. It is charged. He also charged her with being insane, the complaint sets forth, and that on many occasions he threatened to kill her, and even choked her in manner befitting a screen villain. Couple have one son, 15. Mrs. Becy seeks for his custody and division of \$300,000 community property. Couple were married in Boston July 15, 1910.

Tui Lorraine, actress, stepmother of Clara Bow, returned to Hollywood after being legally admitted to the United States from Vancouver. She was escorted by her husband, Robert Bow. Miss Lorraine fled to Canada when difficulties with the immigration authorities threatened her with deportation. She was a native of New Zealand. Miss Lorraine first entered this country as secretary to Clara Bow. Later she married the screen actress's father, but was engaged by the half-deportation proceedings. She was readmitted to this country as a non-quota alien, being the wife of an American citizen.

Frances Wilson Vinmont was refused an annulment of her marriage to Rolph Ben Vinmont, musician, by Superior Judge McCormick. She asked the annulment on the grounds that after her marriage to the musician on Feb. 26 she learned that his name was Ben Vinmont, not Rolph. Judge McCormick held that the grounds were not sufficient.

L. A. ORPH. Cuts for Mats.

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. With matinee trade shot and picture houses getting the bulk of the shopper patronage, Harry Singer decided to cut the matinee tariff at the local Orpheum, bringing the top from 75 to 50c. on week days. Five hundred seats in the balcony go from 60 to 25c.

Bernstein's 25th

Elaine and Lillian Bernstein, Louis's daughters, are broadcasting live for their music publisher, father's silver wedding anniversary to Emil Bernstein.

The Bernsteins reside at 300 West 2nd avenue but the second hitching in celebration of their 25 years will be staged at Mecca Temple Dec. 16.

M. C.'S CHEI SWITCHES

Chicago, Dec. 11. With Bennie Krueger, Chicago m. c., opening at the Paramount in New York Dec. 15, numerous changes in the B. & K. lineup of the city's picture houses are being made. Frankie Masters goes from the Tower to Tivoli, Lou Kosloff from Chicago to Tower, Verne Buck permanently at the Uptown, and the Chicago without a stageband.

1,000 Guests at \$5

A nite club man around New York has the idea of furnishing and equipping a new nite club, capable of seating 1,000 people and charging a covert of \$5.

Freddie Riches Divorcing Following Bankruptcy

The Freddie Riches are divorcing. The former band leader at the Hotel Astor is suing Peggy Rich, former English showgirl, coming over with a Tiller troupe.

Rich is understood payrolled with the Judson Radio Corp. at \$25,000 a year in charge of WOR-broadcasting.

An elaborately furnished apartment—on credit—and too much high life sent Rich into the bankruptcy courts, culminating in the recent divorce proceedings.

Rich went through \$96,000 cash in a few months.

DANCE HALL'S GINGER

"Whangdoodle" Closed Hammond's Dance Hall Opening Night

Chicago, Dec. 11.

Winter-season opening of the Granada ballroom in Hammond, Ind., was also its closing temporarily.

A copper present noticed dancers were unusually lively after taking a drink of "Whangdoodle," the refreshment stand's featured drink. He took a few shots himself and felt the same way.

James Robinson, concession manager, was pinched on alky charges and the ballroom was closed for the night.

HERE AND THERE

Another featured console maestro, Evans Davis, at the Capitol, Newark, N. Y., walks the plank Dec. 16, his going sound the following day with Vita-Movietone.

JARNEGAN EXTRAS OUT

The numerous extras in "Jarnegan" are all being let out this week. Just why is a secret but has something to do with the change in the Gordon-Streger management.

DOUBLING IN LOOP

Chicago, Dec. 11.

Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians are doubling between the Granada cafe and Palace theatre this week.

Low White on Network

Low White with an organ recital will be on a coast-to-coast network for Eveready Xmas night.

White will take up the entire hour over the 33 stations in place of Nat. Shilkret and the usual variety program for that night.

Kruger at Par.

Benny Kruger, band maestro and m. c., opens at the Paramount, New York, Saturday.

He comes from Chicago where he has been at the Uptown theatre for 18 months.

At Miami Beach

Joe Reichman is dated for m. c. at the Hotel Floridian, Miami Beach, the coming season.

Gertrude Moody will be among the entertainers, with Reichman's orchestra for the strumming.

Organist in Person

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Jeanette Loff, Pathe contract player is making personal appearances at the Orpheum, Portland, Ore.

Miss Loff was an organist in one of the Portland picture houses prior to entering picture work.

Saul Cohen With 3-Firm

Saul Cohen is with DeSylva, Brown & Henderson, in the standard music department.

Inside Stuff—Music

Billy Moore Conducting

Billy Moore, formerly with George Olsen, is conducting Ben Pollack's band from the Park Central hotel in the new Lew Fields' show "Hello Daddy." Moore arranged the "Just a Minute" show and was also one of the famous sextet from Ziegfeld in wielding the baton for "Whoopie." The latest incumbent in the latter opera is Gus Salzer, resigned from "Ups-A-Daisy."

Pollack will sit in with his band for "Hello Daddy," having no practical production experience like Moore who will do the actual conducting. Moore is writing an intimate musical with Harry Archer and Walter O'Keefe, authors of "Just a Minute."

Recording Theme Songs

Although M-G-M is to sound "The Viking," the Technicolor at the Embassy, New York, it will have no theme song. Metro suggested one to Jack Robbins of the Robbins Music Corp., with which organization M-G-M is allied musically, but the latter thought the film not conducive to a thematic.

This is unlike the practice of so many other picture producers and publishers who are glutting the market with theme songs. Cliff Cairns, the Victor Recording head, says he is fed up with theme songs and will simply wait for the good ones to prove themselves before okaying their "canning" or release. The music men figure that a thematic cued into a sound picture insures a perfect plug to them at no expense, relying on the film to carry the number. As a result, there are too many theme numbers on the market.

Where they prove themselves, Victor backs them up superlatively.

Pit musicians in the various vaude, picture and legit houses along Broadway are a rather clammy bunch holding nightly meetings after the shows on 43d street west of the Square on both sides of the street. They talk shop for about an hour and then disperse.

Men in the pits seem to have more to talk about than the jazz band boys who congregate during the day along the curbs on Broadway between 40th and 48th streets.

Youngest Staff Writer

Probably the youngest staff songwriter in the world is Burton Levy, 15-year-old High School of Commerce sophomore, who is exclusively signed to Remick's through the friendship of Joe Young the lyricist. Young is a friend of Lazarus Levy, the schoolboy's father, and negotiated the Remick contract. David Halpern, 19, is also signed to Remick, as lyric writing team-mate with young Levy. They have two new songs coming out under the Remick imprint.

Levy came to attention with several Commerce school songs, including the official march. Despite his youth, Levy is a 170-pounder. With Harry Warren, an established professional songsmith, young Levy holds the only other staff contract as composer with Remick's.

Gershwin's New Rhapsodie at Carnegie

Carnegie Hall is sold out for Dec. 20-21 when Walter Damrosch will introduce George Gershwin's newest rhapsodie, "An American in Paris." The novelty of this is that it is the first thing Gershwin has written for a full orchestra and not for piano. No piano soloist will be featured. It is the second thing Gershwin has scored himself, the first being the Concerto in F which Damrosch and the New York Symphony also did first at Carnegie last winter.

The Last Stand

Several small cabarets in Greenwich Village, New York, are advertising \$5 cover charge for New Year's Eve. None of the trio has grossed over \$100 on their best weeks, with gross on many nights less than the proposed cover charge nick.

M-G-M Song Writers Out

Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

M-G-M's song writing department is undergoing the cleaning out process. The entire staff of writers, including Herb Nance Brown, Arthur Freet and Fred Fisher went out last week.

The single survivor is Jules Baffano, former picture house m. c. and conductor, and now functioning as M-G-M's arranger.

ROTHSTEIN AND DRUGS

Federal Authorities Hop Onto Front Page in the Case

Federal authorities pushed the New York City folks off of the front pages the past few days in the Arnold Rothstein matter.

A narcotic ring the federal men are said to have been working on for two years was suddenly brought about last week with a seizure of drugs, valued at market prices. Rothstein was hooked into it as the financier. Beyond the book no direct connection has been made of Rothstein's complicity.

Meanwhile George McManus has been indicted, someone else was named in connection and Leo somebody in Atlantic City is reported to have known Rothstein personally.

Hal Roach is directing comedy in which principals are Bryant Washburn, Edna Murphy and Eric Mayne. Lou Foster is directing Charles Chase unit, with Vivian Oakland, Bill Montana and Kay Detelle in support.

Bo Ling and Bo Ching, Chinese song and dance artists, added to untitled Gus Edwards sound short (M-G-M).

"Sonny Boy's" Record Sale

Probably a record for pop song gross turnover is the 1,000,000 copies of "Sonny Boy" which DeSylva, Brown & Henderson turned over in three months. It's the fastest moving song in memory, and likely to establish a gross sales record considering the longevity of the "Singing Fool" talker, with which it is synchronized.

Warner Bros. estimate that "The Singing Fool" is only playing to 30 per cent of its ultimate market. With the remaining 70 per cent yet to be wired and booked, it is conservatively figured that "Sonny Boy" will establish an all-time gross sale.

Al Jolson with DeSylva, Brown & Henderson is a co-author and, as usual, turns his cut on songs over to the same lively tune.

MIRADOR

(Continued from page 56)

dor is nicely built for a club with a show. That goes two ways in its benefits.

Arthur Gordon as m. c. gets outside billing. He has been around the clubs for some while, starting in the Village. Gordon has become distinctive as a nite club master of ceremonies. His methods are subdued, though on the floor, where clowning is mostly looked for. Gordon can keep the tables behaved, through his composure at all times and without any fooling. He introduces neatly and briefly, singing ballads for his own turn.

In numbers Mack's best here is the raccoon dressed (coats) girls. It has been done around with boys, to the same lively tune.

In the skin display thing, nothing misses excepting the clothes. The girls show everything and no one can protest that that's not enough. While other numbers are brightly gowned and the women are lookers.

In principals, Margaret Howard is drawing the notice. She's unusual for a m. c. floor. For dancing are the Jennings, John and Mary, and Bee Palmer. Another principal is Evelyn Martin.

Tame Conventions Held by Fair and Park Men in Chicago

Chicago, Dec. 11. Hundreds of fair men, managers, bookers and park men were in Chicago last week to attend the separate meetings here of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions at the Auditorium Hotel and the National Association of Amusement Parks at the Stevens. Neither meeting exploded any fireworks more than enthusiastic over prospects, placing contracts for the new season, listening to speeches and reports.

In other years Tom Johnson, former war-lord of the Showmen's Legislative Committee, was always a conspicuous figure. This year he was absent. The fair meeting lasted two days, with Charles A. Nash presiding. Nash raised the question of deciding upon a means to obtain an increase in the present budget allowed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for its exhibits at fairs.

Mugivan Group Also Takes Barnes Show?

Chicago, Dec. 11. Two important circus transactions have been consummated which gives the American Circus Corporation (Mugivan, Bowers & Ballard) the control of two more circuses, the Sparks 20-car show and the Al. G. Barnes circus. Though H. B. Gentry and Sam Dill engineers of the Sparks sale and were reported the new owners, it later developed from the story that the Sparks outfit will be a subsidiary of the A. C. C., controlled by the circus trio, Mugivan, Ballard & Bowers.

Motoring Again

Circus playing by motor transportation was considered sufficiently successful again this present season by the Andrew Downie shows that another tour will be played next summer. At first a motorized circus project was considered impractical but the Downie tours have apparently proved that they can be carried through.

Boy Bandits Take Jones, And Sec'y for \$5,500

Chicago, Dec. 11. Two boy bandits robbed Johnny Jones of a \$5,000 sparkler and \$250 in cash at the Auditorium hotel. A. H. George, fair secretary, Meridian, Miss., who was in the room with Jones, was also robbed of \$500.

\$200,000 in Rides

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Gore-Brothers-and-Ramish, who operate Ocean Park Pier, have entered into a contract with Claude Langley whereby the latter will expend \$200,000 in installing three new rides on the pier next April. These are to be a miniature railway, chute the chutes and the old mill. Chutes will be built 65 feet above the pier, which is 20 feet above the ocean. It will be the only one on the coast.

Wash's Indoor Circus Blows Up When Attached

Washington, Dec. 11. Town's first indoor circus in more than 50 years closed here suddenly yesterday after attachments for unpaid salaries were filed. Show was the W. E. Hill Society Circus augmented by Hill with some additional side show people booked through Bryan Gosh in Philadelphia. It was the Gosh connection that did the attaching, says Hill, who added that salaries of his own outfit were paid in full. Business was very bad. Several performances at the President attracted less than 25 people. Hill originally brought the outfit in on a guarantee of \$2,500 a week for the two weeks made by Arthur Leslie Smith, known here for his various promotions. According to Hill when arriving he asked for the first week's \$2,500 and Smith did not produce. Hill then states he "took a chance" and the "Circus Fans' Association has offered financial assistance to any of the performers, most of whom are circus people, if in need. Hill is at the Sterling Hotel under a physician's care threatened with pneumonia.

Victor Weinberg, 4 Mos.

Victor Weinberg, 32, who has raised a grudge with carnivals, was given four months in the Workhouse in Special Sessions after pleading guilty to possessing heroin. He was given a suspended sentence on a second charge of shoplifting. According to detectives of Macy's store Weinberg, who lived at the Hotel Cadillac, was caught as he was leaving the department store Nov. 21 without paying for \$9 worth of articles he had lifted from counters. When the store detectives searched him they found a hypodermic needle and a quantity of heroin in his pockets. According to Jacob Lichter, probation officer, Weinberg traveled mostly with the Bernardi Shows.

League's Offices

Chicago, Dec. 11. Showmen's League elected the following: Milton M. Morris, president; W. O. Brown, 1st vice; Fred Bachman, 2d vice; Bert W. Earles, 3d vice; Walter F. Driver, treas.; J. L. Streibich, sec.

Hellis Bromley Dies

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. Hellis Bromley, 38, animal trainer, died Dec. 9 after injuries received while training a trick mule for picture work at Bromley's home here. The animal kicked his trainer into unconsciousness and trampled him.

MAJOR LILLIE IN '30

Though announcement was made that Major Gordon W. Lillie (Pawnee Bill) will head a wild west show next year, it is said the show will not be launched until 1930. Herbert Maddy is lining up the route with the east included in the itinerary.

Houses Opening

New Embassy, seating 2,100, West New York, playing five acts on a split and films, opens around New Year's. Wilmington, Del., and Germantown, Pa., return to vaude Dec. 10. Two dropped out at the end of last season, playing tabs and films since. Again in Keith's, booked by Harold Kemp. Dramatic stock fopped again at the Majestic, Jersey City, with vaude supplanting last week. Park Theatre, Tampa, Florida, and the Patio Theatre, St. Petersburg, starting December 24, five act, split week. Riatio Theatre, Little Falls, N. Y., next week starts 3 acts of vaude last half. Rome's (N. Y.) new and first deluxe house, Capital, owned and operated by Kallet Theatres, of Onondaga with Comerford interested, opened Monday.

OBITUARY

JENNIE LaMONT

Jennie LaMont, 75, former burlesque and dramatic actress, died here, 9 in a hospital in Stamford, Conn. Miss LaMont in her early stage life was a stage partner of Al LaMont to whom she was married; the LaMonts being featured with some of the biggest Columbia vaudeville shows and in vaudeville. In later life Al became an agent while Miss LaMont turned her attention to the dramatics, becoming a character actress of note. Al LaMont died some years ago. A son, John LaMont, survived with his mother, the boy later meeting death in an accident. John LaMont was buried in Evergreen cemetery in the Actors' Fund plot and while living his mother (Miss LaMont), a life member of the Actors Fund since 1926, made a request that she be buried alongside her son. The Fund granted it. Miss LaMont, since retirement, had been living in Stamford, Conn.

MRS. JOSEPH SPEARS (Mazie Trumbull)

Mrs. Joseph Spears (Mazie Trumbull), 50, died in a New York hospital Dec. 4 following a recent operation. She had been in ill health for some time. Miss Trumbull was a prominent actress some years ago, starring in Hoyt's "A Brass Monkey," "Dad's Boy," "Partner," and "The Irish Pawnbroker." Miss Trumbull is survived by her husband, Joseph Spears, with the former Cohan & Harris managerial staff for 14 years, and a brother, Ollie Mack, former stage partner of Charles Murray. Interment in Centreville, Ind.

MABEL MERRITT

Mabel Merritt, 35, of Bernard and Meville, vaudeville sister team, died of heart disease in Chicago, Dec. 6. Miss Merritt formerly worked as one of the Merritt sisters, singers and instrumentalists.

MADGE CLINTON

Madge Clinton (Mrs. Lillian Hanna), colored actress, died Nov. 20 in the Cook County hospital, Chicago. Miss Clinton some 15 years ago originated the "Gold Dust Twins" act. She was a niece of Mamie Crump of the original Fisk Jubilee Singers. Husband survives.

E. K. CROCHER

E. K. Crocher, 68, noted animal trainer, died Dec. 3 in Hillside, Mich. He toured the Continent and exhibited to royalty for 18 years.

(Col.) Noble George Washington Winter, 59, former circus dwarf, ended his life at his home in San Francisco by drowning in the bathtub. Loneliness attributed. Winner was with Barnum & Bailey and other big circuses for years. Two years ago he retired and made his home with a nephew, Frank D. Carroll, only survivor.

Ralph Yearsley, 31, screen actor, committed suicide at his Hollywood, Cal., home Dec. 4. Despondency over his inability to make good in the movies is attributed as the cause. He is survived by his wife, Grace Yearsley, also an extra player.

Zeke Thompson, 76, oldest member of Billposters Union, Local No. 44, San Francisco, "died in harness" Nov. 29, stricken while at a football game. Thompson, a free lance poster, was "carding" in the vicinity of the game and dropped in to give the teams the once over. In the excitement he fell and his death occurred shortly afterwards. Wife, and one daughter survive.

The mother of Arthur McHugh, publicity man, died at her home in New York, Dec. 4. In addition to the son, daughter, Irene, survives.

The mother of S. H. Dudley, colored theatrical man, died Dec. 6.

DEATHS ABROAD

Paris, Dec. 1. Essias Tegner, 85, Swedish author, died at Stockholm. Jean Jacques Ferry, 28, French decorator (son of the songwriter) died at Poligny, Rambouillet. Georges Rivollet, 76, French playwright, died in Paris. Leon Feldiser, 62, manager of Pathé-Nord, died suddenly in his office in Paris.

Vaudeville Reviews

(Continued from page 39)

quistic dame still harpous as well as it did with former partners. Frank Dobson Co. copied the show for laughs at a salary. Dobson carried the burden of the affair and had them rolling as the doctor lured to the bonnet of four girls, comprising support, to administer to a stern who has waxed. She can land a proposal from him despite the reputed anti-dance tendencies. She was at home by donning his pajamas, hopping into the oster-moor, and compromising the young man. Support is okay on the looks and dancing but not so good on voice, corking comedy act that evoked the loudest palm slams of the evening.

E. J. Moore, musician with male comedy plant, offered several concealing stunts, accompanied by small talk which he should not have. He looks any dancing but not so good on voice, corking comedy act that evoked the loudest palm slams of the evening.

Smith and Allman, two men in brown and cork, respectively, elicited next to shut with comedy, crossfire and instrumentation, utilizing uke and harmonica for the latter. Smith manipulates a torch. He popped up here and won't miss elsewhere. Allman's comedy and uke strumming is equally effective with this combine. He is adept with the cloggers for houses of this type and a further up spot for the better grades. Went big here. Sport-a-Wheel, two men and woman, closed with a cycling basketball routine, managing to stimulate some excitement on the play. "His Private Life" (Par) screen feature. Edna.

LINCLON SQUARE

(Vaudefilm) Little change in the old neighborhood. Clientele here remains much the same year after year. House wasn't sold out with the screen feature "Good Bye Kiss" (FBO). Vaude section held five acts and entertained. Hama and Yama loved the new act, "The New and Old" and sales girl imitation, he got over her wire work easily and gracefully. A nice opener. Frish and Sadler were No. 2, doing practically the same act they did in '23. Vet pair worked up their wedding travesty for the usual laughs. Burns and Wilson is also another long act during act. Here is a noted but little in the "Untrained Nurse" sketch. House seemed to enjoy it.

Carl McCullough had a spot made to order. Plus his old standby, the department store demonstrator and sales girl imitation, he got over minus any difficulties. The Five Harmonicas closed and his No. music held helped. Mark.

JEFFERSON

(Vaudefilm) The ceiling of this theatre is a disgrace to the Keith circuit. It's peeling like a rash. Particularly odious when contrasted with Mr. Fox's elegant vaudefilm temple two blocks away. Usual S. K. O. conditions Sunday night. One thing about pop amusements on the Sabbath evening. No matter how early the customer arrives he has to wait for a good seat. Clifford and Marion, constant delight, the outstanding turn. They have quite a lot of new material and have in many ways brushed up and enhanced the turn. Larry Rich and Cherie, muchly billed, felt the lack of the flip stunt manner and delivery indicated would be forthcoming. "The parody" between the handsman and the featured beauty preceding the band itself was pretty inspired.

Don Valeyto and Miss Diaz opened smartly on the tight wire. Snappy, agile and sure of themselves, this pair is a neat turn all the way. Dorothy and Rosette Ryan, the dauces, makes nothing but a spectacular scene like something impromptu, tribute to their personalities. They might be picked for a progressive future if they keep the nerve in action. Moore and Evans, former Moore and Freed turn, is not what it used to be by a long stone's throw. They did fairly.

BROADWAY

(Vaudefilm) Early shows, Sunday, at the Broadway don't mean a thing. The showmen do not do it. Their stuff, especially not on Sunday. Four Camerons, top liners, were out of this performance, too. They were there for the show, and undoubtedly occasioned much giggling around since the line-up presents four full-stage acts on a six-net bill. Very slim.

erons and badly. Remainder of bill is given over to sight and sound features, with the "Palms." Paul Gordon, opening, provided a mild start with instrumentation and cycling, latter counting for better than former. Small talk, to amount, to Boyce and Evans, male dancers, livened things up, especially on the eccentricities. "Under the Palms" musical tab, with some semblance of plot, had better throw the latter away and stick to the singing and dancing or call in a new librettist. Plot and talk is now an unwelcome intruder. Act is offered by three men and four girls. One of the males does eccentric Dutch comedy and might be funny if he had anything with which to work. Gal singer also needs an orchestration to fit. Others are adequate, but the act needs organization before making the grade. They knew it here and didn't rap.

Sargent and Lewis, male two-some, were a highlight with harmony spaces by fifty girls. Revue and two men, closed and outdanced the earlier attempt. Act prefers the dance stuff with a cur main dish, with a mixture of famous personages of past eras, a good introductory. Business is fast dancing and that nets over in a big way. "The Red Dance" (Fox) screen feature. Edna.

BILLS NEXT WEEK

(Continued from page 43) L. G. Berkoff Or Billy G. Berkoff WATERBURY 2d half (13-15) E. Costello Girls Eva Mandell Owen McGivney W. J. Mandell The Wager PAINE (FBO) Palace (O) Leavitt & Ent (Two to bill)

Cabarets

NEW YORK J. Cummins Orch. Roy Mack Rev. J. & M. Jennings Joe Jackson Evelyn Martin Margaretta Howard Arthur Gordon Shields & Young Field's Grand Or. New Freyville Hotey Tully Tom Timothy Rd. J. & M. Jennings Will Oakland Landro's Rd. Field's Grand Or. Cliff O'Rourke. Dan & Jerry Rich Williams Ben Thillack Orch. ready Joe Lewis Pearl Eaton Van Carroll Hanley Sile Dan & Jerry Kuno Dobbin Kludge Young Lela Novus Lambert Martin Martelle Art Landry Orch. Hendevaux C. J. Durante's Rev J. Durante's Rev CHICAGO Joe Allen Orlando Davis Will Huggins Dempsey & Lavauze Carlotta Van Daele Phyl Knight Dorothy Dee Lido & Jerry Palmer House Ralphie Jones Rd. Revolve Eddie Cox Lela Novus Lambert Madelon McKonzie Roy Lenore Guy Redley 12 Bellis Co. Don Morkan Ed. Terman Garden Babby Jackson Leatrice Wood Knox & Baker Carolyn La Ruca Art Kaspi Ed. Madelon McKonzie Jack Hamilton Fred Jones Markle Ryan Fred Jones Vally Fair Larry Brundage Carlotta Van Daele Ingrid Hahn Ingrid Hahn Myrtle Lanning Gladys M. Gorman Keith Brecher Bd Kay Davidson

WASHINGTON Lotus Irving Boerger Or Swanne McWilliams Or Nancy Loring Venus C. Wright Rich Wardman Park Max Jones Ent Meyer Davis Orch

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CHICAGO

Professionals have the free use of Variety's Chicago Office for information. Mail orders will be addressed care Variety, Woods Bldg., Chicago. It will be held subject to call, forwarded or advertised in Variety's Letter List.

Palace
This week witnesses the long-heralded headline appearance of Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadian Band. It's of considerable local importance, as the boys really achieved stellar classification during the last year and a half at the Grand cafe. At present they outrank any other Chicago band in popularity.

Just before intermission, band was held for nine numbers and could have stayed longer. Catalog was selected mostly from pieces which have brought complimentary response during regular broadcasts over WBBM and the Columbia network. Individual honors went to Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadian leader, and his brother Carmen, who croons melodiously through a small megaphone. Band is a certain hit anywhere.

Following intermission was Natucha Nattova, assisted by three adagio male partners. She develops her routines into a crowd-pleasing variety which is whirled in completely vertical revolutions by successive sets of male partners and eventually is used as a jumping rope by five boys. Act is presented colorfully and paced smartly. Buck and Bubbles, colored, next to closing.

First half was opened by Hayes, Marsh and Fay, song and dance revue. Routines are varied and ideas and Nino Ghazal, hand-to-hand balancers, looked out of place in the deuce until they encoored with a black bottom routine worked with the hands. Show is to be finished. Miss Juliet clicked in third spot. Fourth was Ann Cadeo, giving all the laugh gravy to her sub-billed Frank Orth.

Princess Pat, trained lioness from Hollywood, closed. Good big Sunday mat. Bing.

State-Lake

Secrecy of comedy slowed down the running of the first show Sunday noon. Early Sabbath attendance was few in number, but biz always climbs later in the day.

Billy and Flo were given the pre-show spot and it was easy for the brother-sister team. Dave Bennie's band, just two weeks ago at the Palace, legitimately head-

lined. Two cuties, who sing and dance, fit, and the girls are not hard to look at.

Taber and Greene, colored boys under cork, sing, double at the piano, spill dialog and even yodel. Okay. Nonette, singing violinist, did all right, and Aileen Cooke, classy on appearance and personality, was No. 2. With brighter material this girl stands a chance to step out of the ranks. Her present stuff, character songs, is of no consequence. Openers were the Australian Waites, standard whip and boomerang manipulators, and on the other end were The Ussians, four featuring hand and foot balancing and juggling. Neat. Mayo and Lynn and Olsen and St. John not caught at this performance. "Mighty Cocktail" (Par) on screen.

Wednesday matinees have been temporarily discontinued by "Front

Un sophistication, is having a try-out at the Little this week, prior to its Broadway premiere. Play is a costume drama with early New England setting. Scheduled to open in New York in two weeks. Cast includes May Buskley, Anita Kerr, William Faversham, Jr., Nydia Westman.

"Follow Thru," new Schwab and Mandel musical comedy, to have premiere at Hanna Dec. 18. Will open on a Tuesday after two days of dress rehearsals.

Colonial now dark, after three weeks of "Her Unborn Child," the last two on half-rate pass tickets.

Bob and Gale Sherwood's band, which recently closed a Keith touring indefinite engagement at the Music Box restaurant here. Band

CORRESPONDENCE

All matter in CORRESPONDENCE refers to current week unless otherwise indicated.

The cities under Correspondence in this issue of Variety are as follows and on pages:

Table with 2 columns: City Name and Page Number. Includes Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Louisville, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Oakland, Providence, San Francisco, Syracuse, Toledo, Toronto, Washington.

Page" at the Erlanger and "Blossom Time" at the Studebaker.

"Coquette" opens Christmas night at the Selwyn instead of Dec. 24.

Covent, formerly Covent Garden, all sound Christmas week.

When the Diverses goes back to vaude next week it will have a stage band with three acts every Wednesday night. Mose Lee m. c.

Another national job spot springing up on the south side. Raphael's cafe is the monicker, owned by J. Raphael Edelstone. Two floor acts and a band.

Betty Samson has gone into the agency business on her own.

Sunday night performances of "Blossom Time" at the Studebaker have been discontinued.

Due to the booking of Sousa's Band at the Chicago theatre the Public's "Oh Teacher" unit switched to the Oriental. From there the unit will proceed on the regular Chicago theatre route.

Stock company at the National is laying off every Friday night. Date is filled by the German Players from the north side.

Abe Gumbiner took over the Lincoln, 900-seat picture house, in Danville, Ill.

Herb Ellisburg, formerly in charge of publicity for E. K.'s Northside, has been promoted to exploitation director of Lubliner & Trinz neighborhood theatres.

Thorough shakeup of theatre managers and assistants in the B. and K. houses here last week.

Harry Lustgarten was transferred from management of the Harding to Tivoli; S. D. Soible is new manager of the Roosevelt, and A. L. Urvino, former manager, has departed; S. Goldfinger moved from Uptown to Harding; Richard L. Davis, Tivoli manager, departed.

Other transfers are W. E. Holden, asst. from Oriental to Uptown; G. R. Tabor, asst. from McVicker's to Roosevelt, and R. W. Feldman, Paradise treasurer, to asst. at McVicker's.

CLEVELAND

By GLENN C. PULLEN
Hanna—"Command to Love." (2d week).
Ohio—"Vagabond King" (2d week).

Little—"The Unspoilables."
Alhambra—Stock.
Play House—Rep.
Columbia—Mutual burlesque.
Stillman (wired)—"Singing Fool" (10th week).

Palace—"Scandal Seas" vaude.
Allen (wired)—"On Trial."
Hip (wired)—"Lonesome."
State—"Companionate Marriage" unit.
Cameo (wired)—"Little Wild Cat."
105th—"Scandal Lady" vaude.

Harry Doff's Last Year. "The

doubling this week in new Uptown theatre.

Lieut. Leslie Potter, Detroit censor, blew into town last week to give "Gods of Lightning" at the Little the once-over. Though banned in Boston, a theatre manager plans to produce it in Detroit. Police officer said it would have to take plenty of shearing before he'd O. K. it.

Harry Dodge has resigned as sales manager of local U. A. exchange. Jimmy Abrose, formerly of Chicago U. A. office, succeeds him.

"Manhattan Mary" listed for the Hanna Christmas week; "Rosalie" for the Ohio.

L. B. Cool succeeds Harry Brown, who resigned as manager of the Colonial, Akron, O., to take charge of exploitation work for Keith houses in Trenton, N. J.

Stork, neighborhood, has been sold by Herman Smith to Saks and Blusinsky, operating it under name of the Erie Amusement Company.

Isabel Cather, formerly with Ted Lewis, and Florence Barlow of the Barlow Family are featured dancers at the Rainbow Room, dance and dine spot.

Stillman is supplying individual make-up outfits for its femme customers who must cry over Jolson's "Singing Fool."

Three college shows are scheduled for the music hall of the Public Auditorium. Michigan's "Rainbow's End" is due Dec. 27, Princeton's "Golden Zees" Dec. 28, and Yale's "White Wings," Dec. 21.

INDIANAPOLIS

By EDWIN V. O'NEEL
English—"Desert Song."
Circle—"Outcast."
Apollo—"Midnight Taxi."
Indiana—"Just Married."
Palace—"Awakening."
Mutual—Burlesque.

More children's films were asked by Indiana Indorsers of Photoplays. Frank S. Stout, Bloomington, Ind., has bought the Eldridge and Bottom circuits now in winter quarters at Circleville, O.

R. R. Bahr, theatre owner, offered \$300 reward for the slayers of Paul T. Pulliam, general manager of Bair neighborhood theatres, making a total reward of \$850. Pulliam was slain in a holdup after he left the theatre office.

Mars Hill, Indianapolis suburb, now has its own neighborhood theatre, cost \$25,000, and operated by Louis Cernat.

Valparaiso theatre at Valparaiso, Ind., owned by E. E. Sailor, Hammond theatre operator. P. W. Goodson, Jr., son of P. W. Goodson Sr., former owner, associated with Sailor.

MILWAUKEE

New Pabst—"Interference" (stock).
Empress—Stock burlesque.
Gayety—"Moulin Rouge Girls" (bur).

Garrick—German stock.
Alhambra—"Wedding March" (sound).

Majestic—"White Shadows" (2d week).
Garden—"Hometowns" (2d week).

Merrill—"Dry Martini."
Palace—Vaudim.
Riverside—Vaudim.
Strand—"Sunrise."
Wisconsin—"Fazil"—stage show.

Stage shows are back at the Wisconsin after a four weeks' absence. Bobby Jackson is m. c. and the Torney dancers have returned as stock chorus.

Police were called into the McCoy hotel when a male member of the Dixon Big Revue cast (Gayety) broke down the door of the room of two chorus girls in the same show. Man was not nabbed because the hotel refused to prosecute. He paid for a new door panel, however.

"Desert Song" is the first road show coming into the New Davidson, which opens Saturday. A last minute switch makes this the road show house again, reserving the Pabst for stock.

TORONTO

By GORDON SINCLAIR
Royal Alexandra—"The Silent House."

Princess—Grand opera.
Victoria—"Roses of Picardy" (Conway stock).

Empire—"Mary Rose" (Kepple stock).
Parlages—"Adoration"—vaude.

Tivoli—"Lilac Time" (3d week).
Uptown—"Fazil"—stage show.

Hippodrome—"Love Over Night" vaude.

Loew's—"Varsity"—vaude.
Runnymede—"Street Angel"—vaude.

Ontario Motion Picture Bureau government production unit, has secured a \$100,000 appropriation for new shorts.

Plan afoot here to teach geography by films in public schools.

"Trial of Mary Dugan" hung up a two year record for dramas at the Royal Alexandra and is booked for a return in three weeks. First drama to play return in same season since "The Bat."

Shuberts yanked "Desert Song" out for week Dec. 24 with nothing to substitute and postponed "Good News" until March, although this musical was at Buffalo and the town is crying for musicals.

N. L. Nathanson, managing director Famous Players Canadian Corp., has instructed that cost of wiring Canadian houses estimated at \$20,000 each, shall be written off to depreciation the first year. That's \$80,000 the shareholders won't get from Toronto in 1929.

Strong agitation for abolition of 10 per cent amusement tax here. Squawkers say war act now has no excuse.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

By CHESTER B. BAHN
Wieting—Last half, "Trial of Mary Dugan" vaudim.

Keith's—Vaudim.
Temple—Mutual's "Naughty Nifties."

Savo—Tom Phillips Burlesques (stock), and film.
Strand—"Companionate Marriage," wired, stage band.

Empire—"The Foreign Legion," wired.

State—"The Awakening," wired.
Eckel—"The Fleet's In."

Syracuse—"Vaudim."
Brighton—Dark to wired.
Riviera—"Four Sons," wired.

Avon—Films.
Regent—Films.
Harvard—Films.

Palace—"Four Sons," silent.
Swan—"Street Angel," records over Hanaphone.

Rivoli—"King of Kings."

William Brown, former assistant manager at Keith's and then manager of the 10th Street, Chicago, and who more recently has been producing and managing vaude acts, has turned m. c. Brown has replaced George M. C. Brown as master of ceremonies at Syracuse.

Oliver Canton Players, at the Hippodrome, Oswego, N. Y., are playing at 20-40 cents and throwing in vaude for good measure.

Myron Bloom will install Photophone (RCA) in the Quirk, Fulton House, now playing vaudim the last half, pictures alone for first half.

Photophone now installed in

Leonard Garvey's Hartford theatre, New Hartford. First used to give "Street of Sin" a synthetic score.

Cinema Critics Club, local fan organization, now putting the finishing touches on its second amateur film production, "Touchdown," a three reeler. It will be shown shortly at the Empire.

With her husband, William D. Burden, on a new exploration jaunt to Labrador, Mrs. Katherine White Burden has entered the cast of "Holiday" at the Plymouth, New York, under the alias Barbara White.

Frank Sardino, operating the Syracuse, has stirred up the local Rialto by hanging up a banner in which he rates the "tonal qualities" of the various sound devices. Frank, with Photophone set, gives "Vita-phone" 65 per cent., Movietone 40 per cent., and Photophone 95 per cent.

Ralph Murphy, actor, director and playwright, and Harry J. Brown, director, have joined forces. Ken Maynard westerns for First National, have formed a partnership to place a dramatic stock company in the State's Wieting here, opening March 18.

TOLEDO

By E. H. GOODING
Palace—"Up in Mabel's Room" (stock).

State (wired)—"Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Vita-Temple (wired)—"Caught in the Fog."

Pantheon (wired)—"Hunted Thousands of Weeks."

Valentine—Brotherly Love.

Princess—"Take Me Home."

Rivoli—"Vaudim."

Keith's—"Vaudim."

Empire—"Burlesque (Mutual).

New 1,300-seat theatre will be built in the spring on the site of the Blount, neighborhood theatre, the last week by fire. Temporary repairs are being made to the old theatre to carry it through the winter.

Four indictments charging Edward P. Sharpless, president of the Marion, O., Photoplay Company, with running Sunday movies, were nolle prossed last week. Jury failed there in President Harding's home town have since been open on Sundays.

W. A. Thomas, Auburn, Ind., with a group of DeLancey, O., business men, has bought a 25-acre island in the Maumee river, a mile east of here, for an amusement park development.

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BALTIMORE

By BRAWBROOK

Auditorium—Dark.
Maryland—“Greenwich Village Folies.”
Ford’s—“The Bachelor Father.”
New Garden—Vaudefilm.
Gayety—Jack Reld’s “Record Breakers” (bur).

“Trial of Mary Dugan” completed a two weeks at the Maryland Saturday. Company, following current week at the Riviera, N. Y., goes to Philadelphia, to replace troupe now there which entrains for Chicago. Baltimore is one-week stand, and stretching engagement to double that ruined the b. o. on holdover.

House reported first week at \$14,000 or better. Second was way under.

Another dramatic stock is announced for the Auditorium. House manager F. C. Schanberger, Jr., announces that Lester Bryant, in association with George Gatts, will open around the holidays with Edna Hibberd featured.
Standard Oil Company of New Jersey is broadcasting a series of hand programs over WBAL in this city. “Esso Giants” is the title of the musical organization.

MINNEAPOLIS

Metropolitan—Dark.
Shubert—“If I Was Rich” (Bainbridge stock).
Hennepin—Orpheum—Vaudefilm.
Pantages—Vaudefilm.
Palace—“Sweethearts Again” (McCall-Bridge musical tab).
Minnesota—“Outcast” (film).
Theater Office—Felix urtil.
State—“King of Kings” (film).
Lyric—“Avalanche” (film).
Strand—“The Toolers” (film).
Grand—“The Woman Disputed” (20 run) (film).

State ran ads in the sport sections of all local newspapers telling exclusively about one of the shorts on its program. Subject was the Fox Movietone news with sound shots of the recent Minnesota-Wisconsin football game.

Al Wilson is the new stage director of the McCall-Bridge Players (musical tab), at the Palace.

Vitaphone and Movietone start at Pantages next week. Fifth loop house to be wired.

DETROIT

By JACOB SMITH

Wilson—“Rosalie.” Opening week of this new house being operated by Bert Whitney with K. & E. attractions. “Rosalie” remains two weeks. Players Club of New York presents all-star cast in “Beaux Strangers” for five days. “Strange Interlude” opens Dec. 31.
Lafayette—“Straight Thru” the

Door.” For two weeks starting Dec. 23, “Command to Love.”
Cass—“Burlesque.” Dec. 23 for two weeks, “Follow Thru.”
Cadillac—“Sugar Babies.”
Bonstelle—“The Ghost Train.”
Orchestra Hall—La Argentina, one night.

Pictures

Fisher and Michigan—“Dream of Love.”
Capitol—“Manhattan Cocktail,” stage show.
Fox—“Riley the Cop.”
United Artists—“Lonesome.”
Temple—“Pittfalls of Passion.”
State—“White Shadows.”
Adams—“Singing Fool.”
Little—“Marriage of the Bear.”
Oriental—“Lone Wolf’s Daughter.”
Madison—“The Barker.”

Funeral services for A. J. Kleist, former Pontiac exhibitor and president of the Michigan Exhibitors’ Association, were held last Thursday with most of the association directors attending. Kleist came back from Florida to Pontiac with his wife to join friends on a hunting trip in northern Michigan. He arrived at Creighton and was directed to the camp. He lost the trail and three weeks later was found dead from exposure.

Kathryn Card, member of the Wright Players, Kalamazoo, Mich., was in a local hospital suffering from a fractured collar bone, the result of an auto accident.

Lieut. Lester Potter, with 10 assistants, raided a smoker at Dom Polski Hall and arrested two women for nude dancing who were convicted and fined \$25 or 30 days. Smoker was given by the D. S. R. Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars and was attended by 1,000 men.

BOSTON

The Kouns Sisters and Jack Osterman on Keith Memorial bill this week, both call for starring in concert. Usual fuss ensued about badge and electric lights. Compromise effected with Jack getting slightly the better break.
“The Broadwayite” who started the fad of wearing a red necktie for all his influences felt in Boston. Two were such that he was of the Theatre Guild re. the Hollis.

Stock is given first performance in variety of “The Mary Dugan” this week for 15 minutes from Boston and now hasn’t played here yet,

although booked at the Wilbur earlier in season.

“Cafe de Denise” at Majestic for Christmas attraction. Warner Bros. and picture program may follow at this Shubert house.

Douglas Montgomery and Lily Cahill in town rehearsing with Theatre Guild for “Caprice,” Sill-Vars comedy. Premiere at Hollis Dec. 17.

“Bossy” Gillis advertised as additional attraction for final week of “The Connecticut Yankee” at Majestic. Stunt between acts.

Benny Kabatnick broke two ribs in New York last week. Kabatnick owns art store here. A first-nighter who manages to have his name plugged in every musical and review on an opening night Parties for the players and all that.

LOUISVILLE

Brown—“Drecula” (Theatre Guild).
Gayety—“Girls of U. S. A.” (Mutual).
Rialto—“Scarlet Seas,” vaudefilm.
Lafayette—“The Awakening,” wired.
Mary Anderson—“Wings,” wired.
Alamo—“Marriage by Contract,” wired.
Majestic—“Lover Over Night” (film).
Strand—“Riley, the Cop,” wired.

Col. Fred Levy and other purchasers of the Majestic theatre, will take the building over Jan. 1. Razing expected to start Jan. 2 to make room for office building.

Downtown theatre managers met with officials of the Louisville Times and Courier-Journal protesting against an advertising rate increase of five cents a line daily and 10 cents Sundays. Opinion to be delivered next week. Managers who protested were Harry Martin, Brown, David E. Dow, H. C. O. H. E. Long, Loew’s, Fred J. Dolle, Fourth Avenue Amusement Co.

Walker’s Pennsylvanians, southern orchestra, engaged to play at Inn Lodge.

CHARLOTTE

By PAUL K. CAUTHEN

Carolina—“Submarine” (wired), vaude.
Broadway—“Singing Fool,” return date.
Imperial—“Manhattan Cocktail.”

Capitol theatre, dark for several weeks, opened for a week with “Road to Ruin.” Grace Brown, who holds the lease, would not say definitely what her plans were for next year. House vacant since Smith Robinson left after two weeks of dramatic stock, a losing proposition.

State Theatre Owners’ Ass’n is making preparations for a fight against a luxury tax bill reported to be introduced at coming meeting of legislature.

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Opheum
A bunch of the boys whooped it up at the Orphe last week, with Eddie Nelson, held over, the Hickey Brothers and Harry Fox running wild with show-stopping hokum.

Norman Thomas Quintet, colored, a return after three weeks' absence, got by well, but the services of a hot jazz drummer were very conspicuous by his absence. Three weeks ago all three dally boys were nailed by this Ethiopian's mad antics with the drumsticks. Crowd was disappointed with a new sepia face at the drums.

Ed and Tom Hickey, hoking, stopped the show. Using a gag concerning "N. V. A. tickets," not so complimentary to the audience, laid the Sunday night audience out in a paxoxym.

Harry Fox and Bea Curtis yanked more giggles out of a laugh exhausted audience. Miss Curtis is a perfect straight for Fox's patter.

Singing everything but "Publics." Fox took a goodly share of applause. An afterpiece with Fox, the Hickey and Nelson, topped off the show, and a newsreel and Topics completed. Show ran until 11:30 p. m. Sunday night.

Pantages
Pantages has gone operatic, with three of the five turns on the bill doing high c's and falsetto chirping, much to the disgust of non-operatic audience.

The house, too, has gone newsreel bugs, featuring an International newsreel and a talker, Pathe News. Pathe's scoop on Almee McPherson's arrival in L. A. was billed in lights outside.

In the opening spot Elsa, Stralia, English operatic star, flopped. A movie trailer before her act, aprising the audience how lucky they are to see this songbird in Pathe prices, where the Limeys had to pay \$10 to listen to her at Covent Garden, builds up a state of expectancy which the talent did not meet or satisfy. Her voice is fair and her rep well chosen, but nothing to go into truntings about.

Perris and Ellis, dueling, good. Wop comics, humor, passable, and the turn a wop. Until he yanks the wig at the finale, a steal for a plump Italian operatic warbler, and his bit from "The Impresario" but of the top touch in the scale. Immense. "Plapper Freshies," six gals and a man, songs, dances and risque stories, just fair.

Fourth place, Hickman Brothers died in their boots. Using ancient "Dr. Dippy's Sanitarium" type of material, gaze of the typical old music hall day, and large falsetto pop on the blackface comic, the thud of their fall was hardly audible above the whisperings of a disappointed audience.

Moegen's Art Flashes, two dancers, Monya and Dan, even better. Monya and Dan, beautifully costumed, were well received, and their dancing a relief after the preceding two acts. Three men and three women, singers, were fair. "Man, Woman and Wife" on screen.

Harold Lloyd has signed contract for use of the sound stages at Metropolitan studio for recording dialog of his present comedy. The agreement is for three months.

Kit Guard, screen comic, signed by Educational to make two-reelers, some with dialog.

Wallace Fox, directing for F. E. O., will return to the Edwin Carewe productions, where he will act as production manager during the making of "Evangeline," starring Dolores Del Rio for U. A. release. Fox is a brother of Carewe and has been acting as his production manager for a number of years.

Writers' Club put on a series of plays this week. Feature skit called "Spoils of Lust," staged by A.

Leslie Pearce. Appearing in it Raymond Hatton and Carmel Meyers.

Scott Darling, scenarist, to write an untitled mystery story for Fox.

After closed for several weeks, Stern Brothers have resumed production, beginning with "Newlyweds" series of two-reel comedies. Jack Egan and Harriette Mathews will play the title parts, with Francis Corby directing.

Norman Kerry engaged by Columbia for "Trial Marriage."

Cinematograph Productions will make a series of one-reel sound features called "Babes in Hollywood."

Kitty Warnell, stage actress, will play in the first three, directed by Grace Elliott.

Egyptian, a West Coast house, is the first Hollywood picture to be wired. It will present its first sound program Dec. 13. Warner Brothers and Grauman's Chinese, both first runs, are the other wired houses in Hollywood.

Louis Marlowe, assistant director at Warner Brothers' studio, brother of June Marlowe, is seriously ill at his Beverly Hills, Cal., home with pneumonia.

Virginia Bruce, Corliss Palmer, William Deaudine and John Lancaster are new film colony victims of the flu epidemic in Los Angeles.

Tom Moore, screen actor, will tour Keith's in Ethel Sutherland's sketch, "The Combeback."

Millon Bren, former assistant to Paul Bern at Pathe studios, has joined Al Rosen, artists' representative, as associate.

After a three-week try the La Salle Players, stock, closed at the La Salle, Belvedere Gardens, Wadsworth Players, Southgate, moved to the La Salle.

Bill Holman, screen actor, paired with Herbert Gray, is beaten in the semi-finals of the national doubles squash handball championships held at the Hollywood Athletic Club. Dan Jones and Kent Redwine defeated them, 21-17, 16-21, 21-15.

C. O. Schultz, press agent, filed claim with the State Bar Commission against C. H. Alton, producer of the Big Otto Show, for \$480 back salary. Schultz was ordered by Deputy State Commissioner Lowy to institute criminal action against Alton, who has ignored all Schultz' efforts to collect.

Capt. John Loder has been loaned by Paramount to Herbert Wilcox for "The Fog," which Marshall Neilan will direct at Metropolitan studios.

Production on "Through Different Eyes" at the Fox lot has been held up for a day as John G. Blystone, director, has been called back for additional scenes for "Captain Lash." The interruption of Blystone's current picture was caused by Fox's necessity to meet the release date on "Captain Lash."

Complete cast of "So This is London," Henry Duffy's production opening at the El Capitan Dec. 16, includes Edmund Breese, Lawrence Francis Allen Gray, Charles Selwynne, Frederick Howard, Leah Winslow, William Macaulay and J. Raymond Brown.

Lionel Atwill will make a two-reeler of "The Knife," by Henry Arthur Jones, for Fox.

William Street, of the New York legit production firm of Bruce and Street, arrived in Los Angeles and plans to stage "The Commager" at the El Capitan starring here. He is now looking for a theatre for the production.

Thomas R. Mills, actor-producer, is organizing a stock which will open at the Glendale Playhouse, Dec. 23, with "Easy Come, Easy Go."

Jean Hersholt, screen actor, is laid up with a sprained ankle and cold.

Peggy Doner, wife of Ted Doner, operated upon at Benedict Hospital, Hollywood, is seriously ill.

Program of one-act plays to be presented by the Writers' Club Dec. 12-13 will include: "Breaking of the Calm" with Allen Tringle, Robert Edeson, Lee Shumway, Muriel Murphy and Mack J. McConnell; "Spoils of Lust" with Carmel Myers and Raymond Hatton; "The Duchess" starring the Foxes with June Wilson, Henry Kolker and Cecil Bruner; "Post Mortem," with Virginia Valli, Monte Collins, Jr., Vernon Dent and Allan Lane.

West Coast Theatres announced the following changes in managers:

of the Los Angeles Division: G. H. Christoffers transferred from the Strand, Pasadena, to the Westlake theatre, L. A.; F. J. Mannelly succeeded him at the Pasadena house. Fred Rapport was appointed manager of the Florence theatre, Pasadena.

Frank Pounce purchased Estrella film house from E. Castellano, Jr.

Lawrence Cohen, owner of Rialto, has bought the York and Eagle Rock theatres from J. & N. Sugar.

K. H. White and R. W. Morris have purchased the Riverside, Los Angeles, from S. Warwick.

Eddie Cline will be retained by Umiu to direct the next Denny picture, untitled.

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Split between Publix and West Coast help to direct the fall. When four de luxe houses on Market street were operated by W. C., all newspaper advertising was boxed. Now Loew's Warfield advertises by itself and the three Publix houses only box their ads when taking reduced space. Opening week of the new policy saw considerable extra space used by both circuits, with Publix the heaviest.

With the separation of West Coast Theatres and Publix, the Loew's Warfield (West Coast-Loew) has resumed publication of its weekly house organ, the Warfield Newswrite. Rufus Blair is editing it.

Ray "Bob" Raymond, for a long time associated with Radio KLL as "Brother Bob," in charge of the Frolic hour, has transferred to Radio KTAB.

Hugo Strickland transferred from Salt Lake City office of Tiffany-Stahl to San Francisco, succeeding Bert Lentz.

Clare Foley, secretary of the Film Board of Trade here, has gone to Arrowhead Hot Springs for several weeks to recuperate from a recent nervous breakdown.

Probably the only dinner-dance-legit show combination in the country New Year's Eve will be at Sid Goldtree's Green Street here. Goldtree is announcing an eight-course dinner, dancing from 7 to 9:30, regular performance of "Easy for Zee Zee," and light refreshments after the show at a single price of admission. Tarif will be \$3.50 with capacity about 400.

John Hicks, Paramount, Australia, arrived here last week. Another was Dornfield, magician.

Theatre Organists' Club elected officers as follows: President, Chas. "Doc" Wilson, Warfield; vice-president, Peggy Rossini, Imperial; secretary, Ed Moore; treasurer, Philip Schinney, directors, Glen Goff, George Nyklick, Ruth Hoy Sears, Gertrude Munter and Henry Harcke.

Sam Jacobson is retiring from the North Beach Theatres Corporation to go to the Jay Street (formerly Goddard), Sacramento. Policy will be vaude and road shows. Jacobson was manager of the Washington here.

For the second time in two seasons, Edg's farces and one-acts have been requisitioned from 'Tails-at-the-Beach' cafe to provide the musical entertainment at the Examiner annual Xmas cabaret, to be staged in the Palace hotel Dec. 13.

Joc Frazier, for the past few months the manager of the St. Francis, has been promoted by Publix to purchasing agent for the Pacific Coast division. Nick Lucas goes from the St. Francis to the California as treasurer. Tom Lamour is acting manager at the St. Francis.

PROVIDENCE
Opera House - Festival of Grand Opera (2d week).
Modern - Stock, "Marriage-And How!"
Loew's State - "The Awakening" (sound).
Victory - "Melody of Love" (Empire).
Ginger Girls, burlesque.
Albee - "The Whip" vaudlin.
Majestic - "The Terror" (sound).
Capitol - "Nameless Man" (2d run).

Rialto - "Stand and Deliver" (2d run).
Strand - "Manhattan Cocktail" (sound).

Arcadia pulled off a new stunt in a battle of music last week. Instead of two bands the management hired four hot teams to do the honors. Business was brisk and the scheme went over.

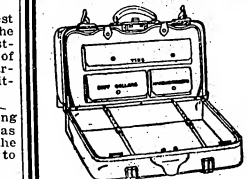
Albee theatre pulled out its regular show Tuesday night to make way for the Boston Symphony orchestra, 103 musicians. Serge Koussevitzky directed before a capacity house.

Hymie Jacobson and Mae Simon, Yiddish stars, appeared at the Carlton last week to good business in "Decent Girls," musical comedy. Yiddish troupe has made several lucrative visits lately.

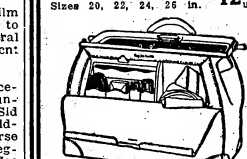
Uptown theatre, suburban film house, is drawing with a revival of the old-time amateur night.

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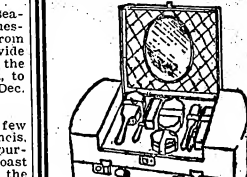
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BY HARDIE MEAKIN

Belasco (Shubert)—Cook musical stock, "Wildflower."
National (Elianger-Rapley)—"Jim the Penman"; next, "Beaux Stratagem"; Dec. 29, "Strange Interlude."
Poli's (Shubert)—Thurston.
President—Hill's indoor circus (2d week).
Gayety—Stock burlesque.
Strand—Mutual burlesque.
Pictures
Columbia—"Someone to Love."
Earle—"Tevye."
Fox—"Riley the Cop."
Metropolitan—"Uncle Tom's Cabin" (2d week).
Palace—"Dream of Love."

Harry Greenman, who has been managing the Fox, left for St. Louis Monday to open the new Fox house there. Greenman will leave in that city prior to coming here. David Izal, of the Fox, Philadelphia, adds the Washington Fox house to his list of houses. Winchester, former doorman at the Fox, now becomes house manager.

Nelson Bell's "Behind the Screen" column is to go back in the Post twice weekly. This followed a loud squawk from the local picture houses. It also marks the passing of the time-honored "readers" that have busted in the Post twice weekly.

Star is going in for a series of special feature stories on the picture houses. Next will be on newspaper camera men.

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In the west, and now the wife of M. L. Samuels, San Francisco attorney, was severely burned during a fire in her home last week. She is recovering.

"Clutching Claw" is at the Fulton, replacing "Trial of Mary Dugan" during the two weeks' run. This will be followed by "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em," bringing the season of Grace Valentine, lead, to a close.

No new leading woman selected by George Ebeby. "Two Girls Wanted" and "Piss" will have Marion Sterly, ingenue, as leading lady.

Lolnar's "The Swan" was given its first East Bay production at the Berkeley Playhouse by the Everett Glass art group. At the California, in Berkeley, the College Women's Club is producing "The Cradle Song" with an amateur cast.

Harry Kirby started his musical comedy season at the remodeled Franklin theatre this Thanksgiving Day. He is doing two performances a night and no matinees.

John Ivanovich, known here as John Ivan, resigned from the Fulton cast to join Margaret Anglin in "The Great Lady Dedlock" in New York.

Rumors around this area are that Panatges has arranged for a house in the general neighborhood of the New West Coast Oakland and the Duffin, and that William Fox is negotiating for the purchase of the Ackerman and Harris vaudeville circuit. No verification.

J. Raymond Northcut is an actor who makes a specialty of playing dumb detectives. Otherwise he lives at home quietly with his mother and tinkers with his automobile.

And so it was something of a shock to Northcut the other evening to answer a ring at his front door and be brushed aside by a derby-hatted gentleman with square toe-

and a police badge announcing that he had come to search the house for a still.

Not only had he come, but he had brought a platoon of police, who proceeded to tear the Northcut manse apart from cellar to garret. When all the about was over it was discovered that the tip on a bootlegging establishment was for another address.

Harry Kirby's musical comedy company at the Franklin lasted only three days.

When he applied for a permit to open the theatre it was denied on the ground that it needed vast expenditures to be converted into a "class" structure. Kirby got a special permit from the fire chief, but it lasted only three days, when the building and electrical chiefs made their stand.

Grace Valentine finishes at the Fulton with "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em." She returns to Hollywood for talking pictures. Marion Sterly, the ingenue, will do "Wanted," "Two Girls Wanted" and "Piss" before a new leading woman arrives.

John Ivanovich of the Fulton Players was given a farewell party by actors from the Duffy and Ebeby companies, with Robert Warwick, on the Orpheum circuit at the moment, in a vaudeville leaves for New York to start rehearsals with Margaret Anglin in "The Great Lady Dedlock," due for production Christmas week.

"The Wooden Kimono," at the Duffin, is to be held on for a five weeks' run, although business is not so forte. It is to be followed by "The Shamons of Broadway" with Lucile Webster Gleason in her original role.

Rumors here are that the new Oakland West Coast may be taken over by Publix.

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Werba's Flatbush—"The Scarlet Woman."
Werba's Jamaica—"The Show Off."
Boulevard—"This Queen of Sheba."
Shubert Brooklyn—Dr. Shaffer on Sex Mysteries.
Fox—"Napoleon's Barber," stage show.
Paramount—"Three Week Ends," stage show.
Albee—Yandfilm.
Strand—"Lila Time."
Loew's Met.—Yandfilm.
Orpheum—Yandfilm.
Rivers—"Ladies of the Evening" (stock).
Memart—"Q Ships."
St. George Playhouse. Pictures.
Star—"The Show in Town—SL" (bur).
Gayety—"Baldim Queens" (bur).
Empire—"Pishin Plappers" (bur).
Casino—"Carettes of 1928" (stock bur).

Werba's Brooklyn dropping left this week and offering American Opera Company with ten of \$3. House may be dark next week opening for Christmas with "The Merry Widow" at the Broadway Theatre. Ina Claire and Louis Calhern in leading roles.

Old-Bios, which has been sold to the National Real Estate Corp. by the Loew-Wendler estate. A 5-story office building in view.

Two new attractions being offered here this week. "Madame President" in "The Show in Town" at the Flatbush, and "The Queen of Sheba" here last week and now at the Broadway Theatre. Not to be passed by local drama lovers. "The Show in Town" at the Flat-

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bush, and "One Way Street," new, slated for the Boulevard next week. The Shuberts expect to bring in "Well, Well, Well," musical, at the Majestic.

For the first time in years, police have established a deadline for criminals in the downtown section in the heart of the shopping area.

LETTERS

When sending for Mail to VARIETY, address to Clerk, POSTAL DEPARTMENT, CIRCULAR LETTERS WILL NOT BE ADVERTISED. LETTERS ADVERTISED IN ONE ISSUE ONLY.

- Baritone (25)
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"Victor Herbert Memories," directed by Dave Rubinoff, guest conductor of the pit orchestra, was a happy choice. Paramount overtures have been pretty perfunctory, and this type of semi-classical melody is calculated to resuscitate this neglected feature of the house." *Land.*



"BILLBOARD"
"Dave Rubinoff, violin virtuoso, had the house at his feet with his masterful handling of the violin." *J. E. P.*

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Consecutive Week at
the Paramount
New York



"ZIT'S"
"Dave Rubinoff, guest conductor, is the loud noise at the Paramount this week, and, for the first time in more than a month, the overture really is an overture. Rubinoff makes whoopee with his baton and bats the number over to a big hand."



"ZIT'S"
"Dave Rubinoff, after a week in Brooklyn, comes back to the New York Paramount for a second time as guest conductor. He contributes a violin solo that goes over strongly and, altogether, he makes them realize that the house really has an orchestra, which has really been apparent of late." *not always*

"VARIETY"
"David Rubinoff, featured in 'Stars,' easily merits the rating. Rubinoff is a violin soloist with a specialty that hits for the strongest returns on every count. An additional credit is that this boy, once he scores, stays that way solid for the rest of his appearance on the stage." *Mori.*



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56 PAGES

SHOWMAN'S HIDE AWAY

'Variety' Now Calling at Keith's Office After Being Barred 3 Yrs.

For the first time, this week, in over three years, Variety gives the entrance privilege to Keith's. That carries with it such other trade paper courtesies usually and formerly extended to Variety, but cut off when any Variety representative was denied access to a Keith office or theatre in November, 1925.

Hiram S. Brown, president of Radio-Keith-Orpheum, in reopening the doors of Keith's to this paper, stated that he deemed Variety as a show trade newspaper entitled to such action. He expressed the hope Variety would, as a trade paper, act in harmony and concert with R-K-O and its holdings, Keith's and FEO.

Prominence is given to this report through the prominence given the barring of Variety over three years ago and often since, by the order of E. F. Albee, then and now president of Keith-Albee-Orpheum. That corporation, still existent, has been superseded in control and operation of the Keith Circuit (and former Orpheum Circuit) by R-K-O.

How It Started

Commencing in the summer of 1925 Variety printed a series of editorials dwelling upon the prevailing vaudeville conditions, and forecasting to the vaudeville controllers of the big time of that period that vaudeville stood in danger through the approaching but then unseen sweep of the moving picture theatre.

These editorials went into the vaudeville situation at considerable

Continued on page 3

Harvard's "Fiesta" Show Censored Out of Boston

Boston, Dec. 18.

The annual show of the Harvard Dramatic Club, "Fiesta," which played two nights in Cambridge last week, was forbidden by the censors for publication in Boston Saturday. The action was taken by the local board of censors after the show had been caught on the last performance in Cambridge by the censors of that city and a report sent to Boston.

The play was stopped on the ground that it was objectionable. This is the yearly play in which students at Harvard and girl students at other colleges near here take part. "Fiesta" is the 36th production of the Harvard Dramatic Club and is the first one to be suppressed. Maurice Gold was the author.

After the edict of suppression had been made known to those behind the play there was quite a squawk. It was said that the delay in the city authorities taking action and their failure to ask for a modification of the objectionable lines had cost the club \$1,000. There is no legal redress. Every seat was sold. It was intended to present the play at John Hancock Hall, usually let for amateur performances. Hall has a seating capacity of 1,000.

Cohan's Opinion

When George M. Cohan was lately asked:

"What is the matter with the show business?"

He replied:

"The show business is all right; all we need is good shows."

Coney Concert Hall Burlesque Comeback?

Seaside concert hall men are attracted by a scheme to bring back in modified form the concert hall burlesque idea, once a Coney Island lure, but vanished more than a decade. Picture shows in beer rooms dealt the old free-for-all leg show at Coney the first blow.

Prohibition killed it off completely. Neighborhood film houses have dulled the appetite for seashore holiday flickers and the soft drink joint men are looking for a new come on.

Harry Walker, New York agent, suggested a grind leg show comeback to a number of the juice peddlers. They liked the possibilities.

Ten or 15 years ago there were half a score of go-as-you-please burlesque shows along Surf avenue and the Bowery of Coney. They had been a part of the Island for a generation. Six to 10 girls stilled from late afternoon until unconscious, while comedians came and went in crude ad libbing every time a barker climaxed his lecture outside or the crowd justified a sign of life on the

Continued on page 3

Freak Women Draws Don't Draw on B'Way

Freak women draws who are not stumbled twice on Broadway last week.

Peggy Joyce and Peaches Brown-jing were the names, with a question as to which one has had the most publicity.

Peggy bloomed out as the acting star of "The Lady of the Orchids," opening midweek at the Miller. They said that Peg is better than the play, but both couldn't draw to amount to anything for the remainder of the week.

Peaches bloomed into "The Squealer" while her name was being bounced around in the Allen divorce suit in Westchester. Peaches also bounced the gross for the week back \$1,000. Last week "The Squealer" with the girl did \$6,000; the week before without her, it did \$7,000.

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As a rule show people keep a special pile of photos handy, to save opening a drawer.

In film circles the picture of Carl Laemmle has grown as familiar as a lamp post, while even when Lewis J. Selznick was not playing poker, he never objected in the old days to giving away his picture. And Sam Goldwyn still keeps up the habit.

In vaudeville E. F. Albee of recent years usually called once every 30 days or so, passing in the staff to pass on the poses. The one they turned down was the one Albee selected, as a rule.

In the legit Lee Shubert generally shades his brother, Jake, in getting his mug in print, and there are others, higher or lower, who never squawk when the p. a. put over a picture. Some p. a.'s have believed for a long while they were

(Continued on page 2)

Unique Nut Club for Laughs on Spot And Air, Turns 'Em Away in Village

Village Nut Club, started as a gag on last New Year's Eve, has developed into a radio attraction twice weekly and a laugh place in person.

It's in the heart of Greenwich Village, at 72 Grove street, in a two-story room formerly operated as a cafeteria. Now on broadcast nights twice weekly there is a turn-around, and the owner, also principal Nut, Meyer Horowitz, attributes the growing trade solely to the radio.

The club is for laughs only, gaining through one rummy or another, but mainly from La Belle Rose, an all-blond-haired veteran with a soprano voice and who kisses the men at several tables as he blithely skips down between the chairs to get before the mike.

The Nut Club is a radio babyhood

Continued on page 2

Women as Stock Market Gamblers Go Wild with Margin Money Spec

HOLDOUT STANDEES BULLED IN PERSON

The problem of keeping standees in good humor has been solved rather uniquely at the new Paramount, Brooklyn, N. Y. While other houses have had pianists and lobby organists to take some of the ache out of the bunions, the Paramount has carried the idea several stages further.

Sammy Carr, banjo virtuoso, now moves right up to the brass rail behind which the multitude wait with more or less patience. Carrying along printed placards with lyrics thereon, Sammy organizes the standees for a little close harmony. The results have been quite successful, with the proletariat joining in the spirit while waiting for the show inside.

No noise gets into the auditorium and the ushers find the mob much better natured about waiting.

Another intimate note staged for the benefit of the patients is having Paul Ash saunter through the lobby every now and then when not performing, nodding and bowing to his congregation and helping to keep their minds off the wait.

18 Mos. for Lecturer

William J. Scott, lecturer, was given 18 months at Atlanta for lecturing around here.

He was charged with using the mails to defraud in connection.

Scott claimed he is the original "Billy the Kid." His lecture was titled "From Underworld to Pulpit."

Gambling being what it is, lady speculators in the stock market manage to get away with half their skirt. But if logic and reason had to be depended upon rather than luck, the lady gamblers would take some beautiful Prody's.

It is rather humiliating to the girls to have to admit that women are as illogical as they are cracked up to be, but after visiting the ladies' rooms of three different brokerage offices and hearing the tales of lady stock dealers, feminine foolhardiness becomes a fact.

Not only are lady speculators childishly foolish but they are 50 times more reckless than men. They are "sports" in the true sense of the word.

To the ladies' room of the brokerage offices the women come to trade. They arrive early in the morning and buy, and sit all day on rows of chairs watching the stock quotations hoping to sell at a profit before night. They are mostly well-to-do married women with time hanging heavy on their hands and delving in stocks as an exciting pastime.

Some of their husbands know of their speculations and some do not. But one and all the women are gamblers. They scorn to buy a safe stock and sit on it. They have a downright aversion to bonds, insisting that when you buy a bond your money disappears and you only get interest by the year in return.

The women believe everything anybody tells them; get tips from the outside and will not take advice from their broker; they readily buy things that a man would not touch. They are too ignorant to be careful, and reputable firms have to take steps to protect them. They always buy heavily on margin and seldom have money to meet calls. When their stocks go down they are astonished and simply heart-broken.

One woman called up her broker and said: "I want to buy National Cash Register at 94 and sell at 96." She was told that the stock was already selling at 98. "Oh, but you must buy it at 94," she insisted.

Another lady called to say: "I want to make \$50 today." And another said: "Please tell me what will go up two points tomorrow."

Bullish
In line with their inclination towards men's activities, the ladies would rather be bulls than bears. During a bull market everybody is happy. They like to see stocks go up; anybody's stock. When stocks are soaring they smile and excitedly chatter. A bear market depresses

Continued on page 2

Weird Chinese Book On Hollywood's Inside

Film men in Shanghai have protested to local authorities there against a book published in Chinese and called "10,000 Evils of the Cinema."

Volume takes the extremist's view of Hollywood.

Startling declaration is made that Douglas Fairbanks is an Arabian and that in 1914 he conspired, with eight chorus girls, to kill his mother. Another Chinese expose is that Clara Bow is 39 years old and has been married 12 times. The book urges Chinamen to stay away from the celluloid dragon.

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NEW DELILAH PARIS HEROINE

Modern Girl Vanquishes Pug in New Play

Paris, Dec. 18.

In the new Paris crop of sex and scandal play themes, there is a novelty in a modern Delillah who vanquishes the reigning prize ring champion. "Batling Samson and Delilla" is the work of Benjamin Falsinber, budding author of 21, and is presented by the professional group Comedians' Associes, experimenting at the Folies Dramatiques. Was received with moderate interest. In the cast are Evarard, Lesteur, Elizabeth Baratoff, Marie Valsamaki and Simone Barot.

New musical comedy of Ricou and Masson, called "Riquet a la Houppe," did nicely at the Opera Comique. Georges Hue's music is pleasing. Piece is an adaptation of Perrault's fairy tale, done in three acts and a prolog. Book is the work of Raoul Gastaubide.

"L'Affaire de Montretout"

"The Case of Showall" is a rough and risky farce of the familiar sort, filled with double entendre, but re-filled with reasonably funny in spots. Story has to do with a lost race track ticket, a lady's dress that was sent to the cleaner's and an innocent sap who is arrested for supposed offenses as a cave man suitor. Point of the whole thing is in its fancy skating on thin ice.

Another effort by a young author is the comedy, "Souls les Yeux d'Ocidence" ("Under Western Eyes"), done at the Theatre Antoine by the energetic stage society Aide de Protection. Author is Andre Boisson. Piece is really a dramatization of Joseph Conrad's novel and deals with the struggle between passion and idealism.

Besides these, George Pitoeff presented Hamel's French version of Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra" at the Theatre des Arts.

Tate's Company Sailing

London, Dec. 18.

Harry Tate evidently talked the members of his company into taking their plum pudding on the high seas for Harry, his family and the troupe sail Dec. 20 on the Ansonia.

Tate's company, some of whom have been with him for years, and whom he keeps on a voluntary play or pay arrangement, squawked and balked at the idea of leaving home over the holidays.

Tate is going over to join a Shubert show.

Paris Tabarin Reopens

Paris, Dec. 18.

The Bal Tabarin, famous dance resort, reopened Saturday last after being thoroughly refurbished and restored to its old eclat.

Place is under new management, principals being Pierre Sandrini and Pierre Dubout.

TREVOR-HARRIS RE-TEAM

London, Dec. 18.

With the return of Ted Trevor from New York it looks as if the dancing team of Trevor and Harris (Mrs. Trevor) will re-unite.

Pair have already been submitted to local bookers.

JOE JACKSON AT SAVOY

London, Dec. 18.

Joe Jackson, comedy cyclist, opens as a part of the floor show at the Hotel Savoy in March.

He is booked there for a month.

"NEWS" PAIR STAY ABROAD

London, Dec. 18.

Michael Tripp and Amy Bevers, late of "Good News," will not return to the States right away.

Couple have fixed an engagement on the Riviera.

BEECHAM'S BALLET MUSIC

Paris, Dec. 18.

Serge Daghilev's Russian ballet gives four performances at the Opera beginning Dec. 20, featuring Thomas Beecham's orchestration of Handel's score, "Two Beggars."

London Has Fog and Gloom—Paris Is Cold

London, Dec. 18.

It has been very cold here the past week. Moderated yesterday (Monday) but there's a heavy fog today (Tuesday).

Besides the inclement weather, the Christmas shopping and a feeling of impending tragedy is raising havoc with all branches of show business.

Paris, Dec. 18.

Frost on the ground every morning here for the past week. Temperature went down to 20, but there has been a lot of sun and little rain. No squawks.

Du Maurier's Shortest Run

London, Dec. 18.

"The Play's the Thing" closed at the Saint James Saturday after 11 days.

It's a record short run for Gerald DuMaurier and any show in which he has appeared.

Successor comes in Dec. 26, adaptation of Mason's novel, "No Other Tiger," starring Mary Glynn and Dennis Neilson Terry.

Vaude Bill Scores

London, Dec. 18.

Duncan Sisters carved themselves a good sized hit yesterday (Monday) upon opening at the Palladium (vaudeville). It is this pair's first British vaude appearance in seven years.

On the same bill Will Morris, tramp cyclist, made his debut to hilarious results.

Elsie Janis' Paris Revue

Paris, Dec. 18.

Elsie Janis is reported negotiating for a spring revue at the Moulin Rouge. Among other engagements of Americans, Jack Hylton opened last Friday at the Empire, doing extremely well.

Duncan Sisters are booked for appearances at Cannes beginning Feb. 12.

"PICKWICK" LIKED

London, Dec. 18.

"Mister Pickwick" arrived at the Haymarket Saturday and was well liked.

It's the Cosmo Hamilton-Frank Riley version, which played in New York.

Hulbert-Murray's Duo

London, Dec. 18.

Jack Hulbert and Paul Murray resume their theatre activity here about August.

Both sail for New York in May to secure talent for two shows. One of these will star Hulbert and the other Cicely Courtwright (Mrs. Hulbert).

WOODS BUYS CLIFT PLAY

London, Dec. 18.

Deniston Clift, former Hollywood scenarist, now here rehearsing his play, "The Woman Disputed," is reported to have sold his latest play, "Scotland Yard," to A. H. Woods. Woods may produce it simultaneously in New York and London.

In New York the understanding has been that Woods has had this play and been prevented from producing it in England because of the title, "Scotland Yard." Reason for the objection is not known here.

W-T Takes "Year of Grace"

London, Dec. 18.

Williamson-Tate has secured the English rights to C. B. Cochran's "This Year of Grace" for Australia.

Booked for Australia

London, Dec. 18.

Dora Maughan and Walter Feltl have been booked for Australia. They sail during February.

Holland and Barry Split

London, Dec. 18.

Holland and Barry are going to split after next week, Jack Holland joining Nitzs Vernille.



WILL MAHONEY

The Chicago "American" said: "The elusive feet and rollicking humor of Will Mahoney caught the audience at the Palace Theatre last night and called Mr. Mahoney back for a series of encores. Even when he finally left, the applause suggested that everyone would have been happy to have had him continue his antics indefinitely."

Direction

RALPH G. FARNUM

1560 Broadway

London's Strict Nite Club Rules Send Owners Away

London, Dec. 18.

A general exodus of London night club proprietors to the Continent gives an idea of how tough the new police supervision is here.

The migration indicates that none but the legitimate clubs and cabarets will be able to survive the continued close scrutiny.

Truex's Hit Comedy

London, Dec. 18.

Ernest Truex brought a splendid comedy to town in "Out Goes She" at the Criterion. Warmly accepted it gives every indication of success and is suitable for America.

Play is not particularly original in plot but treatment is what puts it over. Lillian Trimble Bradley, wife of George Broadhurst, wrote it with unmistakable evidence of editing by Broadhurst, especially in the woffle dialog.

Truex holds the world's rights to the piece.

KEITH'S AND VARIETY

(Continued from page 1)

length. They presumed to point out to the vaudeville managers the holes in their organization, with the suggestion they be filled in through attention and preparations be made to stand off the picture house advance.

During the editorial campaign it was predicted that unless the Keith-Orpheum vaudeville directors fixed their fences the end of "big time" would loom in sight.

About the only attention given by the vaudeville people, officially, to Variety's editorials was to bar it, and in other ways hamper the paper, such as to forbid and threaten any Keith affiliation, agent or act, advertising in Variety, with an order issued that no Keith employe should read Variety.

The remainder is current show history. But the writing of a trade paper for attempting to offer suggestions for the perpetuation and betterment of vaudeville by Keith's, attracted the notice of daily theatrical newspaper men throughout the country. Much comment appeared in type over it.

Mr. Brown but recently stepped in as R-K-O president. He is not as yet conversant with Keith's, FBO or the show business, nor is he to be actively directing R-K-O. Brown will not assume active duty before Jan. 1. He is continuing as president of the U. S. Leather Company until that date, meanwhile devoting his time in person to Keith's.

Mr. Brown stated he is not concerned with the past, prior to the R-K-O formation, and with which he was not interested; it's the future, said Mr. Brown, and Variety coincided.

London As It Looks

By Hannen Swaffer

London, Dec. 6.

Well, Fred Terry is coming back, after 13 years in the country. Nearly all this time he has been complaining that rents were too high for him in London. Now he's decided to spend the Christmas season at the Strand, where, in 1915, he was playing "The Scarlet Pimpernel" when the theatre was bombed by German aeroplanes, which killed people in the Lyceum theatre next door, and did great damage. In spite of the raids, however, Terry finished his season, and he has been playing "The Scarlet Pimpernel" with other plays on tour, ever since.

Rents Higher Than Ever

This rent question is terrible. Violet Melnotte told me today she was asked \$3,000 for the Apollo, which is \$750 more than the usual price. She refused to pay so much and so "Craig's Wife" cannot find a home. Phyllis Neilson-Terry and the American author, George Kelly, have been hanging about for two or three weeks now, wondering if their play is ever coming in.

People who have seen "Craig's Wife" on tour say it is not suited for London, and wonder why on earth it won the Pulitzer Prize.

Elsie Goes Out

I see it announced that Elsie Janis leaves "Clowns in Clover" so that she can take her mother abroad. It is in the papers, so I suppose that is true. I thought the reason was that business is by no means good. Still, when I read what managers say, I realize I must often have been wrong.

Truex Goes to Court

Ernest Truex went down to see the Lord Chamberlain recently, very nervous at the red carpet, expecting it would look something like Tower Hill with an executioner's block in the foreground. No, there was nothing seriously wrong, but only a little bit of "Out Goes She," in which he opens in a few days with three leading ladies.

Still, Truex pointed to the bars covering the windows of the room into which he and the management were shown.

"We shall get out again," he said.

When he did, he immediately bought a quart pot of beer.

VILLAGE NUTS

(Continued from page 1)

idea for any key city pop priced eatery, if handled as Horowitz does it, with late hour broadcasts from midnight until 2 a. m. The average sized city could be kept awake for two hours past the witching hour so intriguing is the Nut Club bally-hoo sent out over stations WMSG and WMCA.

With Artie Dunn as assistant chief nut and Harry Montgomery, the m.c., nicely pacing the proceedings, the Village restaurant gives out plenty of air show and drags 'em in strictly on the other work.

Horowitz is content with his place is doing. With the radio ballyhoo, the Nut Club idea and that inimitable La Belle, the Village Grove assumes a different aura completely. Yet Horowitz has a pop priced scale, eschews all nite life wrinkles even until dispensing with the courtroom concession racket, and only tacks on the \$1 cover on the two broadcast nights a week Mondays and Thursdays, respectively. The \$1 cover becomes necessary because of the attorneys, but the rest of the scale is ridiculously pop priced for visiting firemen.

La Belle Rose is best appreciated when seen. As a femme impersonator going for bizarre costumes (of her own creation), fantastic make-up and goshawful gesticulations La Belle is the Sir Josef Ginsberg of free-nance performers. His following unpronouncedly greets La Belle when he makes her entrance.

With true artistic deference to her "public," La Belle flits in in street clothes, flashing a wicked peroxide blonde and a wardrobe case.

And when La Belle uncorks that wicked soprano—zowie! He—er, he—gets those top notes if he has to remove the prop molar. La Belle dreads losing her artificial plate in fishing for those McCormacks, so he takes out the teeth. On occasions La Belle Rose loses the teeth or has them pinched on her teeth, and the entertainer is in a panic.

Hokey Oke

The pay-off is when La Belle Rose is shaking a wicked fandango and that irritating pianist changes tempo. Then comes the fireworks with artistic treatment La Belle burns and walks, but with some what of a mild struggle La Belle can be won over for a resumption of the frolic. La Belle Rose at her best—or worst—is hokey oke.

For the rest, Chief Nut Horowitz and Assistant Chief Nut Artie Dunn have an assortment of nut talent, Al Olson's mammy impressions of Al Olson are mürdercrüd, and John McCormack, Jr. is just too terrible. The room's draw is wide, Horowitz being compelled to distribute a copyright map of the Village, indicating route of traffic from Jersey through the Hotel and Tunnel into the crazy streets of Sheridan square and vicinity.

The wise mob are missing a laugh

If they haven't "made" the Village Grove, as yet, especially on the broadcast nights, Mondays and Thursdays. Abel.

CONEY'S HALL

(Continued from page 1)

stage, Inman's on the Bowery was one of the best known.

The Coney burlesque stuff was originally transplanted from the New York Bowery. In the late 90's and into this century there were a dozen or so such places running below the Bowery, most of them short change caves and drunk-rolling dives.

LADY GAMBLERS

(Continued from page 1)

them; they think it is a rather rotten trick.

During the recent crash in the market a goodly number of lady gamblers had their accounts completely wiped out. But in spite of their sorrow and surprise their utter recklessness brings them back for more.

The funny thing is that they all feel they are terrifically business-like and the vaunted feminine intuition does not help them a whit.

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Rembusch's Letter to Brookhart Seems to Drag in Pettijohn, U. S. Senator and Arbitration

Washington, Dec. 18.

Frank Rembusch, indie exhibitor of Indiana, has turned letter writer since, as he informed Senator Smith W. Brookhart, of the block booking bill, he had his suit against the Hays organization settled for \$20,000. He didn't tell the Senator what "suit" it was.

Rembusch sat in on Canon Chase's celebration, the centennial of his age. When questioned as to why by a Variety reporter, Rembusch's only reply was, "You'd be surprised."

In view of the admission of Col. Wm. J. Donovan, assistant to the Attorney General, some time ago that it was principally Rembusch's personal appearances at the department to lodge his complaints against the Hays organization and the system of arbitration fostered and created by Will H. Hays, the switch has caused much comment at the Capitol among those legislators knowing the details.

Senator Brookhart admits one of the letters. Colonel Donovan is believed to have received one of the many. The Senator described Rembusch's letters as "hot."

From statements made by the Senator, the impression is Rembusch has recorded a conversation that led to his now support of the arbitration system which he previously so loudly denounced before the Senate committee.

A guess by those familiar with the situation would have it that the conversation referred to was between Charlie Pettijohn, Indiana Democrat, Rembusch, and a Senator member of the committee.

If that is a good guess and Senator Brookhart does turn the Rembusch letter loose, the Senator's characterization that it is a "hot" document will be justified. It might even lead to a shakeup in the committee, say many here.

Meanwhile the Senator's bill lies dormant and the Walsh resolution of investigation is taking on indications of gaining life. The Walsh proposal was up before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Saturday in executive session. It went over without action by the committee.

Walsh resolution is aimed principally at Colonel Donovan and the Federal Trade Commission. Senator Walsh wants to get the reason for the long drawn out and get nowhere attitudes of the two bodies.

Report had it both Colonel Donovan and Abram F. Myers, now chairman of the commission, were scheduled to be called for the executive session Saturday. Neither was present, however. If the resolution gets to hearings it is believed the Senator and Colonel Donovan and Senator Walsh will reach a climax. The recent encounter between the two on another question evidenced that Donovan was set to not nine matters.

Colonel Donovan thinks he is doing right well in his investigation of the picture business. Evidence along those lines is contained in another report elsewhere in this issue on the move against Dalaban & Katz and the distributors and the forthcoming like move against West Coast Theatres circuit and the same distributors.

Colonel Donovan's name is being discussed from many angles as the next Attorney General.

As to the actual possibilities of such an appointment, those who point out the lack of any particular political significance in the person of Donovan, he having been in the department for many years, are answered by the supposedly knowing insiders that it would be a good move on the part of the President-elect to appoint him.

Colonel Donovan is a Catholic and active in the work of his church.

Coughing Choruses

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

The recent flu epidemic here has created a number of coughing choruses around the picture studios. During registration of one scene, all the actors were signalled to hold back the coughs for as long as five minutes at a time. After each scene the actors would join in relieving themselves of suppressed coughing agony in chorus fashion.

Talk by Feet

M-G-M is conducting experiments at its sound studio in Harlem to determine the average number of words to a foot of sound track. Stenotype operators are taking down the words as spoken with the records then compared with the amount of film footage consumed.

Idea is to get a working rule so that after rehearsing a scene the director can figure how many feet the sound will consume in order to regulate the photography to approximate the amount of footage to match sound track.

Brin Gets Fischer Chain in Wisconsin

Milwaukee, Dec. 18.

In a deal involving about \$3,000, L. K. Brin, owner of the Majestic and Garden theatres here, will acquire the entire Fischer-Paramount chain of Wisconsin houses. By the acquisition Brin becomes owner of the second largest theatre string in the state.

Theatres included are three in Madison, two in Portage, one each in Oshkosh, Fond du Lac and Appleton. In addition to the eight already open, Brin has purchased the sites for five others planned by Fischer.

Brin is opening a new house (New Brin) at Menasha next week.

The Fischer-Paramount offices in Chicago will be moved to Milwaukee with Brin in charge.

Brin arrived here from Seattle two years ago, opening the Garden with the first Vitaphone program in the state, and later the Majestic. The Fischer houses are all new and wired.

Announcement of Brin securing the Fischer-Paramount chain came as a surprise after continued rumors that Fox would be the purchaser. Brin will take control Christmas day.

McCarthy Resting

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

J. J. McCarthy executive aide to Winnie Sheehan, has asked for and been granted a three months' leave of absence from the studio beginning Jan. 1.

McCarthy, who came here from the east in August, has been working around 18 hours a day and has found that his health demanded a respite. He will spend most of the three months at Palm Springs. When it is over he returns to the Fox lot.

FOX'S SILENT SPECIAL

"Sun Dodgers" to Have Intricate Camera Work—Cannon Directing.

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Fox is preparing to make a super-special and silent. Tentative title is "Sun Dodgers." It is a tragedy and was written and will be directed by Raymond Cannon. In photographing it Cannon will make use of camera innovations including a traveling shift and a twin dissolve. Latter wrinkle was developed by D. B. Clark, cameraman, and Cannon while working on a picture.

Al Directing Kidlet

Davey Lee, the kid in "The Singing Fool" is to be developed by Warner Brothers. Although his screen career is limited to "Singing Fool" and bits in two other pictures he is to be featured in a picture to be produced early in 1929 with Al Jolson gratifying a yen to direct on the same production.

Probable title will be "Sonny Boy."

CLAIMS AGENT HELD OUT \$1,500 ON HIM

Noah Beery After Felix Young
—Reported Held in
New York

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

On telegraphic warrant of indictment and a request of extradition Felix Young, producer of "The Marriage Bed" and former casting agent, was reported here as taken custody by New York police on charge of embezzlement of funds from Noah Beery, screen actor. Young was indicted for withholding \$1,500 from Beery through misrepresentation of a contract for employment.

Andrew Leysender Stone, picture producer, made an affidavit to District Attorney Bureau Fitz which was presented to the Grand Jury and alleged that he was arranging for the appearance of Noah Beery in a picture entitled "Two O'Clock in the Morning" between May 10 and 15, 1928, with Young who was member of firm Felix Young-Myron Selznick, Inc. He said that Young demanded \$1,000 a day for a three day engagement in the work that he subsequently purchased a cashier check from Beverly Hills Savings Bank for \$2,500 which was payable to Young as manager of Beery. That he took this check to the office of Young with his partner, P. C. Hoyle, and gave it to Young as full payment for Beery's services for two days in the production.

When the check was tendered, Stone swears that Young said "I will have to take the matter up with Beery, will you wait a minute." Young left the office, the affidavit continues; for a few minutes and returned and said, "Beery says it's okay," and took the check promising to have a contract in the usual form between producer and player signed by Beery. Stone states this contract was never received by his company but that Beery worked two days on the picture.

Beery's Side

Beery, in his deposition to the District Attorney, and after telling that he engaged Young as his authorized representative, says that he told Young to get him \$1,000 a day for the job but that the latter informed that all Leysender Productions could pay was \$1,000 for the two-day engagement and 10 per cent of the receipts of the picture when it was sold and released. Young also told Beery that Stanley Kent, a friend of the latter, was financially interested and that caused Beery to take the part under the conditions set forth by Young. Beery states that Young gave him \$1,000 for his work out of which he paid Young \$100, or 10 per cent commission for acting as agent. After this transaction, Beery changed agents to Grant Dolge and gave the latter authority as attorney-in-fact to get all his papers from Young.

Dolge, in his affidavit, swears that he got in touch with Young and that the latter came to his office. When asked for the contract that provided for the 10 per cent of the receipts of the picture Dolge says Young replied, "I'm pretty careless on details and didn't get the contract signed before Beery went to work, so guess I've lost that out for Beery."

On these affidavits Beery charged Young with criminally withholding the \$1,500 when the latter got for his services from Leysender Productions. Beery says that he will also bring civil suit against Young for \$5,000 which on figures he has obtained would be his 10 per cent of the gross receipts of the picture. He also made complaint to the State Industrial Board in which he charged that Young operated without a license and was not entitled to the commissions he collected and requested that the Board take criminal measures to see that these moneys were returned to Beery.

No action was taken against Myron Selznick in the matter as it was ascertained that Selznick, who went into business with Young after the latter started, was assured by Young that they had a state license to operate. Latter sold his interest in the business to Selznick on Oct. 1, at which time he began production on "The Marriage Bed" which closed Dec. 8 in San Francisco.

Young was in New York to arrange with Sam Harris for the production of "The Marriage Bed" at the time of his reported arrest.

Fox Aiming at Income of 10 Millions Annually from Movietone Sound News

Hoot's Idea

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Hoot Gibson voluntarily had his car impounded when he decided, early one morning last week, that he was too sick to drive it.

Police were surprised when Gibson drove up in the early hours and asked them to impound the machine. "I don't feel physically able to drive the thing," he said. "Impound it until I feel better."

Cops took the car over.

Pomeroy Resigns from Paramount on Coast

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Paramount has accepted the resignation of Roy J. Pomeroy, its chief sound engineer, although his contract does not expire until June, 1929.

Pomeroy has been with Paramount for six years, conducting experiments mostly. He was finally placed in complete charge of sound and made a director.

The trouble is understood to hinge upon questions of jurisdiction, with Paramount denying Pomeroy's claim to ezaristic supervision over all sound stages.

Pomeroy, upon his return from New York where he went to attend the opening of "Interference," which he directed, was incensed over the fact that Albert Desart and Richard Johnson had been given authority over sound in his absence.

Pomeroy chose to interpret this as undermining his position and resigned.

Weather Forecast

Washington, Dec. 18.

Weather Bureau has furnished Variety with the following outlook beginning tomorrow (19):

Light rain or snow in North Atlantic states Wednesday; followed by fair and colder weather Wednesday night west of Pittsburgh, and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (22), probably fair with slightly rising temperature.

\$13,400 FOR WEDDING FILM

Bernadotte-Manville Principals Buy 4-Reel Prints From Joe Seiden

Joe Seiden, who conducts a film supply business and makes industrial, got the exclusive on the recent Count Bernadotte-Manville wedding at Pleasantville, N. Y. Besides the usual stipend from the newscasts Seiden sold the first complete print (four reels) to the head Manville for \$5,000.

A second print to another member of the Manville clan brought \$4,000 and Count Bernadotte bought a print for himself at \$3,500. Total was \$13,400 and probably a record price for a film of a wedding. Seiden's enhanced the value of the reels by having sent a cameraman to Halifax to oard the ship bringing the royal guests from Sweden to New York.

Dolores' Seclusion

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Owing to the death of Jamie Del Rio, husband of Dolores Del Rio, the latter may retire from the screen for at least three months.

In this event "Evangeline," planned as Miss Del Rio's next picture, will be held up until spring.

GIRLS IN "GLORY" SEQUEL

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Tom Barry is writing a sequel to "What Price Glory" for Fox. It will have dialog and according to that the girls will have to play it.

Rose Davies Returns

Rose Davies-Van Clave returned to New York Monday, after spending several months in Paris.

William Fox is said to have set a goal of \$10,000,000 yearly, as the gross income for Fox's Movietone (sound) News. At present the Fox sound news gross is around \$3,000,000, annually, or at the rate of \$60,000 weekly.

Fox for the Movietone News has been reported insisting upon a five-year contract at a uniform rate, said to be around \$100 weekly throughout the period. In this Fox is reported quite successful.

Fox, for the large quota set, must foresee wiring of 3,000 houses or more. At present there is a little short of 1,000 wired theatres over here, with the majority using Fox's Movietone.

So far the single competing sound news to Fox is Pathe's (R. C. F. Photophone sound). Pathe so far has issued three sound news reels, and at present is issuing every other week. Up to date Pathe has not placed its sound news in any Broadway house available, owing to inability to agree upon terms, it is said.

Pathe is reported holding out for its price and conditions. The Pathe news is circulating outside of New York.

M. P. Club Dines Lichtman on 1st Ann.

Motion Picture Club gave its founder and president, Al Lichtman, a dinner in the club's restaurant Monday night to honor him and to observe its first birthday. Over 200 were present.

That Lichtman gave Balaban and Katz its greatest break, when 10 years ago he sold them Paramount product, was Sam Katz's tribute to the club's president. Nathan Burkan spoke and Harry Reichenbach, wearing the only mated soup and fish, drew the laugh of the night when he said that if they had scarfed King Tut's tomb more thoroughly they would have found one of L. J. Selznick's checks dated 4,000 years ago.

Billy Brandt was chairman and following speechmaking Lichtman was presented with a silver service on behalf of the club.

Enjoin Musicians in New London Labor Fuss

Bridgeport, Conn., Dec. 18.

Theatre owners of New London have secured an injunction restraining the musicians' union from interfering with the sound policies now being installed.

A fight between exhibitors and musicians over the talking picture question is tying up the New London works.

"Promising" Director Goes To Trial in U. S. Court

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 18.

Harry Bennett Farr Rell, who proposed to take Syracuse amateurs and transform them into Hollywood stars, must stand trial in United States District Court next month for conspiracy and use of the mails to defraud.

Arrested by Syracuse police, as a result of a joint investigation by the Better Business Bureau and the city authorities, Farr Rell was indicted by the Federal Grand Jury on the double charge. Arraigned before United States Commissioner W. R. Rasey he pleaded not guilty, waived examination and was released on \$3,000 bail for trial.

Police descended on Farr Rell's Studio while the class was in session.

McCarey Leaving Roach

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Leo McCarey, supervising director Roach studio, is resigning, effective Dec. 29, the date of studio shutdown. He has been with the studio six years.

Ray Coffin, Roach publicly chief for three years, resigned Dec. 15. Coffin has announced future affiliations.

WHO'S THE BOSS OF FILMS?

Bad Conditions with 200 Theatres Get Films Free or at Lowered Cost

More than 200 theatres in every part of the country during the past year have been kept going with pictures at half rental, in most cases without charge at all, in most cases by the Hays organization. It is said, by the Film Boards of Trade, directed from New York, have been ordered to report needy cases to headquarters, conduct full investigation in the cases of exhibitors claiming poor business, and keep those theatres open while they could operate if given film without cost or at reduced cost.

Unparalleled business depression, overcasting and chain opposition, affecting picture houses especially during the past 18 months, have resulted in the forced closing of more houses than in any other season on record for several years.

During the past year theatres affected by local strikes, floods, factory shutdowns, government legislation and taxation have been receiving pictures at little or no cost through the Film Boards of Trade in an effort to keep open until business conditions change.

It is claimed that a group of theatres in Connecticut, unable to operate because of proposed government taxation which would eliminate any possibilities of profit, are being supplied with pictures free until such time as the legislation is settled.

U's 50-50 Policy

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Universal's present proportion plan for dialog on its average feature is 50-50. Exceptions are "Give and Take," with George Sidney and Jean Herscholt, which will go out 80 per cent dialog, and "Broadway," Paul Whiteman's "King of Jazz" and "Minstrel Show." These will practically be all talkers.

Company's summation is that the fan is bound to miss the action on which screen entertainment is based, and will not permanently accept the slowed-up movement that prevails with dialog unless the latter be of exceptional character.

Studio believes devoting half the footage to dialog and selected situations will solve the problem.

SONGS AND TALK BY SWANSON IN NEW FILM

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. A smart idea is credited Jos. P. Kennedy in the Gloria Swanson new picture, directed by Edwin Carewe. It is to place dialog and songs by Miss Swanson in the final two reels.

The picture has been made thus far as silent. That leaves it for the remaining two reels to complete the story. These two reels will be finished as a talker and silent, placing but comparatively small expense on Pathe for the double portion while leaving the original story for both angles, and also protecting the film for the foreign trade. It is said the Swanson talker will represent \$60,000 when ready to release.

It has not been common knowledge Miss Swanson can sing. This is likely depended upon as added attraction for novelty and the curious.

Whiteman's Carnegie Scene for His U Talker

Paul Whiteman is slipping Universal a large chunk of scene-building, saving change at Carnegie Lyceum, New York, Sunday evening, Dec. 22. Whiteman will play a return concert that evening, to a high scale. It will be camouflaged by Universal, with the crowds going in, the audience, Whiteman's band on the stage, his music, and the audience departing.

This will all become a part of Universal talking full length picture Whiteman is under contract to make at Universal City. Otherwise Universal would have had to build a set out there, with the employment of extras for the audience.

The Dec. 22 concert by Whiteman is a benefit for the Northwoods Sanatorium at Saratoga, N. Y. The grandstand promised Dr. Mayer, of the Sanatorium, he would furnish the institution a benefit. Orchestra seats are scaled at \$10 per, with boxes \$150 each.

Starring Barry Norton

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Fox will promote Barry Norton to stardom next season. His first in lights will be "The Command to Love."

IS IT WILL HAYS OR WEST. ELEG.?

Theatre Owners' Chamber of Commerce Meeting in New York Thursday to Find Out—Most Important Matter, Interchangeability Again

EVERY ONE INVITED

To determine whether Will Hays or Western Electric is the head of the film industry is the phrase a New York exhibitor leader describes the purpose of a meeting of the Theatre Owners Chamber of Commerce in the Astor tomorrow (Thursday).

Unless interchangeability and the what-nots of talker puzzles be solved for the indie theatre owner, then the organization takes the attitude that arbitration boards, which specialize in silent product, are rendered useless by being unable to adjudicate talker problems.

To facilitate an understandable answer on how big producers regard indie talkers and whether if indie men book them they will be able to get big product in sound is what the TOCC will try to obtain in black and white. To make it worth while, they have invited the studios and all concerned with talkers, legitimate and otherwise, to put in an appearance and enter into a free-for-all debate.

Leo Brecher, the first indie exhibit in Manhattan to install and operate an indie talker, is expected to start off the session with an oration on how his house, the Lafayette, is now silent because first National refused to supply him with Western Electric for Biophone equipment.

But Brecher, who has done considerable leading in the past year, observes before the session: "It gets tiresome, being the guy who makes the test case."

Want to Know

There is one thing that Brecher and other members of the TOCC will do, it comes officially, and that is to thumb down all indie talkers after the meeting if it comes out on the record that interchangeability really is a myth.

Brecher, about whom Bristolphone circulated reports several months as to being on the dotted line for one of its installations in his Olympia, and who said the other day that he had not even heard Bristolphone, let alone the contract, says:

"I signed for Biophone only for my Lafayette. I am not going to do any more signing until I find whether I can get product. The Lafayette is silent this week."

At the office of the TOCC it was said that a large number of local indies have signed for miscellaneous equipment which has not conformity of contract and which gives them no chance of delving into the merits of patents. There is a guarantee in most of these contracts protecting the licensee against loss by litigation.

This, in the estimation of a TOCC leader, means nothing until the financial status of the companies promoting them is ascertained.

Zukor's Good Time

On Coast—Working

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Adolph Zukor is reported to be "having the time of his life" during his six weeks' stay on the west coast. He is at his desk at Paramount, and is delving into studio routine, resuming threads he picked up when he first began producing 16 years ago.

He sits in on story conferences and joint executives in inspecting the daily rushes among other things.

Louis Mayer Leaving M-G-M In March, With Jack Gilbert Remaining as Its Film Star

Cantor Above Film

At the Criterion, New York, where Paramount's talker, "Interference," is playing at the \$2 scale, is a blazing large sign facing Broadway and taking up the entire front of the building above the street level. It bills the picture and its cost.

Above the large sign in bright red letters is another, just saying:

"Added Attraction: EDDIE CANTOR."

It doesn't indicate the Eddie Cantor downstairs is in a cap. Eddie in person is whooping it up nightly for Zigzag at the Amsterdam, not so far removed from the Criterion.

Great for Eddie and great ad for him.

Warners Cut from 100% To 75% on Dialog

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Warner Brothers' pioneers in the full length talking feature field, will make no more 100 per cent talkers. The several 100 per centers already completed are awaiting release. In the future Warner features will include no more than about 75 per cent talk.

It is claimed past experience has shown the all-talking films slow down action to a great extent and necessitate confining the big share of the picture to close-ups of two players, causing audiences to tire. Pictures comprising half dialog and half silent action have been far superior, it is said. "The Singing Fool" is offered as an example.

Telephotoed Voice

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. M-G-M established a precedent in transmitting sound track of William Haines' voice by telephoto from Culver City to New York. Voice was telephotoed onto the sound film in the east and inserted in "Alias Jimmy Valentine" at the Astor.

Auto Sales Talker

Cleveland, Dec. 13. Specially made talkers for conventions were introduced here at a recent sales and industrial convention of automobile dealers.

Three Graham brothers, of the Graham - Paige Corp., addressed auto representatives by screen instead of in person. Lloyd Atwill spoke as a prolog, followed by scenes of medieval knightdom, illustrating the principles upon which the Graham-Paige organization is based.

Otterson's Talk Tour

J. E. Otterson, president of Electrical Research Products, subsidiary of Western Electric, is going in heavily for speeches on talking pictures before civic bodies. His latest is slated for the Chicago Chamber of Commerce, Dec. 19.

Otterson is also prepared to present samples of talking discs manufactured by W. E. Research during the week.

IN AFTER 6TH WEEK

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. The six week shooting completed on "N. T. Harold" (next picture, Joe Aronson) has been borrowed from Paramount by...

Louis B. Mayer will retire as the producing head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (Loew's) around March 1 next. This much appears to be set, from sources in New York, but with Mayer at the M-G-M Hollywood studios, no one seems to be in possession of his future intentions.

The same report says that Jack Gilbert will remain with M-G-M as its leading male star. The Gilbert report is important in view of the various unspoken stories of Gilbert leaving M-G-M. It was almost unanimously stated without contradiction that Gilbert intended to align with United Artists.

The two reports coming out co-jointly suggests that with Mayer out of M-G-M, a combine might be formed, with Gilbert's retention, between Loew's M-G-M and United Artists. In that event, it would not be improbable that Joseph M. Schenck (ex-L. A.) would head the joined producing firms, with Irving Thalberg in general production charge. Joe Schenck is a brother of Nicholas Schenck, president of Loew's.

Louis Mayer has accumulated much wealth. It is said that Mayer, in a position to retire from picture work, is first considering his health, with a hint that he may have political aspirations. He is on a very friendly footing with Herbert Hoover. They have been friends since boyhood. It was Mayer who started the agitation early in the campaign over his stand for Hoover. Mayer Jimmy Walker gave it great impetus when on the coast, through referring to Mayer without naming him, as seeking to pledge the film industry to Hoover. Mayer denied a pledge for anyone but himself. Mayer asserted that as a citizen he was privileged in his political views and expressions.

Stand Started Something

Mayer's position on the presidential campaigns did not entirely please Nick Schenck, from under-standing, although Joe Schenck is the Californian vice-chairman of the Republican National Committee. It was never reported whether Nick Schenck and Mayer went to the mat on the Hoover question, but it is believed Mayer's opinion on persons in the hierarchy in action and which prevailed. A short time afterward Schenck donated \$25,000 toward the Al Smith campaign fund.

Thalberg has been looked upon as a genius in picture production since early in the formation of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Mayer brought Thalberg toward him a long while. Thalberg was thought to be under a personal contract with Mayer.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer was the combination of the former Metro picture organization, later going in a merger with the Goldwyn Company (Sama Goldwyn and Joe Fox), and later taking in the Louis B. Mayer film producing firm. Mayer at the head of M-G-M rapidly sent it to the front, where it has since remained. As the picture producing subsidiary of Loew's, Inc., M-G-M has been of much assistance and power to that organization.

Gilbert's Terms

Gilbert's renewal contract with M-G-M is reported at six pictures, two yearly, with Gilbert to receive \$250,000 per picture. In addition it is said Gilbert is to receive a certain amount in the matter of every picture and cost, although the exact amount of full salary is not at this moment.

Mayer is during the week, notwithstanding his development in the past year, William Fox is doing better than any other of Loew's. The best picture of the year, according to...

M-G Off Fancy Figures For Writers—\$750 Top

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. M-G-M will henceforth sign writers by the picture rather than to long term contracts. Company is abandoning its former policy of tying up writers at fancy figures which range up to \$1,500 weekly.

Future top figure for contract writers will be around \$750 weekly.

Dupont's New Raw Stock

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Dupont has issued to studios here its new sound recording raw stock. Rated by existing standards it is neither negative nor positive, although after exposure and development it is handled exactly as present negative in that its recorded sound track is transferred to another film.

The result was attained by du Pont in a series of experiments based on specifications drafted by the Bell Telephone Laboratories. It is the ideal film to photograph sound and secure best all around results.

An official of the du Pont company described the new raw stock as having "an exceptional long line of gradations, will not develop above gamma of 1, and is the finest grained stock for motion picture photography yet made."

\$500,000 Stories Tied Up

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. From accounts the talkers have tied up over \$500,000 in silent story material at Paramount's lot.

How long this mass of scripts will be frozen can not be foretold. When Adolph Zukor came out here recently, he is said to have issued orders that none but dialog or sound pictures be made.

"B'WAY MELODY" ROAD SHOW

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. "The Broadway Melody" was being set by M-G-M for road showing. The original recording, under direction of Harry Beaumont, has been completed. The picture will be ready for release by Jan. 15, following the start of record to wax.

Gaumont's P. C. T. Buy May Have Effect Upon Am. Trade in Gt. Britain

London, Dec. 18. Gaumont-British Corp. closed with the Standard Film Company Thursday for control of Provincial Cinematograph Theatres and will pay \$13 a share for the stock. John Maxwell, of British International, offered \$12.50 a share against Gaumont's original bid of \$12, but upon learning of Maxwell's offer, Gaumont went to \$13 and consummated the deal.

Regarding the two bidders for P. C. T. a survey shows that the amalgamation gives British Gaumont around 300 theatres and Maxwell, with his 55, is still buying. First rumors of this deal hit the street Nov. 26 with much secrecy guarding the movement. The merger involves an issued capital of \$74,000,000 by Gaumont assuming the allied interests of P. C. T.

Its effect upon independent exhibitors will be to revive the scheme for a national booking combine which, if getting over, may lead to a tie-up with Maxwell's producing and distributing interests. That this combine will have a direct and not too optimistic bearing upon American pictures is sure. It will certainly loosen the Yankee grip on the picture field here, Gaumont now having five key West End houses, with only the Plaza (Par), Empire (M-G) and New Regal (Abrams) against it as one influence.

It is expected that with the sale of P. C. T., both Lord Ashfield and Lord Beaverbrook, who put this organization in the running with the aid of W. H. Evans, will voluntarily retire from the picture business. Gaumont is desirous of having Evans remain active.

Frank Adams, former managing director of PCT, has issued a four-page circular to all Provincial Cinematograph Theatres stockholders protesting against the statement by Lord Ashfield at a meeting that the company was in a bad way when Adams was replaced by Will Evans. This took place when the Ashfield and Beaverbrook money came into the firm.

Circular is full of inaccurate figures and dates, Adams even getting the date of his own retirement wrong by a year. Pamphlet is evidently designed to agitate the stockholders. The agreement between the Gaumont-British deal, for PCT control, is going through.

Evans, head of PCT, will probably stay on when this company goes Gaumont. At the present time it looks as if he will take charge of the film bookings for the combined circuits.

Japan's Films 75% Native; House as U. S. Model

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Japan's current film menu is composed 75 per cent. of native product. This is the assertion of Majime Masuda, scenario editor of the Japan Cinematograph Co., Tokio, now in Hollywood. Masuda stated his company is now building a big theatre in Tokio, in which the American system of stage presentations will be used. One of his duties while here is to study stage prologs.

No French Change

Paris, Dec. 18. Inside tip here is that the French quota and restriction council, slated to meet any day now, will not change its present conditions. If any modifications are made, informants say, they will be slight.

SALES TALK ON FILM

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Fox studios made a Movietone reel of all their featured players delivering a sales message to be used by Walter M. Hutchinson when he returns to Europe. Hutchinson is the director of sales for Fox in England and appeared in the film with the players to give their sales talk that personal touch.

Sam Smith Sails

London, Dec. 18. Sam Smith, head of British Lion, Edgar Wallace's film producing company, is sailing on the Mauretania today (Tuesday) for New York.

Australia and Wire; Capitol, Sydney, 1st

Sydney, Nov. 10. Capitol here will be wired during January, according to Hoyt's. It will be the first wired house in Australia. Country is immensely interested in accounts from America and England about the new dialog film development. Several talking pictures are now in censor's office awaiting release dates.

M. P. Section in Dept. Recommended for Division

Washington, Dec. 18. Appropriations Committee of the House will recommend that the Moving Picture Section in the Department of Commerce be advanced to the dignity of a Division. This is a significant recognition of the film industry by Congress.

M-G-M's Indian Exchange

M-G-M is establishing its own exchanges in Bombay and Calcutta, India, with Frank V. Chamberlain, general sales manager for the office, headquarters at Shanghai, in charge.

Formerly the Madan interests handled the M-G-M product for India. Madan besides owning its own theatres has a multitude of mercantile interests, being a general trading corporation with the theatres and show business a side line. In many of the theatres in India no tickets are used making it impossible to play a picture on percentage.

Spain's 2,062 Film Houses; 30 Over 2,000 Capacity

Washington, Dec. 18. Spain now has approximately 2,062 picture theatres, with a total seating capacity of 1,468,750, says the U. S. Department of Commerce. Average house runs from 750 to 2,000 seats, with but 30 houses going over the 2,000 mark.

Fred Sumpter Dead

London, Dec. 18. Fred Sumpter, who does exploitation for Universal on this side, died yesterday (Monday) in the General Hospital at Loughborough. Sumpter's death was due to injuries received in an automobile accident.

Austria Reduces Visas

Paris, Dec. 18. Austria has just passed a new film quota system which allows as many prints of a picture as desired to enter the country on one visa. Formerly, every print after the third one had to have separate visas.

RILED ON CENSORED FILM

Paris, Dec. 18. Censorship of Feyder's "Nouveaux Messieurs" picture, which they claim ridicules French congressmen, has caused a furore among local producers. At a preview the film was acclaimed as a clever comedy with malice toward none.

RUSSIA LENDS HER EAR

Moscow, Dec. 4. At a recent meeting of the film committee of the Soviet government, it was voted to investigate dialog and sound with a view to applying these new developments to Russian films. Engineers were commissioned to gather data for the government.

"Skin Deep" With Sound

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Warners have purchased "Skin Deep," crook story, from the Thomas Ince estate and will star Monte Blue in the sound production. Silent version was made several years ago with Milton Sills in the lead.

Chatter in Nice

By FRANK SCULLY

Nice, Dec. 8. The Talmadges-Norma, Constance and mother are going to spend Christmas over here. If Constance gets through with her picture here by next week, the party will be pulled in St. Moritz; if not, in Paris.

Norma just royced into Nice from Italy and North Africa, where she and Gil Hovey had been touring in her car. They all expect to pack back to Hollywood late in January.

This latter may be bad news to the divorce-diggers. Nothing sure on the Constance Talmadge-Townsend Letcher marriage. Mother says she doesn't think it likely but adds, "We never know what our children are going to do, do we?"

Letcher is owner of the Boston Store in Chicago, which is, they say, a sort of Gimco of the Loop.

These Hollywood marriages certainly can cover a lot of territory. Scribes down here cursing plenty at being asked to find Michael Strange during the tender days of the then impending Barrymore-Costello.

They finally found Miss Strange at Gourdon, about 50 miles from here, far in the hills, the most inaccessible, dying hill-town you ever saw.

The boys found the second Mrs. Barrymore, and she rewarded them with the info. She said Jack was a free man and eligible to marry, the divorce decree having been made final six days before, somewhere in the rattle-snake areas of upper New York.

Rex Ingram has fired his brother as a press agent of sorts. Brother is Frank Hitchcock, who was in the British Army, but broke down in health. He banded around Switzerland and Nice for several years. Unfortunately, he picked a man to pay for some pictures, and that produced about the last laugh. Scribe, representing 1,300 papers, said he wouldn't write even an obit on the whole Ingram family after that.

So, with one thing and another, nepotism got it on the chin and Brother Frank got the boot. Back to the army, if he can slip by the croakers.

Gerald Fielding, born in India, who says he has a five-year contract with Ingram, is playing in "L'Evadee" ("The Girl Who Escaped"), which Henri Mennessier is making as a pot-boiler between Ingram production and the new opposite Constance Talmadge in "Venus"; Marcelle Albain and Maurice de Canonge are also in the cast.

Fielding no doubt will be groomed to play opposite Alice Terry if Ivan Petrovitch, the Serb, pulls out.

Rene Hervil is in Nice on exterior of "Rouge et Noir" for Paramount, with Louise La Grange starring. Mile. La Grange was recently voted the queen of the French flicker colony. Not so pretty but awful sweet.

"Introspection," for British Projecto Films, with Annie Grey and Percy Marmont, is doing its outdoor stuff at Menton, few miles down the track. "Feydal Boet," known around here, is Director Pogwell's foghorn.

Monty Banks and Harry Lachman, his director, are due here about Christmas for snow exteriors at Peira Cava, in the hills above Nice. Pair put over a knockout for British International in "Week End Wives" that Banks was yanked from directing two Danish dramas and Lachman from a serious drama to turn out another box office social comedy between them.

"Tarakanova" and "The Secret of Delia" are down for production at Franco Films as soon as Mercanton gets out of the way with his "Venus." This should be in two weeks.

FRED SCHADER ON NEWS

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Freddie Schader is leaving for New York this week, to go on the staff of the Motion Picture News there.

Schader left Variety in New York to come out here with Harold B. Franklin, as Franklin's publicity chief for West Coast Theatres. Later, and until recently he was with Winnie Sheehan as a personal representative at the Fox lot.

Pola's New Role

Paris, Dec. 18. Gaston Ravel has made arrangements for Pola Negri to star in a screen version of Dumas' "The Queen's Necklace," playing the role of the Countess.

German Film Rules In Effect Next July

Washington, Dec. 18. New German film regulations effective July 1, 1929, have been called to the Department of Commerce as follows:

Permits are to be allocated with the number to be determined from year to year.

German renters will automatically be allotted a specific number if they have maintained independent rental organization during continuing year. Balance of permits will remain at the disposal of Federal Commissioner.

Allocation of permits among renters entitled thereto will be made in proportion to number of German feature films censored during the two preceding calendar years and entitled to compensation of which they were original distributors.

By German films are meant films for which at least studio photography was done in Germany.

Films entitled to compensation are those whose length is not less than 1,500 meters and in the production of which at least a specified number of studio days were required. These films must have been publicly exhibited in usual manner by firm applying for permits. Decision in doubtful cases is left to the Federal Commissioner.

Firms which were not original renters of any films entitled to compensation or of only one such film in the preceding year will not be taken into account.

Actual issuance of permits will take place only after allocation of permits has been completed on basis of data presented by German renters, but in no case before Aug. 1, 1929. No advance issue will be made.

Rights to permits and permits themselves are not transferable. Only applying firm may release films issued on basis thereof.

Shorts For foreign comedies and cartoons not exceeding 500 meters in length and for newsreels and industrial film permits for censorship of foreign educational and cultural films will only be issued when renters applying therefor show by contract or otherwise that for every foreign film of such character they themselves have distributed two new and unreleased German films of like character and of about the same length censored within the contingent year.

The regulations to put this into effect will be drawn up by the Federal Commissioner year to year in consultation with the film industry. On the basis of the foregoing the number of permits for contingent year July 1, 1929 to June 30, 1930, is set at 210.

Of this number 160 permits will be issued to qualified renters. Remaining 50 at disposal of Commissioner and will be issued to German firms giving evidence that they have sold German films abroad and that these films have received adequate public exhibition there.

Renters have to Jan. 31, 1929, to put in claims for permits and to bring in lists to support those claims.

Americans Too Busy

Paris, Dec. 18. Looked upon here as the death knell of American pictures abroad, unless the home government takes some action, is the German film quota decree handed down last Friday (Dec. 14). Substance of the law is that 210 licenses, 50 less than were allowed last year, shall be granted to foreign distributors for next year's supply.

Those who went to Berlin to study the decree say that U. S. officials were apparently taking no interest in it for the measure went through without even a mention of the States. The question now arises as to whether or not the act is not contrary to the international law. It is certain there are no like measures levied against any other commodity.

Film men on this side want to know why the American government hasn't at least investigated the legality of the quota and the idea here is that the proper procedure would be for the American government to make a formal demand upon the Department of Commerce for its interpretation of the restrictions. Discrimination is so evident that the Department would have to ask for an explanation and as soon as the ball started rolling it would gain so much momentum that it

270 of 542 Films on French Screens U. S. Made

Washington, Dec. 18. Restrictions notwithstanding, Geo. Canty, trade commissioner, reports that approximately one-half of the features shown on French screens during 1927-28 were American-produced films.

Unofficial statistics forwarded by Canty to the Department of Commerce disclose that of 542 films presented, 270 were made in the U. S., German films numbered 118, just eight more than those made in France. British pictures are finding some little market, but heretofore there has been practically no demand.

Canty adds, however, that the American share is decreasing. This is an indirect affect of the French film decree on the American independents, whose sales to French distributors started to drop Jan. 1, 1928. It is the first intimation from Canty that the independents are bearing the brunt of the French cut in sales.

Raw Stock Exports Jump; Positive Off 11,000,000 Ft.

Washington, Dec. 18. With 10 months of the year out, year out of the way, export figures maintained by the Department of Commerce on motion pictures (positives) continue to disclose a decided drop.

At end of October, 1927, the total positive footage was recorded at 187,000,000 feet. Later this figure fell to 176,000,000. Eleven million feet less.

Foreign producers are utilizing more raw stock, however. Comparative figures disclose an increase in this respect of 19,000,000 feet.

Censors Stand Pat

Paris, Dec. 18. French censors were prevailed upon to make a re-examination of Feyder's picture "Nouveaux Messieurs" which they had previously condemned.

After the second viewing they still maintained their first position and their veto stands despite the loud protests of trade and trade press.

AUSTRALIA'S 12 1/2%

Washington, Dec. 18. Agreement between the New South Wales Government and the Motion Picture Distributors' Association has been reached placing 12 1/2 per cent of gross sales as that income subject to tax, reports C. F. Baldwin, assistant trade commissioner, Sydney, to the Department of Commerce.

Long drawn out litigation preceded this agreement, with even now some of the details as to the agreement being voted into law.

Dita Parlo Goes Home

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Dita Parlo, Ufa actress loaned to Paramount last summer for one picture, has started for home without being cast.

Engagement may be executed next summer, when the player will probably return here.

Kahn With Fox's Foreign

Henry W. Kahn, representative for M-G-M for 14 years, has been engaged by Clayton Sheehan for the Fox foreign department.

He will take charge of the territory including Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland.

British Film on Coast

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Paramount has loaned Mary Brian to British and Dominion Film for the lone femme role in "Fox." Marshall Neilan will direct at the Met studio here.

wouldn't be a great surprise to see the forced removal of all foreign quotas.

First effect of this German decree will be to drive American distributors out of business. It also means the return to the old system whereby foreign films are sold to German middlemen, and the final result is that American pictures will be crowded into the discard by the more powerful and wealthy producers over here.

Practically all European film men believe that the Americans are so busy at home making talkers that they have forgotten about the rest of the world.

MYERS HEADING THE INDIES

Tip Bureau's Promotion of Pathe's Stocks' Rise Affecting Kennedy

Boston, Dec. 18. It is believed the unexplainable rise in Pathe stocks late in November was mostly due to the letters and wires sent out from here by a stock tipping bureau called the Stock Exchange Telegraph Advisory Service of 141 Milk street, this city. It is said that simultaneously other offices, unknown if connected with the same concern, sent similar messages from Los Angeles and Chicago.

The local Advisory Service appeared to have a complete list of all Pathe stockholders. They were written to Nov. 17 with attention called to Pathe Exchange (common), with a reply postcard enclosed for more detailed information. The letter stated the purpose of the service in stock information and mentioned its yearly rate for information is \$150. No names of individuals appear upon its letter-heads or printed prospectus.

Nov. 23 a night wire was sent by the same concern, to Pathe stockholders who had not replied to the letter. The wire stated that those who answered the letter promptly had placed orders for Pathe Exchange at around 6 and that "the stock today (Nov. 24) closed around 12."

The same wire predicted that Pathe Exchange would go to 15 or over, adding: "Due to important information. Place orders at once advising us of quantity so we can caution you as to liquidation."

It was around that time or shortly after that Pathe Exchange shot up to 15 and Pathe A (preferred) went to around 28.

Pathe's Future
Pathe Exchange yesterday closed at around 9 and Pathe A at around 23. The rise in Pathe stocks has been the mystery of the amusement issues of the past month. There has been no basis for the hop, without decided change in Pathe's operation, while the rumor of a possible coalition of Pathe with Radio Company of America or Radio-Keith-Orpheum was not considered sufficiently well founded to be reported.

This phase of stock manipulation and it inspired giving another mysterious look, is said to affect Joseph P. Kennedy in his present position as general director of Pathe. Under Kennedy's operation of Pathe, the concern has been brought out of the red and into the black, with the profit side naturally held to a narrow margin of net during Kennedy's eight months of operation, through the heavy monthly losses that was struggling under when Kennedy assumed charge.

With Pathe the only show interest remaining under Kennedy's charge, and he having effected deals or mergers with the other show companies he has been associated with that gave a large return to all of their stockholders, Kennedy is reported as considering leaving Pathe in preference to remaining under the unwarranted quotation of the Pathe stocks at present. These prices were made during Kennedy's absence in California. It is said he is averse to becoming responsible for the future of Pathe with its probable many additional stockholders and the large volume in sales of Pathe for the past month would suggest. Kennedy had nothing to say when approached on the report of his eventual departure from Pathe. Kennedy's contract with Pathe was for a year, and has four months to run.

CHATTERER'S OWN IDEA

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Ruth Bieri, chatter writer, has sent letters to all studio and freelance press agents telling them she doesn't want any Christmas gifts or cards.

Now Jewelry

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Pathe has issued a new prohibition for actors to observe on its sound stages. Jewelry which jangles to the slightest degree, particularly bracelets, is forbidden.

HARRY WARNER LAYING OFF UNTIL NEW YEAR'S

Looks Like a Warner Central Booking Office for Films and Acts

"I did enough for one year. Let the Lord take care of what is to come to us until after the first of the year."

So says H. M. Warner when pressed for details regarding the establishment of a booking office for Warner theatre interests.

The same reply goes for the reported brothers' negotiations for about 60 theatres in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Maryland, with this augmentation from the Warner chief:

"There is a lot of talk now. I say this for once and all that I am not interested in anything until after the first of the year."

Other Warner sources admitted that a central medium for booking Warner and First National pictures, vaude acts and other phases of entertainment is being considered but nowhere in such circles could a declaration be obtained that plans in this direction are set for immediate execution. Indications around the Warner plant, however, are that such a bureau will be functioning before the middle of January.

Other N. Y. Changes
Without ballyhoo a number of important changes, in addition to those recounted elsewhere, are being made in the Warner home office to fill the gaps made by men assigned to First National and other subsidiaries.

One of these is the establishment of an office for Spyros Skouras in the Warner headquarters reserved for chief executives of the company. Skouras will move in after the first of the year. He will then actively function as head of the theatre interests.

Another change is relieving Sam Morris of sales responsibilities and sorting the title of sales head to C. C. Ezell, former southern division manager for the Warners. Ezell now occupies the office used by Herman Starr, prior to his ascendancy to the leadership of F. N. Morris is now titled general manager. In keeping with the scheme Morris' power will extend to all subsidiaries.

F. N.'S N. Y. EXCH. MOVING

Columbia Following Into 729 7th Ave.—F. N. to Be in W. B. Annex

With the breaking of ground for the building which will adjoin and duplicate the Warner home office on 44th street, First National exchanges are already moving from their present quarters, 729 Seventh avenue, to the FN home office. The floor they have occupied will be taken over by Columbia Pictures the first of the year, the independent moving from 1600 Broadway.

First National's home offices on Madison avenue, will not be abandoned until completion of the Warner annex, which will house all subsidiary interests. Work is not expected to be finished until late in the spring.

FULL POWER IN ALLIED STATES

Contracts as President and General Counsel for Three Years—First Year's Salary of \$25,000 Deposited in Advance—Retiring from Official Life

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Washington, Dec. 18. Federal Trade Commissioner Abram F. Myers accepted the offer of the independent exhibitors at the Hotel Stevens in Chicago yesterday. He will head an entirely new organization, Allied States Association of Motion Picture Exhibitors.

Myers has been considering the exhibitors' offer for several weeks. It was practically a foregone conclusion he would accept—if they could raise the money to guarantee his contract.

Word of his becoming the head of the independent group means \$25,000 in cash to cover his first year's salary has been deposited by pledged collateral have been put up to cover all expenses of the organization for the first year. These notes are with the individuals—not the companies they head.

Though his contract is for a period of three years with \$35,000 for the second and \$45,000 for the third, Myers has asked no cash protection beyond the first year.

New president and general counsel, as his title is officially recorded, Myers himself drew up, creates a central of sales bureau will be. Other offices are open to voting. Changes may be made in the constitution, or the by-laws, but there isn't a chance to cut his power while Myers' hands in the slightest manner.

Constitution and by-laws are a part of his contract. At the time of Myers' acceptance the following States had formally voted affiliation: Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Texas, Maryland and New Jersey. Several other States have withheld formal affiliation until Myers' acceptance. This is like—

(Continued on page 20)

Burbank's \$25,000 Fire

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Fire, caused by an explosion in the heating plant of First National's studios at Burbank, razed and completely demolished the second floor of a structure containing the still department, portrait gallery, offices and laboratory. Blaze occurred in the morning, when a number of picture units were working on nearby stages, and they assisted the studio fire department in keeping the flames from spreading. Loss is estimated at \$25,000.

H.S. Brown on Hays' Board

Joseph P. Kennedy has resigned as a member of the board of directors of the Motion Picture Producers' and Distributors' Association (M.P.D.A.), according to reports, and Hiram S. Brown, head of Radio-Keith-Orpheum, was elected to the board. Major F. L. Hieron, head of the foreign department for Hays, is now treasurer of the organization, succeeding Homer Platten. Hieron will continue as supervisor of foreign affairs.

110 People Off F. N. List with Warners; May Group Exchanges; N. Y. Changes

Race Closeups

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Pathe sound newsreel filmed the outboard motor boat races at Lake Elsinore, Cal., and then brought the winners to the Culver City plant for close-ups. Studio plunge was converted into a miniature lake and the close shots made to match the race stuff at the meet.

INSIDE STUFF IN LIVES OF M-G-M'S

New sidelights on M-G-M stars and directors is revealed in the biographical data which the persons concerned supply about themselves.

Charles Delaney it seems started his theatrical career as a stooge for a mind reader. Willard Mack, who has written 84 plays in his time, wants to write a play that George Jean Nathan will like.

Joan Crawford in her theatrical career sported the high-sounding name of Lucille LeSueur and appeared in the Shubert revue "Innocent Eyes."

Sue Carol's right name is Sue Lederer. Her mother's given name was Carol. Lon Chaney's hobby is cooking. Louise Dresser took the name Dresser at the suggestion of Paul Dresser, famous song writer in his day.

Pressed for an answer as to the type of roles he preferred Johnny Mack Brown, former Alabama football player, said he preferred leads. Clarence Brown, high salaried director, is ambitious to retire. Tod Browning, once a contortionist and for two years in burlesque with Whalen-Martell's "Whirl of Mirth," mentions with pride a 41-pound cat named "Snookie," who popped a lot of prizes. Browning wants to get sympathy into crook roles.

\$95 16mm. Outfit

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Placing on the market of a \$95 home projector and a \$50 camera, both for 16 mm. film, will further sharpen competition in the little film field.

President of the new firm, Durograph Co., is Walter E. Greene, in the early days of the film business a partner of Hiram Abrams, late president of United Artists, in a Boston film exchange. Later Greene was president of Arteract and also an executive of Paramount exchanges. More recently he produced a picture in Hollywood.

Inventory of the projector is E. William Nelson. Company most nearly affected by the price of the coming equipment is Q. R. S., of Chicago, which sells a combination camera and projector for \$38.50.

Leila Hyams Op Colman

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Leila Hyams will be opposite Ronald Colman in Samuel Goldwyn's production of "Bull Dog Drummond." Dialog version will be made first.

This is the story Paramount scheduled for Richard Dix but Goldwyn snapped up the rights.

Flu Stops Lloyd

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. With a director and three gang men out with the flu, Harold Lloyd decided to close down for four days. Invalids were Tod Wilt, director, and Lex Neal, Clyde Bruckman and Felix Adler.

With 110 people off the pay roll within a week after the Warners National, comes word that there will be no further substantial shoring.

Investigations by Warner appointees during that time have convinced the brothers, it is said, that First National's policy will make money if continued with several eliminations.

To combat these and to assure First National's cut, that with the present cutting, all are sure of their jobs and are expected to make the most of them from now on, the new executive line-up, under Herman Starr is considering handing out Christmas bonuses to everyone from the office boys up.

What is termed "a lot of mismanagement" will have to be written off the books during 1929 before the Warner hand will actually manifest itself.

The Warners are contemplating having all exchanges for their film subsidiaries and other interests grouped together in one key city. There is not at this time any intention to immediately eliminate First National's exchanges, despite that in the cutting 100 of the persons let out where employed in these exchanges throughout the country.

Those let out were all considered by the new interests to hold jobs either superfluous or which duplicated efforts within First National.

With the exception of R. C. Seery, division manager in charge of the West Coast for F. N., no exchange officials are included in the present exodus. Seery's job, it is figured, can be handled under the present arrangement in Manhattan. The sales force, it is maintained, will remain in its present strength, having been clipped by Ned Depinet a few months before the company went Warner.

Home Office Cuts

Cuts in the home office during the past week were mostly in the publicity department. Following the departure of Jerry Hearty, two of his publicity assistants, Lynn Denig and Walter Eberhardt, were relieved. The latter had had charge of a live house organ and were dispensed with only because the new regime considers the paper an unnecessary expense. Charles Einfeld has been placed in charge of the department without the title of director. From now on A. P. Waxman, Warner pub. head, will release all advertising matter for the three companies.

The eastern scenario department, of which Florence Strauss until a week ago was the head, has been permanently abandoned. It is pointed out that at the Warner office company executives pass upon stories and that from now on the same system will prevail for First National.

First National product, as well as Warners, will be sounded into occasional demands in the brothers' eastern studios, renovated Vitagraph, which opened this week. It is planned that eastern production at first will be devoted to shorts.

Denial was made that Abe Sabley of the old Stanley company had been added to the First National directorate, following the announcement of a board of 10 last week.

5 Days' Work Scrapped On "5 o'Clock Girl" Film

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. After rehearsing a full week and shooting, the dialog version of "Five o'Clock Girl" has been scrapped by M-G-M.

James Gleason has been commissioned to write a new take-up version.

Meanwhile the silent version is being shot by Alfred Green. The original company was disbanded with M-G-M's Davies' songs.

State Back as L. A. Leader in Off Week, \$23,900—Metropolitan, \$18,500

Marriage Films Not Overly Strong—"Barker" Draws Raves, but Only \$13,000—"On Trial," \$17,600

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 1,450,000) Weather: Unsettled Rain, cold, flu, etc., knocked the biggest hole into the local box offices they have had in variety...

Xmas and Flu Hard On K. C.; \$14,000 High

Kansas City, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 700,000) Amusement seekers, if any, had either spent their money on Christmas shopping or were panicky over the flu thing, which is keeping many at home...



LIVING A LULLABY NESTLED IN THE BOSOM OF THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

The grace of Virginia's hospitality is exemplified by the courtesy of the HOMESTEADS service to those who come to Hot Springs for rest, to play golf, to ride horseback through intriguing mountain trails...

SILENT BOW OUTDRAWS SYNCHRONIZED ROGERS

\$14,900 to \$14,000 in Seattle—Columbia's 1st Sound, "Betsy," \$3,500

Seattle, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 500,000) Weather: Rain and warm Few days of rain cleared the atmosphere so that the flu situation improved and normal Yuletide slackness only evident...

Silent Show, 10c Less In Scale, Beats Sound

Topeka, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 80,000) Weather: Unsettled A week of new lows and not much expected this week. Flu is here, too. Week was notable for the fact that the second dime since sound came in the wired Grand was below the Jayhawk, silent, and the latter has an admission of a dime less than the Grand...

Grand (1,400; 50) (National)—"Tempest," sound (U.A.). Didn't click; patrons remarked on poor cueing of sound accompaniment and Camilla Horn; \$1,200, new low. Jayhawk (1,500; 40) (Jayhawk)—"Mating Call" (Caddo). First half got away fairly; "Show People" (M-G), last half, real means to \$2,500. Novelty (1,100; 40) (Lawrence). Change of management start of week with music was not an unhelpful aid; didn't improve show; unit and acts didn't get together; "Driftwood" first half and "Do Your Duty," last half; \$1,400. Orpheum (1,200; 40) (National). Bert Humphries and Brevities company couldn't battle flu and Christmas shoppers took; new low for this tab and picture policy; \$700; "Huntingtower" first half and "Gate Crasher" last half; \$350. Cozy (400; 35) (Lawrence). Got better breaks from shoppers because of location; nothing to cheer about at \$600. "Hit of the Show" (FBO) first half, and "Gang War" (FBO), last half. Best (550; 20) (Lawrence). Stock tab with special afternoon and night stunts all week; didn't suffer as much as rest but went in red at \$800.

\$23,000 for Midgets At Capital's Palace

Washington, Dec. 18. (White Population, 450,000) Weather: Fair and Rain Singer's Midgets and "Dream of Love" made a grand cleanup at the Palace while most of the others were squawking. Continuous turnover both afternoon and night for the Loew house. Midgets got the credit. Nearest competitor was the Fox, while the Earle, even with its extra midnight (Friday) show, got below the now normal with "Revenge." Met got a tap on the chin in the second week of "Uncle Tom."

\$6,500 Tacoma's Top

Tacoma, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 125,000) Weather: Warm and Rain Trying to buck the downtown theatre out of Tacoma is not an easy job. All houses are energetically after biz so the overhead can't stay down. West Coast has been doing fairly well with the Colonial, but is experimenting to see if it will help the other houses. This week price was cut to 20 cents and the program is being changed three times a week.

"Awakening" Looked Best In St. Louis at \$18,000

St. Louis, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 1,250,000) Weather: Rain and Cool With an unusual picture display at the big downtown houses last week, "The Awakening" topped the blue ribbon, although other houses drew extra coin into their coffers. "Glorious Betsy," sound (WB). First week of sound here after dark three weeks; \$3,500 okay. "Blue Mouse" (Hamrick) (950; 50-75) "On Trial," sound (WB). In third week, \$7,500. "Winter Garden" (U. Chain) (650; 25)—"Red Lips" (U). Here for second run; \$2,000 very bad. "Powers of Press" (Col). Light at \$5,000; Street torn up in front of house. Orpheum (2,700; \$1)—"Annapolis" (Pathe). Heavily billed and vaude average; \$9,200. "Freaky" (Fox) (1,800; 25-31.25)—"Girl Trouble" (Ducey Players). Frances Dale and Donald Foster again hit \$3,100 fair.

Banky, \$22,000, Prov.

Providence, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 215,000) Weather: Fair and Cool Christmas shopping is taking its customary sock at the film men and grosses have dropped. Legit houses are almost down for the count. Estimates for Last Week "The Awakening" (WB) (3,800; 15-50) "The Awakening" (WB) (U.A.). Did best business of week; \$22,000. "Majestic" (Ray) (2,200; 15-75) "The Terror" (Ita). Light at \$10,000. The Christus slump although hit around \$11,000. Strand (Ind) (2,200; 15-50) "Mantahan Cocktail" (Par). Picked up latter part of week on appeal to jazz bugs; \$10,000. "Victory" (RKO) (1,600; 15-50) "Melody of Love" (U). Got \$7,200.

Mary's 70%

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Mary Pickford will undertake one of the most severe tests ever she is called upon to speak in "Coquette," now in rehearsal. "Sides," apportioned to Miss Pickford, comprise more than 70 per cent of the entire dialog in the film, the balance being divided among five other principals. Sound version with made first and the silent version last.

Silent House, Hip, Led Toronto for 1st Time Since Talkers In, \$12,200

Pan's 1st Talker in Seattle Got \$10,000

Portland Ore., Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 310,000) Robert McWade's presence as guest star at the Dufwin has proved a boon not only to the Dufwin, but also to the Music Box, where he is in "The Home Towners" (WB). Charles Murray's personal appearance at the Music Box also was an incentive at the box office. Lou Forbes is at this house as the new m. e., and George Johnson is now organist here. "The Awakening" went into its second week at the United Artists, but suffered a decrease from its first week.

Estimates for Last Week Portland (Publix) (3,500; 35-60)—"Moran of the Marines" (Par). Well liked. Charley Murray in Fanchon and Marco's "High Hat" (4,400; Broadway (W. C.) (2,000; 35-60)—"Three Week Ends" (Par). Feast for Bow-Glyn fans; Fox Movietone news; \$12,000. "Oriental" (2,700; 25-35)—"The Crash" \$7,800. Music Box (Hamrick) (2,000; 35-60)—"The Home Towners," dialog (WB). With Vita shorts has done land-office business; \$2,500. Blue Mouse (Hamrick) (1,200; 25-35)—"The Perfect Crime." Creeper that held audience; patronage good \$4,200. United Artists (Parker-W.C.) (1,200; 35-50)—"The Awakening" (sound) (U) (2d week). Held fairly well; \$8,000. "Pantages" (2,000; 35-50)—"Melody of Love" (dialog) (U). First talker at this house played by big biz \$10,000. Dufwin (Henry Duffy) (1,400; 25-50) Robert McWade in "New Brooms." McWade among most popular of Duffy guest stars despite fact company has presented this play before; \$4,700.

Toronto, Dec. 18. (Draw Pop. 700,000) Weather: Mild

Combination of summery weather, fear of flu and pre-Christmas shopping took much of the grosses. It was a graduated process, for opening day saw the SRK sign out at the Uptown and Tivoli, but these, too, were caught in the later extinction of Hippodrome, non-sound house, led the town with a strong stage show and "Love Over Night" (Pathe) at \$12,200. It was the first time a silent house took command since the town had more than one wired house. Reason give was fourth week for "Lilac Time" (FN) at Tivoli and weak picture "The Awakening" (Fox) at Uptown, where whole draw was centered in stage show. "Lilac Time" closed four of best weeks ever done by a picture here at \$3,000, and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" came into Tivoli to fair opening, although this one had been well used up in road show. Loew's held up fairly well at \$10,700 for "Varsity" (Par) and had every student in town look them over. The Varsity, campus daily of the University of Toronto, planned the picture unmercifully. They usually pan hand on that sheet. Fred Schaffer had "Adoration" (FN) at his big pantages house. Billie Dove usually a draw here; Fred for a loss. Under \$10,000. The big picture event of the week was the send off of Oscar Hanson, who resigns as general manager of Canadian Educational to be world representative of Tiffany-Stahl—real job. The picture boys gave Oscar a solitary farewell and his wife accompanied them at a farewell dinner. Ray Lewis made the presentation. Some of neighborhood houses have gone in for fishing evening bull, but King's condition on screen, but main stem boys have not followed suit. Neighborhood biz has held up well in big slump.

Horton's 2 with Warners

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Edward Everett Horton's first two under his contract with Warner Bros. will be "Hottentot" and "The Sap," both with dialog. "Hottentot" goes into production Jan. 8 with Patsy Ruth Miller in the feminine lead. N. Y. to L. A. Sigmund Moos. Alleen Creelman. James Creelman. Harry J. Brown. Eugene W. Castle. Jessie Wadsworth. Ann Rork. Sam Rork. L. A. to N. Y. Dita Parlo. W. J. Hutchinson. H. T. James. June Colyer. Robert Benchley.

Buffalo \$31,400

Buffalo, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 500,000) Weather: Fair Business was up and down last week. Estimates for Last Week Buffalo (Publix) (3,000; 20-40-75)—"Three Week Ends" (Par). "Blue Revue," unit. Up here to \$31,400. Hipp (Publix) (2,400; 60)—"Battle of Sexes" (U.A.). Noticeable depression dove over \$4,000 from previous week to \$15,000. Great Lakes (Fox) (3,400; 30-40-75)—"Red Lips" (Fox). Just so-so at about \$13,000. Lafayette (Indep) (3,000; 40-60)—"The Perfect Crime" (FBO) and vaude. Good opening held up balance of week better preceding week by good margin; \$14,000.

NICHOLS VS. U WAITING

From the calendar's look in Judge Goddard's federal court in New York, the action of Anne Nichols against Universal, over "Able's Irish Rose," will not reach trial until today or later this week. It was expected the trial would start last week.

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome for \$10

Year's Subscription to Variety

COSTUMES FOR HIRE PRODUCTIONS EXPLOITATIONS PRESENTATIONS BROOKS COSTUMES 143 W. 40th St. N.Y.C.

Pre-Xmas Week Lay-Off for B'way
Not to Run Good Uns; Hold Overs

Broadway pretty much one way last week. As everybody expected it didn't interrupt the discussions on sound. The anticipated picture was so bad at that, but it's only a question of time when the east will be willing with the west for picture product supremacy.

The Big Four dove and came up with a combined \$263,800, and New York hasn't yet started trying some open field running through the flu. That will come this week when gets things including Negri, everything stayed in the depths with "The End of St. Petersburg" and is holding it over despite the fact that previous weeks had their over pictures when booked. Houses figure anything goes pre-Xmas week and practically all are a hope was a and shows for next week when the calendar takes the blinders off.

Last week the Capitol got \$74,800 with "White Shadows" and "The Strand" at \$55,200 for "Falls in Time," and Clara Bow having previously enjoyed smart runs at \$2 on the same alley. "The Viking" opened at \$37,800, and "Show Folks" could only grab \$10,200 at the Colony.

"On Trial" departs this week in favor of "My Man" at Warners, and "Four Devils," which makes way for "The River" at the Gaity. Both these pictures showed sharp drops. "Jimmy Valentine" (diagram) at the Astor, while "Interference" fell to \$12,700 at the Criterion. "Singing Fool" also felt the migration to other spots. "The Viking" was far from important with \$6,000 in the Embassy. "The Barker" had a brisk first full week at the Central for \$13,700.

Estimates for Last Week
Astor—"Jimmy Valentine" (diagram) (M-G) (1:10; 1-12) (6th week). Down with others during season, but hit \$17,500 indicative of plenty of strength.
Cameo—"The Yellow Pass" (Sovkino) (5:19; 50-75) (2d week). Russian film grabbed \$7,500; not bad holding over.

Capitol—"White Shadows" (sound) (M-G) (4:30; 35-50-75-\$1-\$150) (2d week). Frequently at \$1,500; \$2; \$4,500 on first week up street; good figure in face of slump, but not strong enough to normally hold over; stays for previous week (diagram) (Fox) (2:30; 1-12) (3d week). Apparently well liked and \$13,100 on first full week.
Colony—"Show Folks" (diagram) (Fox) (1:30; 50-75-\$1). Didn't show enough strength here to offset expected drop; \$10,200.

Criterion—"Interference" (diagram) (Fox) (3:31; 1-12) (5th week). Subject to pressure; \$12,700.
Embassy—"The Viking" (M-G) (5:09; 1-12) (4th week). Hasn't made any vital spark since arrival; \$6,000.
Gaiety—"Four Devils" (sound) (Fox) (5:08; 1-12) (12th week). Leaves Friday to get \$75,000. "The Viking" start Saturday matinee; last week near danger point.

Paramount—"Three Week Ends" (Par) (3:56; 40-55-75-\$5-\$1). Shows Bow helping picture; \$17,000; okay in slow times; \$72,100.
Rialto—"Behind German Lines" (sound) (Ufa-Priz) (1:50; 35-50-75-\$1) (8d week). Took a terrific drop of \$17,000 to \$23,000 in 2d week; every German in town must have seen it first week; comment around favorable; out end of current week for "Able's Irish Rose" (Par), now with sound.
"Revolution" (sound) (UFA) (2:10; 35-50-75-\$5-\$1) (2d week). Del Rio film; particularly heavy at \$30,000; not bad, though; if figuring shoppers mostly east of Broadway.

Roy—"End of St. Petersburg" (Sovkino-Himmstein) (6:25; 50-75-\$1-\$50) (2d week). Dropped house \$800 under previous week; plenty low enough, anyhow; over because management getting ready Xmas week show; \$31,200 very bad here.
Strand—"Falls in Time" (sound) (Fox) (2:30; 35-50-75-\$1) (2d week). Colleen Moore film did pretty well at \$36,200; figure doesn't call for second week, but sticking because it's the week before Xmas. "The Viking" through the house, showing strings; not even the Plunkett.

Warners—"On Trial" (diagram) (WB) (1:30; 1-12) (6th week). Going on during first week after four months' stay; dropped last week and "My Man" (WB) here this Friday.
Winter Garden—"Singing Fool" (diagram) (WB) (1:49; 1-12-\$3) (11th week). Human enough to also play tologano; didn't slide far, however; \$37,500.

MONTREAL HAS FLU, TOO, 'SINGER,' \$35,000, 2 WKs.

Not as Big as Expected—\$16,500 at Capitol for "His Lady"—Loew's, \$12,500

Montreal, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 600,000) Weather: Mild

What is claimed by some doctors to run around 50,000 cases of grip, combined with the usual Christmas lull, cut down grosses heavily from the previous week, although they picked up some last week, due perhaps to better weather.

Palace (F.) (2:00; 45-75), "Jazz Singer," (diagram) (WB) (2-7) (2d week). Gross picked up over previous week, but fortnightly receipts estimated to have reached record expected, largely because of ill epidemic and Christmas slump; \$18,000 would cover last week, and probably \$35,000 on two weeks.

Capitol (F.) (2:00; 40-60), "His Lady" (WB). Barrymore and Costello put this over at difficult period; \$16,500 fine in regard to Loew's (F.) (3:00; 35-75), "Dry Martini" (Fox). Picture did not meet high; gross up \$1,000 at \$12,500, but value \$100,000. 3d-4d.

Imperial (R-K-O) (1:00; 35-50), "Power" (Pathe) and vaude. Show average and gross around \$7,500. Strand (F.) (2:00; 30-40), "Gypsy of the North" (Col), and "Collegians" (U). Altogether, \$3,900. Empire (CA) (1:50; 25-35) no program changes; around \$2,000.

N. Y. Sound Studios Shortly Full Blast

New York's sound studios will be running full blast shortly. Bryan Foy has started tests at Warners in Flatbush, prior to launching an intensive schedule of talking shorts. Ed DuFor from the coast and Ray Foster, New York, are on the cameras.

FBO Men Back

Ambrose Dowling and the Marquise DeFolize, if that's right or wrong, reached New York from France Monday. Both foreign representatives of FBO are back to report to Jos. I. Schnitzer, FBO president, on FBO's recent sales conference in Paris. This is regarded as important to the FBO foreign trade, since it includes a heavy cash guarantee with a minimum amount of sales.

MINN. TAKES THE SLAP; 'KINGS' WEAK, \$10,000

Minnesota, \$22,000, with "Outcast"—Henn. \$12,700 on Chaney

Minneapolis, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 490,000) Weather: Favorable

Proximity of Christmas coupled with a flu epidemic picture have last week. For the most part attractions were not of a character calculated to overcome adverse conditions.

Even taking into consideration the disturbing factors, "King of Kings" proved a deep disappointment to the state and did the picture made of any super-tackle within memory. Estimates for Last Week Minnesota (F. & R.-Public) (4:20; 75) "Outcast" (FN) and Public unit, "Teasing Girl." Corinne Griffith no card here and picture made only fair impression; Van and Schenck sound short, but considerably off but not bad, all things considered.

State (F. & R.-Public) (2:50; 60) "King of Kings," sound. (Pathe) Splendidly exploited, but failed to show expected drawing power; week end big particularly bad; picture played at Met for two weeks with season without sound; about \$10,000.

Strand (F. & R.-Public) (1:50; 50) "The Terrors" (T-S) Mmont. Many times no static attraction, but two Vita shorts and an "Our Gang" comedy; around \$2,200, bad. Hennepin-Orpheum (Keith) (2:30; 40) "West of Zanzibar," ad. did not create much enthusiasm; pictures at this house recently anything but hot; about \$12,700; slight gain over previous week.

Lyric (F. & R.-Public) (1:30; 35) "Avalanche" (Par). Suffered with the rest; \$1,500. Parkway (Pathe) (1:50; 25-50) "The Apache" (Col) and vaude. About \$5,200 good under circumstances.

7,500 Seats Adding To Downtown Philly

Philadelphia, Dec. 18. With Philly believed to be far overestimated as to picture houses, it now develops that within a couple of months two houses aggregating 7,500 seats will be added downtown. The new Regal theatre on Chestnut street, just taken over by the Stanley (Warner) company, will open Christmas afternoon with "Interference." It seats about 2,500 and will have \$1 top. The new Maestram theatre, 20th and Market (about Stanley), is expected to open about the end of January. It will seat about 5,000.

Business since Thanksgiving has been very spotty and in most cases actually poor in the downtown picture houses. It is not clear as yet whether the slump that had few exceptions. Estimates for Last Week Stanley (4:00; 35-50-75) "Blacks of Devil" (M-G) (2:00) John Gilbert drew helped, but picture not especially popular. \$26,000.

Stanton (1:00; 35-50-75) "Woman of Sexes" (U. A.) (2d week). Failed to click; \$10,000. Aldine (1:00; 50-75) "Pola from Moscow" (Par, 2d week). "Mogul" film not so far; \$14,000 claimed. Heller this week at \$14,000. Fox (3:00; 80) "Blindfold" (Fox). Picture did not mean much. Mae Murray in person helped; \$23,000. Fox-Locust (1:00; 1-1) "Red Dance" (Fox, 5th week). \$7,000 after a spotty engagement. House dark. Karlon (1:00; 50-75) "Show People" (M-G-M). Not as strong here as when first at Stanley; \$4,000. Arcadia (8:00; 50) "The Lips" (R.). Just so-so and reported at \$2,500.

Keith's and State Both Do \$10,000 in Syracuse

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 220,000) Weather: Good

Sousa, \$45,000, Chicago, in Slump Wk.; "Wildcat" Standout at \$9,100 on H. O.

Xmas Depression Not as Bad as Last Year—Oriental, \$36,000—Mix Revival, \$5,100—"Fool," \$34,000

EDDY HOLDS CENTURY UP FOR \$21,500 WK.

Balto Feels Pressure—"Show People" a Dud on 2d Wk., \$2,800 at Valencia

Baltimore, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 925,000)

Wesley Eddy came over from Washington last week to fill the m. c. position at the Century and is credited with stemming the pre-holiday slump there. Next week Teddy Joyce comes on from the Penn. Pittsburgh, as m. c. for an indefinite engagement. Last week was generally off, the shopping opposition being largely to blame.

"Someone to Love" at the Century, topped the list, but was well below "Waterfront," the previous week. "Outcast," at the Stanley, was voted a good picture, but failed to do anything handsome. Rivoli to do anything handsome. Rivoli to do anything handsome. Rivoli to do anything handsome.

Estimates for Last Week Parkway (Loew) "Someone to Love" (Par), wired (3:00; 25-50). Picture no great hit, o. magn. West. Eddy, on stage, scored emphatically. Satisfactory week at about \$21,500.

Stanley (Loew-Stanley-Grandall) "Outcast" (FN), wired (3:00; 25-50). House not located to get big daytime draw; off main shopping stem and doesn't get drop-ins. Not over \$18,000, and not so good as "Waterfront" (Par), wired (2:00; 25-50). Picture liked and surprised by holding up nights; in spite of pre-holiday season (Schreiber). "Freedom of the Press" and R-K-O. The new Regal led to great past vaude (3:00; 25-50). "Show People" (M-G), wired (1:50; 25-50). Disappointed; record week downtown in big picture, which weren't realized. About \$2,800.

Parkway (Loew-U. A.) "The Awakening" (TA), wired (1:00; 15-75). Up from last week, in spite of approach of holidays; about \$3,200, okay.

But 1 of Frisco's 5 Houses Got Big Money

San Francisco, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 800,000) Weather: Fair

Warfield (Loew-U. A.) "Bill of Snow" (FBO) (2:12; 50-65-90). Panchan and Marco "Saxaphonia" idea, with kube full providing plenty of stage show, and kept through the week. Torrential rains Monday and Wednesday cut down matinee attendance. Week close to \$30,000. Immense.

Grandas (Public) "Adoration" (FN) (2:15; 50-65-11). Public stage unit, "Pow Wow." Picture ordinary. Stage bill spectacular, but customers didn't respond. Duran (Public) "The Awakening" (U. A.) (2:00; 65-90). Sound. Vilma Banky drew em in to \$12,500. Loew for opening week. "Singing Fool" (W. B.) and Vita. (1:37; 50-65-90). Talker continues to hit with his song and dance. "Home Towners," Dec. 22. St. Francis (Public) "White Shadows" (Cosmo-M-G) (1:37; 35-50-65-90). Sound. Second week. "Behind the German Lines," Dec. 29.

EDDY HOLDS CENTURY UP FOR \$21,500 WK.

Balto Feels Pressure—"Show People" a Dud on 2d Wk., \$2,800 at Valencia

Baltimore, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 925,000) Weather: Unfavorable

Continuation of the slump in picture takings was reported in all but a few Loop spots last week. The Chicago put up a fight with Sousa and his band, and managed to beat the usual money brought in by special attractions. House did \$43,000 with "Haunted House" supporting an screen.

"Singing Fool" is walking downstairs with rather large steps at McVicker's, but still is only at \$24,000 in its 10th week. "White Shadows" dropped to \$15,000 in its fourth week at the Roosevelt, calling for an increase in exploitation to make it hold over for another week. Oriental was down \$4,000 from previous week with "Someone to Love" and second week last week of "The Awakening" was \$7,500 below opening week at \$18,500.

Revival of a Fox Tom Mix release, "Texas Ranger," at the Monroe, was a satisfactory \$5,100, as Mix was always hot stuff for this stand. State-Lake slipped to \$19,000 with "Manhattan Cocktail." Second week of "Little Wildcat" at the Orpheum was good at \$9,100. Causing a holdover for third week. As a whole the slump is not quite as bad as last year.

Estimates for Last Week Chicago (Public) "Haunted House" (Public) (FN) and Sousa (4:00; 50-75). Made best Loew showing in bad week with \$45,000; Sousa could draw under favorable conditions. McVicker's (Public) "Singing Fool" (WB) (2:30; 50-75). Quite a drop in last week; \$34,000; nevertheless, still above what house draws with regular features in opening week. Monroe (Fox) "Texas Ranger" (M-G) (1:15; 1975-50-75). Tom Mix revival held up well, \$5,100; star a favorite of Monroe customers.

Oriental (Public) "Someone to Love" (Par) and "Oh, Teacher." Public unit (3:00; 50-75). Dropped \$4,000 to \$36,000. Orpheum (Public) "Little Wildcat" (WB) (7:00; 50). Town's best exception to general slump; \$9,100 in second week; opened to \$11,000. Roosevelt (Public) "White Shadows," sound (M-G-Cosmo) (1:00; 50-75). A \$3,000 drop in fourth week to \$15,000.

State-Lake (Public) "Manhattan Cocktail" (Par) and vaude (2:00; 50-75). Included in drop; \$19,000. United Artists (U. A.) "The Awakening," sound (U. A.) (2:00; 15-75); good opening week at \$26,000 and out.

Boston Off; Met Drops Near \$30,000 with First Talker

Boston, Dec. 18. (Drawing Population, 850,000) Weather: Fair

Every picture house of importance in town showed figures well below last week for some time. They were low in every instance. In some cases the absence of serious loss was due to strenuous efforts to bolster. This was especially true of the Keith Memorial, where \$27,000 was about the same as the previous week. House fared better than most any other in town. "The Awakening" with its first week of talker, got with its first week of talker, got with its first week of talker, got with its first week of talker.

See and Hear

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'NOAH'S ARK'-TOPS ANY PICTURE EVER MADE

Talking Shorts

FOX MOVIE-TONE NEWS— VOL. 2, NO. 11, Issue Dec. 15 33 Mins.; 8 Reels. A-B-C-15 Projection Room, New York

Two distinct wallpans among the dozen clips which comprise these three reels. Week's issue is dominated by the fact that Jack Connolly, Fox's foreign news sleuth who has a faculty of making it when he can't find it, has uncovered a King with a sense of humor. The monarch is Alfonso XIII of Spain, who will likely fancy himself as a delightfully informal and impromptu speech maker when he hears the record print, and justly so. Anyone with the sense of humor that the King displays before his m's "mike" won't seriously object if Variety states that the King is there.

All three reels carry this five minutes with His Majesty and it's great. Known for his fast automobiles, and willingness to find out just what they can do to a speedometer, the King chides the reporter on his numerous smashups in pointing out to prospective tourists that Spain's roads can't be so bad or he would have had more of them. The interview starts out seriously enough in having Ambassador Hammond introduce His Majesty to the American people, whereupon the King commences a straightforward reply to the Ambassador, in the midst of which he breaks down to laughingly say this is a "political" event. Away goes the formal attitude, and that which follows is about as chummy as a monarch will ever become with any King.

It's an excellent and happy piece of work by all concerned and should add to Alfonso's welcome if he ever comes over. That portion of the public who see it won't forget it.

The clip is dignified, strong, full of propaganda for Spain, and amusing enough for Fox to have turned it loose as a special on its program of shorts. This was almost done until the sales department insisted that it go in the newsreel. Either way, it's outstanding and as regards the prominent personalities this service has brought to the screen, Spain's ruler is more entertaining than the session with Bernard Shaw. Second punch is a light one in a basketball game between Pratt Institute and the junior varsity of this or some other school. It's a tipoff on what Fox Movie-tone can do with indoor sports and is equivalent to the football stuff this bunch turned out during the fall. Plenty of action, the yellings when a player makes a basket. If the Fox gang can move in on the Eastern Intercollegiate League, and especially into Pennsylvania's Palestra, an indoor stadium capable of holding around 15,000, these basketball games are going to be things to watch. How they can take these shots and prevent the lights from interfering with the players' smacks of a tough problem but worth solving. In this one the mike even picks up the noise of the players ball as the men bounce it to each other.

Other items on A are flashes of the New York Curb Market in action, which sounds and looks like a madhouse, and includes the camera tracing a sale of a 1,000 shares from the time of the order to its completion. Additional Christmas atmosphere is some more views of German toys taken through a window and so set as to be a sidelight for the public on how the studios fake with miniature stuff.

Reel B opens upon the ceremony of induction in the office of the new Archbishop of Canterbury, England, followed by a comedy clip of the cadets of Virginia Poly in a good-natured pillow fight started by an undergraduate quartet singing and books starting to whizz past their commissions. The scene is a rescue commission's complaint in the air force shows closeups of Ruth Elder's pilot, Hadelman, and the civilian flyer, Brock. Some more basketball, and this time with girls. Not a bad plug for "Scandals," inasmuch as the girls are from that revue. However, doesn't carry any weight, because it registers so lightly as a present stunt, inasmuch as the femmes are trying to get around a small gym floor in high heels and bathing suits and don't stand still long enough for the boys to take a good look.

Reel C has another Christmas subject, evidently taken inside the Fox studio, inasmuch as the youngsters can be heard Santa demonstrating various toys to kids. Two contributions from the French trucks

PATHE SOUND NEWS PHOTOPHONE (RCA) 21 Mins.; Reels Nos. 2 and 3 Projection Room, New York

If the orthophonic phonograph stands as the supreme achievement today in mechanically reproducing the human voice and music, and it does, then Photophone, as heard in its own projection room, possesses the best tonal qualities yet unfolded by the various sound devices in conjunction with the moving picture.

RCA's problem now is to successfully transfer the excellence of this reproduction to the theatres. The claim, of course, is that it has, and will. The New Yorker's only means of attesting to this assertion is still going on at Proctor's Fifth Avenue theatres, both R-K-O houses now wired with RCA Photophone. Staff members point with some pride to the Hamilton as an example of their company's work, but state that experimentation is still going on at Proctor's Fifth Avenue, which just recently dropped vaudeville to go all-sound.

Photophone believes it has a greater tonal range than either of the Western Electric devices (Movietone and Vitaphone), and within a small, specially prepared room the recreation seems to have some grounds, especially as concerns the lower registers. This is particularly brought out in a news clip of a military parade in which the beating of a bass drum doesn't sound as just so many plain thuds, but as a deep-toned ring to which these percussion instruments carry if heard directly by the ear.

As a matter of fact, inside these special walls, to give it every advantage, the duplication of sound is so close to orthophonic qualifications that the average ear won't catch the difference. Occasional overtones blur the crisp recordings, but there are also times when the usual hiss of a blank sound groove is so absent as to allow the horns to pick up the click of the film splices running through the projector and, sounding much as a radio loud speaker when it catches the murmur of an actor's light speech. Whether RCA can repeat such delicacies in a theatre, as previously stated, is the question, and so much for Photophone's tonal impression in its own back yard.

Pathe's current events in sound, at present, lack spot news. That is, they are understandable on the supposition that RCA has only two trucks working in the east, but expects to add 10 of these see-hear wagons about the first of the year. The subjects that it has class as "library," some of them hold comedy and some of them are good if minus a punch.

Reel two pushes off with a Salvation Army meeting in Chinatown, during which a large group of unfortunates are kiddingly addressed by a speaker. Closeups of various individuals in the audience follow the singing, which goes on. Flashes of a turkey farm in Massachusetts, and much of the matter in both these reels has a New England locale, is stock stuff, as is the following shot of a group of four-year-olds tottering unprompted playing with their assistants. On the theory that the women should go for the kid thing, this clip should not do any harm.

Next shot uncovers the New York Rangers, pro hockey team, practising on a Springfield, Mass., indoor rink. There are closeups of the various players, introduced by voice, and the finish is a game during which the grating of the skates is plainly heard plus a couple of staged spills and a pic-up at the goal. Easy to watch, if a bit late, from the practice angle.

Closing clip is the Armistice Day

In President Doumergue decorating the colors of a regiment and a church blessing a hunting party. Latter subject meaningless except that it trots out what is probably a group of the world's worst French horn players. Follow-up on last week's six-foot nine inch tall 10 tender years, is a 17-year-old seven-foot two inch giant directed for comedy. This takes in an outdoor basketball game, during which our hero simply reaches over the heads of all opponents and teammates to merely drop the ball in the basket, thereby becoming the scoring ace. Location is Alabama and the result, an southern draw of the principal lends color to the subject. That King is on all reels. Sid.

celebration in Hoboken, N. J., led by an explanation from the American Legion mascot, youngster, and then into the parade, a particularly clear recording. Clip also introduces double photography, harking back to Flanders field for a voice recitation to bugle accompaniment. This is the best of the best of the reminiscent scenes drawn from former silent newreel footage.

Reel 3 pushes off with Hoover's arrival in San Pedro, Cal., to sail for South America. No direct message from Hoover, but the Photophone's mike man can be seen struggling to advance close enough to Mrs. Hoover to have her say a few words. Locomotive, as always, retains its sound-screen specifications of interest, but a peculiar instance is that the cheering of the crowd from the other side of the track suddenly dices away, although the waving of hats and hands dominates the picture. Probably a matter of mike handling. A studio-made interview with the Earl Hopper and his discloses the star actually stumbling over his famed "Casey at the Bat." Brief introductory has Hopper answering questions, after which he recites a paraphrase on the last verse of the famous baseball lyric. It is here that he stammers over the punch line, Okay, though.

After Hopper are some chorus girls visiting a sailors' home on Staten Island to turn on the do-de-o-does for the tars. Doesn't mean much until one of the old and starts wailing a sea chanty that is willing but vocally weak accompaniment from his pals, and breaks himself up when forgetting the words.

Another studio-made shot is of clockwork "eyes" who youngsters wear much like phonograph record music transplanted to the film sound track by microphone. Subject is given the color which saves it by a youngster who sits in the midst of the animated miniatures and surges many things to young ears other of which the most important seems to be that "the bear won't fall down." If this bit isn't ple for the girls and men, a decrease in population is threatened.

Concluding footage is taken up by the choir of the St. John the Divine Cathedral, overlooking 110th street, New York, and includes an excellent shot of the front row of boys, who look like as many replicas of Tarkington's "Penrod" as a beautiful shot of the last blond youngster in line. This bit also turns loose some corking double photography as the choir sings, perhaps the first instance of its kind to sound accompaniment from the subject on view. Between scenes both reels have a habit of going dead on sound.

Photophone is using eight horns for amplification in this projection room, each of which appears a slightly enlarged auto headlamp, concave and black. Four of these horns are strung vertically on each side of and behind the screen, so arranged that they fly when the screen is down, as would be done in a theatre. It is said that eight horns will prove sufficient for a small theatre, but in this case the auditorium and 16 for the big houses. As the number increases the added horns are strung across the top of the screen, but always so set as to work with the sheet when it is lowered. Flashes of the high-toned does away with the necessity of a porous screen. It is also said that high standard projectors are now being used, special Photophone booth machines are being made at the General Electric plant, and that the crew have turntables to take care of all sound devices.

If inclined to further demonstration, the supposed clincher comes when they serve up a platter of Jolson on an orthophonic phonograph, hooded by a quartet of amplifiers, singing "Sonny Boy." Great as heard here but not unreasonably superior to the record of Gene Austin which the New York Strand recently used over its Western Electric installation. Which leaves the impression that the swif of the quality situation still remains in the recording. Sid.

Cast of "The Safe Movers," short taker by Perfect, is William Dyer, Robert Williamson, Jack Warren and Ed Moran.

Ear will co-feature George Hancock and Esther Ralston in "Black Eagles," based on the Wasserman novel. Pathe has signed Ethylene Clair as new serial lead in "Queen of the North Woods," 10-episode serial. Location is Alabama and the result, next for Fox. George O'Brien only player assigned. Ken Maynard's next for FN, "The Royal Rider." Harry J. Brown will direct.

FRED ARDATH and Co. (3) VITAPHONE NO. 2255 9 Mins.; Comedy Skit Paramount, New York

For the screen Fred Ardath revived the comedy act he used in vaudeville before going modern with a stage band revue.

In vaudeville the same skit probably was the best Ardath ever found for his series of alcoholic characterizations. There's little doubt that he'd still be using it in vaude, but that it became a well worn piece of business.

Transferred to the sound screen, it's a scream comedy subject, with all vaude's superfluous time and action eliminated and only the meat retained. Ardath's stew explanation to his wife of the night before has been photographed and recorded to perfection.

Earl Hall, straight, and Grace Osborn, as the wife, also might have been in the vaude version, for they play it without a miss.

One of the few straight comedy acts that haven't lost most of their comical qualities in the hop from stage to screen. Big.

LEMAIRE and PHILLIPS RCA PHONOPHONE 12 Mins.; Comedy Sketch 5th Ave., N. Y.

Although released as a prolog to "Taxi 13" (FBO), this is really a talking skit carried by Ubersers alone and being released separately, which will be done. It was scheduled for the Paramount some weeks ago but was overlong and could not be successfully cut.

George LeMaire has written a comedy skit of noisy clicking elements with his partner, Ethylene Clair, in comedy. It is not the same act with which they are identified in vaudeville, although LeMaire has previously played it. They are two genteel bums fourflushing a couple of show girls on a combined bankroll of \$7.

Wisecracking and "business" provides the laughs. After getting oozed by the gals they try to start their Ford which falls apart in the usual way. Rates very well. Land.

ZIMMERMAN and GRANDVILLE UNIVERSAL MOVIE-TONE Songs; 8 Mins. Jap. Garden, New York

This talking short titled "An Alpine Romance" is one of the three acts carried by Ubersers in addition to "Melody of Love," full length talker, with the apparatus borrowed from Fox on the coast. Little value to this yodelling act, even for the wired neighborhood house.

Exterior scene of an Alpine cottage as background was poorly and evidently hastily constructed ruin-room, each of which appears the anticipated illusion. Opening has the man doing a solo yodel, followed by a buxom soprano doing likewise. After a silent period of ably men, the man and woman maneuver into position to double yodel that old standby "Sleep Baby Sleep." Finish has couple entering house singing "Home Sweet Home" with more yodels.

THE HAUNTED HOUSE (SOUND)

Richard A. Rowland (First National) production, released by First National, with synchronization (no dialog) probably from the "The Haunted House" at Camden, N. J., Directed by Benjamin Christensen; cast: Ethylene Clair, Harry J. Brown, Davis, play of same title. At Paramount, New York, week Dec. 15. Running time, 65 minutes.

Mr. Rackham.....Chester Conklin Mrs. Rackham.....Ethylene Clair Uncle Herbert.....Edmund Breese Billy.....Larry Kent Harry.....Barbara Bedford Nurse.....Thelma Todd Mad Doctor.....Montague Love Homebody.....Eve Southern Tully.....Johnnie Gough Chauffeur.....Johnnie Gough

When they picked the script and cast for this one it probably seemed as though the topnotch program production of the year would be more than the other mystery shows. "The Haunted House" than in any two pictures around in months, and Owen Davis' play of the same title had a run in 1924. But, with few exceptions, the players were not the happiest of choices, and the Davis manuscript had more altered and written in hold little to resemble the original. In the play, Davis attempted to satirize "The Cat and Canary," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "The Mystery Shows" around at that time and before. He succeeded in writing a very funny piece of burlesque, and as such it has more value than the play. The departure from his original intention as well as from his basic story is complete. The picture is played legitimately and with no attempt to get a tongue-in-the-cheek laugh. It holds every form of sliding panel and rainstorm mystery material, as did

the play, but holds it all with deadly seriousness.

Chester Conklin and Flora Finch, as easily frightened relatives, give good performances. The rest are in general good, but do not do anything else to do around the lot. "The Haunted House" should get some shrieks and laughs, though it isn't as good as "The Terror." The latter had an added kick in its dialog. Nothing vocal to "Haunted House" outside of two songs by the sleep-walking girl, both post-production insertions. Synchronization of the song stuff was badly done, with the players and the sound always out of kilter and neither starting nor finishing together. Either Eve Southern, as the girl, just moved her lips or sang another number than the one recorded. Big.

THE CIRCUS KID

(Sound-Talking Prolog) FBO production starring Ethylene Clair, Joe E. Brown and Frankie Darro (boy). Directed by Frank R. Strayer. From story by James Ashmore Creelman. Cast by Philip Yarnara. Titles by Randolph Bartlett. Music by Prof. J. J. Williams and Co. as "Sure Shot Dick." Synchronization by Photophone under direction of J. J. Williams. At Paramount, New York, Dec. 14. Running time, 65 minutes.

FBO has discovered a cute trick for making brass look like gold. Taking features intrinsically rating so-so, it gives them a comedy prolog with sure-fire laughs, gives the feature itself a snappy musical synchronization, and presto! entertainment quality out of proportion to the quality of the material. The trick for delivery to the sound factory.

With "Gang War," which was pretty good, the yeoman service performed by Prof. Josiah Zuro and associates brought forth excellent film fare for wired houses. With "Taxi 13," rather sour dish, a laugh prolog was added, resulting in a score made rather palatable.

Now, with "The Circus Kid," the acousticians have again come to the rescue and the prolog is a fair daily change programmer into a passable number for more important stands. This is the first time that the prolog membership and it is an FBO-RCA discovery. If it were possible to compute mathematically the ratio of enhanced sound has contributed to the three features mentioned, it would be 20 per cent at least. That margin of enhancement can slip many a willing in on a rain check.

The prolog with "The Circus Kid" is called "Sure Shot Dick." It is a revamp on a well-known standard routine long familiar to vaudeville, a rough-and-ready comedy act by William LeMaire and William Haynes.

As a plot "The Circus Kid" is trite, imitative in theme and treatment, and so has comedy value pretty thoroughly mawkish "Laugh, Clown, Laugh" situation. It's a story done over and over in the movies and squeezed dry of whatever dramatic value may have been originally proposed.

The plot is particularly stereotyped in FBO's case, as it was used in the prolog of "The Mystery of the Show." The paratid extends to Joe E. Brown, the twisted-mouth tragedian, who suffered and died for unrequited love in the prolog.

Helene Costello is featured, more on her name than her performance. The Poodles Hannaford Family are adopting Frankie Darro as a number of sequences, and Poodles himself, sans make-up and photographing very well, is represented as adopting Frankie Darro as a "Poodle Footlocker" of the lot and title of the picture.

One of those charming Hollywood touches has young Darro spending his time in the picture wrapped comfortably and innocently in the arms of a ten-foot gorilla.

A young man answering to the precise name of Sam Nelson stands out as a leading man worthy of larger responsibilities. He has physique and masculinity on top of a good deal of brains. He is teamed with the epidemic of gentle heroes now in the ascendancy.

"The Circus Kid" would never be a success if it were not for the color and the spiritual support of those rhythmic saxes and symphonic xylophones. Incidentally the xylophone is a handy instrument for scoring weird and crazy tempo plus melody is desired. Land.

LOVE OVER NIGHT

Fathe production and release. Starring Rod La Rocque. Directed by Edward H. Griffith. Story and adaptation by Ed. Granger. Cast by Tom Kennedy, Mary Carr, Jeanette Loff, Phyllis Ford, Anthony Hewitt, and John Kraft. At Times, New York, one day, Dec. 15. Running time, about 60 minutes.

Well handled comedy romance sure of a warm welcome in the grind and in the second run houses, where the patrons still care for a good story even if it isn't sound. Tom Kennedy as the comedy actor, Ed Granger as the lead, and the picture, but gags given to Rod La Rocque toward the windup make things about even. Jeanette Loff is a bit better than usual, but more is a bit better than usual. (Continued on page 23)

Listen to these XMAS CHEERS!



BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
WESTERN UNION

Ned Depinet, N. Y.
COLLEEN MOORE in "SYNTHETIC SIN" has everything from chuckles to belly laughs and many of them. It is the greatest comedy ever made and best of all it is so different. The West Lake audience ate it up as did Santa Monica and Glendale on previous previews. It's there a million, and with sound—Oh Boy.
Jack Brower.

Presented by John McCormick

Cagey Showmen choristers carol hymns of praise for EVERY recent FIRST NATIONAL release!

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
WESTERN UNION

Ned. E. Depinet, N. Y.
Judge Ben B. Lindsey's own screen version of COMPANIONATE MARRIAGE did exceptional business Lyceum Theatre here last week and is playing second week which is unusual for this house. Real box office which is money at the box office and you have no idea.
M. J. Isman.



BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
WESTERN UNION

Ned Depinet, N. Y.
"THE BARKER" with Milton Sills, Dorothy Mackaill opened Madison, Detroit, to bigger receipts than biggest previous special. Detroit News and Free Press acclaim Barker one of best talking pictures yet produced.
Fred E. North.



"CORINNE GRIFFITH'S filming of 'OUTCAST' vastly entertaining. Three-Star picture, with Edmund Lowe, and heartbreak behind the brassiere of a modern Camille."
Frederick James Smith in "Liberty".

**Many Happy Box-Office Returns with
FIRST NATIONAL PICTURES**

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
WESTERN UNION

First National Pictures, Inc.
I did capacity business with HAUNTED HOUSE picture. Very good. Sound effects wonderful. Enjoyed by audience. I had lots of comments on this picture.
Liberty Theatre, Louis Velas, Manager.



BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
WESTERN UNION

First National Pictures, N. Y.
Everybody raving about SHOW GIRL with Alice White, and Sound. All records for attendance smashed. Congratulations on having made a picture that young and old alike praise sky high.
N. Frye, Home Theatre Company.

The Biggest Things in Sight - or Sound!



BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
WESTERN UNION

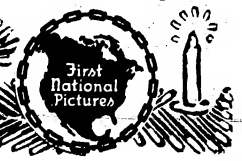
Ned E. Depinet, N. Y.
HAUNTED HOUSE with 9-Star Cast opened Pantheon, Toledo, Saturday and Sunday to phenomenal business. Last week at State, Cleveland, picture did whale of a business and is repeating same at Cameo, Cleveland, where it opened last week. Pantheon holding picture for second week. This picture with Sound making noise like boiler factory at box office.
Carl Leerman.

So many great hits for
JANUARY
it couldn't be anything else but
FIRST NATIONAL MONTH!



BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
WESTERN UNION

First National Pictures, Inc.
I played Mack Sennett's 9-reel Special, THE GOOD-BYE KISS and did a nice business. Whoever plays this special can go after it any way to get them. GOOD-BYE KISS is handled right, no doubt the theatre going public will all want to see it.
Robert W. Weller, Wellers Opera House.



IT'S A GIFT!



NOW they'll see
EPIC thrills
IN Sound or Silent
THAT gripped New York
AND Los Angeles
FOR months at \$2
THE Chilkoot Pass—
WHITE Horse Rapids—
BURNING of Dawson City—
THE Gigantic Snow Slide—
A Giant Picture!
WORTHY successor to
"BIG Parade" and "Ben-Hur"
MONEY! money! money!
(Sound or Silent)

"THE TRAIL OF '98"

with

DOLORES DEL RIO

RALPH FORBES KARL DANE HARRY CAREY
 Directed by CLARENCE BROWN

EITHER Sound or Silent
"THE Viking" is the
NOVELTY sensation
YOU'VE been looking for!
THE biggest innovation
SINCE the first
TALKING picture!
NOW playing Embassy, N.Y.
AT \$2 to capacity!
IF you haven't got sound
STRESS the Technicolor!
IF you've got Sound
ADVERTISE the First
100% Technicolor with
SOUND!

(Sound or Silent)

"THE VIKING" 100% TECHNICOLOR

METRO-GOLDWYN PICTURES

Wishing You a Joyful Christmas!



Indie Exhibit, Wired with Biophone, Gives F.N. Argument on W.E. Contract

Has Played U. A. Sound—F. N. Holds Back Disks—Burkan's View on Copyrighted Music

New York's independent sound situation broke out of the incubator last week with the installation and operation of Biophone in Lo Brecher's 1,300 seat Lafayette theatre. Issues on the subject, formerly just talked about, are now getting into cold print, the most important of which to date is the interpretation Brecher says he has received from Nathan Burkan, attorney, that any apparatus may play copyrighted music in can form, provided the theatre has paid the music seat tax. The attorney's view is that there is no difference between the mechanical and animated interpretations of copyrighted music, provided the apparatus is in can form and has been met.

Brecher's purpose is to break open interchangeability. Having just recently finished playing "Battle of the Sexes" (UA) with Western Electric sound over his Biophone installation, the trouble started when he asked for the disks accompanying First National's "The Night Watch" and drew his initial refusal from Ned Depinet. In correspondence with Depinet the exhibit stated he would hold F. N. responsible for any damages which might accrue should he fail to get these disks. Brecher said that he had Biophone installed after W. E. had held him off on installation of its own device. In the case of Biophone, Brecher told a Variety reporter he had signed a contract Dec. 9, and was operating with it the following day.

Asserting that First National's stand in the matter was singular, and that other producing-distributing companies did not hesitate on the interchange, Brecher was asked for proof of the contention and replied that Paramount had booked "The Wedding March" into the

Goodwin, Newark, a house also wired with Biophone. All of Brecher's moves in regard to F. N. are in writing. He admits that when he signed for almost the entire F. N. output there was no stipulation as to synchronized disks, but he insists on the effort to compete with the majors and village presidents as orators several film companies are establishing "speech factories."

Operator of such a factory is usually a press agent with a better-than-thou vocab. Of the companies thus besieged for heavy lingo, Paramount is about the busiest in helping small town theatre men on oratory. At least 12 theatre owners are out for the history of talkers, and to be exclusive for them. All have dates to talk before the local Rotarians.

Speech Clause

"Licensee (E. C. Mills, Agent and Trustee) hereby grant to licensee (Electrical Research Products, Inc.), (with the exceptions and upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth) the right and license to copy, to make, to reproduce or control through the agency of any of them in any manner, medium or form, to make copies of such recordings, and to reproduce said musical composition publicly, but only by means of apparatus for the reproduction of sound operated or controlled through the agency of such recording or copies thereof, in, on, or as a part of such apparatus, which apparatus has been or shall be furnished by licensee or its sub-licensees to producers, distributors or exhibitors of motion pictures only, and to use and lease self-such recordings and copies thereof, only for the purpose of reproduction by said apparatus."

Inasmuch as Burkan is counsel for the American Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers, Brecher wrote Depinet to the effect that Burkan had advised that his client had no objection to the use of the recordings over any apparatus providing the theatre was licensed to play copyrighted music, and the Lafayette is so licensed. As to the first clause, Brecher maintains that First National is condemning it without investigation. However, the First National stand on this point is the quotation of a paragraph from its contract with Western Electric, which reads:

"Therefore, in order to secure and insure the proper production and sound records made hereunder and the proper reproduction of sound from such records to the satisfaction of the parties hereto, licensee agrees that it will use the recording equipment to be leased to it by Products (Electrical Research Products) as herein provided, pursuant to the methods and systems and in the manner prescribed by Products from time to time, and that it will distribute sound records made hereunder only for use with, on, or in connection with reproducing equipment which operates properly, reliably and efficiently to reproduce sound from sound records made hereunder, with adequate volume and of quality equal to that obtained by the use of the equipment supplied by Products."

Winston-Salem All Wired

Winston-Salem, N. C., Dec. 18. The silent drama is preparing to make its exodus from this town, key city for the movies in North and South Carolina. Christmas day R.C.A.'s Photophone will make its debut at the Auditorium, largest of the Piedmont houses. "The Spieler," Pathe's sound film of carnival life, first bill. In addition, all sound programs. Jan. 15 will see all the first run houses wired—Colonial, only indie house, will be wired by Jan. 15, according to promises of Western Electric.

Keith vaude plays at the Auditorium, for three days, weekly. A. F. Sams, Jr., of the Piedmont, operator of the theatre, says his big house will continue to play Keith acts the latter part of the week and sound throughout the week.

Speech Factories

Never before have film companies found exhibitors and managers in small towns so desirous of sitting in with Rotary Clubs and other civic bodies. As the result of the exhibit effort to compete with the majors and village presidents as orators several film companies are establishing "speech factories."

Operator of such a factory is usually a press agent with a better-than-thou vocab. Of the companies thus besieged for heavy lingo, Paramount is about the busiest in helping small town theatre men on oratory.

At least 12 theatre owners are out for the history of talkers, and to be exclusive for them. All have dates to talk before the local Rotarians.

2D RUN TALKERS SPLIT 50-50 IN SOUTH

New Orleans, Dec. 18.

E. V. Richards, of the Saenger chain, is still dazed from the blow the Liberty gave him, after wiring for \$13,000 cost and using the house for 2d run talkers.

It was E. V.'s own idea. He hooked it up with wire and the overhead at \$3,500 a week. But few wanted to see the picture after first showing, it seems, for the Liberty didn't do over \$1,600 with the E. V. bunch.

Now it's playing "The King of Kings." When that's over, E. V. will try those 2d runs again on Liberty and probably in the red. If wire and probably in the red. If wire and probably in the red. If wire and probably in the red. If wire and probably in the red. If wire and probably in the red. If wire and probably in the red.

Dallas, Dec. 18.

R. & R. has made a successful try of a second run "talker" house. Ritz, here, remodeled from the former tab house.

Pantages has made a go with a 25c. top for second runs of features and shorts.

Biophone Installing in Mid-Western Houses

Chicago, Dec. 18.

Biophone, one of the more recent sound machines, is being installed at the Jefferson, Langley and Castle at the 12th, and in Milwaukee at the Miller, Midwesco (Fox) house, and the Parkway, independent.

Henry Eilman and Jerry Abrams are district managers and distributors for Biophone. Local Biophone branches have been established but two weeks, with Eilman resigning as branch manager for Columbia to go with the new outfit. Abrams formerly represented Gotham pictures here.

Biophone Corporation is owned and controlled by Alfred E. Weiss, raw stock film man and former president of the old Metro company, and Phil Goldstone, former producer with Tiffany.

TOLSTOY AS SCENARIST

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Count Ilya Tolstoy, son of the Russian novelist, has returned here. He will set up shop as a free-lance scenarist.

Josephson on "Mammy" for WB

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Julien Josephson, scenarist, placed under long term contract by Warners. First assignment is the adaptation and continuity for "Mammy." Al Johnson's next. Goes into production Jan. 13.

A Month Behind

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Edwin Carowe will start on "Evangeline," U. A. between Cincinnati and New York, with all principals on the set. Starting date is a month behind schedule.

Matter of Horns or Size of House In Bristolphone's Wired Arena

Publix Changing Method Of House Supervision

Changes of jurisdiction among Publix theatre officials will occur on or about Dec. 22. The former Publix policy of dividing jurisdiction between de luxe and non de luxe houses will be discontinued in favor of geographical boundaries.

The principal changes made include: Barry Bink, district manager, moves from Dallas to Dallas; C. C. Perry, city manager in Kansas City, becomes district manager for Denver and Kansas City; Louis Finski, manager of the Newman, Kansas City, becomes city manager for all houses; Ed Smith, formerly of San Francisco and now manager of San Francisco, Minnesota, becomes district manager for the 11 Finkelstein & Rubin houses in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Guy Kenemer, manager in Jacksonville, switches to the city managership of Tampa with John Carroll leaves the latter position to become district manager for Tampa, Jacksonville and St. Petersburg; John Furd from Dallas reports to the home office in New York to take up duty as district manager in charge of the unit houses in Boston, Buffalo, Toledo and Rochester.

There will be switches of city managers but these are not yet set. City and district managers will have supervision over all grade houses within their territory including de luxes and grinds.

Chicago Drops Units; Presentation by Cambria

Chicago, Dec. 18.

Ted Lewis goes into the Chicago (B. & K.) week of Jan. 12 as the final stage and presentation for the house. Theatre then reverts to its original policy of presentations, minus stage bands, Frank Cambria producing.

Presentations will be for only one week, cutting the Chicago from the Publix unit route and leaving the B. Upton and Tivoli as the only B. & K. sites using eastern units. Eddie Perry is fill-in m. c. until the house orchestra is sent back to the pit Jan. 19.

Promise to Birmingham For Sunday Shows N. G.

Birmingham, Dec. 18.

The Interstate circuit has promised to erect a \$1,500,000 house here if the city will permit Sunday shows. It owns property here suitable for the site, says R. J. O'Donnell, gen. mgr. of Interstate. Even the outlook Interstate will have to wait quite a while. Every move on the part of the public to have Sunday pictures has been met by preachers and other persons opposed to Sunday shows, and so far they have won all battles.

U'S "BOAT" AT CARTHAY

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Universal's "Show Boat" will have its premiere at the local Carthay Circle following "The Barker," current. "Boat" will have sound but no dialog.

PATHE'S SPANISH TALKER

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Pathe is preparing an all-talker based on early Spanish history. Picture will contain singing as well as dialog in both the Spanish and English versions.

House Organ Stops

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Because Paramount officials decided its value to the plant was not worth its cost, the four-page studio weekly has been discontinued, leaving Al Wilkie, its former editor, without a desk.

Morgan in N. Y.

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Tea Morgan has arrived from the coast to function as chief cameraman at M-G-M's sound studio. Al Lane returns to Culver City to resume his duties in the M-G-M studio there.

Although it is fully wired the Arena will not be the host of the 8th Avenue grinds as boasted a talker program. Its sister, Tivoli, has contracted for RCA's Photophone, while Consolidated Amusements has been arguing and testing with Bristolphone.

The Arena, which Bristolphone folk said would be talked out of Nov. 20, is accused by the indie talker people of being too barren and barn-like to accommodate their indie talker. The company's argument is that rafters and cement floor are too uncouth for any type of sound.

The theatre's manager, J. P. Jerome, claims it isn't the house; it's Bristolphone's horns. They're too loud for a house of the Arena's size, he says, and to prove his contention, states four Bristolphone dynamic horns were cut down to one.

Meanwhile Charles Rogers, head of the talker outfit, was taken ill during his absence the Consolidated folk learned dynamic horns were okay in the Franklin, which has just come out in RCA dress.

When they all got together Monday the decision was to let the equipment stay silent in the Arena, but to get the Mount Eden, Bronx house, a try to prove the question whether it really is the Bristolphone horns or just the Arena, itself.

Should the Arena win it will cost Consolidated just under a grand to rip out the equipment, otherwise payments for \$1,500 will be started. The Arena was to have been Bristolphone's demonstrator in Times Square, so the Bristolphone people stated some time ago.

Betty Compson's Talker

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Betty Compson has been aligned by Warners for the leading femme part in "The Time, the Place and the Girl," an all-talker.

After All These Units—

South
"MONTMATE"
Benny Krueger
"WHAT DO YOU KNOW?"
Joe Laurie, Jr.
"FASHION SHOW"
Art Kahn
"SPRINGTIME FROLICS"
Mark Fisher
"SCHOOL DAYS"
Mae Murray (All Over)
"MERRY WIDOW"
South
"BLUE PLATE"
All Over
"WEST POINT DAYS"

Grauman's CHINESE THEATRE

No one in the East would glory in the Warner Bros. title. Our first "triable" is playing at the "Ass House of the West."

BORN AND LAWRENCE

And our second one now in production. Thanks to A. J. Hutchins, Motion Picture Sales, Miss Turner, Frank Cambria and the Wm. Morris office for their aid in a happy and prosperous New Year. From now on you can get up at the Warner office, Los Angeles, by asking for

There Is No Substitute for

PAUL ASH



STAGE-BAND ENTERTAINMENT

Known as the "PAUL ASH POLICY"

PARAMOUNT THEATRE BROOKLYN

Indefinitely

"EXCLUSIVELY COLUMBIA RECORDING ARTIST"

JACKSON and LEE

"STEPS AND LAUGHS" Start Fanchon and Marco Greater Stage Season with SALLY O'NEILL

Dept. Justice Takes Balaban & Katz For 1st Gov't Suit—W. C. Circuit Next

Washington, Dec. 18. First of two more suits involving the picture industry was filed Saturday in Chicago by the U. S. Attorney General, naming Balaban & Katz, several of its subsidiary companies, and thirteen producer-distributor organizations.

Next suit names the West Coast Theatres, Inc., along with the same line-up of producer-distributors.

It was not anticipated that Col. William J. Donovan, assistant to the Attorney General and in charge of the enforcement of the Sherman law, was to strike so suddenly.

Case filed Saturday in Chicago and the one to come against West Coast Theatres hit at the exhibitor angle—the use of great buying power for alleged violations of the Sherman Act by entering into unlawful agreements with producers for the selection of the best in product and to withhold second and subsequent runs from opposition exhibitors for arbitrary and "unreasonable" periods.

West Coast case will involve the same alleged violations.

Here another angle is presented: As reported in Variety the Federal Trade Commission is shortly to issue a "cease and desist" order against West Coast Theatres on this same phase.

Department's Chicago case is a petition in equity naming as defendants: Balaban & Katz, Lubliner & Trinz, Mid-West Theatres, Great States, Paramount, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Public Universal Artists, First National, Fox, Pathe, Vitaphone, Columbia, Educational, F. B. O. and Gotham.

This is the first instance where the department has named the independents, Columbia, F. B. O. and Gotham, in a proceeding.

Petition charges that Balaban & Katz, directly and through its wholly owned subsidiary, Lubliner & Trinz Theatres, operates "many of the largest and best motion picture theatres in the city of Chicago," and that Great States Theatres "dominate and controlled by Balaban & Katz Corp., operates most of the largest and best motion picture theatres in many other cities and towns in Illinois."

Kept Films Away

Balaban & Katz is charged with using long-term contracts, agreements and "understandings with the defendant distributors to keep films from opposition exhibitors. These films are characterized as those "being suitable for exhibition in first run houses."

B. & K. is further charged with using its buying power to force the "defendant distributors to enter into contracts providing for a percentage which motion picture theatres shall be entitled to exhibit motion pictures, and providing for arbitrary and unreasonable discriminations against all independent theatres operators in favor of the defendant exhibitors."

Questioned by a Variety reporter on the swiftly multiplying suits against the industry Col. Donovan stated that "every chance has been given the Federal Trade Commission to handle the situation. The commission got nowhere and now the Department of Justice is taking a hand to correct the condition."

Col. Donovan pointed out his report to Congress and is ready, he states, to meet any inquiries Congress may put as to the department's activities to carry forward its investigation and correct the alleged illegal practice within the industry.

The reference to Congress is an answer to Senator Walsh's resolution demanding an investigation by the Senate as to the activities of the Department and the Commission in its move against the film industry.

Word broke during the past week here that the Judiciary Committee of the Senate would have the Walsh resolution before it for consideration in executive session Saturday.

Chicago, Dec. 18. Following an investigation by the Department of Justice of charges filed against Balaban & Katz and other film producing, distributing and exhibiting organizations by Marks Bros., independent theatre operators, a petition charging monopolization of the picture industry in Chicago was filed against the defendants by District Attorney George E. Q. Johnson here Saturday.

Johnson filed the petition with permission of the Department of Justice in Washington. There are 17 complaints named in the petition. The petition charges that the defendants and their subsidiaries have secured control of the picture business here through long term agreements and contracts among themselves, to the detriment of local independents.

Several department agents came to Chicago when the Marks Bros. petition was filed, attending preliminary hearings and starting an investigation of their own.

Great States Into So. Ill. And Maybe Indiana, Too

Chicago, Dec. 18. Great States Theatres plans to invade the southern part of Illinois. Towns into which Great States will go are East St. Louis, Belleville, Cairo and Maysboro. It's already in Alton.

It is also said J. J. Rubens, vice-president and general manager of Great States, is trying to get Public to allow him to go into Indiana.

NEW CHI HOUSE SILENT

Chicago, Dec. 18. Under construction for over three years, the Mont Clare theatre, West Grand and Hiram avenue, will open about Jan. 20 with a straight picture policy. House is not wired and has 1,500 seats.

Basil Charuhas, head of this theatre corporation, has contracted for a 15-piece pit orchestra.

Preview Evil Is Adjusted On Coast by M. P. T. O.

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. After a thorough thrashing out of the evils that have crept into the studio preview thing, a joint committee of the Association of Motion Picture Producers and the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Southern California drafted a plan for a new policy to govern all future previews. This plan is to be presented to the producers' association for official approval.

The new policy provides that all theatres where previews are held be forbidden to advertise any preview in newspaper ads by handbill or on the screen. On the day of the preview, the house will be permitted to post a card in the lobby announcing that a studio preview will be presented that evening. The studio from which the film comes may be mentioned, but not the picture name nor that of any member of the cast. Theatres having searchlights will be permitted to use them on preview nights as before.

Second, an appeal will be made to distributors to discontinue the selling of pictures from their shelves for alleged previews and to discontinue the distribution of pictures for such previews on any basis whatsoever. This to meet the situation wherein, heretofore, studio previews have been advertised, but on the day of the announced showing, the studio has reported inability to have the picture ready in time. When this happened, the theatre managers have usually made a frenzied canvass of the exchanges to get some picture, any picture, which might be foisted on the public as a preview.

Third, the theatres are to eliminate the advertising, even by the limited lobby display card, of any picture as a preview, which is not actually a studio preview.

The meeting of the joint committee was called in an effort to stem the rising tide of evils that have developed in connection with previews. W. Griffith, who originated the preview idea, used to walk into a neighborhood house unannounced with his just completed picture under his arm and ask the manager to run it between the regular film showings.

Other producers followed and the practice became widespread, and presently every theatre is fighting for preview privileges, advertising them broadcast and making previews their biggest business nights of the week.

Chi Showmen Before Board Over Flu Threat

Chicago, Dec. 18. Reports that the Health Commissioner's office was considering the general closing of theatres because of the influenza epidemic threat brought a hurried delegation of theatre men before Commissioner A. H. Kiegel last week.

Representatives contended that because of their maintenance of even temperature and constant ventilation, theatres actually are the safest public places in the city. Kiegel signified agreement, and stated he saw no reason at present for closing the houses. Theatres have offered assistance in presenting educational reels for the prevention of flu.

MANSFIELD, DIV. MGR.

Goes to Portland Section for W. C. Fowler Succeeds in L. A.

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Jack Mansfield, assistant to Harold B. Franklin and head of West Coast's personnel department, goes to Portland as division manager, succeeding Richard Spier who returns to San Francisco under Arch Bowles.

Bruce Fowler, with Franklin at various times since Franklin's early days in Buffalo, succeeds to Mansfield's local post.

FRISCO'S BOARD OF TRADE

San Francisco, Dec. 18. The following officers were elected by the local film Board of Trade: President, M. E. Corey; vice-pres., J. J. Partridge; sec.-treas., W. E. Mathews; G. C. Parson and Charlie Muehlman with the three officers constitute board of governors.

Clare F. Parsons, president, secretary and Milton Nathan, counsellor.

A 1st Run Idea

Chicago, Dec. 18. Talking to a friend, a local indie exhib about to open his first house stated he had signed with all the big companies for first run rights to their big pictures.

"How come?" asked the friend. "Why should the five you their big pictures instead of the Loop houses?"

"You don't understand this business," retorted the embryo exhib. "Balaban and Katz get the pictures first but that isn't first run, that's pre-release A. Then the big neighborhood exhib get them, that's pre-release B. After that I get 'em, I'm first run."

U Demands 60c Rate From Mirror for Ads

Claiming discrimination in favor of Paramount, Harry Reichenbach, acting for Universal last week, pulled the Colony, New York, advertising out of the Daily Mirror, saying it won't go back until he gets a 60c rate for a 10,000-line contract such as he claims Paramount holds with the tab. Reichenbach, who has been given a free rein in running the Colony, has for the past few months been bringing the house sliding out of the Daily Mirror. If he can effect a savings on his weekly advertising bill, it won't be long before he has Universal's white elephant out of the red or breaking even on its current attractions.

To date Reichenbach has been unsuccessful in getting Warners, Metro, Fox or United Artists to join him in his alleged discriminatory charges against the Mirror.

On behalf of the Mirror, Robert Coleman, dramatic critic, who also keeps an eye on the amusement advertising in the tab, says that the Hamft-Metzger Agency, which handles Public-Paramount business suggested the new sliding scale picture advertising rate now in effect which was approved by A. J. Kobler, publisher of the daily. Coleman claims that Paramount has signed a 50,000 line contract in order to get the minimum picture advertising rate of 60 cents, not one for 10,000 lines as Reichenbach asserts. The new line rate is as follows:

50,000 lines \$.60
40,000 lines55
30,000 lines50
20,000 lines45
10,000 lines40
Less than 10,00030

The Mirror's new rate card for picture advertisers only calls for 100 line minimum insertions daily, which entitles the advertiser to display in the paper's amusement directory. The new contractual rate is open to all companies according to Coleman who stated that if the picture advertisers wish to use the Mirror as a club to break the high amusement rate now current in the dailies, the paper is entitled to a bigger volume of business.

Gregory Can Operate

Chicago, Dec. 18. Petition of S. J. Gregory, head of Gregory-Bernasek Theatre Corp., to resume control of his theatres after being indicted for mismanagement on petition of a stockholder, has been answered favorably by Judge Joseph Fitch.

Judge Fitch ruled last week that Gregory may operate the houses but they must continue to be held in technical receivership by the Chicago Title & Trust Co. for accounting of the operation. This is to satisfy the complaining stockholder. Theatres are Parthenon in Berwyn, Palace, Cleero; Lido, Chicago, and Majestic, Ottawa.

4 B. & K.'S GO SOUND

Chicago, Dec. 18. Four more B. & K. houses are to start sound programs.

Tower and Rivers include sound this Saturday, the Tower retaining stage band units, but the Riviera discarding vaude. Maryland and Central Park will start all-sound programs Christmas Day.

2 COMMERCIAL FILMS ON B'WAY RENT FREE

Steamship Line Plug at R-K-O Broadway—Stock Exchange Film Holds Over at Colony

Silent industrial shorts made by the Vitaphone Picture Corp. are playing two Broadway theatres this week rent free. Keith's Broadway is showing "The Log of the Lubber," a steamship travelog, running 20 minutes which plants a solid plug for Grace Lines, serving various South American countries. At the Universal Colony, "New York Stock Exchange" is being held for a second week. This latter film taken on the floor of the stock exchange gives a glimpse of the internal machinery of the big money mill on Wall Street, and is a subtle invitation to come on "Down and mix with the bears and the bulls."

Broadway's travel picture has a lot of explanatory subtitles, the steamship line and the names of its latest motor-driven liners being often mentioned in connection with the advantages and pleasures to be derived from a voyage to any of the S. A. countries this line serves. Scenes of deck games and sports indulged in by the passengers, a look at the Panama Canal and shots of cities in Panama, Peru and Chile pad out the running time.

Stock exchange comes on "Down and mix with the bears and the bulls" and is one of those instances where there is a thin line dividing news and propaganda, but the travel picture is an out and out plug for which the R-K-O Broadway should receive rental for turning its screen commercial.

In bookkeeping the Stock Exchange picture into the Colony Universal last week made a deal whereby 2,000 free admission tickets were passed out to members of the Stock Exchange. This week more free tickets were passed out for Wall Street distribution.

Vitaphone Picture Corp. with offices on Park avenue, New York, is said to be backed by the Nicholas F. Brady estate, investment brokers with extensive traction, steamship and realty holdings. The picture corporation concentrates its activities in making films of industrial concerns in which the Brady estate is financially interested, spending \$300,000 for this purpose annually.

U. A., L. A., Drops Stage Shows; '98' Due at Pops

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. United Artists theatre will discontinue stage shows after Dec. 20. For the past seven weeks stage shows have been experimented with as business getters, but it is claimed the flu thing made the experiment expensive and unfeasible.

"Trail of '98" (M-G), first showing at pop prices, will resume the all-picture policy.

BARRY SHERWOOD TENOR

First Appearance in America Featured in Fanchon and Marco's SALLY O'NEILL "Mike" Idea

ALFRED BROWER

World's Fastest Russian Dancer with Fanchon & Marco's This Week—Hollywood Secured in Los Angeles Direction WILLIAM MORRIS

BOBBY GILLETTE and His Banjo

Master of Ceremonies Alexander Theatre, Glendale, Cal.

NOW IN SECOND YEAR
"B. B. B."
More Than a Master of Ceremonies At COFFEE DAN'S, Los Angeles, Cal.

Michigan Vaude Mgrs. Ass'n
Charlie MACK
Booking the most extensive circuit of vaudeville and presentation theatres between New York and Chicago
Michigan Theatre Bldg., DETROIT
Standard Acts, Write or Wire

HERMIE KING
Musical Master of Ceremonies
Direction Fanchon and Marco
Oakland Theatre, Oakland

JOHNNY DOVE
AMERICA'S FOREMOST ACROBATIC SKATER
NOW FEATURED IN
FANCHON and MARCO'S "ROLLING ALONG" IDEA
THE ACT WITH
SPEED and MOTION
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MAURICE and VINCENT
In "A STRUGGLER"
THIS WEEK—ORIENTAL, CHICAGO
Personal Direction, WM. MORRIS OFFICE Booked Until Mar. 1929
Many Thanks to Mr. Mix Turner

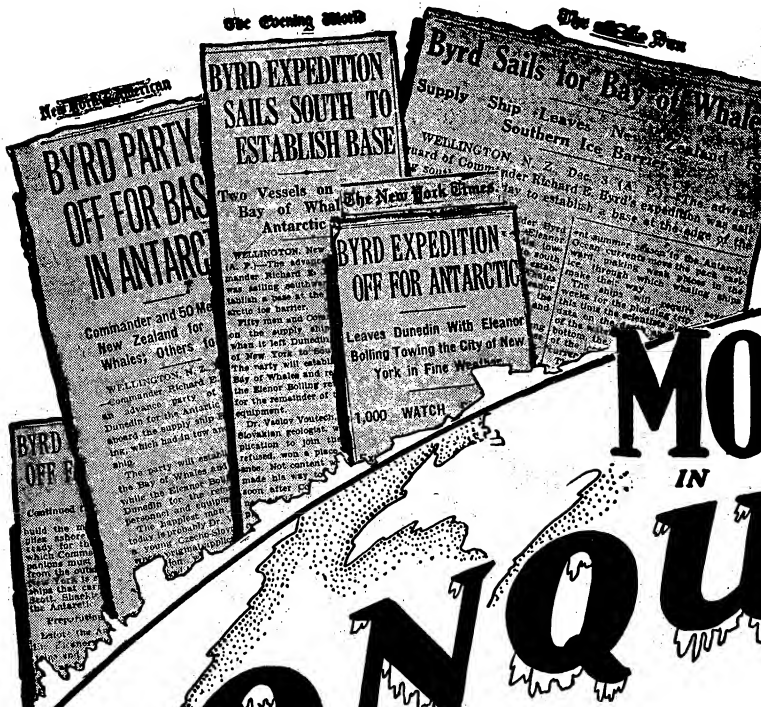
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*The Whole World
is Reading About
the South Pole!*

MONTE BLUE IN **'CONQUEST'**

**Warner Bros. Latest
100% Vitaphone
Talking Picture**

Showmen, here's showmanship!
Everybody's reading about the Byrd Antarctic Expedition. It's on the front page of every newspaper.

Right now—while it's hot news—Warner Bros. give you "CONQUEST." A great picture of the Antarctic, brimful of breath-taking action on land, sea and in the air. A fine love story—a remarkable cast.

It's timely—it's big—it's a wonder for a cleanup!

Two prints, of course—a Vitaphone and a silent version. Book it at once!

'CONQUEST'
H.B. WARNER
LOIS WILSON
Edmund Breese
Tully Marshall

BASED ON THE NOVEL ENTITLED "THE CANDLE IN THE WIND" BY MARY HILAY TAYLOR.
Adaptation by Eve Unsell -- Scenario by C. GRAHAM BAKER
Directed by **ROY DEL RUTH**

ONE WITH VITAPHONE
2
ONE WITHOUT VITAPHONE
NEGATIVES

Now
Cleaning Up:

AL JOLSON in "THE SINGING FOOL"	DOLORES COSTELLO in "GLOIBIOUS BESTY" with Conrad Nagel
"ON TRIAL" with Pauline Frederick, Bert Lytell, Lois Wilson	FANNIE BRICE in "MY MAN"
George M. Cohan's "THE HOME TOWNERS"	"LIGHTS OF NEW YORK" Helen Costello, Cullen Landis
	"THE TEBBOR" with May McAvoy, Louise Fazenda

Watch
For:

JOHN BARRYMORE in
"THE TAVERN KNIGHT"
TEXAS GUINAN in
"QUEEN OF THE NIGHT CLUBS"
GEORGE ARLISS
in His First Vitaphone Talking Picture
SOPHIE TUCKER in
"HONKY TONK"
THOMAS MEIGHAN
in His First Vitaphone Talking Picture
TED LEWIS
in His First Vitaphone Talking Picture



"NOAH'S ARK" - TOPS ANY PICTURE EVER MADE

Facts about the First of the GREATER FOX ALL-TALKING FEATURES

IN OLD ARIZONA
blazes a new trail in talk-
ing features.

It is the first and only talk-
ing feature filmed outdoors.

It's a 100% story. A story of
flaming passions, of a Carmen
beauty with the face of a Madonna
and the soul of a sinner, whose boast
was, "I can get any man I want,"
and of what happened when she got
two at the same time.



It couldn't help being
a smashing love-drama
in any locale. Filmed as it
was against the natural beau-
ty of the southwest, it's noth-
ing less than a masterpiece.

It has a 100% acting, 100% talk-
ing cast. It is the supreme achieve-
ment of two great directors—Raoul
Walsh of "What Price Glory" fame,
and Irving Cummings who made
"Romance of the Underworld."
IT IS 100% BOX-OFFICE!

WILLIAM FOX presents

IN OLD ARIZONA

with EDMUND LOWE WARNER BAXTER
RAOUL WALSH—IRVING CUMMINGS Production

DOROTHY BURGESS
Story and dialog by TOM BARRY

Begins **EXTENDED RUN** December 25th
CRITERION Theatre, Los Angeles

6 more All-Talking Features now ready or in production!

THE GHOST TALKS
with HELEN TWELVETREES
CHARLES EATON
Carmel Myers—Earle Foxe
LEW SEILER Production

SPEAKEASY
with LOLA LANE
PAUL PAGE
Helen Ware
Warren-Hymer
BENJAMIN STOLOFF
Production

THE VALIANT
with PAUL MUNI
MARGUERITE
CHURCHILL
WILLIAM K. HOWARD
Production

HEARTS IN
DIXIE
with GEORGE REED
PAUL SLOANE
Production

THRU DIFFERENT
EYES
with MARY DUNCAN
WARNER BAXTER
JOHN BLYSTONE Production

BIG TIME
with MARIAN NIXON
HOWARD HAWKS
Production

F
MOVIETONE talkers talk profits!
X

Names on Schwartz' L. I. List of One-Nighters, Playing Six in Week

During the first days of the new policy at the A. H. Schwartz Brooklyn and Long Island one-night picture house neighborhooders, Jane and Katherine Lee learned something about theatres.

At the Midwood the girls dressed in the manager's office and walked through the audience under the stage and thus onto the rostrum, the being no stage entrance otherwise.

At the Freeport the Lee girls drew \$85 a day, encountering there an over-heated stage with all the steam pipes situated there, leaving the audience sitting out front in their overcoats.

At the afternoon show, with only an organist officiating, who plays solely by ear, the Lee kids had to coincide their vocal recital with the organist's musical knowledge. They decided on the "Sonny Boy" theme songs, the organist being unable to read their music. At night the regular four-piece band did better.

Schwartz is trying out the idea of playing name acts to bolster his picture shows, paying up to \$1,500 for attractions when the minimum cost of the feature can stand it. The Lees got \$1,150 on the week, divided among five or six stands for the seven days. The Freeport date was a loss, the house giving up more pro rata than the \$85 gross draw on the entire day.

Local's Charges Against Sound Engineers' Club

Charges that the Electro-Acoustic Club was a "company union" have been lodged with the American Federation of Labor by Local 52, of the Studio Mechanics, and Local 146 of the Studio Cameramen.

Matter involves inter-union politics and is said to be a maneuver to spike R. K. Francis who was lining up sound engineers preparatory to applying for an A. F. of L. charter.

Electro-acoustics was launched a few weeks ago, ostensibly as a social body, but spotted by the business agents of the older unions as an attempt to cut in on their jurisdiction.

New Haven Opens Thurs.

Public units will open, starting Dec. 20, on Thursdays at the Olympia, New Haven. It is the starting point on all Public routes.

Change of date is for convenience of production department officials, who make the trip to New Haven each week end. It enables them to be in New York Saturday for the Paramount opening.

Greenman for St. L. Fox
St. Louis, Dec. 18.
Harry Greenman, formerly manager to Lew's State here, has been appointed manager of the new Fox, which will open around Feb. 1.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!
HELENE HUGHES
ROY SMOOT
Featured with
FANCHON and MARCO.

6 STEPPING FOOLS
WITH
LOUISE LYNCH
Now in 10th Week
Warner Bros. Theatre, Hollywood

DORIS WALKER
JUST COMPLETED
A VITAPHONE
NOW AT
United Artists Theatre, L. A.

WOODS MILLER
"SONGS PLUS PERSONALITY"
Featured Soloist in
Fanchon and Marco's "SOCIAL CLIMBERS" IDEA

Tent Show Ballyhoo

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.
As a special exploitation for the current film, "The Barker," starring Milton Sills and Dorothy Mackall, the Pathway Circle has erected a complete tent show and carnival on the lot adjoining the theatre as a free attraction to the theatre's patrons. Fortune tellers, animal acts, slide shows and other regular carnival attractions that have bearing on the theme of the picture are used.

Gt. States' Last Oposing Indie Sells to That Chain

Decatur, Ill., Dec. 18.
A. Sigfried, owner of the Blou theatre, last of the independent houses in Illinois opposing Great States Theatres, Inc., has sold out to that circuit. Deal was consummated between Sigfried and J. J. Rubens, general manager and vice president of Great States, and gives the latter three first run houses in this town.

Sigfried will take a trip around the world.

Operator Sues House

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 18.
George Spanos, picture operator at Plaza theatre, has filed a \$30,000 suit against the Rex Amusement company, owners of the house, charging his eyesight was permanently impaired as the result of an explosion in the booth.

Spanos alleges that the projection machine was working poorly and that despite complaints the company refused to make replacement.

SAENGER GETS EDGE

Dallas, Dec. 18.
Making a stubborn fight to nullify Texas laws which prohibit motion pictures on Sunday, Saenger company appears to have won the first heat in the Texarkana contest when a suit to prevent Sunday operations was dismissed in the district court.

Judge of the court at Boston, Tex., near here, entered an order for dismissal of the suit, which also sought to prevent the Saengers from doing business in Texas because of alleged repeated violations of Sunday laws.

FRIEDL MOVES UP

Dallas, Dec. 18.
John J. Friedl, district manager for the Southwest Publick Circuit, left for New York today (Tuesday), where he will have charge of the northern district and also a part of New York.

Barry Burke, former manager of the local Palace, takes his place. To Edith Friedl, however, will be added the Denver district, giving him triple headquarters in Kansas City (Newman), Denver (new Denver) and Dallas (Palace).

TAKE \$167 IN SILVER

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 18.
Modest thieves who broke open the safe of the Majestic (pictures) here Sunday night were content with \$167 in silver. They did not disturb nearly \$1,800 in paper money hidden in a compartment in the rear.

Robbers, it is believed, secreted themselves in the theatre during the night show and waited until the house closed for the night before doing their stuff.

Lone House Gets Sundays

Rankin, Ill., Dec. 18.
Pro-Sunday crowd risked everything on a special election, agreeing that they would accept the result as final for all time, and won. Of the 278 voters, 175 voted for Sunday opening, with 103 opposing.

Town's lone movie house was open Sunday night.

EASTMAN GOES TO PUBlix UNDER LEASE

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 18.
Paramount takes over the Eastman, Regent and Piccadilly theatres this week on a lease made by Sam Katz, for Publix, and Raymond N. Ball, proprietor of the University of Rochester. It is understood Paramount doesn't pay rent until the theatre's present contracts expire.

Under the lease, Paramount has agreed to George Eastman's stipulation that the Eastman theatre be reserved 20 days yearly for orchestral concerts, three days each spring for the Metropolitan Opera and that it shall be available on all mornings for graduation exercises, Thanksgiving and memorial services and community affairs.

Paramount will retain the Eastman's 70-piece orchestra until the musician's contract expires July 31, and an orchestra is expected to be available on all mornings for graduation exercises, Thanksgiving and memorial services and community affairs.

The Rochester Philharmonic will have to be reorganized after Aug. 1, as 50 high paid musicians are now drawn from the Eastman. Eastman Subscribers' Association is expected to give an additional aid, while rent from the three theatres will support the Philharmonic.

The Eastman is said to have lost \$75,000 on operation alone last year.

Fire Panic Averted

Toledo, Dec. 18.
Lewis Krieger, manager, was burned fighting a fire in a small room next to the projection booth of the Lyric, neighborhood film house. Fred Coleman, operator, kept the film going and shouted to the audience of 600 to keep their seats.

Mrs. Nellie Davis, organist, and Helen Harlow, an usher, also aided in averting a panic.

Cigaret tossed in a waste basket is blamed. Damage less than \$100.

PUBLIX EXEC'S NORTH

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.
Sam Dembow and Herman Wobber, after spending a week here, left for Seattle and Portland to inspect houses there. Dembow returns to San Francisco for the holidays and then proceeds to New York.

Reports were current that Dembow and Wobber were looking over proposed theatre locations. Dembow denied this.

U MANAGERS CHANGE

Changes in managers of several Universal houses have been made by Fred Plader, general manager of the circuit.

R. G. Wood moves from the Rialto, Washington, D. C., to the Venetian, Racine, Wis., succeeding Jack Grove, resigned; H. J. Royster goes from the Clemmer, Spokane, to the Arabian, same city, and to the Many Sogelbaum takes over the U neighborhood interests in Cleveland.

REEL OF GREETINGS

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.
Warners have made a Vitaphone reel for the opening of the Mastogum theatre, Philadelphia, with the following players greeting the audience:

Al Johnson, master of ceremonies; John Barrymore, Dolores Costello, Milton Sills, Richard Barthelmess, Dorothy Mackall, Alice White and Billie Dove.

"AWAKENING" ON B'WAY

Inaugural of United Artists' "The Awakening" in New York will take place at the Rivoli Dec. 28 (Friday) in a benefit performance for the Boys Club of New York.

Opening (night) will see the house sealed at \$5 downstairs and \$2 and \$3 in the balcony for the occasion.

\$1.50 FOR PAIR'S N. Y. EVE

Rivoli, Rivoli and the two Paramounts, Manhattan and Brooklyn, will have special New Year's Eve performances. General admission and reserved seats, \$1.50.

Kingston Drops Sunday Ban
Kingston, N. Y., Dec. 18.
Ban on Sunday pictures here has been lifted.

Both the Kingston and Broadway started Sunday operation Dec. 15.

Inside Stuff—Pictures

One of Hollywood's prominent leading men was taken to a hospital in Los Angeles and operated upon. The doctor said it was appendicitis and charged the actor \$1,000. Shortly thereafter, the actor went to New York and was taken seriously ill. He was rushed to a hospital and the case was pronounced appendicitis. The actor was not in position to argue the point, but the eastern physicians had no trouble convincing him his appendix had not been removed. When he returned to Hollywood, the actor called on the surgeon who had worked on him there and demanded the doctor's check for \$1,000. And after a few minutes' argument, he got it.

When Perfect Talking Pictures Corporation made its first one-reel comedy, "In Vaudeville," it had the cast report at 9 o'clock one morning and rehearsals were held until midnight. Then, when everybody had decided it was a day, the director said, "Now, we'll shoot it." There was a wild yell from the players, but the director said, "We'll have to do it now. These aren't sound stages and we can't work until late at night when the traffic dies. Everybody, ready? Interlock!"

The picture was finished before morning and the actors received one day's pay.

A screen star who has had his own share of domestic infidelities was sending out Christmas cards. For several weeks he had been busy and wasn't quite certain whether he was up to the minute on the conjugal status of the married couples in his acquaintance.

He solved one particular doubt by addressing a card to "Mr. and Mrs. (if any) John Smith."

Frank Bowers, Internal Revenue Collector at New York, has severed connections with the Photovox Film Co. Bowers refused to permit the film interests to use his name on its pamphlets and proposed stock selling plan. The company later decided to pass out of existence.

Among those interested was P. A. Powers. No announcement was made as to the sudden flop of the project and Bowers' withdrawal of his support and name.

John Zantzi is handling the general direction of the William Fox town theatres. These take in the Fox named picture houses and also the large Fox de Luxes.

Fox's theatre chains have their own general managers. Harold B. Franklin holds that post as president of West Coast Theatres circuit; Joe Leo is in charge of the Fox-Wisconsin circuit, and Herschel Stuart of Fox-Poll, while Jack Loeb has the Fox vaudeville houses around New York and the Fox vaude booking office.

Year books costing over \$120,000 and issued by the advertising departments of the major film companies have been rendered practically useless through the unlooked for production and distribution of sound pictures in the middle of the season.

First National spent \$26,000, it is understood, in getting out its year book, while Paramount, M-G-M and United Artists appropriated over \$60,000 on this purpose.

One of the few surviving indie circuits in Chicago narrowly missed getting into one of those jams that have socked other circuits into the discard.

A bond and mortgage house had \$650,000 in notes due on the circuit, with the latter having only \$450,000 collected two days before the time limit and no apparent way to get more. In a last-minute appeal to their attorney for advice, the circuit heads were taken by the attorney to several second mortgage houses which he represented. The mortgage houses in turn assisted by calling on banks and scraping up \$200,000 for the indie circuit. A representative of a trust company was called from his home Sunday morning to receipt the payment.

His love for a practical joke, prompted partly by revenge made Richard Barthelmess break a life long resolution not to make a personal appearance when he acted as m. c. at the opening of "The Thinker" in Los Angeles.

It seems a feud was started between Milton Sills and Barthelmess when the former acted as m. c. during the premier showing of "The Patient Leather Kid." During the introduction of Barthelmess, Sills interred, without malice, that the star had been lost or strayed and was rediscovered in "The Patient Leather Kid." Barthelmess resented this crack and threatened to get even with Sills.

Two weeks before the opening of "The Barker," starring Sills, it was generally made known about the studio that Barthelmess would act as m. c. and introduce Sills. This made Sills start to worry. Night of the opening he stood under very nervous tension in the wings waiting for the burn, but instead Barthelmess said a lot of nice things, which at (Continued on page 41)

ROACH'S FULL TIME
Los Angeles, Dec. 18.
In an effort to clean up the 1928-29 program by Jan. 1, Hal Roach is working his plan to capacity.

"Our Gang" company has been divided into two units with players alternating on two pictures at the same time. First time the "gang" has been separated for two productions.

"THE 9:45" ON SCREEN
Los Angeles, Dec. 11.
Michael Curtiz will direct "The 9:45," an old Owen Davis melodrama for Warner Bros.

Paducah Co. Bankrupt
Louisville, Dec. 13.
Loop Theatre Co., E. D. Baldwin, pres., local concern, has gone bankrupt.

Liabilities, \$9,151; and assets, \$4,470.

VINCE SILK
Master of Ceremonies
Golden Gate Theatre, Los Angeles
SAYS:
"Hello, Chamberlain and Hines"

FRANK JENKS
M. C. and Orchestra Leader
Now in 26th Week
Appearing with Public Units
METROPOLITAN THEATRE
LOS ANGELES

NEW ORIGIN
BRADFIELD
Broadway
Theatres
Portland
Ore.

BERT PRIVAL
HIGHLIGHTS
FANCHON and MARCO'S
"MOTHER GOOSE IDEA"

LITERATI

Hearst M. E.'s, Called West That bi-annual summons of Will...

Laugh for or on Graphic Macfadden's Graphic has lost its...

It may never be known whether the ad mgr. just couldn't stand for...

Anyway it's funny if you know Mac's front page and if you don't...

Careful for 5c.

Inasmuch as he pays five cents a word for the 800-word or so...

A New York newspaperman sent in one of those 800-word stories...

"Dialog and Sound" "Five O'Clock Girl"

Starring: MARION DAVIES for M-G-M Directed by ALFRED E. GREEN

Summer Attraction Film Road Show

UNWED MOTHERS Percentage Booking Anywhere—Send Dates SAMUEL CUMMINS Publix Welfare Pictures Corp.

WARNING! No Contract Binding for "Talking Rights"

To following plays without signature of Margaret Mayo, sole owner of production rights...

FANCHON and MARCO PRESENT WILL KING in "CHICKENS A LA KING" A BOX-OFFICE TONIC

BEST SELLERS

Table listing best sellers by Baker & Taylor Co. with categories like Fiction and Non-Fiction, including titles like 'Warwick Deeping' and 'Lytton Strachey'.

effect that she and the publisher were deliberating over the merits of the sale...

Koenigsberg's Announcement M. Koenigsberg, for a quarter of a century head of the Hearst Syndicates...

His initial list of features include comics by Kessler, Zere, Forbell and other tried strippers.

Koenigsberg has his salesmen out already, and early in 1929 will tour the country in person...

Show Wits Offered Though the two Moran and Mack comics are not a sensation either...

Vanderbilt On Reno Those who have seen advance proofs of Cornelius Vanderbilt's new novel...

Vanderbilt, who burned up millions as a tab publisher, became a bona fide resident of Nevada...

Bill's Only Worry William De Lignemare, general manager for Anne Nichols, founded the Social Life Publishing Corp...

FBO's Legit Play Films With Prices Important

Twelve legit plays may take the lead in importance on FBO's revised schedule and its first under Radio-Keith-Orpheum.

Ericson is secure in many cases original casts will be made by FBO. Because of this no little production of features is expected...

On the new program four productions are set for all dialog. There probably will be more since the schedule is not yet definitely set.

In its negotiations for the rights to plays FBO is finding that legit producers are not daunted by its exceptionally bad season when it comes to film deals.

T-S Mgrs. Meet

Tiffany-Stahl exchange managers will be called upon to attend a general meeting presided over by Oscar Hanson...

WARNERS' LEGAL TALENT

Warners are dipping into the prosecutor's office downtown to strengthen their staff of legal advisers.

PAR SHORTS MAKING

Paramount talking shorts in production at the moment are S. Jay Kaufman's "Kisses," starring Lynne Overman...

D. W. Vacationing

D. W. Griffith is on his way to New York for a vacation. Director will hunt story material and return the end of January.

MYERS HEADS INDIES

(Continued from page 7)

wise true of several individuals who will now sign and build organizations to meet the requirements as set down by Myers.

Promote and Protect

In his constitution Myers gives as the "object" of the association "to promote and protect the interests of the motion picture exhibitors of the United States in every lawful way...

Myers says nothing of co-operative buying. He has not set himself up to be such a buyer. But he does intend to try to open the market to the Indies to secure product.

To attain the object of the association Article 3 has eight subdivisions. Briefly they are:

To represent the members in public relations; to negotiate with other branches of the industry with equipment suppliers; expressly incorporated to meet the present situation in reference to sound equipment; "to use its endeavors to secure an adequate and equitable distribution of motion picture film and necessary theatre equipment..."

Back of Myers is created an executive committee and a board of directors, the latter passing on all new applications for membership such being open to any duly organized association of exhibitors.

Myers Alone

Management and control is vested in the board and executive committee, which are to perform all of their duties to Myers. Their authority, however, is limited to Myers' contract. It exists only to the point set down by that contract.

Headquarters will be here in Washington. Myers will not use the title of president. It will be general counsel. In addition to the duties furnished and paid for by the Indies he will personally maintain an office of his own adjoining where his shingle as an attorney will be hung.

To W. A. Steffen, of Minn.; Col. Cole of Texas; H. M. Ritchie of Michigan and James Ridder of Detroit, Myers give credit for the formation of what he hopes will develop to be the first "intelligent attempt to bring the independent exhibitors together."

Those in Washington who know Myers; his work in the commission, and more particularly his handling of the trade conference in New York, give credit to him for being the first man whose name would cause to be gathered together from the indie group an actual \$25,000 in cash and another \$25,000 in such negotiable paper as to be immediately available for operating expenses.

Steering Flopped Insiders here know of the many angles resorted to in the hope of steering Myers off. First reports of the possibilities of his heading such an organization brought to his attention from various and sundry sources, every flop charged to the Indies; every nickel allegedly still owed by previous such organizations and friendly long distance calls-and-telegrams-telling-him-of

"the error of his ways" in even considering jumping Uncle Sam's \$10,000 annually.

Myers would have left the commission in any event next July. He is now a member of the Federal Trade Commission on a recess appointment by the President. His nomination for the position has never left the White House to go to the Senate. Had he not accepted the indie's offer the Senate still would not have been asked to confirm him. He accepted until July only.

Myers put in some 12 years in the Department of Justice. He was the chief reliance of Col. William J. Donovan, assistant to the attorney general handling the anti-trust cases. He went from there to the commission always with the resolve that on his 40th birthday he would strike out for himself. That birthday comes in July.

Myers will select his own personnel. A publicity department will be created, though in this regard Myers is on record as expecting little for himself. He selected Washington for his headquarters for here are his "connections," and, as he states, his best opportunity to accomplish the purposes of the association.

Further summarizing the constitution and by-laws: semi-annual meetings of the board are authorized for the second Wednesday in December and June. Myers is empowered to poll by telegram or mail on any emergency.

Other details are yet to be worked out with the present document closing with:

"The claims of the President and general counsel arising out of any contract between him and the organizers and underwriters of the association, or any contract between the President and general counsel and the association, shall constitute a first lien on the funds and property of the association."

Closing act of Myers' federal trade assignment will most probably be to address the industrial conference in New York city during the current week.

No definite date, as yet, has been set for his start as the head of the Indies.

We're Goin' to Have a Merry Christmas We Hope That You All Will JESS STAFFORD and His Orchestra Now Featured Stage and Pit at Loew's State, Los Angeles P.S.—Brunswick Recording

AL LYONS AND NEAL CASTAGNOLI Featured in FANCHON and MARCO IDEAS WEST COAST CALIFORNIA THEATRE, SAN DIEGO INDEFINITELY

FANCHON and MARCO Present Boeppel Karlin DANCING SONGSTRESS IN THEIR IDEAS

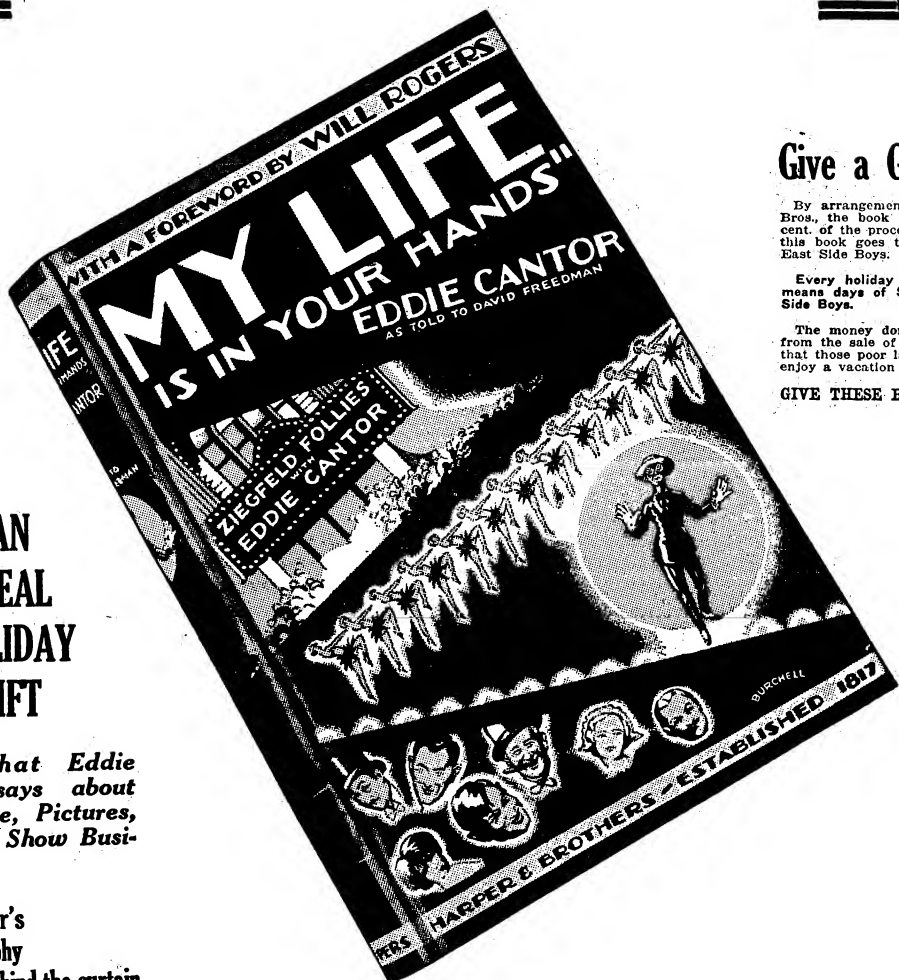
JOE and WILLIE HALE PUTTING THE LAUGHS IN FANCHON and MARCO'S "SAXOPHOBIA IDEA" Direction: WILLIAM PERLBERG WM. MORRIS AGENCY



ONE OF THE BIG BOOKS OF THE YEAR



Written by One of You



AN IDEAL HOLIDAY GIFT

Read what Eddie Cantor says about Vaudeville, Pictures, Ziegfeld, Show Business, etc.

Eddie Cantor's Autobiography Is a peep behind the curtain

Give a Great Gift

By arrangement with Harper & Bros., the book publishers, 60 per cent. of the proceeds of the sale of this book goes to a fund for the East Side Boys.

Every holiday gift for a friend means days of Sunshine for East Side Boys.

The money donated to the fund from the sale of this book is used that those poor lads who could not enjoy a vacation may do so.

GIVE THESE BOYS A CHANCE

Use this coupon and let your check be large. Spread sunshine and solve your holiday gift problem with one stroke of the pen.

REMEMBER IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON WHEN FILLING OUT THIS COUPON

EDDIE CANTOR CAMP COMMITTEE,
New Amsterdam Theatre,
New York City.

With the understanding that approximately 60% of the receipts from your sale of Eddie Cantor's new book, "MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS," will be used for the purposes of the Eddie Cantor Camp Committee, please send me copies of the book at \$3.00 each. Enclosed is my check for \$..... in full payment.

Name

Address

FORWARDING-INSTRUCTIONS

.....
.....



Christmas Messages



from West Coast Production Headquarters

(Telegram)

HOLLYWOOD, CAL., DEC. 14, 1928

S. R. KENT
PARAMOUNT FAMOUS LASKY CORP., NEW YORK CITY
HAVE SPENT THREE WEEKS LOOKING AT PARAMOUNT PICTURES
FINISHED OR IN WORK HERE. I CAN SINCERELY SAY THAT
OUR STUDIO IS AT PRESENT TURNING OUT THE FINEST PRO-
DUCT WE OR THE INDUSTRY EVER HAD. "THE DOCTOR'S SECRET",
"THE DUMMY" AND "THE TONG WAR", ALL-TALKING PICTURES
WHICH I HAVE SEEN IN COMPLETED FORM, ARE GREAT BOX
OFFICE ATTRACTIONS. I AM TREMENDOUSLY ENTHUSIASTIC.

ADOLPH ZUKOR

from
**ADOLPH
ZUKOR:**

Mr. Zukor has been spending nearly a month in Hollywood observing and advising Paramount's great production organization. His comments on what he has seen are frank and sincere.

(Telegram)

HOLLYWOOD, CAL., DEC. 15, 1928

SAM KATZ
PUBLIC THEATRES CORP., NEW YORK CITY
WITNESSED "DOCTOR'S SECRET" AND "THE DUMMY" AT
PARAMOUNT STUDIO AND NEVER FELT SO ENTHUSI-
ASTIC ABOUT TALKING PICTURES BEFORE. THE PUBLIC
WILL BE SOLD ONE HUNDRED PER CENT ON TALKERS
WHEN THESE PRODUCTIONS ARE RELEASED. PARAMOUNT
IS MILES AHEAD OF OTHER PRODUCERS IN RECORDING
OF VOICES AND HAVE ACHIEVED RESULTS THAT I
THOUGHT WOULD TAKE YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH. SAM
DEMBO AND OTHERS WHO SAW "WOLF OF WALL
STREET" AND "CANARY MURDER CASE" ALSO ARE EVEN
MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THOSE PICTURES THAN
"DOCTOR'S SECRET" AND "THE DUMMY".

JOHN BALABAN

from
JOHN BALABAN
Balaban & Katz

(Telegram)

HOLLYWOOD, CAL., DEC. 14, 1928

S. R. KENT
PARAMOUNT FAMOUS LASKY CORP., NEW YORK CITY
YOU KNOW I SELDOM WIRE YOU ABOUT PICTURES I SEE
IN ADVANCE AT THE STUDIO HERE. BUT I HAVE SEEN SO
MUCH OF OUTSTANDING QUALITY IN LAST FEW DAYS
HERE THAT I FELT YOU SHOULD KNOW IT. "DOCTOR'S
SECRET", "WOLF OF WALL STREET" AND "THE DUMMY" ARE
FAR SUPERIOR TO ANY TALKING PICTURES PRODUCED SO
FAR. "WOLF OF WALL STREET" IS PARAMOUNT'S BEST
PICTURE IN YEARS, EXCEPTING "WINGS". PARAMOUNT
SURELY LEADS THE SOUND WORLD.

HERMAN WOBBER

from
HERMAN WOBBER
*West Coast District Manager
Paramount Famous Lasky*

Personal observations, *by men who know*, on

PARAMOUNT TALKING PICTURES

LOVE OVER NIGHT

(Continued from page 12)
stories on a par with those of Jack K. ...

Plot concerns a money changer who is that way about a dame picked up at Columbus Circle...

Determined to learn the truth he follows to her Long Island estate and breaking in, is himself mistaken for a crook with a subway detective close on his trail.

Girl helps him give the low comedy dick the slip. Later he bids in on a wedding ceremony into which the girl is being forced...

Le Rocque has a bit where he imitates a pair of neat gamblers using his hands and arms back of a screen to stall the detective...

THE YELLOW PASS (RUSSIAN MADE)

Amkino production by Metro-Bonifilm released by Ince. Directed by F. Osep. No players featured on credits...

Over here "The Yellow Pass" is apt to draw on its title from the foreign tongue element or neighborhoods. The yellow pass is the permit to travel in Russia to provinces...

In the running of the picture it appears that considerable of the dirt has been scissored, probably by the censors...

Otherwise, this is the pieturization of peasantry of the Russian fields, with that country as flat as Indiana...

THEATRE MANAGER

An unusual man seeks an opportunity with an independent firm where exceptional character, integrity and ability will be recognized.

Many years of experience have given him a thorough insight into the conduction of all type of theatres.

He is thoroughly familiar with film values and booking—presentations and talkies—and at exhibition he is considered a genius.

Now directing a large suburban theatre that never netted a profit until he assumed control.

He is an American, thirty years of age, well educated and in perfect health. In other words, he is tuned up to haul a big load and keep it moving.

Address Box 66 VARIETY, NEW YORK

repeat on the screen. This Russian director, F. Osep, is the kind of a meg guy who drops in troups because he sees creek through the trees...

May be liked by the Russians on both sides as a clip from their home life and villages, but not an education in the respect for over here.

Story terribly draggy in the opening 3,000 feet trying to plant the title. Minute detail and those shots. Osep should be told not to try to make a scenic out of dirt...

Peter came home after the war. Probably an excellent soldier, but a rotten farmer. Pretty family, wife and two children...

In the city everyone wanted to make Marie. When the daughter's husband got in the going, Marie blew again, and got caught, innocently, in a police raid on non-ticketed dances...

If the Russian peasants are really that way, they shouldn't blame 20 cent movies. Marie went back home, to another farm, as poverty stricken as the other...

So Peter knew his wife, the baby brightened up and everyone could think heaven that was over.

TAXI 13 (SOUND)

FERO production and release directed by Marshall Koblentz. Story by Scott Darling. Cameraman Phillip Zauman...

Pretty poor. Gets considerable support from its synchronization but hardly enough to lift it out of the class of stouff for the easy giggles and enough action for the kids...

Picture is preceded by "Joy Riding," a comedy talking short with Leo-Maine and Phillips. This was added in New York and will be of benefit...

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HERO OF THE CIRCUS (ITALIAN MADE)

Pittacolo production, released by Universal. Starring Maurice, Italian Strong man. Screen story written and directed by Guy Luron...

Foreign made thriller that packs a wallop in a scene showing lions

turned loose in a crowded house playing an indoor circus. Maciste, Italian actor, is in the title role. As circus stories are now having some thing on the screen, this one rates a place in its class...

Plot concerns the backstage loves and hates of the Pommer circus. Sarah, the equestrienne star of the troupe, is the arena darling...

Maciste, strong man and lion tamer, returned from a lion hunting expedition in Africa and starts to get acquainted with the troupe...

Story while weak in love interest is sufficient to show off Maciste's fighting ability. Photography is good and in some sequences outstanding.

Sydney SINGERMAN, Universal executive, called the film and Paul Gulick, publicity man, titled it, getting the most out of what they had to work with.

HEAD OF THE FAMILY

Gotham production and release. Directed by Joseph C. Boyle, from story by George Nathan. Cast including Virginia Lee Corbin, William Russell, Mickey Bennett...

Bright, nicely-presented program material, backed by satisfactory scenic effects and smart studio work, this picture should do well in general...

For an independently produced picture the casting is exceptional. Each player delivers in an easy, sophisticated style which cannot but please in the particular territory...

A couple of plumbers in his employ offer a solution. The husband appoints his help head of his family. He gives them power of attorney of all of his possessions...

AROUND PARIS (FRENCH MADE)

"La Zozie," indicating the waste land and the City of Paris, also known as the fortifications where rag pickers are supposed to congregate and divide their wares...

Manner in which the dust bins of this city are sorted by the dominion of the Zozie is amplified. Nothing is lost: waste paper, old cans, scraps of metal, bits of leather, rags, bones, broken glass, are collected out in the morning...

Not a bad short. Light. Excellent. Pictures production released by Fox Division. Gladys Hulette and Mahlon Hamilton featured. Story and screen play by Gladys Hulette, directed by John Lewis...

LIFE'S CROSSROADS

A love story with a jungle background. While it never really grips, it will nevertheless stand up on double feature bills because of the old triangle is given a novel twist.

Mrs. and a woman, based upon the coast of Africa, are the sole survivors of a shipwreck. Cordially disliking each other, they are obliged to cooperate in order to make their way back to the nearest point of civilization...

Picture is overboard on a ship especially in the early part. Ship work is given a heavy and uninteresting photograph.

PATHEC SYMPHONY (FRENCH MADE)

This release of Luna Film, produced by Nalpas and Eblenaut, is a mix-star Georges Carpentier, is a mix-star Georges Carpentier, is a mix-star Georges Carpentier...

Roland, officer in the French spahis cavalry, Algeria, is engaged to Zezia, daughter of the Caid, but she is kidnapped before the marriage...

Melodramatic conception intended for international consumption is good French film for the small houses here. Appearance of Georges Carpentier in the feature...

See what the Central Cinematographic, outside the studio, in Algeria, and on the French Riviera.

CODE OF THE AIR

Bischoff production and release. Directed by James P. Hogan from story by Harlan, Arthur Rankin, June Marlowe, William B. Franke, and Bedford. Arthur Rankin, Jr. and "Silverstreak" At Loew's New York, Dec. 14, one-half of double bill. Running time, over 60 min.

A states righter all the way up, or down. As suitable as anything else for the kind for the daily change theatre and points south.

Starts out slowly, drags unevenly through an uninteresting 30 minutes through an uninteresting 30 minutes through an uninteresting 30 minutes...

Picture, and audience, suffers from extremely bad synchronization which allowed enough superfluous footage to intervene between actual sequences to make another states righter.

The story further trades upon credulity through use of a powerful machine, held by the desert bandits, which brings down planes by means of a death ray.

Love interest handled by June Marlowe and Kenneth Harlan not very stirring. "Silverstreak," animal star, useful addition.

THE GATE CRASHER

Universal production and release, starring Glenn Tryon and Patsy Ruth Miller. Directed by William Hamilton. Screen story by Mark Policy. Adapted by Vin Moore. Cast: T. Roy Barnes, Beth Harol, Ed Johnston. At Loew's New York, Dec. 11 as half double bill. Running time, about 60 min.

Mildly amusing comedy romance in which an amateur small town detective and an actress are the principals. Tryon is Dick Houslow, correspondence school slouth, who follows Mura Di Leon (Miss Miller) to New York and saves her from being rubbed by her crooked publicity man.

One comedy sequence takes place in a New York theatre on an opening night when Tryon, on the trail of the stolen jewels, gets caught on the stage and puts on a burlesque performance of the show in order to elude pursuers.

Picture is overboard on a ship especially in the early part. Ship work is given a heavy and uninteresting photograph.

WEST COAST NOTES

Alice White's next has a new title, "Red Hot." Film not yet in production. Title of next Fox picture to feature Sue Carol and Nick Stuart changed from "Girl Who Couldn't Stop" to "Girls Gone Wild."

Mary Astor, former lead in "New York's Eve," Fox, Henry Lehrman will direct and picture will be silent.

Madeline Stuart Bayton (title "True Heaven") Fox.

Wilfred North added to "Trial of Mary Dugan," M-G.

Gary Cooper added to "Jannings' Tale of the Alps" (Par).

After making tests of more than 50 leading men, U selected Robert Ellis, former stage actor, to play Steve Crandall in "Broadway."

Frank Albertson added to "No body's Children," Fox.

Lucien Prival added to "Front Page" (Caldco).

Raymond H. Taylor, director signed to new long-term contract by U.

Gordon Thorpe added to "Bride of San Luis Rey," M-G.

"The Haunted Lads" unit, U. Wesley Ruggles directing, in Santa Barbara for two weeks on location.

Trem Carr making "When Dreams Come True" and "Brothers." In first picture are Helene Costello, Rex Lease, Claire McDowell, George Perloff, Danny Hoy, Ernest Hilliard, Buddy Brown and the horse Kanger. In "Brothers": Cornelius Ryan, Richard Carle and George Chesbro.

M-G has purchased screen rights to "Jungle" Satevepost story by C. B. Scougins. Jazz-age yarn to be made as a talker.

Monte Montague and Bud Marshall, added to "Charlatan," (U).

Larry Rabinthun, Charles Sloman and Robert Schable added to "Man and the Moon," (FN).

Louis Stevens, writing adaptation for plus the aged father and the usual finish.

Picture, and audience, suffers from extremely bad synchronization which allowed enough superfluous footage to intervene between actual sequences to make another states righter.

The story further trades upon credulity through use of a powerful machine, held by the desert bandits, which brings down planes by means of a death ray.

Love interest handled by June Marlowe and Kenneth Harlan not very stirring. "Silverstreak," animal star, useful addition.

ED LLOYD Master of Ceremonies



SKOURAS BROTHERS AMBASSADOR ST. LOUIS, MO



FANCHIN & MARCO THEATRES

The outstanding stage entertainment on the Pacific Coast will be seen in Eastern Cinema Palaces de Luxe shortly after the New Year

JESSE CRAWFORD ORGAN CONCERT

PARAMOUNT THEATRE NEW YORK

WEEK OF DEC 15 "WHEN SUMMER IS GONE" (Ted Browne)

"THE PARADE OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS" (Edward B. Marks)

Lew Golder Heading Warners' Booking Office, With Kemp On Books--Darling on Shorts

Lew Golder, Harold Kemp and Eddie Darling are the executive force thus far lined up for the Warner Brothers new act-booking offices.

The agency will be located in the Warner building on West 44th street, with a suite being laid out at present.

The new agency will not limit itself to its own theatres, it is said, but will generally book, making no exceptions unless a too close opposition house applies, which is unlikely.

An existing contract between Keith's and Stanley is reported to provide for such a notification.

Golder's Good Standing

Lew Golder, selected to head the new and important vaudeville agency, has been a Keith agent for several years.

Harold Kemp has been recognized for some time as one of the best bookers in the vaudeville field. The Stanley Company appears to have discovered that fact some time ago, when engaging Kemp direct, and removing him from the Keith payroll to its own.

Eddie Darling was formerly chief booker of the Keith circuit. His knowledge of vaudeville always has been admitted, while his acquaintance with actors of all show branches has never been approached by any booker in the Keith or other offices.

Darling was always aligned with E. F. Albee. While Albee remained head of the Keith circuit, Darling's position was impregnable.

N. V. Production

Up to yesterday it was said no further step had been taken in

"A Man"—Even So!

Eddie Cantor says his fan mail is terrific—no beards. His facial constituents mob the New Amsterdam stage door of nights, in an odd Old World contrast to the doggy motorist who is waiting for the glorified beauts.

Eddie is a ghetto idol, more so now with his autobiography, "My Life Is in Your Hands," running serially in the Jewish "Forward."

With true Talmudic contempt for minstrels, the bewhiskered scholars of the East Side grudgingly admit that "Eddie may be an actor, but he's also a man, despite that."

the organization of the Warner booking office than the reports coupling the three names.

The Warners operate other theatres than the Stanley chain, with Spyros Skouras now the house operator for Stanley's. Warners as picture producers are at present the most prolific of the talking short makers.

Keith's is also a subsidiary of a talking short producer, through Radio-Keith-Orpheum being linked with R. C. A. Photophone and TEO.

Withdrawal of the Stanley vaude houses is a blow to Keith's Family Dept. (6th floor).

The Stanley exit follows that by the Poll circuit a short time ago, also from Keith's top priced vaude department.

With the Stanley string out, the fifth floor will have in the neighborhood of 40 houses on the books, mostly split weeks.

The fifth floor for years has booked Keith's lesser houses, though recently they have been in the same class with most of the houses booked on the sixth floor.

N. V. A. Chicago Quarters Reducing to 1 Room

Chicago, Dec. 18. Exodus for the local N. V. A. headquarters was marked last week with the arrival here of Henry Chesterfield, secretary of the club.

The spacious quarters on the fourth floor of the Woods building will pass out after next May 1. Only a very small office with one man in charge will be retained for mail receiving purposes.

Actors around here are breathing better at the thought of no more clown nights at the N. V. A.

Played Despite Shuberts

Shuberts are peeved at Phil Baker and Sid Silvers playing the Palace, New York, this week, also the Albee, Brooklyn, last week. They wanted to draft them for the Jack Pearl, "Well! Well! Well!" musical, out of which Marion Harris walked, Baker and Silvers balked.

They're counting on "The Cabaret Boys" by Sam Shipman and John B. Hymer to bring them back under Shubert sponsorship.

FRANCES WHITE AT \$1,750

Frances White has been given 15 or 20 weeks at Keith's western time (Orpheum) at \$1,750 weekly. Charlie Morrison did the booking.

Vaude Acts for Shorts Los Angeles, Dec. 18. TRISH-PHIL and MARY-JANE go with Warners for talking shorts.



BILLY AND ELSA NEWELL

"Billy and Elsa Newell return with some new jokes and stunts. They do things so charmingly and so amusingly that to this reviewer they are among the acers of their calling."—Frank Aston, Cincinnati "Post."

Starting Orpheum-Tour Palace, Milwaukee, Dec. 23. Material by Carlton and Bennett. Direction Thos. Kennedy.

B-K UNITS DON'T NEED ANY ACTS UNTIL APRIL

A. J. Balaban to Coast Jan. 1—No Bookings Until He Returns

Chicago, Dec. 18.

With A. J. Balaban going to the Coast around Jan. 1, no further bookings of stage acts for B. & K. units will be made until about April when A. J. is expected back here.

An approximately full list of acts which will be sent over the Oriental route include the following: Ray Bolger, Duffin & Draper, Jeanne Boydell, Grace Doro, Barnett & Sisters, Edgecomb Four, Chester Fredericks, Fred Harper, Fortunello and Cirillino, Pauline Gaskin, Geraldine and Joe, Helen Kennedy, Lovey Twins, Earle La Vere, Luster Bros., Carl McCullough, Max and Gang, McCune Sisters, Frank, Senator Murphy, Newman and Rogers, Patterson Twins, Bobbie Pincus, Prosper and Maret, Jack Riano, Robin and Hood, Doris Roche, Standler and Rose, Sally Tilden, Maceo Thomas, Varsity Four, Flo and Ollie Walters, Warren and Gill and Ward and Van.

Stowaway's "Act" Toledo, Dec. 18. Clarence (Red) Terhune, 19-year-old Zep stowaway, at the Rivoli (Pantages) here last week, had an act consisting of questions and answers on trip. Youngster appears younger even than he is, is stage shy, admits he can't sing, dance or act. Modestly tells of journey and admits the money he now is getting is to send him home to college. Great stuff here in home town.

Lyman in London

For the first time in three years an American agency has booked an American band in England.

Abel Lyman and band go for four weeks at the Palladium, London, by William Morris. Six weeks at the Kit Kat through the same office will follow.

The necessary labor permit has been secured by the Morris office.

Leatrice Joy's Tour

Leatrice Joy, former Pathe star, is booked for the picture houses by Morris Agency.

She is breaking into her act this week at Long Beach.

ON AND OFF KEITH'S

Buster West opens for Keith's at the Palace, Cleveland, next week prior to his two picture house weeks in Chicago for the Morris Bros.

Following the Granada and Marlowe in Chicago he will return to Keith's.

Loew Act for Warners

Loew and Squires, mixed comedy act now on the Loew time, have signed with Warner Bros. for talking shorts.

Radio-Victor Combination Makes 4th Angle for Radio's Concentration of Artists

Keith's Want Simmons Back—Considering

By today (Wednesday) Danny Simmons, who resigned as one of the Keith's head bookers in August, will have signified whether he will return to the vaude circuit in an important booking capacity.

Negotiations between Simmons and Keith's have been called upon to return by John J. Ford, Keith's general manager.

Simmons resigned of his own accord during the Kennedy-Murdoch reconstruction period, shortly after his return from a European vacation. He refused to accept his resignation, requested by Keith's to reconsider, his resignation and remain, Simmons left, seeking a rest.

Simmons has been inactive since leaving, but not without numerous offers from others, including B. S. Moss.

At the time he resigned from Keith's Simmons was booking about 35 houses. If returning, he probably will take charge of the New York houses at the outset.

From reports now around Lawrence Golde, who resigned shortly before Simmons, may also consider an offer to return to Keith's.

Frank's "Temperament" Felt by Ginger Rogers

Ginger Rogers, va-de-do singer with "High Hat" Public unit, has been transferred to the "Parisian Nights" unit.

Miss Rogers was transferred, it is understood, because of her temperamental attitude of Art Frank, featured in the "High Hat" unit. Frank has been the source of considerable backstage difficulties by report, with the situation necessitating a change of berth for Miss Rogers.

A reported story agent Miss Rogers' mother being a disturbing element under the management of Art Frank, featured in the "High Hat" unit. Frank has been the source of considerable backstage difficulties by report, with the situation necessitating a change of berth for Miss Rogers.

Hooper Goes Talker

A hooper gone flicker is Paul Page, signed by Fox for five years, debuting in "Speakeasy," the Fox feature talker. Page, formerly of Page and Allis, was recognized for his personality and ability to handle lines, although primarily and professionally a stage dancer.

His ex-partner, Ethel Allis, last week at the Colony, opens at the Little Club, New York.

Unit Act Permanent

Neil O'Day and Tommy Atkins male sextet, dance turn, became a staff attraction at the Oriental theatre last week. Engaged indefinitely.

The act played the Oriental two weeks ago as part of the "Hold Everything" public unit originating here. A male dancing chorus went over so well it was decided to return the act to the Oriental.

This will mean considerable revision of Chicago Public units after playing the Oriental, as Jeanne Ball, Arthur Neely and a Kossloff ballet of six girls also appear in the house weekly, besides the male. Addition of acts will be made, with a consequent change in the entire unit's routing.

Radio-Victor Co.

It is understood the merged alliance will be known as Radio-Victor Talking Machine Co. The Victor's personnel will in no wise be affected. Radio figures that Victor's success has been predicated on its present lineup and no attempt to alter it will be made.

Another report is that the two companies, RCA and Victor may be merged. The combined value of both the Radio and Victor properties is placed at \$56,117,000. Radio's net income in 1927 was \$6,000,000. Victor's, \$17,000,000, both in merged figures, has been one of Radio's best post-units in the combined radio talking machine line.

Both RCA and Victor are increasing their foreign sales organizations, the latter particularly, following the South American market with construction of new factories there.

A fourth link in the powerful Radio Corporation of America invasion of the show business, as has been previously reported in Variety, is all set. RCA's purchase of the Victor Talking Machine Co. for over \$100,000,000 gives the radio corporation a four-ply hold on the amusement business, embracing its own National Broadcasting Co., Radio-Keith-Orpheum vaudeville circuit, RCA Photophone, sound picture adjunct, and now the Victor company, with its superior recording facilities for talkers.

At the same time it releases a wealth of Victor talent, including the cream of the world's most famous operatic, concert and variety stars, for interchangeability with vaudeville circuits, broadcasting networks and the picture talkers. It thus places RCA in a unique strategic point whereby, with entertainment resources available from four distinctive branches of an amusement business, RCA can shape the destinies of any one of its feebly allied channels by concentration or exchange of the talent, also giving new life to it.

The Victor Talking Machine Co. alone opens up a vast new source of material to bolster either the vaudeville branch of B-K-O or the RCA Photophone, which will be the two most likely outlets of public amusement entering to receive the most attention. For the present the National Broadcasting Co., with its own distinctive coterie of artists and favorites, can better afford to lend out its surplusage of radio-famed artists than take on any other, excepting, of course, for special occasions.

The absorption of Victor by RCA was a natural consequence of a community of interest which revolved about principally of late in connection with the systemization of entertainment.

The deduction that ultimately RCA Photophone will come out openly in alliance with Western Electric's talkers is lent further circumstantial evidence by this merger. Victor has been doing considerable research work for the Electrical Research Products Company (Farmington, Conn.) United Artists, et al. ERP, subsidiary of Western Electric, is ostensibly the rival of RCA Photophone, although it is well known that both are linked with the American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

Warners' Contract

Warner Brothers, W. E. licensee, which does its own picture recording under the W. E. projection system, has held a contract with Victor for the first option on the Victor recording artists for Vitaphone shorts. In fact, Vitaphone's pioneering talking shorts and, incidentally, the best they made, have been, by such Victor artists as High Tally, Eugene Merritt, Elvira Luca, Flonzaley Quartet Schumann-Hoink, Jeanne Gordon, Mary Lewis, Harold Bauer, Verrenrath, among the operatics, as well as numerous popular Victor artists such as the Revellers, Waring's Pennsylvanians, Roger Wolfe-Kahn, Johnny Marvin, et al.

The Warner-Victor contract is in existence and if RCA expects to throw the Victor artists to its own RCA Photophone it is obvious that some understanding concerning Western Electric must be in existence.

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1500 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

William Morris

CALL BOARD

Booking Fair Dates

Season 1929

LOS ANGELES: LOEW'S STATE BLDG. CHICAGO: 111 BUTLER BLDG.

NO KEITH "BLACKLIST"

"Collection Agency" May Receive Attention from Keith's New Regime

Keith's new regime will give some attention, it is reported, to the Vaudeville Collection Agency, now conducted by that office, when the reorganization plan for Radio-Keith-Orpheum gets into action, under the direction of H. S. Brown. That may not occur before the new year, when Brown officially steps into the office of R-K-O president.

There is no information what action Mr. Brown may take with the Collection Agency, nor whether he has devoted any of his limited time so far to the internal matters of Keith's.

There isn't much doubt but that Brown, as the man who built up the falling bathery industry, with his early knowledge and observation of the Keith system at work, will quickly pick out the holes that appear to call for attention.

People who know Brown say it is unlikely he will permit anything in the Keith organization and operation to continue he deems to be inconsistent with proper business procedure.

Vicious Agency

The Collection Agency is a hold-over of the former Albee-Keith management. Through it the Keith office retained one-half of the agent's commission of 5 per cent in booking an act, upon the mere pretense of rendering service in collection of that commission. The services were trivial, since Keith's office collected its own customary commission of 5 per cent, which it accomplished by the house manager when paying off, holding out the amount of Keith's commission from the actor's salary.

With the formation of the Collection Agency the house manager also deducted the amount of the agent's commission, sending back the whole amount to Keith's main office. The Keith office then, through the Collection Agency, deducted 7 1/2 per cent for itself, giving the agents once weekly their checks for the remaining 2 1/2 per cent.

Later the Collection Agency's net income became part of Keith's. Previously that net has been split between three or four individuals.

Miss Wallace Sues Trahan For Breach of Contract

Buffalo, Dec. 18.

Vesta E. Wallace (Trahan and Wallace), vaudeville, has brought an action against Al Trahan in the Supreme Court for breach of contract. The plaintiff alleges that in March, 1927, she entered into a co-partnership to perform an act with Trahan for three years, but that in September, 1928, Trahan breached the agreement and dissolved the partnership.

Julius Kenderl of New York appears for the plaintiff.

Troy Sunday Held Over

All acts playing last halves for Keith's at Troy, N. Y., are subject to hold over on Sunday, following the final contracted show Saturday night.

Agents booking acts into Troy for the last half have been advised to hold Sundays open.

Murray Roth East
Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Murray Roth will be transferred to the Warners' Brooklyn (N. Y.) studio to write and direct sound shorts, with A. M. Solomon supplanting on the coast.

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome for \$10
Year's Subscription to Variety

Allens' Divorce Trial With Odd Quirks

The Katherine Murray-Edgar Allen divorce trial which resumed Monday and was continued through Tuesday in White Plains involves an odd quirk of spite and circumstances.

Miss Murray (Mrs. Allen) does not want alimony, having an inheritance of her own, but Allen, the former Post booker, and now business representative for Peaches Browning, is bitterly opposing the divorce suit.

"A Mrs. Browning," whom Mrs. Allen names, has not been technically identified in court as Peaches. A citation of Peaches as the co-respondent, without proof to fully substantiate the allegation, would involve Mrs. Allen in a damaging cross-suit by Daddy Browning's Peaches.

Allen, through his attorney, Julius Kenderl, is daring Mrs. Allen to prove whether or not the "Mrs. Browning" who is named is the roly-poly Peaches.

The allegation of infidelity now centers solely around the blond whom a nurse in the Allen home at Larchmont saw with the booking agent, according to her testimony. The other charges involving the Hotel Forrest as the scene has been voluntarily withdrawing, with the plaintiff concentrating on the Allens' former Larchmont home.

Peaches is now acting in "The Squealer," a Jack Linder show. No word thus far.

New Divorce Reason Wife's Pro Dancer

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

On the plea that he was humiliated by his wife being a professional dancer, Gordon Steele, former Stanford football player, obtained a divorce in Superior Court against Marion Steele.

Sully on the Loose

Sully, the Palace building barber, went stepping last week. Hope to tell a bunch of the Palacites took him to a show and then to Harlem, pouring him back into his Brooklyn dump about five the next morning.

Sully, all pepped up, reported in his shop at 11, regarding the other barbs and customers with the do-barbs. His description of the dusky bellies he saw in a Harlem cabaret was a scream.

It seems to be a fact that the party was nearly thrown out of the joint because Sully persisted in acting anything but like his age. He yelled out "Whoopee" any number of times and made remarks to the sparsely covered girls in the floor show.

Fox's Names Run Out

William Fox started playing names at the Brooklyn Fox, but Arthur Klein was soon stuck for available attractions and the new policy is a variety revue with a stage band policy.

Seven or eight moderate acts with some outsiders topping will be played. Charles Previn is doing an m. c., doubling for the pit.

BOOKED FOR UNITS

Reced and Duffus join the Public "Prisoner's Song" unit in Indianapolis Dec. 22 replacing King and King. Creators, Lenetska and Martini booked. Same office booked Martie Martelle out of the nite clubs to join a Public unit in Pittsburgh Dec. 31.

This agency has the Tommy Christian and Milt Douglas bands routed for Loew vaudeville.

R-K-O STARTS OFF ON RIGHT FOOT

'Opposition,' Another Vaude Pest of Past, Ignored by New Direction of Keith-Orpheum Circuits—Indications of Big Business Principles at Last

RELIEF FOR ACTORS

Any kind of a "blacklist," the terror of vaudeville artists, for over 25 years in the Keith office, is taboo with the new direction of Keith's. Joined in with the new methods by the organization controlled by Radio-Keith-Orpheum and headed by Hiram S. Brown is the abandonment of "opposition" listing and tactics.

John Ford, general manager of Keith's, has consistently ignored either "blacklist" or "opposition" since entering Keith's, but Mr. Ford issued no declaration on either subject that might be regarded as official. In consequence, actors have had no first-hand information. As the many Keith-blacklisted acts in the past are still active, it is a matter of much concern to them.

With advent of Mr. Brown to the presidency of R-K-O and Keith's (with Orpheum merged) apparently endeavoring to get on its right foot, are indications for the first time that Keith vaudeville is going to have big business principles in its system, brought to it by Brown, who comes from big business.

It is understood around the Keith office that the Keith-Albee-Orpheum blacklist, running into hundreds of names of vaude acts, has been forever abolished. The positive information was obtained by a Variety reporter through a single act having declared the blacklist would prevent a booking by Keith's; that the blacklist in this instance had been operative for years.

In the Keith office it was stated no such thing as a blacklist was known.

In Charge New Year's

No announcements are anticipated from the R-K-O president until he actually assumes charge New Year's. Until then he will but intermittently call at the Keith offices, it is said, held meantime as president of the U. S. Leather Company, pending the selection of his successor.

"The scourge of all vaudeville, 'Keith's Blacklist' was held over its head and before the eyes of all vaudeville actors for nearly all of the Keith existence, up to the recent change in the head of the Keith organization and later its passing to R-K-O. An act got on 'the blacklist' any number of reasons. It may have said something disrespectful of a Keith executive, or played in an opposition house, or refused to appear at a benefit, or refused to join the N. V. A., or joined some to contribute to the N. V. A. benefit program, or appear at an N. V. A. Bohemian free Sunday night, or, as often happened, the act may have been the victim of any one of the several stool pigeons fostered by the original management of Keith's.

These stool pigeons were mostly actors themselves and circulated among vaudeville actors.

"The Black Book"

Between the New York and Chicago offices of Keith's and the Orpheum Circuit, the blacklist ran into so many pages it became a "black book." It was always hidden in whatever office kept it. Through the blacklist of Keith's and the Orpheum, competing circuits frequently profited. The blacklist often left actors helpless in the old days.

(Continued on page 28)

New Acts Advised Against Coming To New York—Bookings Jammed

Ballet Dancer Burned; Comb and Shaw Ablaze

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 18.

Quick action on the part of a fireman and a stage assistant averted a tragedy to a performer, while the coolness of Doris Niles, dancer, prevented a panic in the audience at Music Hall here, when a celluloid comb and a Spanish shawl worn by Georgiana Urrutea, one of the Niles Ballet artists, became ignited from a gas jet in her dressing room.

In a second Miss Urrutea's gown was afire and she ran screaming up the stairs. Her shrieks and the appearance of a slight wisp of smoke near the wings caused a concerted rush by part of the audience toward the doors.

Fireman held them back and Miss Niles appeared on the stage to assure them no danger existed. To quiet them down, Miss Niles put on a special dance.

Meantime, men back stage were fighting to extinguish the flames, which enveloped Miss Urrutea. Joseph Naylor, stage assistant, attempted to beat out the fire with his hands, burning them badly. Fireman Cornelius Ryan, one of the squad assigned to the hall for the performance, ran to Naylor's assistance and ripped the burning attire from her body.

Police canvassed the audience for a physician, finally locating Dr. L. B. Schneider. The medico hurried backstage and after looking at the badly burned back, shoulders, arms and legs of the dancer, raced to his office nearby and procured bandages and medicine for emergency treatment. Later Dr. Schneider ordered the removal of Miss Urrutea to Samaritan hospital.

The performance was concluded per schedule, the rest of the troupe returning to New York City after it was over.

Music Hall seats between 1,800 and 2,000.

Magicians Throw Stop on Series of Expose Yarns

Although the Society of American Magicians, with a national membership of about 1,500, succeeded in quashing a series of articles exposing articles in Popular Science, according to one executive, it is not wasting any tears over the light the first of these articles shed on several of Howard Thurston's tricks.

According to this exec, the society feels that Thurston has been very tolerant in giving away trick ideas in books which he sells at theatres where he appears.

Sound-Color Revue

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Charlie King will have the lead in Gus Edwards' "From Broadway to Heaven," sound and color revue, for M-G-M.

In cast will be the Pearl Twins, Grace Nelson and Chinese girl twins.

PAN'S SATURDAY AT L. A.

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Opening day at the local Pantages theatre has been changed to Saturday instead of Monday.

This takes up a three-day layoff for acts coming into town from Fresno.

Starts this Saturday (Dec. 22).

Kahn Prefers New York

Roger Wolfe Kahn turned down \$25,000 for himself and his orchestra with the Williams Sisters, from Keith's.

Dates offered were out-of-town and young Kahn wants to stay around New York.

Vaudeville agents, including Keith's, are advising acts to refrain from coming east for the time being, if in a position to remain away, in answering out of town requests for bookings.

Most of the steer clear letters have been from agents to their more friendly clients, but it is becoming the form letter from agents to acts playing or laying off outside New York.

The letters state acts playing out of Chicago, Detroit or elsewhere are better off than the hundreds now around New York and not working.

The advice probably will prevail while Keith's booking jam lasts and during the elimination of vaude by other circuits through talking shorts.

About the most difficult thing to secure in New York and the east right now is a showing date. Keith's and others fill in gaps by booking contracted people into showing houses. When a showing is landed, it's usually that date and then two or three weeks before another, and often the other is also for additional purposes, so the act is told.

Three or four weeks in New York at showing salary is considered a break by many acts at this time.

Asks for Husband As Xmas Present

Chicago, Dec. 18.

Divorce activities in Chicago went into a decline last week.

Having filed suit for Edgar Decker, formerly with "Headin' South," Attorney Phil R. Davis received a touching letter from Florence Decker, the wife, stating she really had sufficient reasons to get a divorce from hubby but wouldn't do it because she loves him. As a special favor to her, would Davis please call off the divorce and send Edgar back home as a Christmas present?

Davis is awaiting the husband's decision as to whether he wants to be a Christmas present.

Harry Dolan, also represented by Davis, filed suit for divorce against Florence Dolan, circus performer, on charges of desertion. Then he found his wife previously had entered suit for separate maintenance on the same charges, and that both suits were scheduled for hearing before Judge Joseph Sabath.

Mrs. Dolan having started action first, the husband is said to be changing his suit into a crossbill. Both sides want custody of the children, both of them.

Billie Sherlock Jarkl, formerly with "My Maryland" under name of Raphael LeRoy, secured a divorce from Harry Jarkl, non-pro, for cruelty. Testimony included a charge that hubby hurled a sugar bowl at breakfast one morning and broke her cheekbone. Marriage was in August, 1924.

Alex Hyde Marries Minn. School Girl

Minneapolis, Dec. 18.

Alex Hyde, formerly m. c. at the Minnesota, and a vaude producer and performer, returned here last week to marry Jerrine Groves, 15-year-old non-professional high school girl.

Marriage was the culmination of a romance starting when Miss Groves visited backstage and met Hyde at the Minnesota.

CLIFF BOWES' 1-BEELERS

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Cliff Bowes, male half of Bowes and (Virginia) Vance, signed by Educational as lead in a series of one-reel comedies. Dolores Johnston will be opposite.

Bowes and Vance made a series together for this same company several years ago.

Palace for Sound News Among Keith Houses Wired by RCA Photophone

All Keith vaudeville theatres in New York and vicinity, including the Palace (straight vaude), will be wired by Feb. 1 next.

Meanwhile, conversion will be gradual, houses starting in sound singly or by pairs, until the date when the entire Keith string begins talking.

Contracts mostly are with RCA Photophone and installation is being rushed as quickly as possible.

Indications are that the Palace, New York, will be among the last to fall into the sound line. At the start the straight vaude stand will use only a sounded news reel (Fathe), with a possibility that later on a talking short subject will supplant an act or so or the animated cartoon and other shorts.

Next Keith New York house slated for sound is the Regent, uptown, where one vaude act will be eliminated. Royal and Hamilton go sound at about the same time.

Another Complaint On Against Leon Agency

Following the complaint of an act against Lawrence Leon, independent agent under investigation by the license commissioner's office, the V. M. P. A. has issued a notice it cannot intervene in cases concerning Leon.

Latest charge against Leon, now head of the Leon & Manos booking agency, Hammerstein theatre building, was filed by Trella and Co., bike act, claiming they were booked into the Park, Williamsport, Pa., by Leon, on Dec. 3. After reporting at the theatre they were informed not wanted. They appealed to Leon to no avail, it is claimed.

Leon, prior to forming the L. & M. agency, was named in similar charges, with a result that his license was withheld by the commission pending investigation.

All-Film at 5th Ave.

A straight picture grind, from 12:30 p. m. (noon) to 11 p. m., is now in effect at Proctor's 5th Ave. All vaudeville was eliminated Saturday.

Under the new grind will be two numbers on the program, sound news and the full length pictures.

Cliff Work's Friendliness

San Francisco, Dec. 18. Cliff Work, manager of local Orpheum houses, showed the true Boy Scout spirit Saturday night when helping the local Pantages theatre out of a hole.

Pantages was shy an act through the walkout of Marcus Sisters and Carlton Brothers who had a squabble with the Pan manager.

Work loaned them Seed and Austin, playing at the Golden Gate.

Substitution was for one show only as the temperamental Pan act cooled off and came back to work.

EMMETT MILLER'S ILLNESS

Cancellation of Dan Fitch's Minstrels, booked for the Hippodrome this week, was due to the illness of Emmett Miller, principal comic, in Albany. The act played prior to the Hip date. Miller, down with the flu, was advised to remain in Albany by physicians.

Act will continue for Keith's next week at the Franklin and Jefferson, with Miller expected to be back. "Moroc Bound," unit, substituted at the Hip on a last-minute booking.

QUINN LEAVES T. T. O. A.

John J. Quinn has resigned from the Theatrical Transfer Owners' Association. His severance of office and membership relations, he was formerly secretary, is laid to his inability to adjust the claim of Max Hayes, vaude producer, for \$2,000 damages done to theatrical property Hayes had stored in Quinn's baggage establishment.

Hayes, via the V. M. P. A., tried to effect some sort of a settlement but Quinn ignored all communications. When it appeared as though the association would force a showdown, Quinn left the T. T. O. A. flat.

KING OUT OF MET OFFICE

George B. King, vaude booker in the Metropolitan Vaude offices, resigned Saturday.

Ed. Salett replaced King in the Met office Monday.

Leo's Quick Action

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Leo Morrison, New York agent just arrived in Hollywood, has placed Ben Holmes with Universal as a director. Holmes recently left Fox.

A Character Dancer of Character

REUBON

The Acme of Speed and Style Now Appearing with N. T. G. Night Club Revue in Vaudeville

Mr. and Mrs. Niles T. Granlund

GINGER FOR RIVERSIDE

Robt. B. Hawkins in Charge of 2 Keith Uptown Houses.

By way of gingering up the show the Riverside (Keith's), New York, starting Sunday, Dec. 23, will replace the present house orchestra with a specialty band. Phil Fabello's orchestra goes in to play for the acts and do their own special musical numbers and specialties from the pit.

Fabello will also act as m. c. Fabello's stay will depend on how the idea works out.

No change from the usual vaude policy. The Fabello part is considered an extra feature.

Robert B. Hawkins is gen. mgr. of the Riverside and Keith's 81st Street. His assistant at the former is Maxwell Levoner; at the 81st, Louis J. Arado.

New Acts Showing In Regular Houses

For the first time the Keith offices' new acts will be given an opportunity to show before bookers by placement on a regulation bill. Keith's will not discontinue the regular Friday morning auditions at the Palace, New York, but the deluge of new material or acts not seen by the bookers will be booked for split weeks in two Keith houses understood to be designated for such a purpose.

Greenpoint and Orpheum, Brooklyn, instead of showing their customary five-act bills may have 10-acts each on each half. In this way an average of 40 turns a week can be shown and the bookers given a line without having to wait indefinitely for a special showing or audition.

Under the new plan here will be no excuse for any of the bookers not having seen a raft of new acts or new material as presented by the agents.

But 3 Producers On Publix Units

But three unit producers are currently functioning for Publix, Boris Petroff, Paul Osgood and C. A. Nigemeyer. This is the smallest number that has been alternating on the shows for some time.

During the peak John Murray Anderson, Frank Cambria, Joseph Santley, Jack Partington and R. H. Burnside were producing regularly. Anderson and Burnside have returned to the local comedy field. Cambria is production director of the Chicago theatre, Chicago, while Partington has succeeded James R. Cowan as booking manager for the Publix units.

Cowan is now at the Paramount studio in Astoria in charge of talking shorts in association with Joseph Santley.

Dallas Agency Closed

Dallas, Dec. 18.

Through a break in its relations with the Dent chain, the Mac-Day vaude agency here is closed.

Dent operates around 70 houses, many of which play acts. Another contributing cause of the break is Dent playing sound pictures.

The Mac-Day office held a large number of acts around here, with nothing now in sight for them through a booking office in this section.

Wed. Day, of the agency, is going in for the nite club racket.

RANDALL-WATSON AS ACT

Carl Randall and Virginia Watson, last in "New Americana," opened for R-K-O last Sunday. Act comes into the Palace, New York, Christmas week. M. S. Bentham handling.

Harlan Dixon also opens for the same circuit and agency. Dixon was with "Rainbow."

KEITH-MARKS DEAL OFF

Chicago, Dec. 18. Reported booking deal between Marks Bros. and Ben Piazza of Keith's western offices is off.

Understood it fell through because of the close business relations between Keith's and Balaban & Kaulz. Marks Bros. have signed a new contract with Murray Bloom, booking manager. It is for two years.

Palace, Chi, Out of Red Last Week; \$4,000 Net

Chicago, Dec. 18.

For the first time last week the Palace (Keith) hopped out of the red, ending the week \$4,000 on the good.

Other than the headliner, nothing exceptional in the bill. Headliner was the Guy Lombardo band (Royals Canadians), a strong local favorite.

That the Palace, only twice daily house in this big town, has been unable to show a profit has been the source of much talk by the show people around. It's believed the house under proper conditions may be made to turn in a black figure every week.

Four N. E. Houses Off Vaude for Film Policy

Former five-act split policy at the Broadway, Springfield; Victory, Holyoke; Calvin, Northampton; and Palace, Pittsfield, has been discontinued, with feature presentations, bands and sound films replacing.

These houses are being represented in the Keith offices by George Poll on the special act booking, bands going up for single engagements.

If the sound and presentation policy doesn't pan out, a return to vaudefilm is likely.

Added Publix Unit Houses

Former Loew (State) vaudefilm house in Buffalo opens Dec. 22 as the Century under Publix-Shea operation, as a deluxe extended run house, "Able's Irish Rose," "Interference," "The Barker," and "Jimmy Valentine," all sound and dialog pictures, have been booked.

The new Paramount, Toledo, will open Feb. 9 with pictures and Publix units. Seats 4,000, largest in Toledo.

Another addition to the Publix unit route is the Eastman, Rochester, passing to Publix in mid-January.

JUDGMENTS

- Georgette Cohan-Souther; Jay-Thorp, Inc.; \$137.
- Playland Park Co., Inc.; Barron G. Collier, Inc.; \$288.
- Capitol Amus. Club, Inc.; N. Y. Tel. Co.; \$72.
- Troy Alexander; Assoc. Labs., Inc.; \$2,000.
- Schulman-Goldberg Theat. Corp. et al.; Paramount Holding Corp.; \$36,275.
- Sholem Aleichem Folks Institute, Inc.; Theo. Kuntz Co.; \$1,024.
- M. Mauro-Cottone; G. C. Caffuzzi; \$1,593.
- Leigh-Emmerich Lecture Bureaus, Inc.; A. Enters; \$1,533.
- Macfadens Pubs., Inc.; S. Peters; costs, \$168.
- Seal Life Pub. Corp.; Wm. De Lignemare; \$7,069.
- Read Seal Pets. Corp.; G. G. Hegerman; \$1,284.
- Frances White; J. P. Miller; \$328.
- Gregory Ratoff; M. Golden; \$490.
- Waldo Amus. Co., Inc. and Max Woldowsky; Indep. Indemnity Corp.; \$1,128.

Satisfied Judgment

Cirker & Robbins Studio, Inc.; I. Berner; \$2,939; Dec. 13, 1928.

Piazza Gets Show's Acts

Chicago, Dec. 18.

Shaw and Lee from "Five o'Clock Girl" and Olga Cook from "My Maryland," are at the Palace this week as the result of a fast move by Ben Piazza, booking chief of Keith's western offices.

Piazza was right on the job as soon as both shows hung up closing notices. Each folded Saturday.

NOTICE!

Vick Abbs, now managing the California Night Hawks, is replacing Joe Rea, who has severed all of his connections with the band.

CALIFORNIA NIGHT HAWKS

- Jerry Eby
- Joe Johnson
- Harry Goheen
- Preston Attig
- Ray Groves
- Bob Amand
- Jack Smith
- Jim MacNamara
- Vick Abbs

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

In the Spirit of the Season America, Our America, My America, I have done my bit to make you merry.

I want you to be happy, altho, altho, Away I go, Yo ho, Yo ho! and Ship Ahoy!

2 Weeks More

to Laugh at

HARRY HOWARD

BORN TO BE LAUGHED AT

And then, then embarking for Foreign Shores with his Excruciatingly Comic Entertainment

A Laughing Hit in the States Should be a Laughing Hit Abroad Don't You Think?

Direction MEYER B. NORTH JOS. FLAUM

Save Over 33% XMAS GIFTS Most Desired SPECIALLY PRICED

A large assortment of high class Leather Goods, Ladies' Hand Bags, Silk Umbrellas, Wallets, Music Cases, etc.



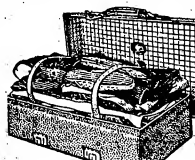
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Extra large coat case model. Reinforced end, non-sag sewed-frame bag. Made of finest cowhide, dark brown or black leather. \$12.95 Sizes 20, 22, 24, 26 in.



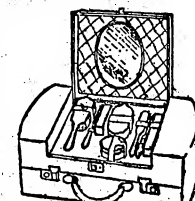
PULLMAN BAG

Fitted completely. Brown and walnut leather. Sizes 18, 20, 22 in. Specially priced \$35.00



REVELATION SUIT CASE

Adjusts to 14 sizes. Can be used for day or month trip. Makes additional luggage unnecessary. Large variety of styles. \$11.95 Nine sizes. Priced.....



DUPLEX FITTED CASE

Smart looking, beautifully-made of the quality leather. Completely fitted. Choice of shell, \$24.95 Amber or pearl fittings.

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The 23rd Anniversary Number

of

VARIETY

will be issued January 2

This is the place and time to set forth the fact you are in the show business; to make your name, attraction, product or needs known.

Another new and big year is nearly in sight. Start right and with the New Year, in Variety's special number that will be out Jan. 2nd.

Let Variety buy or sell for you; place your announcement or name in the 23rd Anniversary Number. It is retained as a show directory for the entire year.

A world-wide circulation must give world-wide publicity.

Put advertising money in a trade paper as well known to the show business throughout the universe as at home.

Variety is the only show paper ever able to make that statement.

**VARIETY COVERS THE ENTIRE FIELD
OF THE SCREEN AND STAGE**

Send Your Copy to 154 West 46th Street, New York City

AD RATES REMAIN THE SAME

For Exploitation---"Variety"

Inside Stuff—Vaudeville

Elmer Rogers, manager, Palace, N. Y., in setting up his lobby display does not have to depend on the Keith publicity department for anything that might be placed in a frame and used as a lobby bulletin.

Last week a frame of a decidedly novel and attractive nature drew considerable attention. It had the silhouetted heads of women popping through reproduced newspaper pages.

The top line was "Women Take Over Honors at the Palace."

The funny part was that the heads were not altogether of fems on last week's bill but they served their purpose.

Just one of E. R.'s little originalities.

Flash and girl act producers are eyeing the unit idea for independent houses and chains, the producers don't care which. It seems there is no highly profitable length engagements for units or flashes running above \$3,000 weekly in cost. The best, the biggest chain now playing outside productions of this sort, Keith's, can give to 20 weeks. Producers say they must have 40 weeks to turn out a marketable unit that will credit house and producer. Some producers have the idea of scouring the indies and chains around to see if added time sufficiently can be tacked onto Keith's or gathered without it.

Eastern producers also are wondering what is going to happen with the Fanchon and Marco units coming from the west coast. It's not expected that F & M can sell their units in the east for the coast prices. Jumps alone preclude that, but the coast rep of F & M has preceded their units east and there is curiosity over the experiment.

Professionals who have made talking shorts as well as others who have witnessed the talkers of their contemporaries, should take their cue from the current sound-screen product. Much of it is bad because the performers, despite the fact that they are seasoned showmen, have seemingly let themselves be misdirected by studio officials.

Only natural that a performer who has never given a thought to screen work should be primarily concerned about make-up, histrionism, etc., completely losing sight of his performance. Result is that the makeup and other technical and physical details may be satisfactory, but that the prime reason why he or she is making a talker, entertainment, completely drops from sight.

Newcomers to talking pictures should not permit themselves to be buffeted too to great an extent by the direction and would do better to

(Continued on page 30)

R-K-O's Prod. Dept. With Three Big Acts

Keith's production department, headed by Max Gordon, has three new and large productions in preparation.

One is with A. E. Matthews, the English actor, starred. It is contingent upon Matthews' legit engagements. He's threatened with one now.

Lulu McConnell, (McConnell and Simpson) will head another of the acts, while a third production the department is working on is the second act from "Eva, the Fifth," conformed to vaudeville requirements.

NO "BLACKLIST"

(Continued from page 25)

with other circuits aware Keith's would not play them.

"Opposition," once upon a time the bogey man among words to vaudevillians, is also now of the past.

While opposition and competition among theatres still exists and always will, the term is lost to vaude actors.

Keith's, always and until recently the first to declare "opposition," has decided to forget the past and book only for the present and future. Acts that haven't appeared for Keith's for years because they played a competitive house or circuit are now back on the books. Weekly there are instances of acts in Keith theatres immediately after engagements for the opposition down the block, across the street or around the corner.

Clause seven in the Keith contract forbids any act to make a talking picture, phonograph record or reproduce in any form, yet nine out of ten now available in film form are recognized standard turns.

Keith's has asked independent booking agencies, selling talent to anyone who wants to buy, to submit a list of vaude acts.

Other circuits or theatres never regarded "opposition" as seriously as Keith's. While the old Keith's was making its "opposition" declarations and banning acts, the opposition circuits were putting the acts to work and keeping them working. Eventually it became unnecessary to work for Keith's at all, where as at one time without Keith there was no vaudeville.

Male Team in Act

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

During the closing down of the Hal Roach studios for five weeks, Stan Laurel and Sam Hardy, Roach's comedy team, will seek picture house dates. Team is booking through the William Morris office.

PALACE \$4.40 NEW YEAR'S EVE

For the special show New Year's eve at midnight the Palace, New York, is asking \$4.40 for the lower floor, the 40c being the tax.

With Paul Whitehead's band listed as the special feature for the week and due for an extra show New Year's eve, there is no anxiety over a sell-out.

LEWIS FOR WEEK ONLY

Ted Lewis' appearance at the Minnesota, Minneapolis, the week of Jan. 5 is only a spot booking for that week.

The handsman is not to enter the picture house field. He will be an added attraction with a Public unit, and then resume his vaudeville bookings.

3 Sunday Shows at Hip

By way of running the shows through on better time the New York Hippodrome lopped off one of its shows last Sunday, running three instead of four.

Theatres Proposed

Austin, Minn.—(Rebuilding) \$50,000. Owners, Finkolstein & Ruben. Architects, Elberse & Co., St. Paul. Policy not given.

Chilteville, Wis.—(Also stores and office building) \$75,000. Owner withheld. Architects, Oyonhammer & Obel Green Bay, Wis. Policy not given.

Erle, Pa.—(Also stores). Owners, Young Amusement Co., Altoona, Pa. Architects, Hoigens (Ill.) Philadelphia, Pa. Policy not given.

Evansville, Ind.—\$50,000. Owners, Indore and Oscar Fine, local. Architect, Alfred E. Neucks, same. Policy, pictures.

Evansville, Ind.—(Ambassador) (also office building). \$1,000,000. Owner, company forming, A. Phelps, Evansville. Architects, Bowling & Shank; St. Louis, Mo. Policy not given.

Green Bay, Wis.—(Alterations and rebuilding) \$350,000. Owner, Orpheum Theatre, local. Architects, Oppenheimer & Obel, same.

Iowa City, Ia.—(University). Owners, Iowa Memorial Union Association, local. Architects, Boyd & Moore, Des Moines. Policy not given.

Jenkintown, Pa.—(Also bank, stores and apartments) \$350,000. Owner, Dr. E. T. Quinn, local. Architects, Thalheimer & Weitzel, Philadelphia, Pa. Policy not given.

Madison, Wis.—(Also stores) \$125,000. Owners, East Side Theatre Co., local. Architect, F. Klein, Rockford, Ill. Policy not given.

Springfield, O.—Owners, Young Amusement Co., Gary, Ind. Architect, J. Ebersson, Chicago. Policy not given.

Baltimore—(Harlem) \$150,000. Owner, Federal Amusement Corp., local. Architect, Tho. Wells Peltech, same. Policy, pictures.

Bloomington, Ind.—\$350,000. Owner, company forming, care C. H. Mote, Indianapolis. Architect not selected. Policy, pictures.

Chicago—(Also hotel and shops) \$1,000,000. Owner, syndicate forming, care L. J. Lesser, local. Architects, W. W. Alschlager, same. Policy not given.

Cleveland—(Also shop building). Owner, Cleveland Union Terminal Co., local. Architects, Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, Chicago. Policy not given.

Detroit—(Alterations and addition). Owner, Harry Brown Theatre Co., local. Architects, Kohner & Payne, same.

Honolulu, N. Y.—Owner, Bernstein Theatres, local. Architect, V. A. Rigamonte, New York City. Policy not given.

Gallon, Ohio—\$100,000. Owner, Canton Development Co., J. L. May, manager, care architect, W. A. Baboda, local. Policy, pictures.

Joplin, Mo.—(Also store and hotel) \$750,000. Owner, United Studios Co., Inc. Chicago. Policy not given.

Milwaukee—(Civic) \$200,000. Owner, Milwaukee Civic Theatre Comm., S. Brown, local. Architect not selected. Policy not given.

Monmouth, Ill.—(Also stores and apartments) \$75,000. Owner, Community Theatre Corp., local. Architect, F. J. Klein, Peoria, Ill. Policy not given.

Rochelle, Ill.—(Also stores) \$125,000. Owner, Rochelle Theatre Corp. Architect, E. F. Behrm, Chicago. Policy not given.

Wichita, Kans.—\$40,000. Owner, Stockman & Hartman Co., local. Architect, Bolter Bros., Kansas City, Mo. Policy not given.

"Wings" for Full Week But Acts Will Split

"Wings" (Par) will be held for the full week of Jan. 20 in all Keith vaudeville houses in New York. Hippodrome will play the film alone week of Jan. 13.

In the split weeks the vaude will be changed as usual on a chance of getting repeats with the picture.

TEMPLE DEAL COLD

The Coney Holmes-Keith deal for the Temple, Detroit, is cold for the time being.

Holmes, formerly with Keith Western and now in Detroit, offered to reopen the Temple, dark since June, with pop vaudeville booked either through Keith's, New York, or in Detroit.

"Foot" Replaces Vaudeville Huntington, W. Va., Dec. 18. Keith's here has discontinued vaude in favor of five shows daily with "The Singing Fool" film. Probably but temporary.

DEAR ART:—
Since the last "ad" we have done
"GOING UP"
"GETTING GERTIE'S GARTER"
"HITS and BITS of 1928"
Revue
(ME—Master of Ceremonies?)
and!
Opening December 22
"Lutz" in
"THE STUDENT PRINCE"
(Looks like a four weeks' run)
KEN BROWNE
Broadway Palace, L. A.
P. S.—How would you like to go to Australia with Leo and me?

Fifty Different Critics Can't Be Wrong!

GERTRUDE BOND Presents

BOND AND TRENT

Just a Couple of Nice Girls Unleashing a Load of Inside Info on Broadway's Nite Life As It

Here's What Three Critics Said About Us

"Bond and Trent cleaned up for COMEDY with chatter and songs."

"Bond and Trent, with songs and rapid-fire palaver, bring into vaudeville a certain newness of comedy . . . They are two smart girls with an act that should go."—T. B. in "BILLBOARD."
—Edna in "VARIETY."

"Bond and Trent prove that feminine wisecrackers are not extinct. One of them high-hats and the other plays the receiving end of a battery of skirted funmakers of the Will Rogers type. They never miss a laugh and score 100 per cent."—Norfolk (Va.) "LEDGER-DISPATCH."

First Half

Last Half

Keith's Hamilton, New York Keith's Bushwick, Brooklyn
Bookers, Run Up and Get a Load of Our Act

NOT AN EXPERIMENT—AN ASSURED ACT

LORING **SMITH** AND **SAWYER** NATALIE

"MERRY MEANT," by Gene Conrad

PLAYING K-A-O THEATRES—Bigger and Better Vaudeville

LAST CHRISTMAS—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

THIS CHRISTMAS—TROY, NEW YORK

NEXT CHRISTMAS—Ask TOM KENNEDY, FRANK EVANS Office

Keith's Palace, This Week (Dec. 16)


KITTY DONER

R-K-O Representative: HARRY WEBER

Independent Representative: RILEY BROS.

A NEW ACT IN PREPARATION

Lathrop Brothers



Four Feet with a Single Thought

This Week (Dec. 16)
KEITH'S BROADWAY,
New York

Direction MILT LEWIS "MACK" "CHUCK"

YOUTH

THE FOUR FLASHES

Featuring SALLY SARKIS

SPEED

BOOKED SOLID K-A-O CIRCUIT

Agents: NAT SOBEL (Keith) and BERT JONAS (Loew)

PEP

GRACE

SHRINE OF STE. ANNE de BEAUPRE

By William J. McNulty

(Written at Ste. Anne de Beaupre, famous shrine in Canada and locale of Longfellow's "Evangeline.")

Indications are that there never will be a theatre in the town. This in spite of approximately 600,000 people visiting Ste. Anne de Beaupre in a normal year. It's a huge increase since 1876, when 28,000 people visited the celebrated shrine.

Some of the visitors are pilgrims. Balance are sightseers. The stays who supervise the shrine are opposed to the opening of a theatre in the town, which has a permanent or winter population of about 3,500, range from two hours to four months.

While the Redemptorist fathers object to worldly amusements, this

is not the basic reason why theatre has not been established. The primary cause is the "early to bed and early to rise makes one happy, healthy and wise" policy of everybody who makes a stay at Ste. Anne de Beaupre. It is possible to defy the mission priests and brothers and open a theatre in the picturesque little town. The fathers have been defied from other angles. But where would a theatre operator get his attendance?

At 9 p. m. Ste. Anne de Beaupre is solidly sealed. Nobody is moving at that hour. Migration to the oratorium begins at 7 p. m., and at 8 about 50 per cent of the permanent and transient population are between the sheets. All the stores, including the restaurants and hotels, are inactive at 9. The basilica (shrine church) is locked up before 9.

Very often at about 7.30. It is only during July and August that the church remains open until 9 p. m. During the late fall and through the winter it is closed at 7.

Up at 4 A. M.

In the shrine community it is the easiest thing in the world to arise early. At 4 o'clock there is activity in the town. The first mass in the church is at 4.30 a. m., and this is quite largely attended. At 4.30 a. m. the 25 priests and 25 brothers attached to the shrine are out of their beds, starting on the duties of the day. The 150 young students in the Juvenat, or college, connected with the monastery or rectory are also awake.

At 7.30 a. m. everybody in the town, whether a visitor or all-the-year resident, is awake. The last mass is at 8 a. m. Everybody starts the day by attending mass, with most receiving holy communion every morning.

The night life in Ste. Anne de Beaupre revolves around the 25 hotels. A dozen of these maintain restaurants. While the bulk of the all-the-year residents hit the homeward trail and thence to bed before 8, some of the city dwellers domiciled temporarily in the hotels struggle to remain awake. At about 9 the sur-

vivors toss in the towels for the pre-slumber. All of the hotels contain front balconies and verandas. On these the guests rub elbows, converse, and watch the traffic on the lone and narrow main stem.

Amusements

While there is no theatre in Ste. Anne de Beaupre, there are two amusement houses. One of these is the Royal Museum. Second is the Cyclorama. The Royal Museum is on the main stem, while the Cyclorama is on the shore of the St. Lawrence River.

The Royal Museum comprises a store and a building in the rear. To get in the good graces of the ticket collector at the top of the stairs leading from the store to the museum one has to purchase souvenirs to the extent of 25 cents in the store. Religious articles of diversified forms are placed on side in and out of the showcases. Once past the ticket collector one is taken in tow by a young sheik, who proceeds to shriek a monolog in a sad mixture of English and French, with a drone like a November wind. He leads the way from place to place, introducing wax figures running the gamut from bears to saints. The proprietor is pleased to call this a lecture. After which the lecturer proceeds to sell copies of a booklet about the museum, plainly advertising matter, for 25 cents.

One naturally expects to patronize this museum, on which is painted in gigantic letters, "Greatest in America," to see something bearing on the famous shrine or its patron saint. It is lacking in these respects. One must find herself or himself in agreement with the Redemptorist father who warned us that the Royal Museum was "a fake." The Royal Museum is open Sundays as well as weekdays. Outside the store a barker strides up and down, calling the attention of passersby to the "wonderful attractions of the Royal Museum" with a pronounced French accent. The barker rarely leaves the front of the store from the opening at about 5.30 until the closing at 8.30. Meaning a. m. to p. m.

The Huge Cyclorama. The Cyclorama houses a gigantic panoramic painting of the incidents and scenes in the Holy Land prior to and immediately following the (Continued on page 30)

PAN AGENTS MEET

Suggesting System to Save Time In Booking

The association of Pantages circuit agents met last week but transacted no important business.

The main thing confronting the agents is the working out of booking hours in the Pan office whereby the lists can be placed before either Ed Milne or Bob Burns without time lost.

A complete test hasn't been possible through the illness of Burns, down with the grippe in his hotel room.

Ed Milne will devote certain hours to the agents.

Henceforth the constant stream of acts seeking Pan placements and the simultaneous efforts of the agents to all do biz at the same time about floored the bookers.

The association has been asked by Milne to help make booking conditions more systematic and efficient than heretofore.

E. H. Hays Out in St. Louis

St. Louis, Dec. 18. Everett H. Hays, manager of the St. Louis theatre (Keith) has resigned and left the circuit.

Hays is president of the local managers' association. If he leaves the city a successor will have to be selected.

ASSN'S XMAS GOLD

Chicago, Dec. 18.

In accordance with an annual custom employees of the WVMA will receive gold pieces for Xmas this year.

Ben Liazza, general manager of RKO western offices, decreed that this 15-year-old custom will be kept up.

Maj. Donovan's Xmas

Major Donovan, of the V.M.F.A., left for San Francisco Monday (Dec. 17) to visit his daughters, Donovan Sisters, playing the coast with the Henry Carroll unit.

Returning at the end of this week.

HARRY MITCHELL RESIGNS

Harry Mitchell, formerly manager of the Empress in Chicago, and for the past 10 years manager of Keith's Temple in Rochester, has resigned.

Doc Rockwell's Contract

Doc Rockwell has another two-year contract with the Shuberts. Rockwell's next assignment will be as featured comic with "A Night in Venice." It went into rehearsal this week.

Anderson-Ruskin Firm

John Murray Anderson has formed a vaude producing combine with Harry Ruskin, vaude author.

Released for Public

With another year to run on their Keith term contract, Joe and Jane McKenna have obtained a release. Through Abe Friedman they go for 30 weeks with a Public unit, starting in January.

Imitated But Not Duplicated



RAJAH RABOID and RAYNELL

WISH ALL OF THEIR MANY FRIENDS

A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

Direction MARTY FORKINS JACK WEINER, Associate

HEADLINING
KEITH'S PALACE, NEW YORK, THIS WEEK (DEC. 16)
AND HELD OVER FOR A SECOND WEEK (DEC. 23)

PHIL BAKER

"A BAD BOY FROM A GOOD FAMILY"

WITH A BOW TO MY ANNOYER

SID SILVERS

Booked by HARRY and HERMAN WEBER for a Brief Tour in Vaudeville Prior to

CO-STARRING

with BEN BERNIE and BAND in

THE MESSRS. SHUBERTS'

"THE CABARET BOYS"

By SAM SHIPMAN and JOHN B. HYMAN



Walter Nilsson

"World's Master Unicyclist"
O-H-000!
Vaudeville
Wm. Jacobs Agency, Chicago

BOOKINGS ON SIXTH FLOOR

Two Keith Booking Floors May Be Combined

Plans are afoot to combine all the booking of the Keith office to one floor. The fifth floor departments will eventually be found on the sixth floor as soon as the space is apportioned and arranged after the new year.

It is also planned to have only agents occupy the other office space in the Palace building, with the former Keith office departments shifted to the Bond building.

Inside Stuff—Vaudeville

(Continued from page 28)

assert themselves if of the belief they are being mishandled. At the present time there are many sound short directors who know as little as anybody about the new racket.

Due to the Sunday openings, R-K-O agents are taking turns spending Sabbath afternoons in the R-K-O offices on the sixth floor of the Palace building with nothing better to do than think up telephone gags. Last Sunday they started rigging everybody on a prop butler script.

After that had been going on for an hour, the instigator suddenly got a call himself from a well known sister act asking him to handle them. Figuring it was a return frame the agent replied, "Why, I'm too big a man to handle a lousy act like yours," hung up; and the call was on the level.

Sisters called in person the next day to demand an apology and got it.

An m.c. outside of New York opening in a new city and house to him, failed to make much of an impression. A notice in Variety said so. Shortly after, Variety's New York office received a letter signed with a girl's name, written in the hot fan way, stating she did not know the m.c., but in justice, fairness, etc.

Her letter was sent to Variety's branch office in the m.c.'s city and a routine acknowledgment written to the writer. That letter was returned, saying the addressee was unknown. So it looks as though the m.c. can write a feminine hand or has a feminine sec or friend. It's not new, but usually the precaution is taken to have some semblance of genuineness about the phoney squawk.

Loew acts making talking shorts, booked by Benny Thau, receive one week's salary as paid for their regular appearance on the Loew circuit.

Where Loew acts are lined up for M-G-M shorts their agents receive commission the same as regularly for a personal appearance.

No chance at this time of Loew wiring the American, New York, Prospect, New York theatre (and roof) and the Bijou, Brooklyn. It is believed the installing would not be worth the money expended for the time yet to run on the American contract which expires in 1929. The same applies to Loew's New York, owned by Paramount, the present Loew contract expiring in March.

The Bijou is an old house and opposite Loew's Metropolitan, with the lease expiring shortly and Loew not at all interested in a renewal or buying the Bijou site. The Prospect status is in doubt. Arrangements may be made for sound later.

SHRINE OF STE. ANNE

(Continued from page 29)

crucifixion. Although only a few yards from the painting, the painting itself plus the lighting effect gives the impression of the canvas being hundreds of yards away. This painting covers the walls of the circular wooden building and is a remarkable illustration of the artistry of the group of French and United States painters who depicted the biblical scenes on the canvas. The painting is claimed to be the largest in the world. Whether true or not, it is certainly striking.

To ease past the ticket collector at the Cyclorama one must purchase souvenirs to the value of at least 25 cents in one of the two stores maintained by the proprietor. One

of the stores is connected with the Cyclorama. The other is directly across the railroad tracks, beside the local railroad station and within a few yards of the park fronting the new basilica. In these stores religious articles of all kinds are for sale.

The Redemptorist Fathers have been eager to acquire the Cyclorama and the land nearby, but the owner has refused to sell at a figure satisfactory to the Fathers. He is said to have placed the price at \$150,000. The cost to him about 20 years ago was approximately \$10,000, including the painting and building and land.

The gross annual profit of the Cyclorama reaches about \$12,000, despite that business is dull from December until May.

Although the Province of Quebec has been under government liquor

control for some years, no liquor is sold in Ste. Anne de Beaupre. The Redemptorist Fathers have been fighting all efforts to sell the potent fluids in the shrine town. No government store such as located in the average Quebec town for the sale of beer and wine, so plentiful in all the Quebec towns and cities.

All sales of liquor whether by the government or tavernkeepers are under the ban sponsored by the Redemptorist Fathers. This has not prevented members of the bootleg fraternity from selling the ardent in the town at exorbitant prices for inferior stuff.

Catching a Legger

One member of the fraternity who operated a small hostelry as camouflage for his real operations refused to heed a demand from the Fathers that he quit selling the hooch. Two young men went into the hoochery and purchased bottles of alleged whisky. The result was a fine of \$200 plus costs by the local magistrate. The bootlegger persisted in distributing the red eye, but became a heap more careful than he had been.

Time after time he refused to sell to men who were representing the Fathers. Finally he slipped, and a sale was made to a man sent into the place by the priests and brothers. The consequence was another tap for \$200 plus costs.

The peddler of the illicit juices was as wild as the March wind that sweeps through Ste. Anne de Beaupre. He made the open threat that he would kill every member of the male religious community, meaning the 25 priests and 25 brothers. He had the reputation of being a sectional "bad man" and a terror with a gun. He broadcast that the members of the religious community had to lay off him or he would shoot lead.

At the close of a day on which the distributor of Undertaker's Joy had been particularly vociferous in his threats there came a call at the rec-

tory for a priest. A clergyman was needed at once in the "hotel" used by the bootlegger as a blind. One of the customers had visions of communicating with ethereal spirits after absorbing some of the liquid type.

When the mission father entered the building the "sole prop" was not in his view. But when the priest came down the stairs after ministering to the sick man in a guest room on the second floor he saw the bootlegger parked by the entrance, giving the occultist third degree to the customers as they filed in. Hanging on the wall was a rifle.

The priest looked at the hoorn peddler for a moment before the

(Continued on page 40)

I FAW DOWN
I FAW DOWN
I FAW DOWN
I FAW DOWN
I FAW DOWN
I FAW DOWN
I FAW DOWN
I FAW DOWN
I FAW DOWN
I FAW DOWN
Acts Big and Small Have Stolen
I FAW DOWN
From the Originator
Marie Hartman
World's Champ Comedienne
of
BILLY MARIE
HIBBITT & HARTMAN
BOOKED SOLIDLY

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CRISP SISTERS
in Their "CRISP REVUE"
Lunch with us at "The Whirling Well Tea Shoppe"
132 West 45th Street
K. A. O. Circuit
Personal Rep.: FRANK EVANS

PALACE

(St. Vaude) A capacity orchestra audience Sunday afternoon at the Palace saw an opening performance of quite good balance...

STATE

(Wired) (Vaudefilm) Organ at the State at last has come into its own. Not that its voluminous pipes haven't had a lot of use...

86TH STREET

(Vaudefilm) This Yorkville district in the Proctor chaudi had the tapes up early Sunday day off the first mat on the two...

AMERICAN

(Vaudefilm) Strictly a just-before-Christmas layout, with a curving eye to the cost. Eight-act bill is extremely light...

PANTAGES

(Wired) Fresno, Calif., Dec. 11. This Pan house, opened a month ago, is easily the best of the San Joaquin valley. It brings first opposition to West Coast Theatres...

RIVERSIDE

(Vaudefilm) Plenty of diversity in the five-act bill for first half at this uptown neighborhood house. It's less so for the Sunday afternoon, scarcely better than one-third.

5TH AVE.

(All Sound) Pepper without salt would seem hardly more strange than the 5th Avenue, which has been an outpost of vaudefilm for years and has built up its whole clientele on that basis.

BROADWAY

(Vaudefilm) They're cutting down expenses till the boys with the shovels and picks start operating again. It's to be one of vaudeville's best stands.

HAMILTON

(Wired) Out of about 980 theatres in the country now wired but two apparatuses are in operation. One is the 6th Avenue, the other is this house.

ACADEMY

(Wired) (Vaudefilm) Three-hour show for 50c. and plenty of variety. Six acts. Beatrice Little in two numbers, talking and singing, sound feature.

Why only eight acts at the Palace? Some of the world's greatest actors have been content to acknowledge applause by being there. But unfortunately, they weren't in vaudeville.

(Continued on page 61)

HELEN BROWN and Rasch Girls (16) Ballet and Chorus 14 Mins.; Full Stage Palace (St. V.)

A composition placing Helen Brown on her toes in front of the 16 Alberta Rasch girls, all out of Ziegfeld's "The Musketeers." Very good for vaude or picture houses in making what is known as a girl or flash act.

Something different in turns of this description tried at the Palace, in the lighting way. That it is an adopted film presentation procedure idea that vaudeville has muffed for these many days. Lighting effects are twice employed. While at the opening it keeps the principals and girls in a dim glow for perhaps too long, it's worth it. And again, after the girls' faces have been seen in the full light, when it is used again, still better.

Meanwhile short formations of trios and an octet of ponies, with the union dancing line of all for the finale, with Miss Brown leading, and going into the Rasch trade mark finish of groupings with the premieres in the background.

Miss Brown is lithe in her movements. While all Rasch girls can elevate more or less, she still displays why she is leading. The line holds some comely girls; there is plenty of dressing and not all ballet, with the turn admirably filling its eye for the musician.

Miss Rasch, herself a ballerina, has decidedly advanced as a dance group producer since her earliest attempts. Her acts or groups now are finished, stigmatized and with plenty of action. *Rime.*

DOLAN and BONGER REVUE (8) Dancing and Music 16 Mins.; Full American (V-P)

Attractive specialty group, led by man and woman dancers backed by orchestra of six, three boys and three girls. Pack a lot of variety and nice entertainment into quarter of an hour. For American grade of time a nice sub-feature depending on cost.

Opens with orchestra in hot number and man of team stepping flash out front. The musicianian down front with musical saw. Girl at piano sings a number, and nicely. Principal woman dancer on for a number, featuring striking slow high kicks and acro-legmania. This features the turn and gets results.

Quartet of them in novelty music combination—uke, trumpet, harmonica, etc.—with vocal harmony for interludes. Little comedy except mild by-play, but odd orchestration gets attention. Finish has girl dancer stripped down to shorts in lively black bottom and general atmosphere of whoopee for applause finale. No. 4 here and got good returns from somnolent pre-holiday crowd. *Rush.*

BOYCE and EVANS Dancers 12 Mins.; One American (V-P)

Couple of boy hoofers who are as good as anybody in their line for straight stepping, but haven't anything else. Have a flat song opening line all the way to the end of the show. They then go to work.

Are distinctly there both with tap, eccentric and buck. They also make a merit of speaking almost not a word. Only speech is when one walks on to opening of "Laugh, Clown, Laugh" and when the bit crew hoot, says "Huh? Very Well, then," and goes into a hot dance routine.

Dandy Intermediate No. 2. Cruel to put them into opening intermission in this show, where they were lost. *Rush.*

GAY GORDONS (7) Scotch Revue 15 Mins.; Full (Special) Hamilton (V-P)

Conventional kiddie production that needs pepping up. Banquets, sword dances, etc., by five men and two girls. Scenery represents Edinburgh Castle. Several costume changes add to production value. Some acrobatic stuff, pyramid building, etc., toward finish.

Needs to be geared several notches higher in speed but can get by on flash. *Land.*

GERALD and HAUG Comedy Mule 5 Mins.; With Stage Band Colony, New York (Pct.)

Excellent pantomime turn. Dancing stood with some clever bits of business. Stayed in front of band unusually long time for type of turn and held interest. Novelty for picture houses. *Land.*

CONWAY TEARLE and Co. (2) "Hamlet" and recitations 19 Mins.; Full and One Orpheum, L. A. (St. V.)

Following screen trailer asking audience not to take Shakespearean offering as indication of high hat, and a personal speech by Conway Tearle announcing he is at last to play Hamlet. Tearle launches into the closing lines of Act II, Scene II, in which Hamlet decides to test his uncle whom he suspects of murder.

The Hamlet bit, well done by Tearle, ran less than five minutes. In full with a black eye. It is an impressive bit of oratory. Lillian Aitel, pianist, with Chopin selections, fill in for a costume change.

Following the piano solo, Tearle, in a velvet dressing gown and to piano accompaniment, does "Danny Deever."

To close he recited the speech from "The Silver King" in which the conscience-stricken Jeffrey Ware tells of a murderer's troubled sleep.

Looks fair for almost any locale with Tearle's name.

BLAKE and ROSA (2) Talk and Songs 12 Mins.; One Academy, Chicago (V-P)

Comedy two-act, with makeup and material of the comic, suggestive of burlesque. If anybody asked the pretty girl straight why she wears a crazy red costume with one pant leg and one sleeve, probably couldn't answer. Neither attractive nor funny.

Comic wears baggy checked suit with manhole buttons and busts into phone booth poetry now and then. Prize laugh verse he recites with how lucky we are that the machine, age has never discovered how to make babies.

Despite all this, turn is a comedy clicker for the lesser spots, especially appealing to men. Even the girl's long ballad about mother, saturated with saccharine, brought enthusiastic response from the 75 or 80 boys present.

Complaint against the act is registered because the comic shows ability to get across with real material if he had it. At present you can discover several acts in his, indicating he isn't doing much thinking. *Ring.*

RYAN and WILSON Songs and Talk 11 Mins.; One American (V-P)

Ryan and Wilson are using the comedy crossfire wisecracking turn of Brown and Whittaker. Though Russ Brown is also using the act line for line in the Keith houses it is understood Ryan and Wilson have Brown's permission for it on the Loew circuit.

Ryan and Wilson handle the material effectively, although some of the smart shots miss the fire. It may have been the audience's fault or it may have been the team's.

Though comparisons are bound to be made as long as Brown and Whittaker continue using the act the Ryan and Wilson duo are safe with it in the Loew houses.

The success of the turn is all in the flippancy wisecracks; songs only lend a little diversity. *Mark.*

TINT and WILLIAMS Dancers 7 Mins.; One American, Chicago (V-P)

Williams, formerly of Williams Bros., hoofers, now with girl in routines that will pass when adjusted.

Girl does buck and wing, rope skipping and clog. Pairing they show nothing unusual. When caught they brought out a little girl, about five or six, for a song and dance number that didn't mean much. Kid probably used locally only.

Nothing forte about this one. *Loop.*

"SAVOY REVUE" (5) Songs and Dances 16 Mins.; Three (Special) American, Chicago (V-P)

Producer not credited. No glory, anyway. Five emcees, none too brisk, game on and off with high and low tunes. So-so hoofing and little else.

Wardrobe and settings neglected. With trimmings it might look different. As is, just a dull affair bringing out one familiar face, that of Lola Laurel, formerly Stevens and Laurel. Miss Laurel, red head, still steps snappily. *Loop.*

"HONEY" (11) Girl Act 30 Mins.; Full (Special) Bist St. (V-P)

A miniature musical comedy, smartly framed and extremely well staged for space and flash by William B. Handwerker who also supplied the lyrics and special music. Departs from the familiar type of bijou production in that it gets over a light story which never intrudes upon swift progress of dances, comedy bits and song numbers.

Cast is made up of Patsy O'Neill, Dick Bell and Bobby Dale, principals, and the eight Sherman Dancers, who include an excellent sister team, not billed.

Scene is made of liner from California to Far East. At opening the girls, described as "Hollywood divorcees," are making whoopee, some seated at deck tables and sister team in lively dance, all in afternoon frocks. Juvenile enters and goes into number, the while making love to the girls.

In few words it is disclosed that he is trying to make it up with his newly divorced wife, who is supposed to be on ship. He has song, mild bit of composition. Ex-wife and her new husband, fat comedian, on next for comedy talk of honeymooners. Their stateroom is opposite that of the ex-husband, and rest of the plot has rival husbands and the girl switching from cabin to cabin, for gags and crossfire, funny and sometimes agreeably audacious in suggestion.

Principal number is "Flaming Youth," attractive melody built up throughout and reprised at the end. Girls are in several times for dance ensembles, one a union tap idea that is slightly and nicely done. Captain of the ship is third principal, used for foiling. Dialog is amusing, particularly spicy references to honeymooners' bridal night.

Miss O'Neill is excellent in several dances with the two men, the best incidental to the "Flaming Youth" song and made the standout episode of the piece.

Dan's mishap. Action develops that girl's divorce wasn't final until tomorrow and marriage was void. Thereupon she decides to take back her first husband, leaving new mate in the lurch. In desperation he is about to jump overboard and swim ashore. Ship reaches land, accom- plished by moving a moving cut-out cross at back representing South Sea island with girls in brief native dress posed among palms. They come aboard ship and while juvenile and prima donna go into cliché discarded husband goes into hula hula with girls for the curtain.

Flocc and flash by the end of the way, talk is all funny on its own account and explains the plot without wasting time, and the people are all likable. Setting pretty, costuming most attractive and people individually and collectively uncommonly satisfying. One of the best things of the kind this year. *Rush.*

BOND and TRENT Comedy 12 Mins.; Two (Special) Hamilton (V-P)

Two girls in a gab feast. Background is ladies' room of a ballroom. Gals crack wise about various gents getting blow on a tank of gin. A little incidental patter interpolated.

Girls are not new, having completed Loew circuit and showing for Keith when caught. They have a pleasing turn of character with an idea that can be built into stronger and better things. The stew idea in particular could be elaborated upon for values. *Land.*

McMANUS and HICKEY Talk and Songs 14 Mins.; One 5th Ave. (V-P)

Two men, comic and straight, with a hokey routine reminiscent of burlesque, but the comic probably a refugee from that division. The talk given over to an imagin-ary speakeasy and mythical murder is worked well but needs considerable punching up on laughs to assure this duo a trip around any circuit.

Went so-so with sad audience here in No. 4. Won't be as soft elsewhere. *Edna.*

ALY COHEN and Shanty HOGAN Comedy 12 Mins.; One Broadway (V-P)

Join McGraw's Jewish-Irish ball players in a straight talking act, ending with a special song. Spring training season opening in a little while. *Big.*

Jim and Marion HARKINS Co. (6) "The Family Ford" 9 Mins.; Full Broadway (V-P)

The Harkins, supported by four, have revived the old collapsible buggy skit for nine minutes of full stage act immediately following their 16-minute cross-fire two-act in "One." So doing, they have two separate turns, acceptable in that Pair have a troupe surrounding them consisting of a prima who sings effectively and six ballet dancers who have a routine different from the vaude deluge.

Twins have youth, looks and ability. They attempt a little singing, but once they start dancing they're away. Also dress attractively. Remaining dancers may be some of the former Mansfield outfit. By way of novelty they have several numbers worked out for contrast. This helps the Lees.

Vaude Co. use this youthful, sprightly and graceful group of dancers who should shape as effectively in the picture houses. *Mark.*

ALONG BROADWAY" (7) Revue 17 Mins.; One, Full (Special) Broadway (V-P)

So many faults to find with this formal flash that they greatly surpass its favorable bill in number. As most might be easily corrected, it looks as though the flash is breaking in on Broadway, or the producer let it ride without editing.

When one man is among six girls he should possess enough fire, funny and sometimes agreeably audacious in suggestion. "Titie" gained through the use of a "one" drop opening, lighted to represent the Square at night. Before this drop the singing juve announces that he's a musical thief, and he cops tunes from the B'way shows. He dug deep in the cellar for one number, "Lady of the Evening," from the "Music Box Revue," of some years ago. It's used as vocal accompaniment to a girl's acrobatic dance. Also the first time the public is tipped that a "Lady of the Evening" is an acrobat.

As far as appearance is concerned the Spanish dancer looks authentic, but her dancing not quite that. The prima might have shown better taste in selecting a Spanish costume for her build-up song for the first dance.

The dancing sister team adheres to accepted chorus by-laws at all times—head left, head right, etc. Not far out of the line class.

Production and costumes first rate. People and a routine needed. Too many nice lookers with no talent around today. *Big.*

CLAIRE MADJETTE Songs 12 Mins.; One American (V-P)

Judging from her style, Claire Madjette wants an audience to believe she is from the French music halls. Her routine is all out of proportion for American vaude. The girl has a good voice, but the numbers almost ruined her. The audience at the close applauded for a vocal display.

Miss Madjette attempts a little dance on one number. It seemed to amateurish she could cut it out altogether, for a more direct impression with her voice.

A reconstruction would help this young woman immeasurably. *Mark.*

ELSIE CLARK CO. (2) Songs with Piano 15 Mins.; One (Special) Hamilton (V-P)

Miss Clark has poise and diction but her catalog of assets unfortunately does not include good material. It is something of an accomplishment to hold an audience at all under such a pronounced handicap. She managed to get off the platform after 15 pretty quiet minutes without seeming to have died, but by any computing of the score the result is still nil.

A couple of bona fide laughs in the act but only one in the first pair of songs. Nelson Story, an able pianist with a bad make-up, assists. Rain checking in its present state. *Land.*

FRANCIS TRIO Acrobatic 6 Mins.; Full Hamilton (V-P)

Man enters down aisle carrying drunk over shoulder. Upon reaching stage a crowd of five is throwing them out and appearance in aisle of presumable house policemen.

It's knockabout acrobatics involving all three as the drunks go limp, get caught in one another's clothing and in general do the expected. Some giggles but not too important and indications are a small time opener. *Land.*

LEE TWINS CO. (7) Songs and Dances 16 Mins.; One and Full (Special) State (V-P)

Lee Twins (not to be confused with the Lee Kids, Jane and Katherine nor the Lee Sisters who formerly worked around in songs) with dancing their apparent stock in trade, mix up taps and acrobatic stepping and have a corking act. Pair have a troupe surrounding them consisting of a prima who sings effectively and six ballet dancers who have a routine different from the vaude deluge.

Twins have youth, looks and ability. They attempt a little singing, but once they start dancing they're away. Also dress attractively.

Remaining dancers may be some of the former Mansfield outfit. By way of novelty they have several numbers worked out for contrast. This helps the Lees.

Vaude Co. use this youthful, sprightly and graceful group of dancers who should shape as effectively in the picture houses. *Mark.*

OJEDA and IMBERT Spanish Dancers 5 Mins.; With Stage Band Colony, New York (Pct.)

Rather unusual team. Routines broken up at this house to fit in with stage band entertainment, but seemingly constitutes a swift and compact dancing twosome.

One number with finger cymbals creating jingle rhythm. Man has unique tambourine routine. Everything fast and graceful. Girl a looker. *Land.*

OWEN, MAHON and OWEN Talk and Songs 12 Mins.; Three, Special 5th Ave. (V-P)

Mixed trio, two girls and man in likeable hokum routine, not new but pleasing enough to get by in middle spot of a five-act bill. The girl comic carries the act with her dumbdora, knows comedy values and gets them.

Man straight for both gals for some matrimonial snaring line figures in a duet with the comedienne and trio number at finish. Adequate in No. 3 on the seven-act bill here. *Edna.*

O'DAY and MURRAY (2) Dancing and Singing 8 Mins.; One American (V-P)

Possibly a new combination, although neither seems new to the boards. Male hoofing team in tuxes, starting with introductory vocal harmony and then working various tap and eccentric routines. Nothing outstanding. Impression fair. Deucer for the smallestes. *Ring.*

Houses Opening

Although the new Keswick, at Glenside, Pa., seating 1,700, opens with the "Kiwanis Polka" (local Christmas week, its policy is sound pictures and presentations.

Broadway Players closed at Schine's Majestic, Utica, N. Y., last week. Vaudeville next week. Musical stock folds at the Westwood, Westwood, N. J., in two weeks with the house reverting to vaudeville policy Jan. 6, five acts on split week booked by Fally Markus.

MARRIAGES

Phil Tyrell, vaude agent with Lyons & Lyons, and Vanness, the dancer, were married Dec. 12 in New York. It was the first fall for Tyrell, who recently came east from Chicago.

The bride has been married before. Lola Curtis Thornton, armless stunt flier, to Madeline Guenst, daughter of Fred Guenst, film actor, in Glendale, Cal., Dec. 11.

Solly Smallman to Gertrude Nachtigal, Dec. 2, in Philadelphia. Groom in Joe Lebling's Public Service ticket office.

Sydel Swerigin is engaged to wed Bernard Pollack Dec. 25 in New York. The prospective groom in N. Y. manager for Sherman Clay Music Co. and a brother of Lou Pollack, songwriter.

Daniela Levy to Tren Metzke Herrick Dec. 8 at Seattle. Morris Appel to Pauline Shaffer, leads in Yiddish stock at Capitol, Los Angeles, married on Stage Dec. 18.

Lady Northesk to Vivian Cornelius, in London, Dec. 8. Bride is Joseline Northesk, former American dancer, and divorced wife of Lord Northesk.

PARAMOUNT

(Wired)
New York, Dec. 16.
Someone had better tell Bennie Kreuger that in spite of all the glory that goes with playing the foremost band presentation house of the country, the Paramount is also the toughest theatre in the world for masters of ceremonies.

Overlooking one flaw, Kreuger isn't bad at all in his first week at the Paramount. They liked his mannerisms and melted under his saxophone solo. It is far from the toughest for Bennie in week number one. But they're not going to go for the sax solo every week—there are plenty of boys around with nice manners.

Kreuger is at the Paramount after three years of the Tivoli and Uptown theatres. In Chicago, he was so great is the contrast. In Chi he played to the same faces weekly for three years. He had plenty of time to grow on them and he did. Little doubt that he knows there is quite a difference. But can he do anything about it?

His weakness in Chi remains his weakness here. Kreuger is very shabby spokesman, and that was the only flaw in his makeup at the Paramount. Out at 63d street and Cottage Grove, he made a fortune as a straight for a visiting comic, Bennie used to read his lines backward. His boyish personality is highly pleasant. His appearance is good. His fiction is agreeable. But he's not there at all in all and hardly there in straight speaking. Stuff is the word, though, graceless might sound better.

The John Murray Anderson presentation surrounding him is short, snappy and entertaining. Bennie was provided with an advantage, take-off in the finale. Bennie is a trifle out of tune in the glass. The final part comes in toward the finish when Emille and Romaine, adagio dancers, are lowered to the stage on a cabled cradle—the magic run.

The opening is handled by Burns and Kissen, vaude standards, with comedy crystal zapping as the subject. When Kissen says the show he sees Burns in-law dying from eating too many omeublers and Burns running wildly down the street for more omeublers. There going away for the winter. There going a laugh in the crystal used in a bowl of goldfish.

The Foster Girls (12) are in silhouette behind a fancy scrim. The production is well handled by Harry Johnson's team solo. Burns and Kissen return briefly to build up Kreuger's entrance, and a final solo by the Foster girls. The production is handled by Harry Johnson's team. Bennie conducting, follows immediately. Barb arrangement and played prettily.

Gordon and King follow through his most two-boy dance teams in the picture houses today. Viewing the abundance of such teams, it is prominent in the development of eccentric town dancing to the status it has reached. It's still good enough to surmount the handicap of a repetition dance.

Evelyn Wilson, formerly with her sister as the Wilson Sisters, singers and lookers, uses a satirical humor in the picture phases. She does a song, "You're a Think Song" with gestures, and does it neatly. Here is a case of an exceptionally comely girl sacrificing appearance for character. Her remaining quality is her ability to mean a standstill. That, too, is something new in film house decorum.

Burns and Kissen reverted to the vaude type in their own spot, slipping in two of their comedy paradises held over from the olio affair. They landed.

Emille and Romaine's different sort of adagio served as the presenters finale as well as their own. Individual chances are given them to do back and shoulder stands on each other's hands and shoulders to be different, and different they are. The woman's apparent frailty is a striking contrast. Alan probably has the only mustache in adagio circles.

Dave Rubinfeld thought of an odd one for the pit orchestra feature, but it sounded like a dud. It was playing "Varsity Drag" as it might be played in various countries. The Yid version was in comedy. The reception of emils, his overture was the best liked item on the program.

The Jesse Crawford boys remain in the house and their presentation consists in the comedy superb. Closest similarity fails to appear a single song spot in any of the Crawford organ concerts. The Paramount has read Vladimir Vaino (Fred McCall and Co., Talking Pictures) in addition to the feature film, "The Married Men" with some of the Crawford boys and a dance. It is a comedy.

STANLEY

(Wired)
Jersey City, Dec. 17.
"At the Country Club" is the stage show at this 5,000-seater this week. An agreeable array of talent and display greeted the eye-and-ear patrons.

The novelty is the 14 Musical Cadets, boys who would fall into the chorus class if they hadn't so much to do. They are in quartets and duos. They dance in unison, play harmoniums, do songs and make a flash appearance. An act of Serova gets going with a set of circus work, doing tip-toeing, musical-comedy routines and other numbers neatly.

The setting is gorgeous, well lighted and well set affair, a lawn, but with a piazza effect that's a wow. Continuing the contest for popularity with Charlie Melson, attorney in chief. He is the neatest phrase flippers who ever drew boys for companion performers, scores decidedly. He dances with the girls in the opening number, "The Night's" that brings out pleasing vocalism and then goes into his piano solo, "Criminy Lak a Rose," which is a gem.

Helen and Elmer Embis, with musical enigma, opening with a vocal in "Meditation" with a vocal in piano and violin. Nice everything about this act. Polly Spear, "sing-strings," tries to be too cheerful, but with voice. Cute kid, "An unknown Harlemite got a lot of the 'Blackbirds' mob all around. He's a find, and he closed the show to the heartiest finale that ever swept the house—and just on hoof-works too.

Howard W. Crull did this one, and shows that he can put true Broadway into Jersey City. It's the best job he did since the hit, "In Hawaii." "Out of the Fog," semi-talk, fades to a flop when Conrad Nagel and May McAvoy got into it. Housington, a noisy scene. House-into may scenes. House-into may scenes. House-into may scenes. House-into may scenes.

Business is pepped with giveaways of a grand's worth of low-key in conjunction with a local feature.

STATE

(Wired)
Minneapolis, Dec. 12.
Ingram was back at the State this week and had his presentation built around "Hits of Today." Black drapes with three large colorful pastels of women's heads in the background. The setting is good. The first act is a duet of Spanish songs and serenitas, came on for a pleasing dancing hit as an opener.

The year past opened to reveal Julian Neville, popular local tenor, in artist's costume. His song went over nicely. The specialty bit for "Jeannine," while "Neapolitan Nights," sung by a feminine trio, followed. Neville then sang "Sonny Boy" and "The Singing Dove" from the past opening, with the ballet in abbreviated attire doing a "Pink and Blue" sensational roller skaters, provided a thrilling wind-up that garnered plenty of applause.

Fox Movietone, with a new show, "The Minnesota-Wisconsin State Game," was by the topbers, held much interest and no doubt drew many to the theatre. "Yellow King" featured film, was not without its entertainment value. "King of Kings" (feature film) did not do much box office strength. Business off.

SEATTLE

(River Idea—Unit)
Seattle, Dec. 13.
This "Pamphlet & More" "River Idea" flowed along at a swift pace. A flow of song, dance and brilliance that made it a success of the better type of P. & M. with something to give to some of the delightful purity of words in the on the spot. While a couple of the dance spots were only so-so, they got by, and all worked into the idea in a clever way.

The hit of the show and this act was "Ready for the River" by Rick and Saylor. The latter has done combat Sunday night. So Rick's work at the vaudeville circles and duos who did of their "River" songs.

The Jesse Crawford boys remain in the house and their presentation consists in the comedy superb. Closest similarity fails to appear a single song spot in any of the Crawford organ concerts. The Paramount has read Vladimir Vaino (Fred McCall and Co., Talking Pictures) in addition to the feature film, "The Married Men" with some of the Crawford boys and a dance. It is a comedy.

BRANFORD

Newark, N. J., Dec. 13.
Stage show at the Strand in New Jersey. Stan Brantley's "Brainstorm" is a very light on talent, with only three acts. But some cleverness saves it. Stan Brantley's "Brainstorm" is a very light on talent, with only three acts. But some cleverness saves it.

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COLONY

(Wired)
New York, Dec. 16.
The legend of Christ Columbus is recounted in the bedtime story manner by Benny Rubin in the song of humor Stephen Leacock would give it by any chance he took up Yiddish.

The pretty staple goods that Benny is peddling to the Broadway mob. Other m. c.'s have dealt in fancy groceries, such as diamond, swank, "it's manny" calling boys. Benny confines himself to simple things. Next to a citizen doing a patriotic duty, the audience has seen the comic mutilation of His Majesty's language.

At what point Benny leaves off acting and becomes himself might be an interesting disclosure, but meanwhile this trade report will suffice in stating he is doing swell at the Colony by the apparently effortless business of "plucking" the motiff in Spanish this week. Spanish motifs are quite nobly with all stage bands. Upon the putting of the drapes, some Jimmy Kohn's hat and glasses leading his troubadours in a popular time. This leads to Ojeda and Imbert (New Acts) who make a fine and do stunts with tannours.

There is a comic mule, possibly Spanish, although not stated. (George and Hale (New Acts) are good and south of the mule, a swatting 'twould seem.

The Colony is featuring a short subject glorifying the New York Stock Exchange. It is an industrial picture made by Victor Kopp, has many specializing in commercial or propaganda films. Makes an interesting number while carefully suppressing the special nature of the trade. The girls are strong, out the Pollyanna thoughts longly.

FBO's "The Crusid Kid" synchronized with RCA Photophone preceded by a helpful talking screen of George "Whooey-Buy My Roses" exclusively.

EASTMAN

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 14.
"Popular Potpourri," stage presentation at the Eastman this week, brings six song and dance numbers. The "Taint So Honey," by George and the best of the lot. Company has done this sort of thing before and never fails to get a haul. Just dress up the gay nineties; their costume fits the dress.

"Buy my roses," by Margaret McKeon in high falsetto by Margaret McKeon before the boys go back, sets the pace of the number. She is in bright green creation with basket of roses in front of blue velvet drop. She sings "Whooey-Buy My Roses" with comedy effects as girls and boys join her. Costumes get a big laugh.

Gordon Davis in blackface had a song, "Taint So Honey." Fully well done, but suffers from similarity to Metro Movietone. By George Washington Dewey that led a bad time. Martin Vogt in blackface and Ruby Bohrer as high yellow and snappy eccentric are a good deal better. George and the best of the lot. Company has done this sort of thing before and never fails to get a haul. Just dress up the gay nineties; their costume fits the dress.

ORIENTAL

(Wired)
Chicago, Dec. 14.
Will Harris has not been a success and substantial presentation in "Crimline Days." Harris has not been a success and substantial presentation in "Crimline Days." Harris has not been a success and substantial presentation in "Crimline Days."

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PARADISE

(Night Club—Unit)
Chicago, Dec. 15.
Competition is boiling on the west side. Looks like the boys are taking care of everybody in the neighborhood. B. C. Knight the Paradise leader, is advertising an act within two blocks of each other, and in a neighborhood. This is a funny town, though. Look at the guy who built the Paradise, do about a mile and a half in a cow pasture outside the city, with nothing in sight but a couple of Joe Frisco's phone booths.

At the Paradise, the boys are doing a disc Saturday afternoon, and mostly kids. "Night Club" unit opened here, as its intended first week at the Oriental was postponed by a storm. Sousa and his band.

"Night Club" is one of those things that might as well be titled "Victory Star." Producer did his share with a pretty black drupe and a few balloons, but the benefits hadn't heard. So the boys are doing an act of boys recognized as a horse, comedienne, sister team, two dancing and ballad singing in a picture frame.

Kids went for it strong—more so than the elders. Patterson Twins, opening, kicked a routine together and blew off in a hurry. Very short, fill-in. Know comedy line in the intermediate and small-time vaude halls. Stopped things cold with her burlesque on "Carmen." May be a good thing. The rag is a limber body, accenting all the conventional hoofing gestures into ridiculousness. Miss Buynell sings like a mad, she works, and the act is a good comedy acquisition for picture houses.

Douglas Wright and Co. two men under a Spark Plug horse costume with a girl assistant acting as trainer, received scattered laughs. Act had the same trouble in vaude, but still it can be called a satisfaction. The idea is yet a novelty in picture houses. Closing act, George and Joe, very small and funny. George and Joe, very small and funny. George and Joe, very small and funny. George and Joe, very small and funny.

UPDOWN

(Wired)
Toronto, Dec. 17.
Jack Arthur's all-right review of "Hip Hip Hooray" is a pretty good act, but is the best of the four stage units he has done, with his new m. c., Eddie Laughton. Eddie is the show, and he does a good job of the laughs in the 45-minute stretch.

Opens with the band in a top before an ornate futuristic back drop in scene. The band starts talking up vocal refrain in couple of rays, and there is a neat hand for Laughton. He works a couple of long lines, and he does a good job of then calls in Kitty Delano, sleek top comedian, who has a routine vaudeville opener and a nifty snipe.

The ballet girls, in white and sage green, do a graceful waltz number. First time they have played a straight hit in weeks. Good for eye and ear, also the hairdresser's bank roll.

Retta de Simone, soprano, did a dramatic bit from "Cavalleria" de Giuseppe Verdi, but was a little flat. The act was partly spoiled in her following part. Horace Lamp, regular pianist, missing in accompaniment, didn't help things much.

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2d half (24-23)
Mary Dupree Rev
Lillian Linn
Lillian Linn
(Two to fill)

DETROIT, MICH.
1st half (24-26)
Marilyn
1st half (27-30)
Marilyn
(Others to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Marilyn & Kelly
(Others to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Baby
Julie
Cardinals
(Two to fill)

HOLLYWOOD.
1st half (24-26)
Bebe & Rubayette
Fay & Franch
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Marilyn Craig Co
Al Trahan Co
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Herbert Clifton
Fay & Franch
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Dancing T'ribunes

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Martie Martelle now with Chas.
Nigemeyer's Fabrik Unit "Bubbles"

Levan & Bolles
Honey Boy
Rudolph Shaw
McLaughlin & Evans
(17)

Jack Hanley
Joan Eton
Lionel Larry & A
Altrock & Schacht
(One to fill)

1st half (24-26)
Jack Hanley
Joan Eton
Lionel Larry & A
Altrock & Schacht
(One to fill)

2nd half (27-30)
Lionel Larry & A
Altrock & Schacht
(One to fill)

3rd half (28-23)
Lionel Larry & A
Altrock & Schacht
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Lionel Larry & A
Altrock & Schacht
(One to fill)

Watson & Cohen
Rodney
(One to fill)

ELMA, O.
2d half (27-30)
C. H.
(Others to fill)

LOUISVILLE, KY.
1st half (24-26)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

PLATTSBURG
1st half (24-26)
The Livingstons
Dotson
(One to fill)

PORTSMOUTH
2d half (27-30)
Cook & Outman
Lillian
(Three to fill)

ROCHESTER
1st half (24-26)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

MANSFIELD, O.
Madison
1st half (24-26)
Cathie
(Others to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Cathie
(Others to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Cathie
(Others to fill)

4th half (24)
Cathie
(Others to fill)

MARION, O.
1st half (24-26)
Cook & Vernon
(Others to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Cook & Vernon
(Others to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Cook & Vernon
(Others to fill)

4th half (24)
Cook & Vernon
(Others to fill)

NEW YORK, N. Y.
1st half (24-26)
Chinko & Kaufman
Marilyn
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Chinko & Kaufman
Marilyn
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Chinko & Kaufman
Marilyn
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Chinko & Kaufman
Marilyn
(One to fill)

GREENSBORO
1st half (24-26)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

4th half (24)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

STURBEVILLE, O.
1st half (24-26)
Joe Whitehead
Edith O'Driscoll
Walter Walters Co
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Joe Whitehead
Edith O'Driscoll
Walter Walters Co
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Joe Whitehead
Edith O'Driscoll
Walter Walters Co
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Joe Whitehead
Edith O'Driscoll
Walter Walters Co
(One to fill)

TOLEDO, O.
1st half (24-26)
Marion Wilkins
Co
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Marion Wilkins
Co
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Marion Wilkins
Co
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Marion Wilkins
Co
(One to fill)

WILMINGTON
1st half (24-26)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

4th half (24)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

WILMINGTON
1st half (24-26)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

4th half (24)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

WILMINGTON
1st half (24-26)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

4th half (24)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

WILMINGTON
1st half (24-26)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

4th half (24)
Palmita & Millet
Bobby
Sheridan Square
1st half (27-30)
Adrienne
Por No G'd Reason
(Three to fill)

BOO HALL
Orpheum (24)
Johnny Berkes
Marilyn
Bobby Rowland
Frankie & Dunley
Harry Fox
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Orpheum (24)
Johnny Berkes
Marilyn
Bobby Rowland
Frankie & Dunley
Harry Fox
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Orpheum (24)
Johnny Berkes
Marilyn
Bobby Rowland
Frankie & Dunley
Harry Fox
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Orpheum (24)
Johnny Berkes
Marilyn
Bobby Rowland
Frankie & Dunley
Harry Fox
(One to fill)

CHICAGO, ILL.
1st half (24-26)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

CHICAGO, ILL.
1st half (24-26)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

CHICAGO, ILL.
1st half (24-26)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

CHICAGO, ILL.
1st half (24-26)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

CHICAGO, ILL.
1st half (24-26)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

3d half (28-23)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

4th half (24)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

ASSOCIATION
1st half (24-26)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
Belmont
(One to fill)

2d half (27-30)
Belmont
1st half (27-30)
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**JUST BOOKED
SCOTT BROTHERS
and VERNON on
LOEW CIRCUIT**
Direction
Joe Leddy & Smith - Ed
225 West 47th St., Suite 901

Proctor

NEW YORK CITY
8th St.
1st half (24-26)
Thompson & LAG
Mel Klee Unit
Variety
Miss Marcelle
Miss Rose's Midgets
1st half (27-30)
Ray Huling & Seal
Harry Watson Jr
Variety
Walman's Debut's
2d half (27-30)
Brown & Whitaker
Others to fill
WESTCHESTER
New Rochelle
1st half (24-26)
Betty & J. Brown
Co Broadway
& M. Harline
The Family Ford
1st half (27-30)
Mel Klee Unit
1st half (24-26)
Sargent & Lewis

Interstate

ATLANTA, GA.
Grand (24)
Ray Vaughn
Side Ricks
(One to fill)

AUSTIN, TEX.
Hancock O. H.
1st half (24-26)
Side Ricks
(One to fill)

OKLAHOMA CITY
Orpheum (24)
Lomas Tr
Francis & Wally
Nolan
Bob Murphy
Nolan
(One to fill)

DALLAS, TEX.
Majestic (24)
Clara K Young
Roy Rogers
Robert & Whitney
Stern
(One to fill)

HOUSTON, TEX.
1st half (24-26)
Majestic
(One to fill)

HOUSTON, TEX.
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Majestic
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Association

Association

Association

Association

Association

Pantages

Pantages

Pantages

Pantages

Pantages

Summons for Columbia Troupe's Sunday Show

An attempt to give a burlesque show at the Columbia, N. Y., Sunday afternoon instead of the vaude show resulted in Sergeant Harvey, of the West 47th street station, handing out summonses to 26 persons charged with violating the Sunday law.

Included in the court calls were Michael Joyce, house manager; George King, selling tickets that day only; two ushers, Charles Ludwig, substitute door tender; Frank Ilio, stage manager; Isabelle Van, Betty McAllister and Mae Brown, runway leaders; runway gals, principals of Jacoba & Joseph "Burlesque Review," and some of the company's chorines as well as two vaude acts dated for the day only. The J. & J. show, a regular Mutual attraction, had played out the week with the Sunday date at the Columbia to be extra work and paid for pro rata.

The Columbia contingent appeared before Judge McQuade Monday morning, represented by Monroe Goldstein, of the Mutual legal staff. An adjournment was obtained until 11 a. m. yesterday, when they were all dismissed.

Sergt. Harvey, in plainclothes, had a bevy of cops and plainclothes round up the 26 following the close of the afternoon show. The sergeant apparently had sat in for the whole performance.

The Columbia people were warned not to give a night burlesque show. Fally Markus showed up with seven acts in addition to the two, and a vaude "concert" was given without interference.

Working Sunday, Too

In hope of pepping up biz at the Columbia, New York, on its Sunday night concerts, specialties will be offered by the principals and members of Mutual shows in addition to the regular vaude show booked by Fally Markus.

The burlesque shows end their week Saturdays but remain in New York for Monday opening in Brooklyn.

Holiday Burlesque \$3

A midnight show at the Columbia New Year's eve at \$3 for the entire lower floor, balcony \$2 and gallery \$1 will be given.

Fully Michaels' "Step Lively Girls" will be the attraction, Michaels being paid a lump sum for the extra show.

Burlesque Changes

"Puss Puss" is recasting on tour. George Sullivan, Lew Rice and Billy Gilbert, Jr. out, with Lee Fellows, Ed Griffin and Fred Nealy replacing.

Leo Stevens in charge of stock burlesque at the Casino, Brooklyn, during Joe Rose's illness. Stevens reorganized the company with practically a new set of principals. Newcomers to the troupe include Sid Rogers, Sammy Spears, Harry Beasley, Larry Brown, Mack White, Hattie Beall, Violet La Marr, Jean Burke and Violet Buckley. Weber did the placting.

CADDIE SUES FOR \$15,000

St. Louis, Dec. 18.

The woin has toined. Not that all caddies are worms, but this one has reversed the general order of things. Robert McGinnis, 16, has filed suit here for \$15,000 against Ed. P. Wilson, secretary and treasurer of an insurance investment concern, with the suit charging that Wilson struck the boy with his fist as the lad started to follow a perfect shot Wilson had made down the fairway.

Whether or not the caddy had made a remark about Wilson's putting, deponent sayeth not.

10-STORY BLDG. ON STRIP

Walter Reade has okayed plans for a 10-story building and store to be constructed in the narrow strip on the uptown (7th avenue) side of the Columbia theatre, now used as an exit alley. Theatre also will be remodelled and carpeted without shutting down.

Cost of the dolling up will amount to about \$150,000.

Minister's Protest on Minn. License Withdrawn

Minneapolis, Dec. 18.

Rev. Frank Jennings, president of the Minneapolis Ministers' Federation, appeared before the city council license committee to withdraw his previous objections to the reopening of the Gayety, the license of which had been revoked because of alleged improper Mutual wheel burlesque performances.

Because of the promises of clean shows with proper censorship, the Rev. Jennings said he believed the theatre should be given another chance.

The entire license proposition is a ticklish one here now, as the grand jury is investigating alleged gambling graft in connection with the issuance of licenses. One of the two attorneys representing the Gayety in its fight to obtain a new license is a son-in-law of an alderman who holds membership on the license committee. Another lawyer, who also represented the show with the Sunday date at the Columbia to be extra work and paid for pro rata.

MOONLIGHT MAIDS (MUTUAL)

First comc.....Billy Hagan
Comc.....Cliff Cochran
Comc.....Ralph Johnston
Straight.....Ed. P. Wilson
Prima.....Anna Toebe
Comc.....Bethel Cromwell
Soubret.....Sally DuFont

As Walter Reade so smartly states—and Walter Reade is smart—there is still an audience for what is known today as burlesque, and probably always will be, no matter how insane and stupid a show might be, there always will be an audience equally so.

But as Walter didn't say was that the burlesque of today is doing its best to discourage that kind of an audience.

And then Walter went on to say that Izzy Herk has his Mutual wheel figured to the penny; that he has scraped, skimmed and eliced so that everyone concerned shall reap a profit out of it.

Izzy's not in business for the fun of it, said Walter. Walter knows, for he's not either.

But maybe Walter is right, after all. He's been right before.

At the Columbia, though snowed under by the stock runway gals, "Moonlight Maids" cannot be properly staged. Not down no flow, it's mostly Billy Hagan and Anna Toebe, who also were most of what was left of the show on 47th street.

Hagan exaggerated putty, no, looks tramp and works rather straight, adopting a wise goof manner most of the way. He has a sac-religious but effective way of saying the B. C. 349 "Cheese and crackers."

Miss Toebe, one-time grind queen, is not taxing palate. But she has that valuable experience so necessary and so rare now in burlesque.

A comedy scene by Hagan and Toebe is a comedy scene, no matter how unfunny or how ancient.

Bethel Cromwell is a pleasant singing ingenue, but should tuck long sleeves onto her present decollete. Sally DuFont, probably a loose hipped soub, on the road didn't have a chance at the Columbia. Two secondary comedians in support of Hagan, and one is superfluous, either so.

Maybe Izzy is scamping and skimping in the wrong spots.

Chorus, inactive here, is typical.

While the stock gals kicked hither and thither and bumped into each other going off, in accompanying the three revealing runway looks.

If Izzy wouldst cut some more, he might scrape and skimp on encores. What sayest thou, Walter? Big.

Two B'klyn Stocks Fold

Stock burlesque tabs are out again at the Tivoli, Brooklyn, with vaudfilm policy back. Five acts on split week booked independently and scaled at 15 cents afternoons and 25 cents evenings, and week ends 35 cents.

The Park, Brooklyn, has also swapped its similar policy and has gone straight pictures.

Shoestrings Stocks

Burlesque talent is gradually smarting up on the promoting of stock burlesques on a shoestring. In consequence the stock scheduled to open at the Opera House, Grantwood, N. J., next week won't, through cast and chorus walking out on the venture Monday.

P. O. Moved: House Closed

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 18.

Removal of the Syracuse post office from its old location at S. Warren and E. Fayette street to the new Federal Building on the North Side, is held partly responsible by Tom Phillips for the flop of his Savoy theatre, operating with a combination stock burlesque-pictures policy.

According to Phillips, and his contention is borne out by a business slump in vicinity stores, the shift in the Post Office location took some 15,000 or 20,000 transients weekly from S. Warren street. It was to hundreds of these that the Savoy looked for patronage.

The Savoy is one of the smallest houses in town, seating 800. There is a possibility it may become a grind film theatre.

Holiday Pickups

With Christmas week and New Year's week regard to certain money pickups outside theatres seeking attractions have sent in hurry calls for even burlesque troupes.

Several companies are being formed to meet the holiday pickup. One of the specials will be headed by Bozo Snyder.

IRVING PLACE TICKING

With the Irving Place, New York, announced as cutting out the Mutuals, the house is continuing the circuit shows, following a conference between I. H. Herk and Charles Burns, the I. P. operator. Burns last week had set Dec. 31 as the windup for the Mutuals.

ILL AND INJURED

Wille Solar, reported ill last week, was out of the American, New York, last fall, with Murray and Gordon replacing.

Mary Ellen Morse, secretary to Francis X. Bushman, in the Dickie and Cass Hospital, Los Angeles, recovering from injuries received in an accident.

Helen Gallagher underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Fifth Avenue Hospital, New York, last week. Mrs. Gallagher is convalescent.

Arch Selwyn, operated upon last week, is expected out of the hospital within a few days.

Tom Carmody, gen. booking mgr. of WVMA in Chicago; flu.

Dick Bergin, WVMA booker, flu, Chicago.

Eleanor Merry, screen actress, in Hollywood Hospital suffering severe illness received in an airplane fall at Glendale, Cal.

Warren Lewis, Vitaphone publicist, down with influenza.

Bob Burns, New York Fan booker, slowly recovering from an attack of flu.

Lew Welch is at the Jewish Memorial Hospital, Dyckman street and Riverside Drive, New York, recovering from a serious kidney operation. He may be there several weeks.

Write to the Ill and Injured

STOCK IN LOGAN SQ.

Chicago, Dec. 18.

Logan Square theatre, closed for almost a year, will reopen Dec. 23 with stock burlesque.

Harry Cleveland is taking over the house, owned by Lubliner and Trinz with vaude.

About everything tried there in the past has been a flop, including a Yiddish stock.

NEW ACTS

Ruby Norton and Clarence Senna. (Billy Johns and Ernest Hare "Happiness Boys").

Carl Randall and Virginia Watson. Kitty O'Connor, female baritone. Carrie and Eddy & Co.

Stock Troupers Caught In Speakeasy Raid

Chicago, Dec. 18.

Eight chorines and one male performer from the Haymarket stock burlesque house, were plinched by cops in a recent west side speakeasy raid. Performers and other customers were taken in cabs to the Desplaines street station and released on bond in time to work a delayed midnight performance. Each of the Haymarket troupe was fined \$1 and costs Monday morning.

Local papers were kind. Tribune killed the story after its buldog edition, and the Herald-Examiner said 26 performers were arrested but didn't name the theatre.

New police around here is to prosecute speakeasy customers as well as proprietors.

Burlesque Routes

Weeks of Dec. 17 and 24

Bare Facts—Empress, Cincinnati; 24, Gayety, Louisville.
Best show in Town—Orpheum, Paterson; 24, Hudson, Union City.
Chicago—Star, Brooklyn; 24, Orpheum, Paterson.
Bovary Burlesque—Lyric, Dayton; 24, Empress, Cincinnati.
Burlesque Review—Gayety, Brooklyn; 24, Gayety, Scranton.
Chicken Trust—Empire, Newark; 24, Star, Brooklyn.
Dainty Doll—Columbia, Cleveland; 24, L. O.

Dimpled Darling—Gayety, Baltimore; 24, Star, Washington.
Dixon's Big Review—Cadillac, Detroit; 24, Gayety, Scranton.
Flapper Follies—State, Springfield; 24, Grand, Hartford.
Francis—Grand, Grand, 24, Gayety, Buffalo.
Frustrations—Plaza, Worcester; 24, State, Springfield.
Ginger Girls—Gayety, Boston; 24, Plaza, Worcester.
Girls From Happyland—Gayety, Kansas City; 24, Crystal, St. Joe.
Girls from the Follies—H. & S. Apollo, N. Y. C.; 24, Empire, Brooklyn.
High Flyers—Crystal, St. Joe; 24, Gayety, Milwaukee.
Hindu Belles—Colonial, Utica; 24, Gayety, Montreal.
Jazztime Revue—Grand, Hartford; 24, L. O.

Kudding Kuttles—Gayety, Louisville; 24, Mutual, Indianapolis.
Lathyrus—Empire, Providence; 24, Gayety, Boston.
Merry Whirl—Howard, Boston; 24, Columbia, N. Y. C.
Mischief Makers—Academy, Pittsburgh; 24, Lyceum, Columbus.
Moonlight Maids—Columbia, N. Y. C.; 24, Gayety, Brooklyn.
Moulin Rouge—Girls—Empress, Chicago; 24, Cadillac, Detroit.
Naughty Nites—17-19, Geneva; 20-22, Schenectady; 24, Palace, Columbus; 24, Lyric, Buffalo.
Nite Life in Paris—17-19, Lyric, Allentown; 20-22, Palace, Trenton; 24, Empire, New York.

Parliam Flappers—Troadero, Philadelphia; 24, Gayety, Baltimore.
Puss Puss—Empire, Union City; 24, Irving Pl., N. Y. C.
Radium—Queens—Gayety, Scranton; 24, Gayety, Wilkes-Barre.
Records Breakers—Strand, Washington; 24, Academy, New York.
Red Hot—Gayety, Wilkes-Barre; 24-26, Red Lion, Philadelphia; 27-29, Fremont, Newark.
Round the Town—Gayety, Milwaukee; 24, Empress, Chicago.

Social Males—Farrick, St. Louis; 24, Gayety, Kansas City.
Sporty Widows—Empire, Syracuse; 24-26, Empire, Providence.
Step Along—Empire, Brooklyn; 24, Troadero, Philadelphia.
Stolen Sweets—Gayety, Montreal; 24, Howard, Boston.

St. I. I.—Gayety, Buffalo; 24, Temple, Syracuse.
Stolen Sweets—Lyric, Bridgeport; 24, H. & S. Apollo, N. Y. C.
Sugar Babies—Empire, Toledo; 24, Columbia, Cleveland.
Wild Women and Song—L. O.; 24, Lyric, Bridgeport.

RECORD CROWD SEES CANZONERI-SINGER TIE

By JACK PULASKI

If the Garden doesn't stop packing 'em the Gate Crashers Association will protest to the Commission. Plenty of the boys had to stand up again when the Al Singer-Tony Canzoneri featherweight battle was staged last Friday. In fact they were standing up all over the place, on all floors and a record crowd of 21,600 counted.

No use kidding anybody about the fight. Canzoneri, formerly the littleholder, was out in front. Decision was a draw, one judge ruling for Tony, while the other one and the referee called it a draw. On that basis Canzoneri should have gotten a point win.

Singer is one of the best glove battlers developed in years. He is due for a championship, whether junior or legitimate lightweight. Looks like he is growing out of the featherweight class. May take a year or two but this Bronx baby won't be easily stopped.

Al has never been up against a more rugged and seasoned fighter than Canzoneri, who looked like a world biter a year back. Came a time when the little fop got ill. Wasn't well when he dropped the feather title to Andre Routis. But Friday he was in the pink again and put up a corking exhibition.

Tony gave Singer little chance to get set. On top of the new glove work when the little fop whaling way with both hands. The result was that he copped at least six of the 10 rounds. Singer showed that he can take it for Canzoneri smacked him on the jaw a number of times. Al got in some wallops himself but he seemed to be under wraps when the little distance. In the seventh, eighth and ninth rounds, Singer was flat-footed evidently trying to get in a telling sock. During these rounds Tony seemed tired. The betting was 6-5 on Tony.

2d Bum Decision

The semi-final resulted in what looked like another bum decision, Tommy Grogan of Omaha being declared victor over Lew Kersch who has a yard long string of victories to his credit, though a kid. Lew had Tommy in a bad way toward the finish. Grogan was hanging on and when separated lunged forward to another embrace. That's why Kersch could not land a haymaker.

When the decision was announced the galleries set up a terrific squawk. It did not subside until Canzoneri and Singer squared off. Grogan had the best of the first five rounds but earned the bird for roughing and several times was warned for shimmocking. Both boys can sock a both did. In the second round Lew wobbled after catching a right to the jaw, yet proved clever enough to weather the round.

In the first 10-rounder Bruce Flowers, colored lightweight, defeated Jimmy Goodrich, former title holder. The decision was with his right hand, trying for a knockout, about the only way he could win, barring of course those funny decisions. Both boys were over the limit, Goodrich weighing 140, looks like no chance of he ever again grabbing a title.

Inside Stuff—Sports

The entire town of New Haven will turn out on Saturday night January 19, for a homecoming celebration in honor of Ken Strong, N. Y. U. grid captain and All-American star, and his actress bride, Rella Harrison. Elmer Strong, Ken's father, who is town tax collector, said in an interview last week the new couple would live apart. Ken at his frat house on the campus and Miss Harrison in her downtown apartment. Strong will join an American league ballclub, not the Yankees, upon his graduation in June.

Fight fans probably wouldn't be that way if they did not express displeasure over decisions by prolonged razzing. There were two decisions (final and semi-final) at Madison Square Garden Friday that the bugs thought were all wet.

Boeing continued after the main bout contestants entered the ring. Joe Humphries could not introduce the men nor give the weights. It was a bad break for Ray Miller, one of several other boxers, present to be introduced. Miller recently conquered Jimmy McLarnin at Detroit and was due for an ovation. At it was he had to climb back through the ropes. McLarnin in the ring too, same thing, and it was probably that a return match for the Garden would have been announced.

Pop Foster, Jimmy's manager, isn't hankering for any such meeting. He chatted with Miller during the evening, Ray pointing to the capacity house and suggesting the same sort of turn-out for a Miller-McLarnin scrap. Ray told Pop it wouldn't make much difference who won, for there would be plenty of coin to collect.

All Foster would say was: "I know, Ray, but that left hook of yours," repeating the remark. It was principally that blow that Miller stopped McLarnin with.

Wednesday, December 19, 1928

Stories by Jack Conway

From 1920, onward, Jack Conway wrote a series of stories appearing in Variety. Mostly the stories dealt with baseball and prize fights, carriers and pugs. This series will be reprinted weekly. Each story carries its original head. Story below appeared in Variety of July 30, 1920.

CON NETS A DARB OF AN OUTFIELDER, BUT—

This Bird Is Wildfire on Lot, but Is Too Gentle to Convince

Wednesday, July 28.

Dear Chick—You remember last week I told you about this new outfielder that Stallings sent me, a sort of a cross between a chorus man and a rough



CON

so-and-a water dispenser? Well, this bird is the dar, and broke in today, getting three safe blows and stealing everything in the park but the umpire's chev. I am thinkin' of a cunnin' this gang of pensioners I got, and wirin' Chamberlain Brown to cast me a new ball team.

Cuthbert, unless he turns out a morning glory, is some ball hawk and can go and get them anywhere in the outfield. He has a pair of pipes like Bert La Mont and he walks like Bert Savoy, but he sure ain't no pitcher. I am thinkin' of a cunnin' this gang of pensioners I got, and wirin' Chamberlain Brown to cast me a new ball team.

He'll get all the seasoning he can stand in this league, for the opposition is onto him already. Today when the wolves piped his ladylike carriage they opened up from the stands and gawped at him all day. But he's got plenty of guts and it didn't seem to bother him at all. Theumps missed a third strike on him at one stage of the game that was so far outside you couldn't reach it with a buggy whip. Anybody who opened up and belted murder, but they all at his nob's and murmur as he passed, "I'm angry at you." The way the second guesser looked at him I thought he was going to be fined a grand, but he got away with it.

However, time will tell, and if he can live down that walk and those tenor tones, he ought to make a whale of a ball player. Anybody who can see from home plate to second base without field glasses ought to be able to hit four hundred in this league, for I never saw such a bunch of armers as these bizzards are circling round the park every day expecting their arms to fall off. If that guy that got a knock off fifty years from your age by using monkey wrench could use some monkey shoulder blades and transplant them onto some of these pitchers he would make Bonsetter Reese take down his shingle in a month's time.

Walking on It

Something new in speak-easies is one located under the sidewalk of a street, over which thousands of pedestrians pass daily. Oasis is located in the cellar and boasts a long bar located directly under a ceiling which consists entirely of glass sidewalk lights.

TWO GUN MEN CAUGHT

Patrolman, Alone, Captures Them After Hold-up of Silver's Card Party

Patrolman John Mierau, of the West 47th street station, a former detective attached to Queens, will probably be elevated to the detective bureau again as a result of capturing two armed bandits that had held up and robbed five men in a poker game on West 47th street, near 6th avenue.

The prisoners gave their names as Ralph Magrini, 37, jobless, of 1728 Unionport road, Bronx, and Victor Citielli, 26, of 5 Nathan David place, Bronx. Both are charged with assault and robbery.

Magrini had two loaded revolvers on him, while his chum, Citielli, had one loaded gun. Mierau covered them quickly with his service gun and they surrendered. They had just held up a card game in the apartment of Ben Silver, on the third floor of 121 West 47th street.

The holdup was in progress when Silver entered his apartment. Four friends of his were having a little card game when the bandits stepped in.

Silver saw his friends' hands aloft and immediately began suit. He and his friends were taken for \$239. The robbery took about five minutes. The other players were ushered into another room and told to be quiet. They waited. Soon, one having more courage than the rest hurried to the street and told Mierau. He saw the pair and followed. On Sixth avenue, between 47th and 46th street, he covered the pair. He found in their possession, he said, the amount lost by the players. Magrini has a record.

Tipster Charge Dismissed

A charge of having published in The Racing Form false and misleading advertisements against Lee Adele, 20, secretary of a race horse tipping bureau at 160 West 45th street, was dismissed in Special Sessions on the recommendation of Assistant District Attorney Alexander.

Miss Adele was arrested Oct. 13 by Detective Walter Mitchell on the 3rd Division who claimed the young woman caused to be placed in the paper on several days advertisements guaranteeing winners at various racetracks. The ad warranted a long-shot winner in each race at \$5 each.

In recommending the dismissal of the charge, Mr. Alexander said the information connecting Miss Adele with the advertisement was insufficient.

Meehan's Dowling Dinner

During the week and just before Eddie Dowling with his wife, Ray Dooley, starts for the coast, to picture make, Mike Meehan, the Wall Street operator is going to give Eddie a free lunch. Meehan has directed several of the recent large pools in the stock market. Dowling is said to have mopped on tips from Mike and others.

toward the second base man, thinking he was the catcher.

We won today, thanks to Cuthbert, who hurled one with the bases drunk in the eighth innin'.

Give my best to the Java hounds and tell Lizzie to shoot up the grease. Your old pal.

SIR JOS., JR., BURNS ORIGINAL SIR JOE

King of the Radio Denounces Copy—Professional Jealousy Again

"I denounce the theft of my name. It's professional jealousy." The Great Sir Joseph Ginsburg International Star and King of the Radio, speaking.

If Sir Jos. had remembered to borrow a handkerchief that morning he would have frothed. Sir Joe admitted as much. But he mentioned his new lady had locked his room the afternoon before. Sir Joe thought she wanted the room rent, Sir Jos. said, but she had not told him where to get it.

The denouncing complaint by Sir Ginsburg charged that a Harlem cabaret employing a radio station was announcing through the air Sir Joseph Ginsburg, Jr.

"I denounce it," said Sir Jos. "It can't be. I've never been married. It's professional jealousy. And I know who's doing it. I worked in his place once for \$20. That was my error. I didn't get the twenty."

Sir Joe was asked to tone down and laid the truth.

"Me!" exclaimed Sir Jos. "Me. The Great Sir Joseph Ginsburg, International Star and King of the Radio, tell anything! Not me, mister."

"I never married. Didn't you hear that? How can I have a son? It's robbery. They are trying to steal my reputation. Mr. Willie said so."

New Idea

Sir Joseph talked so fast no one could edge in. All were curious. Sir Jos. claim that he couldn't have and a son because he has never married was new to Times Square.

Colmed down through having a hand placed over his face, the King of the Radio was informed that he might have had a daughter and his daughter might have turned into a male impersonator. That could account for a Sir Jos. Ginsburg, Jr., he was informed.

"I've never been married!" he shrieked. "You can't have children unless you are!" yelled the Gideon reader.

Gently asked to stop his imitations, Sir Jos. was requested to explain what had happened on the air to Jar him.

"I was listening in on Mr. Willie's radio," replied Sir Jos. "Mr. Willie has a good radio, the best made. He paid \$260 for it, and I know because I got the kick back, and that radio is so fine—"

With his face clamped down once more, Sir Joseph was shunted back to his story.

"I was listening in on Mr. Willie's radio," he said, "and that's a fine radio, the finest made, cost—"

Sir Jos. was threatened.

Told he never again would be allowed to denounce anything if he couldn't lay off Mr. Willie's bankroll long enough to tell his squawk, Sir Jos. tried again.

"I was listening in on Mr. Willie's radio," Sir Joseph commenced, holding his hand on his forehead to concentrate. "When I heard this:—"

"Ladies and gentlemen: I take pleasure in introducing to you Sir Joseph Ginsburg, Jr., the world's greatest entertainer, here for this evening only."

"That's what I denounce," said Sir Jos. "Look at me, the King of the Radio, getting either \$2,500 or \$200 a night, and that fellow probably working for nothing, just to use my name."

Sir Joe Angry

Going back to the matter of an unmarried man with no children, Sir Jos. declined to go into the subject of the girl he had deserted in San Francisco, and was thrown out the only piece of apple pie left in the kitchen.

"It's not true," again shrieked Sir Jos., thoroughly worked up. "I wasn't apple pie; it was rice pudding."

"You'd better open up, you lousy dough crossers," sadly murmured Sir Jos., as he picked up his hat.

It was the first time the King of the Radio had ever gotten rough.

"I denounce that, too, and one of it to Mr. Willie," he said, as one of the boys wanted to start talking again about the man who couldn't give a son without a wedding certifi-

Court Denies Injunction Squawk For Casino's Lease—Goes to Solomon

Trade Secret

In a Sixth Avenue barber shop adjoining an agency specializing in procuring jobs for pot wrestlers is a still of Adolphe Monjou trying to bust measurements and cautions.

"CUREFW" DETECTS OUT

Dolan and Tobin Lose Assignments Under Capt. Lenson

About the same time that Police Commissioner Warren had sent his resignation to Mayor Walker, Frank Dolan and Richard Tobin, curfew detectives for Captain Edward Lenson of the West 47th street station, were notified that their assignment was at an end. No explanation was forthcoming.

When the sleuths were asked what brought about the termination of their detail they raised their hands and said, "That is what we would like to know." Both men, long in the department, had made an enviable record.

For 18 months Dolan and Tobin have visited night clubs and handed out little white tickets that the cops call summons for violators of the curfew law.

For two men to hold this assignment for 18 months—considered the record—speaks for itself. Both had excellent records on post. They succeeded George Meyers and John Murphy. The latter two held the assignment when it started.

June Loses \$2,500 Brooch Rehearsing on Stage

Detectives Roger Meehan and Pat Hart, of the West 47th street station, have begun a search for a \$2,500 brooch that was stolen from Miss June while she was rehearsing at Hammerstein's theatre. The pin, fashioned in the style of a sailing vessel, studded with diamonds, was taken a few days ago.

The pin, given to Miss June by her fiance in London, was made at Boucheron in London. Her fiance is said to be a passenger on a liner here. When he arrives, Meehan and Hart reporters, he and Miss June are to wait.

Miss June placed her bag on the piano while rehearsing. She notified Meehan and Hart and they began an investigation. The pin will be hard to dispose of because of its odd shape.

MODEL AND MALONEY

Cost Law Clerk \$600 To Visit Colored Harlem Club

Maudie Cavanagh, 24, model, of 23 West 64th street, was freed in West Side Court by Magistrate H. Stanley Renaud on the charge of grand larceny. Miss Cavanagh was arrested by Patrolman Clifford Rosensteel of the 123rd street station.

Leo Maloney, law clerk, of 5504 Lower street, Long Island City, told the cop he had bought some drinks for Miss Cavanagh and her girl friend. They rode home in a taxi. They had been at a Harlem nite club (colored), he said.

After he left Miss Cavanagh at her home, Maloney said he missed his bankroll of \$600. He sought her, but for a time was unable to locate her. He returned to the Harlem club, found her at a table and then got the bluecoat. She denied the charge.

ALLEGED BOOKERS FREED

Frank Parker, 34, salesman of 776 Eighth avenue, and Louis Schloas, 41, salesman, 1470 St. Johns place, Brooklyn, were acquitted in Special Sessions after trial on a charge of making book in the Hotel Mangor. Policeman Russell Connor of the 3rd Division testified he had arrested the two men in the lobby of the hotel on Nov. 9 after he had noticed them colluding with a paper and money from several men. The alibi, according to the policeman, bore the names of horses running at various tracks on that day. The Justices decided the cop's word was insufficient to warrant conviction.

In the taxpayer's suit by Samuel Krenzel on behalf of C. F. Zittel to halt the lease of the Central Park Casino by the City of New York to the Diemme Corp., Justice Phoenix Ingraham has held down his decision against Krenzel, Zittel, et al., summarily denying their petition for an injunction.

The Diemme Corp. is going ahead with its \$100,000 schedule of redecorating and reconstructing the premises from designs by Josef Urban, which means that Zittel will be ousted in January, when his lease expires.

Zittel acquired the Casino in Central Park, a spot that rates, under his management, as the most, naturally hideaway in the heart of the city, because of his then connections with Hearst. This happened during the Mayor Hylan regime.

Justice Ingraham states that there is nothing to indicate why Krenzel brought this injunction suit, and it is to be noted that the principal affidavit is made by Zittel. This refers to an amended complaint after the plaintiff had once before withdrawn his original papers.

Zittel nullified his chances when he set forth that he had expended some \$30,000 in the year when he first took possession of the Casino, and had to date spent close to \$40,000 in improvements. The chief complaint was that the Diemme Corp., of which Sidney Solomon is president and Anthony J. Drexel Hiddle, Jr., vice-president, would turn the Central Park Casino into a rich man's playground.

Zittel and his tabloid ally, Emile Gavaureau of Macfadden's Graphic, stressed the \$100,000 Urban plans for beautifying the place.

The opinion concludes: "No proof has been furnished to indicate any lack of confidence on the part of the commissioner in his dealings, nor has the plaintiff shown any illegality or waste of public funds."

The technical defendants in this suit include Mayor James J. Walker and Park Commissioner Herlick among others. Mayor Walker stated that all he was concerned about was to get rid of Zittel. He didn't want him around, phrasing it frankly and pointedly and seemingly with some well-founded inside knowledge.

Squawk or Squeal

Zittel's squawk or squeal is looked upon with disgust in Times Square, where it is thought he should have known better. In interviews, mostly in the Graphic, through Zittel and Gavaureau's recent and intense fondness for one another, Zittel said the Casino's lease is worth \$20,000 a year, and also that he would operate the Casino for nothing in behalf of the city.

As Zittel has fopped as a saloon operator by himself, there was no reason for the city to consider his proffered free services, although no doubt Mayor Walker would have liked to know it. Zittel considered the Casino's lease worth \$20,000 yearly while he has only \$6,000 for it.

Zittel has had the Casino for about 8 years, paying \$5,000 annually for the best spot in the world for a restaurant.

Fannie Ward Vindictive

At the insistence of Fannie Ward, the "perennial flapper," District Attorney Banton is reviewing the evidence submitted by Miss Ward in a magistrate's court to seek against her former maid, Betty Flecher, of 341 East 75th street, whom the actress accused of stealing a fur coat worth \$180.

Magistrate Brough in Jefferson Market Court dismissed the charge against the maid, but hearing both sides. Not satisfied, Miss Ward called on the District Attorney to press the charge.

The actress charged that on Nov. 25 she took part in a benefit performance at the Casino. When returning home she found the maid and two face-men had slipped up. The girl, who was later arrested with one of the coats. She declared Miss Ward had given the coat to her. The latter admitted this but declared the girl had stolen the second missing garment.

The Magistrate has added the evidence against the maid was insufficient and dismissed the charge.

Chatter in New York

Cliff How gained six pounds. Jim Carroll left for Bermuda. Herbert Rawlinson in town. "Don't be tabloidist" is new. It applies to the gossip.

Lee Wiley was summoned by Victor Recording for a second test. Harry Delmar has signed Chester Herman for long term. Donald Ogden Stewart attending night club premieres.

Ed Sullivan, sport writer, takes those long, long steps while dancing. Peggy Dell goes into the Mirador Club.

Leon and Bebe, dancers, signed by the Casanova.

Hortense Regland to be prima donna of Phil Baker club.

Ted Trevor sailed mysteriously on the Majestic.

It is reported once Madden bought the Harding hotel.

Ada Mae always requests that song, "Let's Fall in Love."

A flu epidemic in "Rio Rita," Chicago, has stricken five showgirls.

Adelle Smith, Madeline Dunbar and Marie Conway at the Bull-Pen. Frances Mildern doing a specialty waltz at the Parody.

Parties until 11 a. m. up in Harlem are becoming the talk of talk.

Gene Austin will do a feature talker.

"Angels" transfers from the Ambassador to the Century.

Louie Jolin Bartels has a pip of a contract with Paramount.

Skeets Gallagher and Pauline Mason leased to Hollywood.

Tom Walker eats peas with spaghetti.

William Shelling, artists' rep., obtained divorce decree.

Dorothy Burman, sec. to Dick Henry, wearing engagement rock.

Charles B. Dillingham has been in bed a week with grip.

May and Dobbs at Barney Gallants.

Louise Palmer has opened a gift shop in Bermuda.

Carter DeHaven is showing Broadway to his son.

They're calling Milton Crandall's Talking Derby a Hoarse Race.

Winchell's prop laugh while reading Lardner in the Telly.

For Ripley, Roxy reports an 86 at Oak Ridge last week.

Joe Young and his wife departed for South America.

Philadelphia automobiles have their 1929 license plates already.

Lon Stengel will be a principal in "Check Up."

Jerry Shuroo opened night club in Cuba.

Joe Van Raalte is writing for Tatler and Social Digest.

Low Leslie just back from Havana.

Rudie Harris starting a syndicate film column with Cosmo.

Harry Delmar and Eddie Walsh leave Jan. 3 for Cuba.

Marion Saki opening in Little Club.

Roosevelt is the name of a new motor shortly to be on the market.

"Check Up" opens at the Flat-bush Dec. 24.

Ayers and Malinoff go in at the Richman Club.

Sylvio Hein, seriously ill in Saranac.

Philip L. Smith, society man, bought a new yacht, naming it "Skunk."

Stanley Sharpe, seeking ultra-fair ones for Ziegfeld, is stepping around the luncheon of mirth.

Ruth Berse carries a chinchilla muff slightly larger than a watch chain.

Ziegfeld is trying to get Cele McCay of the Yonkers Herald on his chorine staff.

John Harkrider's prize cat had three of Winchell's blessed events all at once.

Raymond Hitchcock wears yellow chrysanthemus, full size, in his dinner jacket's lapel.

Low Cody is making it a three weeks' non voyage party prior to sailing Jan. 14.

Judge David Stansbury and George Callahan came from Chicago to give Joe Lewis a big hand.

Telma Valerie is displaying the rocks and jewelry she acquired while six months in Europe.

Alexander and Swanson were signed for the Embassy Club in Florida.

Lillian Sabalis, of "Scandals," was severely burned on the chin by a curling iron.

Alfred Walker, formerly with Religious Films, is now in real estate.

Phyllis Dare, London musical comedy star, is in New York with her sister, Hon. Mrs. Morris Brett.

Madame Fairbanks teamed with Charlie Barron, former dancing partner of Frances Nevins.

If it means anything to you, Vincent Astor has parked his yacht in the Havana harbor.

Marie Dayne under doctor's care. Joe Ray being treated for appendicitis.

Restaurants of Broadway are taking the annual sock, this being the worst week of the year.

Ziegfeld gave a party at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, for the girls in "Rainbow."

A wag says he saw a showgirl going over to the Carroll theatre in a kimono to give an audition.

Renoff and Renova opened at the Paramount Grill. Likewise Margaret Vaughn and the Mann Sisters.

Mrs. Paul Whiteman returned to New York last week. She had been in Europe.

Katy Navarro of "Scandals" withdraws from Broadway in favor of Hollywood.

Helen Cassidy, wife of Tom Cassidy, the scribe, sailed on the "De France."

Girls from "This Year of Grace" predominating at Mayfair Saturday night.

Arnold Johnson put out two and a half G's for a diamond ring for his wife, despite his radio drop.

"The boys" tossed a tear bomb into a delicatessen the other night to see if it would work. It did.

Helen Henderson wants to open as star of a show like Peggy Joyce's, she exclaims.

Evelyn Nesbit and her sister are here from England, expectant of a musical show.

Helen Hoerle is back on Broadway and glad of it. She is in Mark Luescher's office.

A. P. Waxman, Warners' head p. a., watching his first hockey game Sunday night, and in a tux.

Billy Atwell, former Keith agent, is now associated with Gowellat & Co., New York brokerage concern.

One runder says he's been going to so many gay places lately he's developed club feet.

Bix Biederbecke in a sanatorium.

Eddie Dowling going to the Coast for five weeks to make pix.

Max Katzen, tea shop proprietor, going to Europe, having cleaned up on the market this summer.

Martin Sheppard, who played football at McGill, joins a Broadway musical.

Evelyn Nesbit and Harry K. Thaw are together at the opening of the Parody Club.

Bouche is getting two revues from Broadway for his Lido in Miami and Bouche club in Havana.

Chris Scifie duck-hunting too.

Diana White went to Louisiana for Christmas.

Frances DeLacy has orders from the stage manager to stoulen her knees.

Jehany O'Conner's "Broadway Racketeers" goes into its fifth edition.

Quinn Martin says he's not going to leave the World. Who said he was?

Next to the Flea Circus is a side show, selling tickets to suckers who wish to see the Ruthstein case solved in front of their eyes.

There's a new place opened by Souny Allen at 49 West 49th. And another place in 55th street. Al Keown one of the sponsors.

Caught by a siege of coughing while entertaining at a benefit. Al White ad libbed: "King George for a Day."

Paul Whiteman bought two Cadillacs, giving one of his other cars to Jim Gillespie and another to his saxophonist.

George Olsen says his pet aversion is having a paper hat or other ornament slipped on his head or shoulders in the gay places.

Pat Rooney, Jr., sent Lou Schwartz this wire: "If you happen to get any sleep let me know how it feels."

Alice Weaver was awarded \$2,200 for three broken ribs and a broken bone in her leg, from an automobile accident.

Bile Dudley wasn't so fatigued when he read Karl Kitzinger's column and found that Karl, too, had

IN BROOKLYN

A Brooklyn neighborhood picture house has its marquee display "Wedding Night." With Sounds and Effects.

been asked by the Shuberts to appear in "The Red Robe."

Hovell, Hodgers and Theodore, dance trio of "Just a Minute," are out of the Richman Club. Temperament.

Marie Dayne lost 10 pounds as a result of the Equity ruling which compelled her to leave Ziegfeld and return to the Shuberts.

Aileen Creelman is making her first trip to Hollywood for the Sun. She left with her brother, James, Saturday.

John Jay, of M-G-M, recently on his back with jaundice, is back on the job with a bottle of buttermilk.

John Barry is interviewing part of 1,000 applicants from which 30 students for the next Public Managers Training class will be selected.

Dan Healy will be temp. m. c. at the Richman club this week. Harry Richman and Lou Schwartz taking week off in Florida.

A fellow selling oriental rugs is making the usual tour of the stage doors and doing excellently among the dames with new apartments.

Ann Wood strolls up and down Broadway in her little blue taut, swinging her little arms in a big reason of contentment.

Roller skating in this cold weather is the pastime of two chorines who must lose six pounds or their jobs.

Lillian Fitzsimmons, secretary to Eddie Dowling, is now an important person, a Commissioner of Deeds.

Craighton Peet, who used to write for the now defunct Cinema Art Magazine, is the new film reviewer on the Evening Post.

A Public unit official is endeavoring to get Frank Fay to play one performance New Year's Eve in New Orleans.

Harry Richman and Lou Schwartz were forced down in their flight to Florida. They landed in South Carolina.

Earl Carroll posted a bulletin that all the boys and girls would be paid half of minimum salary while in rehearsal.

Alice Lee and several other girls from "This Year of Grace" are rehearsing for Phil Baker's club, which has two new owners in Louie Bicot and Morris Abrams.

The boys have had a solid gold padlock made by a jeweler to present as a gift to one of the entrepreneurs of the street who weathered the Federal storm.

Flo Ziegfeld, Eddie Cantor's request, ordered a private phone in the "Whoopee" star's dressing room at the Amsterdam. Phone under Eddie's name.

When Eva Puck went to hospital for an operation Eddie Cantor sent a wire: "Why don't you get Stanley Sharpe. He does all the cutting for Ziegfeld."

Lucille Lawler jumped into the leading prima donna role of "The New Moon," when Evelyn Herbert dashed to Atlantic City as a result of illness.

The Atlantis moping along Sixth avenue are giving the slot machines in the beaneries a big play, while the cigar stores are not far behind with punch boards.

Ethel Shutta goes places and does things with her smiling husband, George. Incidentally, George has the healthiest looking complexion along Broadway.

Vera Myers, actress, singer and dancer, is going on the concert stage. She is to appear as a one person entertainment at Carnegie in the spring.

A woman caused some comment recently because of a unique emerald necklace. The little novelty hung three inches below her shoulder.

Six well-known blondes seated next to each other at a recent club premiere—Hilda Ferguson, Texas Guinn, Edna Leedom, Alice Boulden, Dolores Farris and Frances Williams.

Arthur Byron appears for but 15 minutes in "Big Last" set of "Harris' "Children of Darkness."

Bileen Byron, his daughter, will have a role in Harris' second production, "Serena Dandlish."

Gaine Williams, whose Rolls Royce won the International beauty prize in Paris last year, turned it in to the Knickerbocker Sales and bought himself a Packard. Another night victim, he admits.

Before he left on his honeymoon

with Margy Peterson, Al Hebrer bought 200 shares of Radio and put them in a vault. He broker was and still is wiring all Europe trying to locate him.

Following the posting of a notice that "Rainbow" would close Saturday, the producer announced that there would be a paid benefit the following Tuesday, the whole show to appear.

Ben Flinney got into one of those friendly arguments at a ritz bar the other night. Claimed the President of the United States had to be 55 years old. Bought wine for the gang when consensus of opinion set 35 as the age limit.

Elliott Stuckel, handling publicity for "Hello Yourself," having discovered that Helen Goodhue, comedienne, with the show, is a cousin of Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, is now looking up the family tree of Peggy Hoover, ingenue, with the musical.

Mortimer Davis, Canadian millionaire, who married Rosika Dolly, is around the class nite life spots is around the class nite life spots plenty. Though separated from her, Morry has nothing but kind words for Rosie: "More like a pal than a wife" is his favorite description.

Charles Ellis of "Showboat"

ought a concrete mixer from Sears-Roebuck and is further saving money in building his new home at New City, Rockland county, by hiring unskilled labor to complete the shebang. Ellis says a dollar may mean nothing to anybody else but it's a bag of cement to him.

A strange optimistic note by a newly engaged chauffeur. Told to get a uniform he ordered an extra pair of trousers.

Adolphe Menjou is an inveterate dice shooter. Almost all parties he attends wind up informally with the mob on their knees praying for Joe, Dick and Phoebe.

Martha Fryer is hosting a room at a fashionable east side "tea" room. Josef Israels, II, public relations counsel for the Democratic National Convention, is exploiting Tex Guinan at her new Hotel Harding nite club.

It's now known to some of the "Whoopee" choristers that those shining \$20 gold pieces which were the direct cause of the effervescent tempo of the musical's premiere was an Eddie Cantor idea. The star told Ziggy to kick in with a double sawbuck for the gala and watch if the investment for a favorable premiere was not very worthwhile. The kids went wild and worked their legs off as a result.

NEW YORK THEATRES

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(Pinch-Hitting for Fred Stone)
DOROTHY STONE
In A Rousing Musical Comedy
"THREE CHEERS"
GLOBE THEATRE, 47 & 48 St.
Mats. Wed. & Sat.

CHARLES DILLINGHAM
GIVES
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The Smartest Play in Town
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Belasco Theat., W. 44 St. Eves. 8:20 Show. Thurs. & Sat., 2:30 Show.

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"WHOOPEE"

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John Golden 7th, 58th, E. of 3rd Ave. Thurs. & Sat., 8:00

4th W. 51st St. 5th W. 51st St. 6th W. 51st St. 7th W. 51st St. 8th W. 51st St. 9th W. 51st St. 10th W. 51st St. 11th W. 51st St. 12th W. 51st St. 13th W. 51st St. 14th W. 51st St. 15th W. 51st St. 16th W. 51st St. 17th W. 51st St. 18th W. 51st St. 19th W. 51st St. 20th W. 51st St. 21st W. 51st St. 22nd W. 51st St. 23rd W. 51st St. 24th W. 51st St. 25th W. 51st St. 26th W. 51st St. 27th W. 51st St. 28th W. 51st St. 29th W. 51st St. 30th W. 51st St. 31st W. 51st St. 32nd W. 51st St. 33rd W. 51st St. 34th W. 51st St. 35th W. 51st St. 36th W. 51st St. 37th W. 51st St. 38th W. 51st St. 39th W. 51st St. 40th W. 51st St. 41st W. 51st St. 42nd W. 51st St. 43rd W. 51st St. 44th W. 51st St. 45th W. 51st St. 46th W. 51st St. 47th W. 51st St. 48th W. 51st St. 49th W. 51st St. 50th W. 51st St. 51st W. 51st St. 52nd W. 51st St. 53rd W. 51st St. 54th W. 51st St. 55th W. 51st St. 56th W. 51st St. 57th W. 51st St. 58th W. 51st St. 59th W. 51st St. 60th W. 51st St. 61st W. 51st St. 62nd W. 51st St. 63rd W. 51st St. 64th W. 51st St. 65th W. 51st St. 66th W. 51st St. 67th W. 51st St. 68th W. 51st St. 69th W. 51st St. 70th W. 51st St. 71st W. 51st St. 72nd W. 51st St. 73rd W. 51st St. 74th W. 51st St. 75th W. 51st St. 76th W. 51st St. 77th W. 51st St. 78th W. 51st St. 79th W. 51st St. 80th W. 51st St. 81st W. 51st St. 82nd W. 51st St. 83rd W. 51st St. 84th W. 51st St. 85th W. 51st St. 86th W. 51st St. 87th W. 51st St. 88th W. 51st St. 89th W. 51st St. 90th W. 51st St. 91st W. 51st St. 92nd W. 51st St. 93rd W. 51st St. 94th W. 51st St. 95th W. 51st St. 96th W. 51st St. 97th W. 51st St. 98th W. 51st St. 99th W. 51st St. 100th W. 51st St.

2nd Week—First Time at Popular Prices See! Hear!

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IN THE SOUTH SEAS
"MOONBEAMS" featuring DAVE SCHULER, Conductor of Callahan's-Nail Kelly
Clara Hoffman—Dorothy Remick—Mae Hale—Gladys Grand Orchestra, David W. Lee, Conductor.

4TH AVE. & 50TH ST.
Director of S. L. Rothbart (1933)

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MIDNIGHT SHOW NIGHTLY AT 11:30

Doors Open 10:30 A. M. All 85c 10c

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WITH SOUND WITH COLLEEN MOORE and GARY WARNER BROS. VITA - FOX MOVIE TON NEWS

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See Hear

FANNIE BRICE

in
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Twice Daily Extra 6 P. M. Show
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in "LOVE"

58th St. Near Stave.

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TALKING SOUND Pictures with IRENE RICH and SCOTT'S WIFE
Yvonneville in "The Girl Who Sings"
Bailly & Baranum Photographs
Gertrude Lawrence and "The Girl Who Sings"
ALL Theatres, Noon to 11—Low Prices

IF YOU DON'T ADVERTISE IN VARIETY DON'T ADVERTISE

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome for \$10

Year's Subscription to Variety

On the Square

Necklace Curb Brokers

Necklace curb brokers are agitating Xmas sales by tying up with a couple of well dressed dames. Women have armful of packages to give touch of realism of "purchases." Femmes are more ambitious than the male confederates of workless watch workers. The walk at least half a block and get lost in crowd before the return pickup.

Trick Bulletin Board

The ubiquitous salesman has invaded the backstage quarters of theatres. A company is putting out a trick bulletin board for theatres with a clock surmounting it. Board costs theatre nothing with company selling border space to shows, restaurants, barbers, valets, etc., catering to theatrical patronage. The tradesmen cough up 75 cents a week per theatre for having their names mentioned.

Skidding Market Hurts Jewelers

Jewelry stores, large and small, agree that the recent stock market drops have affected and seriously their Christmas trade. A 5th avenue store estimates that over \$1,000,000 in orders have been canceled since the market started to skid.

The Crusher Hat Ep

The crush or collapsible opera hat has grown to be an epidemic among the rouders of Broadway. Not only those, but also the downtown boys seem to deem it essential to wear a crusher with their "tux." It's a revival of a craze of 25 years ago, when the topper, as the English call it, fought its way in and out of New York's best dressed chumps.

Advertising Postage Stamps

The United Cigar Store advertised on the windows that some of the new U. S. stamps were on sale within. No Xmas bargain on them.

Nature's Prodigality

A woman over seven feet tall was walking along Times Square last week. Her unusual size caused people to stop and stare. One guy asked another if she were babyhooing anything or anybody. The other replied "yes, Dame Nature."

Gambling on Mechanical Golf

Gamblers who make the hotel lobbies around the square their nightly hangout are giving those glass encased golf games a great play. The boys make book on the abilities of players to make the sheet metal course in par or better.

Some of the boys have become quite expert in operating the lever that controls the stance and swing of the mechanical player. As only one player can do his stuff at a time a contest nets the machine a dime, whereas the mechanical soccer football game apparatus made allowance for two players with the take only a nickel for each game.

Plenty of dough changes hands as the result of the golf games, one of the newer of the hotels having one at each end of the lobby, patronized nightly by the same mobs.

A golf game played with dice is also very popular. One cube carries a set of numerals while the other has markings indicating that the ball is in the cup, in the rough, or that the shooter has a water hazard to contend with. This game is also being played for stakes.

A Double Decit

An amazing story was unfolded to a prominent manager last week. A woman came to him and said his son was the father of her ward, a girl of 18. Since the son is only 28, that was obviously erroneous. But she poured out the following tale:

Almost 18 years ago, she, a spinster, adopted a babe of illegitimate parentage. Recently she and her ward were in a store on Broadway. The saleswoman looked up and said to the girl, "Look—that must be your sister." The girl was startled by the resemblance, but did not find out who it was. Her foster-mother, however, recognized the girl's mother and clandestinely made an appointment, not having met her during the entire period in between.

The mother, again married, had kept her motherhood a secret. The foster-mother is hesitating whether to tell the girl or not. Meanwhile, the girl prevailed on the mother to disclose the name of the father. The information led her to the manager, with the result indicating that the mother falsified—or was herself the "victim of a man who claimed a spurious identity—or had forgotten or had never known.

Full of Ginger

Honey Brown, Harlem dancing girl, has been replaced by Nina Mae McKenny in King Vidor's all-colored film, "Hallelujah." Honey's vivacity which was great on a night club floor, proved n.s.g. in front of a camera. She couldn't get the slow idea necessary for camera work, 'tis said.

Square's Best Free Spender

One of the best spenders around one of the class night life spots has a set graduated scale of gratuities and is currently the favorite of everybody connected with the place from the lowly wash-room boy to the owner himself. This Regular is no good-time Charlie, merely a free spender who hands it out without any attempt to impress those seated near his table. No flash, no ostentation, and no society climber's ambitions characterize the man, who is merely a good fellow who has always had plenty and through shrewd dealings recently now has more of the old ready than ever before.

Making the night club on an average of three times a week, it is estimated that he leaves at least \$1,500 on each visit. When he enters the place every one of the attaches knows exactly what he will net in tips from this particular party. The doorman always gets \$20, the coat checker \$10, three entertainers each get \$100 for lingering on a half an hour for this man's particular pleasure, each waiter is sure of a ten spot, and the one stationed at his table gets a double sawbuck, \$50. He is the head waiter's gratuity, and \$200 is split up by the boys in the orchestra, while the cigarette girl gets \$5 on each visit to his table, even when a single box of cigarettes is all that is required.

Drinking nothing but the best vintage wines obtainable at \$25, his check with food included usually runs over \$300, depending on the number of people in his party.

The man's genuine liberality and general deportment while in the place has won him the respect of all those who come in contact with him while he is pleasure bent. Anybody who attempts to tag the free spender with a sucker label would leave himself wide open to an assault and battery attack from all who have benefited by his liberality.

Billy Haas' Eatery on Forty-fifth Street

Billy Haas, at one time head waiter in Shanley's old Times Square place, has his eatery near the Martin Beck theatre, in West 45th street. It is nightly patronized by theatrical and sports people who knew Billy in the Shanley days.

Hey, Hey, Loop!

In Times Square there are six flaring electric ribbon moving signs, all in operation after dusk. Besides a couple of small streamer signs on the theatres' marquee.

The Loop, Chicago, has not one, large or small.

Let 'Er Up

Height of something or other is the ritzy dowager who said the reason she didn't attend a swanky ball was as follows: "I went last year but, no more. I came home with my arms bruised and bleeding from the diamond bracelets."

Separated for 26 Years, Wife Pinches "Sliding"

"Sliding" Billy Watson, born William Shapiro, burlesque actor, stopping at the Hotel America, 155 West 47th street, was arraigned in West Side Court before Magistrate Francis X. McQuade on the charge of abandoning his wife, Anna, of 4813 North Hutchinson street, Phila., Pa. Watson was arrested by Detective George Ferguson of the West 47th street station. Ferguson was armed with a warrant issued by District Attorney Watts of Philadelphia.

He was amazed when the sleuth took him into custody. "Abandonment," said Watson. "Why I haven't lived with my wife in 26 years. It might be a question of being in arrears of some money I owe her but it certainly is not abandonment." Ferguson told reporters that Watson had two married children. An attorney appeared for "Sliding." He asked the court for an adjournment until Friday which was granted. Billy is out on \$2,000 bail. His case was continued. The attorney stated that Billy was in arrears of \$455 to his wife. A court had ruled that he pay her \$25 a week. He did until recently when he has had a period of hard luck.

Detectives Ferguson and Gilman said that Watson said he was to be open in Allentown, Pa., the latter part of this week. Compelled to appear in court Friday means that he will have to forego the engagement in a Keltch house. Magistrate McQuade recognized Watson. The latter smiled. "Well, Billy, I wonder if you can slide out of this one," said the court. "I hope so, your honor," replied Watson.

3 Nite Club Bandits Are Given Long Terms

Three of five men who for the past six months have terrorized the patrons and owners of speakeasies and cabarets in the Broadway district were given long terms in Sing Sing by Judge Francis X. Mancuso of General Sessions following their conviction of robbery.

Defendants were Joseph Esposito, 20, of 6 Spring street; William Taylor, 21, of 288 West 92nd street, the leader of the band; John Taylor, 22, 102 West 75th street, who each received a term of from 7½ to 15 years; Antonio Greco, 25, captured but were later arrested on 254 2d street; and Michael Collins, 20, of 583 East 134th street, was given a suspended sentence.

On Oct. 20, at 2 a. m. the five, all armed with revolvers, held up the Ned Dew cabaret and restaurant at 148 West 46th street. They lined the patrons and the owner, John J. Canovan, up against the wall, got over \$1,000 in jewelry and cash from the former and \$105 and an \$800 diamond ring from the proprietor. They escaped but were later arrested on 254 2d street with their victims. Following their arrest all the prisoners were identified.

Lighted "Butt" Carriers On Subway Fined \$2

More than 50 smokers carrying lighted "butts" entering and emerging from the subway stations at Times Square and Columbus Circle were served with summonses by cops from the Health Squad. Magistrate H. Stanley Renaud fined each \$2. "Excuses were many," the Board of Health had during the theatre hour men with lighted cigars had burned holes in the cordly fur coats of women on their way to the theatres.

The complaints became so numerous that the Health Commissioner assigned five uniformed men in the subway to serve tickets.

BROADWAY GUIDE

(Changes Weekly)

For show people, as well as laymen, this Guide to general amusements in New York will be published weekly in response to repeated requests. It may serve the out-of-towner as a time-saver in selection.

PLAYS ON BROADWAY

Current Broadway legitimate attractions are completely listed and commented upon weekly in Variety under the heading: "Shows in New York and Comment."

In that department, both in the comment and the actual amount of the gross receipts of each show, will be found the necessary information as to the most successful plays, also the scale of admission charged.

NEW FEATURE PICTURES OF WEEK

Capitol—"White Shadows" (second week).
 Colony—"The Circus Kid" (sound) and Benny Rubin.
 Paramount—"The Haunted House" and Benita Krueger, new m. c.
 The New Fricolity in the Earl Carroll theatre building basement.
 Rival—"Revenge" (del Rio) (in sound).
 Roxy—"The End of St. Petersburg" (second week).
 Strand—"Lilac Time" (Colleen Moore), in sound (second week).

SPECIAL FEATURES WORTH SEEING

"Alias Jimmy Valentine" "The Singing Fool" "The Barker" "Interference"

NIGHT LIFE

Several new spots distinguish the midtown nite life. Clayton Jackson and Dumale at the Rendezvous have thrust that room into sudden prominence. The Parody is operating again with an elaborate floor show, Joe Lewis, the Chi m. c., and a not so good dance band headed by Art Lundy. The New Fricolity in the Earl Carroll theatre building basement, having moved over following the padlock, is over rousingly, although handicapped by a limited capacity.

Of the semi-closed rooms, the Richman has been a winner from the start. Harry Richman is out temporarily, sojourning in Florida, because of laryngitis. The Casanova with a flash array of names is also clicking. Ditto the Mirador, with a revue and Harold Leonard's music. Biz is spotty there the fore part of the week but great toward the end.

In the Village the high light and for a change of pace get a load of the Village Grove when the Nut Club is in session.

The Harlem black-and-tans are coming into greater favor than ever before, if only because of the paucity of the Times Square nocturnal diversions. They give the customers the same old-time tempo stuff that the Furnace, the Whoopee and kindred wind-ups dispensed in Times Square, only more so.

Everybody and everything, cafes, nite clubs, hotels and roadhouses, are planning for the big New Year's killings.

RECOMMENDED SHEET MUSIC

"She's Funny That Way" "Sweethearts on Parade" "Love Dreams" "Feeling I'm Falling" "Wear a Hat With a Silver Lining" "Billie"

Chatter in Loop With Nose Repaired Cigaret Girl Relented

Nate Caldwell has rejoined the announcing staff of WBBM.

Mrs. L. A. S., writing to the Tribune, drops the morose situation at somebody's door in claiming that "if they trace these crimes back, they will find that the men who attacked young girls have recently been to a burlesque show."

Herbert J. Taylor, just elected to vice-presidency of the Jewel Tea Co. in New York, formerly was a reporter on the Chicago Post.

Jimmy Petrillo knocked off last week to battle the grippe between sheets.

Crag Dale, Journal feature writer, leaves the city room this week to exploit a commercial firm for a salary that made him dizzy.

College Inn bunting displays outside the Hotel Sherman have hung so long they look like washday in the slums.

One of Guy Lombardo's musicians, rushing to the Palace to start a doubling engagement, dropped his mule and was overheard moaning: "My God, I'm flat. We're a flop already."

Ganna on Singing

What happens when two women start talking, from an interview with Ganna Walska-McCormick by Frances Farmer of the American: "But," adds Ganna Walska, the woman "if I had a daughter, I would do anything in this world—anything—to prevent her singing. I would say to her, 'Do anything you wish. Scrub floors if you must, wash dishes, clean the streets; but do not sing.'"

Sounds as though Ganna has started visiting vaude houses, or maybe she heard herself in a talking short.

Friars Ladies' First

For the first time in its 24 years of existence the Friars' Club is to give the dames a break by allowing them to enter the monkish halls.

The occasion for the unwanted civility in New Year's Eve when members may have lady guests at \$12.50 per lady. There will be dancing in the sacred monastery.

Quotations on Ocean

Rumored that the White Star line will install brokerage offices aboard its ships so that the boys can keep in momentary touch with the stock exchanges of New York and London.

Her nose repaired, her doctor bills paid, and otherwise contented, Lillian Roberts, of 68 West 45th street, petite cigaret girl in a night club at 21 West 48th street, through her attorney told Magistrate H. Stanley Renaud in West Side Court that she desired to drop the prosecution against Philip J. O'Hara, 35, electrical engineer, of 351 West 42nd street. The court consented.

Miss Roberts came to West Side Court with her probozza awry and bandaged. She said Roberts had struck her with the handle of a pen-knife and fractured her nose while she was on duty at the club.

Miss Roberts in uniform, was carrying a tray of smokes when caught in the middle of some combats. She soon found herself on the floor and the smokes on top of her while the men milled around her.

When on her feet she was hurried to a doctor who told her that her nose had been fractured. She charged that O'Hara was the assailant. The occasion for the assault placed O'Hara under arrest on the charge of felonious assault.

O'Hara received several adjournments while the diminutive brunet, Miss Roberts, was going to a nose specialist. When the injury had been repaired she appeared in court.

Greta's Complete Hallelujah

Before Greta Garbo sided for Europe recently she was lost for three days in New York, as far as the M-G-M office was concerned.

Before Greta left the coast, M-G-M agreed that she should travel incognito and not be bothered by business or publicity. After she boarded a train the office discovered it was necessary to get in touch with her and also discovered that she was so safely disguised that not even they could locate her. During the one-day stop in Chicago she could not be found.

New York office was notified to get hold of her, and for three days the office raked the city for her.

Someone wishing to get in touch with Miss Garbo had seen her coming out of a department store and called the office to discover her address. Office couldn't give the information, but rushed to the store and found that she had bought some trunks to be sent to her business manager, H. Edlington. However, Edlington could not help as to her whereabouts, and Greta remained hidden until she sailed.

Among the Women

By The Skirt

Belasco's 1928 Prize

The achievement of the season will go to David Belasco for the stupendous way he has staged "Mima" at the Belasco. "Mima" may not amuse all but it will interest those who look for the unusual.

Lenore Ulric will never more lovely. Who but Belasco would have thought of a gold bride? Every stitch Miss Ulric had on was gold, from slippers to bridal veil. Calla lilies carried also gilded. Another gorgeous picture was Miss Ulric in an evening gown of solid silver sequins. She was seated in a chair of orchid satin and waved a fan of the same shade. As a cabaret dancer her costume was scanty with much bare flesh showing. Many other costumes worn by Miss Ulric. Wigs of many hues. Sometimes a blonde and sometimes a brunette.

Leila Hyams' Beauty

Leila Hyams should be very well set in pictures after her performance in "Jimmy Valentine," film at the Astor.

Never has Miss Hyams looked so beautiful. Wearing clothes for the better part known as sport models, one caped coat trimmed with fox was the exception. Marion Davies wore the same coat in a different color in her last picture.

Pat Casey's Inside Info on Peggy Joyce

The Loves of Peggy Joyce at the Henry Miller theatre? The Life of Peggy Joyce at the Henry Miller theatre? No. That is not it. It is Peggy Joyce, in "The Lady of the Orchids" at the Henry Miller theatre.

Anyway, Peggy Joyce is on exhibition at the Henry Miller theatre with all, or at least an important portion, of her jewels. Her clothes are of course very beautiful, as there is no better, dressed woman on or off the stage. The surprise was that she wore the same dress as worn by Ina Claire in "Our Betters" a year ago. It was of a black material resembling leather.

A gold frock in the second act was the same leathery material. With this dress Miss Joyce displayed the famous lace at her throat and the two headlight rings. She modestly wore but three bracelets. An ermine wrap was trimmed in sable. If there is a more expensive fur than sable we have been trimmed with that, no doubt. Why Miss Joyce muffed having a chinchilla bed covering is a mystery. Ermine is so common.

Green velvet pajamas, but very little velvet. The bottom of each leg was encased in a band of ermine, while the jacket part was entirely of ermine made with deep pockets and a sashed belt.

The bed in the first act was a square couch having a founce of mauve velvet edged with tails of ermine. Coverlet was ermine, but ermine is so common.

Pat Casey said it was a replica of the bed in Miss Joyce's apartment. How did he know that?

Miss Joyce floundered in and out of this bed in the finest nightgale made mostly of real lace with a flowered design at the waist. The negligee was yards and yards of peach chiffon with feathers for the trimming. Pat didn't mention if he recognized that, too. Oh, you guys who go to Paris to hideaway!

"Interference" As a Talker

"Interference," talking picture, put out by Paramount, at the Criterion, was but mildly received despite it is the best of the talkies so far shown. That goes for the recorded voices only.

The picture-adapted stage play is slow in action, and miscast as far as Clive Brook was concerned. Mr. Brook should have played Phillip, the role taken by E. W. Mathews on the stage.

There is no better actor for the screen than William Powell, but it is difficult to create a love interest around this man who has been the finest of picture villains.

Doris Kenyon made a dignified wife of the eminent physician and dressed the part accordingly. Two house dresses were cut unnecessarily low. One was trimmed in fringe and another was black velvet worn with pearls. A street suit was trimmed with sable.

Evelyn Brent, adventuress of the cast, lovely in a black velvet street dress with close jet hat. Her pajamas in the murder scene were of satin, with a metallic lace jacket.

Ruth Etting, singing two songs in a tacking short, preceding the picture, records nicely, doesn't screen so well. She looked stout while Miss Etting, in person, is rather tall and thin. Bobbe Arnst doing a bit with Eddie Cantor screened just the opposite to Miss Etting. She looked thinner than in person.

SHRINE OF STE. ANNE

(Continued from page 30)

latter realized he was the target of the clergyman's gaze. "And when the bad man met the look of the father there was no censure, no excitement, no shooting, no nothing! The bootlegger simply arose from his chair and sidled into a rear room."

Fame—O

Fame means no more to the energetic fathers and brothers attached to the shrine church than an additional politician in Washington. When Ben Turp, noted comedian of the films, was introduced to Brother Bruno, sharp-eyed guide at the shrine, the brother failed to manifest unusual enthusiasm. He had never heard or read of Turpin. And had yet to see his first motion picture.

Scenes for one photoplay—"The Miracle"—have been shot on the church property, including scenes in the church and on the holy stairs and at the miraculous fountain. Permission was granted by Rev. Patrick LeBlanc, C.S.S.R., one of the human dynamos at the shrine. This active priest has no objection to pictures provided they are not sexy.

A Sperdakos, proprietor of the Fairland theatre, playing pictures in Montreal, has a cogent reason to feel a high regard for the shrine. Recently he was accompanied on a motor trip to Ste. Anne de Beauport by his wife and daughter. Miss Sperdakos had been ill and numer-

ous physicians and hospitals had failed to improve her condition.

Despairing of her life, the picture exhibitor and his wife brought their daughter to the shrine when all else had proven ineffectual. After spending several days at the shrine the father, mother and daughter returned to their home in Montreal. Soon a marked improvement was registered in the condition of Miss Sperdakos.

In recognition of this relief, Sperdakos and his wife sent into a Montreal jewelry store an order for a gift to the shrine of unusual type. In design it resembles two hearts joined. It is of gold and bears an inscription. Today the gift occupies a conspicuous post on a glass-covered wall cast located in a church store under the rectory. Also shown in this case are hundreds of pieces of jewelry including brooches, rings, pins, watches, lavallieres, etc. All these are gifts of people who have found relief at the shrine.

The new basilica is completely finished, during 1928, evidently, an office will be established at the entrance. It will be necessary for women and girls to conform to the dress decree of the church very rigidly. In so far as possible the decree is enforced, but there is no barrier at the entrance. The basement in the new basilica is now in use.

In 1928 the main body of the church will be utilized, but the interior will not be completed until the following year. The gross cost will be over \$1,000,000—the nickels and dimes of contributors.

Babs Knew Something

A Broadway star was paralyzed by a sub-deb coming out party on the fashionable east side when the mother of the girl boasted "We judge our riches by our friends" dottingly referring to her pure and unsophisticated debutante offspring.

The actress eased over in double's direction where Babs (as she was affectionately called by her mates) was making ukulele whoopee with an unexpurgated version of "Frankie and Johnny."

Ritz

(Continued from page 2)

Rosamund Pinchot, who gained notice in "The Miracle," who she is a daughter of Amos Pinchot and Mrs. Minturn Pinchot, divorced some years ago, the father remarrying. The grandmother, Mrs. Robert B. Minturn, was so displeased at Rosamund's acting she only left her \$500 out of a million dollar estate. An uncle, Gifford Pinchot, was Governor of Pennsylvania. A brother-in-law, John Gaston, married Pinna Nesbit, former picture extra who divorced Frederic H. Cruger. During the visit of the Prince of Wales, the then Mrs. Cruger was always in the royal party. Cruger at that time opened a haberdashery, where the Prince bought neckties.

Tommy Hitchcock Engaged

Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., better known as "Tommy," is engaged to Mrs. Alexander Laughlin, Jr., fashionable young widow well known in New York. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Mellon, of Pittsburgh, and a grand-niece of Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, head of the Mellon banking interests. "Tommy," 28, is heir to millions. During the war he was an aviator. He brought down three German planes and was shot through the body. He escaped from a prison camp and reached Switzerland. A few months ago he was so attentive to Bebe Daniels a report circulated they were engaged. His parents have estates on Long Island and at Alken, S. C.

Princess Aimee in New York

Princess Aimee Galtzine, of Paris, has been in New York on one of her periodical visits. For 15 years she has maintained a luxurious home in Paris, and still gives exotic parties. Formerly she resided in New York, and had a fine estate at Larchmont.

She has divorced the young Galtzine, her fifth husband, as she pretends to be a widow. Her son, Andre Miskinoff, Harry Gillig and Porter Ashe, Jack Gouraud, the third husband, was the only one who died.

She enjoys the income of a huge trust fund established by her father, the late Judge E. C. Crocker, of Sacramento. Her eldest daughter, known as Gladys Crocker, divorced Jack Gouraud's brother, Powers, and then divorced Walter Russell, known in the theatre as Lewis Hooper. Her adopted son, Reggie Gouraud, recently married. Her adopted daughter, Yvonne Gouraud, who once appeared as a showgirl at the Winter Garden, divorced Miskinoff, after Aimee had divorced him, and is now reported engaged to Frank A. Keeney. Worth millions, Keeney has been divorced.

Princess Germaine was recently entertained by Ernest Simmons, Hassard Short and other old friends.

Richard Hudnut's Fortune

Richard Hudnut, who died recently at his villa on the Riviera, accumulated a fortune as a perfume manufacturer, having originally owned a drugstore at 20th street and Broadway. His first wife was a grandniece of Haminal Hamlin, Vice President of the next year he died in 1919, at Willsboro. She married Mrs. Winifred de Wolfe, a brother of Elsie de Wolfe, the decorator, this lady was also a decorator, in San Francisco. She had

Uncommon Chatter

By Ruth Morris

Dolores as a Gypsy

Dolores Del Rio must have had a grand time enacting Rascha in "Revenge." Rascha lived alone with her bear-taming father in the Carpathian Mountains. After she had tamed all the bears in that part of the woods, life lost its flavor. "The loneliness of it all," she captioned, "was one to fear—to hate!" Which just goes to show what kind of a girl this Rascha was.

However, when Jorga, the fearless bandit, came out of the woods one night and put upon her the "gypsy shame" (worse, maybe, than any other kind) she had something to live for—and that something, revenge.

Costumes worn by Miss Del Rio may or may not be authentic, but they're swell movie. A bacchanalian wedding feast was jammed with colorful atmosphere.

Recommendations

Accessory notes on a jaunt through Six-Fifth Avenue. . . Crepe de chine and satin evening purses recommended for combination with evening slippers dyed to match. Nice "ensemble" idea, that may be carried out still further in fan and matching jewelry. . . Patou's pouch purse made of fur with armhole ring top. . . The soft frameless bag very popular. . . Import of black suede has neat watch clasp set in marcasite and crystal. . . Small black suede pouch with marcasite clasp in a new bow-knot pattern. Very attractive. . . Multi-stranded pearl necklaces, waist-length, with emerald and rhinestone clasp. . . Bow-knot brooch made of rhinestone and square-cut crystals. Shoe buckles, slightly smaller, to match. . . Short French scarfs, popular at the moment, made in kashtir with matching envelope purses.

Macy's Bum Sandy

The production season for department stores has arrived. All over town with varying degrees of subtlety, they are picturing, placarding and heralding the Christmas season.

At Macy's signs are conspicuously displayed announcing that "Santa Claus is on the Eighth Floor"—which is their own peculiar way of stating that there'll soon be plenty of angels in the ceiling. . . I've heard a lot about this guy Santa, espulated up for a look at him in the flesh. The flesh wasn't convincing—not enough of it. Nor any magic about this Salvation Army product whose beard kept slipping. S. Claus put on a bum show.

Stunning evening wraps in the fur department at Alken's. One seen—a clever arrangement in black and white—with beautifully striped ermine used for important material and a silver fox scarf hung low on a off-the-shoulder clasp. Very smart.

Eighth avenue, home of sales (Fire and Rummage) has an af-

daughter by her first marriage, Winifred Shaughnessy, since known as Winifred de Wolfe and Winifred Hudnut.

While teaching dancing in the school of Theodore Roosevelt in Los Angeles this daughter changed her name to Natacha Rambova and married and divorced Rudolph Valentino, just as Jean Acker had previously done. When Valentino died he left a fortune to Winifred's aunt. Natacha has tried stage and screen acting, dancing and directing, but is now engaged in the dressmaking business in New York.

Elizabeth Wyatt Engaged

Elizabeth Wyatt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher B. Wyatt of New York, has become engaged to William A. Russell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Russell of Commonwealth avenue, Boston, and brother of Mrs. Benjamin F. R. Bassett of Park avenue, New York. Elizabeth is a granddaughter of Judge William E. Wyatt and of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Waddington. Her great-grandfather was Charles King, president of Columbia College, and her great-aunt was Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer, a good friend of a former era.

Shortly after her debut, Miss Wyatt became a professional dancer, and went on tour with "Oh Kay," in which production Julia Sanderson starred in the role created by Gertrude Lawrence. She had

duent uptown beginning. A Rolls-Royce disarray in the shadow of a million-dollar corporation in the Fiske Building gives it a gilded send-off. But what with this and that, the gold at its inception turns to the brass of uncle's three-ball signs as it progresses southward. Eighth Avenue displays the latest in men's sitting as conspicuously as it highlights the newest wrinkle for woman's crowning glory: It is as pleased with two-pants suits as it is with frocks that sell for \$15.

Chief among the contributions of 8th avenue is the fact that it announces its signs where night club hostesses' dresses come from? The answer is in the 8th avenue shop windows. There they gleam in silver and gold and opalescent paillettes, with the high waist line, gored hips and circular skirt of any of the less high-hat dance floors.

Theatrically Named

If you want a little originality mixed with good style don't miss a trip to the new establishment of Hawes-Harden at 8 West 66th street. Their first mid-season showing proves they're serious about style and knows what it's all about.

Many lovely models, with nomenclature occasionally fartetched, but always amusing. The names of two creations have theatrical origins: "The Love of Hering" and "Diamond Lil." The latter, shown by Miss Hawes herself, was revealed as a decidedly refined Diamond Lil, with black and white combined in clever material insets, immaculately fitted. The former was a distinct hering, crepe, with two-tiered side collar arrangement. Decidedly original and attractive was "Lucky Strike," a combination of soft blue angora and flowered crepe de chine. The angora provided a broad hip band and clever and chic, which was visible under a trim abbreviated wool jacket. Terribly smart.

Benny's Herring English

Much "leffing wit rurring" at the Colony where Benny Rubin tosses over his head the "Herring." It's a grand m. c. who cripples the language and then lets it limp along on a staff of hilarious dialect.

"The Circus Kid," at the Colony, provides an opportunity for Helene Costello to look trim in circus costume and to bring English. It's a tragicomic face, to sentimentalize through reels of thick slush. Audiences may like it.

Gray Matter

By MOLLIE GRAY

Another Country Girl

New York's male population evidently know the significance of "The Yellow Ticket" (screen said "Pass") even though the heroine didn't. She was a New England woman, available in the Cameo, and plenty of audience.

This is the sad, sad tale of a young wife who went to the city for farm relief because they had no Congress to promise it. She had a husband and children, but there was no Santa Claus. A pitiful tale and Anna Sten, purest and simplest of heroines, gets more sympathy than most foreign girls. Camera had a grand time getting six scenes.

Katherine's gray fox ensemble was lovely—with fox-bordering the cape and the four separate panels of the overskirt. Satin ribbon crossing the neck and making a bow on each shoulder and also between the tiers of the tulle skirt was a smart touch on a white gown.

Though the beaded satin bodice seemed rather ordinary in clozeups. A light colored waist length cape with black broadtail revers, worn over a black satin frock, was good looking.

A Woman's Picture

"His Private Life" is still Adolphe Menjou's, but the picture belongs to the women. Margaret Livingston must have worn black velvet gown with narrow trains coming from the panniers and her ermine wrap with it's flaring collar of dark fur. Possibly she liked her white silk fringe creation, too. They shouldn't advertise Katherine Carver as Mrs. Menjou.

WINGFIELD IS READY TO QUIT

Chicago, Dec. 18.

James Wingfield, once the largest and most important booker of legit road attractions in the middle west, is ready to retire from his business.

Conditions of the "road" have gradually diminished Wingfield's holdings. At one time he booked from 80 to 100 shows a season.

Wingfield now hasn't a single house of his own left and his books hold just two attractions.

Ashton Stevens Lands On Loop's 1st Nighters

Chicago, Dec. 18.

In a seething Sunday article dripping with subtle insinuations, Ashton Stevens, drama critic for the Herald-Examiner, whaled into Chicago's typical first night audience with both typewriter fingers.

Mr. Stevens particularly is annoyed by Sunday first-nighters and over their vain attempts to understand what was going on at the first night performance of "Grand Street Follies." It seems "the boys" and their bodyguards had horned into first night seats for the "Follies" under the democratic impression that they were to see one of those typical B-way bareback displays.

Bewildered by the parade of impressions, satires, allegories, and mimickries, quite a portion of the first night audience blew out early in disgust. Stevens claims the assistant manager feared several were on the point of pointing their pistols. Several others, according to Stevens, dared the assistant manager to tell them what it was all about.

Sunday first night audiences here have a distinctly political tinge, even to the alleged association of some of our best politicians with some of our best gunmen. To hand that mob insinuations instead of outright declarations is like buying milk for the house.

Stevens highlighted his disgust with an outright warning to the theatrical manager to "quit."

"Never—let me once again warn all theatrical managers—never bring Class to the loop on a Sunday night. The Sunday nighters take it as a personal insult."

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Cast Changes

Haldeo Wright temporarily stepped out of Jed Harris' "Royal Family," at the Majestic, Brooklyn, last week, due to the death of her brother, Fred Wright, also professional. Eleanor Kennedy, called in, got up in the part in five hours. Miss Kennedy finished the week in Brooklyn. Miss Wright returns next week in Boston.

Joeey. Write for Marie Dane in "Rio Rita," Chicago.

Carl Randall and Willard Watson, dancers, are into the musical, "Hello Yourself," at the Casino, New York.

Olga Stock has succeeded Ruth Sennott in "Hello Yourself," the latter remaining with the company in a new role specially written in for her.

With Hedda Hopper leaving Carl Reed's new show, "Tomorrow," to go to California to make talks for Fox, her successor had not been named up to yesterday. (Tuesday). The show is now set to open at the Lyceum, New York, Dec. 26.

Barbara Stanwyck, playing leading fem role, in Arthur Hopkins' "Burdles," on tour, left the east in Detroit, Sunday.

She will be brought to New York by her husband, Frank Fay, as soon as her physician permits her to be moved.

Thatcher-Stock-at-Scranton

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 18.

The James Thatcher Players will begin an engagement at the Academy here Monday.

Alney Alba and Robert Perry are the leads. Others are Alice Davenport, Alice Mason, Mary Hill, Douglas Cosgrove, Wallace Spenser, George Lessey, and Willard S. Robertson.

Arthur Hitehile will direct, and Tommy Wirth do the settings.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mary Young, "Gypsy."
Grace Huff, "Back Seat Drivers."
Trissella Knowles, Gordon Hawley, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."
Dennis, Paul Gilroye, "One Mile Up."
Enrico Stern's Orchestra, "Well, Well, Well."
Mabley Bunyon, Peg O'Connor, "The Street Wolf."
Allan Ward, Rita Paige, George L. Price, "The Ferguson Family."
Barbara Benedict, Dorothy Nolan, Walter Abel, "S. S. Glencairn."
Nadine Dore, "Vanities."
Lois Jesson, "The Squealer."
Ray Gordon, Walter Woolf, "The Red Robe."
Grace Kempton, Edna Murillo, "The Three Musketeers."
Arthur Lewis, J. P. Wilson, Roland Hogue, Henry Warwick, Colin Campbell, George Thorpe, May Idiss, "Potiphar's Wife."
Joan Carter-Waddell, "Polly."
Helen Flint, "The Marriage Bed."
Dorothy E. Foll, Hobart Cavanaugh, "The On Call Girl."
Ben Pollack Orchestra, "Hello, Baby."
Edward LeSaint, Sue Bartel-Herschell Mayall, Peggy Allenby, Hilly Gaston, Helen Holmes, Pat Barnett, "The All-Right Show."
John T. Doyle, "Vermont."
Ingeborg Torrup, Walter Hampden's "Cyrano de Bergerac."
Eddie Buzzell, Dick Keene, Dolores Harris, Gertrude McDonald, Al Sexton, Roger Gray, Esther Miller, Margie White, Robert Spencer, Milton Pollack, Edwin Walters, William Griffith, "Play Fingers."
Helen Kingstead, "Tonight at Twelve."

3-City Stock Deal For Stars and Salaries

Minneapolis, Dec. 18.

Bainbridge dramatic stock at the local Shubert has entered into a working arrangement with McLaughlin and Ketchum, who have stocks in Cleveland, Kansas City and Denver, designed to attract more Broadway stars to stock as guest players.

Stars will be rotated for the four cities. In this way, more weeks of employment and lower salaries by stars expected.

The arrangement brings Marjorie Rambeau here Dec. 30. Edith Tallarfer, with the Bainbridge stock since the first of the season, will go to one of the other cities.

Roberson Stock Blows

Chattanooga, Dec. 18.

Just one month after opening with a fanfare, the Roberson-Smith dramatic stock closed Wednesday, with no announcement.

A local attorney, acting for Publick Theatres, agreed to release the company from its six months' lease of the Bijou.

The Roberson-Smith Players began on the wrong foot in Chattanooga and left here with many unpaid bills.

NEW TO 'VANITIES'

Earl Carroll's "Vanities" laying off this week will have several cast changes when the revue resumes.

Martha Morton is replacing Ray Dooley, and Dorothy Britton vice Dorothy Knapp, who goes into "Floretta," Carroll's new musical.

Three new girls from "Vanities" have been transferred to the new show, making way for a similar number of chorines rehearsed during the layoff.

LOOP TREASURERS' SHIFTS

Chicago, Dec. 18.

In the shakedown of box office men now on in Shubert houses, Frank Lyons, who was to have gone into the Garrick as boss treasurer, is out, and "Doc" Wilcox called in from the Playhouse to take the job.

Lyons is said to have rejected because of illness. Georges Henning, asst. at the Playhouse, was moved up to head, with Ed Korzak asst.

At the Majestic, Ralph Grossberg, leaving, replaced by Manny Kerwein, formerly at Princess.

Eddie Cooke with Reilly

Edward Cooke, reported retiring after relinquishing post of general manager for John Golden some months ago to undergo an operation, is back again as general manager for Frank C. Reilly, producer of "A Play Without a Name" current at the Booth, New York.

Despite up and down business of the attraction Reilly maintains his faith in it and has installed a double barreled exploitation staff, with Ann Grosvenor Ayres handling mag and feature stuff with Harry B. Herts handling the general press stuff for the show.

O'Neill at Home

Ridgely, Dec. 18.

The mystery of Eugene O'Neill's activities in China is not puzzling to the natives of this small Connecticut community. For six years O'Neill owned a farm here but there were less than a dozen residents who knew the man at all, much less his reputation.

O'Neill came and went from his farm and never encouraged the acquaintanceship of his neighbors.

The leading town official has news that he had said unless it was that New York man with a name something like that who had a place on the North Salem Road.

ACTOR-ANGEL BACKER OF COAST LEGIT PLAYS

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Dixie McCoy, Inc., will start the production of legit shows from original works after the first of the year, with the idea of sending them to New York after a preliminary run on the coast.

The first of these productions will be a new play by George Scarborough, called "Dad Babies," a modern drama, to have a cast of eight; four boys and four girls, the oldest to be 19. The play will be put in rehearsal about Jan. 1.

Miss McCoy is a Hollywood actors' representative and made her first legit venture with "Tarnish," which had a brief run at the Hollywood Music Box three months ago.

Her productions are reported financed by Barton Heppburn, millionaire actor who is trying to get placed in the movies. He appears in all plays to be staged by Miss McCoy.

Gillmore and Dutzell Go Up, but Not in Coin

The resignation of John Emerson as president of Equity and the selection of Frank Gillmore as successor for the balance of the term means no actual change in Equity's administration.

Equity's Council acceded to Emerson's request to be relieved at last week's meeting. Because of ill health he had sought to withdraw several times and accepted re-election only at the insistence of other Equity leaders.

Gillmore as executive secretary and treasurer has really conducted Equity's affairs, with the aid of the Council. Under the new line-up Berton Churchill is treasurer, more or less technical post since he is appearing on the stage and may be called to play out of town. Gillmore will continue to sign checks and disburse funds, also continuing as active executive as in the past.

Emerson has been ailing with a throat affection for three years. His participation in Equity's affairs has been lessening during that period, he being out of New York seeking relief here and abroad. Emerson said he could not stand the New York climate. With his wife, Anita Loo, he will spend the winter in Palm Beach, where he has a cottage.

Paul Dutzell, who has been acting Gillmore's assistant for a number of years, was appointed executive secretary upon Gillmore's selection to the higher office. Dutzell's duties will be virtually the same as handled by him in the past, with no difference in salary in his case either.

SCENERY HOLDS UP SHOW

"Tomorrow," to have been produced at the Lyceum, New York, by John Ashley, Ltd., was postponed until Dec. 26 because of the intricate and mechanical nature of the scenery which is uncompleted, and not because of any impending lawsuit brought by two members of the cast, injured at rehearsal. Carl Reed denies he has been sued.

Reed is uncertain of his further association with "Tomorrow."

Stock Mgr.'s Meeting

American Theatrical Stock Managers' Association will hold a mid-season conclave, opening at the Hotel Lincoln, New York, today (Wednesday).

Versailles New Spot For Elegance in Looks

Something new in night life spots will be attempted when C. Morton Belink, apartment hotel operator, opens the Versailles, combination theatre and dining and dancing place in the east 60's Dec. 27. Belink, who operates the Villa Venice on the street floor of his hotel, has modeled the Versailles along the lines of the Folies Bergere in Paris. The room located in the basement of the hotel resembles the mirror room in the Palace of Versailles, France, where the peace treaty was signed. In addition to the usual silvered mirrors there are gold backed and black mirrors, the latter said to be a new wrinkle in mirrors, which eliminates glare. The ceilings of the room are entirely of gold and silver leaf.

Bruce Geary is manager of the Versailles and A. J. Clark, formerly with the Kit Kat and Piccadilly Club in London is booking talent for the room.

Harry Koller, formerly with the William Morris office, is doing the exploitation.

Zieggy's Roof Show Dec. 2

Flo Ziegfeld is reported determined to open his proposed grade Amsterdam room cabaret before New Year's.

Dec. 28 is now set as the date of the evening after the show below.

It is said that the Paul Whiteman orchestra may be the musical attraction upstairs for the first two weeks. Of course, Eddie Cantor will be on the floor. Negotiations with the Geo. Olsen band, also in "whoopie" for the roof affair were called off by Zieggy.

WESTERN STOCK CLOSE

Berkell stock closed at the Grand, Davenport, Ia. Berkell Players had had four consecutive seasons at the Grand.

Amber stock, Moline, Ill., closed at the Palace, after being in the red several weeks, it was reported.

COHAN'S 'VERMONT'

After paper had been struck for the title of George M. Cohan's new production, "The Barn," Cohan on Monday decided to call the A. E. Milne show "Vermont." The show opens next Monday in Atlantic City. Phyllis Bovah is featured. She's a new Cohan acquisition.

KEARNEY ON DIALOG

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.

Patrick Kearney, playwright, has been signed and joins Paramount's dialog staff.

First assignment is "Through the Night." Fay Wray-Gary Cooper picture.

Forbes & Lang Dissolve

Forbes & Lang have dissolved their legit producing partnership. Ralph Forbes will enter the producing field on his own.

Forbes & Lang, jointly, have "Tin Pan Alley" at the Republic, New York.

Bickford With M-G-M

Charles Bickford is engaged by M-G-M through Bill Wolfenden for the talkers.

Bickford leaves tomorrow (Thursday) to play the lead in the Cecil DeMille picture, "Dynamite," on the Coast.

Carlotta Marino in Italian Films

Carlotta Marino will play leads for Lombardi, an Italian film producer, headquartered in Naples, Italy.

She sails early next month.

"Nude" Examination Falls Toward Carroll

What turned out to be a gag although it did not start that way was a supposed expose in a New York tab (News) on the alleged method of selecting show girls by Earl Carroll. What was hoped to be a sensation and picked up by two other papers, though passed up by the others, petered out.

Complaint to District Attorney Banton that Carroll examined girls in the nude privately before okaying them for his choruses, got scant attention. The prosecutor Saturday declared he saw no breach of the law.

It was reported the yarn broke after another producer suggested it to a News feature writer. One observer expressed the opinion that if that were true, Carroll owed the other manager a box of good cigars because of the resultant publicity agent Carroll's new show, "Floretta."

Two show girls figured in the story. One, Amy Moss, was in "The Three Musketeers." She quit that attraction because it was going on the road. Carroll was selecting girls in the rehearsal rooms of the Knights of Columbus Hotel at 51st street and 8th avenue. Miss Moss got peeved, she stated, when asked to strip, so did the other girl. No complaints were suggested, the girls merely being dismissed. A Carroll aide explained girls were asked to disrobe in order to learn if there were any scars, especially from operations.

The girls complained to Chorus Equity, where the matter was not though investigated. In Baltimore, the Equity head, did believe it serious and charges were lodged with the district attorney. Others at Equity said they saw no difference in girls being examined nude than that which happens in a thousand artists' studios every day—the same attitude taken by Mr. Eanton.

When their papers learned the News was ready to break a "hot" show girl story, reporters started calling up the Ziegfeld office. Miss Moss could not be found. She assumed the name of Ann Gaynor and at the order of Irene Kuehn of the News, hid in a hotel for a day, not appearing in "Peaches" at Thursday matinee and turning up when the tab broke the yarn. Miss Moss or Gaynor was known to some newspaper people. She sought to press agent herself, taking photos to the papers personally several times.

2 Arbitration Awards; Actors Win in One

Two arbitration results were reported back to Equity within the past week. The players in "Tin Pan Alley" and "Peaches" learned a week's salary, having been paid but for six performances during a try-out week. H. H. Lang for the producing corporation contended that in Great Neck and New Rochelle, the houses did not play matinees and the players were not entitled to the eighths. The award was in favor of the players.

George Probert filed claim for two weeks' salary against Jack Linder, the latter filing a similar claim. Both claims were disallowed. Probert was in "The Squealer." He withdrew when Ruth Shepley was engaged for the lead, owing to a previous dispute with her. Miss Shepley recently quit "The Squealer" burned up because Linder engaged "Peaches" Browning in the vain hope of pepping up business.

Stock in Yonkers

Leslie Fullenweden has taken over the Warburton, Yonkers, N. Y., for dramatic stock.

Opened this week.

Picture Possibilities

"Sign of the Leopard"—Unfavorable
"SIGN OF THE LEOPARD" (Mystery Drama, Lee Shubert & Edgus Wallace, National).
If picture rights apply, may have been disposed of in England where play was presented under title of "The Squealer." Fair material. *Dce.*

"MIMA"—Favorable
"MIMA" (Belasco, Belasco theatre).
Sensational reputation that this Belasco-made super-spectacle will make alone, gives it a box office value. Though its locale is in Imperial Rome, it is wholesome. The scenic possibilities are as remarkable—and more so—for the screen. If used as a talker, has great score. *Ldt.*

"The Lady of the Orchids"—Unfavorable
"THE LADY OF THE ORCHIDS" (Goetz, Comedy-Drama, Miller's).
Meretricious theme about a Parisian demi-mondaine. Unlikely for pictures on this score alone; otherwise deficient dramatically. *Abel.*

Dick Bennett Again on Critics; Can Say or Do What He Wants To

After a victorious scrap with his management Richard Bennett is once more his own master, can say and do as he pleases, and has found a new management after his heart's desire. In his dressing room at the Longacre theatre, Bennett ranted and blustered right under the nose of the new manager, who is a solicitous person and wants Richard to be sure to get everything off his chest.

Richard explained that he had refused to sign a new contract until the clause against his speech-making was taken out. "People like to hear me talk," he said. "Will Rogers is allowed to talk as he feels, but my managers were too dumb to realize that my speeches were comic and satiric and just the stuff the public wants."

"The actor knows what the public wants, not managers nor dramatic critics. Who cares anything about a lot of inane scribblers and sports writers who come to review a show? They don't know anything about the drama."

"Plays are successes whether they can them, or not. Look at my play. When it opened all the critics went to see 'Elmer the Great' because it was written by their confrere, Ring Lardner, and that great producer, George M. Cohan. They didn't want to see me. I am merely a propagandist."

"And critics knock this St. John Ervine, when he is the only fellow in the business who knows anything about the theatre."

Dick's Error

"Critics are about as much use as stage hands. No, I'll take that back. Stage hands can ruin a show but critics can't."

Mr. Bennett next unburdened himself on the subject of an libel. "If I had let the play the way Beahan and Fort wrote it, it would have been a flat-footed helva play. I put all my stuff in it, I always do, and now those two fellows are writing reprisals, saying what a nice place Hollywood is, for fear people will think they are responsible for my changes."

Charles Beahan and Garet Fort, to whom Bennett referred, now work for a moving picture concern. Bennett always asks his Hollywood friends to see "Jarnegan." As yet only Florence Vidor and Thomas Meighan have protested, he said.

"Now don't try to protect me," Bennett concluded. "I don't want protection. Print every word I said. I don't care who knows what I say or do."

"How's that?" he asked the new manager.

"Say anything you wish," that kindly creature replied.

Goodman's Tough Break; Closes Good Show

Plans to continue "Rainbow," the season's most spectacular failure, failed to materialize and the show closed at the Gallo Saturday, playing three scant weeks. The Shuberts were reported interested. One idea was for them to buy in and move the show to the Majestic.

Two leads, Louise Brown and Charles Ruggles, were committed to other productions, and that prevented a deal to take over the show from going through Monday. "Rainbow" may be resurrected later.

Phillip Goodman, producer of "Rainbow," is said to have dropped \$200,000 in the production. His troubles started early and overtime rehearsals are said to have added \$40,000 to the production outlay alone. Facing the lean weeks before the Christmas holidays, he was unable to finance that period. On top of that Goodman was forced, as usual, to close with such a scanty house being in Saturday night.

Only the chorus was paid off. Principals and stage hands are owed for last week. The players are expected to receive a settlement upon Goodman's recovery. No bond was required of him by Equity because of his standing as a reliable independent producer.

Ervine's Opinions

The morning World's critic, St. John Ervine, brought over from London to review Broadway, was last week. He thought: "Wings Over Europe"—Good. "Sign of the Leopard"—Bad. "Mima"—Bad. "The Lady of the Orchids"—Bad.

20 SHOWS REHEARSING

Unusual Activity Prompted by Number of B'way Closings

Wholesale closing of weak legit attractions on Broadway has prompted unprecedented activity in the legit division to counterbalance the departures. A check shows around 20 new shows in rehearsal and scheduled for metropolitan perusal.

Unusual activity at this time of the season has been welcomed with open arms and has materially aided in alleviating the unemployment situation in the legit sector.

1 Show Out

Though this is the dullest week of the season, no shows will close on Broadway this Saturday. Even those attractions which have been hanging on, will stay for the expected holiday harvest of Christmas week.

Several attractions are ducking a performance Monday night (Christmas eve) and inserting a third matinee.

"Tin Pan Alley" did not close at the Republic as reported last week. "Gentlemen of the Press" ended its run of 16 weeks at the 48th

GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS

Opened Aug. 27. They leaned backwards. Gabriel (Sun) announced: "This is pretty steady business." Anderson (Journal) said: "A minor and meager comedy." Winchell (Graphic) declared: "Large cast contributes little to feeble manuscript."

Variety (Lait) thought it "infinitely better written than 'The Front Page' but a guess would regrettably fail to reach beyond Thanksgiving Day."

Street Saturday. Laying off this week, it will resume Monday on the subway circuit. A plan to move it to another Broadway house was cancelled.

"High Steppers" Film Cast

Complete cast of "The High Steppers," Bob Kane's FBO talker, now holds Barbara Bennett, Morton Downey, Bobby Watson, Ian Hunter, Kendrey Ward and Waring's Pennsylvanians.

An 18-day production schedule went into the work Monday. It is expected it will be completed in 16 days with two directors to supervise the stage and screen values. Bert Glennon (pictures) and Bert Harrison (stage) are on the job. Story is by Gene Markey; special score being written.

99 Yrs. at \$54,000

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. It is reported Elmer Harris, playwright, author of "The Great Neckers," on Vine street, near Sunset avenue, for 99 years at an annual rental of \$54,000.

Harris bought the property about 10 years ago for \$27,500.

REDHARDT DUE ON COAST

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Max Redhardt is due in Hollywood within two weeks. He will start on his first American play for United Artists, and in which Lillian Gish is to be starred. Hugo Hofmannstahl is preparing the story, as yet untitled.



SALLY RAND

Miss Rand, formerly appearing in motion pictures for Cecil DeMille, is now playing vaudeville engagements. "Variety" said: "Sally Rand is a great bet for musical comedy, a very young girl, pretty both in face and figure, as well as a good singing voice and an excellent dancer."

Direction
RALPH G. FARNUM
1560 Broadway

"GAY PAREE" ARRESTS ORDERED IN SAN FRAN.

Warrants Out on Hot Posters as Players and Mgr. Face Indecency Trial

San Francisco, Dec. 18. Warrants have been sworn out before Police Judge Lazarus against "Gay Paree," Shubert revue, opening at the Curran Dec. 23. The defendants are Homer Curran, theatre owner; Newman-Howe, billposters, and Ned Alvord, advance man for the show. The charge made by the Women's Club is that advertising matter, particularly billboards, is offensive to public taste and morals.

Present advance agitation is an echo of the strong reaction to the show in Los Angeles.

Foster and Kleiser and Outdoor Advertising, the big billposting companies of San Francisco, refused to handle "Gay Paree" feeling that an unfavorable public reaction was inevitable.

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Shubert's "Gay Paree," which closed here Dec. 14, lays off for two weeks and reopens in San Francisco. During the layoff Charlotte Terry, Frank Gaby, Stanley Rogers and John McDowell, and Ed Kennedy, manager of the Baltimore, will appear before Municipal Judge Sheldon to stand trial on charges of participating in an obscene performance, with Kennedy charged with permitting one to be given. Meantime all of the cast are out on \$50 bail each.

San Francisco, Dec. 18. Two posting concerns, Foster & Kleiser and Outdoor Advertising (latter having only small boards) refused to post paper provided by Agent Ned Alvord of the Shubert's "Gay Paree" production, opening Dec. 23 at the Curran. They objected to the nudeness of the gals featured on the paper, and certain suggestiveness. This is second time Foster & Kleiser turned down "Gay Paree" paper, as last season the posters were rated as "pretty raw" for the east, is said to be here "rawer."

In view of statewide agitation against billboards and outdoor advertising generally, the posting concerns did not feel they wanted to wave a red flag in anybody's face.

FILMING "COCOANUTS" FEB. 1

Paramount has scheduled production of the Four Marx brothers, in "The Cocoanuts," for Feb. 1. Production on this talker will be at the Long Island plant.

New Trademark at Openings First trailers carrying the R-K-O trade mark are being used in place of the former K-A-O, will be used at the openings of Keith's new theatres in Rochester and Plushing, Christmas day.

B'way Managers' Restricting Actors On Doubling Into Films Resented

Smelling Salts

Jack Pasternack, who has a ticket agency on Broadway, near 46th street, possesses a keen sense of humor. Last Sunday a would-be customer asked if tickets for "The Singing Fool" were available. The broker answered in the affirmative and when patron asked how much he replied the tickets would cost \$3.50 each. "What?" asked the customer in a somewhat startled tone. Pasternack thereupon handed the man smelling salts.

BREHANY LOSES OUT

Capitol, Frisco, Cost Him Money and Much Trouble

San Francisco, Dec. 18. Jack Brehany's tenancy as lessee of the Capitol, legit, here, which started last June, has piled up on the rocks of disaster. Brehany, through no fault other than misplaced confidence, holding the sack for at least \$3,000, and with the debts probably amounting to more. Brehany, veteran showman and able executive, is the victim of circumstances and associates.

Mixed up in the affair, besides Brehany, were Arthur L. Armuth, with no previous theatrical experience, but brought in on the lease as the financial man; Ben Giroux, another veteran of the theatre, as house manager; Oliver Morosco, who horned in the theatre through a deal with Armuth, whereby he secured space for his dramatic school, without knowledge by Brehany, and a vast list of creditors who drew checks that were n. e.

Outcome is house, dark several weeks ago following brief engagement of "Kongo," has reverted to Abe Ruef, one-time political dictator of San Francisco, who is looking for a new lessee. Armuth has left town, ostensibly to raise funds with which to make up the deficiencies; Giroux is "at liberty"; Morosco has found other quarters for his school of acting, and Brehany is the "goat."

Miss Baremore Got \$5,000

Chicago, Dec. 18. Pearl Baremore, former "Follies" girl quite often in print, has received a \$5,000 settlement from the estate of the late George A. Thorne, Chicago millionaire.

After Thorne's death in May Miss Baremore sent his family a bill for \$5,000, claiming she had loaned it to him in Havana some time before.

Receiving the check from Thorne's family, Miss Baremore said she had been a pal of Thorne's and really had more coming to her, but was sick of seeing his name dragged through the mud. She's going back into show business.

Cantor's Next Play

"All the King's Men," by Fulton Oursler, based on his novel "All the King's Horses," presented by Lew Cantor. Opens at the Broad Street, Philadelphia, Jan. 21. Grant Mitchell to be starred and Mary Method featured.

ELDRIDGE-HORTON TALKER

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Edward Everett Horton is making a series of six pictures for Sidney Branick Productions to be released through Educational.

Florence Eldridge, playing opposite Horton in "Her Cardboard Lover" at the Vine Street, makes her picture debut as leading woman with him in one talking short for Christie.

GALLAGHER STICKS

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Donald Gallagher, stage director, writer and actor, brought here by Fox last summer, will continue with the organization.

Gallagher is to be given a new contract as a writer for MGM pictures.

Eastern sound picture production studios of the leading film makers are up in arms against the Broadway legit managers and their attitude against permitting their players to double in talkers.

People from musicals are particularly in demand for doublings into talkers, but managers have raised a ban. The talker execs are peeved, figuring it's a hold-up for a cash consideration for a release of desired performers.

The picture people are taking retaliatory measures and have begun spreading a gospel of selfishness on the part of the legit producers. It is pointed out to players that if the talkers are to be faced with the problem of buying off releases, it will leave little for the actor himself.

Nothing tangible can be derived from propaganda of this sort, admittedly, but the picture people feel it will have bearing on future contracts between musical comedy people and production managers and make them chary of agreeing to any restrictive clause against talker work. The propaganda is barbed further with economic proof that a \$500 a week stage performer may be worth twice or four times that much for a sound flicker.

The reason that musical comedy people are preferred is that sound films are going in against any specialties rather than straight lions. The dramatic people are not limited but the musical producer figures that a satellite in his show would give his best individual performance, with a specialty, in a talker, and react against his legit investment.

The talker execs are opposed to any buy-off of contract for legit people and are passing them up when conditions are too tough, in favor of nite club, lay-off and variety talent.

Mrs. Mantell on Road In Husband's Rep

Mrs. Genevieve Hamper Mantell, widow of Robert B. Mantell, is organizing a "Shakespearean rep troupe" for the road.

John Alexander will play opposite the producer-stunt, with the remainder of the company to be recruited after the holidays.

The Mantell name has always been a money getter on the road, the late tragedian being the only one to make Shakespearean rep pay anywhere for the past decade. In his last trip around Mr. Mantell broke house records in many spots at \$150 top.

Mrs. Mantell will set the same figure for her road tour.

Play Without Stop

"The House Unguarded," which Bernard Stelle is shaping up in the sticks before bringing it into New York, runs two and a half hours sans intermission.

The piece is the first legit on record attempting such a feat.

Arlliss in Film "Disraeli"

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. George Arlliss will be starred in Warner Bros' talking version of "Disraeli," scheduled for production shortly.

CUNNINGHAM ON TALKER

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. George Cunningham, local legit stage director, has been placed in order a term contract by M-G-M for talking picture direction. He has been assigned to assist Gus Edwards with "From Broadway to Heaven," talking color film.

Best Xmas Present Always Welcome

for \$10

Year's Subscription to Variety

Shows in N. Y. and Comment

Figures estimated and comment point to some attractions being successful, while the same gross accredited to others might suggest mediocrity or loss. The variance is explained in the difference in house capacities with the varying overhead. Also the size of cast, with consequent difference in necessary gross of profit. Variance in business necessary for musical attraction as against dramatic play is also considered.

Classification of attraction, house capacity and top prices of the admission scale are below. Key to classification: C (comedy); D (drama); r (revue); M (musical comedy); F (farce); O (operetta).

Admission tax applies on tickets over \$2.

"A Most Immoral Lady," Cort (4th week) (C-D-1,094-\$3.85). Broadway still further and broad-water mark of season anticipated this week, but seasonal clean-up period, Christmas to New Year's, near at hand. "Lady," well regarded, did nicely in approximating \$13,000 last week.

"Angela," Ambassador (2d week) (M-1,200-\$4.40). Moves to Broadway with extensive cut-rating; Ambassador gets "The Great Lady Deadlock" New Year's Eve.

"Animal Crackers," 44th St. (9th week) (M-2,225-\$6.60). Business approximately even with previous week, when trade was off for first time; around \$36,000; midnight performance tonight (Wednesday) instead of matinee.

"A Play Without a Name," Both (4th week) (D-708-\$3). Rated unusual attraction, but has not gotten into stride; \$50,000 last week; probably move to another house. "The Matrimonial Bed" due Jan. 7.

"Billie," Erlanger (12th week) (M-1,520-\$3.85). Cohan's musical sure to get share of holiday business and may stay through winter; under \$20,000 lately.

"Blackbirds," Eltinge (33d week) (R-392-\$3). For first time deflection here last week; Broadway show dropping to \$16,000; one of strongest of musicals.

"Congai," Sam H. Harris (4th week) (D-1,057-\$3.85). New drama that got off to splendid start; vital capacity with pace around \$20,000 mark.

"Courage," Ritz (11th week) (D-945-\$3.85). Affected like most of others, but has built up surely and should strike well into winter; parties helped last week to \$13,000.

"Diamond Lil," Royale (37th week) (CD-1,117-\$3). Holdover hit still making money, though trade slipped to \$8,500 last week; business after next week will determine run.

"Exceeding Sam," Garrick (8th week) (CD-1,233-\$3). Laying off this week; moves from Comedy Monday, around \$4,000; Ruth Draper goes into Comedy for holiday week.

"Front Page Times Sa," (19th week) (C-1,057-\$3.85). Several new attractions getting bigger grosses than season's first drama hit, but expected to come back at big money; last week \$17,000 estimated.

"Gentlemen of the Press," Closed at 48th Street; going to Broadway; this week; goes to subvac circuit, starting at Majestic, Brooklyn, next week.

"Good Boy," Hammerstein's (16th week) (M-1,149-\$4). Slipped under \$20,000 for first time when pre-holiday slump started; may move to another house, with "Polly" probably the successor.

"Good News Chanson," 46th St. (67th week) (M-1,412-\$5.50). Laying off this week, house redecorated; resumes Christmas night for first two weeks; about \$16,000 for long-run musical.

"High Road," Fulton (16th week) (C-914-\$3.85). Class English comedy; developed to \$15,000; expected to come back and go through season.

"Hello Yourself," Casino (8th week) (M-1,177-\$5.50). After moderate start this musical improved materially and now figured to stick; off last week; \$20,000 estimated.

"Hold Everything," Broadway (11th week) (M-1,477-\$5.50). Musical hit, so solidly established business good as ever; last week, bettering \$30,000.

"Holiday," Plymouth (4th week) (CD-1,012-\$3.85). One of new hits; went into lead second week, and only "Mina" figured to exceed it; led all dramas again last week, increasing pace to \$20,000.

"Jarnegan," Longacre (13th week) (CD-1,019-\$3.85). Making money from start; off somewhat lately, but good chance to last into spring; \$12,000 estimated.

"Jealousy," Maxine Elliott (9th week) (D-924-\$3). Two persons play; one of season's novelties affected, too; but has expected to last around \$30,000 lately.

"Little Accident," Morosco (11th week) (C-898-\$3). Substantial grosses indicative of good run; top last week \$24,000; around \$12,000; strong lower floor attendance.

"Mima," Belasco (2nd week) (D-1,000-\$5.50). David Belasco lauded for remarkably good production, with play secondary; capacity first five performances (opened Dec. 12), and at scale can do over \$25,000, which would top dramas.

"Night Hostess," Vanderbilt (14th week) (CD-771-\$3). Laying off this week; resumes for holiday week, then turns; house will later get "Lady Fingers," now in rehearsal.

"On Call," Waldorf (7th week) (CD-1,101-\$3). Got over \$4,000, and management estimated having dropped under \$40,000 last week.

"Show Boat," Ziegfeld (52nd week) (M-1,150-\$6.60). Completes year's run and still so strong it should easily span this season; not far from \$40,000.

"Skidding," Bays (31st week) (C-861-\$3). Making long run for low gross at \$2,000 to \$3,000 a week, but pace said to provide some profit; principally cut rates.

"Strange Interlude," John Golden (47th week) (M-1,600-\$4.40). Casted off with little last week, bettering \$15,000; road cast headed by Pauline Lord appearing this week; other company with Judith Anderson, but resume next Monday.

"The Age of Innocence," Empire (4th week) (C-1,039-\$4.40). Not worrying about this one, rated among new successes; last week estimated at \$17,500.

"The Grey Fox," Playhouse (9th week) (CD-1,176-\$3). About getting into stride; recently averaged \$8,000, with less indicated last week.

"The Jealous Moon," Majestic (5th week) (C-1,176-\$3). Doubtful of making run here; excellent on road before coming in and should repeat that; probably will tour soon after Jan. 1; about \$10,000 last week.

"The Lady of the Orchids," Henry Miller's (2nd week) (C-946-\$3.85). Opened Dec. 13; critics and first nighters over the top; going off with Peggy Joyce; indications light.

"The New M. O.," Imperial (14th week) (D-1,105-\$5.50). Operetta leader, has been getting big money; off last week; dipping to \$34,000.

"The Sign of the Leopard," National (2d week) (D-1,142-\$3). English mystery piece drew unfavorable reviews; first week \$7,000, estimated; in cut rates.

"The Squealer," Peaches (8th week) (D-1,145-\$3). "Peaches" Browning as star of show didn't mean thing; business about same; may be less last week; \$6,000 approximated.

"This Thing Called Love," Bijou (14th week) (C-605-\$3.85). Under \$30,000, but business off no more than others; doing well and should last through winter.

"This Year of Grace," Selwyn (7th week) (R-1,167-\$6.60). Pelt pre-holiday slump for first time last week; taking material drop; approximating \$38,000.

"Tonight at Twelve," Hudson (6th week) (C-1,148-\$3). Report of show well; though not big money show, ought to make grade; off lately; under \$9,000 last week.

"Treasure Girl," Alvin (7th week) (M-1,100-\$6.60). Management not hopeful of this one lasting and new show has started rehearsals; "Girl" off again; maybe \$22,000 last week, 50 per cent. under capacity.

"Three Cheers," Globe (10th week) (M-1,416-\$5.50). Protected by holiday sale and agency, but, held to nearly normal; estimated bettering \$40,000 again.

"Tin Pan Alley," Republic (8th week) (CD-1,153-\$3). Report of last week in error; management claims indefinite continuation; takings light.

"Variety," Earl Carroll (19th week) (R-968-\$7.70). Laying off this week; will resume next week; business off, with estimated pace under \$12,000.

"White Lies," Johnson's (14th week) (O-1,176-\$5.50). Laying off this week; resumes Monday; claimed to be turning profit with parties and cut-rate range of gross, \$18,000 to \$20,000.

"Wings Over Europe," Martin Beck (2d week) (D-1,181-\$3). Started last week well, though difference of opinion over chances; first week rated at \$16,500; most of that is Theatre Guild subscription.

"Whoopee," New Amsterdam (3d week) (M-1,102-\$6.60). Broadway's new leader, musical also

Shows in Rehearsal

"Vermont," (George M. Cohan).

"A Lady of Newgate" (Jed Harris).

"Seat Drivers" (Roy Walling).

"Merry Andrew" (Lewis Beach).

"Lady Leadlock" (Leventhal & Phillips).

"Cheer Up" (Felix Productions, Inc.).

"Seresa Blandish" (Jed Harris).

"The Marriage Bed" (Sam H. Harris).

"That Ferguson Family" (Gustav Blum).

"Belcher's Wife" (Whitbar Productions, Inc.).

"Dark Alley" (McBride Productions, Inc.).

"Sakura" (Walker White-side).

"Lady Fingers" (Lyle Anderson).

"Yankee Doodle" (Fortune Gallo).

"Night in Venice" (Shuberts).

"Fioretta" (Earl Carroll).

"Gyrops" (Richard Hornsby).

"Fidelity" (Charles Coburn).

"He Walked in Her Sleep" (Lawrence Rivers).

"One Way Street" (George Leffler).

"S. S. Glencain" (Province-towners).

"Color," Blind" (Benjamin Whitbar).

"Anderson's Almanac" (J. M. Anderson).

Special Attractions—Little Theatres

"Ma e b e t t," Knickerbocker (5th week) (M-1,121-\$3). Extended until Jan. 2.

"The Perfect Alibi," Hopkins (4th week); hit in a little theatre; capacity.

"Major Barbara," Guild (5th week); revival; probably move after next week.

"The Wild Duck," 49th Street (5th week); revival.

"Singing Fairbirds," Provincetown town.

Civic Repertory, 14th Street; Eva Gallente's company.

"Sun-Up," Provincetown town; also marionettes, off-afternoons.

Philly Trade Spots; 5 Openings Xmas

Philadelphia, Dec. 18. Business in the legit houses spotty here since Thanksgiving.

On Christmas night will be five openings—Mrs. Fiske in "Much Ado About Nothing" at Broad; "The Marriage Bed," at Adelphi; "One Mile Up," at Lyric; "Boom Boom," Shubert musical, at Forrest, and "Greenwich Village Follies," at Chestnut.

Estimates for Last Week

"Dracula," Broad, 6th week—Final week off to \$16,000.

Lucy Lee (Shubert, 4th week) Musical has fine break because of scarcity of opposition; \$23,500.

"Valpurg" (Garrick, 1st week)—Fourth and final of Theatre Guild.

"Marco Millions" big draw. About \$42,000 in two weeks.

"Hello Daddy" (Chestnut 3d week)—New Fields musical comedy well liked. Gained steadily after poor opening. \$17,000.

"Mary Dugan" (Keith's, 9th week)—Long-run record holder of season so far. Dropped but sharply of late with about \$12,000 last week. Will remain through holidays.

Opera Dies in Prov.

Providence, Dec. 18. The much touted two weeks of opera at the Opera house, sponsored by local elite, played many a night to a mere handful of auditors. Critics and music lovers deplored the condition but tie-ups with students and organizations couldn't put it over. Company fair and those who attending satisfied.

Modern stock is not clogging any too well of late. It is felt the newspaper boys have been too lukewarm in their reviews. Both the News and Journal, this week, however, were appreciative. Stock, excepting the summer, is a tough proposition in this town which is nuts over the movies.

"Rio Rita" in 10th Loop Wk., \$38,000;

'Way Ahead in Bad Business Period

L. A. Grosses

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. In third and final week at Biltmore "Gay Parade" could not better \$16,000. Salacious material was deleted following police trouble, and business fell off.

"The Royal Family" completed a seven-week run at Belasco with \$13,000 reported. El Capitan, also playing a final week, grossed \$5,000 with "Shannons" of Broadway, which stuck 12 weeks.

"Rose-Marie" completed a fortnight engagement at the Mason with \$18,500, better than "Gay Parade" with its front page dirt publicity.

Mostly final weeks around town with a whole new crop of attractions due for the holiday period. "Silver Cord" exited after four weeks at Figueroa Playhouse with \$7,000. President's final week with "Nightclub" grossed \$3,400, pretty low for this \$1.25 stand.

Vine Street did \$3,000 with "Her Cardboard Lover" in third week and Hollywood Playhouse hovered around \$4,700 in fourth week of "Lady Next Door."

Future Plays

"Yankee Doodle," produced by Fortunato Gallo, written by Shafter-Howard, numbers by Don Barclay. Cast includes James Carson, Basil Bissdale, William Seabury, Bertha Donn.

"The Final Fling," recently hauled in for revision, is being groomed for a fresh try by Rosalie Stewart. It has been recaptioned "Precious" and went into rehearsal this week. Opens in Philadelphia three weeks hence.

"Joneey," by John Peter Toohy, and Anne Morrison, based on the former's series of short stories, slated for production Feb. 1 by Earle Booth. Only cast selection so far, Joseph Hull.

"Sorrel and Son," dramatization of United Artists screen feature of same title, will reach production next month via Joseph E. Shea. Thompson Buchanan authored the stage adaptation. Now casting.

"Merry Andrew" has gone into rehearsal with Lewis Beach figuring author-producer. Cast includes Walter Connolly, Nedra Harrigan, Don Dilow, Ellen Dorr, Grant Mills and Beulah Bondi.

"The Marriage Bed," Sam H. Harchis' next, opens at the Adelphi, Philadelphia, Dec. 25. Cast includes Ann Davis, Allan Dinehart, Mildred McCoy, Edith Van Cleve, Walter Gilbert, Robert Montgomery, Elizabeth Patterson.

Renting the Lyric, Philadelphia, for a week, Jimmie Cooper is rehearsing his new show, "One Mile Up," there prior to its premiere at that house Christmas Day. New Cooper show is a meller with the Zeppelin as a background. It's by three writers, McElbert Moore, Earle Crooker and Lowell Brentano. Cast includes Priscilla Knowles, Robert Erister, John Gruenwald, Fred Hesse, Edward Powell, Julian Noe, C. W. Van Voorhis, Joan Marlon, Raymond Walburn, Paul Guilloyle, Edward Woods, Jean Mave, Charles Abbee, Willis Clark, Julian Noe, John M. James and Gordon Hawthorne.

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AHEAD AND BACK

Burton Davis, assistant to Walter Kingsley, succeeded Sears Taylor, Clarence of Burns Mantle, and not Clarence Taylor as reported. Latter still is with Brook Pemberton as gen. press rep.

Oliver Saylor, conducting a general press agency, is handling "Macbeth," the Coburns, Yiddish Art Theatre, and "The Great Lady Deadlock."

Kellard, Duffy Lead.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 18. Ralph Kellard is with the local Duffy stock at the Dufwin as leading man.

Chicago, Dec. 18. Flue and holidays took healthy kick at legit biz all over town last week. After a wild and unusual spurt week previous, expected slump at this time of the year came back, and grosses nose-dived.

Four attractions went on Saturday, three for good. "My Maryland" is laying off this week to resume again next.

"Five O'Clock Girl" dropped \$7,000 below average to bow out in its final week.

At the Majestic "Nobody's Girl" flitted around up four weeks dead in the red. "Grand Street Follies" couldn't hold on at the Garrick. "Rio Rita" still a Ziegfeld stronghold.

"Front Page," despite hurrah getaway, went off a couple of grand, with specs stuck more than once. "Golden Dawn," with a high score, was another one nickered hard while sliding around \$8,000 backward.

Estimates for Last Week

"Grand Street Follies" (Garrick; 3rd—final)—"Go out for mob. Out," to around \$10,000.

"Five O'Clock Girl" (Woods; 8th—last)—Tried to tide over holidays, but forced to exit with change of plans. "Way off" at \$7,000.

"Paris Bound" (Harris, 4th week)—Pacing moderately; \$11,500.

"Front Page" (Erlanger, 3d week)—With mid-week mats eliminated and no advance sale, better than \$22,000.

"Shannons" of Broadway (Cort, 6th week)—Under way and holding own; \$9,000.

"Golden Dawn" (Grand, 4th week)—Dropped to \$16,800. Figures to get back in money after holidays.

"Mary Dugan" (Adelphi, 17th week)—Consisting, this one sitting pretty at \$16,000.

"Nobody's Girl" (Majestic, 4th—final)—Rated as one of those things. Folded to \$7,000.

"My Maryland" (Great Northern, 15th week)—Production Feb. 1 by Earle Booth. Only cast selection so far, Joseph Hull.

"Blossom Time" (Studebaker, 4th week)—Music lovers counted on for holiday; \$15,000.

"Porgy" (Blackstone, 7th week; 12th for the season off)—Winding up. Few thousand under previous week at \$17,000.

"Abraham's Bosom" (Playhouse, 4th week)—Highbrows going for this one. Profoundly "Winding up."

"Rites of Illinois, 10th week"—Weathering slump. Looks like it will linger for long time. Outdistanced others and plenty big; \$33,000.

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San Francisco, Dec. 18.

Pre-holiday slump with plenty of illness at the season off. Windy and including heavy rains. Only two attractions showed strength, George Arliss in second and final week at the Grand, and Leo Carlo in "Lombardi, Ltd." at Alcazar.

Though booked to stay at the Curran until Dec. 20, exceptionally poor business caused Louis O. Macdonald's "Desert Song" to close on Dec. 15th and take to the road. Final week's receipts amounted to practically nothing.

Henry Duffly is replacing "Mother's Milk" at the Grand (off Dec. 25, after six weeks, with "This Thing Called Love." Tom Moore and Kay Hammond head.

Estimates for Last Week

George Arliss at Venice. Another healthy week for George Arliss. \$23,000. Followed by two weeks of Stratford Upon Avon Plays.

Curran—"Desert Song." Final week total flop. House reopening 23rd with "Gay Parade."

Alcazar—"Lombardi, Ltd." Clicking on; 3d week \$5,300, nice profit.

President's closing week. \$18,000. Started slipping. Fifth week off to about \$4,900. One to go.

Green Street—"Easy for Zee Zee." About \$1,800. Good until after holidays.

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Three Houses Only Open in Boston This Week

Boston, Dec. 18. As expected business fell off sharply last week. Shuberts shut all of their five houses this week. Theatre Guild was the only outfit to try and open a new attraction here this week. "Caprice," at the Hollis. Ethel Barrymore returned to the Wilbur with "The Kingdom of God" after a week's absence because of sickness. Receipts \$19,000.

Estimates for Last Week

"Caprice" (Hollis, 1st week). New show by Theatre Guild. Opened on Dec. 18. Final week "The Guardsman" \$17,000.

"Houseboat on Sky" (Colonial, 2d week). \$15,000 first week.

"Blackbirds" (Tremont, 7th week). While feiling slump did \$25,000.

Plays on Broadway

MIMA

David Belasco presents Lenore Ulric in a play adapted by himself from "The Devil and the Dance" by Eugene O'Neill...

HUMAN BEINGS

Schoolmaster... Madeline King... Ruth Dayton... The Post... William Boggs... Fluney Blackmar...

MANKINS

Lenore Ulric... David L. Agee... Arthur Stuart Hill... The Maid... Jane Ferrell...

BACCARAT SCENE

Armand Cortes... Logan Paul... George Ryan... Charles Heide... Florence Golden...

CABARET SCENE

Woolsey Woodley... All Irma Woodley... Gypsy Phillet... Eva Misko...

SATAN AND HIS COURT

Reginald Carrington... Lennox Pawle... Charles H. Martin... George S. ... Kraft Wolf...

parts crash down and off. The whole mousetrap crumbles into a heap of tangled junk. It seems impossible that it can ever be put together again...

On the opening night, from an assemblage as sophisticated and classy as ever gathered under one roof, there came a crash of manual artillery, salvos and bravos. The master had unveiled his masterpiece.

By that time the audience had been surfeited with marvels that it seemed no one blast could overbalance the machine-gun succession of surprises in costume, action, effect...

An entire score has been written for this opus majus. Edwin Ludvig is the composer. He has created what might be called a new style...

Lenore Ulric, one of our younger stars but one of the world's most effective screen actresses, wears original music. A hymnal, sung off-stage in the melodious soprano of Kitty Gray...

Sidney Blackmer showed the Belasco alchemy and influence, for he played by far the most difficult character in the play, the unrecognizable personality and skill of a man.

"Mima" is a tragedy, in that the girl into whom life has been blown, at the end saves her synthetic soul from the great-walker, deceiver, thief, murderer, liar, true agent of the Satan she serves.

Meanwhile, the girl has gone through myriad emotions as a vampire, a lover, street-walker, deceiver, thief, murderer, liar, true agent of the Satan she serves.

Had he chosen a stronger book, "Mima" would have been played from far places for years and been Mecca for a nation. The inherent appeal of allegories is not an American thing.

Its existence depends on Belasco, therefore—the Belasco who blew into this making-on-paper, the same life that its devils breathed into its Mima.

At \$5 top, the Belasco theatre can gross \$25,000 weekly. It is hard to understand how it can be profitable to theatre and play, in view of the \$300,000-and-more investment...

"Mima" is a monument to its maker cannot be doubted. The world will acclaim it and the future will see it travel to most districts of the stage.

WINGS OVER EUROPE

Theatre Guild production of three-act drama by Robert Nichols and Maurice Browne. Directed by Joseph Gilgus. Settings designed by Raymond Sovey.

"Wings Over Europe" drew mixed opinions at the Beck, but the newest Theatre Guild production has a fine and often magnificent piece of writing and all in a significant and inspiring example of staging.

"Wings Over Europe" not only has not an iota of love interest, but has not even a single woman in the play. It does not even touch on the subject of a woman or womankind.

Whole play unfolds in the same scene, the British prime minister's council room at 10 Downing street, London. Sixteen members of the British cabinet gather to discuss the discoveries of a young scientist, disciple of Einstein...

The cabinet (which is to say civilized society) has been in a stupor since the revelation according to its varied individual makeup. The stupid scoff, the self-centered protest, the "Little England"...

On this the scene. The cabinet almost to a man decides the possessor of such an instrument cannot be allowed to live, and when he appears before them again, tell him he has tied the bomb to his chest and prepared to wreck London at a certain hour...

Two men face their doom gracefully. One is the Diplomat, David Ingersoll, and the other the world-weary Prime Minister. Observe here the point that true courage is the attribute of the man who has a purpose.

"Whoopee" at \$50,000 in Dull Week Now Biggest Thing on B'way

Broadway is taking it on the chin this week. It's not the same as last week—it is worse, and there's nothing to do about it.

Managers are waiting for the holiday clean-up, between Christmas and New Year's. But the skeptical ones are worried about what may happen to trade thereafter.

There are some exceptions. In the matter of business and there is a group of new attractions surely in the dig money.

"Wings Over Europe" another Ziegfeld musical, is away out in front of the field. For its first full week, close to \$50,000.

"Wings Over Europe" drew mixed opinions at the Beck, but the newest Theatre Guild production has a fine and often magnificent piece of writing and all in a significant and inspiring example of staging.

"Holiday" which established itself as a new comedy favorite, again topped its division last week, in fact, jumping and getting \$22,000.

"Whoopee" at \$50,000 in Dull Week. "Whoopee" (National), "Whoopee" (New Amsterdam), "The Grey Fox" (Broadway), "The Last Warning" (Universal), "The Last Warning" (Universal)...

Closest to "Whoopee" last week was "Three Cheers" about \$40,000. "This Year of Grace" \$38,000, and "Show Boat" about the same.

"Whoopee" last week was \$50,000 in Dull Week. "Whoopee" (National), "Whoopee" (New Amsterdam), "The Grey Fox" (Broadway), "The Last Warning" (Universal)...

Agency Buys

With nearly half of Broadway dark this week, the percentage of buys in the premium office shows has been cut in two.

That makes a list of 14 new attractions, but cuts out \$24,000. "Whoopee" (National), "Whoopee" (New Amsterdam), "The Grey Fox" (Broadway), "The Last Warning" (Universal)...

"Whoopee" (National), "Whoopee" (New Amsterdam), "The Grey Fox" (Broadway), "The Last Warning" (Universal), "The Last Warning" (Universal)...

"Whoopee" (National), "Whoopee" (New Amsterdam), "The Grey Fox" (Broadway), "The Last Warning" (Universal), "The Last Warning" (Universal)...

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"Whoopee" (National), "Whoopee" (New Amsterdam), "The Grey Fox" (Broadway), "The Last Warning" (Universal), "The Last Warning" (Universal)...

"Whoopee" (National), "Whoopee" (New Amsterdam), "The Grey Fox" (Broadway), "The Last Warning" (Universal), "The Last Warning" (Universal)...

Inside Stuff—Legit

David Belasco's \$5.50 top for "Mima," which bowed in at the Belasco, New York, last week, establishes a new high for non-musicals.

"The Last Warning" to be presented as a talker by Universal was originally bought on the basis of a silent picture, \$15,000 being paid.

The death of Walter S. Duggan in Chicago Monday of pneumonia came as a distinct shock to show circles in New York. From his boyhood Walter was known as a hustler, and his pep and personality earned him quite a reputation as an advance agent.

Mr. Duggan was always giving his birthplace, Worcester, Mass., the best \$50,000 buyover which his fans may have had in three towns and where Walter was one of the popular boys of the town, his remains were taken for interment.

Plays on Broadway

(Continued from page 45)

packed with a force and rich in high drama. In the end, they shoot the scientist, taking the long chance that the control of his destruction is concealed somewhere about him. His last motion reveals the secret. The control is concealed in the watch and his dead fingers just fail to touch it off.

Sixteen of the best minds in England breath a sigh of relief, only to learn that control of the same principle that may rule or destroy the world has just been discovered in Geneva and six dirigibles are in the very moment hovering over London to enforce the demand that England forthwith present herself before the World Council to discuss the new force. Whereupon the diplomat (once more impersonal intellect is the hero) seizes the young scientist's watch and leaves for the nearest airplane to reach the Geneva Council—he holds the destruction of the world in his hand and what are they going to do about it?

Play is fearfully talky. Indeed, except for that super-metadramatic final curtain, no visible action. Sixteen men gathered in a room, without a gesture, grapple with something unseen. Believe it or not, there is more drama developed in some of the passages than any movie combat ever filmed. The two roles that stand out are the Prime Minister, played with engaging vivacity by Frank Conroy, and the Diplomat, played with a good deal of eloquence by Frank Conroy. Hugh Buckler looked and acted the soldier to the hilt. Grant had one had one who of a bit as the first Lord of the Admiralty. John Dunn did a speaking likeness of the old hunting dog in the school, and Charles Cardon had three minutes for a capital caricature of a cockney. Alexander Kirkland was rather too much of a poet to be convincing as the super-scientist.

Play probably would make better reading than playing. It fits before they have sunk in. If nothing else the Guild production auspiciously introduces these two new authors. Eugene O'Neill is a much less promising start both in writing and in prospect of public esteem.

Lady of the Orchids
E. Ray Goetz production, starring Peggy Hopkins Joyce in "Play of Parisian Life" (in three acts, two sets), by Goetz and the French dramatist, Natanson. Staged by William H. Gilmore. Opened Dec. 15 at Henry Miller's, New York, 53-85 top.

Not to be outdone by Mac West, Peaches Browning and Texas Gulnan as Broadway theatrical exhibits, Peggy Hopkins Joyce, as fragile and dainty a personality as any lady of the stage, in this play, acquires herself creditably. Superior to her play, which Ray Goetz, producer-playwright, adapted from the French of Natanson. Miss Joyce does well historically, but is too handicapped, dramatically, to warrant an extended sojourn on Broadway.

Then, too, the audience, overly conscious of Broadway's wonder girl of the decade, becomes irritatingly literal in its reaction to some of the lines. All of which is corrected by design or accident so far as the phraseology of these lines is concerned, intermittently punctures the much sought-for truth with the entrepreneur aims too strenuously with his "play of Parisian life," even unto the extent of a program note cautioning against certain calls until the conclusion of the third act.

room, or perhaps more properly, a lay of a light lady?
Goetz and Miss Joyce fully appreciate the exhibitionistic qualities of their enterprise. For this reason Peggy Hopkins Joyce is mounted and set off as a clothes horse and a jeweler's human display.
Charming, poised, not strikingly beautiful, but personally Miss Joyce, in his first dramatic venture, does surprisingly well with her role. One could be captious about her adonoid English brogue, but since British dialect has a certain appealing euphony for Americans, this should not prove any handicap.
As a play, on its merits, "The Lady of the Orchids" is negative and can last on Broadway only as long as the curious are interested in the Jeweled quality or bead. Somehow Broadway, especially at \$3.85, does not go for long for this type of exhibitionism. A bet.

Sign of the Leopard
English mystery play by Edgar Wallace. Presented at the National Dec. 10 by Lee Shubert, producer. Staged by Campbell Sullivan, featured in it.

In London they called this mystery or detective drama "The Squeaker," meaning double-crosser who informs the police. As there is a mellow called "The Squeaker" current on Broadway, it is not surprising enough in meaning), the title for the first of Edgar Wallace's plays to be shown here was changed to "Sign of the Leopard," supposed to be a rather notorious right reser and a scene in the play.

London successes have a habit of flopping over here. "Sign of the Leopard" is no exception, but it seems the pace of the first performance was off, rehearsals which lasted until six that morning. The play was taken down by the "Sign of the Leopard" when viewed at a subsequent performance, hardly proved thrilling. Rather mildly diverting.

Wallace is a prolific playwright. He had no illusions about his play, although rated a better production than the original. "Sign of the Leopard" but lightly added that if it did not he would not scold American audiences or critics.

"Sign of the Leopard" is a flashback story. It starts in the editorial rooms of the Post Courier. Colie, the sheet's star reporter but fellow who takes his time about things, is late, and it is but an hour before press time. He starts dictating the solving of a murder and the expose of ring that has been long in the making. Lights out, scene changing to the office of one Sutton.

There is a Captain Leslie recently engaged as aide to Sutton. Leslie has a police record, admits it, and Sutton knows it. Middle-aged man, Benton in the picture. His ward, Beryl, is wed Sutton.
Fenton has done a stretch in South Africa for a bank trick, but does not know Sutton is the squeaker who has taken him in. Fenton is full to hide his crooked deals. Fenton and the captain almost go to the mat when it develops that Leslie is the man who really loves Colie. The characters reveal: "You don't look like a reporter," he answering; "Nobody ever looks like a reporter." Colie's Colie is somewhat the caricature of a reporter in an audience. Cast has several familiar names, including Thurston Hall as Fenton and Flora Sheffield, English actress, over her name. This is the first play of Beryl, Ralph J. Locke as a cockney owner of the Leopard club.

excellent. His muddle-headed son is well done by Geoffrey Harwood. Warren (and goe himself well like a Captain Leslie.
There is a glossary of slang employed among English thieves, terms and phrases identified over here. "Sign of the Leopard" was slow in getting started. It impressed as aimed for cut-rate but rather than a limited stay.

GALATIAN WEDDING

Operetta in four acts presented by Nathan Soluman and Louis Lubberg. Written by Irtman Wohl and William Siegel. Lyrics by Boris Rosenfeld. Directed by Ludwig Satz. Dances directed by It. Davin. "Starring Ludwig Satz. At Public, New York, Dec. 8, 1928.

This production suffers from too much Ludwig Satz. Slightly as a director has directed an operetta, not likely to draw for any great length of time. This East Side star, with but a limited personal following, shows less knowledge of stage direction than any other producer in the Yiddish theatre field, and the knowledge of this technique is extremely limited with the others. His use of gags, in English, long out-dated, which are rendered more unappealing through use in a Yiddish production. The crude method of pointing out through mispronunciation of words, the rapid change in characters without sufficient reason, and the quite serious error of miscasting one of the principals are among the more conspicuous defects.

Zina Goldstein, orthophonic prima donna, at times approaches much like burlesque imitations of opera singers often in vaudeville. Possessed of a fine voice, Miss Goldstein has not yet learned to use it without a deep nasal twang which is particularly offensive. A more suitable lead opposite Satz would have been Fannie Lubritzky, whose pipes, though not quite as powerful as Miss Goldstein's, display a natural and more pleasing quality.

This musical has its moments of mirth-provoking and interesting at times, but not sufficiently so to overcome the major defects in production, if its box office potentialities are to be correctly gauged. Among the few worth contributed is a bit by Leon Gold as the unwanted suitor of the fair Rachel. His ardent wooing breaking violently into a wailing song for her, registers for returns. Another is Nadya Dranova, as this boy's mother, affecting a cumbrous, waddling gait, accompanied by a wiggling, which the customers found highly intriguing.

In action there seems to be a faithful, probably an exaggerated, portrayal of a class of Jews of the unchangeable, ultra-orthodox kind which may still be found in the strife-stricken part of Austria known as Galicia.
Story concerns the son of a water carrier, religious student, whose affections for the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in the community brings him practical banishment from the town. The father agrees that if the boy returns with papers giving him permission to take up practise as a rabbi he will agree to the marriage.

While the boy is gone Rachel's father gets into financial difficulties and is obliged to trade his daughter to Gabalika's son, the unwanted chump lover, in return for notes and loans. The student returns the day of the wedding a rabbi, and in token of the double-cross. At the last minute, in the presence of the gathering, he marries himself to the girl through his newly acquired right to perform marriages. Mort.

2 YIDDISH MUSICALS

Two new Yiddish musicals are scheduled to open on the East Side within the next few days. One is "The Yankee, Litwak," starring Aaron Lebedev, goes into the National Dec. 21, while Molly Picon opens in "Hello Molly" at the Second Avenue.

WELL, WELL, WELL

New Haven, Dec. 12.

Shuberts present a new musical comedy in two acts and six scenes; book by Montagu Lofts Scott, Goodman and Harlow Aldridge; music by Muriel Pollock and Arthur Schwartz; lyrics by Max and Daniel Lipton; book staged by Lew Morton; dances arranged by Dave Gould; Jack Donaghy, Fred Astaire, and Jack Harkness arranged by Johnny Boye; settings by Watson Barratt; orchestra directed by Harold Mann. At Shubert, New Haven, Dec. 10, 11, 12.

Shuberts are giving Jack Pearl his first star part in musical comedy with "Well, Well, Well," a laugh comedy. Only mistake was to put in another comedian, who steals the biggest giggles.
Opening night show ran until 12:25 with an entire scene cut in second act and few encores. With a couple of weeks on the road it can be pruned and revised into a pretty solid hoke musical.

Pearl steers the big type, but Fred Hillebrand swipes the big laughs. Pearl has to work hard for his comedy, but Hillebrand sets 'em in the aisles with a murmur. But Pearl has there just the same. He has brought a great deal of his stuff from vaude.
Show has four comics—Pearl, Hillebrand, Fred Lightner, and Leo Kohmar.

Altogether they furnish plenty and the gallery laughs loudest and longest. The funny crowd go home in this one, though. Noel Francis is the leading lady, and while okay on looks and deportment, is shy on voicelizing. Ann Orr flops with her numbers, while Edith Griffith shows up the best.
Several tunes are catchy, chiefly "I'll Always Remember" and "Well, Get Along" and "I Love You and I Like You." Frank Veloz and Yolanda as dancers are a class pair who will wow any ballroom.

First act has one scene and nine musical numbers, and the second act 5 scenes and 18 numbers. It's the second half that needs fixing, as most of the gags are in the early part of the show.

Story concerns two cloak and suitors who go on the rocks and try the roadhouse racket. Floor show gives Harold Stern and his a chance to move from the pit to the stage.

Sets by Watson Barratt are something to look at and same goes for the chorus. Roberts.

LOVELY LADY

St. Louis, Dec. 15.

Musical comedy, starring Mitzi, based on the French play, "Dejeuner de Soleil," by Andre Barbaud; book by Gladys Unger and Cyrus Nowak; lyrics by Cyrus Nowak; cast: Jack Sheehan, Doris Patston, Jack Squires, Fred Astaire and Rasche Ballet. At Rialto, St. Louis.

Lavishly produced musical comedy from a scenic standpoint—that about lets out this most recent Mitzi show. The clever little star tries her best to pull the thing out of the rut, but her valiant efforts are all in vain. Entertaining dancing by Hazel Harris and Wesley Pierce gives this high light on three different occasions.
Few shows have stood up long

Plays Out of Town

under such pinnings as "Lovely Lady" got here, and the lamentable heard for years again goes up. "Why doesn't somebody write a show for Mitzi?"
Jack Squires, capable male lead, and Doris Patston, whose voice is as easy to listen to as her spallness and beauty are to look upon, deserved a much better break.
Music isn't anything to rave about and the story is about the silliest in a couple of hundred years. It limps around long enough to get in a bedroom comedy scene, with Mitzi and Squires, supposedly bride and groom, but quite the opposite, trying to fool somebody to get a big potful of money, or something like that, tucked under the same covers to make it appear they are happily wed.
Oh, yes, it's the maid they're trying to fool. But who cares? "Lovely Lady" is far from a click.
It's the show from Broadway with Edna Leedom in it there. Pulled out of storehouse for Mitzi.
Bashaw.

HELLO DADDY

Philadelphia, Dec. 18.

Law Fields presents a new musical comedy, with book by Herbert Fields, lyrics by Dorothy Fields, music by Jimmy McHugh. Staged by Alexander Leitch. Musical numbers staged by Busby Berkeley. Costumes designed by Charles Moore. Settings designed by Herman Rosse. All in production under the supervision of John Murray Anderson.

In "Hello Daddy," now playing a two weeks' tryout at the Chestnut Street opera house, Law Fields has a show with all the earmarks of a hit, probably not a smash, but a musical comedy that will win a mention because of its unusually tuneful score and its exceptionally clever and agile dancing.
Based on Fields' straight comedy, "The High Cost of Living" this fast moving musical has a book that is more or less conventional, but which has a profusion of laughs and is never dull or uninteresting.

It is the story of three respectably married men who, back in their wild oats days had affairs with a famous dancer. She has subsequently blackmailed each by stating that she has had a son by him, called Noel, because he was born on Christmas. All of which may sound a bit archaic, but it is good hoke and wins the laughs.
This story has been nicely staged with an eye to real beauty and to good taste and artistry. John Murray Anderson's hand is easily discernible in the more colorful aspects of the piece, although because of its more intimate and simple nature he has had an opportunity for only one of his famous effects—a fan dance in the last scene of the first act. Although probably out of place, atones for this by its eye appeal. The costumes are unusually attractive, and a couple of the settings are exceptionally effective.
Busby Berkeley, who is rapidly coming to the fore as one of the best

(Continued on page 54)

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Night Club Reviews

PARODY CLUB

(With Joe Lewis)

New York, Dec. 15. A mid-week opening for the season's start of the Jack Hodges Parody Club brought an outpouring for Joe Lewis, especially imported for a year's absence from professional work, by Hodges upon Tex Guinan's recommendation. Subsequently in the billing is Pearl Eaton, one of the Eaton sisters.

The Parody went right through with it on the floor show thing, letting Nils Granlund put on one of his typical floor shows holding a few principals and about 12 chorus girls. So, all in all, it's imposing. Show interest centers in Lewis, a floor entertainer who had Chicago in his vest pocket for years, but comes to Broadway practically unknown outside of the business. Joe realizes all of this and also that he has stepped into the cellar nite club with the holidays approaching. Biz has started to drop along the line. Joe rightfully believes meanwhile he will be able to get a better line on the oddly constructed room, likewise the New York and out-of-town element he is now up against. Meanwhile Joe is doing excellently. He has one number that's sure fire, a kid on "Sonny Boy" in the Jolson style, and it's over before the third line, through Joe's way with it. The house appears to think pretty well of the layout. It's strictly no-nell and a \$2 covert, with a tilt on the week end.

Rather surprising that an Eaton girl would split the billing in a club, but Pearl may be filling in before going with a show. She leads the girls a couple of times, but her single solo dance is a push over for her. Like all of the Eatons, Pearl always looks great, and that on a floor, in her dancing, she will capture enough at any time or place.

Among the other principals, that crack dancing adagio team, Don and Jerri, and always there. No better dancer than Jerri anywhere, and if there is a prettier adagio dancing girl than Jerri she should hustle right into New York for New York holds none.

Honey Sisters sing, and there is Martie Martello, besides Bunny Hill, Kitty Donegan and the chorus girls, with Art Landry's orchestra behind them all.

Hodge is in for a fair enough overhead, with Lewis on a flat salary.

The interest is all around Joe. His announcements are neatly done. Tonight (Saturday), with an all-day audience except Tex on the all-aside, Joe got through very nice.

BANJO ACES

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TELEGRAM

New York, Dec. 5, 1928. Last Sunday night the executives of the station were very much pleased with the cat a pedal over the air. Sounded like a vibraphone. I did six numbers. Playing tonight on Station WOR between eight and eight-thirty. Letter follows.
ROY SBECK.

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ly, even if no one in the house other than the pros had ever heard of him. That's some tough task for anyone, to be featured and come in entirely unknown, to the place where Clayton Jackson and Durand held out for a year or two previous seasons. It's most likely the mob will go for the Parody to see Joe Lewis. Everyone wants him to go over, and now more so, since he has had the nerve to brave strange people in a strange city to him. He has one single advantage that the Parody has—a popular spot with a popular management.

MIRADOR

(2d Review)

New York, Dec. 11. This second review becomes necessary because another Variety geece has been in two other places when he wrote the alleged critique. His body count that times warbler. At that rate, he'll have Lee Lillie doing a Beejacksonian "diga-diga-do" cooch next.

Objecting his last week's notice to scrutiny—sounds dirty but isn't—the guy metamorphosed Bee Jackson, the torso fester, into Bee Palmont, the winter warbler. At that rate, he'll have Lee Lillie doing a Beejacksonian "diga-diga-do" cooch next.

So far as Harold Leonard's smart rhymplication is concerned, Variety's louisiest reporter never even mentioned it. Looks like the Old Boy phoned his past-overt check over. Which proves what little benefit the nite club owner's delight derives from Harold's crack dance music. And his mind was after Harold gave that sap his "Make-Believe" favorite until unconscious; and then winds up writing a notice with Harold's name omitted. There should be a law.

Somehow that Variety bird, by guesswork, got Arthur Gordon, Margaret Howard, the Jennings and Evelyn Martin out. It's a shame the way these wandering Variety souses go into a nite club and wind up writing a notice on Minsky's National Winter Garden.

However, the mugg did remember those Annapolis coochers—anything naval or aquatic he recalls perfectly. He would. Instead of "Off to Buffalo" it should be "Off to Pratt Falls."

CLUB LIDO

New York, Dec. 11. Operating along conservative lines under the management of Frank Carlesco, the Club Lido, 7th avenue and 16th street, making its appeal strictly to a class trade, goes along consistently making money.
(Continued on page 51)

Warners' Own Network Headed by WOR?

When, in September, 1929, the Columbia Broadcasting System disassociates itself from station WOR, the latter may become the key link in a new network controlled by Warner Brothers. Columbia will concentrate on station WABC as the key station, having recently added that station to alternate with WOR as the broadcast central of the network.

Station WOR is owned by J. Bamberger & Sons, Newark, N. J., department store, and has been used by Warners for a weekly Vitaphone hour.

Warners is anxious to control its own network, and with Columbia breaking away from WOR in favor of WABC, it is likely the Bamberger station will ally with the picture company for that purpose.

A. P. Dailies Intend To Make Radio Pay

Franchised Associated Press dailies are opposed to continued free space being devoted to the radio publication of radio programs. It is planned to curtail these by March and inaugurate a classified department at advertising rates for radio bills.

A. P. papers will also curtail any hook-up with broadcasters for the gratis dissemination of news reports, women's and other features. Instead, a new subsidiary company is planning to set a news service, a "daily" woman's talk feature, among other things, to broadcasting stations at from \$100 to \$250 a week.

The theory is that the broadcasters need these morning and midday talk features as part of their sustaining programs and should pay for the services.

RADIO RAMBLES

Station WJCA is now headquartered atop the Hammerstein theatre building and plugs that structure in its billings, which should make it very worth-while for Hammerstein.

In their new association Donald Flannery and N. G. (Grandlund) are going after the nite life broadcasts as Granny did when with WHN. The New Frivolity will bring his stuff per usual, Tom Timothy's dance purveyors from the basement of the Carroll theatre building, coming through clean and clear.

The Frivolity is a quick click in a room that has been a flop and a jinx for many seasons. Proving something or other about the popularity of certain nite life entrepreneurs, meaning the Bill Duffy, Charlie Aronson crowd.

Norman Brokenshire, back on the air, as m. c. of the Pinkenberghour, was caught on his initial broadcast Sunday night. As before, the Park Central hotel band leader is a feature of the hour, "You furnish the girl, we furnish the flat," on behalf of the Pinkenberghour furniture business.

During Ben Pollock's absence on the road with Lew Fields' "Hello Daddy" musical, in which the Park Central hotel band leader is a feature, the relief maestro is Paul Sabin. The latter will continue while Pollock is doubling into the show. Sabin was on Q&A and has equally pleasing fansipation.

Harold Leonard's Violin

Among the dance music outstandingers, Harold Leonard's sprightly rhymplicators are in a class by themselves. Leonard is at the Club Mirador and one of the reasons for the room's success. His radio work should further bring his old Waldorf following into the Mirador because Leonard need not strum that fiddle of his wickedly, and they know who is on the air. Leonard seems partial to Vincent Youmans' "Rainbow" score, and great music it is. It's a pity if it cannot survive the floor show.

Another smart dance music dispenser is Phil Spitalny from the Hotel Pennsylvania, also an NBC feature.

"My Man" in Ether

An enjoyable and well diversified Vitaphone Jubilee Hour Monday night, building up to Fannie Brice's Kingpin and "Glow Worm" and the theme of her "My Man" Vita feature. Introduced several striking features. The Rollickers, who have already made a Vitaphone talking record, registered with a classic arrangement of "Blue Shadows," the "Vanities" hit. The Chopin Minute Waltz, instrumentally rendered, was a peach interlude, and the introductory chatter concerning Miss Brice's past Ziegfeldian performances was nice work.

The comedienne encoored "My Man" with another ditty from her repertoire.

The Lowney hour, new WOR period, had an all-Paul Lincky recital. And Lincke wrote "em plenty and pretty. Right brought from "Glow Worm" to "March of the Siamese," classics among light concert pieces.

Jimmy Durante Okay

Jimmy Durante left Flower Hospital yesterday (Tuesday), all made over and looking pretty.

Three of the nurses chased Jimmy from 64th to 51st street when the hospital lost its funniest patient. Jimmy is due in the gas and will open tomorrow (Thursday) night with his comical companions, Eddie Jackson and Lou Clayton, at the Rendezvous New York.

Mr. Durante went into the hospital, in the first place, to do a hide-away from creditors. While there, the doctors, rubbery around, found out what was the matter with Jimmy.

L. A.'s New D. A.'s Orders

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Baron Pitts, the new district attorney, is rounding up liquor violators in cafes and road houses. He notified the Pom Pom Cafe on Santa Monica boulevard that scantly clad choruses had better put some clothes on.

He also notified the Vernon Country Club, a Hollywood rendezvous.

HOFFMAN'S ROAD HOUSE

Mrs. Hoffman and her son are said to be determined to reorganize the former Castilian Gardens on the Merrick road at Lynbrook, L. I. Before the Crying Goldmans secured the road house, it was known as Hoffman Arms, built and opened by the late Mr. Hoffman.

The Criers remained in charge of the Castilian, until Chuck only struck. He vacated a couple of months ago, believing the rent was an overweight during the winter.

Inside Staff—Music

Tied up as he is with Ziegfeld in "Whoopee" and the forthcoming Midnite Frolic atop the New Amsterdam in view, George Olsen turned down an extraordinary \$7,000 a week offer for a month in Havana. This gives the headwaiter the privilege to dress his room as best he thinks. Open is now slated for Dec. 29.

Olsen's roof nite club atop the New Amsterdam will have a ticket admission basis with no guarantee of position or location of table. This gives the headwaiter the privilege to dress his room as best he thinks. Open is now slated for Dec. 29.

It is generally known that the band racket around New York is a cut-throat business, but to what extent one rival band leader went in order to make an impression on a hotel manager's wife is worth recounting. This bandman has been anxious to chisel his way into the choice hotel berth and had, in fact, circulated several erroneous reports which caused Variety to check up on the details. To clinch the impression, the bandman caused one of his male friends to call up the wife of the hotel manager and inquire whether or not she would release his orchestra for a special occasion at his, a pseudo-Senator's function in Washington. The irate wife told the phoney "Senator" that not alone could he have the band, since the hotel had not tied them up, but whatever chance the bandman stood of landing the engagement in the future was also nullified because of the untimely late-hour call and the obvious bid to make an impression by ringing in the prop-Senator.

The mechanical companies, up in the air as they are about possible new copyright legislation, are chary about taking on any more new artists. The recorders, if the publishers would have their way, would be obligated to bargain individually for each song. Thus, a smash hit like "Sonny Boy" would naturally be worthy of a larger royalty than a lesser known number.

This economical obligation will have a drastic effect on the mechanicals who will, naturally, do less "canning" and rely more on exploiting certain few plug records and artists.

As a result, the mechanicals are stalling in new contracts with their recording artists or new ones.

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Disk Reviews

By ABEL

Ed Lowry

Peppy St. Louis m. c. clicks with a couple of snappy ditties. "That's What Puts the Sweet in Home Sweet Home," midwestern favorite, and "My Arms Are Open," from "Vanities." Columbia No. 1620.

Fredric Franklin

Another picture house soloist, this time associate conductor of the Fox, Brooklyn, and also his violin solos registers with instrumental oddities. "Valse Bluetie," coupled with "Orientale," are done in Franklin's most impressive manner. Utting, musically and yet popularly appealing. Full orchestra backs him up in "Orientale." Brunswick No. 4687.

Gene Austin

Victor's best seller on pop vocals has a few couples in the popular "Sonny Boy and a new and powerful lyric ballad "I'll Remember That Way," classic in contemporary balladaria, authored by Richard A. Whiting, with tunes by Nell Moret. It's a potential hit and, as done by the ingratiating Austin, it's a cinch best seller. Victor No. 21778.

Victor Arden-Phil Ohman

Popular piano team out of "Treasure Girl" musical, has selected Lewis E. Gensler's ditties from the flop musical, "Ups-a-Daisy," and made top-notch dance recordings of them. From the manner in which "Ups-a-Daisy" and "Will You Remember? Will You Forget?" (as the songs are titled) are being played around more and more in the dance floors, and with the Victor release's further impetus, it may be that the Gensler tunes will emulate such hits from flop shows as "I'll Be in Love," out of a defunct Gershwinn show, and "Crazy Rhythm" from "Herc's Howe," both of which attained popularity after the shows closed.

However, unlike both of these: Gensler, producer as well as the composer, restricted the songs from dance floor and radio exploitation while the show was on the boards, which was a mistake in this particular instance. Victor No. 21774.

Clicquot Club Eskimos

This radio band, headed by Harry Reser, banjo virtuoso, couples "Watching the Clouds Roll" from "Animal Crackers" with one of the best picture theme songs around, "Cross Roads," from "Show People."

They are snappy fox-trots and also include vocal refrains. Columbia No. 1625.

Pete Woolery

Tenor is a nice club fav, long at the Frivolity, and now as new Columbia recording artist. He offers two theme songs, "Woman Disputed," "I Love You" and the theme of "Awakening," nicely handled, despite the general mediocrity of the assignments.

Duke Ellington

Torrid jazz maestro of his Cotton Club (Harlem black-and-tan) orchestra dishes up some mean jazz-ration in "Louisiana" and "Wavin' and." Both are slow, jazz-drag fox-trots, featuring some torrid trumpet virtuosity. Brunswick No. 4110.

John McCormack

Great Irish tenor on time to time has delved into Tin Pan Alley and plucked some particular ballad gem, but it has seldom been that ditties like "Sonny Boy" and "Jeannine" would fall to his lot by choice or selection. Both are theme songs of the popular school and essayed by

McCormack only for their sales values on a \$1.50 "red seal" disk.

It is no particular trade secret that the market of Victor has fallen off considerably as a general class with Caruso the one big exception, who is still holding up. The contemporary artists. McCormack has held his own better than his confreres among vocalists, but it has become necessary that a couple of pop ditties such as these should be marketed for their sales advantage. And, of course, McCormack acquits himself creditably.

The Diplomats

This novelty vocal quartet is a feature of "Luckie Girl" and offers "Come and Make Whoopee" from that Schubert musical, coupled with a pop ditty of kindred character. Got canned vaudeville disk. Columbia No. 1641.

Paul Whiteman

The pre-eminent maestro of syncopation and composition, not content with a couple of cinematic numbers: "Just a Sweetheart" from "Battle of the Sexes" and "The Love Interpolated Hit in 'With Vocal' (the latter a waltz) and in the usual tip-top Whiteman manner. Columbia No. 1630.

Leo Reisman

Boston's foremost dance purveyor, Leo Reisman at the Hotel Brunswick, went Spanish on Columbia No. 1634 with a couple of his new compositions. They are "Querida" and "Chalita," the latter by Victor Schertzinger who sold his "Marcheta" manuscript for \$50 and made almost a half million dollars for the publisher.

Bernie Cummins

One of Brunswick's best sellers is Bernie Cummins who dispenses ultra-modern compositions at the Hotel Biltmore, New York. In "Querida" and "My Blackbirds Are Bluebirds Now" (latter Eddie Cantor's interpolated hit in "Whoopee"), Cummins clicks smartly.

His brother, Walter, who is also of the Biltmore hotel band's personnel, is tenor soloist in the Spanish fox-trot and Bernie Cummins handles the vocal chorus in "Blackbirds."

Waring's Pennsylvanians

On Victor Nos. 21783 and 21788. Waring offers the hit medleys from his own starring vehicle, "Hello Yourself" and "Hurry Cheers," respectively. "Say That You Love Me" and "I Want the World to Know" from the collegiate musical which features the Waring orchestra is a congenial couplet.

"Pompanola" and "Maybe This Is Love" from the Stone-Rogers show is in the same technically finished manner, consisting of peppy jazz with snappy melody and number. Vocal choruses throughout.

Aronson-McEnelly

Irving Aronson's Commanders and McEnelly's orchestra are backed up effectively with some inspiring fox-trotology. Aronson's "I'll Be in Love" is the hit the Commanders started by themselves and are principally responsible for its popularization. McEnelly's "Sleep, Baby, Sleep" is equally bubbling, and offers a red-hot melody along with the regulation vocalizing."

Named After Crawford

Bobby Crawford has lent his name to the Crawford Music Corp., the subsidiary of DeSylva, Brown, & Henderson, Inc., handling the picture thematic music catalog. Sol Cohen is manager of this firm, having resigned from the Irving Berlin Standard Music Corp.

Erno Rapee, the Roxy maestro, is managing director of the Crawford Music Corp. Originally the firm was to have been called the Sound Music Corp. and Roxy Music Corp., the latter in tribute to S. L. Rothafel who rejected the idea.

Capitol, Danbury, Unionized

Danbury, Conn., Dec. 17. The local musicians' union and the Capitol theatre have adjusted their differences. A rift has existed between the two for more than a year. As a result of the trouble the house has been boycotted by most local unions. Advertising now carries the fact the house is union.

Abel Baer in Film

Abel Baer, song writer, will make his first film appearance in "Lucky Boy," Tiffany-Stahl production starring George Jessel.

Supervising U's Theme Songs

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Arthur Francis has been signed by Universal to take charge of that studio's theme song department.

Tenner's Promises Not Made Good, Says Stalley

Joseph Tenner, head of the California Ramblers orchestra, with offices at 112 West 47th street, was directed by Magistrate H. Stanley Renaud in West Side Court to return to Doug Stalley, a costly guitarist that Stalley charged Tenner with holding. An attorney that appeared for Tenner stated to the court that his client had the instrument and would gladly return it.

The lawyer stated that Stalley was withholding some valuable orchestration sheet music. Stalley denied this. Stalley, accompanied by Jack Mellor, one time drummer for Tenner, went to Tenner's office and got the instrument.

Stalley told of the rough going he had had with Tenner. He stated that his home was in Cleveland, Mellor's home is Dayton. He said that Tenner recruited a band in Dayton of which he and Mellor were part.

Tenner had engaged some of the U. of Penn. students to join his band, Stalley informed reporters. "He told us that we were to make a trip to Europe. He was soon to open in London. That is why Mellor and I joined," continued Stalley. Stalley said that Tenner, hard pushed for dough, borrowed from the players.

"One of the band pawned his instrument to loan Tenner money to pay a bill at the Waldorf Astoria hotel," said Stalley. "I wanted to return to Cleveland to get my folks, but Tenner told me not to, as he expected to sail in a few days. Here I am and still waiting for the voyage," concluded Stalley.

"We were to get an engagement in London for 30 weeks. What we did get were many endless days. I am going back to Cleveland," said Stalley.

English Combine Off

The proposed tri-cornered merger, as far as Lawrence Wright (who writes under the name of Horatio Nicholls) is concerned, is off. John Abbott, representing Francis, Day & Hunter and James Campbell of Campbell-Connelly, were the other two English music publishers concerned in the British merger. The latter two sailed for London on the "Berenegaria" last week and Wright goes Saturday on the "Olympic."

Wright has decided to continue in the music business alone, as he has in the past.

Cue-Selling Service

Sepp Morscher and Maurice Nitke, orchestra leaders, have organized Motor Picture Music Publishers, Inc., with Maurice A. Chase, vice-president of Excellent Pictures, as president and sales manager. They are selling a cueing service for houses equipped with non-synchronous and awaiting completion of wiring by Electrical Research.

Powell's Third Unit

Jack Powell's alignment with John Murray Anderson's Public unit, "Stars," in place of Dave Rubinoff, sets back his London engagements. Rubinoff is guest conductor at the Paramount, New York. This is Powell's third tour with a Public unit. He will stay with it until Chicago.

Whitner in New Haven

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 18. Olympia, Public house, installed its first new m. c. in 12 months when Ken Whitner replaced Chet Martin.

John and Christo's Club

John Steinberg and Christo from the Pavilion Royal, with Louis Blot, Cleveland money man, have the Little Club.

Phil Baker and Sid Silvers are slated for the attractions. Jan Garber's orchestra may come in.

Opening in Miami

Opening at the Embassy Club, Miami, Jan. 12, the new cover has booked a line of Girls, Anita Case and Mabel Stapleton.

Foyer has Lyons and Lorraine opening at the Coconut Grove, Boston.

BERNSTEINS GO GAY

Big Time on 25th Wedding Anniversary—300 Guests

Louis Bernstein (Shapiro-Bernstein) was feted Sunday night at Mince Temple on the occasion of 25 years of marriage with the same wife. Eddie Cantor acted as m. c. and numerous entertainers, including Willie and Eugene Howard, Helen Kane and others, entertained 300 guests.

Mayor Walker performed a mock wedding ceremony, with Louis sharing up with the same missus for another 25 years. The event was marked also by the announcement of his daughter's, Lillian, engagement to Edwin Herchawitz, non-pro

Sheridan Charged with Hiding Assets from Vogel

An order of arrest is out for Frank Sheridan, against whom Jerry Vogel recovered a \$24,000 judgment for his share of the profits of "Marcheta." It was issued by Justice Isidor Wasservogel on the charge Sheridan, who has been doing his work in Hollywood, is concealing his assets and leaving the state for the purpose of foiling the satisfaction of the law.

Vogel, if he only recovers the copyright to "Marcheta," will have a valuable piece of property for standard sales, sound picture rights, etc.

International Conferences

The music business having assumed such vast international proportions in view of performing rights, sound pictures, mechanicals, etc., the British, French and German Societies of Composers, Authors and Publishers have arranged for a series of monthly conferences in one another's capitals.

The first is slated to be held in Paris shortly. The second in London, the next in Berlin, etc.

Monthly, the proposal is to map out a practicable arrangement for the division of the international music rights. Each performing rights organization will also represent and act for their American musical confreres.

Unlike the 2c flat mechanical royalty in America, the continental agencies go in for individual payments. The British copyright owners derive 5 1/2 per cent of the retail price on mechanicals; the French have it either three or four per cent. The idea now is to make it four per cent, uniform.

Jan Garber Broke and Owes \$26,353; Assets, 0

Jan Garber, orchestra leader, says he is broke to the extent of \$26,353 and has no assets. Garber is one of the best known bandleaders and also an exclusive Columbia recording artist.

He gives his home address as the Hotel President, New York.

B. & K. M. C.'s Stick

Chicago, Dec. 18. Hereafter there will be no rotating of m. c.'s in the B. & K. houses. Frankie Master was transferred from the Tower to the Chicago, and remains. Verne Buck is permanently at the Uptown, and Lou Kosloff sticks at the Tower.

Other B. & K. houses have not been moving their m. c.'s lately.

WHITEMAN'S FILM IN MARCH

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Paul Whiteman's "King of Jazz" goes into production about March 15 at Universal City. Maudie Wayne and Wolf Gilbert are writing the songs to be featured in the picture, an all-talker. Wesley Ruggles will direct.

Schofield, scenarist, has been with Whiteman some weeks to get the idea.

PICKED SONG OF 100

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Four judges decided that out of 100 theme songs submitted by competitors for United Artists' "Evangeline," the best one was Johnson by a contestant named Al Johnson.

Violinist on Pathe Staff

Los Angeles, Dec. 18. Xavier Cugat, Spanish violinist and conductor of the Mountbatten cafe orchestra, Hollywood, has been signed by Pathe to write theme songs.

5 PROJECTIONISTS ONLY VICTIMS MUSIC STRIKE

Vitaphone House Unaffected —Booth Men Denounce "Comedy Strike"

San Francisco, Dec. 18.

Members of the Projectionists' local (at least five of the members) are beginning to voice loud protests against the "comedy strike" and embargo called against the Embassy theatre by the Musicians' union. For nine weeks now the five union projectionists have been "out" at the Embassy, solely through being called on a sympathy walk by the musicians, in an endeavor by the latter to force the house management to install an orchestra and organist.

Musicians early in September issued demands that orchestra be installed, which demands were refused by management on ground that house was playing solely Vitaphone and that orchestra could not be used. Arbitration being refused by the musicians, Wagner stood pat. Result was musicians forced operators to "walk." Non-union projectionists were put on and they are still at work, though musical organization has made no headway whatever and Embassy is operated just as if nothing had ever happened. The operators who are out miss the \$100 to \$115 (with overtime) salary check formerly forthcoming every week, and are beginning to squawk loudly.

Some picketing is still being done by men and women presumably affiliated with the musicians' local, but otherwise the "strike" is a dead issue. Business at the Embassy hasn't dropped a dime in consequence.

Million \$ Symphony Hall Donated to Cleveland, If—

Cleveland, Dec. 18. Cleveland Symphony Orchestra is to get a concert hall of its own as the result of a gift of \$1,000,000, out of its creation by John L. Severance, Cleveland philanthropist. Severance's gift, however, is contingent upon the orchestra's backers raising an endowment fund of \$2,500,000 for its operation. Steps toward raising this fund have already been put into effect.

Heretofore the orchestra, one of the best known in the country, has been making the Masonic Hall its headquarters. It is also dependent now upon annual gifts totaling \$235,000 for running expenses.

Uncle Sam Job Open

Washington, Dec. 18. Uncle Sam's Civil Service is looking for a band leader. Applications will be received by the Civil Service Commission, Washington, up to and including Jan. 16, 1929.

Examination is to fill vacancies in the Indian Field Service and for vacancies requiring similar qualifications.

Entrance salary is \$1,440 a year, less \$180 a year for quarters, fuel and light.

Duties are to instruct in brass band instruments and to direct a brass band.

Competitors will not be required to report for examination, the job to be awarded to the leader with the best rating on training and experience.

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Obituary

THEODORE ROBERTS

Theodore Roberts, 67, stage and screen actor, died at his home in Hollywood, Cal., Dec. 14 of uremic poisoning following an attack of flu.

Mr. Roberts made his first appearance on the stage in support of James O'Neill in "Richeieu" in 1860. His New York debut was with Fanny Davenport.

His father, a sea captain, not wishing him to follow the stage, bought a lumber schooner and for two years Roberts operated the vessel on coastwise trips from San Francisco.

Mr. Roberts returned to the stage and appeared as Simon Legree in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Tabywana in "The Squaw Man," and Svengali in "Tribby."

His first screen part at the old Paramount Vine street, West Coast studios in 1914, was in "Grumpy Man." He appeared in "Grumpy," "Male and Female" and "The Ten Commandments." When the old Lasky Co. was formed in Los Angeles, Roberts signed a long term contract and only recently entered the free lance field.

After "The Ten Commandments," Mr. Roberts toured the Orpheum circuit in a sketch, "The Man Higher Up." In Pittsburgh he was stricken by rheumatism and forced to cancel his tour. It was two years before he appeared on the screen again and then only in a wheel chair for his part in "The Cuckoo in Pejamas." He later appeared in "The Masks of the Devil." His only talking picture part was in Pathe's "Neighborhood," completed.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Grace R. Moore, Berkeley, Cal.

TOM RYAN

Thomas J. Ryan, 73, veteran dancer and comedian, in vaudeville since 1873, was found dead in bed in his hotel room, Lake Charles, La., of heart trouble.

Mr. Ryan's death may have been hastened by his excessive dancing. In his stage act with Hazel Harrington, he persisted in dancing just as hard as he did in the 70's at Pastor's, New York.

Tom Ryan at 73 still stuck to vaude. He appeared in splendid health on the southern Interstate tour.

Mr. Ryan's billing carried the line "vaudeville's favorite grand daddy." Coincidental with his insistence to work so hard despite the advanced age was the act being based on his modernizing his dancing, the byline being "Father's Come Back." After going through the dancing routine of the old days, Ryan would proceed to demonstrate the hot, syncopated steps including the Charleston and Blackbottom.

In 1873 vaudeville first heard of Tom Ryan. He was in Ireland and England with a man named Diamond. Their dancing those days was considered a sensation, the duo being known as "Comemarr and Cuckoo." Their stepping was such that they were then regarded as the only rivals of Dempsey and McGuinness, considered the champions of the world.

In 1938 Diamond died and Ryan formed a sketch team with his wife, Mary Richfield. Ryan and Richfield went together as stage partners and wife 39 years. In 1921 Mrs. Ryan died. Hazel Harrington replaced her and remained Ryan's partner until his death.

The personal dancing "bit" so long identified with Ryan was termed "The Dancing Tailor."

The remains were brought to New York, with the funeral Monday from the National Casket Co., parlors at 67th street and Lexington avenue.

MARY ROSE

Mary Rose, 37, at one time of the Aster Sisters, in vaudeville, succumbed from pneumonia at Reading, Pa., Dec. 14, after a brief illness. Interment was at Kensico, N. Y., Sunday. Her daughters, Rose-Marie and June (Mrs. Walter Winchell), survive.

Wilbur S. Cherry Dies

Wilbur S. Cherry, 57, agent for Rubin & Cherry Shows, died Dec. 16 at the American hospital in Chicago following a paralytic stroke.

Burial was Tuesday under direction of the Showmen's League (Cherry at one time was part owner of the Rubin & Cherry Shows).

WALTER S. DUGGAN

Walter S. Duggan, 44, advance agent and manager, died Dec. 17 in the American Hospital, Chicago, of pneumonia, following an operation for appendicitis.

He had been in ill health following the death of his father, Dr. J. W. Duggan, former mayor of Worcester, Mass., and his wife, former Michigan society girl. Both died about a year ago, shortly apart.

Walter Duggan was one of the best known of traveling show agents, breaking in some years ago when George Goett, then managing the White City and Lincoln parks in Worcester, got him placed with the old Manhattan Opera Co.

In early life Mr. Duggan attended school in his home town and graduated from Holy Cross College in Worcester. He displayed a decided preference for theatricals and had a charge of the programs and press work for the Worcester parks under Goett. He also worked two years as a reporter on the Worcester Telegram.

From the Manhattan O. C. he went to the Bayland & Clifford producing firm in Chicago and his first show was "The Rosary." Other R. & C. shows he was ahead of included "Rock of Ages" and "Everyman's Daughter."

Returning east he became associated with the Cohen & Harris shows, handling the advance. When Sam Harris and George M. split their producing partnership, Duggan stuck with Cohen.

He was with Cohen when the war broke out and Walter volunteered for overseas duty. As a doughboy over there he used his show experience to help stage entertainments for the A. E. F. in France.

Upon his return from war Mr. Duggan again was engaged by Cohen. Later he handled the press work for Jane Cowell and when the show was transferred in theatrical operation in Chicago, Duggan was sent there as their western representative. He personally managed their Twin Theatres, Selwyn and Harris.

During his Chicago stay the deceased became the warm personal friend of some of the city's biggest political leaders, including former state's attorney Robert Crowe. Had Duggan cared to quit theatrical work he could have obtained a prominent political post in Chicago.

Deceased is survived by his mother and two brothers, living in Worcester. His father, Edward, went to Chicago to take the remains back home for interment.

CARRIE SCOTT

Carrie Scott, 58, vaudeville, musical comedy and burlesque, died Dec. 17 in Poyelle Hospital, New York, where she had been under the care of the Actors' Fund.

Miss Scott in her early burlesque days appeared with Sam T. Jack's Stock Co., Dave Lewis' "Broadway Burlesques" and Weber's musical comedies.

In vaudeville she first did a single, telling stories and singing. Then she had a skit, "The Dowry Girl," and her characterization in this resulted in her billing as "the original tough girl." She was also known as the "Pocket Pickaninny."

Her last stage appearance was at Keith's Greenpoint theatre as a member of the "Favorites of the Past" act.

The deceased was the widow of James P. Smith. She is survived by a brother, Richard E. Scott, and a sister, Mrs. Sarah Murray, both of Paterson.

J. EDWARD CRAWFORD

J. Edward Crawford, 42, former minstrel man and a vaudeville single, died Dec. 7 of typhoid fever in Suburban Hospital, Pittsburgh, where he had been confined five weeks.

Eddie Crawford went on the stage when 3. His first road engagement was with John Haverly's Minstrelers. He had appeared with Primrose and West and in Eddie Poy's shows. He spent much of his minstrel life in London, two years at one house.

He married a southern society girl 11 years ago. Widow and two sisters survive.

Crawford's last stage work was with a four-act in vaudeville two years ago. Interment in Pittsburgh.

REGGIE D. CRAVER

Reggie D. Craver, pioneer among southern exhibitors, died Dec. 18 in Charlotte, N. C., following a brief illness.

Craver was one of the largest individual theatre owners in the South controlling film houses in the Caro-

lina and Virginia, all named Broadway. He obtained the First National franchises in six southern states, and was among the 13 original franchise holders in that company.

HARRY GERRITY

Harry Gerrity, 66, actor, died Dec. 12 at his home in Los Angeles after several months' illness. Gerrity was a member of the original "Able's Irish Rose" cast. He is survived by his widow and his mother. Interment in Long Beach, Cal.

WALTER E. BUSH

Walter E. Bush, 50, dropped dead on the street in Jersey City Dec. 14. The deceased was a salesman with the Standard Engraving Company, also with other allied theatrical trades, well known to the show buyers. Personal friend since boyhood of Bill Hoffman of the Standard.

The wife, 49, of Lawrence C. O'Brien, director, Doylart Players, Colonial theatre, Norfolk, Va., died Dec. 6. Besides her husband, a daughter, two sisters and a brother survive.

Dan Clark

Dan Clark, 55, passenger agent for the Michigan Central railroad, died of pneumonia in Chicago, Dec. 6. Clark was well known among show people.

Rev. G. L. "Gollyth" Morrill

Rev. G. L. "Gollyth" Morrill, 72, chaplain of the American Actors' Alliance, died Dec. 11 in San Diego, Cal.

The father of Isabel Dawn

The father of Isabel Dawn died Dec. 3 in Luther Hospital, Eau Claire, Wis.

Circuses at Fairs

Chicago, Dec. 18: Two of the big fair plums have been taken by the American Circus Corporation.

The corporation is booking Hagenbeck-Wallace circus into Detroit for the Michigan state fair, and Richmond for the Indiana fair.

John Flanagan Arrested

Fairmont, W. Va., Dec. 18: John Flanagan, operator of a small carnival, was arrested near St. Clairsville, O., for removing mortgaged property.

Flanagan was brought back to Clarksburg, W. Va., to stand trial.

Night Club Reviews

(Continued from page 48)

No extra publicity stunts or radio hook-up used. The singing rep has been going over a period of years with the Park avenue set as well as out-of-towners who rate so highly. Convert \$3 nightly with a thrill.

The entertainment lineup has Ramon and Rosita, dancers, doubling from "New Moon"; Chick Ender, comedian, troubador, and Harry Rosenthal and his orchestra. Each is credited as sure-fire with the social mob. All have a night club entree, and on both sides of the Atlantic. The show, which runs about an hour, is just about the last word in good taste and smartness. The in good taste and smartness. The in good taste and smartness.

Vaudeville Reviews

(Continued from page 81)

steps, acrobatic performance that get a burst of applause.

Limbby Bros, dependable comedy pair, fell into the trap and reaped plenty with their well-tried and guaranteed hokum. No. 3 nitche was made to order for this pair and their girl assistant. Stuff is mostly familiar bits with fresh angles in talk and a real comedy knack of flip-grifter talk by the wise character. Girl merely foils for the pair, but looks well in an extra dance. Little "Honey," brightly written, and expertly staged revue (New Acts) built abundantly next to closing. Miss Samuels took over in the closing position. Most unusual to assign woman single to the finale, but here results justified the booker. Miss Samuels did not miss, at all. Surrounded picture palaces as encores, and left them still insistent.

In song material, all of it her own, Miss Samuels is better singer than she gets her credit for. In her style of working is better equipped than at any time in her career. She has acquired a new method of addressing her audience and commands the trick of maintaining speed without ever seeming to lose the grip of her unobtrusive slinging singles, could study this artist's arrangement of numbers with profit. Opening with a cheerful bit of philosophy in "Sun-ny Side of Life," she goes into a wily bit called "Mama Goes Right Along," peppy jazzed up idea. Flippant lyrics go with the number and by then she is in and set solidly. Craftily managed change of pace

comes here in the sentimental number, with no too much repetition according to the program. "When Did You Write Back Home," and for the finale a broad light number reciting the sorrows of an overworked own home victim. Rush.

JEFFERSON

(Wired) (Vaudeville)

East 14th street may be over-theated as claimed, but certainly not overstated as far as you could notice it Sunday. Mrs. Bankhurst and her birth control advocacy is all most and Mr. Stork manly and in his own right a great national bird. Probably that's the answer.

Surrounding picture palaces as opposit don't cramp the actor's talents. The vaudeville auditors' receipts of the institute's annual debut as theatregoers as soon as weaned, remaining quiet when the show pleases and squawking when it does not. No squawks Sunday night. Capacity audience.

With Al Herman's "Whitebirds of 1928" unit—consuming almost an hour, but in the other acts were corded. George and Quips, mixed skaters, in opener, with some fancy and trick skating that registered, topped off the first act.

Howard and Mann, two men, straight and comic, followed with nifty hokum and songs that knocked 'em awluster.

From Herman to Herman and his mob took up the rest of the show. The frame is similar to that employed by Herman for his picture play dates. With two persons, comprising himself, under cork as usual; Ray Welch and Band (10); Cogert and Mott; Nancy Decker; Genevieve McCormack; Tommy and Betty Wonder; Jane and Eleanor, individually and combined the line-up is the best support Herman has ever had and he chops convincingly on his own monolog to give them full swing.

Herman opens in "one" for an abbreviated monolog and clowning with a couple of other acts. Herman proceeds to do an m. c. act with act going full and hand introduced for a torrid ensemble of Betty Wonder, Jane and Eleanor, harmony vocal. Betty Wonder trots out for an aerobic waltz, giving Betty Wonder, Jane and Eleanor, hot harmonious impressions. Betty Wonder over big with Al never miffing a bet on his clowning in also.

Jane and Eleanor had their inning with a decision tip, and Nancy Decker coming on for two numbers, practically sewing things up.

So far Nancy was the sweetest ball singer on the circuit. Tommy Wonder out for a Russian dance that topped Nancy's for returns, coming back for a strut and dummy dance that topped the show and was a surefire finishing touch for the revue.

No mistake about Herman's showmanship in sports on his kid dance; for closer, the boy's there again how.

All in all a corking unit that has everything and can't miss anywhere. "Outcast" (F N) screen feature. *Edna.*

HIPPODROME

(Vaudeville)

One act, a musical ball running 65 minutes, "Morocco Bound," comprises the stage portion of the current Hippodrome program and scores over with Charles Brannum, German vocalist, added starter for Sunday only. Pre-music, doing two numbers in the native tongue, was an epilogue to a Revlonic overture and a German reel.

"Morocco Bound" is quite a pretentious first act for intermediary variety. There are about nine different sets, array of costumes and people, number 29, with a book credited to Hiarlan Thompson and scores and lyrics by H. B. Fiedlander. Act has been around before and is a flash for the neighborhood houses particularly.

Norman Danneuse, is easily the outstanding of the personnel, although Jack Mundy, principal funster, more than sustains the general tempo. More an actor than a dancer, Mundy's character, it is to the credit of the act that he is, at least, capable of producing but too laughs. Mundy arrives but too late for a chuckle at times, such as the bit when he swallowed the shiek's ruby in a smugging ruse, and gurgled about the digestive apparatus.

Among the principals are John Crane, Theodore Hampton, Chra Hippodrome, Joseph Howard, Frederick Crane, William Howard, Ann E. Emery, Arthur J. Michaels, Henry Manners, June Binas and Teddy Ballad. The 12 principal dancers are headed by the excellent Norman Danneuse.

The feature, "Submarine," sans sound, was the wifery of a miniature lobby lily who entered about a 1000 feet below the surface.

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CHICAGO

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Palace

Timely booking of Shaw and Lee, of "Five O'Clock Girl," saves the Palace show this week from otherwise a near washout. The three dumb acts out of the eight and remainder slow and snappish, the valet registered by Shaw and Lee, next to stult, was a life saver.
"Hot Piazza, RKO head out here, pulled a nifty in grabbing Olga Cook prima from "My Maryland," Miss Cook popular in this town. Smiling personality of the singer put her across with ease and a rousing reception. Here repertoire of show numbers were intelligently selected and delivered.

suits. Third act, Lockett and Pareo, also hooding. Assisting the name team are Wally Coyle, legman boy from "Good News," and a pianist. Lockett m.c.'s the act besides hoofing and singing. Paced fast and holds well.

Roy Rogers brought first real comedy in fourth spot, playing drunk for clicking gags and plenty of hot falls. Those falls verge on outright contortion. More good comedy in next to stult by Sidney Marlon, singing his line at an unbillied tenme straight. Very low and sure to hit.

Five Bracks, closing, risley and turning by male quintet. Full stage here, but can work in front of a stage band. Brought continued gags and a fine send-off.
"Long Year" (RKO) feature. Krane and Whitney and Paxton not in first show.
Bing.

Academy poor biz Thursday night for first show. None of the five acts dressy.

O'Day and Murray male dance team, opened quietly (New Acts). Hal Hardy, deceing, sings and gags before hooding himself off. Singing is better than dancing, but only thing worth while. Hardy announces he'll dance just as he did with Ziegfeld "Polles" of 1925. He must have danced himself off then.

Trio. Two men in clown makeup and girl who fills in with warbling lyrics while drawing pictures. Routines need speeding up.
Loop.

Bristophone has established a branch office on film row here with James Woodin in charge.

Herbert Eblinburg, for the past three years in the B. & K. publicity department, has been transferred to the same functions in the L. & T. offices.

Symphony, 3,000-seat house on Chicago avenue near Cicero, has been leased to the United Theatre Co., newly organized operating company headed by Verdell & McMahon. House will probably open next month.

This new theatre originally was constructed by the Roosevelt Finance Co. for probable tenancy by Morris Silklin, independent theatre operator. Silklin showed no inclination to take over the house.

Ridge theatre, Park Ridge, Ill., has been sold to William H. Malone, civic official of Park Ridge.

Richard (Lumberlegs) Edwards has been signed by Fanchon & Marco for a tour of West Coast the-

life of President-elect Herbert Hoover. Arrest was ordered after he recently filed suit in federal court to enjoin Hoover from taking office, claiming that Hoover has been a legal resident of the country for only nine years. Ebbing first got into the limelight several months ago when he had his book, "The World Is Not a Globe," printed at his own expense. Bob Pak booked him for an amateur night at the State, to explain his nut theories, but the audience razed him off the stage.

Negotiations for the merger of the Schine Theatres, Inc. and the Phil Chakeres Interests of Springfield, O., have been completed. Arrangements for the purchase of the Regent and Fairbanks houses in Springfield from the Gus Sun Theatres Co., were also settled by this deal.

Schine Theatres, Inc., now own a 50 percent interest in the newly formed company, called the State Regent Corporation, with Phil Chakeres, former owner of the State and Majestic.

William Haynes, of Ohio Loew house, is out as candidate for the \$15,000 job as manager of Public Auditorium.

Philip Miner, president of Philip Miner, Inc., local real estate firm, and who first sponsored the Metropolitan Opera and Chicago Civic Opera companies in Cleveland, is being sued by a local residential hotel for \$1,062. Hotel claims that Miner owed that much for hotel rooms and restaurant fare for "himself and party."

Valentine, film house in Canton, sold to Botzum Theatres Co. of that city. Joseph P. Calla, manager of Canton's Strand, will manage it.

Joseph H. Solomon is to build new theatre in Willard, O., with seating capacity of 1,300, at a reported cost of \$175,000.

CHICAGO

By JOE KOLLING

TAFT—Crestor stock.
COX—Stock.
ALPHIE—"Scarlet Sons" vaude.
PALACE—"Sunset" Love" vaude.
EMPIRE—"Mutual bur."
LYRIC—"Wing" (old) vaude.
KIDNEY—"Romance Underworld."
STRAND—"Someone to Love."

Shubert dark this week. "Burlesque" next week.

Erlanger-Grand, dark for two months, reopens Jan. 13 with "Strange Interlude."

Civic Theatre, local little theatre movement, is endeavoring to enroll 10,000 members at \$1 a head. Campaign committee is headed by Mrs. William F. Albers, wife of the president of the Chicago Grocery & Baking Co. This organization has leased Boulevard, old Vine street burlesque house, until Sept. 1, 1929.

Mary Newton, leading lady during past two years for National Players (Cox) debuts this week for Walker stock in "Easy Virtue."

National stock staging "Way Down East" this week. Cast includes Kathleen Conegys, Don Burroughs, Edith Graham, Miliar Vincent, Alice Baker, Clare Hatton, Richard Fowler, Robert Reed, Mabel Jannay, Sarah Pickens Cabell, Ralph Greybeak, Walter Clyde, Charles Egelston.

James N. Collier, 22, first trumpet player in Al Ma's orchestra, was killed Dec. 12 when his auto smashed into a bridge rail near Richmond, Ind. With Collier were George, Harry, and Al. Collier and Andrew Secrest, of Jean Goldkette's orchestra. Secrest suffered loss of numerous teeth and Harper escaped with scratches.

The boys were on way from visit to Muncie, Ind., home of Collier and Secrest, to Cincinnati, where Mart's combination is at Castle Farm. Mr. Collier was graduate of Indiana University and considered one of best trumpet players in the Midwest.

MINNEAPOLIS

By LESTER REES

MEY—Dark.
SHUBERT—Dramatic stock.
HENNIP—Show Folks" vaude.
PANTAGES—"Melody of Love" vaude.
PALACE—Musical.
MINNESOTA—"Three Week Ends" stage show.

ATLANTIC—"Home Towners."
STRAND—"Companionate Marriage."
LYRIC—"Companionate Marriage."
GRAND—"Snow People" (2d run).

Homewood (F. & R.), second big residence section house here wired, (vaudefilm). Also grand this week with "Melody of Love" as initial talker.

E. Edith Tallaferra, with Bainbridge

stock, leaves next week to make way for Marjorie Rembeau.

Movie Age, regional picture trade paper, has moved here from Omaha, Greater Amusements, local film trade publication issued weekly, has been operating profitably for many years.

F. & R. installing Sonora-Bristophone in Arlon, one of their uptown houses, and in their projection room.

At special elections last week two Minnesota towns, Clearbrook and Hewlet, voted against Sunday shows. At Clearbrook, where the vote was 97 to 72, Albert Henderson, owner of the theatre, says that it will be necessary for him to close his house entirely, as he cannot operate at a profit without Sunday shows. The Sunday opponents had a majority of 11 in Hewlet. Sunday shows are at Wheaton, Minn., and Clarion, Ia., near here.

Under Harold D. Finkelstein, general manager F. & R. key city managers, were given a three-day special managers' training course.

F. & R. has just closed deals which give it control of Minot, N. D., and Hibbing, Minn., leaving practically no northwest town of importance outside of the closed category. Theatres purchased are the New Garden in Hibbing, and the Arcade, Minot.

BUFFALO

By SIDNEY BURTON

TECK—"Paris Bound."
BUFFALO—"Awakening."
HIBBING—"The Girl in the Red."
GREAT LAKES—"Caught in Fog."
GAYETY—"Mama Woman-Who-Gave-My-Heart to You."

Although rumors as to Fox taking over several Buffalo neighborhood houses, only deal locally so far in connection with the Elmwood, west side community house. Elmwood is understood to be included in the deal made between Ullman with Fox for the Brighton in Syracuse and Elmwood, both houses Ullman owned.

Theatre Guild proposal for a subscription season here meeting with response. Over 6,000 Buffalonians have signed on, declaring their support of the plan.

Perry, near here, has a Sunday picture battle. About a month ago village board passed ordinance legalizing Sunday performances. Church people circulated protests, with result that the ordinance, requested an official referendum held yesterday (Dec. 18). Perry has 4,700 inhabitants.

INDIANAPOLIS

By EDWIN V. O'NEAL

CINCINNATI—"Kings."
INDIANA—"Diner and Egg Man."
ATLANTA—"Me, Ganger."
PALACE—"The Wind."

Influenza, bad weather and pre-Christmas rush hit first-run houses.

Fourth Ave. Co. has bought Luna Colonial and Grand at Logansport from Hornbeck company.

Joseph I. Schnitzer, new FBO president, started his career in Indianapolis as manager of the Central Film Service.

Harry G. Graham, new Pathe manager, succeeding Oscar Bloom, was born east of W. W. W. man, Metro, new president of the Screen Club.

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CORRESPONDENCE

All matter in CORRESPONDENCE refers to current week unless otherwise indicated.
The cities under Correspondence in this issue of Variety are as follows and on pages:

Table listing cities and page numbers: BOSTON 53, BROOKLYN 53, BUFFALO 52, CHICAGO 52, CINCINNATI 52, CLEVELAND 52, DETROIT 53, INDIANAPOLIS 52, KANSAS CITY 53, LOS ANGELES 54, LOUISVILLE 53, MINNEAPOLIS 52, MONTREAL 53, OKLAHOMA 53, PROVIDENCE 53, SAN FRANCISCO 54, SYRACUSE 53, TOLEDO 54, TORONTO 53, WASHINGTON 53.

too. Where they'll laugh at his gags, which they didn't here, maybe the singing will be forgiven. Neighborhood acts through the week.

"Baby Nemo," small elephant presented by trainer and assistant, small-time attraction for kids at present. Trainer puts him through his paces by hobnobbing on his legs, which makes "Baby Nemo" jump naturally. Only the American flag for finish.

Blake and Ross, next-to-shut, come in baggy clothes with female singing straight. Best showing on the bill, with bluish material helping (New Acts). Joe White Trio, closing, two acrobatic clowns and singer girl assistant. Fair for smaller houses.

"Dripwood" (Columbia) feature. Acting in a house through rough Madison and Halsted.
Hing.

American

Holding 'em out here at 8 Wednesday night. Not the first time either. One house was taken over by employees, biz has been nothing to complain about. With fairly good pictures and tid-bits of vaude, besides some burlesque, the boys who run the works have been getting a break.

Vaude layout this time held usual seven turns, booked through Billy Diamond, one house was taken over by employees, biz has been nothing to complain about. With fairly good pictures and tid-bits of vaude, besides some burlesque, the boys who run the works have been getting a break.

Tint and Williams (New Acts) were dustered about something in the deuce. Mixed dancing couple, carrying a little too who sings and dances.

Allen and Francis, man and woman comedy team, gay wheezes and light vaude. Penne comes out on the vaudeville fiction, which seems merely carelessness. Double comedy dance is best of their routines.

"Savoy Revue" (New Acts) turned out five kids in various typed songs and dances. On and off to mediocre returns.

Thora Keeler in kid character numbers looks like a bit if she will tone down and cut some of her stunts and gags. Looks good and delivers otherwise. Male pianist okay too. Boy strums a banjo and hits when not at the ivories. Joke and comic timing and swift jokes were easy for this audience. Joke in any form is perceptible to the neighborhoods in this town.

atres. He opens at Loew's State, Los Angeles, Dec. 28.

George Jessel in "The War Song" follows "Paris Bound" in the Harris Christmas night.

Clyde Eckhardt, Fox Exchange manager-in-Chicago, has been laid up with grippe two weeks.

Ginger Rogers leaves the Public "Hi Ha!" unit after playing the Tivoli. She returns to New York.

Kitty Kirk, formerly dramatic stock and publicity promoter, is now associated with the Ernie Young office.

Local William Morris office is furnishing acts to the Capitol, Winnipeg, a Paramount Canadian house.

Tom Crowe has replaced Marvin Well as manager of Mrs. Kohl's Academy, west side vaude house.

A picture house to replace the Alamo will be started at Plainfield, Ill., within the next two months, it was announced by J. Gould, owner of the Alamo. House is to seat 700, and open July 1.

CLEVELAND

By GLENN C. PULLEN

HANNA—"Follow Thru."
MAYHOUSE—"Rep."
COLUMBIA—"Mutual bur."
SPILLMAN—"Singing Fool" (7th week).
PALACE—"Blindfold" vaude.
ALLEN—"Dream of Love."
HUP—"Show Girl."
STATE—"Water Hole" stage unit.
CAMBO—"On Trial" (2d week).
30TH—"Celebrity" vaude.

Hanna, with "Follow Thru" on its premiere, only legit house in town.

"Singing Fool" will end run at Stillman Sunday after seven weeks, followed by "Trail of '93."

Irons and Clamage, it is reported, dickering with Samuel Manhelm for the purchase of his Little rep. theatre and Columbia burlesque house. If plans go through, Irons and Clamage's agency will be put into both houses. Little has been talking it on the chin lately, although Columbia's always been a good paying proposition. Manhelm wants to get out of the burlesque racket—if he can make a juicy profit on deal.

Tullio Carminati, ex-film actor, took over Basil Rathbone's role in road company of "Command to Love" during local engagement, when Rathbone was suddenly called to New York.

Gustav Ebbing, writer and amateur actor, has been arrested by U. S. secret agents on the charge of conspiring against the

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LOS ANGELES

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West Coast has a site on Hollywood boulevard near Highland avenue for a 3,700-seat theatre. As the two houses in Stockton are getting a bit old Harold B. Franklin has obtained a location in that city for a 2,100-seater on Main and Market streets. Houses are also to be erected in Modesto, Hollister and San Luis Obispo. In Montana two houses are to be built, one at Great Falls, and one at Butte. Also new houses in Eugene and Corvallis, Ore. Circuit will also invade Aberdeen and Centralia, Wash., where at present they have no house in operation.

Although June Colyer's contract with Fox does not come up for renewal until March of next year, the studio exercised it at this time and renewed in order to let the actress take her two weeks' vacation. Miss Colyer is now en route to New York where she will spend Christmas.

James Gleason is writing an original race track story for M-G-M title of which is "Straight, Place and Show."

In searching for a male lead for "Dynamite" C. B. DeMille has narrowed the candidate for the lead down to two: Monte Blue and Buck Jones.

The next attraction at Grauman's Chinese will be "The Iron Mask," Douglas Fairbanks' latest picture, expected to open around Feb. 1.

M-G-M have taken over a three-year contract held by Pathe with Phillips Haver. She will be in DeMille's first M-G-M picture, "Dynamite."

First National studio's intramural tennis tournament, with more than 55 entries, was won by Phillip Mullins of the casting office in the singles class with first honors for doubles going to Gregory La Cava, director, and Will Ruggles, assistant director. Winners were presented with silver trophies and at the same time challenged by the champion players of Paramount studios.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer will start construction of its own exchange building on Vermont avenue in Film Row, immediately after the first of year. It is to be a two-story structure and will be occupied solely by the M-G-M distributing organization for this territory.

Frank Ward, location manager for First National studio during the past two years, has been relieved. Warner Brothers' William Guthrie, location manager, will look after both studios for location information.

California, 750-seat firm, house at Glendale, built by J. W. Young, opens Dec. 25.

After a year and half of preparation and three months in production, the silent version of "She Goes to War," made by Inspiration, has been completed.

Work of adding sound effects and dialog will begin next week at the United Artists sound recording plant. This will be released through R. A.

Estelle Taylor will be opposite Lou Chaney in the latter's next for M-G-M. "Red Browning" will direct.

Christie has bought four more sketches which will be made as short talking comedies in the coming year.

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H. MILLER INSTITUTION OF THEATRE INTERNATIONALS Shoes for the Stage and Street SHOWFOLK'S SHOESHOP-1552 BROADWAY

pany's current program of 32 such films. Three, "Hit or Miss," "Hot Lemonade" and "The Third Angel" are by Florence Ryerson. The fourth is "Meet the Missus," by Kenyon Nicholson.

Harrison Ford in male lead of "Take My Advice," Henry Duffy's next at the President.

Beth Pitts, dancer, was awarded \$75 by the State Labor Commission in settlement of a claim for \$150 made by her against the United Artists Theatre. Miss Pitts charged that her contract to stage a ballroom number in the theatre's Nov. 28 show was broken.

Elliott McManus, for two years in the FBO publicity department, has joined Fox where he will assist Earl Wingart and Joe Shea in the same capacity.

Par has permitted its option on Fred Kohler, screen heavy, to lapse. He is free-lancing.

Bert Levy, vaude monopolist, engaged by Lupino Lane as m. c. for Lane's forthcoming "Hollywood Music Box Revue." It opens Dec. 25.

Eddie Baker, formerly assistant director on the Christie lot, promoted to director. Making Bobbie Vernon's "His Angel Child."

Roy Pomeroy, head of the Paramount department, has returned from a month's absence in New York.

"The 19th Hole," starring Frank Craven, will start a two weeks' run at the Elmore Dec. 31 following "The Merchant of Venice," with George Arliss.

M. J. Mullin, head of the maintenance and purchasing department for Publix, is making tour of Coast houses operated by his organization. He returns to New York in two weeks.

The complete cast of principals for Lupino Lane's Hollywood Music Box Revue includes, besides Lane, Bert Levy, Doris Eaton, Doris Whitney, Charlotte Merriam, Evelyn Delfino, Wallace Lupino (Lane's brother), Lupino Lane, Jack Lloyd, Myra Hubert and Tut Mace. The show will have 24 girls, with Kitty Dorian starring. Many numbers written by Carlton Kelsey, who will conduct. Opens Christmas night.

Dorothy Reid, Huntly Gordon and Cyril Chadwick will head "Really, Really," Auranla Rouveroit's new play, which will be the Theatre Mart's next offering. Others in cast: Lols Corbert, Sidney Crossley, Marjory Amerbeck, Lou Weil Wiley, Beth Ammon, John Manning, Burwood Jones, Harry Well, C. H. Burney, Frederick Sullivan directing. Dec. 20-22.

Harry Akst, song writer, has arrived to join the new Hollywood Tin Pan Alley.

Bandits held up Peggy Worthington, cashier of Filmart, West Coast house, and escaped with \$100 while the lobby was full of people.

VARIETY'S SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE WARFIELD BUILDING Telephone Prospect 1353 JACK EDWARDS in Charge

West Coast Theatres has switched its broadcasting time over KYA from 30 minutes each Monday and Tuesday evening from 8:30 to 9, to Tuesday nights 11 to 12. Phil Phillips, of the T. D. Oakland, is announcer and awarding prizes weekly for the best explanation of why the listener is up at that hour. Good gag.

Three local Publix houses are now starting morning performances at 11, instead of at noon, with 35c be-

twen. 11 and 1. From 1 until 6 (one hour later), matinee admission is 50 cents.

Imperial Troupe of Tokio made its initial Northern California appearance at the Community Playhouse Dec. 16.

Charging he had been forcibly ejected from a store in Powell street, Eugene's Portland local song publisher, filed suit for \$20,000 damages against H. C. Hansen.

Publix has instituted a local policy that has been worked out successfully by the circuit in numerous key cities. It's the morning performance racket now given at all three Publix houses here, Granada, California and St. Francis, at 35 cents until 1 p. m. Complete show stage act included, goes with the 35-cent top.

Ralph Pincus engaged following leads for "Mary Dugan," opening at the Columbia Dec. 22. Forest Strandling, Florence Mason, Henry Crosby, Guy D'Emery and Charlotte Walker.

Henry Duffy bought coast rights for "Courage" and will put it on at his Alcazar, following "Lombardi, Ltd." Duffy also purchased rights for "The Skull."

George Lipschultz, concert violinist and musical director at the Sir Francis Drake hotel, will be unable to play the violin for some time as the result of an injury to his right arm, sustained in an automobile collision with a car driven by P. B. Mahoney of police traffic squad.

Learning that the officer had not reported the accident, Lipschultz fled charges against him.

"In Old Arizona," Fox's all-dialog western feature made mostly in ex-territors, will not open at the California, Publix, Dec. 22.

At the last minute booking has been cancelled, with Publix substituting "The Intrepid" for "The Intrepid" at the Warfield, West Coast house, early in January.

TOLEDO

By E. H. GOODING PALACE-Stock VITA-TEMPLE (wired)-'Beware of Bachelors.' PATHEON (wired)-'Whip.' STATE (wired)-'Uncle Tom' (24 week). BRADDOCK (wired)-'Ends of the Earth.' VALENTINE-'Wind' (dim). RIVOLI-Vaudism. KEMPERS-Teaser. EMPIRE-Mutual bur.

Despite influenza epidemic, with as high as 20,000 cases reported, local houses got by nicely last week.

Marie Astaire, flickers, joined husband, Walter, here last night. This week and will tour with him at least part of the way to the coast. Kane is with Paul Burns in comedy skit -"Fan time."

Marine Watt, once chosen "Miss Oklahoma," has passed up career as a dancer and is clerking in a store here, against the time when Ray Stiles, former W. Va. senior law student at Ohio Northern, Ada, O., makes her his bride in June.

Royal, Et. Recovery, O., leased by J. H. Kruehl. He sold his house in Sidney to Schine's Ohio in that city. Ritz, Ritzler & Kirwan's, Lima, O., opens at Tiffin Dec. 20.

PLAYS OUT OF TOWN

(Continued from page 46) of our younger dance directors, has done himself proud in just two weeks' work on this production. By the time it reaches New York the dance director will be an even more prominent feature. In this case he has had excellent material, inasmuch as Jimmy McHugh's tunes lend themselves admirably to ensemble dance encores. This same McHugh has turned out a corking score. There are no less than 16 numbers that should be plugged into the hit class. Field's lyrics are sometimes hard to sing, but they are fresh and clever. The cast is undergoing "some" changes, but generally satisfactory even now. Lew Fields himself, considerably quieter, is immensely amusing; George Hassell, in a comparative role, is less so. Betty Starbuck is corking and should have more to do. It is she who puts over "In a Great Big Way." The real hit of the show, however, is Billy Taylor, comedian of the boob variety. This show ought to make him. Constance Carpenter, feminine

lead, will be replaced by Mary Lawlor. This reviewer liked Miss Carpenter, because her personality is so decidedly different. It is true that she missed something in putting on some numbers, but the real offender in this respect is Allen Kearns, who is being retained. Kearns is a capital comedian of the quicker kind and belongs in straight comedy. He cannot sing these kind of numbers or dance them. Maxwell Conover, playing a matron, is being replaced by Alice Fischer, who is a capital comedian. Two girls who click nicely in song and dance numbers are Dorothy Roy and Wanda Gall. Waiters.

Houseboat on the Styx

Boston, Dec. 15. Chanson.....Bertram Peacock Ponce de Leon.....Sam Ash Queen Elizabeth.....Blanche Ring Mrs. Noah.....Jessie Graham Siphon.....Muriel D'Amico Mrs. Morgan.....Muriel D'Amico Queen of Sheba.....Pauline De Helen of Troy.....Georgia Gwynne Josephine.....Marion Stuart Sir Walter Raleigh.....Helen Ford Catherine of Aragon.....Dorothy Humphreys Mrs. H. H. Clinton.....Grace Cantrelle Jane Seymour.....Grace Cantrelle Anne of Cleves.....Glora Clare Morgan.....Richard H. Hackett Katherine Parr.....Catherine Porter Henry VIII.....William Danforth A. Servant.....John E. Hazzard Capt. William Kidd.....John E. Hazzard Adam.....Alice Scoville Maurine Eve.....Norval Jackson Napoleon.....Johnny Fields P. T. Barnum.....Harry Bates Shakespeare.....John Osborne Clemson Morgan.....Dorothy Humphreys Captain of Police.....Dorothy Humphreys Columbus.....Johnny Fields Sherlock Holmes.....Charles Gibney Mrs. McGonigle.....Richard H. Hackett Dick Bragg's satire, produced by Ned Jacobs in two acts and eleven scenes. Metropolitan Theatre, Boston, Dec. 10. Lyrics and score by Carlo and Saunders; adaptation by Kenneth Webb. "The Houseboat on the Styx," with Oscar Engle; dances and ensembles by Ray Perez; sets by Willy Fogarty; costumed by John Booth.

What a show this ought to be! But it isn't.

On paper the musical comedy adaptation of "The Houseboat on the Styx" looks like a laughing riot. But it doesn't play funny. Scene after scene depicts the predicaments of thousands chuckle by their fire-sides as they read the delightful satire of John Kendrick Bangs did not click under the glare of the foot-lights. The Ned Jacobs' version simply is not a comedy natural and it is doubtful if anything other than heroic injections of hoke will make it prance very long on Broadway. The production has been lavishly staged by Jacobs and a wealthy backer, and the local Rialto's latest effort in the wisecrack that Jacobs had to find an angel to produce "The Houseboat on the Styx." The chorus of 36 and a pontoonic cast has resulted in a nut that means close to \$25,000 to break out of the red in New York.

The plot as it plays is laid in Hell where the ladies of Sheol are peevish over the misadventure of a floating bar on the River Styx, where women are barred by the house committee. Capt. Kidd, drunk role played by John Hazzard, is trying to make Cleopatra, and in addition is sore because he cannot join the club that owns the houseboat. He has given up playing the wisecrack that Jacobs had to find an angel to produce "The Houseboat on the Styx." The chorus of 36 and a pontoonic cast has resulted in a nut that means close to \$25,000 to break out of the red in New York.

mately found his fountain of youth, went to Heaven, learned that Cleo had been routed across the bar and promptly decided she was the type of vamp that any young man would go to Hell for.

The story runs along interestingly and the characters are played with fidelity. The same can be said about the average church cantata. But the satire is either keen nor crude and belly laughs not there. There is an occasional sparkling line and one or two rather audacious double entendres that are rather buff. Ncvo, half bunned, with his field, playing a couple of minstrel show chords and saying "Gentlemen, be seated." The house committee goes into executive session was refreshing stage satire, but these little spots are few and far between.

The chorus is well trained, the Adam and Eve dances by Maurine and Norma holds possibilities, and the specialty dances by Al Jordan, Vera Clarke, Petra Olsen and Dorothy Humphreys will probably speed up the dragging action of a routine and a dialog that runs 30 minutes too long at present. The score has some production value. "Red River," that can be built and run in one or two numbers so reminiscent that there are already rumors other composers may see a few.

The cast does its best, with no outstanding performance through lack of material.

Jacobs and Hazzard will have to re-produce the show drastically, and than they have done to date to make the grade, although the show as it now stands will probably pull a mis-leading angle in the satellite cities out of curiosity and from those who have found the John Kendrick Bangs' satire funny reading.

It's a show that will live or die based on its funniness. Libby.

PLAYS ABROAD

Paris, Dec. 9. Tschalkowsky's opera, "The Queen of Spades," created in St. Petersburg in 1890, was presented at the Gaite Lyrique last week under favorable conditions. Story is by Pushkin, adapted to music by Peter Ilitch and Tschalkowsky's brother, Modeste.

It tells of Herman in love with Lisa, granddaughter of an old lady known as the Queen of Spades because of her inveterate luck at cards. Herman follows the principles of the gambling Countess and attempts to force the secret of success from her. He hides in her bedroom and she shock when she sees him kills the aged aristocrat. So Herman learns little, but he is visited by his victim's ghost who shows him three cards. Following the funeral of the Countess he plays against Prince Yekater, husband of Lisa, winning twice with two cards revealed by the ghost. The third time he stakes all he possesses, turns up the red and wins. He sees the Queen of Spades alive. Having lost he kills himself. Mme. Luczarska plays the Countess, Prince Yekater, husband of Lisa and Karapia as Herman.

Kendrew.

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BILLS NEXT WEEK

- HALLIDAY
(Continued from page 35)
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Max Lowe Bd
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LITERATI

(Continued from page 20)
Life" periodical hoped to invade the "Town Topics" field. It never happened. De Lignemare sued to recover, and got judgment for \$7,000. All he has to worry about now is collecting.
Choristers' Art Mag
Chorives will have their own mag. one of those illustrated art study periodicals. Title is "Chorus Girl."
Richard Burke, theatrical photographer, is publisher-editor-backer. It will publish monthly.
"Loneliness" Printed Here
The limited edition of "The Well of Loneliness," which Covici Friede is offering at \$10, was actually printed in this country last August under the direction of Jonathan Cape. Fearing loss of copyright, Cape came to this country and ordered that 600 copies of the book be printed. When Covici Friede acquired the American copyright, the company also undertook the distribution of the limited edition.
Chi Rivalries
A circulation battle is on in Chicago between the Tribune and the Examiner and American, Hearst Tribune claims never has been surpassed in circulation. It is now

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being challenged in daily circulation by the American and in Sunday distribution by the Examiner. The Trib has had songs written about each of its comic strips and including a number from in each Sunday paper. The Examiner has met that move with 20 Sunday cartoon features.

from the editorial staff of the New York American to become editor of the Drug Trade Weekly.

\$100,000 for Times' Ribbon Sign

The first and only electric newspaper bulletin moving sign of its kind in the country is that which nightly operates the entire circumference of the New York Times building in Times Square. The Frank C. Reilly Co. of New York installed the Motogram sign for the Times at a cost of \$100,000. The complete electrical fixture is 380 feet around, with a depth of five feet.

John Carter new literary editor of Forbes Magazine.

There is no limit to the number of bulletins that can be included although the Times does not operate it all night. The Times is using it more for novelty than as a new medium, although its bulletins contain a few late news flashes of international, national and city importance.

Henry Wysham Lanier is now editor of The Golden Book, the first of the magazines to reprint fiction. Under Lanier's direction it became, and still is, the leader in its field. Lanier has made no new connections as yet.

Jeffers Macomber is now Judge, Jr., replacing Norman Anthony, the first Jr. on Judge. No editorial writer on the sheet. All contributing

Search for substitutes for new Western fiction books has resulted in Two-Gun Western Series as the name for one of the new publications. It trails for a moment.

Walter Reed, 27th year editor of the magazine, Street Set, has been named to the assistant editor's desk on Columbia Magazine.

Ralph E. Renaud, managing editor of the Evening Post, switches over to the m. e. desk on the New York World-Journal. The editorial staff of the World is preceeding Herbert Bayard Swaps, retiring boss, Saturday.

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"Broadway Melody," a talker, will be produced by Metro-Goldwyn and now being produced by Metro-Goldwyn is being received by Jack Lant.

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VOL. XCIII. No. 11

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1928

56 PAGES

WRONG FILMS MADE RIGHT

Gimbel's Proposed Radio Network; Columbia's Network Biggest Hookup

Forty-nine stations in the newly aligned Columbia Broadcasting System with WABC and WOR, New York, as the key broadcast centers, will give that network the largest regular hook-up of any radio chain. It exceeds the combined red and blue networks on the NBC system.

Ultimately, WOR will be eliminated when Columbia's contract with the L. Bamberger & Co. (Newark) station expires next September, at which time WABC will be the exclusive key station.

William S. Paley is now president of the United Independent Broadcasters, which corporate name will be eventually changed to Columbia Broadcasting System for uniformity of title.

Still another new network is coming into the field with the Gimbel Brothers' financing behind it. Their station, WGBS, atop the Lincoln hotel and disassociated from the Gimbel Bros. department store, will be the key station of the General Broadcasting System, as it is known. Dudley Paskman is president of the General Broadcasters, with designated Gimbel officials on the directorate. Plans to absorb independent stations throughout the country in a network with WGBS are being laid.

Bamberger's WOR station may become a link in a new Warner Bros. network.

The new Columbia line-up follows:
Basic stations: WABC, WOR.
(Continued on page 3)

Champagne's Price Leaps Up in N. Y. for New Year's

A heavy holiday demand for champagne has jumped the price to \$125 a case around New York. It had held at around \$80 before the New Year's rush came, along with a come-in avenue of considerable size, at Detroit, having been reported closed at the wrong time for the leggers.

About the only other tilt for illicit booze is for Scotch whiskey, it going to \$85, from \$75 and under.

Rye and other liquors remain about the same in cost to the consumer.

Selling Indians Instead Of Real Estate in Fla.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Dec. 24. In an effort to bolster the real estate game here a local realtor turned showman and brought a troupe of Seminole Indians from the Everglades.

The idea is that if the tourist won't buy real estate they'll pay to look at Indians who dress in gay colors and wrestle alligators. At 25¢ a seat is a bust. Indians okay and dress the part, but they want the tourist to buy beads and hand-painted fish-scalies.

"Sees" With Ears

Mildred Harris, 24-year-old blind daughter of Charles K. Harris, music publisher-composer, is doing impressions of theatrical productions, hockey games, etc., for the New York Times. Miss Harris was born blind.

"Seeing" with her ears, the young authoress' stuff has been very interesting.

Foreign Film Stars On 30c Basis Now

Looks like the craze for foreign women stars is over.

Eva Von Berne, brought over by M-G-M, has gone back home and M-G-M has picked out for Hollywood, reaches expectations.

Universal has engaged a psychologist, given him the title of director of public service, and is sending him to Universal City on a tryout of several months.

If William Marsten makes good his contract carries him in the job for five years. But he's got to prove to the boys out west that a story shouldn't have a happy ending simply because it is sobby in the preceding five and a half reels.

When Marsten, who pulled the brunette-blond passion contest in (Continued on page 46)

Not the talkies alone that kept most of the importations from eliciting, but the talker may keep any new foreigners out.

American girls are taking their places. In the future foreigners will only be used when "dialecicians" are needed.

Yellow Peril Feeders Commencing to Lay Off

Broadway's Yellow Peril is on the wane. To much competition with many added chowmenories has cut into one another's racket, all of which should be good news for the Times square nit elub mob.

Only one midtown spot, the Palais D'Or, with B. A. Rolfe's orchestra, is holding up. Rest are slipping fast and have been forced to cut their food scales.

The Jardin Royal has eliminated its name band attraction in Paul Specht, with Mike Speciale substituted. Others have cut the overhead, with food scales coming down.

The neighborhood eateries have been a factor in this Broadway slump. Many of the local raffles in Harlem, Bronx, Washington Heights, Brooklyn, downtown, etc., have their own outstanding chowmenories and dance music and a lesser part because of the difference in rents. Thrifty Yellow Peril patrons have learned where to spend for best value.

CARL LAEMMLE DIGS THE 'DOC'

William Marsten, Who Went Through Harvard Three Times Without Quitting, Will Tell 'Em How and What at Universal City — Going on Tryout—Put Over Blonde-Brunet Passion Contest

PSYCHOLOGY EDGE

What's wrong with the movies will no longer be an ethical question, about Universal pictures at least, if a big-priced, much-lettered college discoverer Carl Laemmle has picked out for Hollywood, reaches expectations.

Universal has engaged a psychologist, given him the title of director of public service, and is sending him to Universal City on a tryout of several months.

If William Marsten makes good his contract carries him in the job for five years. But he's got to prove to the boys out west that a story shouldn't have a happy ending simply because it is sobby in the preceding five and a half reels.

When Marsten, who pulled the brunette-blond passion contest in (Continued on page 46)

5 FILM COS. FIGURING COMBINED RADIO HOUR

It is said that five of the major picture producing companies have under consideration a proposal for a national weekly, or monthly, radio hour for the picture industry as a whole. There are at present three or four radio stations operated either entirely or partly by film companies, these being on a competitive basis in some cases. Proposed hour is intended to eliminate further useless competition, especially in the east where such a move threatens.

Despite the contention that a radio hour of this nature would keep the astrologer home, producers are said to be favorably inclined, figuring that the radio audience stay home anyway and that publicity for the film business might result in additional trade following the broadcasts.

It is also believed that the radio publicity which RCA is able to furnish for its theatre and film subsidiaries has roused in the producers the idea that other publicity should not be passed up by them.

In addition to the plug, an air hour might be used to counteract unfavorable newspaper publicity.

A coast to coast hookup would cost in the neighborhood of \$150,000, if used once monthly. Proposal is most likely to be approved on this basis.

Jack Gilbert Highest Paid Star Per Picture and Weekly, \$10,000

Menjou De Luxe

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 24. As au fait or rechevie for a clothes dummy, Adolphe Menjou will slide into this burg during the week, to have his svelte form draped with garments.

He's going to pose for Fashion Park, clothing manufacturers.

Real Show Boat Crew For "Show Boat" Film

Because real show boats are discovered to be unseaworthy in New York harbor, also because express rates are too high, to freight them from the middle west, Universal has persuaded a show boat crew without its boat to come in from the sticks. The film company has Norman Thom and his crew of 17 of the "Princess" booked for four shows at \$2 top for the Belmont, New York.

The river company starts rehearsing January 12 for opening five days later. It is working on a guarantee and split basis, which Thom, in the biz for 28 years, has okayed to Harry Reichenbaeh.

Even the morality clause, which Harry offered to waive after Thom's wife said none of the company were allowed to say even "damn," is set. The U picture, of course, follows the Belmont gag.

Television by 1935 By the Electric Cos.

Figuring five years ahead and not next season, as does the show business of old, the electrical interests now so prominent and dominant in the amusement industry are counting themselves right now with television. The regulation propaganda announcements preceding the actual marketing of television sets will not occur for several years, it is claimed, but actually and practically plans are afoot for the marketing of television sets by 1935, probably a year or two sooner.

Certain artists are being especially groomed and developed with that in view, so that their benign personalities will appeal universally for home and fireside consumption.

Being the theory of sound and physical likeness projection into the home, lighting effects for the proper presentation of television programs are now considered. Natural color transmission is the desired objective.

It is figured that the sound end of it has been fairly well perfected through the regulation broadcasting channels, so that is not so much the immediate concern as the proper transmission of the physical artists.

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. John Gilbert after May 1 will be the highest salaried per picture star on the screen. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer will pay him \$250,000 salary for each of six pictures he will make, at the rate of two a year.

This contract was entered into between Gilbert and Nicholas M. Schenck after five days of conference here. It resulted in bringing Gilbert's present salary of \$5,000 a week to practically double that amount.

Gilbert was reported as having a deal ready to sign with United Artists which would have made him a producer in his own right. Joseph P. Kennedy was also said to have made him a flattering offer to come under his wing.

Schenck figured that several other of his executives having failed to induce Gilbert to remain he would not close the deal. On the day Schenck was to have left for New York he started negotiating with Gilbert and the latter's business adviser Harry E. Eddington. Various propositions were made by him, but Gilbert stood pat on certain conditions and terms and held out to the last on them.

The contract provides that his (Continued on page 3)

Businesslike Fiancee's Commish for Boy Friend

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Something new in the manner of a men ticket has been devised by a former screen player, divorced wife of a film comedy star by whom she has two children, now turned vaude, for the benefit of the boy friend, also a screen player who was recently divorced. The young woman had decided there must be an engagement ring, and in case the other half of a very interested pair should feel that the purchase might cause too heavy a drain on his financial resources she declared herself as the purchaser.

Accordingly the couple visited one of the large jewelry stores in Los Angeles, where decision finally rested on a ring costing \$2,650. Nothing would interfere with the final purchase and the payment of the cash, the young woman decided, except refusal on the part of the store to deny to her friend a commission of 15 per cent, as the salesman in the transaction.

The proposition was entirely satisfactory to the jewelry store, and accordingly the sum of \$397.50 was paid to the fiancee.

BROOKS
THE NAME YOU GO BY
WHEN YOU GO TO BUY
COSTUMES
GOWNS AND UNIFORMS
1437 - ALSO 15000 COSTUMES TO REPLY

London as It Looks

By Hannen Swaffer

London: Dec. 11.

I wish somebody would stop these silly newspaper women who walk about at first nights asking everybody who people are, and then solemnly, writing down a description of their frocks. It is so silly.

Tabloid Bunk

I was talking to Violet Loraine recently at a first night when a woman on one of our tabloid papers came up and said, "I must describe your frock soon." At the first night of "Jealousy," there was a woman searching for Ruby Miller, who had promised her a photograph, and who then, quite solemnly, wrote down all that Ethel Levey was wearing. It is ludicrous to think that journalism has descended to this lunacy. Then, when she heard that Carl Van Vechten was in the house, she said, "Who is he?"

The Triumph of Mary Newcomb

It wasn't Ethel Levey's night, nor Ruby Miller's, nor even Carl Van Vechten's, although Carl was attending his first London opening, quite glad to be out of bed.

It was a triumph for Mary Newcomb, who started, in "Jealousy," a new career.

If you remember, she is an actress whom Al Woods brought east from California and who scored in New York, a sensation in "The Night Hawk," a play about a former woman of the streets, who has her face lifted.

Then, on the last night, she married Alexander Higginson, a cultured Bostonian, a banker worth \$30,000,000. They went away to Boston, for Al Woods was kind enough to treat up her five-year contract.

"You're a great actress, Mary," he said, "I'd do anything for you."

Sex Plays Pour In

Then the plays began to pour in. "It was dreadful," Mary told me. "They were all about prostitutes. Everything filthy that could be written was sent to me. They thought, because I'd played a prostitute's part once, I wanted to go on for the rest of my life. Haven't they got one clean thought?"

Alexander Higginson, who was writing a book on hunting, whose family has always been connected with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, agreed with his wife. "Sex plays were not the sort of thing that we wanted," he told me. "Couldn't they find anything clean?"

So Mary gave up the stage. She did act for four weeks in "The Woman Disputed," but that was just a "break," she said.

The Actress Trist At London

Then she came to London when Woods wanted to play it here. It would be different in England, where her husband could hunt while she was acting. He disliked New York, only the gunmen hunt there.

Then Al, finding that "The Woman Disputed" was being done as a film, put on "Jealousy" instead.

"If you only knew, Mr. Swaffer," she said to me, the next morning, "last night was a turning point in my life. If I had fopped I should never have acted again. I ruined the first act, I was so nervous. Then they seemed to like me. It's wonderful."

New Name Made in a Night

Mary Newcomb is really a brilliant actress. She and Crane Wilbur, who was not at his best, however, because he had been producing the play himself and was worried, enchanted an audience who came in worrying about the King's health.

Mary was made in London in a night. She can play here as long as she likes—if the plays can be found.

"How much do you think Mary's frocks cost?" Al asked me. "How the devil do I know?" I replied. "The girl paid \$2,000 for those three frocks," he said. "All I know about it was they were made by the same woman who makes frocks for Lady Diana."

I didn't notice them. I think, for the sake of me, they ought to put the price on. Then we should admire them, too. I only admired Mary.

Molnar Made into a Mess

I think Sir Gerald du Maurier ought to make it up with me. I feel that I am his only friend. For, after all, I warned him. Yet he barred me again from "The Play's the Thing."

"I am going to put Molnar over in London," Gilbert Miller told me, some months ago. "You'll have a job, Gilbert," I said. "When Ivor Novello made a snave of Lilliom," he wrote me, saying that my notice read more like the savage attack of a fiend than a criticism. When Seymour Hicks appeared in "The Guardsman," it was sheer buffoonery. That didn't stop him from writing in, complaining that I had referred to his wife's sitting in a box."

Du Maurier Pleads for Justice

Well, they tried it with "The Play's the Thing," which ran for two years, I believe, on one side. On the second night, Sir Gerald du Maurier, who should know better, went on the stage before the curtain went up, declared that the gallery had wrecked the play on the previous night and asked the audience to tell him, at the end, plainly and truthfully exactly what they thought of it.

"The gallery, on a first night, is a menace to any play," Sir Gerald then told a reporter. "Why they come, I do not know. It is true that we have not had a good press. That may be because the censor has deleted the whole of the play from the last act. My complaint, however, is against the gallery. Why should they be allowed to wreck a play in this way? People in the stalls do not do it, so why should the gallery?"

Sympathy for Poor Gerald

"It was not a very gay evening," said A. E. Wilson, a very nice man on the Star. "There was faint boozing at the end. One can only conclude that Molnar has been woefully misinterpreted here." "There is only one thing to do—to sympathize with Sir Gerald," said S. R. Littlewood of the Morning Post. "The very ingenious notion might very well suit a one-act impromptu at a Green Room Rag. As it is, it is padded out into three acts of rubbish. The reception was on the kind side. A warning boo from the gallery, polite applause from friends, but no call, no speech."

He Looks Like Coward

J. B. Plattner, of the Daily Chronicle, did his best for Sir Gerald. "He looks like Noel Coward in a perfectly cut white gabardine suit," he said. "The third act was rather like an extempore show to amuse actors in a club. It was responsible for the mixed reception at the end." "The play within the play, when it came, made the heart sick and the gods restless," said Charles Morgan, on the Times. "How well restrained, after one fierce outburst—was the subsequent behaviour?" "Would you mind telling me what I am laughing at? Is a phrase which no producer should leave in a play," said W. A. Baughan of the Daily News. It provoked a general laughter. Sir Gerald must have wished his friends in front had not been quite so enthusiastic, for the bulk of the audience desired to hush down the applause. As a result, there was some boozing. "God Save the King" brought us to our senses."

The Portent of the Boo

"Sir Gerald's personal influence over his public is so great and his hold upon its affections so firm," said W. A. Darlington, of the Daily Telegraph, "that even a bad play in which he appears has generally a reasonable chance of a run." It referred to "The extreme polish of his reasonable chance of a run." It referred to "the extreme polish of his reasonable chance of a run," and then said that "the play was politely received by the major-



GEORGE WOOD

Starring in Julian Wylie's Christmas production, "Hop o' My Thumb," Theatre Royal, Glasgow, Scotland. Don Leno, Jr., is "Martha," and the delightful Ella Retford is a real prince; when will America return Barry Lupino to his native land? We need this great artist. Season's greetings!

Chatter in Havana

By Rene Canizares

Havana, Dec. 20.

Literati week for Havana. New York scribes were the first to arrive as guests of John McEntee Bowman to attend the opening of the race season at Oriental Park. Among the pen-pushers were William Vreeland, Brooklyn Eagle; George Martin, World Traveler; Mag. Joseph, Evening Telegram; New York Evening World; J. B. Snodgrass, New York Post; Al Copeland, Daily News; Mike Casale, Graphic; George F. Ryart, Associated Press; Frank O'Neil, Evening Telegram; Mr. and Mrs. William J. MacBeth, Herald Tribune; Murray Tyman, Herald Tribune; Joe Williams, Telegram; and Robert J. Kennedy, publicity and advertising man of the Bowman-Biltmore hotels. Some of these boys have gone back north. Next to visit was Irving Cobb, accompanied by his wife and a party of friends. Cobb was in town only one day and continued to Rio de Janeiro and from there will go over to Italy.

Joe Wiley, New York Sun, arrived yesterday and will spend a few weeks.

Joseph M. Patterson, publisher of the New York News, Chicago Tribune and Liberty, arrived from Miami in his seaplane, and after spending three days left for Jamaica and Haiti, via Santiago. With Mr. Patterson were Mrs. A. T. Simpson, his daughter; Floyd Gibbons, the pilot, and two mechanics.

Naddy, orchestra leader at the Jockey Club the last five seasons, back at the old post. Also has another orchestra at the Alamedares hotel.

Arthur Mann, in charge of the Paul Whiteman orchestra at the President hotel, arrived Dec. 18.

Local censor board has presented a motion to make propaganda films of national industries. Assistant Secretary of Interior is back of the project.

Idea is to make films in the local factories to be released in the States.

German Ambassador filed protest against the film "Dawn," and the censors stopped the picture. Campaigner theatre was fined \$100 for exhibiting it.

Victor Talking-Machine Co. won the suit started by Cuban authors for the copyright of a native song of "Mama Lins." It was proved that the song was originally written in 1880 and was not copyrighted.

New Havana-Miami air route was inaugurated Dec. 9. Route will be extended to Porto Rico.

Fox Movietone truck is here filming and recording the races and all points of interest.

ity of the audience, but a boo or two was heard, a strange portent at this theatre."

"Yes, the Socialist Daily Herald, the paper whose politics Sir Gerald hates, was nice and friendly."

"Sir Gerald du Maurier is his charming self," said Mrs. Ewer, "but in a part that offers him very little scope. An actor manager can be too modest."

She accuses Sir Gerald of being modest! That is the unkindest cut of all, although she does not know it. Sir Gerald must let me back in his theatre. I, alone, would have cried on his neck. I, only, would have given him a glad hand. I, only, could have sympathized. But, alas, I was barred for having said, once, what nearly all the papers said this time.

Has Sir Gerald lost that cunning of which we have always been told? But, even if he has lost his cunning, he must not lose his temper. He must not blame the poor gallery.

London Chatter

London, Dec. 15.

From present theatre building plans the pit is doomed. Jack Buchanan, buying a new site on Leicester Square, is planning a 2,000-seater with a large balcony and no pit and seats at popular prices. Talk here of the vanishing pit holds up the recent Piccadilly, Carlton and Fortune (all three pitless) for comparison, while the Playhouse, Vaudeville and the Little Theatre are without them. Cochran cut out the pit when he brought "This Year of Grace" into the Pavilion.

Arguments of pro and con are furnished by the secretary of the Theatrical Managers' Association, who says the pit is a question for the individual manager, and depends on the type of entertainment and the class of audience he hopes to attract. The counter is offered by another manager, who declares the pit to be a "symbol of the democracy which is the essence of theatre-craft. A play cannot live by the approbation of the stalls alone."

Jacinto Benavente's play "For Heaven and the Altars," with the theme admittedly based on Rasputin's life in the Russian court, has been banned by the Spanish censor from the Barcelona stage, although no objection has been made to publication in book form. Play deals with a monk with supernatural powers and his ability to save the prince-heir over the objections of the king and the importance of the queen. The piece has a Spanish background. Censor's objections state likelihood of provoking disorder by agitators. Author denies having any desire to promote religious appeal or to allude to a national situation, since the reference is to the infamy from which the Prince of Asturias is suffering.

Berlin Philharmonic under Wilhelm Furtwaengler, has become a limited company, both the Reich and the city being shareholders. Furtwaengler, former guest conductor of the New York Philharmonic, was offered the Viennese State Opera's directorship, but the conductor rejected it and stayed in Berlin on condition that the city of Berlin finance the Philharmonic and keep it out of financial worry.

Helen Ford makes her first appearance on this side when "The Patsy" opens at the Apollo Dec. 20. The supporting company includes Lucia Moore, Leonore Sorby, Frank Shannon, Alexander Clark, Kenneth Loane. This production means the closing of "The Rose and the Ring," recently presented.

After nine years' omission the lagoon scene is to be restored to "Peter Pan" in its forthcoming production. Malcolm Keen will be this year's Captain Hook.

The new thriller by Charles Bennett, to be produced at the Comedy Dec. 20, is finally named "The Last Hour." Franklin Dyllal plays the lead.

To brighten up the show, which is her first "straight" one, Violet Loraine is interpolating a few songs into "Clara Gibbins."

Bernard Shaw, in a personal communication to Variety, takes exception to the statement that he once put on evening clothes. "I wear evening clothes when and where they are de rigeur. They are not worn at political meetings in England."

EGYPT

By Edward Asswad

Cairo, Nov. 30.

"The Crime," a dramatic play, was performed at Remesses Theatre, the aristocratic oriental hall, by Yussef Bey Wahby and his remarkable troupe, drawing large houses of the high class.

Wahby played the most difficult part, assuming two different roles; Ahmed Effi Allam played the role of the father with an invincible power, inducing his son to commit suicide in order not to compromise his reputation. El Barouff Effi had the role of the judge. The remaining actors and actresses included Amina Rizk and Dawlat Abiad.

"Oriental Vaudeville Film" Mme. Badia and Mr. Ngulub Rihan presented their first play of the season, entitled "Yasmina."

They also entered into an agreement with the Film d'Art Egyptian, with a view to producing an Oriental vaudeville film, which will shortly be run in Egypt. The leading lady of Aly Kasar's company, Ratiya Rashedy, joined the troupe directed by her sister, Patricia Rashedy, the famous Egyptian star. The reopening of Perroquet was very successful. Among the acts were a comedy by her sister, Patricia Rashedy, the Spanish dancer Carmina de Sevilla, Mile. Valentine Soyton, Mile. Wilhelmina Lorez and Dorothy North.

It is announced that the Ray Sisters will appear shortly.

French Satire on M. D.'s "Knock" was performed by the French company of Jean Herve at the Royal opera house. It is a satire on medicine and not particularly on the doctor, and thus far has taken the work of Mollere, whose "Malade Imaginaire" to an English mind immediately presents itself for comparison.

Mr. Jean Herve's acting as Knock was competent, but makes one eager to see him in great tragedy. Mr. Mayer as Farquard gave perhaps the most convincing performance of the evening. The minor parts, the difficulty of good characterization of "princely" types being taken into account, were effectively played. The chief honors of the evening, however, rested with the dramatist.

Pavlova in Egypt

"La Nuit de Valpuris," the ballet from Gounod's "Faust," opened the program at the opera house last night. The only criticism one can reasonably make of this ballet was the dressing, which seemed to lack harmony, and the grotesque effect of the solos and the ballet movements, was graceful and effective, particularly noticeable being Ruth French (Helene), Mile. Fauchoux (Phryne) and Mile. Helken (Helene's slave).

Mme. Pavlova made her first appearance with Vladimir in "La Fee aux Bois," a delightful ballet of the toys that come to life in a shop. What can be said about her skill, grace and charm that has not been said before is repeated in "every language under the sun."

In the charming diversions that followed the ballet, Pavlova was most delicate in her selection in "Le Cygne." One can only realize how banal are the imitations when one has been Pavlova again. "Au Bal," the finale, is a different production of the great dancer's art, from pathos to romance and gaiety, a delightful closing note to a wonderful evening.

The ballet, "The Four Seasons," run by choreographer by Cherpin's Folies on the stage of Verdi theatre, and created from a Bacchanalian inspiration, is a number in which many moods are registered, and presented with technique of the highest degree. It swings like a pendulum into acrobatic, classical and statue poses, and is clothed in the most unusual and expensive wardrobe. The setting is one of novelty, and the dance itself a poem of rhythm and the creative artist's mind.

A great feature of the Folies is their dressing, which is as unconventional as their dancing. In their costumes, they are introduced by eccentric numbers and burlesques and Russian quick-time dances are a specialty. Their routine includes such things as ringtones and other ingenious and diverting numbers, some of which are very sensational, have proved a refreshing change from the usual dance entertainments.

English Troupe

All the members of the British community have an effort to attend the production of "The Witness for the Defense," which was given at the Alhambra theatre last evening. Mrs. J. L. Currier and H. Currier are the joint producers.

The complete cast is as follows: Mr. C. E. Moss, Mr. O. J. Smith, Mr. A. B. Atwood, Harold Hazlewood, Mr. J. L. Tulloch, Richard Hazlewood, Mr. H. E. McCallister, Barram Singh, Mr. J. T. Taylor, Hubbard, Mr. K. J. Moore, Mr. E. Ballantyne, Mr. Stephen White, Mrs. Pettifer, Mrs. Alan Gibbons.

New 52-Week Vaude Route in Britain With Salary Cut; International Effect on Acts?

London, Dec. 24. General Theatres Corp. contemplates a cut in vaudeville salaries but in return it will offer a route of 52 weeks of work with practically no repeats.

This is the most tangible proposition ever attempted in England. It may have an effect upon vaudeville salaries throughout the world and is a result of the deal whereby Gaumont-British took over Provincial Cinematograph Theatres. General Theatres is also a subsidiary of Gaumont-British since last May. The gain in the number of theatres makes the vaude route possible.

International phase comes in through Pat Casoy. When here last summer Casoy had several conferences with Colonel Broadhead relative to the possibilities of a working alliance with the Keith Circuit. Idea was a combination contract to be issued acts in both countries. This was not eventuated.

General Theatres officials feel that they have been paying too much for American importations but claim they have had no alternative in the past because of only being able to offer a limited number of playing weeks.

Hence their arithmetic which figures a year's route should reduce the salary tap.

Andrew MacFarlane, who left the Express (newspaper) to take charge of General Theatres' publicity, is now out. Other important executive changes are due to follow after the first of the year.

No intimation is being given as to those to be affected by the changes, but the understanding is that the sweep will be radical.

Stage Hands' Demand; Threaten Paris Strike

Paris, Dec. 24. Paris stage hands have threatened a Christmas strike in their demand for a salary increase.

Men stood with crossed arms for 10 minutes during intermission in the legit houses Saturday night. This was intended to demonstrate their solidarity, but the movement was not unanimous.

Back stage employees want a minimum scale of 42 francs daily.

Mills' Circus Starts

London, Dec. 24. Bertram Mills' annual circus, in at Olympia for six weeks starting Dec. 20, has been well received.

Performance is replete with comedy and not overburdened by heavy and expensive animal acts. Outstanding hits are Col. Colleano and Van Horn and Inez.

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2 Colored Am. Musicians In Shooting Over White

Paris, Dec. 24. Open season for American shootings started here when two drunken colored musicians from the States blazed away at each other in the very heart of the Montmartre district.

Eacher sporting red display, according to friends, is that both men were much taken with Dolores Giblin, white Australian dancer, who was wounded twice in the shooting and is in a very serious condition.

Men gave their names to the police as Mike MacKenzie and Sidney Becher. They said the argument started over who was the best musician. Those present claim the dispute started over the girl. Both men were so drunk they could hardly see what they were doing.

Becher sustained a slight forehead scratch but Glover Compton, another colored musician, who happened to be passing, was clipped in the knee, and an innocent woman also stopped a bullet. Battle started with fists but both men pulled automatics and emptied six shells apiece at each other.

Both sharpshooters will probably be deported for their behavior.

It's but a few months ago that an entire colored band from America was deported from Australia, through some of its members becoming mixed up in a drunken orgy with white Australian dissolute women.

"Patsy," London Hit

London, Dec. 24. "The Patsy," opening at the Apollo is an undoubted success.

Newspaper comment grudgingly conceded that an old idea is here entertainingly treated and made humorous, while going into ecstasies over Helen Ford's performance.

Paris' Bad Weather

Paris, Dec. 24. Weather turned bad late last week. Plenty of rain and a constant mist.

May have had something to do with the plunge in receipts although the managements figure the pre-holiday slump.

London, Dec. 24. Considerable fire has prevailed throughout the past week, materially affecting the theatres, besides the usual slump.

Paris-Booked

Paris, Dec. 24. Due at the Empire (vaudeville) early in the new year are Mae Murray, Fowler and Tamara, Ade Lyman's Band, Loshie and Sterling Inez and Dewey Revels, Eddy May, Eileen Harmony Rascais, Lockfords, Myrlo, Desha and Spanover, and Faunteroy.

Jim, the bear, is due at the Casino.

ELSIE JANIS IN PARIS SHOW

Paris, Dec. 24. Elsie Janis has signed with Jacques Charles for a Moulin Rouge show slated to open Jan. 15.

Miss Janis will be at the theatre three or four months while Milstunnett vacations.

When Miss Janis recently cancelled London vaudeville dates it was with the ostensible reason of her mother's indisposition. She was supposedly to sail for home after her engagement in "Clowns in Clover."

MAURICE BERNHARDT DIES

Paris, Dec. 23. Maurice Bernhardt, 67, son of the late Sarah, died here Dec. 21 of pulmonary congestion.



WILL MAHONEY

The Dayton "News" said: "Will Mahoney is quite the best comedian that has been seen here in years. He is a mirth provoking, original, clever and jocosse fellow who bids dull care be gone and is a real tonic for the blues. The whole town will be talking about him before his departure."

Direction
RALPH G. FARNUM
1560 Broadway

"Last Hour" Has Better Chance Than Robey Revue

London, Dec. 24. Two openings last week one of which looks to have a chance. Optimistic entry is "The Last Hour" at the Comedy.

This is a melodrama designed to parallel the success of "The Silent House" at the same theatre. It proved an excellent play and probably will be a success although lightning doesn't oft strike twice in the same place. It opened Thursday (Dec. 20).

There doesn't seem to be any hope for George Robey's revue, "In Other Words," at the Carlton. It is utterly old fashioned and is a disappointing comeback for the well known comic. This was also a Dec. 20 opening.

EXPLOSION HALTS SHOW

"Funny Face" Temporarily Off—Gas Mains Destroy Film Offices

London, Dec. 24. Prince's theatre is now without light, gas or water, and "Funny Face" is temporarily closed due to a severe explosion of gas mains in the Shaftsbury Avenue area. Explosion took place last Thursday (Dec. 20).

Mishap destroyed the premises of the British Acoustic Film Company and the offices of several small distributors in the same building. No body was injured.

GILBERT'S NETWORK

(Continued from page 1)
2XP (short wave), WBAW, WNAAC, WCAU, WPAK, WCAO, WFBL, WMAK, WKWB, WLWB, WJAS, WJRC, WADC, WAIU, WSPD, WKRC, WGHF, WOWO, WGL, WMAQ, WBBM, KMXX, KMBC, KOHL and WMAI.
Southern 1: WERVA, WTAR and WYNY.
Southern 2: WLAC, WDDO, WRIC and WREC.
Southern 3: KFJF, KTHL, KRLL, KFSN and KTHS.
Far West: KLZ, KDYL, KYA, KMPR, KTR, KEX and KGA.
Supplementary: WCCO, WISN and WML.

COCHRAN'S NEW SHOWS

London, Dec. 24. Charles Cochran has signed Alana, late of the Russian Ballet, for his new revue.

Cochran also has a new operetta by Noel Coward, for which Georges Metaxa has been engaged. This musical will be produced after the love.

In Restaurant

London, Dec. 24. Nitta Vernille and Jack Holland (Holland and Barry) at Verrey's restaurant Jan. 9.

London Shows at Xmas Time Follow Usual Trend; Smashes Only Doing Biz

London's Stops and Starts; 'Merry-Merry' Due in Feb.

London, Dec. 24. Legit activity around here the past week lined up as follows:

"Mister Cinders," now touring, opens at the Adelphi and the end of January. Williamson-Tate have bought in with the management.

"So This Is Love" is closing at the Winter Garden Jan. 27 and "Funny Face" will probably come in at this house. Management of the Astalbes show is also negotiating for Covent Garden for next week. It is now without a home, due to the gas main explosion.

Delysia's "Her Past" opens in the West End Feb. 21, although no theatre has been named for it as yet. Dill \$11,000 in Manchester last week. Harry Westminster's "White Camel" also due in London shortly as is Russell Janney's "White Eagle," now renamed "Winona." Latter show will probably come to the Gaiety.

With George Robey's "In Other Words" having a thought time of it at the Carlton, Clayton & Waller are getting "Merry-Merry," former Lyle Andrews' New York show ready for the end of February. It goes into rehearsal Jan. 14. William Berry is the leading comedian.

U. S. Drama Rewrite on Police Blotter—Ervine

London, Dec. 16. American dramatists are not dramatists but journalists, states St. John Ervine, the guest critic, in the Sunday Observer.

After seven weeks of playgoing, in which he has witnessed 30 plays, this is Ervine's reaction to the American playwright, with one exception, which is, "I will come of the dramatists seem to read only the criminal reports, i. e. say.

Taste must decline in such circumstances, when drama becomes a matter of momentary interest, and dramatists become topical allusionists. The people may ask for works of art, he concludes, but they will be given partisan appeals, and presently they will not be able to understand anything that is not partisan.

Booked for Cannes

Paris, Dec. 24. Following bookings have been made by Arnaud Lartigue for the Ambassadeurs Casino, Cannes, for January:

Madeleine Northway and Paul Sorey, George Hayes, Amy Revere, Runaway Four, Mona Lee, Jean Barry and Dave FitzGibbon.

February schedule calls for Nitta Vernille and Jack Holland, David and Hilda Murray, Fowler and Tamara and Connor Sisters. Duncan Sisters open Feb. 12.

3rd Adagio Dancer

Paris, Dec. 24. Myrlo and Desha have added a new third member to the act, Spanover. Adagio trio is currently at the Paramount (pictures).

GILBERT'S \$10,000

(Continued from page 1)
studio contact will be with Irving Thalberg as producer but that Gilbert will have the right to consideration and approval on story, direction and cast. Also that he will be given a personal unit press agent whom he will select.

It is said that M-G-M figure the prestige of retaining Gilbert as a selling argument for picture projects will be unusually valuable. With Gilbert's story included it is figured that the minimum cost for his productions will be around \$250,000. No minimum or maximum on cost has, however, been set.

SAILINGS

Dec. 27 (London to New York) Victor Saville (Bermuda).
Dec. 21 (New York to London) Three Hauser Boys (Olympic).

London, Dec. 24. Starting 10 days before Christmas all shows usually flourish here with the exception of the few real smashes. This season, although considerable depression has been felt because of the King's illness, business has not really been as bad as might be expected.

Adelphi—"Clowns in Clover." Still doing moderately good business; didn't fall off when Elsie Janis left.

Aldwych—"Punder." Holding up splendidly and practically playing to capacity outside of a slight pre-holiday drop.

Ambassadors—"Many Waters." Very good; holding own despite usual slump period.

Apollo—"Come Patsy." Looks excellent; libraries (agencies) like it and propose making deal for show.

Carlton—"In Other Words." Unlikely and has no library arrangement.

Comedy—"The Last Hour." Good entertainment and rated as having chance to really click.

Criterion—"Out Goes She." Considering the bad time which it chose to open, this show is remarkably well timed to do well after the Yuletide.

Daly's—"Blue Eyes." Coming off; has done fairly well if making allowance for poor start at the Piccadilly.

Drury Lane—"Show Boat." Broke London Records a few months ago, but dropped immediately after the motor show and went to pieces fortnight later. Shows last holiday, having guessed wrong, like everybody else.

Duke of York's—"Such Men Are Dangerous." Matheson Lang's show surprise of season; holding up very well.

Fortune—"Jealousy." Unusually good business despite being unsuitable holiday attraction; in two weeks will be sold success.

Gaiety—"Peter Pan." Demand for annual revival has big as ever.

Globe—"The Truth Game." Ivor Novello going along to steady business and drawing \$4,000 weekly in salary.

Haymarket—"Mr. Pickwick." Large demand and indications are for six weeks' run; might have done better if coming in after the holidays.

Hippodrome—"That's a Good Girl." Jack Hulbert's show has settled down to an ordinary demand, which means steady receipts without an average buy.

His Majesty—"Song of the Sea." Terrible drop, but has hopes of doing Christmas business.

Kingsway—"Mrs. Moonlight." Doing poorly.

Little—"Diversions." Closed Dec. 22; might have continued had another small house been available.

Pavilion—"This Year of Grace." Bottom fell out of this Charlie Cochran show last month.

Lyric—"Cardboard Lover." Tallulah Bankhead holding cast. Dropped off show in November; picked up somewhat and holding level.

New—"Damsel in Distress." Hit from start and still strong; will do especially well in holidays.

Palace—"Virginia." Material drop in lower floor demand.

Price of Wales—"By Candle Light." Capacity since opening and every indication this will continue for some time.

Prince's—"Funny Face." Tremendous after first performances; libraries purchasing heavily until end of January, will make new buy for indefinite continuance; temporarily dark due to gas main explosion.

Queen's—"Burlesque." Not a failure and not a success at present; slightly on upgrade.

Royal—"Bells in Hand." Dull-looking run of "The Farmer's Wife"; no fireworks but respectable profit every week.

Saint Martin's—"77 Park Lane." Top notch business and big success.

Shaftsbury—"Lucky Girl." Rented for only six weeks and will move to Olympia—Bertram Mills circus at Olympia is in for six weeks and a better one than's above average.

Palladium—Vaudeville. Suffered because of drop the past few weeks.

Dec. 21 (London to New York) Victor Saville (Bermuda).
Dec. 21 (New York to London) Three Hauser Boys (Olympic).

1929 Now Looks Pretty Active In Talking Picture Way In the Eastern Film Studios

As the old year is about to bow out, three sound studios in New York are in full blast and a fourth is all primed for the signal.

Indications presage a booming 1929 in the eastern studios. Paramount is in the front line with 15 talking features and 50 shorts scheduled on the sheet for '29.

M-G-M will have a busy schedule. Since the arrival from the coast of Nick Grinde, director-in-chief of shorts, the eastern studio has been turning out completed subjects at the rate of one a day.

Grinde has completed talking shorts by Bob Nelson, Nan Blackstone, Luci de Kerekjarto, George Dewey Washington, Little Esther, the Revelers, and the Norman Phillips family. Latter have made two skits based upon former vaudeville acts. Edgar Allan Poe's "The Hunch" is permanently attached to the studio to write for sound.

Entire M-G-M studio has been repainted and redecorated, with fancy offices for the executives. A former carpenter shop has been made over into a cafeteria—not had either.

Besides the talking shorts, all coast-made features are synchronized at the M-G-M studio. This has been done partly under the direction of David Mendoza and partly by Walt Rosenber.

Silent Camera
M-G-M will shortly get delivery from Bell and Howell of a silent camera with fiber gears, the first in the east, and obviating the need for sound-proof camera booths. The latter are a source of considerable trouble, cumbersome to move and uncomfortable for the camera operator inside them. The new one operates noiselessly and does not have to be encased.

At FBO studio "Stepping High," the company's maiden venture as an all-talker, is in the midst of production with Warner's Pennsylvanians.

Joseph Zuro's musical department has recently synchronized "Sal of Singapore" and "The Spielers," both Hollywood-made features.

"Hole in the Wall," directed by Robert Florey, is a most a full week ahead of schedule at the same studio. It is expected to be completed right after New Year's instead of Jan. 7 as estimated.

Two Talkers
Paramount has now organized its facilities so that henceforth it will be possible to have two talking productions under way simultaneously. Early in the year they will have "Nothing But the Truth," with Richard Dix, and "News," with Walter Huston, shooting simultaneously.

"News" is the working title of Ward Morehouse's "Gentlemen and the Press." The next day's Brotherhood will start on "Cocooners" Feb. 1, and on March 1 Jeanne Eagels is slated to star in a second Paramount production, story not yet set.

Stage Directors
Paramount is making a point of hiring stage directors from legit to sit in with regular director on dialog. Irving Rapper officiated on "Hole in the Wall," William Collier will do likewise in "Nothing But the Truth," while John Meehan will watch the Intelluctors for "News."

Joseph Santley has finished a talking short based on "Tommy Gray's" old Music Box sketch, "Apartment Hunting." Cast includes Florence Moore, James B. Carson, Betty Gallagher, Nathan Magid, Harry Short and Maurice Underwood.

S. Jay Kaufman authored and directed a short, entitled "Kisses." Cast included Lynn Overman, John Lift, Eleanor Shaler, Marty Martell, Edna Whistler and Carol Joyce.

Evening World's Correction
New York Evening World's run of paper rate for picture advertisers in the Saturday (only) radio section does not start at 5c, as a line, as reported, but at 6c, unless wholesale lineage is contracted for at contract rates.

Radio rates do not apply to picture advertising in the same section nor is it operative on any day but Saturday.

New Sound Dissolve

Ralph H. Townsend, director of recording at Paramount's Astoria studio, successfully accomplished a double lap dissolve with sound during the making of "The Bishop's Candlesticks," talking short. He has applied for a patent on his method.

Felix Young Freed; L. A. Request Recalled

Felix Young, coast casting agent, who is concerned with the production of "The Marriage Bed," which Sam H. Harris opened in Philadelphia, Monday, was dismissed by Magistrate Goodman in New York last week, though charges of embezzlement from Noah Beery still pend in Los Angeles. Young stated he would return to the coast and face the charges which he denies.

On advice from Los Angeles, police sought to arrest Young who was ill with influenza at the Hotel Elysee. An ambulance surgeon told the cops that he was in no condition to be moved and a cop was placed on guard.

Young who was surprised and did not know the nature of the complaint, reached friends in Los Angeles with the result that the police request from there for arrest and extradition was recalled. Young does not deny that he received \$2,500 for the Beery assignment in a picture produced by Andrew L. Stone, independent. He claims Beery sought him out for a job and that the film actor named his own price as \$1,000. Young avers that he was not under contract with him and, therefore, as he was not tied down to a straight commission he felt free to keep anything over \$1,000 for himself.

It was not until the same people (operating as the Laysander Productions) had sought Beery for another picture at the same salary that Beery discovered Young had collected \$2,500. The warrant followed.

Radio Pictures' Brand

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Of the many new trade names suggested for F. B. O. pictures it looks like the name "Radio Pictures" will be adopted. This was suggested because of its close relationship with the trade name of Radio Keith-Orpheum, the new owners of FBO Pictures, and because it is short and Radio is a household word throughout the universe.

Vitaphone "Desert Song" Premiere About April

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Warners' Vitaphone version of "The Desert Song" will have its Coast premiere at this firm's Hollywood theatre about April 1. This means discarding the original plan of making the picture a roadshow. Warners have decided to play all its specials in their own houses first, insofar as this is possible.

PAR'S PORTABLE BOOTHS

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Paramount has constructed several portable sound-proof camera booths on which four levers control the wheels. With these wheels lifted from the floor the booth settles, providing a firm camera foundation.

Each structure is large enough to provide for camera and several men.

Crosland on "Sonny Boy"

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Alan Crosland, who went east to direct the Harry Richman picture for U. A., will return to Warner Bros. under contract to direct David Lee in "Sonny Boy."

Harvey Gates is writing the all-talker original.

MORE "ACTING SCHOOL" STUFF IN HOLLYWOOD

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Acting schools about Hollywood continue to furnish a hotbed for sharpeners to plant their seeds for fleecing the chumps. One case just brought to light shows a couple operating as man and wife under the name of Ramos, who befriended a mother desirous of getting her child into pictures at one of the acting schools.

Mrs. Ramos promised to get the kid a part in pictures for \$75, all the mother could produce was \$35. This was sufficient for a deposit, but the parent was urged to borrow the balance from some of her friends. Finding no friends to whom she could appeal for this much money, the sharper learned of the parent's sister in South Bend, Ind., and prompted her to wire her for \$50.

The ambitious mother had no money to send a wire and didn't know how to go about it, but the sharper said she would attend to all of that and proceeded to send a desperate appealing wire asking for \$250.

The money was remitted to the sharper's address and she called at the telegraph office to collect but could not furnish sufficient identification. The sharper went to the parents' home and explained that the sister sent \$200 more and would for, but to act as a bond and she would see that the kid was made a star. Parent became suspicious and told Mrs. Ramos she would give her decision the following morning. In the meantime the mother and her child called at the studio of the producer whom Mrs. Ramos was alleged to be acting as procurer of talent and found no such person existing.

The mother told her story to the studio officials, but before detectives could get to the hotel where the Ramos were stopping they discovered that the couple had moved.

Jeff McCarthy's New Trial

J. J. McCarthy has been granted a new trial by the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court in the jury verdict obtained by Henrietta Voight. She made McCarthy defendant in a \$100,000 auto accident suit. The accident occurred in Central Park during July of that same year. Miss Voight claiming serious physical injuries.

McCarthy's subsequent motion for a new trial before Justice Druhan, in which he charged conspiracy, was refused by the court. Verdict, at the time, was a record in New York state for automobile damages.

McCarthy is now on the coast at the Fox Hills studios.

Southern Societies Object To Lee-Jolson Title

St. Louis, Dec. 24. Entering a strenuous protest against the statement in "The Singing Fool," at the Midway Gardens, Al Jolson and done more for Dixie than Robert E. Lee," several patriotic societies are demanding that the title be taken from the screen. Contentions is that the subtitle may subject the memory of General Lee to ridicule, to cheapen his name in the minds of the present generation and cause a wrong impression of him to prevail among theatregoers.

Particular phrasology objected to is in the sub-title, "Al Jolson, in eight years, has worn out four pianos, rymed 'Mammy' and 'Al Jolson' 200 times and done more for Dixie than Robert E. Lee." Societies made known their protest in a letter to the Skouras Brothers. Management of theatre says it cannot discontinue the title, but it is not expected the subject will be dropped without further protest.

"Lion's Roar" in Sound

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Mack Sennett is working on his fourth two-reel comedy subject in sound—"Lion's Roar." It will be released under the title of "The Lion's Roar," and contain a wide range of animal sound effects.

Barthelmess' Vacation

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Dick Barthelmess and his wife leave Hollywood the end of this week for two months vacation in New York, Havana and Mexico. Barthelmess' next picture for First National is not yet selected.

Talkers Swallowing Unheard-of Quantities of Raw Film Stock

Wellman's Hunch

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. William Wellman, Paramount director, is one of several of Hollywood's megaphonists who superstitiously play at least one small bit in every picture they make.

In "Tong War," his latest, he gave himself a new part. His face doesn't appear in the picture, but his voice will be heard, delivering the ballyhoo speech of a guide on a rubber-neck bus.

DeVry's 16 mm. Sound Using Victor Song Records

Chicago, Dec. 24. First public demonstration of the DeVry 16 mm. sound projector was given here Saturday. Retail price is \$185.

Machine consists of projector and turntable, both operated on the same switch and gauged to identical speeds. Film is turned to a frame marked "start," and the turntable needle is set at a white spot on the record. When the switch is turned both units start simultaneously.

At present there are only five sound shorts in the DeVry laboratory, all vocal and made from regular Victor record releases. Film is made while the subject moves his mouth and gestures in time with the Victor record. When the film and record are hooked up, there is an acceptable imitation of synchronization. Library includes "Laugh, Clown, Laugh," "Trees," "Indian Love Call," "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," and "Cohen at the Telephone." Each sells for \$10. Although it isn't specified, a customer presumably may purchase a new Victor record at any store, when the old one wears out, and copy the white markings.

"Laugh, Clown, Laugh" was used for the demonstration, the film falling to name the identity of the person gesturing. Two shots made up the reel, one full length and one medium. Projected on the regular undersized home projection screen, figure is so small as to make any defects in synchronization unnoticeable. Sound is amplified by an ordinary radio loud speaker.

Educational's 1st Talker

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Educational Studio will start its first talking picture Dec. 26. On that date one of the three RCA units will be completed, as also will the sound projection room.

The completed stage is 90 by 100 feet. Under its floor 150 tons of sand have been laid. The second unit is of the same area and the third is 80 by 100 feet, giving a total floor space in sound stages of 25,000 square feet.

Country's Dry Capital After Sunday Film Ban

Cleveland, Dec. 24. Westerville, O., dry capital of the United States, is now fighting Sunday movies. Unless the normal course of village legislative routine is disturbed, it will continue to have Sabbath movies until next spring. Only one picture house in Westerville, yet that was enough to start members of the W. C. T. U. and Ministerial Association demanding that city officials enforce the state law.

Starring Virginia Vail

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Columbia will star Virginia Vail in "Behind Closed Doors," from an original by Lillian Ducey. Talking sequences. Director is Roy W. Neill.

Young Holmes Not Sticking

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Paramount's option on Phillips Holmes, son of Taylor Holmes, will not be exercised.

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

The rapidity with which talking pictures are consuming raw film is becoming a matter of concern with production chiefs. Tradition teaches that the quantity of film used in photographing a picture will not as a general rule, bulk large in the final resume of production expense. But that was before weeks were spent in tests to secure just the right shade of voice, as well as face, hair and lip-smear. Further, it was before the days of shooting a picture with six cameras, as now frequently is done with larger productions.

Six cameras on a talking stage take the time to two on a silent set. In the latter case one camera is grinding negative for the domestic market and one for the foreign.

On the talking stage, three cameras form a single unit, devoted, respectively to long shot, medium shot and close up. That means if for each negative is desired six cameras will be necessary.

If a few feet of close-up and also of a medium shot are called for by the script, all cameras are interlocked at the start of the scene. If the scene runs 200 feet, and in a talking sequence it may easily run more, 1,200 feet will be exposed, although but 400 feet in the two negative requirements possibly can be used. If the scene is marked "N. G.," 1,200 feet is discarded.

It is a costly and unprecedented consumption that one of the raw stock companies, which six months ago brought its unexpended film into town each week in a single car, now brings in two car loads and one boat load. His storage spaces are crowded the distributor is paying an extra insurance premium because some boxes must be stocked on top of others.

Fox Taking Over N. Y. Houses on Jan. 15

Jan. 15 is the date set for William Fox to take over the independent picture theatres he has been gathering together for the past two months.

On the same date Fox will close for the Boas circuit of 12 houses around Boston.

INDIES' MUSICAL TALKER

Geo. Weeks Behind "B'way Bound" With Dialog and Sound

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. A new independent film producing company headed by George Weeks, formerly with Paramount, and Joseph E. Crane will produce a sound and dialog musical comedy called "Broadway Bound."

Fred Newmeyer will direct with Francis Agnew making adaptation. Eddie Dowling and Marian Nixon will be featured.

First National expects to star Alice White in a series of sound and dialog musical comedies during 1929.

The first will be "Broadway Musketeers," written by Gary Gelfrey.

Fairbanks, Jr.-Crawford Wedding Set for Jan. 14

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Despite reports that they were married more than a year ago in Mexico, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Joan Crawford will be married Jan. 14.

Various rumors were about that Fairbanks wanted to give both of his parents a Christmas gift by introducing them to his bride.

Miss Crawford is now working and unable to take the time off for a honeymoon, but the groom-to-be has maneuvered about at the M-G-M studio to ascertain that she will have 10 days off shortly after New Year's. He bought a wedding ring, ordered some clothes for a honeymoon trip, and is all set to have a judge pronounce them man and wife.

Luther Reed With FBO

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Luther Reed goes with F. B. O. to act as production supervisor. Reed was recently employed in the same capacity by Fox, where he made one picture.

EASY 'HOME MADE' TALKERS

BRONX EXHIB HAS MIKE IN OFFICE

Moe Goldman and Staff Talk While Pictures Run—Russian Actors for Foreign Pictures—No Expense and Results Satisfactory So Far—Afraid Audience Will Get Wise

NEW STUFF GETS OVER

World's most unique and daring theatre owner has been discovered. Impotency of talker interchangeability is responsible for his development. With it comes the disclosure of a public up in the Bronx happy to be duped, and yet wholly unconscious of the most ingenious stunt pulled in an American theatre. Even a Western Electric engineer sent on a detective mission to the theatre, when it became known that he was using big line electric talkers over an indie equipment, went away mystified but satisfied nothing was being slipped over on his company.

This exhibitor, Moe Goldman, has in the office of his 600-seat Royal a microphone. In back of the screen he has an indie non-synchronous device, little more than a phonograph. When the records which a neighborhood Chick joint orchestra leader selects are not playing, Goldman, his piano player or drummer, is talking into the mike, the parts which Broadway hears the stars talk in the 32 houses.

"And they eat it up," Moe says. "It's better than an American or any of the others which I tried for and could not get until next year. There's no ground noise. For the first time the voice is right in the room. And I pay only for silent film."

Goldman, who has had the Royal a year after having moved in from the Art, in the same Bronx neighborhood, had plenty of competition before Loew's Freeman began ballyhooing Vitaphone. With Western's turnaround on an immediate installation he had to do something, so he figured the silent speaker fast in Madison Square Garden and in some of the bigger lobbies would be the thing for his 10c. top. He got his mike after he had booked a Photone. Then he rehearsed to the point where he found he could come out with sound and all kinds of dialog, date and date with the Freeman's innovation.

"Oh, there's nothing to it. Why do these exhibitors worry about interchangeability when I've got the best thing at a cost of little over \$500, fully dressed."

How It's Done

This is how Goldman boasts about beating Western: "When I get a Russian picture coming I book a Russian act of a couple of people. I let them go on the stage before the picture. Then I bring them up to my office. When we get to the part where I want them to talk I let them read the lines into the mike. They have the dialect, and that makes the crowd out front feel it's real. Of course I give them a couple of bucks extra for talking in my office, because that is what I really want them for."

Goldman says that he catches most of the first nights of big product which he has booked for his grind and which he calls: "The little Roxy for home folk." He sits there like the critic only his notes are when the dialog is introduced and how many times the theme song is used; also how the talking can be improved upon.

When the picture comes to the Royal he says he eliminates the titles, since he books the silent version, at the spots where dialog has prevailed in the official talker film.

(Continued on page 23)

Numbering Film Frames

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Joe Aller of Consolidated Laboratories, has patented a time and money saving film for synchronized and silent pictures. It will effect distributors and producers as well as eliminate considerable trouble. Idea is a numerical check on every frame of film shot.

Numerals is registered on the raw negative and print stock. It goes along consecutively for each frame and when any part of the film is torn, the exhibitor or merely sends to his exchange for the numbered frames to match. In the case of synchronized pictures, disk or film track, synchronization is neither lost or thrown.

New out of line film will be on the market Jan. 15.

CLAIMS OVER \$20,000,000 IN SOUND FOR '28

Chicago, Dec. 24.

Speaking to an assembled audience of over 900, including business men, exhibitors and newspapermen, John E. Otterson, president of the Electrical Research Products, Inc., described the general progress of the talkers while bringing out facts and figures, including that during 1928 his company has sold over \$20,000,000 worth of product.

According to Otterson there are now over 1,000 wired houses with production figures of the Electrical Research calling for 3,000 more installations for 1929, including about 600 of these abroad. Theatres in every state in the country have already been equipped, said Otterson, being 43 installations in Greater New York alone.

Of the studios in Hollywood, which have ordered sound equipment, 30 are now being installed, with orders for 140 trucks for location and newsreel work. All equipment is now being manufactured at the Hawthorne plant of Western Electric.

Otterson stated that the Shuberts and Erlanger are now wiring the major portion of their houses and that there will be twenty pictures made with sound dialog or both on next year's film output, about one-third of the total film production.

Visualizing other uses of the sound film, Otterson pointed out and propounded its application to religious, politics, education and advertising. Following the talk there was a demonstration of sound shorts.

WB'S \$18,000 WEEKLY CUT IN FN SALARIES

Salary eliminations of First National executives, through acquisition by Warner Bros., has resulted in a cut in the weekly pay roll of approximately \$18,000, or over \$1,000,000 on the year. This includes only salaries ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 a week. If FN sales the coming year equal the gross for the past year, the company will have an additional net of \$1,000,000 on executive salary savings alone.

Understanding that in the combined operation there will be no trading of stars between First National and Warners, although there is a possibility that featured players and members of a stock group will be used in pictures by either company when desired.

ALICE WHITE AS MASCOT

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Alice White, First National screen star, has been appointed official mascot for the Georgia Tech football team when it plays the U. of Cal. at the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, New Year's day.

WARNERS ADMIT VARIOUS DEALS

Harry Can't Remember All of 'Em—Quiet Till January 1

Warners and the film industry will not be recognizable a year from today, according to H. M. Warner, who, for the first time, admits the brothers have so many deals on that he is unable to "enumerate them. No negotiations under way will be consummated until after Jan. 1.

H. M. says: "There are 100 deals on now and I couldn't even begin to name them. Which ones will be consummated after the first of the year I cannot tell now. Make this emphatic. We are not asleep and only resting until after the first of the year. A year from today you will not recognize the business from the Warner and picture angle."

As to the deal for 60 theatres in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Ohio, it comes from reliable sources that they are houses controlled by a Greek combination in Pittsburg headed by Mike Manos.

Most important of the early Warner announcements will be the one concerning the \$2,500 talker equipment. This, it is supposed, is definitely set to be made some time in January.

An outside manufacturer is handling the deal, Warners keeping the record clear by participating with no actual hand other than okaying it for Warner product. Manufacturer, whose name is being carefully secreted, made his first manifestation by throwing a dinner in a local hotel last Thursday night, at which about 25 talker officials are reported to have been present. Marketing of the device is expected within the next 30 days.

FILM PEOPLE DRIVEN OUT BY TALKERS

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Failure to meet the new requirements of acting in talking pictures, a number of the old line popular leading film actors are turning their efforts to other vocations.

A majority of the quitters are going in for the stock-brokerage thing while others are falling for a diversified range of commercial jobs requiring the display of white collars and wearing of wardrobes that very few but a film actor would possess.

DeMille's Method

Los Angeles, Dec. 25.

Cecil B. DeMille will follow the lead set by Willard Mack, who rehearsed the "Hunted" cast for three weeks before beginning shooting of the talker at M-G-M. DeMille will rehearse the cast of "Dynamite" until it is letter perfect, regardless of the time required, before the camera turns on the talking version.

It will be the first time DeMille has conducted dialog rehearsals since he abandoned tabloid musical productions for vaude in 1913, to go into pictures with Jesse L. Lasky and Samuel Goldwyn in the Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Co.

Just for Talkers

William Powell has signed a new long-term contract for talking pictures, exclusively.

Sex Film Promoters Panicky; Admitting Racket About Washed Up

Long Distance Acting

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Blanche Craig, character actress, will play her second film role in 16 years for Paramount, "Imbeciles of Paris," Maurice Chevalier's first picture. It is to be a talker.

Miss Craig's first film work for Par was in the first feature length picture made in America, "The Prisoner of Zenda," the first picture made by Adolph Zukor's original Famous Players Film Company, in 1912, at the old 26th street studio in New York.

CENSORSHIP OF TALKERS IN MANY STATES

Censorship of talking picture records is being held as optional in a great many states, it is reported. Censor officials claim and retain rights to censor dialog, but demand only a written script, giving a condensed version of the dialog used, and relying on the producers to keep objectionable material out.

The censors in several states are said to be operating in this manner, advising that if the producers abuse the privileges granted the censors will enforce their rights to preview and pass on dialog in pictures.

In two states test cases are pending relative to the rights of picture censors over talkers. Where the censors are inclined to give the producers an opportunity to use their own judgment the present arrangements are said to be working out satisfactorily.

M-G-M's Talking Musical

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer is getting ready an original musical comedy to be sound-screened with William Haines as its star.

Although it will have its own book and score, it stands untitled and uncast at this time.

Production is due to start on the coast some time next month. The only other company undertaking to film an original musical is Fox, with its "Fox Follies."

F. N. Buys 2 Musicals

First National has bought picture, dialog, and music rights to "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" by Chauncey Olcott, George Graff, Jr., and Ernest Ball, and "Rose of Killarney" by William Davidson and Ernest Ball, from M. Whitman & Son.

It is understood the value of the two musical properties is over \$75,000.

Permanent Lovers

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

As a result of the success of George O'Brien and Lois Moran in the leading parts of "Blindfolded" and "False Colors," Fox has decided to continue the pair as a love team in future productions.

DeForest's Phonofilm Exchanges

Chicago, Dec. 24.

DeForest Phonofilm has opened distributing offices here for Illinois and Indiana.

Sex picture producers and distributors are in a panic these days and most are ready to admit that the racket is about washed up. One who has operated for 15 years and is said to have amassed about half a million dollars is about to announce his retirement from the production and distribution field entirely.

Another operating out of New York has about \$10,000 invested in prints and medical booklets and about a dozen law suits on his hands, in which he is either the defendant or the plaintiff. He, too, now he doesn't know where to turn to get enough money to pay his battery of legal advisors.

The main trouble with the sex picture racket, according to one of the racketeers, is the utter impossibility of being reliable men to either sell the pictures or have in advance of it in those states where the sexy stuff gets by the censor. Salesmen and advance men, knowing that the producer-distributor is in most cases a no good guy, have no hesitancy in giving him the works whenever convenient.

This is done by appropriating money advanced to fix in large cities where there are strict picture censorship regulations, stealing the print and exhibiting it at stages or submitting phoney box office statements from a set of town spots where the picture is playing on percentage.

Reduced to its essentials the boys figure its a case of cheating cheaters and anything goes. Country Getting Wise. Antagonism to the sex film is making itself manifest in the larger cities and will naturally extend to the smaller ones. In Detroit the local police and board of health have pooled on sex films, with it unlikely that another will be able to break in there.

The exhibitors' association of Indiana recently passed a resolution against the sex film. This may be followed by a general order or suggestion from Abram P. Meyers, new head of the independents, for the indies not to play the sex pictures. While the indies have laid off the sexes in the larger towns more so than the chains, which have sneaked them in on rental or percentage, the small towns usually suffer through a sex picture in an indie house.

Inside on Racket An insight on the sex picture racket where the picture is supplied and medical booklets are sold may be obtained from the following figures:

The booklets, usually four of them packed in an envelop and selling for a dollar, cost the distributor 3/4 cents when ordered in 200,000 lots. In 100,000 lots they run about 4 cents. The boys who sell the booklets get five cents and the lecturer a dime on each sale. The rest is velvet for the sex picture promoter and one of the most lucrative sidelines of the racket.

The lecturers usually a physician, gets \$20 a day for his services, and in those cases where he is the credited author of the books, lifts his material wherever he finds it.

Caesar Short-Time Talking Short Boss

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Arthur Caesar, who brought his Caesarina body with a number of American Express checks from Broadway, has turned back and is going to become a talking short director.

He sold the idea to Winnie Steinhilber via Ben Ferguson. His first endeavor will be "Woman on Lake Trail," a story based on experiences he had while being in Greenwich Village.

Those next for the picture include Sharon Lynn, Arnold Katz, Fred-Ed H. Brown and "The Girl Who..."

German Movement Foreseen, Backed by Von Heugenberg, To Bar All American Films

Paramount, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, United Artists and Hays office representatives have joined for concerted action through federal government officials against a decree effective in June, which will bar all United Artists' productions from Germany because U. A. does not distribute any German pictures last year in America.

In this move against United Artists the members of the Hays organization foresee an attempt on the part of U. A. and Von Heugenberg to push all American picture trade out of Germany. In this particular instance the Germans are trying to force United Artists to give up its rights to distribute in Germany to German film men, the latter to dictate what U. A. shall accept in the way of price.

Aside from its bearing on the film industry it is believed by those concerned in fighting the movement, that the ultimate design of the decree is to keep out, through the barrier against U. A., the most prominent film stars, and therefore the most powerful in bringing attention to American pictures and American manufacturers.

The commercial significance in the proposed ruling is held down the most effective propaganda for American goods. It is understood American film heads have appealed to the United States foreign department officials on this count also.

The general belief is that the most powerful influence now being exerted in Germany against American films is through Von Heugenberg, the publisher, who is a force in governmental affairs.

The picture men, it is understood, intend working through the bankers if unable to secure a reasonable understanding from the German government. The financial interests so heavily concerned in American picture production, are also connected, more or less, in a considerable number of German stock flotations. Additional means of defense is held by the film men having Senator Johnson, California, as one of the most important members of the Foreign Relations Committee at Washington.

British Indie Exhibs Start a Get-Together

London, Dec. 24. A further move, subsequent to British-Gaumont's acquisition of Provincial Cinematograph Theatres, is that the independent exhibitors are getting together to form an indie picture house combine. This is apart from the new move Association branches may make to bring resolutions up asking the Association to reopen the national booking combine question.

This move is originating in the south and appears to be spreading.

Consolidated's Deal With Fox Is Called Off

Apparently convinced of its proposed deal with Fox is cold, the Consolidated (Bronx) is endeavoring to get some of its houses wired.

Only one Consolidated house at present has wired the Miller Plaza Girls and an adagio trio on the stage.

Talk of Fox acquiring some of Consolidated's best houses held up proposed wiring.

PAR'S PARIS STAGE SHOW

Paris, Dec. 24. Starting last Friday the Paramount displayed a performance on its screen and featured the Miller Plaza Girls and an adagio trio on the stage. Gaumont Palace is showing "Buttons."

HAVANA HOUSE WIRED

Havana, Dec. 20. First Latin American country to get sound with its Cuban. Engineers of the KRPI are making installation at the Panjo theatre. It will open Jan. 7 with "The Patriot."

145 of 156 Don't Want

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Of 156 replies received by a theatre owner in a local suburb following announcement of the opening of his new house, 145 expressed the hope he would not install talking pictures.

This exhibitor feels kindly toward sound inasmuch as his neighbor, a large theatre, is now a talker with increased prices. Silent house maintained its scale, stayed silent and has enjoyed a substantial increase in patronage.

FRENCH NERVE IS REVEALED OVER FILMS

Paris, Dec. 24. Another slap for French film producers to take is the announcement that they will have to make better pictures. Chambre Syndicale related that of 30 pictures made here the past year, 35 were rejected for foreign visas because they weren't considered worthy of the name of France.

Those present immediately cried down the complaint with the plea that lack of funds is the reason for inferior product. This was evidently the cue for propaganda. Soon after a whispering campaign started pleading that the Frenchmen want all American companies to kick in with \$100,000 apiece to be used by French producers. The nervous birds, however, failed to mention whether this money was to be a loan or a present, and the funny part is that they think they have a chance of getting the money.

All producers here are sold on the idea of going to the States to learn just how the business is conducted. Practically all are planning to visit Hollywood the coming year.

Par's Right of Appeal Releases "Feet Clay"

London, Dec. 24. Paramount's appeal against the judgment rendered in favor of Sutton Vane has been granted. Vane's action was to restrain the release of "Feet of Clay" (film), because of its alleged infringement upon his play "Outward Bound". The picture will be shown. It is an important victory for Paramount over here.

FRENCH CHANNELS

Paris, Dec. 24. Franco-Films and Pathe Exchanges have entered into an agreement by which the former will distribute 25 Pathe pictures in France, and Pathe will handle all Franco-Films' product in the States. W. & F. will distribute Franco-Films in England.

J. Frank Brockless has also formed Societe des Films Tiffany for the distribution of Tiffany-Stahl pictures in France. Philippe de Becker is with the new line-up.

British Film Field

By Frank Tilley

London, Dec. 15. Fair for here, but not a release outside the home market. The Gaumont Expansion Gaumont British has also purchased the B.B. circuit in Scotland, consisting of the Cinerama, South Side, Glasgow (one of the largest houses in the kingdom), and the Cineramas, Perth and Coatbridge formerly belonging to the Bennets. Gaumont is understood to have paid \$2 a share for the B.B. stock, which stood at 65 cents.

Reviving Exhibs' Booking One effort of Gaumont British-P.G.T. deal has been to revive in the minds of the independent exhibitors of what they conceive to be the dangers to them of a large circuit. Two of the Exhibitors' Association branches have already tabled resolutions asking the General Council (Continued on page 35)

Italy's Personally Made Conditions For U. S. Films May Mean None at All

French Worried Over Silent Pictures

Paris, Dec. 24. French film interests are alarmed over the sound situation in the States. Reports here are that the best productions now being made in Hollywood include dialog and that there will only be a small number of silent films produced. It has the managers here worried as the general local belief is that the talkers cannot be shown silently.

Despite all the film quotas and restriction laws, European exhibitors are dependent upon American pictures to a certain extent. This is because producers on this side do not make enough flickers to supply their own markets.

Discussing the matter at the Chamber Syndicale, French film headquarters, the boys pointed out that many American pictures were not suitable for showing in France, due to the plots being antagonistic to the Latin mentality. With the further reduction in numbers by the talkers, picture men here estimate that if the States make 200 silent films the coming year there will not be enough product.

Loss of Artistic Prestige Thru Film Quota Debated

Paris, Dec. 24. During the discussion of the budget in the French Chamber of Deputies one of the members, Yvon Delbos, pointed out dangers arising from the Herriot decree fixing a film quota system, and said in substance:

"It had become urgent to defend ourselves against the 'invasion' of foreign films. For that purpose a contingent has been instituted and a co-operation has been established thereby between importers of foreign pictures and exporters of French films. But this system, excellent in principle, can be dangerous in practice. We must guard against bad national pictures (made for the purpose of obtaining import permits). If this system is going to be developed more than it is it will be much better to return to the former regime rather than ruin the artistic reputation of France."

The speech was received with applause, it being understood that it is not sufficient to export pictures abroad, but they must be of a standard to enhance the national prestige.

MAGNUSSON RETIRES

Stockholm, Dec. 24. Charles Magnusson has retired as head of the Swedish cinematograph industry. Magnusson has been termed the pioneer of the Swedish film industry.

He remains on the board of directors but only in the capacity of adviser.

Reports are that the long feud between Magnusson and Anderson, the latter for some time fiscal representative in Svensk Filmindustri for Kruger, the match king resulted in Magnusson's retirement.

American pictures are threatened with exclusion from Italy beginning January 1 by M. Bisi, head of Enti, semi-official Italian picture company, unless the major producer-distributors agree to turn over all films to Bisi for selection.

According to this plan Bisi will pick the best pictures made by each company and distribute himself. The balance of the pictures will be turned back for the companies to distribute themselves.

In accepting the best pictures for distribution, Bisi will determine the first-run showings, and charge exhibitors 20 per cent of the gross. He would turn over 10 per cent to the distributors and keep 10 per cent for Enti for distributing.

American distributors, according to the present understanding, will withdraw entirely from Italy after the first of the year unless a largely different arrangement can be made with the Italian government.

It is believed by foreign film men that Mussolini is being kept in the dark as to the business methods adopted by Bisi. Mussolini had previously said that he would not hamper American trade, and that the Italian producers should first make pictures of equal quality to United States product before complaining. Mussolini took a similar stand in regard to American automobiles.

Bisi is reported to be officially recognized by Mussolini as head of the picture propaganda for Italy, a departmental division of newspaper propaganda.

London's Picture Trade Falls Off in West End

London, Dec. 24. All picture business in the West End is materially off with the exception of the Regal where "Singing Fool" is drawing splendidly.

Worst sufferer is the Empire (M-G-M). It has done little business since opening. Main blame for this is on the pictures, with the feeling this condition will take a long time to contract.

Marked improvement in the King's condition, plus inclement weather, indicates that the film business will be big throughout the holidays.

French Catholics Officially Lift Ban on U. S. Films

Washington, Dec. 24. Official recognition of motion pictures as an art by the French Catholic Church is looked upon by George Canty, chief commissioner, Paris, as a valuable foreign asset to American producers.

Previous opposition has been removed, official ecclesiastical recognition having been given in the celebration of a high mass with high prelates delivering eulogies from the pulpit on the pictures and their makers.

\$400,000 Refund

Washington, Dec. 24. Picture distributors of New South Wales will get a refund in taxes in excess of \$400,000 due to the repeal, and an amending bill, of the film tax.

New bill, says a report to the Department of Commerce, provides that with foreign companies the taxable income shall be seven and one-half per cent of the total amount of sales in N. S. W. There is a clause, however, which states that where a foreign company produces either no taxable income or less than the ordinary taxable income, which might be expected to arise, taxation Commissioner can use his own judgment as to the amount on which taxation shall be paid.

The Talking Dog

San Francisco, Dec. 24. Inaugurating a sound-policy, the local Franchises is advertising "first appearance of Rin-Tin-Tin in an all-talker."

Turco-Hungarian Company

Washington, Dec. 24. Turks now have a picture company. A Turco-Hungarian firm has been formed under direction of Olliver Turco and the patronage of Sherry Ismail Bey.

GETTING A RUN-AROUND

Hy Brown of R-K-O Meets Show Trade Press Boys for 1st Time—Talks to 'Em

Hy Brown met the boys of the show trade press Saturday, in the Keith quarters of the Palace theatre building. Hy is the boss around Radio-Keith-Orpheum.

The meeting was arranged for the newspaper fellows to get a flash at the new press, while he led the assembled bunch, representing stage and screen papers, that he had decided to toss the Vaudeville Collection Agency as reported elsewhere, and its rather large income to R-K-O.

Hy also informed the newbies that he is strange to the show business and liable to err, so the trade papers, if he does, should consult with him before printing the news.

Back in Hy's career somewhere is a report he monkeyed around newspaper work once himself. He took time out at the meeting long enough to tell the mob he had found the show trade papers somewhat different from those in other trades, and intimated that in other fields the trade papers held as their chief purpose the uplift of the trades that supported them.

A Squarer

That sounded a little dicey, but Hy sent across the squarer right after, saying that the show trade papers seem to know everything before it occurs or within five minutes afterward, while they are usually thinking five minutes ahead of everyone else. Then Hy stuck on a snapper by mentioning that the show trade papers often placed words of their own invention into reports of the trade press.

One newspaper man opened up by asking how much did the abolition of the Collection Agency mean in loss to Keith's. Hy answered he didn't know and if he did, wouldn't tell. That ended the questioning.

Brown impressed the newspaper men favorably. He seems a matter of fact guy who talks straight to the point. How the press men struck Hy he didn't say, not even anything about the rubbering one.

All Papers Included

For the first time at an invited vaudeville gathering were the trade papers of the picture field represented, along with the stage weeklies. In the listening row were boys from the Film Daily, Telegraph, Motion Pictures Today, Billboard, Motion Picture News, Zit's Weekly, Exhibitor's Daily Review, Herald-World, Vaudeville News and Variety.

The meeting was brief, with Brown's frankness in going into what was looked upon as an intimate inside internal matter with Keith's rather surprising. Hy evidently knew that the stage trade papers would print it, however, so that it wouldn't be much of a secret after all, he therefore decided to let all of the papers in on it, without giving any a shade.

Looks like a pretty good start with the trade papers for Hy.

Tec-Art Studio, N. Y., for Sale—N. G. for Talkers

Placed on the market, the Tec-Art studios on Westchester avenue, Bronx, will not be converted into a theatre as at one time contemplated.

Thought of utilizing the Tec-Art for talkers had to be abandoned through the proximity of the "L" line.

MAYNARD'S CHANGE OF PACE

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Ken Maynard's next for First National will be "The Royal Rider," taken from an original story by Nate Gatzet.

It is an outdoor story of a mythical kingdom on the order of "Gauzark," a departure from the usual Ken Maynard westerns. Joe Brown will direct.

W. B. F. N. Bonus

Warner Bros. and First National have issued a two weeks' salary bonus to all their employees. Additional payroll involves over \$150,000.

Corinne Griffith Gets New Contract with F. N.

Corinne Griffith has been signed on a new two-year contract by First National, effective following the completion of the picture after "Prisoners," which calls for two specials a year. Miss Griffith is now making four pictures annually.

It is understood that the highly successful vocal tests made by the star were mainly effective in the decision on the Griffith productions, calling for an outlay exceeding \$750,000 per picture, probably the most expensive on the First National schedule.

Salary arrangements under the new terms will give Miss Griffith an increase over her previous contract on the gross.

F. N. Extended Schedule

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

With four pictures now in production at the First National studios, nine more remain to be made before their '28-'29 program can be completed.

Following completion of these, First National will enter on a much larger production schedule than ever before, with most of the combined Warner-First National produced for '29-'30 assigned to the First National studios in Burbank.

Tiffany-Stahl Out for Release on Own Chances

Tiffany-Stahl besides the formation of an English company and a French company has plans, under way for the acquisition and building of a chain of first run theatres in key cities. Negotiations have been going on for theatre sites in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago.

Tiffany-Stahl have up to date completed three sound and synchronized productions; i. e., "The Cavalier," "The Tollers" and "Marriage by Contract," and they are about to release early in January their first big singing and talking picture, "Lucky Boy," starring George Jessel.

With their new expansion policy in mind and with more feature sound pictures in the making, Tiffany-Stahl has been quietly negotiating for their own theatres so that their productions will have first run presentations in all the principal cities.

Holmes, U Director

Ben Holmes, formerly with Fox, has signed with Universal to direct a series of six shorts, starring Pat Rooney and family. "Sweethearts," leading off, goes into production Jan. 15.

The report that Holmes was returning east after leaving Fox was in error. He is assigned to the U studio in Hollywood.

L. A. to N. Y.

George Weeks, Florence Vidor, H. E. Eddington, Robert Benohley, Adolph Zukor

N. Y. to L. A.

J. A. Ball, Gavin Gordon, Dorothy Jordan, Daniel Q. Tomlinson, Blanche McAffey, Dr. Hugo Riesenfeld, Charles Bickford

TOCC SECURES NO SOUND INFO

Only FBO, WB and UA of Producers Present—Indie Devices Claim Can Play All Sound Films But Dodge the Contract Clauses—Hays' Rep Admits He's in Dark—TOCC Asks Burkan

W. E. AND G. E. ABSENT

Satisfied that they are getting the royal run-around on interchangeability when they got the cold turn-down from every producer-licensee on their request to lay the cards upwards, talker that Will Hays is answerable to the electrics when his representative, Gabe Hess, ducked the meeting after being heckled into admitting he didn't know who would be the competent party to judge the quality standards set by Western Electric, in associating talker with other talkers, and certain that the big sound woodpile will be cleared only by the courts, the Theatre Owners' Chamber of Commerce has seen Nathan Burkan, attorney. Through him, they are firing their first volley.

Burkan is warning the producer-licensees of Western Electric that they must not use their copyright agreement with the American Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers as part of a shield to evade their serving exhibitors who have installed indie sound equipment.

Burkan, as legal adviser to the TOCC, has notified the organization to accumulate all data possible on the interchangeability situation and have it on his desk Jan. 7, when he returns from a rush trip to the Coast. But Burkan, officially, has not yet acknowledged his retainer with the TOCC. He will let them know on his return.

Meanwhile, meetings will be called to consider the ways of enlisting funds for the showdown. In the past Burkan, it is said, has advised the local exhibitors to charge against the local exhibitors the limits of investigation of the limits which this promises to reach would necessitate dough on the line and plenty of it, old members concede.

There is this week, however, a strong belief among TOCC leaders that the electrics will not let the matter get into the courts. They seem confident that producers are as eager as themselves for a general outlet for talkers. In view of this they feel that pressure will be brought by other sources as well upon the electrics. They take the attitude that they are affording the industry an out from what the more learned of their fold term complete subordination to Western Electric. They feel that they are affording the industry a chance to emancipate itself from electric control.

Won't Guarantee

The meeting which started all this definitely established that no indie equipment manufacturer, including those who have shouted "interchangeability," will insert a clause in their contracts guaranteeing that exhibitors can get big line product to play over such equipment.

It also brought out that exhibitors who secure big time sound on film or disk from the big electric licensee producers must sign a rider especially attached to the okayed standard form of silent contract for hire. In this rider is the stipulation for extra dougugas as well as the condition that such sound be played only over equipment of the electrics or such as are adjudged to have the "quality" angle.

The gathering placed the Hays organization on record with this statement of its representative: "We have no information to give you

(Continued on page 14)

Cal. Labor Bureau Starts Out After Unlicensed Casting Agents Again

Commissioner Lowy Bases New Drive on Noah Beery—Felix Young Case

Film's Life Shortened

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

That new film carrying a sound track cannot be loaned by wax before put through a projection machine is another new cause for trouble in exchanges.

Ordinarily when film is new and unwaxed the film may be lessened by slowing up the number of revolutions. That cannot be done in the case of dialog, for the reason that slowed up, the talk would be impossibly draggy. Deprived of the initial benefit of wax, the life of film is lessened.

Eastman's Increased Sale of Raw Stock

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Distribution of Eastman positive stock on the west coast alone for the six months ending Dec. 31 will top 200,000,000 feet.

This is a decided advance over previous figures, and is recorded in spite of what the trade had reason to believe was a somewhat inactive season, due to changing conditions. The figures have added interest when it is borne in mind that a majority of release prints are made in the east. Part of the increase here is ascribed to silent and sound versions of the same picture and also to necessary experimentation on new sound stages.

CHANEY'S "BUGLE"

60 Reels of Atmosphere—Foreign Legionaire Will Direct

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Lon Chaney's next for M-G will be "Bugle Sounds," Foreign Legion yarn.

Written by Zinoff Deckhoff, the author is from the Foreign Legion and here on leave and is to act as technical director. George Hill will direct. Hill recently returned from Morocco where he obtained more than 60 atmospheric reels.

Warners and F. N. on Publicity—Separate

Warner Bros. and First National publicity departments will function separately, according to both heads of these departments.

Charles Elford, F. N. advertising head, has retained Herbert Crocker to handle newspaper publicity, Stanley Shuford, advertising copy, and Lou Deng for fan papers. The Dilling-Thompson Agency has been given the national advertising account.

FBO's 3 to Go

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

F. B. O. studios have three more pictures to make to complete their 1928-'29 program. They are a Tom Mix western, "Fetes of the Storm," a McHadden Magazine prize story to be directed by George Melford. Production will keep the studio active during January, and will be followed by the new program.

FOX'S POSTPONEMENT

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Fox has postponed the backstage Movietone subject it had assigned Howard Hawks to direct.

Hawks will first make an all silent murder mystery story now being written by Beulah Marie Dix.

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Following the disclosure of the working methods of spurious and unlicensed agents and artists' representatives in Hollywood, exposed during the investigation of Noah Beery's charges against Felix Young, Deputy Commissioner C. F. Lowy, of the State Labor Bureau, has launched a sweeping investigation of the agency situation and its relation to the motion picture industry.

According to Lowy, more than 25 unlicensed but so-called agents, or artists' representatives, are at work in Hollywood. Several of those under investigation, whose names the Commissioner refused to disclose, have attempted to evade license requirements by maintaining their offices just outside the limits of the city. This will offer them no protection, however, according to Lowy, who will drag them into his investigation under the State Employment Statutes and not under any municipal ordinance.

"This is not an attempt to interfere with the work of the legitimate theatrical or motion picture agents," Commissioner Lowy said. "I merely am determined to stamp out the illegal practice of the agency privileges by persons who are harmful to an important branch of the industry."

Former Actor an Offender

One of the worst offenders that Lowy had to contend with on matter of license was a former vaudeur who hooked up with a sound short studio as sort of an outside runner, but who solicited acts without a license, but when called before the Labor Bureau said that he was connected with a local office that had one. However, he was told to do business under a permit. To dodge the state officials, the former actor began working through agents selling acts to the studio on the supposition he had an "in." While the runner was doing this, he was getting a \$75 a week drawing account from the studio he was operating for, and was living in the home of the director who he was working with. Recently the director took the man to New York with him saying, New York agents were not picture wise as to the talent he wanted.

Since the Labor Bureau's investigation began to be rumored, several persons, whose names were withheld, have applied for licenses. Absolute secrecy as to the methods he will use in his investigation is being maintained by Lowy and no word has been permitted to leak into the dailies concerning his activities along this line. The fact that some have applied for licenses will not protect them, according to Lowy, who will go to it for a clean-up and accounting, over past offenses.

Warners' Old Vitaphones Remade with Sound

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Warners intend to revive a number of old Vitaphone pictures on the 1928-'30 program by modernizing the stories and adding dialog and sound.

First to be produced will be "The Gambler," co-featuring John Bowery and Lois Wilson.

3 Days for Sound

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Columbia made the sound version of "The Younger Generation," its first dialog picture, in exactly three days. Job was supervised by Harry Cohn and done at the Metropolitan studios here.

Cohn has contract with the Christies to make five more sound productions at the studio before his own wired stages are completed.

Bad Wk Good in L. A., Some Surprises; Met—Bow, High, \$31,000; State, \$26,000

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 1,450,000) Weather: Fair

With school children having their initial Yuletide holiday and the having subsided considerably, downtown houses got a break last week that gave them a new lease on life.

Metropolitan with Clara Bow in "Three Weeks" went in the lead by hitting over \$30,000. Loew's State was about \$4,000 behind with Joan Crawford and Nils Asther in "The Dream of Love" and "The Pancheon and Marco 'Idea'" on stage.

"The Home Towners" was not a knockout in its initial week, but nor Bros. just about touching \$20,000.

"Noah's Ark" did not seem such a strong pre-Yuletide attraction at Grauman's Chinese despite heavy exploitation. Finished its seventh week and comes out New Year's Day, though expected to be a winter six months by the local critics. "The Barker" touted strongly as a wonder picture did not hit \$10,000 at the Carthy Circuit.

"The Little Wildcat" was no bear cat at the United Artists on a one week stay. Lon Chaney's "West of Zanzibar" did better than expected, but was doing of the Egyptian. "Water Hole" though good picture not so much at Boulevard.

"Wind," starring Lillian Gish at Critcham's, raised a little dust, though held over for second week to enable "In Old Arizona" to open Xmas day.

Estimates for Last Week
Boulevard (W. C.) "The Water Hole" (Par) (2,164; 25-50). This Zane Gray did not get anywhere here; \$5,500.

Carthy Circle (W. C.-Miller) "The Barker" dialog (F. N.) (1,600; 25-150; 2d week). Though big picture just did not get buying breaks as \$9,700 indicates.

Criterion (W. C.) "Wind" (M-G-M) wired (1,600; 25-75). This Lillian Gish not much of a buy with \$9,000 for first week.

Egyptian (U. A.-W. C.) "West of Zanzibar" (M-G-M) (1,300; 25-75); Chaney good draw in first week; Grauman's Chinese (U. A.) "Noah's Ark" (Vita) (1,358; 50-150) (7th week). Though Sid Grauman has done everything under sun to sell this one, only \$12,500 for this stanza.

Loew's State (W. C.-Loew) "Dream of Love" (M-G-M) (1,600; 25-42); 25-41) Joan Crawford-Asther great bet with splendid F. & M. show on stage; \$26,000.

Metropolitan (Par) (3,595; 25-75) wired. Gus Eysell did some good work in getting this Bow over all around to close to \$20,000.

Warner (W. B.) "Home Towners" talker (W. B.) (2,756; 25-75). In comparison with other W. B. talkers, got poor start for first week; \$20,000.

Pan's, K. C., Trailer Says Vaude Despite Wiring

Kansas City, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 700,000)

Managers evidently figured that one picture was as good as another week before Christmas. Most pretentious offering was "Home Towners" at the Rialto, which failed to boost the returns much.

Other theatres offered pretty light stuff.

Estimates for Last Week
Mainstreet—"Show Folks" sound (Pathé) (3,200; 25-35-50-60). Picture fitted bill; stage show successful; \$13,000.

Loew's Midland—"Brotherly Love" (M-G) (4,000; 25-35-50). Even those who claim they don't like Dane and Arthur laugh; plenty of picture rough; good bill not seen by many; \$11,000.

Newman—"Manhattan" Coctell" sound (Par) (3,175; 40-60). Pic sound (Par) (3,175; 40-60). Pic drew largely that title; \$9,500.

Royal—"Home Towners" dialog (WB) (320; 25-35-50). Publicity built house up to its old standing, but job is a slow one; film didn't help much; \$2,000.

Pantages—"Do Your Duty" (2,200; 25-35-50). Some old time comedy and okay; house continues trailer stating that when wired in the show vaudeville will be retained; \$9,300.

CLARA BOW FAILS TO LEAD IN FRISCO

San Francisco, Dec. 24. (Draw Pop. 756,000) Weather: Cold

For first time since she became an ace box-office attraction, Clara Bow failed to capture the town's lead at the Granada last week, grossing the lowest she has yet recorded on Market street. Norma Shearer, at Loew's Warfield, won the week with last appearance at the Granada got around \$12,000, topped the "It" girl on the last seven days by better than \$10,000. Bow's week was a clean margin of profit on the worst week of the year. Additional credit at the Warfield goes to the O'Neill Sisters K. Revus and Rub Wolf, who rates here as an established institution.

Embassy wound up its run of Al Jolson in "The Singing Fool" and held strong to the finish. Eighth week was extended two days, providing a Saturday opening for "The Home Towners."

California and St. Francis, both Public, lay away off. Orpheum and Golden Gate played to high grosses, with Pantages considerably below normal. Neighborhood houses off.

Estimates for Last Week
Warfield (Loew-W.C.)—"Lady of Chance" (M-G-M) (2,672; 50-65-90). Norma Shearer; Clara Bow; at the Granada, block away. Juvenile stage show, with Wolf and band, clicked solidly. \$26,800, great for week before Xmas.

Embassy—"3 Week Ends" (Par), Public stage show (2,698; 35-50-65-81)—Considerable extra advertising and reduced admission scale failed to pile up record business. Off about \$9,000 over last Bow picture. At \$25,400 best week house has had in some months, however.

Embassy (Swagone)—"Singing Fool" (War. Bros.) and Vita (1,367; 50-65-90). Eighth week of Jolson talker extended two days. Final period drew near \$12,000, exceptional. \$12,000 for first week.

California (Public)—"Awakening" (U. A.) sound (2,200; 35-50-65-90) Final week of the Vilma Banky feature didn't mean much at all, as little more than \$9,000 will attest. "Interference," Par's all-talker, current.

St. Francis (Public)—"White Shadows" (M-G) sound (1,375; 35-50-65-90). Closed weakly to little better than \$7,000.

Seattle Slides With Flu and Christmas

Seattle, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 500,000)

Despite pre-holiday week, grosses seemed to hold fairly. Flu has let Columbia in real comeback with lines of opening days and evenings for "Wings" although picture had run week at Fifth avenue 45 days ago, and prior to that for 10 days at the Met where it was roadshow.

Estimates for Last Week
Seattle (Pub.L) (3,106; 25-60-60)—"Romance of Underworld" (Par). Seattle's second week; just fair; \$11,000 (way off but satisfactory).

Fifth Avenue (WC) (2,500; 25-60-60)—"West of Zanzibar" (M-G). Too much of a George Stoer, coming to Portland, E. Max Bradford, coming in as m. c.; \$12,000. 25)—"Just Married" (Par). Dandy laugh maker; \$2,000.

Columbia (U) (1,000; 25-35)—"Wings" (sound) (Par). Bought for first time in many moons; \$7,500; very big.

Blue Moon (Hamrick) (950; 60-75)—"Battle of Sexes" (sound) (U. A.) second week; \$7,500.

Music Box (Hamrick) (1,000; 50-75)—"On Trial" dialog (WB). \$5,900, record low.

U. A. (U. Chaffin) (650; 25-60)—"Port of Missing Girls" (State rights). Did \$2,800.

Pantages (1,500; 25-60)—"Nothing to Wear" (Col). Good construction; \$4,800. Bad.

Orpheum (2,700; 25-31-00)—"The Crash" (Pathé). Milton Sills liked; \$5,100.

President (Duffy) (1,800; 25-31-25)—"The Putts" (Duffy Players). Here before; well presented and got \$3,300.

F. N. EXCHANGE CUTS

Chicago, Dec. 24. Acting upon orders from the home office, First National's local exchange has let out nine employees. According to George Sears, division manager, economy move is part of the budget wave now on in the Warner-F.N. combine.



A Round of Golf—An Early Morning Catch In Tampa Bay

Motoring, horseback riding, even a hike. A delightful dinner, an hour of concert, dancing amid surroundings that make the closing hour all too soon. All await the visitor to the VINOY PARK HOTEL, St. Petersburg, Fla. A Meyer Davis Orchestra is the feature musical attraction.

"Oh Kay" Vaude Sent Up Loew's Montreal to \$14,000

Montreal, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 600,000)

Influenza has let up some, but what there is of it and the Christmas shopping pinched grosses. Theatre men just beginning to feel badly effect of children's set since the holidays have commenced. No sign yet of further appeal against this law.

Princess, only open legit house here, took a crack at "Oh Kay" on Saturday. Just about equal to here, very eulogous press notices. War pictures overdone here of late months and ballyhooed incident of sergeant's temptation much marred by censors. At \$1 top, gross hardly over \$10,000.

Gaiety, after a week's rest, reopened Sunday with much advertised burlesque show and improvements. Looks like big week ahead of this house.

Estimates for Last Week
Princess (2,300; 25-41)—"Oh Kay" (F. N.) (2,700; 40-60)—"Carry On Sergeant" (Mand. International Films). Considerably cut up by censors in high spots. Good notices brought in a fair business; fell off later in week; \$10,000. Fair.

Palace (FP) (2,700; 45-75) wired—"The Whip" (F. N.). Couldn't have run all week if hadn't been talker. Got by fairly at \$15,000.

Capitol (FP) (2,700; 40-60)—"Show People" (M-G-M). Bright picture that held up fairly all week after good start. Shopping week and flu hit receipts. \$1,000 under previous week. Good enough at \$14,000.

Loew's (FP) (3,200; 35-75)—"Oh Kay" (F. N.). Vaudeville. Nice picture that fitted in well with the best vaude bill of season. Gross up \$1,600 to \$14,000.

Imperial (Keith) (1,900; 35-50)—"Michigan Kid" (F. B. O.). Vaudeville. Another much above average vaude bill and good picture. \$8,000.

Strand (UA) (800; 30-40)—"Changes" \$3,000.

Empress (2,000; 1,500; 25-35)—"Changes" \$2,000.

Neighborhoods, fair.

JANNINGC, \$28,100, ST. L.

St. Louis, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 1,025,000)

Weather: Fair and cool. Crowding pictures on display, last week wasn't so bad around town for business.

Estimates for Last Week
Missouri (2,800; 35-50-65-75)—"The Wedding March" (sound) (Par). Did fairly with Eddie Peabody's "Watch Him Go," on stage; \$2,900.

Ambassador (3,000; 35-50-65-75)—"Sins of the Fathers" (Par). Jennings and Ba Yowery got \$28,100, not bad.

Midway (1,400; 50-75-81)—"The Singing Fool" dialog (WB). Still successful in fifth week.

Loew's State (3,300; 25-35-65)—"The Putts" (Duffy). Just another collegiate story; \$12,000.

St. Louis (4,280; 35-65)—"Singsong Mutiny" (PFO). Vaude bill good.

"Pat and Mike" Talking First National has secured talking picture rights for "Pat and Mike." Cosmopolitan magazine story by Richard Connell.

Oriental's Terrible Week, \$31,000; French Made 'Casanova' Weak in Loop

LYRIC, MINN., HAS BEST WEEK IN OFF WEEK

\$3,500 With "Companionate Marriage"—Bow Holds Up at \$24,000—Strand \$2,000

Minneapolis, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 500,000) Weather: Cold

What chance had the theatres week before Christmas? The Lyric, Minn., had the zero mark? Flu raged and one newspaper ran an ad next to its amusement columns warning the audience to avoid theatre assemblies and crowds.

Under the circumstances biz was not half as bad as it might have been.

Clara Bow held up the Minnesota and "Companionate Marriage" the Lyric. Minnesota also had a corking all around show in support. Excellent exploitation and "Companionate Marriage" give the Lyric its best week of the season.

Disappointments of the week were "Time to Love" at the State and "Me, Gangster," at the Strand. Both did miserably.

Estimates for Last Week
Minnesota (2,400; 75) "Three Week Ends" (Par) and "Parisian Nights" (Public) unit. Bow seems to be what they want; stage show, however, around \$24,000, or \$6,000 less than Clara would do under normal circumstances, but remarkable considering adverse factors.

State (F. & R.-Public) (2,500; 60) "Home Towners" dialog (WB). Comment enthusiastic but coin didn't materialize; even under circumstances, takings disappointing; around \$10,200.

Hennepin-Orpheum (Keith's) (2,800; 40-60) "Singing Fool" (Pathé) vaude. Moderately pleasing picture and vaudeville but week one of season's worst; under \$10,000.

Strand (F. & R.-Public) (1,500; 50) "Me, Gangster" (Fox). Picture rated first class but couldn't draw with external handicaps; about \$2,000, very bad.

Lyric (F. & R.-Public) (1,300; 35) "Companionate Marriage" (FN). Put over by clever handling to sentimental returns; special bid for picture liked and around \$3,500, best of season.

Pantages (Pantages) (1,600; 25-50) "A Love of Love" sound (U) and vaude. First week of Movietone and sound. Pleasing show lacked pulling power; splendidly exploited; about \$5,000, good under conditions.

Providence Not So Bad; "Sexes" \$20,000

Providence, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 310,000)

There ain't no Santa Claus for the movie men until after Christmas. Just a tough week.

"King of Kings" (Pathé) brought in the majestic, did only fairly well. Best business was done by "Battle of Sexes," at Loew's State.

Estimates for Last Week
Loew's State (Loew) (3,800; 15-50)—"Battle of Sexes" (U. A.). Fairly good considering shopping and all; about \$20,000.

Melody (Ray) (2,200; 15-50)—"King of Kings" (Pathé). Didn't click as well as expected, but around \$15,000.

Victory (R.-K-O) (1,500; 15-50)—"Gang War" (PBO). Caught on for \$2,000, okay.

Strand (Ind) (2,200; 15-50)—"Someone to Love" (Par). Hit around \$9,000; nice.

TACOMA AGAINST IT

Light Draw in Small Town for Theatre's Off Week

Tacoma, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 125,000)

Weather: Fair and clear. Light draw with three changes weekly, seems okay. Charlie Murray held the draw at the Broadway in personal seat; \$2,000.

Estimates for Last Week
Broadway (WC) (1,500; 25-50)—"Camera Man" (M-G). But the draw was Charlie Murray in Fanchon-Marco line; \$5,400.

Pantages (1,500; 25-50)—"Power of Press" (Col). \$4,300; way off.

Bliss (M-G) (1,050; 60-75)—"Midnight Taxi" dialog (WB). Second week not so good. \$1,400 for 3 days. House closed until Xmas for reworking.

Rialto (Col) (1,250; 25-35-50)—"West of Zanzibar" (M-G). Lon Chaney draws here, but this story too grossing; \$2,900.

Chicago, Dec. 24. Weather: Unfavorable

Janitors were riding seats of accumulated dust on the Loop before houses were as typically pre-Christmas as the 90-pound Santa Claus ringing a bell at State and Randolph. B. & K. were undoubtedly convinced that Paul Ash in Brooklyn can be of no assistance to the Oriental in Chicago. With "Adoration" a regular starband unit the house sank to \$31,000, the lowest it has ever been. When Ash was here there was little worry about the seasonal slump; the \$21,000 he held here grosses high no matter what was happening elsewhere. B. & K. have yet to find another m. c. even slightly as good as Ash, who has not been recorded with crepe dangling around it.

Chicago was \$4,000 below at \$38,000 for Lon Chaney's "West of Zanzibar." This is the Hays version of "Kongo," although the fact doesn't seem generally known. "Singing Fool," which regained kingly status, held here and was continued its recent slackening to \$28,000 for 11th week. Still a money-maker, and moves to the Roosevelt today, (Tuesday) for continuation of the downtown run. Roosevelt took another \$3,000 drop with fifth and last full week of "White Shadows," but still \$11,000. Just about ready to be kicked, with the total gross regarded as satisfactory.

United Artists took a chance with the Cosmo-M-G import "Loves of Casanova" (French made), and was considerably below average at \$17,500. Exploitation was rather neat, but couldn't get the libidos. Critics thumbed down. "Little Wildcat" took a tumble at the Orpheum after holding up good for two weeks; went to \$16,000.

State-Lake down to \$16,000. Monroe also descending with \$3,000 for "Riley the Cop."

Estimates for Last Week
Chicago (Public)—"West of Zanzibar" (M-G-M) and "White Heat" (Public) stage unit (4,400; 50-75). Both Chicago usually reliable here. Let house down to \$33,000 in general Loop slump.

McVicker's (Public)—"The Singing Fool" (WB) sound (2,200; 50-75). Dropped \$6,000 in 11th week, but moved to smaller Roosevelt Tuesday; \$28,000.

Orpheum (Public)—"Riley the Cop" (Fox), sound (975; 50-75). Worst week house has had this season with \$3,900; about what it used to do here.

Oriental (Public)—"Adoration" (F. N.) and "Circolino Days," Public mix unit (3,200; 50-75). Terrible at \$31,000. New York to be replaced. Alfy m. c. to hold biz up since Ash left.

Orpheum (Warner)—"Little Wildcat" (WB) sound (760; 50). Steep drop in third and last week to \$5,600; opened great at \$11,000 and held to \$9,000 in second week.

Roosevelt (Public)—"White Shadows" (Cosmo-M-G), sound (1,700; 50-75). \$3,000 drop in 5th week to \$12,000; leaves today, to be replaced by "Singing Fool" (WB).

State-Lake (Keith)—"Gang War" (PBO), and sound (2,200; 50-75). Picture given good notices, but included in generally hum biz; \$16,000.

United Artists (U. A.) "Loves of Casanova" (M-G-M import), sound (1,702; 50-75). Alien one-week booking drew weak \$17,500.

Brutal in N. O.

New Orleans, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 475,000)

Worst week before-Christmas in years. Practically every house in town was in the red.

Even Loew's State went on the wrong side when its intake skidded to an even \$11,000. Things were so bad at the Strand the orchestra was wired, after having been given the usual two weeks in anticipation.

"Was brutal, mates." **Estimates for Last Week**
Loew's State (2,175; 50)—"Show Girl" (F. N.). Lowest gross of year; \$11,000.

Saenger (3,568; 65)—"Dream of Love" (Par). Not so pleasant at \$14,200.

Orpheum (2,400; 50)—"Annapolis." Meant very little; \$7,800.

Strand (2,200; 50)—"Port of Missing Girls" (WB) hung anchor to slumps; at \$2,800.

Tudor (800; 50)—"The Whip" (FN). Racing talker did not run into money; \$2,200.

ONLY 13 LEFT

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Fox publicity offices continued to reduce in numbers this week with the disposal of Harry Collins and Ruth Howell is now down to 13 members as against 21 six weeks ago when Earl Wingart took charge.

COSTUMES FOR HIRE

PRODUCTIONS
EXPLORATIONS
PRESENTATIONS

BOOKS

COSTUMES
143 W. 40th ST. N.Y.C.

All Houses Take It in Slump Wk.; Par., \$68,400 with 'Haunted House'

Just about what the doctor predicted and the boys slept through it. Everything felt the pressure but the rebound ought to reach high altitudes this week.

Pre-Xmas Drop, \$25,000 In Toronto Grosses

Toronto, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 700,000) Weather: Fair. New theatre ditched its fifth last week and went second run for the first time in its history.

Talking streamers came into use for the first time at Tivoli and Uptown. Tivoli took one on the jaw with "Uncle Tom's Cabin" because this one had been used up in road shows.

Estimates for Last Week Astor—"Jim Valentine" (dialog) (M-G) (1,120; \$1-\$2) (7th week). Took sharp slide, but showed strength at \$15,400, and bound to come back as the holiday parade starts.

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MEIGHAN-JOLSON HOLD IN BALTO'S OFF WEEK

'Mating Call,' \$3,000; 'Fool,' \$8,000; Century Good, \$22,000; Stanley Only \$12,000

Baltimore, Dec. 24. (Drawing Population, 850,000) Weather: Fair. New theatre ditched its fifth last week and went second run for the first time in its history.

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Report W. E. Dodging Mixing Up In Fox-DeForest Suit; Alibis

Honeymoon at Last Warner shears in First National have cut in a honeymoon. Walter Iserhardt had been so busy with the house organ which the new regime organ which the new regime doesn't want he overlooked the trip that usually follows the ceremony.

New Pro Tripod Has All Kinds of Angles A local inventor has devised a professional camera tripod containing several innovations. By turning a crank the camera man may raise or lower his camera, and automatically locks it. It is released when the crank again is turned.

U's Studio Mystery Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Universal will do a mystery story, "The Great Cinema Murder," by Will Chappell, will be the murder of an actor in a talking picture set and will reveal some of the mechanics of sound film production.

MADGE BELLAMY OUT Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Made Bellamy, the only star on the Fox lot for two years, is out. Her contract expired after "Mother Knows Best," and the option was not exercised.

MARY'S STARTING TROUBLES Los Angeles, Dec. 24. After rehearsing more than three weeks for a part in "Trial of Mary Dugan," Natalie Moorehead, stage actress, has been taken from the lot and Lilyan Tashman substituted.

EDDINGTON NEGOTIATING Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Harry E. Eddington, personal manager for John Gilbert, Greta Garbo and a number of other stars and directors, is in New York negotiating contracts for some of his people.

JOLSON ON "MAMMY" JAN. 15 Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Mr. and Mrs. Al Jolson (Hubly Kroler) returned to Hollywood from Hawaii before Jan. 15.

Western Electric's restrictions on its licensees to keep the talker game within the family are starting a hide and seek contest between many of the producers and their electric bosses.

Behold the curtain of all this Fox seems to be getting the toughest of the breaks from old man talker. If Fox followed W. E. it couldn't even interchange with the sister, RCA. Other producers are doing it and guaranteeing it, even Warners have officially announced it, but Fox has to be especially careful because of DeForest's action against the Fox-Case patent and because any open indiscretion might make W. E. a party to the action.

But Fox's peculiar position has taken an amazing turn the past week. This company is booking its sound films into theatres which have the equipment of the plaintiff, DeForest. Fox's sales department told Variety its sound films being booked into the Alhambra, Canton, O. Milton Schwartz, however, says he knows nothing about the type of equipment in the Alhambra. Jesse Goldberg has told exhibitors that it is DeForest's and that DeForest's is also in the Tivoli booked for a run starting Christmas Eve.

The Alhambra, according to the DeForest office, which sent an investigator to Canton, Ohio, is a Fox product with Movietone accompaniment. After playing "The Toller" (RCA) Dec. 1, Fox sound film failed to be delivered. But last week, Schwartz admits, an order was sent from Fox's sales department for Fox product with Movietone accompaniment. After playing "The Toller" (RCA) Dec. 1, Fox sound film failed to be delivered. But last week, Schwartz admits, an order was sent from Fox's sales department for Fox product with Movietone accompaniment.

An official W. E. spokesman reiterates that it can't forever keep sending out its detectives to appease itself. Despite letters such as from Fox's August guarantee. Its RCA sound interchangeable with Western, W. E. still tells the story that every interchange is a matter of specific performance which it must okay and that no blanket agreement on interchangeable with RCA has ever been made.

RAY STUDIO TALKERS Los Angeles, Dec. 24. At the old Charles Bray studios, now under lease to Telefilm Pictures, Nat Cordish has completed the third of his series of dialog one-reelers.

"HOTTEHOTTS" DIALOG Harvey Field will write the dialog for "The Hottehots" W. E. in which Edward Everett Horton will be starred. Douglas MacLean will do a short comedy some years ago.

Production is scheduled for Jan. 3.

Langdon Ends Contract as Roach Studio Shuts Down

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Harry Langdon has canceled his fusing to accept the three months' layoff in prospect at the studio. Roach expects to finish his current program and stop production Dec. 29.

MITCH LEWIS' RETURN Mitchell Lewis, former he-man star, returns to the screen after a long absence in M-G's "Bridge of San Luis Rey."

Estelle Taylor Op. Chaney Estelle Taylor will appear opposite Lon Chaney in "East is West" for M-G-M.

39 Sounds in 6 Months

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Paramount's new production schedule calls for the release of 39 sound pictures during the first six months of 1929.

NO SPLIT PAYROLL

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Permanent salaried employees at the FBO studio who divided their time between studio duties and that of the Gloria Swanson unit which is routing space at this plant, film order to take their choice of working for one or the other as the new owners, R-K-O will not allow the studio payroll to be split.

OSMUN'S DIALOG

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Leighton Osmun, playwright, 12 years ago was one of the highest paid screen writers. He has returned to Hollywood to resume picture work as a dialog writer.

College Boy's Contract

Joel McCrea, former college student, now in "Five O'Clock Girl," signed to long-term contract by M-G.

Par. Film Drops Dialog

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Paramount has decided to eliminate dialog in "Four Packagers," which Cooper and Schoedsack are directing.

Mendes Directs "Rooms"

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Lester Mendes will direct sound and silent versions of Sir Phillip Gibbs' "Darkened Rooms" for Paramount.

NAT ROTHESTEIN AT CITY

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. As soon as he finishes testifying in Anne Nichols' "Able" suit, Nat Rothstein will leave for Hollywood. Instead of going to the ranch, Rothstein is now signed for a talker job in Universal City. Nat was recently relieved by M. A. Silver as advertising chief in the home office.

Sloman's First Short

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. A. M. (Doc) Sloman, who succeeded Murray Roth in charge of W. E. shorts out here, will direct "In the Tropics" as his first picture.

If it isn't FOX, it isn't MOVIE TONE NEWS!

FOX Movietone News, pioneer talking newsreel, has earned public preference by its honest and complete reproduction of life itself the world over.

It takes much more than sound to satisfy the public's demand for talking newsreels. You can't fill this demand by giving them phony synchronizations or studio shots any more than you can satisfy preference for a Rolls Royce by delivering a second-hand flivver.

If it isn't Fox, it isn't the newsreel that has earned the enthusiasm and applause of the public. If it isn't Fox, it isn't the newsreel whose amazing record of achievements includes the introduction to American audi-

ences of the world's greatest notables, including King George of England, King Alfonso of Spain, Lindbergh, Foch, Lloyd George and Mussolini. If it isn't Fox, it isn't the newsreel with the efficient newsreel crews gathering the sounds and sights of North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

If it isn't Fox, your audiences will be quick to discern the difference—not alone by the trade mark, but by comparison of the superior quality of Movietone News.

If it isn't Fox, it isn't the only talking newsreel today that is serving three issues weekly to all the most important theatre circuits in the United States and Canada. And more issues to come.

**THREE
NEWSY
ISSUES
EVERY
WEEK**



**By Royal
Appointment
to Kings
and America's
Millions**

**Book YOUR talking newsreel from FOX and
you're SURE to get MOVIE TONE NEWS**

Talking Shorts

CLARK and McCULLOUGH "THE DIPLOMATS" FOX MOVIE TONE 25 Mins. Gaiety, New York

Credited to Bobby Clark and Arthur Caesar, this will add to Clark and McCullough's standing for comedy. It tells a connected story with everyone except the featured pair dead-end and successful device for comedy purposes. Some of the gags have whiskers, but in general Clark's tomfoolery brings out the laughs easily and often.

A couple of stowaways aboard a ship bound for Belgravia, Clark and McCullough, through a trick in the service of the King of Belgravia. Most of the comedy centers in Clark's efforts to get a document from the ample bosom of Cissie Fitzgerald, playing a courtesan.

Marguerite Chuss will be the beautiful and distressed princess. John St. Polis is the uncertain king, while several smaller parts are included. The direction of Norman Taugo is competent, changing tempo where necessary without loss of illusion. Ben Kline is edited as cameraman. F. B. McKenzie acts the new label, "sound man."

Must have cost quite a few coppers to produce this number. There is a ballroom scene parring anything in a regular feature. With the many and sure-fire laughs, any exhib can and should feature this strongly in advertising. Land.

ORTH and CODEE "ZWEI UND FURTZICH" VITAPHONE No. 2709 10 Mins.; Talk and Songs Warners, New York

Note appended to the title states that this is the first short made with a view to foreign distribution. It flashed by so fast there wasn't time to find out if that were on the level of kidding. Resultant material makes it look strictly up-and-up. Orth and Codee, who have spent French and German for the full running time, Miss Codee handles both tongues, Orth sticking to German. It may be the same act they stage-did in Paris.

Action is a sidewalk crossfire, mostly in German, with a visual leading into a song by Miss Codee over which she stumbles and makes excuses to divest herself of gloves, hat and coat. Finish has couple going their separate ways.

Those who understood it approved. It ought to be a smash on the Continent at this time. Over here it seems aimed at the Teutonic centers and those wired-homes playing to a strong percentage of German-Americans will probably find it a good novelty bet. Where they don't understand it's lost, as there isn't enough action to explain the conversation.

Orth and Codee are a standard vaude team over here. Sid.

WAYMAN'S DEBUTANTES (11) VITAPHONE No. 2261 7 Mins.; Band and Songs Warners, New York

Girl band led by Harry Wayman in the conventional manner, playing-as conventionally and meaning no more but less than some other shorts of the type.

These are recordings don't mean a thing in any fair-sized city and less before a \$2 audience. Warners has continuously opened their shorts in this theatre with bands. A waste of time and monotonous.

That's one thing the screen hasn't in common with vaudeville, it doesn't have to open dumb even though it insists, at least in this instance, of following that rule.

Outfit plays and sings. Two of the girls even do a half-hearted comedy dance. At no time do the 10 girls really impress. Wayman simply bows a violin in front, taking his piano by the hand at the finish to disclose that she's some 12 inches taller than himself. Women play fairly but are not strong on appearance. Almost without applause at this performance. Sid.

George O'Brien's next for Fox will be "Son of Anak," football and college story from Satev-post yarn by L. A. Williams. Film will have dialogue sequences.

Virginia Hill, Gaston Glass, Otto Mathesen, Andre De Secuirio and Fanny Midway, added to untitled European drama being directed by Roy Niel for Col.

FRANCES WHITE (2) M-G-M MOVIE TONE 5 Mins.; Songs Astor, New York

Having watched this short take a broodie at Loew's, Syracuse, a few weeks ago, there doesn't appear any reason why it became two to nothing against Miss White after this Astor showing. Flashed No. 2 in a row of five, the "Miss-is-sip-ple" girl didn't mean a thing using her alma mater to close.

Quite possible that Miss White wasn't particularly added on this program by Puzzy Knight doing his Mississippi clown version (different melody) immediately ahead of her and she certainly suffered from the same faults in amplification as affected Knight, not to say a tremolo. But Miss White isn't the sound screen as with these songs. Not that she's bad. It's just that she is without personality and means nothing in this subject. As in the Knight record, the piano sounded very faulty.

Opening with a lyric on how the present parents conducted themselves as kids, plus an accentuated and bustling gown, the comedy supposed to be was not. This led into "M-I-S," for which there was a blackboard background.

The songwriters are competent. Lacking the songwriting ring, the audience sat patiently. As Miss White does only the two numbers, she finished on the safe side if absolutely in silence.

Miss White leaves the screen smiling. Had she then known she was going to get an Orpheum circuit for \$1,750 she probably would have exited very laughingly, and why not? A pianist, aided by off-screen orchestral climaxes. Sid.

FUZZY KNIGHT M-G-M MOVIE TONE 3 Mins.; One Song Astor, New York

Nut do-de-odoleder from nitze claps spluttering through one number and making them faint. Used three minutes of five shorts here, preceding the full-length feature, "Jimmy Valentine" at \$2 top, comic songster amused from the start and was on and off in three minutes. Smart.

Reproduction or recording on Knight is unquestionably faulty as viewed Dec. 19. Both Knight and Frances White, who followed, developed a cross between a frog in their throats and a tremolo. Neither performer, if memory is correct, pleads guilty to these handicaps. The main feature is a melody can when it reached its dialog sequence. Fault in these shorts presumably originated at the studio. It doesn't help in both cases the piano sound unnatural. Still Knight got over.

Doing his "Mississippi Cho-Choo" by this eccentric warbler, started by a "Ramona" gag on his way to the piano and never stopped thereafter. Slamming the lid and shouting down the inside of the instrument is much as Knight has done in night clubs. His original style of manipulating a melody can holds for these songs. After that the method begins to pall, so that if he sticks too long the first impression is forgotten. That's why this single number fits and will stand up as a fast opener anywhere.

Given average amplification, a better recording or an improved method for better the presentation as seen here, this recording figures to increase its Astor value. However, it appears too late to offset that tiny piano. Sid.

POLLY MORAN VITAPHONE No. 2297 8 Mins.; Comedy and Songs Sheridan, New York

This talking short has the screen comedienne doing a part of the act she did in vaude about six years ago. Monolog frame-up has her "dishing the dirt" about the stars she has played with; her experience in the old slapstick flicks and an impression of the doing a public personal appearances. Well liked here and especially okay for neighborhood wired houses.

Polly has a couple of comedy songs, "Polly with a Fractured Past" and "Any Place That Makes Money Is Home Sweet Home," both good for laughs. Her humor is of the broad variety, easily understandable and her comic pan and carriage aid considerably in creating favorable impression.

FOX MOVIE TONE NEWS VOL. 2, No. 12 Issue of Dec. 22 30 Mins.; 3 Reels (A-B-C) Projection Room, New York

"A" Reel Pre-Christmas slump evidently takes in the news mob, too.

No particular lead story amongst the current week's issue from this source. Trio of reels gives the girls a breath-taking holding some quite did stuff and a fur display. It also shows the news crews experimenting on studio stuff, once for a comedy gag and another a symbolic hymn as Mary and the Child are seen in the manger. Close-ups and inside of a R. R. engine in action make the highlight.

"A" reel holds most of the official matter from Washington, starting by showing Lindbergh receiving another trophy and the President handing Lieut. Dyer a cup for having flown 1,558 hours without fuel re-demonstration, a male describing the coats as mannikin parade.

Foreign contribution is from Czechoslovakia on a church bell given to commemorate the brave death of hot tango next, taken in a Greenwich Village joint with an unnamed couple maneuvering. May give the dancehall jellbeans a few new ideas.

Best clip is next to closing and has some of the little daughters describing prize-winning angoras. Having the youngsters talk, of course, is the added attraction and very good, although putting makeup on one of the tots isn't going to set so well with a lot of people. Closing this reel is the off-seven hymns sung by a chorus, in conjunction with the Biblical scene, which reveals some nice lighting. News bunch did this on their own and rate a bow. Runs 13 minutes.

"B" Reel Reel B opens up on Santa Claus visiting sick children at the Knickerbocker Hospital, New York. Banjoist from "Hello Yourself" entertains, then gifts are distributed followed by some ensemble singing. Cross-fire between the kids and Santa holds laughs in the unheated dialog.

From the Coast comes an outdoor service in memory of Amundson, the explorer.

Gymnastics of German girls are interesting, clip having been taken at the Fontaine School, Berlin. Perhaps library, but excellent, is a ride in the cab of a railroad locomotive. Resultant material doesn't compare with the other clips, particularly heavy strain upon a mike, but it breaths the tremendous rush. Juveniles will love it while many a male who votes will find it fulfillment of a long suppressed desire. Also, the almost complete lack of wearing a railroad sound on microphones, no possible dialog near an engine and too much engine will instigate headaches. These shots were taken on the New York Central lines, and the 20th Central line, Grand Central, and its electric sign on the rear of the observation car probably being the selling point which brought permission.

Final subject of choristers from "Show Boat" - the audience for gobs "What a Beautiful Evening" in the Brooklyn Navy Yard strictly routine. Too familiar, even with sound. Reel runs nine minutes.

"C" Reel Final spool starts by unfolding a girls' hockey game, an is plenty funny as it starts to start to sizzle and scream on the sidelines. Oregon farmers dynamiting ditches holds as the successive claps and dirt geysers cover the sheet.

A swimming meet in the N. Y. A. C. pool remains the sport standard that a diving has established, some of the diving being particularly pretty.

A couple of polyantha minutes with Dr. Cadman, in which he prescribes everything will be done for brighter, may mean something to those who can't hear him via radio, this being the Doctor's opening excuse for the personal appearance.

Child violinist, 13, playing to a group several years her junior is good. Christmas card for another studio comedian, a news-troop. A Christmas card for the fall and all the decorations with him for a flash. Eight minutes. Sid.

Richard Talmadge's unit, shooting at San Mateo, has returned to Brayton, the "Yellow Faces." Cast includes Harry St. Leo, Vera Reynolds, Henry Selley, So-Jin and Joseph Girard.

IRENE FRANKLIN VITAPHONE No. 2705 7 Mins.; Comedy Songs Warners, New York

Corking comedy record by this seasoned character songstress in which she does two numbers, after opening by singing "Be Your Own Girl" and covering the title. Jerry Jauch is at the piano.

"Miss Franklin is doing 'Be Your Own Girl,' a flip chorus girl reiteration, a d-'Help, Help, Help,' the wail of a fireman's wife. Both are typically bright, with Miss Franklin's surprisingly adept at timing and laughs during her stop-to talking delivery. In one instance the timing was exactly right on a strong laugh line in the middle of the first song.

Looking well and perfectly at ease; this is an enjoyable seven minutes with Miss Franklin. They find that it is a matter where it fits as close to the perfect comedy-song combination as the shorts have reached.

Clean and inoffensive but still funny. Sid.

MY MAN (DIALOG)

Warners Branch made an advance. Starring Fannie Brice, directed by Abbie Mitchell from Marc Conner, Scenario by Robert Lord. Dialog by Joe Jackson and Joe Kelly. Warners, New York. Running time, 22 min. starting Dec. 21. Running time, 22 min. starting Dec. 21.

"My Man" is about the same as watching a recital by Fannie Brice in all the best things she has ever done. It ought to be good and is, but it doesn't look like a one-picture star. Film will pay for itself and then some, but it fails to indicate a smash hold outside of the star's songs.

Miss Brice is doing seven numbers and her "Mrs. Cohen at the Beach" is a corker. "The Love of Mrs. Beatrix Lillie, even if slightly Jewish. Both these two women are subject to the same handicaps enough to elude. That's why, when more at home in a revue where they can come and go with their specialties than when playing plot, Miss Brice leaves both tried plot, not too happily.

Miss Brice is not entirely at her best when carrying this story, and 37 minutes of film are silent. It's when leaning up to a gag line or delivering a number her showmanship hits.

Actual script is a succession of thin links to give Miss Brice recurring excuses for her well known songs. These are familiar to the trade and to a cosmopolitan audience. There seems to be some question as to just how well known Miss Brice is in those spots where this picture will be shown, but her lack of vocabulary are apt to chill on the star's distinct Hebrew clowning. It's also true that other actors should be given a chance to outstand other comedienne it doesn't seem as if "My Man" will have much trouble in doing national and good business.

Picture is actually running 'way over on time, but that's because they have crowded all of Miss Brice's dialogue material into one screening. All her pet numbers are here and in the following sequence: "Floradora Baby," "You Ain't Nothin' but a Good Thing," "Second-Hand Rose," "I'd Rather Be Blue" (new), "My Man," in comedy and serious vein, "In the Springs," and "You Want the Rainbow" (new), the latter the plug number and highlight of the feature. Star delivers both well. Each is sold to the ear and ought to become popular, which won't hurt anything.

Film holds five dialog sequences going with four minutes of conversation and then skipping 11 to pick up another dialog 18, 6, 3, and 17 in that order. In between are the silent but synchronized songs and effect passages, running anywhere from 1 to five minutes. Miss Brice's burlesque ballet bit is next to closing, reached by a number giving her a chance to sing a revue after picking her out of a costume shop. Script takes a faulty line here, here after a reasonable explanation for the costume shop.

Theatre exterior on opening night and showing "Baby Band" started in her first show. Looked for a minute as if Miss Brice was going to let the heroine make good without billing—but the studio couldn't stand the realistic innovation and was obliged to go back to the old. It is also seen applauding, which helps to leave it up to some studio to duplicate a New York opening success. There has been a theatrical costume shop, supporting a leading role sister (Edna Murphy) and a kid brother. Cross plot in the latter half, when a girl is found her man and the love interest is the

crudely dressed in through Fannie making eyes at a physical culture demonstrator and saving him from being pinched for sleeping in the park.

Pathos ingredient is the sister returning home, after being dropped by the producer, and snatching a way for Fannie to appear in the wedding. Fannie has practically forced on the boy. Finish has Miss Brice singing "Rainbow" on the stage as she leaves. Then the balcony to go backstage and make amends, these two having skipped the ring. Frustrated wedding gives Miss Brice the last of the "My Man" material, but using a bridal veil instead of a lamp-post.

Dialog lags in spots, but is also studded by gags the star evidently finds in herself. Guiton (Big Boy) Williams does exceedingly well as the awkward physical specimen under obligation to marry her, a matter being either far away or marriage. He looks like one former football player who can talk and will stick in pictures. Miss Murphy will enter in pictures. Miss Murphy will enter in pictures. Miss Murphy will enter in pictures.

Technical interest in the picture is good and also smart. One sequence has Miss Brice singing "My Man" on the beach during a shop outting, camera being either far away or shooting from behind Miss Brice so as to mask the synchronization of action and voice. Vitaphone can't get out on the picture. A couple of other long distance shots of Miss Brice vocalizing, proves the contention of some insist camera being either far away or shooting from behind Miss Brice so as to mask the synchronization of action and voice. Vitaphone can't get out on the picture.

Good picture for Warners and Miss Brice, although it doesn't figure to enhance her value as a variety camera being either far away or shooting from behind Miss Brice so as to mask the synchronization of action and voice. Vitaphone can't get out on the picture. A couple of other long distance shots of Miss Brice vocalizing, proves the contention of some insist camera being either far away or shooting from behind Miss Brice so as to mask the synchronization of action and voice. Vitaphone can't get out on the picture.

THE RIVER (SOUND)

Fox production and release. Charles Farrell and Lucretia Noyes. Based on Tristram Shandy, by Laurence Sterne. Adapted by Mauric B. Palmer. Music score by Maurice B. Palmer. Running time, 22 min. starting Dec. 22 on \$2 run. New York opening Dec. 22 on \$2 run. Running time, 22 min. starting Dec. 22 on \$2 run. New York opening Dec. 22 on \$2 run. Running time, 22 min. starting Dec. 22 on \$2 run. New York opening Dec. 22 on \$2 run.

Frank Borzage has made quite a lot out of very little. The love affair of a woman of the world and a young, innocent giant of the wilderness with nothing but the vagrancies of mood, the surge and ebb of sex, and the power of his material for moving pictures. Under the circumstances "The River" moves at all in due to the deft handling of its sluggish material by Borzage, although Philip Klein and Dwight Cummins, script men, have probably gotten as much cinematic voltage out of Tristram as can be expected, could not be surprised and should be granted recognition for helpfulness.

"The River" is least effective in its attempt to use the flowing water as a little symbolism for the cleansing powers of love. This does not seem important or valid, either as poetry or a background for the filmmaker's story and a moral never clear, relevant or necessary.

"The River" is from the same vein as "The Great Gatsby" and "Street Angel." It has less substance than either and will probably fall short of the commercial success of "The Great Gatsby." Having an actor of this size and having so much smouldering sexiness, it is occasionally liable to laughter.

They laughed at the Galley, although the clear in motive. Coming from the women mostly they may have been a factor of overlooking (toeing) the situation did border on while New York sophisticates—consider. Imperative-kizzle material, it can be said, assuming that the picture is a new level of the objective attitude will not be conspicuous.

However, there is a legitimate source of ridicule that should be pointed out in the picture. That is the love song sung on a movie-tone by a 250-pound tenor and an extremely-busy-actress, the result seems to her and her partner. The result is absurd.

Charles Farrell adds another line of performance to his record when he has a part in carrying this picture while the man will enjoy (Continued on page 24).

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Phototone Is Installed In 72 N. Y.-N. J. Houses

Of all the indie devices on the market which claim voluminous bookings, but which have no complete lists to exhibit in substantiation, Phototone is the first to kick through with addresses.

This Indiana cabinet company claims 1,200 installations nationally. In proof of part of this claim it submitted a list of 72 theatres in New York and Jersey where its device is actively functioning.

Five of these Phototone installations are in New York City, in the Fifth Avenue (110th St.);

New Hudson, New Third Avenue, Orient (125th St.), Progress and Royal.

The company is one of the frankest of the indies striving for a position. It keeps away from interchangeability in any form. Simply terms itself nonsynchronous.

HURRYING "DRUMMOND"

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

To speed up the release of the picture to wired houses, the all-talk version of "BullDOG Drummond," Ronald Colman's next for Samuel Goldwyn, will be made first.

Goldwyn expects to have the sound picture on the market before the silent version is completed. F. Richard Jones will direct.

Mascot's 5 Serials

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Mascot Pictures, serial producers, will make five chapter plays during 1929. The first will be "The Fatal Warning," in 10 episodes. Helene Costello and Ralph Graves have the lead. Richard Thorpe will direct.

"Ark" Gets 10 Weeks

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

After 10 weeks at Grauman's Chinese "Noah's Ark" will close its engagement New Year's day.

Choice of the next attraction in the house lies between a talker version of "Snow Boat" and Douglas Fairbanks' "Iron Mask."

Radio Names Advised to Defer Going Into Talking Shorts for Present

SOUND RUN-AROUND

(Continued from page 7)

We are as much in the dark as you. The association has nothing to do with the business policies of its members.

Roll call proved that all of the producers, with four exceptions, had totally ignored the appeal to be represented and go on the record on interchangeability. All of the electrics were absent. Of the companies present, FBO, United Artists and Warners were there without authority to go on record. They hemmed and hawed or were blunt. First National, whose dealings with Leo Brecher and the Lafayette were repeatedly cited, replied in a letter through Ned Depinet that it had already clearly expressed its position and had nothing further to say.

Producing Companies' Views

When Charles Rosenweig, of FBO, got up exhibitors thought they had caught a ray of light. This representative said he would be glad to serve exhibitors with sound who would pay the extra price.

"On what machine," several asked in concert.

"I know nothing about that, I'm not interested in machinery," was the reply.

Then United Artists was called and the exchange man who had provided the Lafayette with a W. E. sounded film for Biophone equipment for a week, said that he had done this on his own initiative, but that in the future Brecher could obtain product only if he signed the rider.

Warners' man said the TOCC letter was misleading and that he had come to discuss the labor situation. When that was reached, however, he had nothing to say.

Indie Devices' Side

Of the indie devices having representatives at the meeting six went on record.

Phil Goldstone, for Biophone, said he thought the exhibitor and his patrons should be the judges of quality. At various times he arose to register complaints for the indie talkers and not for the exhibs. One of these was the American Society's flat rate of \$100,000 annually for the use of copyright music which he described as prohibitive to smaller interests.

For Bristolphone Budd Rogers said Paramount and United Artists are servicing its installations throughout the country. How many he did not reveal, but a direct question brought from him that the company has no installations in New York city at this time.

Melotone's man said nothing about his apparatus but repeated what he said was his conversation with a Warner official which promised "relief within 30 days."

Phototone when called upon popped up with: "I am just here to listen."

DeForest's Jesse Goldberg exclaimed, "I have sold so many contracts I am hoarse." Goldberg then told of a wire from Canton okaying Fox product running over DeForest equipment in the Alhambra theatre there. He presented Harry Perlman, who said he operated the West Alleghany and Leigh theatres in Philadelphia; that he would open with DeForest equipment Jan. 15, and that he had no trouble getting bookings with sound at any of the Philadelphia exchanges except with Warners and First National. He said he will open with U's "Melody of Love," W. E. sounded.

These citations by Goldberg came after Brecher had called him for saying that the DeForest outfit was ignorant of any refusals, and that "it is being served all over the country."

"Will you add that to your contract?" he was asked. "Not until we become major stockholders in the big companies," Goldberg replied.

Pat Powers then talked for his Cinephone, which Dr. DeForest has described as a Chinese drawing of his own device.

Previously, in private conference with the TOCC, Powers reminded the group of the old patents trouble. Gradually he advised them to look over these legal records. Finally he cautioned them to go to an attorney and be quick about it.

The National Broadcasting Co. is advising its artists to hold off on talking shorts' production as long as possible. NBC has other ideas in view for those artists in whom it is interested.

The theory is that the longer they hold off, providing they had not already made a talking short, the more valuable will the radio artist with a name become for sound pictures.

The mlerphonic theory of radio transmission and talking picture recording is the same, because of the electrical pick-up through the "mlke," where a sense of balance also figures. For that reason radio and record artists are particularly suitable for talkers.

Whether NBC has its own ally, the RCA Photophone in mind is not disclosed. Merlin Hall Aylesworth, president of NBC, figures that the next few months will see some rapid strides made in sound picture production and that the longer an artist defers a talker the better will be the ultimate technical facilities.

Lloyd Coming On

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

J. Gerritt Lloyd, scenarist for D. W. Griffith, will join the latter in New York next week to look over available play material for Griffith's next U. A. picture.

"Darling of the Gods" was scheduled to D. W.'s next, but this will be directed by Henry King during the latter part of the year.

Former Sec'y on Script

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Marjorie Dudley, former secretary to Frances Marion, getting her first opportunity to write a screen treatment.

It is an adaptation from an original football story for M-G.

Heath Just for Gloria

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Lance Heath has surrendered one of his positions at FBO, that of head of the publicity department. He retains representation of Gloria Swanson.

Understood here that New York will name the successor.

H. B. Warner in 5 Releases

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

H. B. Warner will appear in five talking pictures for Warners during 1929.

The first will be "The Gambler." It starts Jan. 10.

Griffith's 'Post Mortems'

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Raymond Griffith has been signed by Al Christie for "Post Mortems," a talking short from a story by Charles Devine.

Picture will be released through Paramount.

Greta's 3d Title

Greta Garbo's next release for M-G-M has its third title. Originally "Heat," then "Kiss of the East" it's now "Wild Orchids."

Betty Compson's Quartet

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Betty Compson goes with Columbia to star in four pictures to be made within eight months.

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WARNER BROS. DELIVER

F. N. Relieved of All Detail in Tie-Up With Vitaphone for Talking Pictures

Vitaphone will derive from \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000 from First National annually through an arrangement entered into by the two companies last week whereby F. N. will be allowed to exploit and sell its product as First National-Vitaphone pictures.

Hereafter all F.N. pictures will be sounded and dialogued by Vitaphone, according to this arrangement. First National will make and release pictures, while Vitaphone will produce and release the records with each production. This affiliation will practically double Vitaphone production activities, formerly restricted to Warner Bros. pictures, with a similar increase in income probable.

It is understood that under this arrangement Vitaphone will deal with most of the talent needed for sound sequences for First National pictures, relieving the latter of all details in connection with the sounding problem.

All First National pictures are scheduled to be sounded. Cost of Vitaphoning ranges from \$30,000 to \$75,000 per picture, with over 50 F.N. films to be sounded.

It is understood that there will also be an additional charge by Vitaphone for the use of the trademark, above what is paid for the actual studio work. This hookup gives F.N. a ready made sound affiliation and eliminates experimental work which would be very costly at present in time and money.

Actual percentages to be paid for the use of the Vitaphone trademark by F.N. have not yet been determined, it is reported.

FOX IN HOLLYWOOD

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Fox is reported about to build in Hollywood. The corner plot at Hudson and Hollywood boulevard is understood to be the site. House mentioned as 4,000-seater with construction to start in spring.

"Fool's" \$60,000 Net in 8 Weeks

San Francisco, Dec. 24. Warner Brothers' net profit from the eight-week run of "The Singing Fool" at the Embassy is figured to run close to \$60,000.

BARRY SHERWOOD TENOR

First Appearance in America. Featured in Fanchon and Marco's SALLY O'NEILL "Mike" Idea

ALFRED BROWER

World's Fastest Russian Dancer with Fanchon & Marco's "Hollywood" Series. This Wk.—Loew's State, Los Angeles. Direction WILLIAM MORRIS

BOBBY GILLETTE

and His Banjo. Master of Ceremonies. Alexander Theatre, Glendale, Cal.

JOHNNY DOVE

AMERICA'S FOREMOST ACROBATIC SKATER

NOW FEATURED IN

FANCHON and MARCO'S "ROLLING ALONG" IDEA

THE ACT WITH

SPEED and MOTION

Direction WM. MORRIS AGENCY

JOE and WILLIE HALE

PUTTING THE LAUGHS IN

FANCHON and MARCO'S "SAXOPHOBIA IDEA"

Direction: WILLIAM PERLBERG
WM. MORRIS AGENCY

Irish Playhouse in Harlem With Everything

A former 15c grind house on 125th street has been renamed the Irish Playhouse and is doing a brisk business at 50c-75c for reserved seats. House is getting its play through placing handbills in grocery stores located in the Irish neighborhood of the west side.

Program is advertised as Irish moving pictures with "The Colleen From Clare," recognized by a Variety reporter as a race horse film made about two years ago by Fox with Midge Bellamy and J. Farrell McDonald. The opening scenes are in Ireland. It has been re-edited and subtitles written in breezy barnyard.

Emmett Moore, who is behind the whole proposition, appears between an Irish travelogue and the feature with a rep of Irish songs and jokes. One song goes: "Every cheer in the house was for Tim Noonan." Upon reaching this point Moore waves his arm as a signal and the audience shouts, "Hurra! Hurra!"

Slips attract the audience to women, the most popular man or woman in New York who will receive a round trip to Ireland entirely free. White Star Line has advertising matter in the lobby and its "regular dependable weekly service to Ireland."

An extensive series of tie-ups between the Irish Playhouse and Irish organizations lists 15 dance halls where Irish-American dances are held on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday nights. These include Monahan's Hall, Murphy's Hall, Kilarney and Donovan's Grand Circle. The dance halls, in return, plug the Irish Playhouse.

Tie-up also includes music stores where Irish music can be purchased. One announcement made was that Father Kilkenny from the County of Monaghan, Ireland, would be at the Playhouse the next evening, and that the proceeds were to help build a new church in his parish.

Music is provided for the show by a pianist and portable phonograph.

'Greater Talkie Theatres'

Chicago, Dec. 24. Starting this week L&T circuit, subsidiary of B&K, is going into organizational advertising in the newspapers under the head of Greater Talkie Theatres. L&T control a group of 20 houses in towns which in the past have been used to bolster the B&K combination ads or else advertised individually with no banner head.

NORWALK CONTROL

Norwalk, Conn., Dec. 24. With rumors that the local theatres are to pass into outside control a syndicate of local business men is being formed to take the houses over. Houses involved are Empress, Regent, Palace and Rialto, owned jointly by Collins and Roodner. New company is expected to capitalize for \$1,500,000.

"Coquette" Started

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. After three weeks' rehearsal Mary Pickford's "Coquette" goes into production Dec. 26.

SEE 1,500-SEATERS AS FUTURE SOUND HOUSES

Coast Exhibs Think Talkers Need Intimacy, Same as Legit Houses

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

A revolution in film house construction will be the inevitable result if talking pictures dominate the future of pictures. This is the general opinion of coast exhibitors who have wired key houses.

Under a talking-film regime, construction of 3,500-seat houses, the approximate standard of present-day first runs, will be a thing of the past, they believe. They point out that the success of the stage was largely based on the small, intimate theatre, with a maximum of 1,500 seats, the audience having the sense of personal contact with the players. With pictures now going in for construction, it is pointed out, the same condition exists. Proof claim is the fact that the largest grind house in Los Angeles has had the least success with sound.

Local boys see definite changes in the stage, and they point out which will be the dividing of the houses into smaller sections with at least twice as many aisles as prevalent now. This is to eliminate the annoyance of arrivals crowding past everybody.

Marcia's Divorce Wmner

Cincinnati, Dec. 24.

"What am I now, your ex-wife? Let me know I'm not, and I'll come off; I'll be betting on you. I am on a hop, skip and jump all the time, and having a heck of a good time."

So wrote Marcia Lawrence, 25, a Cincy girl and chorister in "Rio Rita," Southern company, to Lincoln Lawrence, local salaried whom she married some months since.

Judge Charles W. Hoffman of this county's Court of Domestic Relations made Lawrence the winner in his suit for divorce.

Marcia attempted to gain the divorce here last June failed.

Discontinuing Westerns May Be Considered by FN

First National may discontinue westerns entirely next year, according to a policy which calls for a production schedule of specials only. The same "specials only" policy is also reported in force in several other companies, including Warner Bros., FBO, Tiffany-Stahl and Gotham.

Kid Maynard, the most highly paid and conspicuous of the First National western stars, will not be accepted for release next season, according to report, partly because of the new policy and more so because of the greatly depleted market for western pictures. It follows FBO in this stand, the latter having made plans to discontinue distribution of Mix westerns.

Dropping of Maynard releases also follows naturally because First National has adopted a policy providing that no independent producers will be continued. Maynard pictures were independently produced by Charles Rogers and distributed by F. N.

It has been officially reported that all independent producers will be required to sever relations with F. N. with the termination of their contracts.

Perry, N. Y., Votes Sunday

Perry, N. Y., Dec. 24. This town showed moving pictures for the first time on Sunday yesterday (Dec. 23) as the result of a referendum, 896 to 439.

John Erickson to direct "Women from Hell" Fox Taken from George Scarborough's play, "From Hell Came a Lady."

Duncan Rinaldo added to "Bride of San Luis Rey," M-G.

Grant Withers, John Davidson and Vivian Oakland added to "Pho Dinco, the Place and the Girl," WB.

Release title for "Comedy of Mifin, FN," will be "Love and the Devil."

Edmund T. Lowe, scenarist, signed by U to a five-year contract.

Joseph Henabry, directing "The Flying Marine," is retained by Col. to make another picture.

Ann Brody added to "A Tale of the Alps," Par.

Halperins Organizing New Film Producing Co.; Bankers Interested

Salesmen and Exhibs

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

An inquisitive sound studio worker here asks what is being done by hundreds of exchanges throughout the country handling sound films, when they want to give a demonstration of dialog to prospective customers?

Also if it is not true that the salesman must put himself under obligation to his ancient enemy, the exhibitor?

Colmay Corp. Looks Like Another for the Cooneys

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 24.

State corporation records here disclose the formation of the Colmay Theatre Corporation, for operation of the Maywood theatre, 1,600-seat picture house in Hammond, Ind. Plainly it's another house for the Cooney Bros. in Chicago.

Listed as officers are Albert Goldman, Hammond; L. W. Alexander, Chicago, and Harry P. Munns, Chicago. Goldman has long been associated with the Cooney's. Munns is a Chicago attorney, and Alexander formerly was connected with Universal.

This makes the third theatre corporation formed by the Cooneys in their reported resolve to come back, each corporation operating one theatre. They now hold the Gary theatre, Gary, and Drake in Chicago.

Gregory's Official O.K.

Chicago, Dec. 24.

Indication by Judge Joseph Fitch that he would permit S. J. Gregory to resume operation of the Gregory-Bernasek theatres, despite Gregory's indictment, was officially confirmed in a court hearing last Thursday. Judge ruled that Gregory may operate the four houses although the Chicago Title & Trust Co. receivers, will continue to hold the houses for accounting. Mismanagement was charged by Herman Hegner, a stockholder. Other stockholders have raised \$100,000 to assist Gregory to operate and to pay outstanding debts.

Once Grind, Now Cafe

Chicago, Dec. 24.

Peerless grind movie house, belonging to the Ascher chain and since independently operated, has been converted into a cafe called the Paradise Gardens.

Eddie Fox, former partner with Joe Glaser in the Sunset cafe, is manager.

Mix Reissues

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Fox studios are re-editing four Tom Mix westerns, including "Just Tony," "Last of the Dunes," "Soft Boiled" and "Rough Riding Romance."

These were made several years ago for Fox and will be reissued early part of next year.

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Halperin Brothers, now producing pictures in association with Inspiration Pictures for United Artists release, are making preliminary plans to form a \$15,000,000 picture producing organization, which will ultimately merge with a New York stage producing company.

Temporary board of directors for the new company consists of Henry King, picture director; William Walker, treasurer of the Motion Picture Capital Company, New York; Clifford Horne, of Elliott & Horne bond house of Los Angeles; Mayo Rice, investment broker; Arthur S. Friend, former treasurer of Paramount; F. A. Temple, president of Dallas Trust & Savings Bank in Dallas; Marcus Marshall, capitalist, formerly connected with the Torrence Murphy brokerage house here, and Sergio Mdivani, husband of Mae Murray.

The new company is searching for suitable studio sites in New York and Los Angeles, and will go in for sound pictures, using their own device.

U Balking Fox's Buy Deal for Schine Circuit

Universal's theatre chain is not in the market, except for a one-fourth interest which the company holds in the Schine circuit of 100 theatres in this state.

Instead of selling its regulars U intends to add to them.

Negotiations by Fox for the Schine houses are so far from consummation that informed sources are of the belief they will not be closed. Fox, it is understood, is balking at Universal's demand that it assume all obligations and give U product the same break it is now receiving on the Schine time.

Summer Attraction
Film Road Show

UNWED MOTHERS

Percentage
Booking Anywhere—Send Dates
SAMUEL CUMMINS
Publix Welfare Pictures Corp.
723 Seventh Ave., New York

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!
HELENE HUGHES
ROY SMOOT
Featured with
FANCHON and MARCO

DORIS WALKER
JUST COMPLETED
A VITAPHONE
NOW AT
United Artists Theatre, L. A.

All Bookings Through
the Whiteman Office

1560 Broadway
New York City

JAMES F. GILLÉSPIE
Personal Representative

TELL 'EM WITH TRAILERS

NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE SELLS SEATS

LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣

RELEASED IN JANUARY

GEORGE
JESSEL

ORIGINAL STAR
of "The JAZZ SINGER"

in

HIS FIRST TALKING



Drama of Mother Love and Sweetheart Love and of a Boy's Ambition - with George Jessel Singing His Heart Out in a Variety of Songs, Telling Funny Stories, Impersonating Great Actors and Amusing Characters, Wisecracking ad lib. as Only This Clever Star Can.

Dialogue and Titles by George Jessel
 Directed by Norman Taurog and Charles C. Wilson
 Sound Sequences Produced Under the Supervision of Rudolph Flothow
 Music Score by Hugo Riesenfeld
 Theme Song, "My Mother's Eyes," by L. Wolfe Gilbert and Abel Baer
 Published by Leo Feist, Inc.
 Synchronized by RCA Photophone



TIFFANY-STAHL PRODUCTIONS INC

1540 BROADWAY

NEW YORK CITY

LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣

♣ LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣

A
BOX-OFFICE
NATURAL

AND
SINGING
PRODUCTION

LUCKY BOY

TIFFANY
CO-NE

*The Greatest Audience Picture
Ever Made*

A Leading Personality of the Theatre—That's
Jessel! Lucky Boy Brings Him to Screen Audi-
ences with His Voice—and What He Can
Do with Songs and Wit.

A Glamorous Colorful, Romantic
Background.

A Singing Chorus of 60 Beauti-
ful Girls.

The Picture Every Ex-
hibitor Has Been
Waiting For.



JACK
SAVAGE

LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣ LUCKY BOY ♣

TIFFANY-STAHL PRODUCTIONS INC.

1540 BROADWAY

NEW YORK CITY

Indie Exhib No "Poor Relation Of Show Business," Says Myers, New National Indie Head

Washington, Dec. 25. President Coolidge is understood to have indicated to Abram F. Myers, new head of the independent exhibitors, that he would accept his resignation effective shortly after January 1.

At the White House last week when the President announced the receipt of Myers' resignation he was quoted as stating he wished that Mr. Myers would remain with the Federal Trade Commission until after the Power investigation is completed. This investigation is scheduled to be of a protracted nature and Myers goes on the new job January 1.

Though the dailies were slow in

picking up the new Myers assignment when the President opened it up for them he is reported to have paid high tribute to the new indie exhibitors head. He is said to have stressed Myers' former work in the Department of Justice as of great value to the Government while on the trade commission and that it should prove equally as valuable to the picture interests Myers is now to represent.

Myers' Staff

Already Myers is forming his new organization. Russell Stine, formerly in the box office of the local Keith house, is to be secretary and treasurer. Stine now is on the Federal Trade Commission payroll, placed there by Myers immediately upon the closing of the Keith house.

Still reluctant to discuss details Myers states his first move will be in an endeavor to kill the idea that the indie exhibitor is the "poor relation of the picture industry."

"Exhibitors in drawing together for self protection are doing so in the belief that they have made a substantial contribution to the development of the industry and should be reckoned with as important business and social factors in that industry," said Myers.

Myers believes that the very fact the now independent have survived is indication enough that they are good business men and skilled showmen.

He wants to wipe out suspicion. He believes the industry should be kept on a fair competitive basis for its own good. He wants everybody to have their just rights and protection for their investments, and that the time and money spent because of misunderstandings and suspicion can be saved "and all parties cooperate for the promotion of their common interests."

"The producers in the past," said Mr. Myers, "have expressed the wish that the exhibitors might organize in such a way as to permit of such co-operation. The Allied Exhibitors is being formed as a focal point for dealing with the exhibitors."

"The organization will represent those affiliated with it in all matters affecting their interests so far as such representation may be asked and its facilities will permit. Problems connected with procuring product will be taken up with distributor interests with a view to finding a satisfactory solution. While the allied cannot furnish legal services for all exhibitors affiliated with it, it will co-operate in litigation affecting exhibitor interests and aid in every way it can."

Experience

The indies in turning to Myers have made it evident that they look

upon his experience in the Department of Justice and on the Federal Trade Commission as being his for the particular case. The indie fight has taken. This phase has been commented upon by those of the industry here and was in evidence in most of the wire reports on Myers' new job sent out by the press services.

Those of the new indie group look upon Myers as an excellent administration contact. The incoming administration, they state, will place Myers in equally as effective position as is Will Hays. As to President-elect Hoover it is stated that the trade practice procedure of the commission, sponsored by Myers and developed by him, has been commented upon by Mr. Hoover. With the new President-elect urging simplification through the Department of Commerce and Myers the trade practice correction of competitive evils the two are known to have had many conferences.

Protection or Fight

Another good "connection" commented upon by the indies is the scheduled appointment of Col. William J. Donovan as attorney-general. Myers worked side by side with Donovan for 12 years.

Reverting to Myers' plan he is placing considerable reliance to the publicity angle of the new organization, not, as he states, for himself, but to put the story of the independents before the public.

An advertising campaign to support the local community theatre is one phase to be launched, said Myers.

"The policy of the allied will be to co-operate. That stands, too," he continued, "for the distributors so long as the exhibitor interests represented by it are protected—beyond that we'll fight."

Medical Ad Stirrs Mgrs.; Protest Heeded by Daily

Minneapolis, Dec. 24.

Following the publication of a medical ad adjoining the amusement columns in a local newspaper last week, theatrical managers held an indignation meeting and went in a body to the newspaper to lodge a protest.

The medical ad warned the public to remain away from public assemblies or large crowds of people as a flu preventative. It was prepared and worded in such a way as to give the impression to the average readers of having been issued by the state board of health or local health department. The name of the patent medicine was mentioned only casually in the body of the ad.

After the matter was brought to the attention of the newspaper's publisher, the objection of the offending ad for subsequent issues. The flu epidemic has been mild here but has frightened many people away from the theatres. The "warning" ad, running right next to the theatres' ads didn't help the show biz any.

Byrlawski Says Va. and D. C. Not with Myers

Washington, Dec. 24.

Julian Byrlawski, following a meeting at a local hotel, stated that the exhibitor organizations of Virginia and District of Columbia will not join the Allied States.

Abram F. Myers is the newly elected leader of the A. S., which embraces the wholly pure independent exhibitors on a national scope.

NEIGHB'S SEX FILM

Chicago, Dec. 24.

For the first time in years a neighborhood picture house showed a sex film to adults only.

Picture was "The Red Kimono" view at the Parkside, indie house on the north side.

DEMBOW BRINGING HOLT

San Francisco, Dec. 24.

Sam Dembow will take Nat Holt to New York for an executive position with Fox.

Holt is a local musical producer.

Preparing "Night Court"

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

"Night Court" written for Fox by Samuel Ornitz, will be treated for screen by Julius Furthman. Josef Von Sternberg assigned to direct.

Jensen-Von Herberg Slam Against W. C. Circuit

Seattle, Dec. 24.

Suit has been filed here by Jensen-Von Herberg against the Liberty Theatre Co., West Coast Theatres Circuit et al., asking \$20,000 back rent alleged due on the Liberty, dark for many months.

Jensen-Von Herberg also charges West Coast with seeking to ruin the Liberty.

Suit has attracted much comment hereabouts. Harold R. Franklin issued a statement that West Coast was under no obligation to Jensen-Von Herberg in connection with the Liberty, which he states the former operators still own. Franklin let it be known that West Coast is about to spend \$10,000,000 in this territory for new theatres in Spokane, Pocatello, Great Falls, and Billings. This announcement is to offset petition of Jensen-Von Herberg that West Coast be declared insolvent.

KATZ GOING SOUTH

Sam Katz has tentatively scheduled a combined business and pleasure trip to the south, starting Jan. 26.

The Public president may split four or five weeks between Havana and Palm Beach.

THOMAS' JACK LONDON FILMS

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

David Thomas, indie producer, who holds the screen rights to the Jack London stories, will start the Muliny of the Esquimaux" about Jan. 15. Albert J. Kelley is director.

Most of the picture will be shot aboard an old four-masted schooner in Los Angeles harbor.

WEST COAST NOTES

Herbert Prior, added to "Birds of a Feather" (U).

U has exercised its option on R. H. Taylor, director, for another year. Matt Moore, Joe De Pew and Phyllis Crane, added to "Coquette" (UA). Matt Moore replaces John Galca.

Sylvia Sidney, for "Through Different Eyes," Fox. In "New Years Eve," Fox, Mary Astor, Charles Morton, Margaret Campbell, Florence Lake, Earle Foxe, Arthur Stone, Freddie Frederick and Jane La Barne.

Charles Bickford, New York stage actor, added to "Dynamite" for M-G-M.

Leslie Fenton and Alee B. Francis added "Girls Gone Wild" (Fox). Pauline Garon added "The Gamblers" (WB).

James Kirkwood added "Time, Place and Girl" (WB).

Fox has changed title of "White Fury" to "The Sin Sister."

Charles Sellon added "Hot Stuff" (FN).

Marian Lord and George Davis added "Broadway" (U).

Shirley O'Hara added to "Wild Party," Par.

Maude George, Tully Marshall, George Fawcett, added to "Queen Kelly," U. A.

Nancy Carroll replaces Ruth Taylor in "Close Harmony," Par. Miss Taylor switched to "A Wild Party," Clara Bow's next. Both pictures all-talkers.

Jean Hersholt's next for U, "The Biggest."

Ben Hendricks and Noble Johnson

added to "Fog," British and Dominion Film. Ben Hall and Summer Cetchell added to "Hot Stuff," F. N. Farrell McDonald added to "Son of Anak," Fox.

Helen Ware added to "New Year's Eve," Fox.

Montagu Love and Helen Jerome Eddy added to "Life," T. S.

Josef Von Sternberg to direct Esther Ralston in "The Night Court."

Elmo Boyce and Slim Summerville directing Barney Google series for Larry Darmour. Six new people include Barney Heilum, Kit Guard, Ripe Conley, Slim Summerville and George Gray.

Guinn Williams added to "Blue Skies," Fox.

Fox has changed title of Madge Bellamy's "Exiles" to "Fugitives."

Monte Montagu and Bud Marshall added to "Claraluan," U.

U has bought "You Have Got to Fight," original from John Clymer for Reginald Denny.

Charles Klein's latest for Fox will be released as "White Courage."



LOWRY
Master of Ceremonies

SKOURAS BROTHERS
AMBASSADOR
ST. LOUIS, MO.

MARK SANDRICH
DIRECTOR

Just Completed a Feature Picture
"RUNAWAY GIRLS"
For Columbia Pictures



With Collyer in the Attire

BRADFIELD

Broadway Theatre
Portland Ore.

NOW IN SECOND YEAR

"B. B. B."

More Than a Master of Ceremonies
AT COFFEE DAN'S, Los Angeles, Cal.

JESSE CRAWFORD
ORGAN CONCERT

PARAMOUNT THEATRE
NEW YORK

WEEK OF DEC. 22ND

"IN A LITTLE TOWN CALLED HOME SWEET HOME"
(DONALDSON, DOUGLAS & GUMBLE)

"IT GOES LIKE THIS"
(LEO FEIST, INC.)

FANCHON and MARCO
PRESENT

WILL KING
in "CHICKENS A LA KING"

A BOX-OFFICE TONIC

There Is No Substitute for

PAUL ASH



STAGE-BAND
ENTERTAINMENT

Known as the
"PAUL ASH POLICY"

PARAMOUNT
THEATRE
BROOKLYN

Indefinitely

"EXCLUSIVELY COLUMBIA
RECORDING ARTIST"



FANCHON & MARCO IDEAS

Watch for Announcement of
Eastern Play Dates for the
Finest Stage Presentations
in Motion Picture Palaces

SEASON'S GREETINGS

CUSHING and HUTTON

4th YEAR with FANCHON and MARCO

WOODS MILLER

"SONGS PLUS PERSONALITY"

Featured Soloist in

Fanchon and Marco's "SOCIAL CLIMBERS" IDEA



RING IN THE NEW!

HAPPY NEW YEAR 1929! Looks like another M-G-M Year! 1928 brought "Dancing Daughters", "Show People", "White Shadows", "Excess Baggage", "While the City Sleeps", "Masks of the Devil", "West of Zanzibar", and other M-G-M hits! 1929 brings "The Trail of '98" (Dolores Del Rio), "A Woman of Affairs" (Gilbert-Garbo), "Alias Jimmy Valentine" (Wm. Haines), "The Flying Fleet" (Novarro) and more Big Ones! Stick to M-G-M and wear diamonds and smiles in the New Year with the Happiness Boys—

M-G-M

the moving finger writes...

1929 is Pathe's Year

FEB. 3rd...
**PATHE
 SOUND
 NEWS**
One a week

**JANUARY
 NOISY
 NEIGHBORS**
with
 EDDIE QUILLAN,
 THE QUILLAN FAMILY,
 ALBERTA VAUGHN and
 THEODORE ROBERTS.
 Produced by Paul Bern
 from an original story by
 F. Hugh Herbert. Directed
 by Charles Reisner.

**JANUARY
 PHYLLIS
 HAVER**
*Sal of
 Singapore*
with ALAN HALE and
 FRED KOHLER
 Adapted by Elliott Clawson
 from Dale Collins' "The Sen-
 timentalists." Directed by
 Howard Higgin.

**JANUARY
 NED
 McCOBB'S
 DAUGHTER**
with IRENE RICH,
 ROBERT ARMSTRONG, GEORGE
 BARRAUD and THEODORE
 ROBERTS
 Adapted by Beulah Marie Dix
 from Sidney Howard's Theatre
 Guild Success. Directed by
 William J. Cowen.

1928 Ends With a WHOOP!
 "ANNAPOLIS," "CAPTAIN SWAGGER,"
 "SHOW FOLKS" and other features talking box
 office in big numbers in SOUND and DIALOGUE
 as well as SILENT.

PATHE SOUND NEWS headlined on marquees
 like a road show.

PATHE SHORT SUBJECTS 'Clicking' every-
 where.

1929 Starts With a BANG!

Headed by "THE SPIELER," "THE SHADY
 LADY" and "GERALDINE"—the greatest line-
 up of sure-fire productions ever released on any
 one program is ON THE WAY to crash through
 to new box office records. All in sensational
 Dialogue and Sound.

It's in the Cards! It's in the Stars!

It will go on Record!

This will be the Rooster's Greatest Year!

**Three Just Released—
 NOW CLEANING UP!**
"ANNAPOLIS"
The Exploitation Natural!
 with JOHN MACK BROWN, JEAN-
 ETTÉ LOFF, HUGH ALLAN and
 WILLIAM BAKEWELL
 Scenario by F. McGrew Willis, from an
 original story by Royal S. Pease. Directed
 by Christy Cabanne. Produced
 by F. McGrew Willis for Pathe
 Studios, Inc.
"SHOW FOLKS"
A Big Time Showmanship Picture!
 with EDDIE QUILLAN, LINA BAS-
 QUETTE, ROBERT ARMSTRONG,
 BESSIE BARRISCALE and CAROL
 LOMBARD
 A Ralph Block Production. Adapted by
 Jack Jungmeyer and George Dromgold,
 from an original story by Philip
 Dunning. Directed by Paul L. Stein.
**ROD LA ROCQUE in
 "CAPTAIN SWAGGER"**
Rod La Rocque's GREATEST!
 with SUE CAROL
 A Hector Turnbull Production. Adap-
 ted by Adelaide Heilbron, from an
 original story by Leonard Praskins.
 Directed by Edward H. Griffith.

**JANUARY
 THE
 SPIELER**
with
 ALAN HALE, RENEE ADOREE,
 FRED KOHLER and CLYDE COOK
 A Ralph Block Production.
 Adapted by Hal Conklin and
 Tay Garnett from an original
 story by Hal Conklin. Directed
 by Tay Garnett.

**JANUARY
 GERALDINE**
*from the story by
 BOOTH TARKINGTON
 with*
 EDDIE QUILLAN,
 MARION NIXON, GASTON
 GLASS and ALBERT GRAN
 Supervised by Paul Bern.
 Directed by Melville
 Brown.

**JANUARY
 PHYLLIS
 HAVER
 IN THE SHADY LADY**
with
 ROBERT ARMSTRONG
 and LOUIS WOLHEIM
 A Ralph Block Production.
 Title suggested by Leonard
 Praskins and Richard L. Sharpe.
 Directed by Edward H. Griffith.

Pathe Pictures Talking Box office

Literati

Hearst Buys Albany Paper
William Randolph Hearst has acquired the Albany Sunday Telegram. He already has the Sunday Times-Union in that city, and one of them will probably go.

First issue of The American Sketch is out this month, published by Doubleday, Doran & Co. in an obvious attempt to replace The Bookman, which it sold some time ago. Beverly Nichols, the English novelist, is the editor. Among contributors in the initial number are Sam Hofferstein, Harry Salpeter and John Farrar.

The Funnies on Stands
The Funnies, with 16 comic strips by original artists, is scheduled to hit the stands Jan. 1, another Dell Publishing Company publication. It will be eight pages, four colors, 24 pages, with stories and puzzles as well as the strips. Sells for 10 cents.

Simmons on Scripts
Mike Simmons, director of publicity and advertising for Gotham, has written three articles on the chances of selling scenario by unknowns to film companies for pictures. This is following the appearance of a story in Variety to the effect that one manuscript in 25,000 was accepted.

The stories will appear in the Navy, Classic and American Hebrew, the toner of the articles being that only four scripts of \$100,000, submitted by known writers were accepted in pictures within the space of a year.

Dor's Fleischmann's Women
Laurie E. Fleischmann's book, "An Outline of Careers for Women," has just been issued by Doubleday-Doran, who previously published Miss Fleischmann's husband book, "An Outline of Careers for Men," which Edward L. Bernays edited in the same manner his wife edited the volume of feminine achievement. Bernays and his wife are both public relations' counsels, Miss Fleischmann being associated with her husband in his business which numbers among its clients notable governments, utilities, corporations, trade associations and the like. Bernays rates high in high powered press-agency, or rather, suppress-agency, his service being designed to favorably propagandize anything from a foreign nation to a utility corporation.

In Miss Fleischmann's volume are chapters by Jane Cowl on the stage as a career and Norma Talmadge on pictures. Miss Fleischmann, herself, contributes the chapter on public relations. Bertha Brainerd, eastern program director of the National Broadcasting Co., writes on radio.

A highly informative and interesting volume, with its alphabetically classified careers dwelt on by outstanding personalities associated with each. There is a touch of true story, narration and achievement that lends the popular appeal touch. At the same time they are instructive, informative and practical, devoid of any flatterings.

Mr. Bernays' most recent book, "Propaganda," a Horace Liveright publication, goes into the press-agency racket fulsomely.

Don Marguis, columnist, in Los Angeles for the winter. His wife, Margery Vonnezut, will join him after Jan. 1.

Two Jolson's Biogs
Harry Jolson's life story starts serially in the Satevepost shortly. Mrs. Harry Jolson ghost-authored and touches on the vaudevillian's and his brother Al's life. Al's own biography, on which Mark H. Hinzler is working, may

also reach the Satevepost via Warner Brothers. Otherwise, "Liberty," since Hellinger, on the "News," is indirectly linked to "Liberty," also a Merrill McCormack property.

Fannie Greenwalt Dies
Fannie J. Greenwalt, 80, veteran newspaperwoman, died at her home in Los Angeles Dec. 17.

Mrs. Greenwalt was a contributor to the Cosmopolitan Magazine and for many years a staff member of the New York World. She was the author of two volumes of poetry, "Autumn Leaves" and "Thoughts of Evident."

Deceased is survived by a son, F. A. Van Vrandenberg, Chicago newspaperman, and a daughter, Mrs. Jennie M. Kohn, of Los Angeles.

New Year's Shifts
Vincent C. (Pop) Byers, formerly city editor, has succeeded Ralph Reynaud as managing editor of the New York Evening Post. Byers was formerly with the A. P. Reynaud, at one time assistant managing editor of the Herald Tribune, is south on

vacation. He will succeed Herbert Bayard Swope as managing editor of the Morning World Jan. 1. Swope is reported leaving journalism and becoming an official of the Radio Corporation of America. His brother, Gerard Swope, is president of General Electric.

Elmer T. Peterson, editor of Better Homes and Gardens, says his publication was not sold. Peterson claims it is still operated by E. T. Meredith, and that the Misses Richardson and Callahan resigned.

Life's New Ed
Norman Anthony, new editor of Life, who came over from Judge, which he edited, is said to be in on a six-month pro tem basis. He has thrown out almost all of Bob Sherwood's contract features, including Walter Winchell's Main Stem letter which Bell Syndicate may handle. Anthony was Judge, Jr. on Judge and will do the Main Stem stuff himself.

Life is said to have objected to Sherwood's division of interests, the latter turning out several plays, including the successful "The Road to Rome" and "The Queen's Husband," while editing Life.

It was generally conceded that the early fall's change of make-up

(Continued on page 45)

Easy "Home-Made" Talkers

(Continued from page 5)

Three minutes before the feature reaches these eliminations Goldman tells how he clears his throat or gets the drummer boy to make ready for the broadcast. If it happens to be an American actress he calls the piano player, whose job is over, anyhow, when she plays for the act and the shorts. And all they do is read the titles so eliminated.

In Universal's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which was booked silent and ran in "sound" at the Royal for the full week of Nov. 25, Goldman says he spoke Simon Legree's part. A colored lad in a Negro revue he booked as a presentation pulled the extra couple of bucks for giving "Unk Tom" all the dialect and what-not expected of the character by any audience, especially Bronxites so close to Harlem.

"I made 'Uncle Tom' even better than Universal did. When little Eva takes the trip to Heaven I got some beautiful choir records which had the crowd crying. The picture made such a hit that I held it for the week. My policy is to change three times weekly."

Goldman said that it would not be practical if he played a vocal part for every picture. "They'd get wise out there because they'd get used to my voice. They'd know that all of the actors couldn't have the same voice, so I let the others have a chance."

In "Mother, Machree," which ran Dec. 9, the exhib said he got an Irish tenor. Between him and the Chink restaurant leader Goldman says no one could tell the difference between the Central and Royal showings.

In "Four Walls" Goldman spoke for John Gilbert and his piano player vocalized for Joan Crawford. In Pathe's "When a Ship Comes In" the exhibitor decided that the Judge should speak so he copped the title for his voice and let the drummer recite the titles credited the jury's foreman.

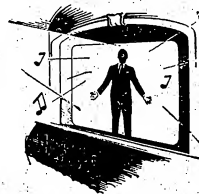
"The advantage of my system," Goldman declares, "is that I can have a talker whenever I feel like it. If a company makes a silent picture and I think it will have more punch if it talks, why it talks. Exhibitors should get wise to themselves."

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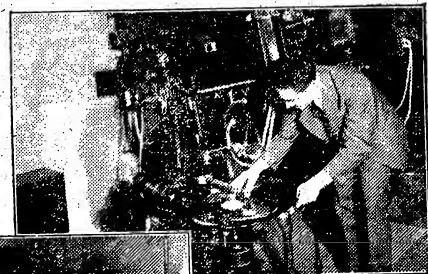


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The Producer, naturally jealous of the quality of his Sound Picture releases, and the Exhibitor, who knows the popularity of his house is closely linked with a Sound Picture installation of high quality, will continue to look to the experience, the reputation and the organization of Western Electric.



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Sirey Fanchon and Marco Greater-Sing Season
WITH
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DANCING SONGSTRESS
IN THEIR IDEAS

*Now
booking!*



EDWIN CAREWE
presents

**DOLORES
DEL RIO**
in
"Revenge"
an
EDWIN CAREWE
production

from KONRAD BERCOVICI'S story
of **The BEAR TAMER'S DAUGHTER**
Screen story
by **FINIS FOX**

N. Y. Mirror: Dolores more interesting and attractive than she has been in ages. Fine entertainment keeps you interested from the first flicker on the screen."

N. Y. Eve. World: "Revenge" is a marvelously framed picture, can be seen at the Rivoli—if you care to stand in line for eons."

N. Y. World: "In all her career she probably has not been seen in a film which demanded so much action. Has created an interesting and effective character."

N. Y. Times: Brought shrieks of approval from the feminine spectators."

N. Y. Sun: Miss Del Rio, the most fascinating of the imported emotionalists."

N. Y. News: "Picturesque and beautiful. Edwin Carewe has directed the piece with lots of thought."

N. Y. Post: Miss Del Rio as beautiful as ever."



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When lovely woman
stoops to folly



You have Drama!

AND when such drama is presented as only the magic pen of Victor Hugo could have written it; as only the showmanship of Carl Laemmle could produce it; as only the directorial genius of Paul Leni could interpret it; as only the acting ability of Conrad Veidt and Mary Philbin could portray it—you get telegrams like this one, from the Palm Theatre, Pueblo, Colo.:

“OPENED Thursday with ‘Man Who Laughs’ following first blizzard of season. Universal advertising campaign and fame of the story overcame obstacles of weather and we opened to standout business.”

AVAILABLE either silent or with sound. With Olga Baclanova, Brandon Hurst, Sam De Grasse, Cesare Gravina, Stuart Holmes, George Seigmann.

A CARL LAEMMLE super production.



The Man Who Laughs

CARL LAEMMLE'S
\$2,000,000
PRODUCTION
with

Marguerita Fischer, Arthur Edmund Carew, Lucien Littlefield, James Lowe, Virginia Grey, Adolph Milar, Vivien Oakland, Lassie Lou Ahern, Mona Ray, Aileen Manning

A
HARRY POLLARD
PRODUCTION

Two Negatives—
One Silent, One with Sound

DALLAS, TEX.

“Good for ten days more. Expect to make up all summer losses with it.”

—Capitol Theatre

OKLAHOMA CITY

“Did tremendous business. Forced to hold over for second week.”

—Liberty Theatre

PT. MARION, PA.

“Just established a record for eighteen months. Turnout excellent.”

—Barney's Theatre

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

“Proves conclusively the value this great production in smaller towns.”

—Pastime Theatre

WICHITA, KAN.

“Week of tremendous business. All records smashed.”

—Uptown Theatre

The Great American Picture

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

—Silent or Sound— Carl Laemmle Leads the Way!!!

WHAT A NIGHT

Paramount production and release. Directed by Edward S. Galt. Story by Louis L'Amour and Grover Jones. Screen adaptation by Louis L'Amour. Starring Ibbie Lee, Nell Hamilton and William Austin. Running time, 60 minutes.

Another newspaper yarn built around breezy atmosphere and a lot of gags. It's not real, natural or particularly enthralling as a newspaper story but it is mildly entertaining picture material which should round out satisfactorily on a weekly basis.

Comedy is forced all the way and fails to create as much response as the same efforts would have resulted in the rough natural humor. Holds a pretty good average of laughs. Sprightly continuity in story and action helps greatly in getting attention.

It is in the attempts at broad farce that the production fails to make the full weight. The heroine is pictured as a fair maiden who is not only fully bitten by the reporting bug but also possessed of the conventional poeple and a habit of dropping things for the sake of to pick up.

From boredom and disgust Nell Hamilton does a complete about face for the finale by declaring amorous intentions of which she previously had been no trace.

One of the important sequences is drawn out to an absurd length, rendered more so through the absence of the comedy which was attempted and vitally lacking. The girl reporter, with the society editor, are shown trying to get a photograph of the crooked official in company with a gang leader (Wheeler Oakman). First she drops the flashlight power, then she gets her finger stuck and finally endangers the proceedings by an oncoming sneeze which she works hard to control.

In her escape Bob Daniels figures in a funny piece of business, dropping from the wall of the building on to a pyramid of barrels which her two helpers had piled up.

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE

Sound version of the once silent Paramount screening of the Anne Nichols stage play. Theme songs, "Rosemary" and "Little Irish Rose," by S. Zamecnik. At the Rialto, N. Y., Dec. 22. Running time, 80 minutes.

Use of added sound makes "Abie" a different matter. Most of the serious religious material has been eliminated and the story treatment has been greatly lightened. Accompanying score has been skillfully downplayed to the action in its varying moods and introduces a certain humor of suggestion with its switch from Irish to Jewish theme melody, military idea in the war scenes and the like.

Vocal sequences appear in three main parts. One is the high of Abie, whose Solomon calls down the trumpeting heddler to lay off the horn blowing, for a light laugh. In the child bed scene, where Abie's mother is found dead, Solomon builds up his grief to the extent of reciting the prayer for the dead, a touching bit of sentiment here, and planting a little dramatic passage in School yard scene has been retained.

We're Goin' to Have a Merry Christmas. We Hope That You All Will. JESS STAFFORD and His Orchestra. Now Featured Stage and Pit at Loew's State, Los Angeles. P. S.—Brunswick Recording

in its old form, except that in the new version the children all recite the pledge to the flag and march into the 'School house, the camera being fixed on Abie for this passage. Device used in the first version is retained, that of having the parade of the World War soldiers marching down Fifth Avenue directed by the soldiers of the present scene, effective in the first picture and doubly effective here.

The sequence where Abie plays in the snow is but over the top for a gang of soldiers is splendidly built up in the love passage for the hero and heroine (latter has had stage experience) and shows it, and also with side shot at the assembled doughboys, the latter for comedy effect. Whistles blow, calling the soldiers into action. And the following passages have to do with the sentimental relations between friendly priest and rabbi working in the trenches, irrespective of creed.

Sound is again to the front at the comedy finish, where the rival bachelors are united in matrimony. The grandchild is a boy or a girl. Much more effective business for comedy than the silent comedy was used.

Generally speaking, sound has heightened the effect of the picture. Also the footage has been cut 49 minutes and the tempo has been faster. On both counts the picture is greatly improved. Indeed, to the point where it looks like a run prospect at the Rialto instead of an utter flop for \$2.

CAPTAIN SWAGGER

Pathe production and release. Sound in dialogue by RCA Phonographs. Edward H. Griffith, director. In French. Starring Rod La Rocque. At Strand, New York, week Dec. 22. Running time, 60 minutes.

Only the added novelty and kick in screen dialogue would have made this a reliable feature for week-end in a straight film bill. At the Strand, without talk and in that kind of a show, it misses Broadway classification by several degrees. The highly incredible story of "Captain Swagger" was given little relief in the screen treatment. Well acted, but the chances for acting opportunities were few and seemed competently directed. But the script made it tough all around.

Rod La Rocque as Captain Swagger in his first American feature film in the French aviation service during the war. He is assigned to bring down Von Stahl, this picture's first German villain, a pilot of which there have been many. He does, but in German territory. He lands to rescue Von Stahl from the burning plane. In gratitude the aviator covers his getaway from a Hun patrol after making the Yank a present of his engraved hat.

That happened, according to title, in 1917. In 1928 Swagger is a New York boulevardier, living by his wits but with the b. r. down to a deuce. Picks up Stahl's automatic and hunts for someone to stick up. First car that comes along (Rolls roadster) holds a gal just about to walk home. That's the beginning of the big romance, with the dame leaving her all-hands host flat to trail along with the amateur bandit. Later on Swagger and the girl are in a class night club. The place is held up by a band of mugs, headed by none other than Von Stahl, now very Americanized. Because Von Stahl once saved his life, Swagger helps him out of the jam through several ridiculous moves and brings about the return of the jewels to the club's guests.

And about midway Swagger, in want of food, asks \$10 on the Von Stahl pistol. The unk carries it to the rear for valuation, where Von Stahl again shows just in the nick of time. Von Stahl is lurking there, and when spotting his own gun and then his old pal Swagger through the rear window, orders unk to give the lad \$200 on the gun, not \$10. And Swag didn't ask why. If he had, and had received an answer, it would have resulted in a different story and picture. If Pathe would take a chance on another "Swagger" there's the spot to drift into a second story.

Cafe shots are of the usual thin type but well done herein. Especially good are the doublers for the principals in the dance numbers, which in close-up, La Rocque impresses fairly well with a few looks and knee-drops.

Outside of La Rocque and M's Carol, cast is unimportant. Victor Pote, who used to be the screen's champ intellect character man, has the part of Swagger's loyal but ineffectual friend. Little more than six feet tall, the reviewer's wife, who is a woman enters the case.

In the early 'twenties, in La

Rocque makes his entrance in a French accent, showing a house and trotting and sitting, men, women, children, close to a house, and the little boy getting nuttier with every passing sequence.

What the producers have here is the story of a particularly unpleasant child, precocious and obnoxious, a terrible infant always in trouble and troubling others. That his mother died fails to make him interesting.

No acting, no meaning. Blank faces registering at the best of the blank heads who directed. No story, merely a series of incidents, shots of things and beings, without significance.

It's one of those things that shouldn't have been mentioned in the first place.

MOTHER OF MINE

(FRENCH MADE)

Zwolsky production released by Zalkow directed by Jacques Feyner. Author not credited on screen or program. At Cameo, New York, week Dec. 22. Running time, 65 minutes.

It is astounding idea is paralyzing in its novelty and in the mightiness of its conceptions. Great thoughts, cradled in the mind of this French producer, fostered reverently amid the snowclad mountains of Switzerland, evidently brought on this orb of celluloid consumption.

The ingenuity in plotting in construction as exhibited here is amazing—amazingly stupid. It is presented as if it were a masterpiece. It is intended to affect the audience as a startling scrutiny of child psychology.

A little boy is left without his mother. He is deeply affected. He cries. He doesn't like his step-mother. He hates his foster-sister. So much so that he splashes her with water on one occasion and throws her favorite doll away on another. Tragic? Yes or no?

There's a priest in it. Meant to be clever because shown playing chess and toying thoughtfully with a pipe. He is the unofficial adviser. He tells the boy's father to marry again and tells the boy he must like it.

There are shots of the dead mother's grave, flashes of mountain peaks, pictures of horses walking.

Blank faces registering at the best of the blank heads who directed. No story, merely a series of incidents, shots of things and beings, without significance.

It's one of those things that shouldn't have been mentioned in the first place.

LUCRECIA BORGIA

(ITALIAN MADE)

Produced and directed by Richard Oswald. Released here through "Musical Playboys, Inc." Edited and titled by Max McGugan. In cast: Conrad Veidt, Lina Hild, Paul Wegener. At Little Carnegie Playhouse, beginning Dec. 21. Running time, about 75 mins.

Italy's most notorious lady is here revisited into a handsome stout who goes into wedlock and sticks. In this picture version her brother, Cesare, is the bad egg. Imposing sets and realistic locales, with a flash of dramatic merit here and there, will get it by in the arty houses.

Story is weak with no sustained suspense and overacting is a conspicuous distraction. Precarious for general bookings.

Anti-Catholic propagandists will probably take to the way the wicked Cesare, who is always having some one killed for no particular reason, winds the Pope around his finger in this yarn.

Excepting the color in the settings, weird lighting and an attack on a castle, little remains to impress. Mixture of intrigues by Veidt, as Cesare, are so exaggerated as to be without meaning. His attitude toward his sister, Lucretia, would be repugnant were the part

not played so artificially by Lina Hild.

SALLY'S SHOULDERS

Pathe production and release, directed by Lois Wilson. From novel by H. C. Witton. In cast: Lois Wilson, Hunter Dickinson, George Hackathorn. At Loew's New York, beginning Dec. 21. Running time, 65 minutes.

Good domestic drama with a box office title that will win approval in the neighborhood houses on a double bill. Flicker could have stood alone in some of the better class houses, being modern except for a few sequences that call for a elastic imagination.

Plot has Lois Wilson, formerly of the elite, running a restaurant and at the same time trying to keep her wildly sister and bad boy brother out of trouble. Later, employed in a bank, gets in a jam in a night club which has a game room attached. Under obligation to the gambling house operator he becomes involved in raid on his sister's restaurant, where the night club operators have secreted a load of booze. Her means of a livelihood shut off by an immediate padlock, Sally is forced to become a hostess in the gambling rookhouse that has paved the way for her brother's and sister's downfall.

Sequences that follow parallel some of the scenes from the current stage play, "Night Hostess."

Title refers to Sally's brave shoulders in managing things and will not disappoint those who pay in expecting something else.

NEW MEN

(FRENCH MADE)

Paris, Dec. 10. The successful comedy, "Les Nouveaux Messieurs," of P. de Croisset and the late Robert de Flers, created at the Theatre des Varietes a few years ago, forms the scenario under the same title.

(Continued on page 42)

And, History Will Repeat—

The original motion picture film... workable long rolls... colored film base... duplicating film... panchromatic negative ... the history of the important developments in American motion picture materials is a factual story of this Company's cooperation with the cinematographic industry.

Obviously an association that has borne such fruits in the past can be expected to repeat in the future. For the year 1929 Eastman resources and Eastman cooperation are pledged once more to the further advancement of the motion picture art.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Merry Christmas With



The Biggest Ballad Hit Of The Day!

"I'M SORRY SALLY"

by GUS KAHN and TED FIORITO

A Lovable Novelty!

"GIVE YOUR LITTLE BABY LOTS OF LOVIN'"

by DOLLY MORSE and JOE BURKE

"JEANNINE"

(I DREAM OF LILAC TIME)

by L. WOLFE GILBERT and NATHANIEL SHILKRET

The New Fox Trot Song Hit!

"DOWN WHERE THE SUN GOES DOWN"

by ISHAM JONES and VERNE BUCK

Better Than "RAMONA"

"CHIQUITA"

(CHI-KEE-TA)

by L. WOLFE GILBERT and MABEL WAYNE

"H UP ON HILL"

by ABEL BAER and GEORGE

"You Can't Go Wrong With Any FEIST Song"

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Cheerful Feist Songs!

The Chicago Sensation!

MY DRESSED DESIRE

by CHESTER COHN & NED MILLER

"QUERIDA"

A Spanish Fox Trot - With A Tango Rhythm!
(KEH-REE-DA)
(SWEET HEART)
by EDWARD G. SIMON and JOSÉ VALDEZ

The Greatest Ballad In Years!

"MY OLD GIRL'S MY NEW GIRL NOW"

by CLIFF FRIEND and IRVING CAESAR

As Sweet As MY HEAVEN

"HIGH NA TOP"

by IAN CAMPBELL, SE WHITING

A Happy-Go-Lucky Rhythm Ballad!

"MY BLACKBIRDS ARE BLUEBIRDS NOW"

by CLIFF FRIEND and IRVING CAESAR

La-la-la-Doo-doo-Dee-dee-dee!

"IT GOES LIKE THIS"

(THAT FUNNY MELODY)
Sure-Fire Comedy Hit by CLIFF FRIEND & IRVING CAESAR

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LAMP DANCE—
HE'S DIFFERENT

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WILTON CRAWLEY

Trick Clarinet—A Real Vaudeville Star

TIME—CAN DO FIVE OR FIFTEEN MINUTES

NOW OPEN FOR VAUDEVILLE—VITAPHONE OR ANYTHING ELSE

He Says That He Will Not Sign a Contract with Anyone Unless He Gets the Right Consideration

EASY TO GET ALONG WITH AND LOVES TO WORK!

One Season on Keith Circuit with Road Show—One Season on Orpheum Circuit as a Single Out of Billy Jackson's Office

This Season a Few Dates for Balaban and Katz Booked Out of the William Morris Office

ROUTE

Oct. 3, 4, 5—Stratford, Chicago, Ill.
Week Oct. 6—Capitol, Detroit, Mich.
Oct. 14, 15, 16—Congress, Chicago, Ill.
Week Oct. 20—Regal, Chicago, Ill.
Week Oct. 27—Capitol, Chicago, Ill.
Week Nov. 2—Hippo, Chicago, Ill.
Week Nov. 17—Oriental, Chicago, Ill.

Week Nov. 24—Paradise, Chicago, Ill.
Week Dec. 1—Harding, Chicago, Ill.
Week Dec. 8—Nashore, Chicago, Ill.
Week Dec. 15—Tower, Chicago, Ill.
Week Dec. 22—Missouri, St. Louis, Mo.
Week Jan. 5—Capitol, Detroit, Mich. (Return Engagement)

Week Jan. 12—Fisher, Detroit, Mich.
Jan. 20, 21, 22, 23—Coronado, Rockford
Week Jan. 25—Capitol, St. Paul
Week Feb. 1—State, Minneapolis
Week Feb. 8—Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Feb. 17, 18, 19, 20—Nivona, Waterloo
Feb. 21, 22, 23, 24—Ft. Armstrong, Rock Island, Ill.

GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM AT ONCE—HE IS READY TO DO BUSINESS. SOME OF MY SONG HITS

"SNAKE HIP DANCE"
"I'M FOREVER CHANGING SWEETHEARTS"
"SHADOW OF THE BLUES"

"GENUINE LOVE"
"ST. LOUIS STOMP"

Also wish to call your attention that Wilton Composes, Writes and Arranges all his music that is used in his original-constructed act. Anyone wishing for his published numbers will write to his publishing address—

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KEITH AGENTS' HAPPY XMAS

BROWN, AKOPRES, THEIR NEW SANTI

Abolishes Circuit's Participation in Agents Commission — Retains Collection Agency to Collect Agents' Commission with But Nominal Charge

LOYALTY IN RETURN

Hiram S. Brown, president of Radio-Keith-Orpheum, is a vaudeville agent's idea of Santa Claus. Through Brown's order, issued Monday, all Keith agents will receive all of their rightful five per cent. commission on Keith act salaries commencing Jan. 1.

To make that positive, Mr. Brown will continue the Vaudeville Collection Agency in the Keith office, with instructions for that agency to retain the amount of the agent's commission from the act's salary at its source (theatre). The agent's sole expense will be a nominal pro rata charge according to business done through the agency toward the expense of its operation.

In return Brown only demands loyalty from the agents.

R-K-O's president is also said to have determined that with his abolition of the agency's split with the agents, that all "stalking" must cease on the Keith circuit. This stalking refers to an actor staking an agent or an agent staking a booker. In New York, Chicago or at any point where Keith's operates an agency, including Boston and Los Angeles.

The custom of the Collection Agency has been to collect the usual five per cent. commission for the Keith booking office, a practice made acceptable years ago through common usage and by other circuits' agencies. The Collection Agency, at the same time, collected for the agent another five per cent. Of the agent's five per cent. the Collection Agency retained one half, or 2 1/2 per cent., turning over to the agent but one half of what the agent earned. The excuse for the division was given as "service."

Agent and Act

This obligatory and arbitrary practice forces the agent to frankly inform the act of the commission to be taken at a margin of 2 1/2 per cent. commission. The act took the hint and sent the agent every week out of its salary, after the original 10 per cent. commission had been deducted, another 2 1/2 per cent. or more to his agent. It generally happened that through the agent and act standing in cahoots under the imposed conditions, that the agent attempted and frequently did secure more salary on the Keith time for the act than the act had asked for or expected to receive. Which left the mathematician agents and bookers through its Collection Agency robbing its agents of 2 1/2 per cent. and in turn being robbed itself for five to 10 times as much as that 2 1/2 per cent. amounted to.

Brown, lately selected president of R-K-O and who could not officially assume the office until Jan. 1, appeared to hop onto that "Collection Agency" smell when first around the Keith office, strange territory for him, as he has been for several years more Brown sensed the injustice of the split commission the more he disliked it, from accounts.

It became rumored around. Last week Variety printed the Collection Agency affair would probably be taken under consideration by the president. Following that publication the three Keith agents, Charlie Morrison, Charlie Bierbauer and Morty Fokins, wrote a letter to Brown, requesting a hearing to give him their side of the Collection Agency mess. While the agents acted as individuals they expressed the agents' side of the entire matter

when Brown immediately granted them the interview.

Personally Announced

Following their visit Mr. Brown is said to have decided the split must go. On Saturday he announced it to the trade press in person, and Monday, also in person, notified all of the Keith agents assembled before him that the split would be abolished commencing Jan. 1.

The abolition of the split commission with all of the 30 or 75 Keith agents and producers (with assistants) receiving full commission carries with it the penalty of instant dismissal to any Keith agent accepting any amount for any reason from any booking. It may be stated from authoritative Keith sources that any Keith agent at any time now or future, accepting a stake from an act in cash, money order or check, may be complained of in the strictest confidence to the Keith general manager, John Ford, or its president, Mr. Brown. Either will conduct his investigation and will print the facts of the act or give the complaint publicity of any nature.

Or any act so wishing may make its complaint to Variety in confidence and Variety, after investigating in its own way and convinced of the act's statement, will print the fact of the name the agent, but not the act.

The same thing applies to a Keith agent identifying a Keith booker, directly, indirectly or in collusion.

Mr. Ford is known to have approved of the Keith Collection Agency method of retaining a part of the agent's income ever since Ford entered the office last summer. Ford's opinion may have had weight with Brown reaching his decision.

Keith's, Sole Protector

With the collection agency now operating as a collection agency for the agent and without deduction leaves Keith's as the only circuit in the world which protects its agents in their commission on acts' bookings. As a rule, and so with Keith's before the formation of the collection agency, the agent had to depend upon his own collection system or the good faith of actors for commission. The act did not always work out for the agent's bank roll. Many acts neglected to settle when far away from New York and the agent's glare.

Some of the Keith agents have been favored above others, an apparent injustice, regardless of all parties. One agency has been receiving the full 5 per cent. right along from the collection agency; two others have taken down 4 per cent., leaving the remaining one for the agent, while others have gotten 3, with 2 for the collection agency.

Good Will Gainer

This radical action by the incoming head of Keith's, new to the show business, is probably the greatest good will gainer Keith's could have amongst its agents who are very important factors in its operation. Among the Keith agents are some very good ones and a few very bad ones.

As an agent if it is true that a Keith booker has a piece of a Keith agent's office, as has been so strongly reported, that association had best be dissolved immediately.

And another, to the effect that Keith bookers who have been kept in list of agents' bookings with them and the pay offs had best destroy those lists.

All in Fresh Start

From what may be gathered from Mr. Brown's intentions to date, one is that he looks upon Radio-Keith-Orpheum as starting a new era and with a clean slate. Keith's, through Brown, appears to be making an all new start, also insofar as agents and agents are concerned, for the actors by abandoning the blacklist and with the agents the split commission. The agents, acts and bookers may accept that also as their point of commencement with R-K-O, if they prefer the clean way, and to agents or bookers who are wrong. All are not; the wrong ones are in the minority by far, but a drop of ink in milk discolors the entire surface.

Pernicious Blackjack

The Vaudeville Collection Agency, the most pernicious blackjack ever inflicted upon a business organization, was perpetrated during the

9-Reel Short

Around the Palace they say Dooley and Sales are making a nine-reel talking short.

Danny Simmons in Supreme Charge of New York Houses, Keith-Booked

TAXI DRIVER ALWAYS WINS

Reed and LeVere Found It Out in Decatur—\$45 Extra Tap Too

Chicago, Dec. 24. Reed and LeVere, at the State-Lake last week, came near muffling the date as a result of tangling with the law in Decatur following a jam over a taxi bill. The boys talked it over hot and heavy with the caddy, claiming his taximeter had the hebbie-jebbies. In the melee a bystander, innocent as usual, had his head smashed and was escorted to the hospital. The driver preferred charges against the two performers and they were hauled to the hoosegow where they stuck until five in the morning, after which they were fined \$13 and costs and told to blow. To make possible their appearance at the State-Lake the boys hired another car to bring 'em here and paid off \$45 for fare. No arguments here, as this one made them pay in advance.

Allen's Divorce Decision Coming Late in Jan.

Edgar Allen's wife, Katherine Murray Allen's divorce suit against him implicating "a Mrs. Browning," to be decided after Jan. 20, by which time supplementary papers must be served, did not identify the co-respondent as Frances or Frances Heston Browning. Allen characterized the suit as a publicity-grabbing bid by his wife, a former vaudeville prima donna. His attorney, Lee Parsons Davis, subpoenaed for Julius Kandler, the latter still too weak from a recent illness to actively try the case pointed out that Mrs. Allen had made a request to a publisher that every time Peaches' photo was published hers should be placed adjacent. It was stated that Mrs. Allen had made the request that she be accorded as much free space as necessary out of it. This phase was ordered stricken off the record as irrelevant. A colored household menial of the Allens' Larchmont home was obviously in bad straits at the witness stand. The presiding justice stated that he would leave nothing undone to secure an indictment for perjury for "somebody concerned in this case." Allen is currently managing Peaches as he has since the marital split with his wife.

Belasco's Flop Unit

Al Belasco, after sinking a couple of grand in a unit for vaude, has sent the production to the warehouse. He has accepted an offer to go back to the m. c. racket at the Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He closed at the Bradford, Newark, a couple of months ago. Ned Norworth was with Belasco in the flopping unit called "Stripes and Bars."

OFFER FOR MAE MURRAY

Mae Murray and her band of five musicians have been offered an Orpheum route by the Keith offices at \$5,000. This salary is irrespective of transportation costs for herself and musicians to be paid by Keith. Miss Murray has not so far accepted. Meanwhile she is playing some de luxe eastern film houses, being in Rochester this week.

Musicians on Shorts

Log Angeles, Dec. 24. Jan Rubin, violinist, and Tony Dwyer, song writer, have been engaged by Warner Brothers for Vitaphone shorts. Vernon Hubbard, singer, will appear with Hubbard, accompanied by Mona Condon. Nora Schiller will star some of Dwyer's songs, with Dwyer accompanying.

Clown Was Unfunny When Wife Nagged

Chicago, Dec. 24.

Mrs. Gertrude Selby Netcher, former film actress, was granted a divorce here from Townsend Netcher, vice-president of the Boston Store, on grounds of cruelty.

Netcher is reported to be a possible next husband for Constance Talmadge, who is in Nice with her mother and sister. The mother says it isn't likely, but adds, you never can tell what the children will do.

Mrs. Netcher testified before Judge Sabath that her husband committed two acts of cruelty. One was in their home at Saint Monica, when he kicked her out of her bedroom after she struck her several times after he had complained about his staying out late, according to her testimony. The other was last year in Chicago, she says, when Townsend found a masseur rubbing her

and demanded to be rubbed himself. Testimony of Netcher is claimed to have ejected his wife from their apartment. The suit was uncontested, although an attorney represented Netcher at the hearing. An all-voiced agreement is said to have been reached out of court.

Ran Out of Laughs

James Murphy, former circus clown with Ringling Bros., has filed a bill for divorce from Josephine Murphy on charge of desertion. Murphy claims that until he met Josephine in 1924 he was a successful in his profession, but that his wife's nagging tactics broke his spirit and made him incapable of producing laughs. Eventually he was thrown out of work because of her, he claims.

The Murphys separated in 1926, but hubby states the wife still gets in touch with him at intervals for a little nagging. He wants legal hindrance of her so he can go back to work.

Clara Blanton, head of the Acropolis Girls jazzband vaude act, was granted a divorce here from Tom Sherman, pianist and composer, by Judge Morrison on grounds of desertion. Marriage in 1915 and separation in 1925. Sherman is said to have previously made a \$1,000 alimony settlement out of court. Suit uncontested.

Danny Simmons returns to the Keith office next week in supreme charge of all New York theatre, Keith-booked, except the Palace.

Simons was recalled by John Ford, Keith's gen. mgr. The booker had voluntarily left the Keith office in August. He had been a highly rated booker there, booking many of the New York houses.

On his return over 30 theatres will fall onto his books. Simons is said to have conditioned that there will be no interference in his work by any member of the Keith booking organization.

Simmons' return is looked upon with favor in vaudeville circles, for Simons is known as a square shooter with no favorites.

At the present time the booking situation with the Keith New York theatres is the subject of talk. Simons will likely straighten it out in a hurry.

Line Up

The New York booking and theatre line-up under Simmons' direction is currently:

- Jack Dempsey — Hippodrome, Broadway 51st St., Riverside, Coliseum, Fordham, Albee, Kenmore, Flushing and State (J. C.).
- Mark Murphy — White Plains, New Rochelle, Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, 86th St., 86th St. and Newark.
- Paddy Schwartz — Royal, Orpheum, Bushwick, Hamilton, Greenpoint, Capitol (Union City) and Keith's (J. C.).
- Jeff Davis — Jefferson, Regent, Franklin, Chester, Prospect, Madison, Tillyou, Strand (Far Rockaway).
- Arthur Blondell — State (New Brunswick) and Capitol (Trenton).
- Bill McCaffrey books the Palace.

Mabel Berra Killed Trying to Save Dog

Mabel Berra, wife of Charlie Allen, the agent, was accidentally killed at Great Neck, L. I., Saturday afternoon when she chased her pet dog out into the road in an effort to save it from oncoming traffic. The motorist who ran down Miss Berra missed the dog but fatally struck the human victim. The Allens' live at Great Neck. Miss Berra studied professionally when she married the agent who is associated with M. S. Benthams.

Marion Harris Buys Off Shubert Contract

Marion Harris bought off her contract with the Shuberts for around \$2,500. The comedienne had another year to go at \$1,750 a week, booked through Lyons & Lyons, which agency received only \$100 commission from her with Shuberts paying the balance of \$75.

Miss Harris walked out of the Jack Pearl starring show, "Well Well Well," dissatisfied with her role.

William Morris and Hermine Shone are jointly handling the comedienne who made a personal appearance with Phil Baker at Keith's Palace Sunday afternoon, preparatory to her resuming for Keith's week after next.

1500 BROADWAY, NEW YORK
WILLIAM MORRIS CALL BOARD
Always in need of good Vaudeville material
CHICAGO, 1111 BUTLER BLDG.

PAUSE 30 CHANGES NEXT WEEK

Bill Mack, Agent, Fills in Date, Alone For Marvin Schenck at \$160 Net Loss

Tonight (Wednesday) Bill Mack, the agent, will drag himself, wife and props from Loew's American, New York, probably say a little prayer for Marvin Schenck and hit the hay, \$160 in the red for the 3-day engagement.

Before going agent Bill Mack had a good act with himself in it; also his wife, Ida Regal. Marvin admits Regal and Mack were ok. Bill says Loew's play-d him so often he bought stock in the circuit.

When going agent, a careless switch for any actor, Mack thought it was seem silly to cast a good act. Marvin had said it was a good act. He had done even more—booked it. So Bill slipped the act to another couple, probably under such an arrangement as only an actor gone agent could make.

Time came and went, the act worked. Bill took it and Marvin booked. Bill kept on agenting and Marvin kept on booking.

In the course "as Time fooled around Bill suggested that the Regal and Mack act, exclusively booked by Bill Mack, again be played by Marvin Schenck on the Loew Circuit. Marvin argued it with Bill; wasn't the original turn, etc. Bill said Loew's couldn't tell the diff; Marvin steamed up Bill some more, but slipped the act in on the books for the American the first half this week.

Then some discovered the No. 2 Regal and Mack had been previously booked elsewhere. Couldn't play the American.

Sad News
Bill eased in the Schenck office to whisper the sad news.

Marvin got sorta hard boiled. First he chilled and then he froze. While Schenck was putting over the works, Bill boiled too, but on his blood pressure. It was about 120 in the shade around Bill, when Marvin suggested there was still the original Regal and Mack.

"And maybe you'd think I wouldn't?" said Bill.

"And maybe you think you won't?" answered Marvin.

"And maybe you think I couldn't," replied Bill.

"And maybe you think you won't have to fill in that No. 6 spot. So get the wife and props out of the hook, report at the American for rehearsal and go to work the first half," concluded Marvin, though he did linger long enough to add that since Bill's revival was in the nature of a comeback, equivalent to a try-out, the kale for the three days, if Bill finished the date, would be \$40; Bill to collect his own commission.

Mack took the stuff out of storage, rehearsed with his wife in the parlor, paid off the necessities and when opening at the American Monday, he was \$200 in the box up to that time.

This is without three new dresses for Mrs. Mack. The Missus saw her chance and got right in the wardrobe money.

Bill's not going to continue on the Loew time even though he should be offered \$50 for the next half, but will go agent once more.

Marvin told Jake Lubin among others and the mob was at the American the opening performance. Bill has been there every performance since Monday. The American only plays three a day, two downstairs and one on the roof.

And Marvin has gone hard boiled again.

EDNA HIBBARD IN SKETCH
Edna Hibbard is entering vaude under direction of Ben Boyar in "Trilled," a sketch by John Dilson. Leslie Adams in support.

Butterfield's Financier
Chicago, Dec. 24.
Lawrence E. Gordon, finance company head in Little Creek, Mich., has been appointed assistant to W. S. Butterfield, president of the Butterfield circuit.

Gordon joins the Detroit main office Jan. 2, and will handle financial matters.

Gray Sisters Dissolve
Gray Sisters have temporarily shelved their harmony singing act. Rita Gray goes into juvenile steps with Helen Gray while head her own flash act.

IN A TURKISH BATH
An actor booked for a date in a Turkish bath which provides entertainment for its patrons asked when the show started. The answer was:
"You can start working when the men stop sweating."

HARRY ROSE'S SALARY
Double Now in Vaude of Amount "Big Time" Wouldn't Pay Him

Harry Rose is staging a return to vaude after three years in the picture houses. Opens for Loew's this Friday at the Metropolitan, Brooklyn, N. Y. Rose was among the many acts deemed "through" by big time a few years back. His returning vaude salary is double that received when leaving.

Sid Silvers Walks Out on Little Club

Sid Silvers walked out of the Little Club show after the opening Friday. Phil Baker, the chief attraction at \$2,000 a week and a percentage.

Silvers thought all the others were taking cuts as a concession but discovering otherwise he left.

Baker and Silvers, otherwise, continue as professional partners, now in their second week at Keith's Palace. Baker and his former partner, Ben Bernie (and orchestra) will be reunited, with Sid Silvers also, in the forthcoming Schubert production of "The Cabaret Boys" by Samuel Shipman and John B. Hyman. Silvers and Baker are under Schubert contract, with leave of absence for vaudeville bookings until the show is ready. No date has been set for the production.

Baker and Bernie have reunited as a production team with "Cafe Tomaza," a flop musiccomedy, which has been twice out and in which their hickie has confidence for a third attempt. Schuberts are associated in the Baker-Bernie production.

Outstared Bandit

Columbus, Dec. 24.
Defying a gunman and out-staring him, a young woman cashier saved the box office receipts of Loew's Grand theatre when it was held up last week.

Margaret Roberts was counting the day's receipts when the stick-up guy shoved a gun through the window and demanded the money.

Instead, the girl crammed the bills into a box under the counter and stared at the gunman unflinching. He found the silence apparently embarrassing, and fled upon the approach of some pedestrians.

Ruth Mix Quits

Ruth Mix walked out on her vaude act after playing three and a half weeks of show dates for Keith's. She was unable to secure a salary commensurate with what the young woman believed the Mix name and talent worth.

Ruth is the daughter of Tom Mix. She had been doing an act with Three Jesters, male trio. Harry Weber will send the trio out on their own.

WINDSOR BOOKING EAST

Capital, Windsor, Ont., now booking through Keith's, Chicago, will book east starting next month.

House, using five acts (split week) and films, is one of the Canadian Paramount string and plays the only vaude in Windsor.

In the east it will be on Wayne Christie's book, along with the Hollywood, Upton and Oriental theatres, across the river in Detroit.

U'S 4TH VAUDE SHORT
Los Angeles, Dec. 24.
Universal is working on its fourth short in sound with the Brox Sisters.

First to be made of this series, as an experiment, was "The Jazz Band," comedy, using local talent.

Keith's Objected to Whiteman Doubling

In view of the \$6,000 he was only receiving for the week's (Dec. 30) engagement at Keith's Palace, New York, Paul Whiteman didn't care whether he played it or not and told the Keith bookers so, when they objected to Whiteman's opening for Ziegfeld atop the new New Amsterdam Roof midnite frolic Dec. 28. Keith's position was that its booking date preceded the Ziegfeld engagement.

Whiteman is in for \$15,000 net for two weeks with his band on the new roof. He will double the first week at the Palace. He cannot hold over a second week at the Palace because of a prior booking at the Cincinnati Automobile Show at \$17,500 for the week after, but can round out two weeks for Ziegley through closing on Friday and making Cincy Sunday.

Keith's offered Whiteman \$7,000 for as much time as he wanted but accepted only Keith's Palace, Cleveland, to break the jump between the Cincy auto show and another automobile expo in Detroit.

Whiteman's "King of Jazz," Universal sound special, has been set back another month, until April 15. Whiteman may decide to set it back until summer, accepting some foreign offers. These would have followed the 11 picture if the picture company had maintained schedule.

Whiteman's \$6,000 at the Palace is net, booked direct by Jimmie Gillespie.

BILL STANLEY AT 75

Oldest Loew Mgr. Given Dinner and Gold

Bill Stanley, 75, considered the oldest manager in the Loew theatre service, felt pretty good when 75 men comprising execs and managers tendered him a testimonial dinner last week.

Bill was speechless when presented with \$75 in gold. Stanley is at present acting as a pinch hitter, relieving New York managers during vacations and emergency periods.

Single with P. A.

Keith's is sending a press agent in advance of Will Fyffe to make contacts and build interest a week ahead of all vaude dates. That establishes Fyffe the only single in vaude with an advance man at the circuit's expense.

The Scotch comic, just arrived, opened his season American tour at the Palace, Chicago, this week.

B'way Winding Up

Broadway, New York, winds up its Keith tenancy Saturday.

Anticipating a near closing through the recent sale of the building for a new mercantile site, vaude and pictures have been booked from week to week.

KEITH BONUSES

Curiously over Keith bonuses, if any, this season to its staff was settled last week, when the distribution was ordered for Xmas. Not as large as in other years it is reported, but at present the bonus appropriation is entirely the expense of the organization. Previously there had been contributions to a fund held for annual holiday disbursement.

SHERIDAN, CHI. PLAYING ACTS

Chicago, Dec. 24.
Sheridan theatre, one of the defunct Ascher houses being operated by Joe Leo and the Chicago Title Trust Company, has gone vaudifilm.

House now playing five acts on a three-three and one split. Booked by Henry Shapiro.

Staging Film's Dances

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.
Maurice Kussel has been selected by Universal to stage the dances for "Broadway," film.

Boland Sketch Off
Vaude has lost Mary Boland and her sketch. She's going back to the legit.
Miss Boland lingered but a few weeks.

Writer Asks Chicago Journal Why N. V. A. and Needy Vaude Actors?

Chicago, Dec. 24.
This letter in the Chicago Journal inquires why there are needy vaudeville actors, if the promise of stage splendor which appeared recently in the actor promoters during the N. V. A. drives to take care of the needy vaudevillians, is kept.
It refers to a printed story of vaudevillian who had to sell his performing dog, for sustenance for himself:

Those Needy Vaudeville Actors
Editor the Journal: The story of the down and out vaudeville artist and his dog, which appeared recently in The Journal, must have touched the heartstrings of many readers. The actor is compelled to sell his pal and co-worker, his partner of years in vaudeville, because the "ham actor" had to eat.

The readers of The Journal who patronize those theatres sponsoring National Vaudeville Artists' week, must also wonder how a condition of this kind could exist, as they are told by the "minute speakers" from the stages of the theatres, during this N. V. A. week, that the fund collected from the public who visit these houses is for the sick and needy artist and, as we are told, the collecting of funds during N. V. A. week is national, a goodly sum must be brought in from the hundreds of theatres.

Therefore, the actor who was compelled to sell his dog, that he might provide food for himself, and the actresses who sold their costumes for the same purpose and the passe ladies of the vaudeville who are in such dire need, surely must know that help awaits them and is gladly given them, when they make their needs known to the National Vaudeville Artists.

We do not think that that organization would permit either a "ham actor" or good actor out of work to go hungry or to sell their little dogs or their costumes that they might eat. What a pity it true. These actor folk give generously of what they have in time of need. They are the first called and the first to respond when money is needed after the cyclone or earthquake.

If this actors' organization is not taking care of the needy and down-and-out actor, then it becomes the public's business, because we are called upon to help and we do give, and how, for just this cause.

So with the help of The Journal and its observing reporters, an investigation and speedy help for those unfortunate who are always ready to help others is in order. J. M. T.

Actors' Union Incorporates in Ill.; Officers of Vaude Ass'n Elected

Chicago, Dec. 24.
Following the meeting of 35 actors in Chicago four weeks ago to organize vaude performers, incorporation papers for the Actor's Union of America were filed at Springfield, Ill., with the Secretary of State. The Union's headquarters are here.

Officers listed are: Jay Bogart, president; Joseph Allen, vice-president, and Jack Atkins, secretary-treasurer. On the board of directors are Phil Phillips, R. C. Davis, Fred Knapp, Art Tackman, Frank Callan, Joseph Scott, Jay Bogart, Billy De Wilfred, Buddy Howard and Joseph Allen.

It is said this is intended as a national union for vaudeville performers. At the meeting in Chicago it was intended as a Chicago organization, as a similar project was under way in New York.

Advisability of applying for affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, and of arranging working agreements with the musicians' and stagehands' unions were agreed upon. It was also considered that conditions in Chicago and elsewhere have become pretty bad for performers through the inroads of sound pictures and lack of organization among vaudevillians.

The following purposes of the union were set forth:
Better working conditions generally for vaude performers and chorus girls in vaude and burlesque.

No free shows.
Not more than two splits weekly.
Affiliation with the stagehands and musicians.

Affiliation with the A. F. of L.
In no way has it been reported as to the known fact that the Vaudeville Branch of the Four A's (including Equity) holds the A. F. of L. charter for a vaudeville actors' union. That it is said the forming Actor's Union proposes as one of its purposes to apply for an A. F. of L. charter would indicate no connection between the Actor's Union and the Vaudeville Branch.

With what intent the word "Union" was inserted into the new society's title is not made clear.

The White Rats Charter

A charter as a labor organization was granted the White Rats of America some years ago by the A. F. of L. Under that charter Equity and two other theatrical organizations of performers (including the Yiddish theatre actors) formed what is known as the Four A's, with the former White Rats becoming known in the quartet as the Vaudeville Branch.

By virtue of having procured the A. F. of L. charter, James Fitzpatrick and Harry Mountford, in arranging with Equity and the others to come under the protection of the A. F. of L., provided that their title to the Rats' A. F. of L. charter should be perpetual. Fitzpatrick was the last president of the White Rats and Mountford its active secretary.

In the extended scope to the Four A's, Fitzpatrick became an officer and remains one.

Mountford is understood to be continuing the Vaudeville Branch, with but a slim membership and doubtful dues payers. His principal income is reported as a dues splitting agreement with Equity upon the amount he paid to Equity by vaudeville performers when going into the legit. The amount Mountford claims for that reason is much larger than the money he has thus far received from Equity.

Mountford was reported some time ago to have said the Vaudeville Branch alleged a large balance due it from Equity and that sooner or later Mountford thought suit by the Vaudeville Branch against Equity would be instituted for an accounting and recovery.

None of the names mentioned as the incorporators of the Actor's Union is known, with one exception, in the east, either as performers or in the show business. The story from Chicago failed to mention their individual standing, if any, as actors in the west.

Norman's Weak Voice

Karyl Norman, Creole Fashion Plute, has been compelled to sidetrack dates indefinitely through loss of voice, the after effect of a recent seige of pneumonia.

Norman was stricken while playing a vaude engagement in Chicago. The malady left him in a weakened condition and throat specialists advised a rest of the vocal chords.

HOWARD GREEN WRITING

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.
Howard J. Green, former vaude producer, is turning out to be Columbia's top dialog writer.

Green just finished the script for "The Younger Generation" and has been assigned to provide gossip for "The Donovan Affair."

Colored Cantor for Poland

Toiva Larue, nationally known colored cantor, has been signed for a three month tour of Europe starting late in January in Warsaw, Poland. This is to be Larue's first continental appearance.

The colored cantor is under the management of Edwin A. Reikin.

Panic on for Agents; Drawing Acc'ts Off; Acts with Cash Given Preference

With the panic on in the vaude agency field through booking jams affecting practically all offices booking out of New York, most of the agencies have suspended the usual drawing account to employees which has been customary.

Staffs remaining with the agencies under the new arrangement are getting only a percentage of the income from acts actually placed by them with circuits or independents. Most are sticking under the new arrangement figuring a break will sooner or later.

Prior to the present enforced economy wave, the act peddlers had been allowed a weekly drawing account against accrued business. Many are away ahead of their employers, especially through having been carried on their drawing account through summer.

Another angle is that the boys don't get theirs until the agencies receive the commissions, which is vastly important. It has started a new racket of the peddlers giving preference to acts able to pay on receiving contracts rather than at the end of the engagement.

Many with coin are glad to do this to keep working until the vaude situation around New York becomes better.

Michael Kullesser, legit producer, is taking a flier at vaude with "Babes in the Woods."

Salary Committee Is Appointed for Keith's

A committee has been appointed in the Keith agency to pass upon salaries for acts, new and submitted. John Ford, Ted Lauder and Max Gordon are on the committee, along with Earl Saunders as the chief booker and probably Danny Simmons as the New York booker, when he starts next week.

It is said Ford goes on for the box office, Lauder to pass on applicability, and Gordon for production act's costs. Saunders and Simmons, as bookers are expert on general values.

BARD AT L. A. MET.

Ben Eard opens this week at the Metropolitan as m. c., replacing Frank Jenks, there for 26 weeks. P. Jenks, loaned to Publix by Fanchon and Marco, returns to the West Coast fold opening at the Egyptian Dec. 28. On that date sound goes in at this house.

Shorts by Grapewins

Charles Grapewin and Anna Chance, vaude vets, will make a series of talking shorts by Universal.

SMALL TOWN MASHER

Wabash, Ind., Native Tried to Crush Peggy Visser in Restaurant

Indianapolis, Dec. 24. A small town smasher is out under \$100 bail for assault upon Peggy Visser of vaudeville.

It happened in the hands of Wabash, Ind., the town that named the river. Peggy was eating in a restaurant and about to start on her second portion of ham and when she felt the eye of Lee Ragan upon her.

Peggy didn't find out Lee's name until he was pinched. Lee was pinched after he had kicked Peggy. Peggy was kicked because she couldn't see Lee.

Mr. Lee couldn't feel the chill Peggy was sending over him in the eatery, so he persisted in giving her the eye. When she gave him, he kicked.

Keith's Press Dept.

An adjustment of publicity for the Keith's has become effective in the Mark Leuscher bureau.

Lester Scott has the west coast, Johnny Cassidy the eastern division and Abe Brin for the middle west.

For Greater New York and Brooklyn Carroll Pierce continues to do the press, with the advertising under Harry Mandel.

Helen Hoerle has become attached to the Keith bureau as a special writer.

\$2,500 Weekly Saved by Shift From 4 to 3-a-Day

Chicago, Dec. 24. Grand, St. Louis, owned and operated by R-K-O and one of the first four-a-day houses in this country, will start off the new year with a three-a-day policy.

The cut, it is figured, will save over \$2,500 a week in salaries to double shift orchestras, stage hands and other help.

Booking Australia

Sau Francisco, Dec. 24. Harry P. Munn is en route to New York to line up eastern acts for Williamson, Australia.

Accompanying Muller is Phil Lucas, vacationing east prior to joining Fanchon & Marco. Lucas has been head booker for the Bert Levey circuit the past 20 years.

ROSENTHAL TRYING

Harold Rosenthal, two years high diving the vaude records in the Levey offices and covering shows, has been granted permission by Marvin Schenck to try his hand at agenting.

Rosenthal on Monday became associated with the Irving Cooper office.

Jack Curtis' Unit

Jack Curtis is producing a Keith unit with the Cultus Brothers. Sid Silvers is writing the special material.

Oh Me! Oh Me! Oh Me!

Oh My!

America, I Leave Thee

One More Week. America, Thou Hast

1 WEEK MORE

to Laugh at

HARRY HOWARD

BORN TO BE LAUGHED AT

It's Been a Great Year for Me. I Developed From a

Next to Closing Comedy Hit To a Headline Laughing Sensation

A Laughing Hit in the States Should be a Laughing Hit Abroad

Don't You Think?

Direction MEYER B. NORTH JOS. FLAUM

The 23rd ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

OF

VARIETY

OUT NEXT WEEK [JAN. 2]

F. & M. Junior Stage Units Selling on Coast at Daily Scale of \$125 to \$150

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. With Fanchon and Marco expanding to eastern territory with their stage shows now produced for West Coast Theatres Circuit they will also have a junior circuit of 16 weeks on the Pacific slope playing Fanchon and Marco "Varieties" to consist alternatively of four acts or girl revues to work with stage bands in the smaller houses.

The new "Varieties" will begin operating Jan. 4 starting at the Egyptian in Hollywood and sold at an average daily cost of \$125 to \$150. Offices will be opened at San

Francisco and in Seattle to handle bookings for both styles of shows. Phil Prease who has been in the Bert Levey office there will be placed in charge with offices in the Warfield theatre building. Harry P. Muller, representing the J. C. Williamson enterprises of Australia, who has had his headquarters with Levey for the past four years, will move into the F. and M. offices and do his vaudeville bookings. It is also likely that Fanchon and Marco "Ideas" will be sent by him to the Antipodes.

No one has been chosen yet for the Seattle office head.

Harry C. Arthur, Jr., now in New York arranging for the eastern bookings of the F. and M. "Ideas" has closed for nine weeks already and figures on having six more before he returns to the Coast. The first of the shows will hit around Chicago March 1.

WARNERS' NEW AGENCY

Opens Early in Jan.—Bookers Reported to Have Gotten Contracts

A start of the new Warner Brothers' booking agency, with the Stanley houses playing aside as its foundation, will be made about Jan. 7.

It is said that each of the departmental heads for the agency have received contracts. These are Lew Golden, in charge of agency; Harold Kemp and Eddie Darling, bookers.

DIAMOND'S 3 1/2 WEEKS

Billy Diamond of the Sun-Diamond office will book vaude into the Rein-Fischer-Paramount theatres in Wisconsin and upper Michigan.

The houses add three and one-half weeks to Diamond's books.

KEITH AGENTS MEET FOR ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Associated Vaudeville Artists Representative, a gag organization of Keith agents, was called Saturday for the object of reinvigorating the society.

It is said that with the different ideas entertained by President Hiram S. Brown and General Manager John Ford of Keith's the Keith agents hold a belief that they may at last be permitted to assert themselves.

Under the name of the former society, organized under the old Keith regime and as usual not meaning a thing while under that domination, a committee Saturday was appointed of the agents to formulate suggestions and submit them at another meeting to be held this Saturday, Dec. 29. The committee selected by the meeting holds Jules Delmar, George Godfrey, Manny Mainwaring, Jack Curtis and Charles Morrison.

It is said that the purposes of the Keith agents at present are to form a protective society among themselves, to adjust their own internal matters and act in cooperation as a body with the Keith Circuit. This is to occur under the new arrangement installed by the Radio-Keith-Orpheum president, Hiram S. Brown. Last Saturday he announced that the Keith agents hereafter will receive their full five per cent commission from acts. Previously their commission was split by the Keith office, with Keith's retaining one-half of it.

The Brown action and his announcements have led the agents to believe they are finally considered a part of the Keith organization instead of a bunch of chumps, and they are figuring to prove to the R-K-O heads that they appreciate what they are trying to do for the agents and Keith's.

It is reported as a possibility that the Keith agents, when fully organized under the new situation will invite all bona fide agents in the variety field to align with them for general welfare.

"OLD DR. APPLESAUCE"

Otherwise Arthur Frudenfeld, Now Manager St. Louis Theatre

St. Louis, Dec. 24.

Arthur Frudenfeld, known especially to radio fans in the middle west as "Old Doctor Applesauce" of radio station WOW, Omaha, has been appointed manager of the St. Louis theatre here, the Keith vaude theatre. Frudenfeld succeeds Everett Hays, whose departure from the St. Louis theatre created a big stir in local show circles.

Frudenfeld has been managing the World circuit of nine theatres in Nebraska, with headquarters in Omaha.

ILL AND INJURED

Jim Delaney, M-G-M exploitation man, in Augustana Hospital, Chicago, recovering from two operations.

George Hadfield, manager Allen theatre, Racine, Wis., in hospital following operation.

Earl Dancer, producer, was removed from Wiley-Wilson Sanitarium last week and is convalescing at his home. Dancer has been incapacitated, due to a nervous breakdown.

Phil Saxe, bandsman, has scarlet fever.

Lily McWilliams, dancer, in Hollywood Hospital, Los Angeles, recovering from an operation for appendicitis.

Margery Thomas, following an operation and a month's illness of intestinal trouble in French Hospital, is around again.

Joe Dacey, Pathé film man, following an operation on his leg, has taken a turn for worse with blood transfusions administered.

Dicky Wells (Mordgen and Wells) in Post Graduate Hospital, N. Y., recovering from a knee operation.

Georgiana Urrutes (Doris Niles dancers) severely burned during show in the Music Hall, Troy, N. Y. in Samaritan Hospital, Troy.

La Vine and Evans have been compelled to cancel vaude bookings indefinitely pending recovery of Charley La Vine.

Lina Basquette's Unit

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Lina Basquette has been signed by Fanchon and Marco to play 16 weeks over the West Coast circuit.

Miss Basquette opens at Loew's State here Jan. 13, heading a stage unit.

Mickey Daniels signed by Cinemaphone Productions for "Babes in Hollywood," series of one-reel talkers, written and to be directed by Grace Elliott.



Walter Nilsson
"World's Master Unicyhist!"
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600 WOODS THEATRE BLD'G
JOHNNY JONES
IN CHARGE

Incorporations

Balaban and Katz five and one-half per cent gold serial notes, as an issue, is offered for sale to investors in New York State. The Secretary of State having licensed Lawrence Stern & Co., of Chicago, to act as dealer and syndicate manager. Balaban and Katz is a Delaware corporation with offices at 117 North State street, Chicago. Stern & Co., handling house for the issue is also a Delaware corporation and has offices at 231 South La Salle street, Chicago.

Imperial Chain Theatres, Inc., a Pennsylvania corporation, with offices at 11 W. 42nd street, New York, has been licensed to handle an issue of its own common and preferred stock.

Rochester Cinema Guild, recently incorporated, licensed to offer for sale an issue of preferred stock and an issue of common stock without par value. It is a New York State corporation. Offices in the Temple Theatre, 30 Clinton avenue, S. Rochester. Completed business address of the corporation is 210 East avenue, Rochester.

Karle-Howard & Company, Inc., 66 W. 44th street, New York, has been licensed to sell common stock, no par value, of Sound Pictures, Inc., a Delaware corporation. Sound Pictures has offices at 157 Broadway, New York.

Two companies have been licensed to deal in common stock of Jenkins Television Corp., Delaware Corporation, with offices in Washington, D. C. C. C. Kerr & Co., 111 B Street, New York, will act as syndicate manager for the flotation of the issue, while Eugene J. Core, of 60 Pine street, New York, will act as a dealer.

All of the above notices filed in accordance with provisions of the general business law designed to protect New York State investors in the sale of securities.

Edmund Broese, Edward Davis, Otto Hoffman, Stanley Taylor, Douglas Gerard and Maud Turner Gordon added to "The Hottentot," WB.

Lathrop Brothers
Four Feet with a Single Thought
Season's Greetings
Direction MILT LEWIS
"MACK" "CHUCK"

A VAUDEVILLE AGENCY WHICH PRODUCES MORE THAN IT PROMISES
CONSISTENT, EFFICIENT SERVICE SINCE 1913

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Vide Whole British Press:
"The GREATEST OF ALL In His Line"
ARRIVED S. S. LEVIATHAN DEC. 20.
NOW (DEC. 23), KEITH'S PALACE, NEW YORK
GLAD TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN. ATTABOY!
SO SAYETH THE WIFE

Theatres Proposed

Brooklyn, N. Y.—(Also stores) \$4,000,000. Owner, Corp., care of H. F. Wittenman, Architects, C. W. & Geo. L. Rupp, N. Y. C. Policy not given.

Camden, N. J.—(Also stores and offices) \$250,000. Owner, Variety Amusement Corp., local. Architect, Howard E. Hall, Merchantville, N. J. Policy not given.

Chicago, Ill.—(Also stores and apartment building) \$70,000. Owner, John Stejneger, Architects, R. Levine & Co., same. Policy not given.

Cleveland—\$400,000. Owners, Shaker Theatre Co., Musical Civic Development Co., Van Swearingen Co., J. J. Arnold, president and manager, Cleveland. Architect, Philip Lindley Small, local. Policy, vaude-pictures.

Flint, Mich.—Owner, Henry S. Koppin Co., Detroit.

New York—\$1,250,000. Owner, Highbridge Realty Co. (Lew's). Architect, T. W. Lamb, same. Policy not given.

Pain, Ill.—(Also store building and hotel) \$100,000. Owner, H. Tanner, local. Architect, S. A. Clausen, Decatur, Ill. Policy, pictures.

Port Jefferson, L. I., N. Y.—\$150,000. Owner, Altonian Theatre Corp., N. Y. C. Architect, Hyman Rubenstein, Newark, N. J. Policy not given.

Frank, Kan.—(Also store) \$75,000. Owner, C. Barron, local. Architect, S. S. Wright, Wichita, Kan. Policy not given.

Teaneck, N. J.—(Also office building) Owner, Gilvan, Inc., G. Hillman, 274 Madison avenue, N. Y. C. Architects, Licht & Anderson, Cliffside Park, N. J. Policy not given.

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Patterson McNutt, in New York, Nov. 16, son. Their second child.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Botsford, Dec. 18 at their home, Plandome, Long Island, daughter. Father head of publicity and advertising department of Public Theatres.

Olsen Unable to Agree With Ziegfeld; Walks

Dissatisfied from the start with the meagerness of his actual performance, George Olsen closed with his orchestra in Ziegfeld's "Whoopee," the Eddie Cantor starring musical at the New Amsterdam. Olsen was in at \$4,250 a week for 18 men and held a contract for \$4,500 for the same aggregation atop the Ziegfeld Midnite Frolic. The roof cabaret opens Dec. 28 with Paul White-man as the special inaugural attraction for two weeks at \$7,500 a week.

Olsen and his wife, Ethel Shutta, held a run of the play contract. Miss Shutta marked her professional stage return after retiring for three seasons when she became Mrs. Olsen. She is remaining with the show, for the present anyway.

From the very start, Olsen did not jibe with the Ziegfeldian ideas. Ziegfeld's engagement of Gus Salzer as pit orchestra conductor did not click with Olsen who felt that his boys would have responded more favorably to the baton of Eddie Kilfeather, one of the Olsentites. Olsen, rating among the top-notchers among money-getters in the band business, accepted the \$4,250 for 18 men because of the additional \$4,500 he would have received for his services on the Ziegfeld Roof. The \$4,250 was deemed a cut by Olsen considering his last season's contract for \$4,000 for only nine men at the Club Richman.

A three months' contract for Olsen's winter services at the new Deauville, Miami, becomes effective Jan. 15 at \$7,000 a week, plus all transportation. Olsen is taking 18 men with him to Miami at the new resort spot, which includes a casino. Cantor sought to intervene as peace-maker in the Ziegfeld-Olsen imbroglio, but Olsen's stand that he wasn't being given enough to do settled it decisively. Salzer is putting in a jazz combination for the Olsen spot, the band to play in the pit up to the finale.

Trouble brewed between Olsen and Ziegfeld from the opening of "Whoopee" in Pittsburgh. There it

was claimed the orchestrations favored Miss Shutta and let down for the others. Salzer was called in to conduct at once and the score reorchestrated in part.

At dress rehearsal in the New Amsterdam prior to the premiere here, another Jare-up occurred with Miss Shutta figuring again. It was stated Miss Shutta has a run of the play contract and is expected to stick.

The Roof Show

John and Christa will operate the Midnight Frolic, atop the New Amsterdam theatre. The room has been entirely done over since it was last used as a night club with the movable stage and the balcony out.

Eddie Cantor, and a floor show with 16 girls dotting down Ziegfeld's New York shows will provide the entertainment under Ziegfeld direction with an admission top of \$6.00 substituted for a covert charge.

The room, decorated by Joseph Urban, will seat 400. George Ever-art, Palm Beach, acts as maitre de reception.

GAMBLING ON 300 SEATS

Park, New Milford, 3,000 Pop., With Vaude and Sounds

Park, New Milford, N. J., has been taken over by M. Sugarman. It opens Jan. 6 with vaude and sound films. Photophone equipment.

Sugarman's enterprise is figured a noble experiment for a poison literature town of less than 3,000 population and with plenty of opposish from nearby towns. The Park is a 300-seater that never recorded capacity in its three years of operation.

BRITISH FILM FIELD

(Continued from page 6)

to bring up again the possibility of forming a national booking combine.

There does not seem much possibility this will lead anywhere, if only because there is no chance of one of the small indies seeing eye to eye about their mutual interests. They could not reach definite agreement and carry it through in large numbers because, while they might agree in principle, they could never agree on details.

Sound Stuff

Western Electric seems to be finding a ramp in wiring at one time it was optimistically reported W. E. expected to have 100 houses wired by the new year. Now they admit there are no cables beyond the 10 already equipped, six of which are in London and three of these being theatres owned by American producing organizations.

Part of the reason for so few takers here is cost, there being several good systems available at less than one-third what W. E. asks. And the question of interchangeability has helped to jam things, exhibs fearing they may be landed with a 10 years' lease of an expensive equipment and then only permitted to run the product of a few.

From this they come to the point by inference it is part of a stunt to tie them up to fewer than half a dozen big American concerns, and thus re-establish the principle of block booking in another form. So they are either wiring on the less costly systems, like British Photophone or Schlesinger's Phonoflms, or leaving it out till the situation becomes more clear. By which time lots of them figure the public will be through with the talkers.

Sounded News Reels

Following a few hicks about getting no British sound news in Movietone newsreels, or not much, Schlesinger's concern has made a deal with the G. K. Gaze, Pathe Pictorial and Eve's Pictorial Review which gives First National-Pathe a license to sound these on Phonoflms systems.

As this F-N-P organization is now owned by Maxwell's company, British International, some of the wise mob have jumped to the idea the sound studies being built at Elstree are to use the Phonoflms system.

But C. M. Thorpe, British International studio manager, called Dec. 10 for America with Victor Saville, indie director operating Burlington Film Co., allied with British International, to study the sound situation on your side. As Al Aronson sails on the Levathan Dec. 14, and the three are conferring with Jayde Williams about World Wide Pic-

tures and other things, and things being what they are, a fairly safe bet is British International will work out the Phonoflms system, making its stuff for release through World Wide in America.

On this dialog business, the London County Council received a deputation from the London branch of the Exhibitors' Association Dec. 7 to protest against the showing of talkies at the May Fair Hotel. It is a curious position, because the L.C.C. upholds the objection we may find music-hall owners objecting to the talkies playing cabaret and night clubs.

One effect of the showing of sound films in the West End has been to stop around the regulation which forbids putting on acts Sundays. As no act but a straight vocalist may appear on the Sabbath, houses playing vaudeville are obliged to cut out the vaude on Sundays. It was reckoned before talkies were shown in the West End this would go for them too, but apparently it does not. Theaters are running and specially billed as running on the seventh day.

A New Trade Paper

Over the week-end comes the first issue of a new trade weekly, owned and run by the Exhibitors' Association. It is expected to be published and is likely to stay, as the association has a membership of 3,300 out of some 3,700 theatres in the Kingdom, and its members are all having their own mouthpiece, will get the paper as part of the benefit of belonging.

This gives it a ready-made circulation with a big advertising pull, and it looks to have a rosy chance of becoming a fine property. Its titular editor is Mr. J. H. Fuller, general secretary of the association.

Death of an Ex-President

J. H. Dovey, former president of the Exhibitors' Association and a notable Liverpool exhibitor, died suddenly Dec. 6. He came into the picture business in 1910, as head of the North Western Booking Agency, as well as chairman of companies owning a number of picture houses in Liverpool and Altrincham.

Dovey had long been ailing, and spent a great deal of his time on the Riviera for his health. He was preparing to take an extended trip to New Zealand when the end came.

Another Recording Method

Mentioned some time ago as being in the experimental stage by this department, a light-ray system, invented by Capt. Alban Roberts, was demonstrated last week in a small workshop off Oxford street. It is claimed to be an adaptation of a submarine locating device invented by Roberts for the war.

A company called Supreme Sound Films, with which Jasper Maskey-Lyne, the illusionist, is associated, is being formed to make features and shorts on this system. Plan is to start with four full length and a dozen short subjects.

Giving Them An Argument

Wardour Films Co., the releasing end of British International, came out with statement last week it had acquired a number of Hal Roach and Mack Sennett comedies, which prompted Sam Beckman to answer for Metro that the Hal Roach stuff must be old, M-G-M having a long term contract with this comedy producer.

Situation seems to be Wardour has bought the product made between the end of Roach's Pathe contract and the beginning of the M-G-M term.

A Negative to Negri?

Despite the violent plugging by her press agent, Pola did not make the stir here she expected. And

equally she did not get the Shaw agreement despite the story given out.

Most of the press talked about her laudful avoidance of publicity, but the whole stunt was framed by an American newspaper man and some of the boys on Fleet street fell for it hard.

Personals

Joseph E. Cohen, president of the Security Society Control Corp., is here establishing territorial branches throughout the country. The anti-fire projector device he markets is being taken up here and is well exploited.

William Bach sailed for New York Dec. 4. He is, or was when he sailed, general manager of First National-Pathe. But with all this changing of heads you never know, and it will be somewhat surprising if he returns, at any rate in the same capacity.

Donald Stuart, British film actor, goes into "The Silver King." When Barrett's old meller, now being made here by Welsh-Pearson-Elder for M-G-M quota release. T. Hayes Hunter is directing.

Syd Chaplin is back from Germany. Says he is undecided about making another film here. But British International had a contract with him to do two, and there is still one to go.

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CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR

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herely thanks his friends for their loyalty and assures all bookers that after 4 years successful and continuous booking he is still the
SOLE OWNER AND MANAGER
of one of America's Standard Orchestra Acts, the
CALIFORNIA NIGHTHAWKS
SINCEREST THANKS TO MR. EDWARD G. LAUDER of the Keith Office for his protection of my name.
SINCEREST THANKS ALSO TO MR. H. BART McHUGH, my Keith-Orpheum-Interstate representative, and to MR. JOE MICHAELS, my Loew, Fox and Independent representative.
Thanks to several disgruntled former employers for their free advertising in last week's Variety (Dec. 19).

HAL HIXON

PRESENTS

**THE NEXT LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION
OF THE WORLD**

RAY MILLER

REGARDS TO

ALL HIS FRIENDS AND MINE
IN AND OUT OF THE PROFESSION

PROCTOR'S 58TH ST.

(NEW) (Wired)

Very large and very Spanish, brick and plaster window in the Balaban & Katz Chicago style...

The capacity of the old theatre has been more than doubled...

Essentially it's a picture house, although it is elaborately equipped for vaudeville...

The opening program was nicely blended and ran smoothly, with David Love, pit maestro, giving strong support and upsetting the precedents for such occasions...

Jack Benny, little more serious than usual, served as master of introductions, and was a very busy man...

Besides the bill proper, Louis Mann, Will Fyffe and Francis X. Bushman appeared on the stage for short speeches...

The curtain note was struck when Margie Cline stood up in the third row and happily acknowledged an ovation...

F. F. Proctor himself kept unobtrusively in the background, a habit of his dating back more years than most people in the city can remember...

The 58th Street will be under the general supervision of Hermon Whitman, who also keeps things lubricated at Proctor's 86th Street...

Show opened with "Stop, Look and Listen," dancing flash and pleasing six act comedy...

Mitchell and Durant, No. 2, as a favor to the booking office, worked in their customary style...

Yorke and King, augmented by Terry York and Johnnie Wright, held the third row...

De Trujada's Mexican Orchestra fitted into the Castilian motif of the house and the ornamental program...

An invited audience Thursday night (Dec. 26) with the theatre packed with flowers...

To obtain a more reliable idea on the sound element at the 58th Street the second bill was caught Sunday morn...

While it will perhaps be necessary for the booker to exercise a little more than his usual caution in laying out bills for this house, there is no reason for assuming that the 58th Street will from necessity adopt an all picture policy without vaudeville...

Rumor abroad last week, and which is denied by the Proctor interests, is that the theatre will continue to be the policy...

RCA Photophone has installed sound equipment at the 58th Street, as at the 86th Street...

One new act on the bill Sunday, Stanley Rollickers, otherwise, all standbys, Ray Huling and Seal; Harry Watson, Jr.; Eric Samuels, and Harry Wainwright, Octavus...

Laugh show this week with two outstanding male personalities, Ken Murray and Phil Baker, making it both funny and interesting...

First half of the show was a pip for laughs, but he was given over to the Murray unit with the exception of Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys...

Second half holds Phil Baker on a holdover with the mable anove from the box, Sid Silvers, garnering a flock of merit...

Florence Moore, who reopened the second half, was graciously recalled by Baker. Miss Moore pulled some old boys and also relied on her own wit...

Show opened with the John Tiller Girls, an octet headed by Gladys Hunt. Some of their rope terp stuff was a bit rough...

Whiteman's Rhythm Boys (Harry Davis, Bing Crosby and Al Rinker) danced nicely. They will accompany with the aging of the week...

The bill idea by Bing Crosby is great for a change of pace. His "When Summer Is Gone" goes with a nice reference to the past...

Best of the half was Ken Murray. The tenor is catching Milton Charleston, who steps gracefully into a pose...

While the band was the nucleus for the first half, the Vito-Mojo, prima-donna, The Charlstones (Helen and Milton) and a diminutive clown, Pompey Christian, were worked out...

KEITH MEMORIAL

Dorchester, Dec. 21.

Sophie Tucker is saying good-bye to her public with a plug for the talking movies, for which she is already booked...

The balance was a slight step backward from previous bills. Bobby May was deuced as a juggler and proved the surprise of the show...

He showed that put him over. The boy works, in fact, he works too hard and tries to do too much. His personal appearance should be built up...

The Collegiates, with Harold Ringold, opened, and Jimmy Savo and Co. were given third spot for laughs...

A whiz gangster for the first half has been in the house with his new unit, 18-people revue, galloping off with stellar honors...

86TH ST.

(Vaudeville)

Nothing especially auspicious on this box out bill for the Broadway, but good material...

A new show will be booked in for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of next week to grab the New Year...

RIVERSIDE

(Vaudeville)

There is a pit overflow—more than an overflow—at the Riverside this week that no ordinary vaudeville show could easily follow...

The pit overflow, or concert, as conducted by Fabello, starts the proceedings as well as any opening act over the Broadway...

No doubt that too much of the number one act is hanging out in the back number unit but with over abundance killing this as it does everything else...

Boys can remain as versatile as in the opening. For the moment it is something new in vaude, and anything new in vaude is a rarity.

The revised blackouts and bits from recent and past revues are far from a relief, though they're getting better as played here...

Tightening up in the chatter department, the unit could go into the Palace and still have an entire pre-intermission period...

House did its best to wet blanket Fabello's routine, though it didn't honor it. Riverside is slow in filling up, particularly Sunday night...

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BROADWAY

(Vaudeville)

Nothing especially auspicious on this box out bill for the Broadway, but good material...

Nothing especially auspicious on this box out bill for the Broadway, but good material...

Nothing especially auspicious on this box out bill for the Broadway, but good material...

Nothing especially auspicious on this box out bill for the Broadway, but good material...

5TH AVE.

(Wired)

It will be no cinch job to educate the 5th Avenue's veteran vaudego customers to see and like straight pictures, talking or otherwise...

There is only one sure way out with sound pictures: comedy. Any kind of comedy, Comedy shorts, is funnier the better...

The one sound news reel shot (Pathe) was of Grover Whalen, the new constable, reading his law enforcement platform...

Two-reel Mack Sennett comedy, and the feature, "Put 'em On," by the same company as the house organist...

Sunday matinee attendance not equal to the Sabbath of vaude days, but the difference in operating costs between now and then is greater than the difference in attendance...

JEFFERSON

(Wired)

Good vaudeville at the Keith 14th Street this half. For headliner it had the Friedlander fast, light girl-and-music interlude...

All by itself it would have made a small time bill hold up, but here it was nicely supported, first with the Collegian Ramblers, class orchestra...

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Stories by Jack Conway

From 1920, onward, Jack Conway wrote a series of stories appearing in Variety. Mostly the stories dealt with baseball and prize fights, players and puns. This series will be reprinted weekly. Each story carries its original head. Story below appeared in Variety of March 3, 1920.

HOME FAVORITE PINE POISON TO TOMATO

And When the Referee Wears Rouge and Eye Lashes, Why Call It a Sport?

Holyoke, Mass., March 1.
Dear Chick:

I am shootin you the low down on a fight we staged here last night between Tomato and a local side wheeler named Kid Truby and Kid Truby and I am writin you quick so that you wont believe the newspaper reports about our being rowdies and wantin to quit.



Tomato got the rawest deal in this but I think that I was ever handed a fighter since they put the bare knuckles in camphor and used to pull each other's mustaches in the clinches.

We cum up here to fight this egg without knowin a thing about him but solely because the promoter here Eddie Devlin was once a pretty good friend of mine and a square shooter. I dont know what happened to him since he used to play ball with me in the bushes but some one must have opened him up and poufed about two gallons of larceny into his anatomy.

The first shock I get is when Truby climbs into the ring. We were late and when we arrived at the club they told us that Truby had already weighed in front of one of the Commissions men and that he made 135 at 8 P. M. which was the agreed scale tip. When this gink climbs through the ropes in his corner I nearly fell dead. He is as big as a middle-weight as Harry Greb. I started to beef but there wasn't a chance and I knew they would cop my one grand appearance forfeit if we refused to go through with the match.

That was shock number one but it was only a small time opener compared to my feelings when I piped the referee. He was rouged up like one of the end broads at the Olympic, had his eyebrows pencilled, lashes beaded and was wrapped up in a pair of flamed pants and a white shirt that would have made a crowd on a Palm Beach veranda. A sheet and scratch guy that was workin on one of the local papers tipped me to watch this mug as he had bet heavy jack on Truby.

Well they got away with Tomato under heavy conditions not to lead and to stay away from this bird as long as he could. I figured it was our only chance to make it a fight as Truby was big enough to knock down an ice wagon.

The ref. was in as I seen after the first clinch when he let Truby lay all over Tomato who nearly sank to the floor under this saps weight. Truby kept tryin to nail Tomato with a right cross but the kid kept slippin away side steppin or rollin his head with the punches and so it went for the first four rounds.

Trub was one of them natural fat birds with a slight roll of flesh around his belt line and I never seen one of them that wasn't short winded that's why I told Tomato to keep away from him. Truby did everything but bite and scratch but every time Tomato would hit him on the body the dotted up bum would spit them out like they was poison. It burned me up but what could I do and Tomato kept growlin 'bout the way this guy threw his arms around when he broke through.

About the sixth round Truby began to slow up and dive into clinches and I knew we had a chance if Tomato could cop him on the button. I sent him out to take a chance and after a minute he let his right drive and socked this big

clam digger right on the going. You ought to see that big trump hit the deck for the slowest nine count from the fashion plate that my eyes have ever drunk in my eyes. I stepped up off the floor with his arms spread out like an outfield and wrapped them around my kid in a body lock that Joe Stecher couldn't have broke. The ref. made a great phony effort to break them with out so he could take this ham with another smack but notbin like it. They was still wastin at the bell.

As Truby staggered over to his corner Tomato walked over to the referee who was gracefully draped over the ropes talkin to a scribe. The kid who hit right in the center of his lily white pants and when he turned he ran into a right uppercut that lifted him through the ropes into the aisle where he laid on his back like a haddock.

Of course we was disqualified and the homers yam to spit them out so he could take this ham with another smack but notbin like it. They was still wastin at the bell. As Truby staggered over to his corner Tomato walked over to the referee who was gracefully draped over the ropes talkin to a scribe. The kid who hit right in the center of his lily white pants and when he turned he ran into a right uppercut that lifted him through the ropes into the aisle where he laid on his back like a haddock.

Your old pal,
Con.

Phoney Blind Man Kidded Aimee McPherson

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

That Aimee Simple McPherson and her horde of followers had been duped for five years into believing she had restored his sight by a "miraculous healing" was the text of a dramatic admission made in Superior Judge Walton Woods' courtroom by "Rev." Arthur S. Arnold, when he was sentenced to San Quentin for one to five years on two charges of forgery.

Arnold, who said he was pastor of the Pentecostal Church of Huntington Park, shouted the confession after a sheaf of testimonial letters written by members of his flock expressed their faith in him had failed to sway Judge Woods' refusal to release the man on probation.

He said he had posed for five years as a blind man, and permitted himself to be "cured" by Aimee that he might gain the confidence of her flock and be appointed an "apostle" of the Angelus Temple.

BAD CHECK CHARGE

Dworkin Dismissed—Summons Taken Out Against Him

Ben Dworkin, 30, restaurant owner and living at 108 Field place, Bronx, was discharged in West Side Court by Magistrate McQuade. A summons charged him with issuing a bogus check.

Henry Fasslet, of 130 West 64th street, stated that he was given a check by Dworkin for \$125. Fasslet learned from the bank that there were insufficient funds and no credit for Dworkin.

Fasslet explained it to Magistrate McQuade. The court dismissed the summons. Fasslet told reporters he was going to begin a civil action against Dworkin.

Amsterdam's Class Nite Club with Trimmings

Florenz Ziegfeld has fancy plans for his Midnite Frolic atop the New Amsterdam which opens his new club with Paul Whiteman and his orchestra as the dance feature. In addition to Eddie Cantor and Helen Morgan as the opening floor attractions. Cantor is only officiating as a courtesy to Ziggy and will show out in a week or two.

Ben Bernie will probably succeed Whiteman after the latter's two weeks. Ziggy will follow Bernie with Lopez, or vice versa, details being worked out now.

SIR JOS. DISAPPOINTED OVER XMAS PRESENTS

Gross Very Light, Says King of Radio—Denounces Ingratitude

"The very poorest Christmas I have ever experienced," complained Sir Jos. Ginzberg. "I denounce ingratitude," he said, as he pushed forward a phoney pearl necklace.

"I know who sent me that," Sir Jos. continued. "It came in a large box and I recognized the box. But those pearls cost \$1.50 anyway and packing the box must have been \$1 more, so it was an expensive gag."

"I am the Great Sir Joseph Ginzberg, International Star, and the King of the Radio. My position in the show business brings me a large number of requests during the year for advice. You couldn't guess some of the people in the business who ask me what to do and how to do it. I never charge for my advice although my Radio salary is \$2,500 a month, so you can see my time is valuable. And of all those people I have aided or advised, what do I get at Christmas—this bum bunch of pearls. I denounce it."

"All Mrs. Willie gave me was air. There was something funny about that too. I'm not sure whether Mrs. Willie likes me or not, but somehow just before Xmas I couldn't get to Mr. Willie. Mrs. Willie always answered the phone; Mrs. Willie always opened the door when I called. I don't like the Howards. I thought that was permanent but you see, you can never tell in this business."

Sir Joseph Suspects

"I didn't expect anything from Mr. Willie, although I suspect that Mrs. Willie asked for so much herself that Mr. Willie had nothing left for me. You know women, well I do. And my new landlady, who I met yesterday, and popular why don't I pay the room rent more often. It hurt me. I gave her my card, that one which reads 'Greatest Attraction On Earth.' The Great International Star, Sir Joseph Ginzberg, King of the Radio." I knew that with Mr. Willie, but she handed me back the card saying she can't read English. Then I showed her the pearls and she showed me the butcher's bill.

"I think I made a mistake holding my salary at \$2,500 so long for the Radio. I could have been working in a nite club like John McCormack, Jr., is doing. In fact I understand that John McCormack, Jr., got the job that was intended for me. I wanted three if he went in for two. This cut-throating in our business is putting it on the bum, I says."

"Now I am in a q-u-a-n-d-a-r-r-y. Is that the way you spell it? One of the swell admirers taught me how to spell it but I can't get it right. I had a girl lives in her own apartment but has no extra room. So she said but the janitor told me not to believe everything I heard."

South Africa

"I have a chance to go to South Africa as an entertainer to the King. Mr. Willie could put me straight about my q-u-a-n-d-a-r-r-y. It's this. One fellow says there is no King in Africa while another says there will be one by the time I get there. Then he asks me if I am not the King of the Radio, and that's what puzzled me. I don't know what he meant and if the offer is on the level. They said I could go as chief entertainer on a cattle boat. They said I could keep the animals good natured, on the way to the King. I could make the animals laugh. I could make any King laugh."

"That's what I want to ask Mr. Willie about—if he can spare me long enough to make the trip. But if Mr. Willie says not to go, I won't go, although it might be the beginning of a world's tour for The Great Sir Joseph Ginzberg, International Entertainer and King of the Radio."

"That's a trip Eddie Cantor hasn't taken yet, and as I have never limited Eddie I know he won't be so rough to try to keep me. I would be glad to try to live better luck for New Year's, but I denounce Christmas ingratitude and I say Christmas should come on the 4th of July when it doesn't need an overcoat."

Speaks Overflow

In a Times Square building, of six floors, three were occupied by speakers. Now there are but two.

The third place was plucked the other day. To get to the third place on the third floor, the raiders had to pass the other two speakers.

Whether the raiders thought there were too many speakers in the third place with the limit set at two, or couldn't smell booze on any but the third floor will never be known.

The speakers in handling trade usually send their drunks up or down stairs to the other place. To get rid of them. As the other place does the same thing, on drunks it's always 50-50.

"Chance" Men Raid; Discharged by Court

Three alleged "chance operators" on Stock Market sides who were arrested after a raid by detectives of Deputy Chief Inspector James S. Bolan, were discharged in West Side Court by Magistrate H. Steinley Remond. They gave their names as Gilbert Roberts, 46, engraver, 2179 110th street, Queens Village; Samuel Johnson, 32, of 10 Sher-man avenue, Astoria, and Gallagher, 37, of 1565 Park avenue, Bridgeport, Conn.

Detective Louis Woolfe of Bolan's staff testified that he with several other detectives raided the offices on the third floor of the Gall-ley Building, 236 West 54th street, in the room. A search disclosed hundreds of alleged chance slips on numbers of the "Clearing House." Bolan had received many complaints about the place.

"Discharged," said Remond.

Gray Matter

By MOLLIE GRAY

Still Top Dog
"Land of the Silver Fox" puts Léila Hyams in a far north trading post but not too far from a marble wave. Cute papoose and Rin-Tin-Tin, the first dog star, and still the first dog star, make this of some interest. Film news of the Santa Claus country, including a real storm, add some more. Rinty makes a fine display for a family finish.

Burden Bearing Kind

"Sally's Shoulders" is the burden bearing, no star bearing kind. Lols Wilson is a perfect Sally, but her story is too familiar for comfort to a feminine audience. She ran a tea room, service in taffeta, and her own family were the best customers. Then she danced in a night club, where her family had preceded her, and worked again in taffeta, this time a beautiful white gown of lace mixing with the petals of an uneven hem. A big bow at the back of the waist was the only other trimming.

A good looking light color suit had the usual length coat over a blouse of large irregular blocks and her straw hat was indistinctly marked in squares. Louella Williams, blonde, wore dresses as scant as lingerie. Elythe Chapman was her severest critic and best tea drinker, and Hunter Gordon showed really a different use for her shoulder.

Heroic Toughs

"Gang War" is just an ode to the bootlegger. Most people have him all wrong. He may sell poison as well as booze and he may be in on another gang and carry oblivion in his fist but he means to be square. And when he knows his girl loves another and that other had tried to save him, he goes forth like a knight of old carrying his lady's flower to the old and dies with a rose in his hand.

What chivalry, what romance, what a joke!
Olive Borden was in her usual perfect form whether in white lace with tight sleeves and a chiffon bow on the shoulders or in black with black and white trim from neck to hem.

"Gang War" is filmdom's effort toward glorifying the gang leader and it's his only chance to reach the top. It's a shame that it should be so good. A woman higher a wicker basket to take the clerk if it is late now.

Uncommon Chatter

By Ruth Morris

Rather nice inexpensive evening frocks, the rankin Simon's. One is in silk moire, with surplised bodice and draped pouf and trail at the left hip. Lovely slenderizing line. Another, soft and easy to wear, is of chiffon over silk crepe. Copied arrangement from a low décolletage. Another, with circular skirt and trailing length in back is of satin, beautifully moulded to the figure.

Printed chiffons are coming back for evening wear according to Jay-Thorpe. This is probably influenced by prospectors' trips to Florida. Treatment for these gowns remains much the same as last year—low décolletage, leisurely fitting and skirt irregularities. Many printed taffetas also being shown. This shop's new "Bramlette," abbreviated silk crepe bloomer, is awfully cute.

Stewart & Co. is showing a neat ensemble that's fine for winter sporting. Coat is of red-brown suede, with saddle sleeves, brisk stand-up collar and belted waistline. Swaggar cap to match in taupe of shanter style. Very "your le sport."

If the shop of Hollarer is to be believed, it has found the answer to the maiden's prayer in the shape of a glove known as the "Cyclops." This promise that it won't ever have to be cleaned sounds too good to be true. It's probably all done with mirrors.

Contempt for Cops

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.
A bench warrant has been issued against Barry Norton, Argentine screen actor, under contract to Fox. Norton it appears tears up his tickets from traffic cops and falls to show up in court.

MONEY OR PICTURES?

Danbury, Conn., Dec. 24.
Local folks believe Zlt Thomas, chorister, has gone west to collect a fortune and a ranch bequeathed to her by an uncle, and mebbe so. But in California where she is supposed to be by now, there is a picture colony, and if Zlt doesn't get the bequest, she may get a job.

enough to hold her month old baby. Young man, much embarrassed, denies any knowledge of how large her baby is.

Usual Skin Game

No programs at the Columbia, but the name of the show last week could be called anything. Usual skin game, jokes that would make a shower of CN's a necessity and the usual amount of threat to death of chorus girls, some with faces to frighten grownups more than children.

Isabelle Van, the vamp of the runway, is probably the reason for all the bald heads she careesses so tenderly.

Stars in the audience probably won't think so much of those South Sea beauties next time.

Uplifters selling art books for broadminded people, most of whom couldn't tell the third seat from the fourth, much to the users' disgust. "All about women for 15 cents." What a bargain!

"The Viking" Pleasurable

"The Viking" is a pleasure and a slight for tired-of-black-and-white eyes. What if the sea is too green? It's a beautiful color anyway and so is everything else, including the whiskers.

Pauline Starke is splendid as the Viking-Viqueen. She wears helmets matching her skirts and always her bodice of metal fish scales of nail-heads seemed to take on some of the same color. Greens and browns the color of the red gold of her face, yet when she swathed her head in soft white for her wedding she had a remarkable wardrobe and her only baggage a knitted kerchief she was even more heavily. How she ever kept such perfect teeth before advertising them, but of course the teeth weren't the same era as the costumes.

Finch shows that some boys up in N. about supposed to have been built by the Vikings but says no one knows what happened to the hand of the man. Considering their poor nature they are probably the ship keeper. Up there

Chatter in New York

Elise Bonwit night clubbing.
Helen Henderson's hair now red.
Jack White sick.
Dorothy Johnson after a partner.
Marion Vaughn ill.
Virginia Hildre now singing.
Virginia Hawkins taking cure.
Louise Brooks got a squirrel coat.
Emma Phillips got a milk coat.
Walter Kingsley wears a derby in his office.
A Burton Davis received bowl of goldfish as Xmas present.
Rita Stone, of "Itain or Shinc," transferred to Carroll.
Ann U. Stillman at Polyclinic with bill on neck.
Autobiography of Flo Ziegfeld expected to hit stage next.
Fred Morgan, cartoonist, is said to shake a mean blackbottom.
Gus Edwards' story of his life in Collier's.
Five Theatrical Sisters with Earl Carroll.
All both laying off everything but the hassos.
Eddie Cantor's new song in show, "Don't Take Your Gal to a Party."
Ben Pollack returned to the Park Central.

Arthur Brown yodeling at Richmond club.
George Madison, fresh from U of Ore, added to bookish staff of Met.
Mac Slattery and Lucille Adair ringers for each other.
At Bryan bound for coast; these some.
Mary Adams as lead in "Connecticut Yankee."
Van Laver is playing night clubs in Shanghai, China.
Adam and Eve never gave their last names.
Libby Holman, of "Rainbow," going in vaude.
Vida Murrel excited! She was a bridesmaid at a wedding in Philly.
Donna Reed, of "Totsy," Dore on one of the "Clubs" Madrid.
Jack Kearns returning from Hollywood.
Frances Joyce got a diamond bracelet for Xmas. Another burn.
That Rolls-Royce you see Viola Weller driving, holiday gift.
A show girl in "Vanities," received 147 Xmas cards.
Patrice Grandice changed her name to Patrice Annatt Gridler.

Frances DeLacey won the beauty contest in Queens.
Lee Marcus, chief film seller for PBO, is holiday-bound for Hollywood.
Adagio tries called broadcasters because one got nervous when the female is acutely tossed.
Billy Gibson, personal jeweler to the main stem mob, cleaning up this season.
Mime Renee Clement, concert violinist, returned last week from Paris.
Harpo Marx has an idea to give St. John Ervine a farewell dinner the night after the boat sails.
Mrs. James F. Gillespie and Patricia Atlantic City-ling, following Mrs. Jimmie's operation.
Stray drunk stuck in the Miranda's misleading swinging door chirps, "Where's the subway?"
A picture in "Vanities" dramatic critic, writing specials for Dye, Post.
Isabelle Van's age in the Columbia court case last week was given at 30.
Jane Lane says her boy friend has never called for her since she moved to Flatbush.
Geiger and Braverman, furniture shop patronized by Broadwayites for 36 years, going on auction block.
Carroll ordered the boys in his new show to appear in bathing suits for rehearsal.
Kitty Ringstul is battling for Eva Puck in "Show Boat." Miss Puck is recovering from appendicitis.
Flo Spink fell off one of the horses in "Treasure Girl." In hospital.
Call them Vitaphone drunks when they can't stop talking, says Al White.
One of the Street's m.c.'s received for Xmas 23 bottles of Laveris.
Gert Vandervilt has been making plenty of reservations these nights.
Elsie Connors' husband gave her a mink coat for Xmas. Burn up item.
Paul Whiteinan has a solid gold baton engraved "Merry Xmas," from Bob and Jan Johnson.
"We were by home till late this week, mother," says the modern girl, dressing for a party.
Archie Mayo, who directed Fanny Brice's picture, was a shirt salesman.
Moselle Ranson recuperated from flu gets a new apartment, lest the germs still be in the old one.
The wags sent Jack Kearns a Christmas greeting wire signed Tex Rickard.
The names of three Broadway columnists appear throughout Eddie Dochow's novel shortly to appear in Liberty.
LeRoy Prinz slashed accidentally across the face during sword duel rehearsal of "Floretta." May be scarred for life.
Some of the regular mob are complaining of shooting pains in the eye, suffering from Yuletide hatching.
Cleo Cullen dropped her foot too soon in a night club skit and was hit in the face with a cane. Big swelling.
Hazel Forbes, of "Whoopee," turned in her nose to Ziegfeld and goes with the gang for \$200 a week. Her mother is angry. So's Ziggy.
Sammy Lee will stage the dances for "The Grand March" Eddie Dowling's musical based on "The Big Parade."
Marion O'Day obtained leave of Earl Carroll to remain in "Vanities" although she rehearsed for "Floretta." Unresolved.
DeSylva, Brown and Henderson handed out large bonuses to their boys after a spectacularly successful season.
Nan Birmingham through posing for sculptors. Studios are too cold.
Calliope installed in "Showboat" at \$250 a week with operator, when Ziegfeld learned it was the one point of recalcitrance.
Fluency is discovering more hideaway Texas picture houses playing attractions than he ever dreamed existed. The annual Christmas tree erected by the Electrical League of New York in Times Square has been up over a week.
Sister Rene visiting Arch Selwyn twice daily at the Harbor hospital. Arch had appendicitis. Discharged last Saturday.
When the statistical Broadwayite read that 28,754 crooked night clubs were to be merged he figured that there would be only 245,212 left.
Beth Brown, according to report, has turned down a trio of offers from film producers offering 15 and more thousands of dollars for the picture rights for "Applause."
Creighton Post is reviewing pictures for the Evening Post, hav-

ing succeeded John Hutchens. Feet until recently was connected with an advertising agency.
Evelyn Deane, added attraction to the Durantes at the Rendezvous is the daughter of the chief clerk in Judge Sabbath's divorce court, Chicago.
The Hannibal cafe, formerly at 33 West 46th street, has moved to grand new quarters at 110 West 46th street.
An 8th avenue frankfurter and roll corporation has a testimonial from a Ziegfeld show girl that hot dogs are responsible for her beautiful complexion.
At the weekly luncheon of the AMAA Thursday, Mike Simmons introduced a gagged rooster said to be related to the world-famous de Luca and himself a member of the Metropolitan.
Mickey Seiden holds a Broadway record, having danced in eight night clubs, "Rio Ritz," "Ziegfeld," "Felix" and "Four other musical shows, aside from vaudeville, all in three years."
Marion Harris singing "Did You Mean It" meaningly is with Phil Baker at the latter's Little Club premiere. Miss Harris sold the ballad with its torch lyrics as if she meant it.
Leading literary lions, wanted for a self-revealing Vitaphone talking short in the works by Warren Lewis, are said to have balked at the idea of appearing as a set of kibitzers.
The dramatic newspaper bunch will miss the 27 Star Club, temporarily suspended because Saul Abraham and Bill Fields are away with "Rain or Shine." Strictly private.
Ben Bernie has it that Lindy's (restaurant) now has tablecloths in honor of the new police commissioner. Ben Bernie gags that with Grover Whalen the new appointee, the cops are being measured for spats.
A fellow trying to sell shoelaces at back-doors was asked if he would please return the next day by a prospective woman customer: "I can't," he replied. "I have to make a talking short."
Fadlocks were broken on three speakeasies. Officers were compelled by the court to return and break everything. The places were Charlie Fern's club, 134 W. 50th street, and another in 56th street.
Whitey's appearance at Carnegie Hall Sunday night and Universal shooting the event inside and out for Paul's picture, had traffic blocked up 7th avenue reaching into Central Park.
Everybody was out early the morning before Christmas Broadway at nine a. m. Monday looked like Broadway at 11.30 p. m. any Saturday night except that the humps were off.
When Jimmy Durante was in the hospital, "de guerillas" (meaning the band) went to visit him in tuxedos just before going to work at the Rendezvous. It sent Jimmy's stock way up with the hospital staff. All of the nurses lined up in the corridor to glimpse the society people visiting Mr. Durraant.
Top hats and evening gowns are often noticed in the Automats, especially those of the main stem, these nights. English actors and chorus girls from "This Year of Grace" favor a nicker-in-the-slot category on 6th avenue for that late supper bite.
George Kaufman and Herman Mankiewicz, formerly on the Thugs together, were in a poker game with Hank last and paid George off with a check saying, "Wait a while before you cash this." Kaufman asked, "Is tomorrow too soon?" Answer was, "Too late."
Forgot to Remember
Mabel, the wife of Dor Boyer, Times Square pharmacist, and herself of the show business, was given judgment for \$1,500 against Malcolm Strauss on a cash loan.
Strauss, head of the picture corporation bearing his name, borrowed the sum last summer and forgot to remember.

Lennon May Be Made Inspector, Is Rumored

Joe Daly, demoted detective by the new police commissioner, was the last of the "Big Four." He had a wide acquaintance on Broadway, and worked on the Rothstein case.
The "Big Four" comprised Coughlin, Roddy, Daly and Brierton Coughlin was boss of the detectives in Brooklyn. Roddy was a real gem as a sleuth. "Syl" Brerton, one time bodyguard to Gov. Hughes, also a corking sleuth, was another.
It is said Commissioner Whalen will not disturb Captain Edward Lennon in whose precinct the gambler was slain. Rumor has it that Captain Lennon is to be made an inspector.
Another squad expected to be wiped out according to those in the know are Jimmy Brannighan and his Broadway Sleuths. Brannighan, a few years in the department, was made head of this squad. It has been created on New Year's. The Broadway squad makes their headquarters a few doors from Lindy's, where Arnold Rothstein made his playground.
Acting Lieut. Johnny Brodick, head of the Industrial Squad, will be retained, it is expected. He is feared by the mob that make the alleged night clubs their hangout. Gorillas and gunmen respect Brodick.
Marty Owens, detective has been assigned as body guard to Governor-elect Roosevelt.

Chatter in Loop

Inaccurate Biographies
Florence Couthou
Florence Couthou, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Couthou of the local Couthous, is queen of the theatre ticket agencies in Chicago. She has gained considerable fame as a manipulator, although the directors are not happy. She comes from manilo, meaning a subdivision of the Roman Legion containing from 60 to 120 people. Seems to be little or no sense to that.
Possibly if from 60 to 120 folks wanted to see a hit show they'd have to visit one of Mrs. Couthou's agencies, but the folks at this writing are not known offhand to be associated in either socially or politically with the Roman Legion, even as a subdivision. Let's drop it.
Mrs. Couthou is one of those girls who pay a dollar to squawk about a dime. She'll give \$250 to charity and remind herself that she'd be silly to give even \$25.
Meantime she claims the agency business is terrible with her left hand and buys the first ten rows with her right. That leaves her just enough time to wish she had quit the business yesterday while adding up the profits today.
That's the way women are, and all anybody can do about it is to say, "That's the way women are."
Mrs. Couthou has a maid named Mary, who has been with her 16 years, and tells her plenty. After a hard day of dishing out executive orders Mrs. Couthou comes home only to be told that she'll have to eat out and why didn't she eat out in the first place? But, the first piece was Mrs. Couthou's office. Mary, of course, doesn't know that yet.
Recollections of this modern woman are pinocchio, bridge and the stock market. Pinocchio is easy. The stock market is beginning to annoy her. Bridge is really her recreation; so many premiums in it.
Mrs. Couthou once had an idea of driving Lake Michigan for a subdivision. That's probably the connection with the Roman Legion. She may do it still, very still.

Boyle Woolfink had to shut his desk early when wife needed an eighth hand for her bridge party.
If you know him, the idea of Woolfink gossiping with seven femmes will choke you.
old days on the slightest provocation, keeps in touch with the present trend in nite life by frequenting a sandwich shop around the square which patronizes the show girls as they have been seen.
Hop along from table to table to converse with the fems who catch his eye, but not caring to have the younger male element label him a chaser, he moves on in time to avoid grabbing a check.
The A. K. is rapidly becoming known as the Sappo's best known table mixer.

NEW YORK THEATRES

8 Mats. Xmas Week—Wed., Fri., Sat.
WILL ROGERS and DOROTHY STONE
in the Musical Extravaganza
"THREE CHEERS"
GLOBE
The Smartest Play in Town
"THE HIGH ROAD"
A Comedy by Frederick Lonsdale
FULTON W. 46th St.—Eves. 8:30.
Mrs. W. 7:30. Fri., Sat., 8:30.
3 Mats. Xmas Week—Wed., Fri., Sat.

MARK STRAND Broadway & 41st Street
MIDNIGHT SHOW NIGHTLY AT 11:30
Daily at 10:30 A. M. Seats 35c to 1.1.
ROD LA ROCQUE
"Captain Swagger" with SUE CAROL
A Picture with SOUND
WARNER BROS. VITAPHONE FOX MOVIE TON NEWS
B'way & 51st St.
Midnight Pictures
Nightly 11:30
"Dream of Love"
Production
with Nils Asther
Aileen Pringle
JOAN CRAWFORD
HOLIDAY REVUE, a Revue with Harland Dizon, Al Williams, Louis Broca, Chester Dale, Dave Scholer and his Capellans, Captain Grand, Fredson, David Manning, Conducted by Mervine VAN & SCHENK.

New Amsterdam "The House Beautiful"
West 121 St., Erlanger, Dillingham & Ziegfeld, Inc., W. 121 St. & 5th St.
EDDIE CANTOR
in Ziegfeld Sensation
"WHOOPEE"
ZIEGFELD THEATRE, 54th St. & 6th Av.
Mats. THURS. & SAT.
SHOW BOAT
Norma Terris, Howard Marsh, Eva Park, Sunny White, Helen Morgan, Edna May Oliver and CHARLES WINNINGER

Theatre Guild Productions
Shows available for all performances now
at the following theatres
WINGS OVER EUROPE
Extra Matinee Xmas
Martin Beck Thea.,
45th St., W. of 8th Ave.
Eves. 8:30. Mats. This Week:
Thurs. and Sat. 11:30
Morning Performances for Children
Wed. Thurs. Fri., Sat. 10:30
Sue Hastings' Marionettes
MARTIN BECK THEATRE at 11:30 A. M.
Prices 50c to \$1.50
Major Barbara
Extra Matinee Xmas
GUILD Thea., W. 52nd St. Eves. 8:30
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 2:30 Sharp
Moves to Republic Thea. Dec. 31

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Thursday and Saturday Matinees, 2:30
IRENE BORDONI
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A MUSICOEDY
with Irving Aaronson's
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W. C. Fields GREATEST REVUE
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Unemployed Actors

Reports of unemployed actors out of work just now isn't the hint of a catastrophe in the speaking theatre that it might suggest. No question but some actors are out of work; some always are and maybe more than customary right now, but more pertinent is how many of those unemployed actors are actors?

Mechanical entertainment and the decline of the legit field have contributed to a theatre condition which has temporarily at least cut down the demand for in person talent on the stage. The road situation has affected the legit troupers to some extent, where the increased stock has not taken up the oversupply, while talking shorts may be accountable for a considerable number of yards acts being idle. And another reason or so, more or less important, such as a theatre changing policy.

Behind all of that is the influx of actors into the show business within the past five years. From dramatic and dance schools, from cabarets, from the picture theatres and from amateur ranks, not only with the specialists but the local community theatre playing amateur plays. These "actors" came into the business by the thousands and they won't get out. They are not actors and never will be, for otherwise they would have worked. Talent works in the show business. It finds itself; there's a place for it and it is seldom overlooked.

But not by the thousands or the hundreds. Young people who drifted to the stage, getting there by one means or another, but sufficiently long enough to wear grease paint, became convinced they had talent—they were and are actors, according to their innermost thought. They won't go home and they won't go to work. They prefer to starve in the show business rather than make a living by working at something else at which they possibly could not be worse.

That grease paint has a terrific fascination evidently. Once they put it on they never want to take it off. It must be the posing as an actor. Else these still amateur and impossible actors would return to their homes where they are known, and could be employed. If it's vanity and the folks back home must never know, that won't alter the fact that eating becomes necessary after a while, even in the show business.

The acting end of the show business has been overcrowded for 10 years. Or longer. With the advent of the picture house stage show and the increase of cabarets or night clubs, it has been smothered by actors. So those actors who are not can make up their minds that hanging around theatres and hoping for something to do in the stage way, that the situation always will remain the same, while they make it so; that there are more actors than places for them to act. They are superfluous and useless.

When the actors who are not to work, without mentioning that immense horde of foolish persons who go to Hollywood leave it, but still want to stilet to the theatre, there will not be reports of thousands of unemployed actors, and the actors who are actors will then be working all of the time.

Inside Stuff—Pictures

Jos. I. Schnitzer, president of FBO, has been reported about to visit the coast, but there appears no signs he will do so right away. The coast actors who are not are under William LeBaron. It is said Schnitzer and LeBaron have outlined the FBO production schedule for the coming year.

Mail carriers in Brooklyn placed placards for the Paramount Theatre in that borough among shops and stores on their routes as the post office's reciprocation for the co-operation given by the theatre in furthering the "mail your Christmas packages early" campaign.

The house arranged for Postmaster Firman of Brooklyn to make a movie-tone talking subject shown at the house every performance.

Owing to the systems being adopted, it is thought that all-talking pictures on an average will be made in less than half the time given to full length silent films.

Production supervisors report that the more time is now given to advance preparation (scripts, dialog, rehearsals), and that the directors have less actual authority and are more limited in scope. Besides which, all shooting generally takes place on one stage.

From the practical angle it seems that directors would normally have several studio set-ups in filming each sequence, getting as much footage as possible, so as to have a greater selection for their own protection. All that is out for the talkers.

Pathe is making a number of sound shorts with a news slant to insert in the Pathe sound news reel.

Lilyan Tashman drew three weeks salary from Paramount without appearing before the camera. She was engaged for a leading part in Par's all-talker, "A Genius Is Born," for which O. P. Heggie was brought from New York to the coast. Then Par decided to shelve the Robinson story, temporarily at least. Miss Tashman's contract guaranteed at least three weeks' work and she collected.

Leslie C. Wicks, sales manager for Warner-First National pictures, in Australia, was visiting the First National studios in Burbank and was taken about the studio to meet the stars. When he was introduced to Colleen Moore, he had to ask the second time who she was as he did not get her name at first. After the sales manager had parted, Miss Moore remarked that she guessed she wasn't such a big shot after all when a man who had sold her pictures could not recognize her in the flesh.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's first full short produced on the coast by Gus Edwards cost around an even \$125,000. This two reeler is called the "International Revue." It is in dialog and song, also technical.

The star trailer, which M-G-M sent to England for the opening of the Empire, London, is being commercialized by that organization. It is a talking short in which Ernest Torrence functions as m. c. and John Gilbert, Lewis Stone, Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford and George K. Arthur appear.

Showing at the Astor, N. Y. it has been released around Manhattan M-G-M figuring it a profitable investment.

Cecil B. DeMille says that settlement by picture producer of pictureism suits, whether the plaintiff is right or wrong, is a very bad feature. Recently Joan Crawford, Ernest Torrence, Alvin Karpis, and other names in the production of "The King of Kings." The attorney for Pathe figured that it was cheaper to settle out of court than have the matter brought to trial as the expense of litigation would have been at least \$2,000. They secured a settlement for \$750.

This settlement, DeMille says, undoubtedly inspired William Trautmann to bring suit recently, charging pictureism, also on "The King of Kings." It seems that Trautmann had sent in an idea, after the story

had been finished and the picture was in production. This reached Mrs. Adams, plaintiff for Trautmann, who returned the manuscript to Trautmann. DeMille says that, regardless of expense, this and all other future pictureism suits will be defended in court by him.

Henry Gerrard, Paramount cameraman, cranked for 32 consecutive hours, filming the closing shots of "Long Walk," which William Wellman directed. After one day's rest, he jumped on another assignment, the new Emil Jannings picture, temporarily titled, "A Tale of the Alps."

M-G-M recently had a picture "All at Sea" completed, in which Karl Dane and Charles K. Arthur were featured, directed by Alf Goulding. Officials got a flash at the picture made, in 24 days, and decided to expend an extra \$40,000, so Sam Wood was called in to shoot added scenes and provide embellishment.

J. S. Stenbridge, firearms expert in the prop department at Paramount's coast studio, has added 200 German rifles to his stock. Guns were left on Belgian battlefields in the first German rush of 1914, and were part of huge quantities of salvaged war-material untouched since the war.

One of Paramount's foreign reps acquired the rifles and shipped them to the studio. Stenbridge now has more than 5,000 firearms of all types in his charge.

A new route to a place in front of the camera has been uncovered by Robert Schable. Two years ago Schable, while waiting a chance to break into films, secured a position as personal business manager for George Fitzmaurice at First National. The director recently needed a man to play a role. He tested his b. m. for photograph and voice and Schable got the part.

An independent producer, newcomer from the east, told a cameraman who had photographed his last picture he would like to see the "works" of a sound studio, but found entrance to one difficult to obtain. The cameraman said, "Easy enough. I have no assistant for tonight. I'll hire you." It was a long and all night's work, but the producer was game and got the information he sought even if the cameraman received somewhat untended support.

Active production by Warners in the east starts today (Wednesday) in the sound-rejuvenated Vitaphone studios, Brooklyn. Initial work is shorts. Prior to the opening a number of technicians, cameraman and directors arrived from the Hollywood studio. Regular departments, duplicating those on Sunset Boulevard, are being established on this end. Of these one of the first is the writers. Edward Joseph, formerly with Fox, heads this branch. Another is music explained by Norman Spencer, who assisted Louis Silvers on the coast. Edward DuPar, cameraman, is also on the local lot. Murray Roth will act as director and be in charge after Bryan Foy leaves.

Of all the rag Xmas cards in circulation, Charlie Pettjohn's cops the bare bone. Incidentally, just before the holidays Charlie sought out French Lick to lead a bad tummy.

At the conclusion of United Artists first general sales convention held in Chicago last week a group of the sales boys decided to present Al Lichtman with a piece of jewelry as a memento of the occasion. Four of the dotted line boys were elected to administer the funds. They selected a jewelry store and walked in. The proprietor on seeing the film salesman enter went into a panic, hid himself, refused to wait on them and called for a cop. The arrival of a cop and the showing of credentials proving none of the film salesman had police records convinced the jeweler that it was a bona fide purchase. Al Lichtman is telling the story as the high light of the convention.

Although the Theatre Owners Chamber of Commerce is fighting for interchangeability of talker product, yet right in its own headquarters the switchboard is locked after 6 p. m. and only a slot phone is in operation.

Reason for this is that previously the coin box exhibits would forget long distance calls until after the operator had gone home. Then they would forget to charge themselves with the call.

Purchase of the Fischer-Paramount chain of theatres in Wisconsin by L. K. Brin, Milwaukee theatre operator, involves \$2,500,000 to be paid over a period of 10 years. Fischer will receive no money personally. Everything will be paid into a bank, with the latter taking care of creditors and all indebtedness. At the end of 10 years Fischer will be given the equities he has on properties, with interest. Joe Leo, vice-president of Fox Enterprises, attempted to purchase the P-P circuit but lost out.

Inside Stuff—Vaudeville

Grover Whalen, the new N. Y. Police Commissioner, dropped into the Jefferson in 14th street last Thursday night at 7:37 to look over the Pathe-Photophone short of the Commish issuing his proclamation, inspecting traffic and some of the police offshoots soon after his induction into office.

Whalen's visit to the Jefferson didn't give Manager Eddie Lenihan a chance to cop any advance stuff. The latter offered Whalen a box but the Commish ain't doing with him, including his secretary, Edward Flynn, the new Chief Inspector O'Brien, and Commissioner William Walsh of the Bureau of Standards, occupied seats in the main auditorium.

It was Lenihan's impression that it was the first time that Commissioner Whalen had ever seen any of the new talkers. Anyway the commissioner's laconic comment wasn't any too complimentary. The talker, about 500 feet, was followed by other screen stuff with the Whalen party remaining for a bit of it.

The Whalen sound short wasn't a special at the Jefferson but Whalen selected the house because it was the nearest to his Fifth avenue residence, near 12th street. Several cops did guard duty outside while he was in the theatre.

Executives in Keith-Albee-Orpheum holding over from Keith-Albee-Orpheum are reported to have been required to cut their salaries. E. P. Albee, holding over for a year under contract with Keith-Albee-Orpheum, is said to have cut through assuming another salary from K-A-O, to an amount equalling \$40,000, leaving his present salary around \$7,000.

Manuel Hoffman has twice cut his salary, with the second cut leaving nothing. Neither does Hoffman hold any post official position with Keith-Albee-Orpheum, but he has possibly explained the reason does not attend K-A-O executive meetings.

John J. Murdock is probably out of vaudeville operation. His salary with K-A-O and with Keith-Albee before was \$2,500 a week, invariable when compared to the other Keith-Albee-K-A-O men who work for Keith-Albee-Orpheum. Murdock took it that some of his like salary when entering Keith's 26 years ago. Additionally he was to participate in increased business for Keith-Albee-Orpheum in connection. At that time Murdock was worth \$100,000. He must have been quite a number as he is now paid at over \$12,000 a week.

Mae West Waves Aside Peaches Browning's Ad

Mae West has objected to "Peaches" Browning in "The Squealer" being broadcast along with Mae West in the papers. Mac kicked to the Linders and the copy was changed.

"They had her name in the same type as mine, too," said Mae, "and I made them change that."

"Diamond Lil" is a different corporation from that of "The Squealer" and they had no right to advertise the shows together.

"Jack Linder thinks he is another Jed Harris and is crazy on this Jack Linder presents' stuff. "Because they don't know anything about the show business, the Linders put a 50c attraction like "Peaches" on Broadway, where she has no draw. They thought they could save their show, but it's no good and she made it worse. "Every stenographer in the Linder office has \$5 in "The Squealer," Mae continued, "and if it had not been such a rotten show I would have sued the Linders long ago for my share of the royalties, because when I let Mark Linder have half the royalties of "Diamond Lil" he promised to share "The Squealer" royalties with me."

Future Plays

Luella La Verne has temporarily discarded her proposed revival of "The Merchant of Venice" and has substituted "Hot Water" as next at the LaVerne, New York, which supplants "Sun-Up" in three weeks. "Hot Water" is a comedy by Helen Dayton and Louise Parratt.

"Lady Fingers" has a title for "Must Be Done" set as title for "Easy Come, Easy Go" to oust "Night Hostess" at the Vanderbilt, New York, three weeks hence. Latter attraction probably moving to another house. Cast includes Eddie Buzzell, Dick Keene, Dolores Fariss, Gertrude McDonald, Al Sexton, Roger Gray, Esther Muir, Margie White, Robert Spencer, Milton Pollock, Edwin Walters, William Griffith, Marshall Sextet, Lyle Andrews, producer.

"Lady Dedlock," starring Margaret Anglin, and coming to the Ambassador, New York, next week, is in for four weeks. Producers is in for the road the big coup for both star and play but want the New York stamp before going out. Support includes Herbert Druce, Francis Compton, Ethel Griffies, Robert Vivian, Katherine Lorimer, Robert Harrison, St. Clair Bayfield, William Campbell, John Ivan, Edward Cooper, Thomas Holding, Margaret Shackelford, Charles Crommer, Esta Rollo, Charles O'Neill.

Alexander Carr will head "The Guinea Pig." Preston Scurges is producing and the show will open cold at the Cotton, New York.

"The Whip Hand," Herman Shumlin is casting. "Gypsy," which Richard Herndon is producing, has its out of town premiere next week and follows into the Klaw, New York, Jan. 7. Cast includes Louis Calhern, Charles Foster, Jessie Busby, Mary Young, John Marston and Lester Vall.

"Neighbors," produced by Frank Keller, opens at Easton, Pa., Jan. 9 and comes to a New York house two weeks later. Cast includes Eugene Jackson, Harold Thompson, Arthur Skinner, Mable Tremayne, Helen Trimmer, Robert Crowley, Frances Collins, William S. Deane and Marlon.

"Fair Play" goes into rehearsal next week as the initial production of Bergen Productions, of which Lewis Bergen is managing director. Cast includes Elsie Ferguson, Florence Elsie, Dorothy Marge, William Kennedy, Charles Mayberry and Marion Bollerman. "Headin' South," the McIntyre and Heath musical which folded several weeks ago may be sent out again by the Shuberts with a re-organized cast sans McIntyre and Heath.

Reports have it that on the former tour the show was too heavily hooked up to make the grade as a road attraction.



JOHN PHILBRICK

Mr. Philbrick is now playing the John Sheehin part in "Good News" at the Chamin Theatre, New York. He is of the vaudeville team Philbrick & Devoe, and has previously appeared on Broadway in "Captain Jinks."

Direction RALPH G. FARNUM 1560 Broadway

Few Interested in Stock Mgrs' Ass'n

A mid-season conclave of Theatrical Stock Managers' Association held at the Hotel Lincoln, New York, proved a bust on attendance and other angles. Only 18 of the claimed 78 members responded to the call. The press was shunted away so as not to notice the slim attendance and a closed meeting declared.

James Thatcher presided in absence of Lester Al Smith, president. As best as could be gleaned the meeting was called to pep up the membership, especially delinquents not kicking in the \$5 weekly dues. Someone in the know hinted the meeting was called for a showdown as to whether the organization should continue or disband with not enough on hand to put the matter to a vote.

A check up on the organization with ripples from here and there figure it's a flop from bettering conditions in the field angle, but may survive as a social contact among those desirous of continuing to kick in the dues. Thus far any revenue derived has gone to finance the association's office in New York, at the turn of secretary fees, the latter on a \$75 weekly salary and the printing of a monthly four page bulletin distributed among its members.

The scheme for lowering of stock release royalties, at the time of organization the big bait in getting the stock men together has not been accomplished.

Ritzzy

Leblings Entertaining Joe Lebling has been at the Breakers, Palm Beach, since the middle of December, to remain till the middle of January. He does considerable entertaining.

Broadway, as well as Fifth avenue, is anticipating Jan. 5 at the Sherry-Netherland Hotel, for on that night Mr. and Mrs. William May "Circus Ball." Mr. Wright is a nephew of the late Mrs. William C. Whitney, stepmother of Harry Payne Whitney. He was divorced by Sally Dixon, who then married Gerald May.

Mrs. Wright was Esther Cobb, and sings professionally as Mme. Colina Wright. She was the second of the five wives of Owen Johnson, the novelist, son of Robert Underwood Johnson, former ambassador to Italy. The first wife was Mary Galt; the second, Lila Garde; the third, Catherine Burton and the fourth and current wife was originally Gertrude Boeve, and was then Mrs. Mackay and Mrs. LeBoutillier, almost equalling Owen's record.

A feature of last year's "Circus Ball" was the appearance of Beatrice Lillie, who, as La Josephine, took in a girdle of bananas, other costumed guests at that function, including Mayor Walker, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. Graham Fair Vanderbilt, Prince Dimitri, Princess Obolensky, Mr. and Mrs. Robert

Making Wrong Films Right

(Continued from page 1)

the Embassy, New York, for M.G.M a year ago, reaches cowboy land, he will find a contemporary on story psychology a committee-made up of studio executives. While he's being paid to hammer home logic regardless of box office from the formal angle, if the formalists hold their line, it will be up to Mr. Laemmle himself to unlock the jury, somewhat in the Hays-Film board system of a seventh arbitrator deciding the issue.

Before any money has been spent on a picture will be Marston's time to function. He will pass on the continuity of every feature and describe just how it should be shot to register logically in the theatre.

The rest of the psychologist's schedule has not been set. He will be allowed to wander around the U. S. plant during story discussions and apply psychology whenever psychology is needed. He will even have authority in picking the players for the stories he okays, but in this phase he will function as a consultant for directors, casting and megaphoning. His work will not be definitely set until the outcome of the trial workout, which has tacked to it the long-term in U. City.

Laemmle's Dream Psychology in his workshop has been the dream of Carl Laemmle ever since newspapers began to ask the question in the lead. Last July he got it on the record in his ad in the Saturday Evening Post. Then he said he was looking for a "mental showman" and would pay real money.

While a lot of people may have taken the ad for a gag, hundreds of letters poured in. Some of the greatest minds, psychologically speaking, in the country, sought Laemmle's opinion of their cerebral qualifications for Universal City authorities maintain at the home office.

But of those letters which were from non-mentalists, the majority rolled up the vote for Marston. In the Universal, through P. D. Cochran, got in touch with Marston. The latter first gave his qualifications by letter, before having the chat which sold the U. president.

In his reply Marston wrote he would rather be called doctor than professor. Any fortune teller or what-not could take on the faculty title while only a man of letters rates the doctor. His definition of the differentiation is:

"You earn the title of doctor by your brains (generally) and the title of professor comes in connection with academic teaching."

Doc Sees Advantages

Already the doctor sees many other advantages. As the originator of the Psychology Theory of Consciousness which he published in 1926 he suggests that if Universal intends to publicize it along with himself they use the angle that it is: "The first complete publication of a new theory of emotions, wherein emotions discovered and identified just as elements of hydrogens and oxygen in chemistry."

Incidentally, the doctor has been through Harvard three times. He got almost as many letters as there are in the typewriter. He graduated "with great praise," as the Latin translates for indie readers, in 1915. Then he went back again and got through the law school in 1918. Still persistent he returned a third time to go through the Harvard laboratory. Then the doctor's degree came his way in 1921.

About that time, the psychologist told U, he discovered the Systolic Blood Pressure Deceptive test. This, he said, he used on 55 people, "a man and woman paired together," he describes it, at the Embassy.

As to his film experience, Marston says he got most of that in his undergraduate days when he tried his hand for the first time on scenarios. He knocked out a script which the old Edison Company told him was the best ever then turned it over to American collectors. The story went this way, he reveals to Universal: "The big scene was where the hero, regarded as a coward by his girl and friends, jumped down into the cut in the subway to rescue a child who had fallen there, threw the child up to the front of the platform and clung to the front of the subway train as it rushed down upon him."

"I thought it was wonderful," Marston added. Regarding his acceptance of the job, the psychologist credits Mr. Laemmle with using the first film product with using the system which makes a man make a system with the public emotionally." This comes after his observation that motion pictures "might well be called Emotion Pictures."

Marston makes known that he will welcome letters from the public on its picture likes and dislikes.

Cort, Chi, for Sale, But Not to Shuberts

Chicago, Dec. 24.

Urban J. (Sport) Herrmann, owner of the Cort theatre, left, is reported ready to sell to anybody but the Shuberts.

The Cort is in the center of the Loop, on Dearborn street, near Randolph. At one time it was the biggest legit movie maker in Chicago, and is still clearing an annual profit.

Herrmann at present is doing well in politics and has transferred most of his interests to that field. Although the Shuberts have been doing plenty of theatre buying in town, Herrmann is reported preferring to tear down his house if he doesn't get it offers from anyone else. He is said to be considering building a hotel on the site, if no one buys the theatre.

Tenants Fail to Recover

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 24.

Emma M. Schoen and E. J. McMahon, former lessees of Empire theatre, were unsuccessful in their suit for \$30,000 damages against New Britain Trust Company, trustee of the estate of Patrick S. McMahon. They recently leased the theatre for ten years, advancing \$15,000 to be applied on the last year's rent.

The bank ousted the lessees in October, 1927, by an eviction order. Mrs. Schoen and McMahon asked for \$30,000 damages, claiming that amount due because of the \$15,000 on deposit and a similar sum expended for improvements. The yearly rental of the house was to have been \$15,000.

BIRMINGHAM STOCK JAN. 7

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 24.

Charles L. Wagner stock to open here Jan. 7 at the Exchange. Here of Horace Sheehan. Company will alternate weekly between Birmingham and Atlanta.

Stock in Hackensack

Lyle, Hackensack, N. J., which scripped twice three weeks ago, reopened this week with dramatic stock.

Stock in Manchester

Manchester, N. H., Dec. 24. A stock operated by William F. Canning, formerly of Portland, Me., is due to shortly open at the local Palace.

William C. Dimock, as director, and Ralph H. Cole, scenic, are engaged.

Mrs. Carter's Southern Tour

Mrs. Leslie Carter in "Shanghai" starts a road tour in Ohio, O., New Year's week. A southern route has been booked.

Claims Filed Against Young for Salaries

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

More trouble for Felix Young, producer-manager, arrested in New York on fraud charges filed by Noah Beery.

Following the close in San Francisco of Young's cost production of "The Marriage Bed," four of the members of the cast filed claims with Equity against him, amounting to approximately \$4,000.

Owen Moore, leading man, has a claim for one week's salary and two extra performances; Alice Joyce, leading woman, for one week's salary and the goods used in the piece; Doris Lloyd, for gowns, and Edwin Sturgis, for expenses incidental to advance work done in San Francisco.

Equity's coast office stated that the claims are covered by a bond.

MOROSCO'S REVIVAL

Reported Financial Assistance from Son for "Letty"

Oliver Morosco, who recently staged more or less of a comeback on the west coast, is planning a west coast revival of "So Long Letty," one of his former New York musical successes.

Morosco has been negotiating with Florence Moore to take the lead in the revival, with nothing closed as yet.

Since Morosco's divorce from his second wife, Selma, Selma Morosco some offers from it is understood that Walter Morosco, his son by former marriage, has provided his father with a financial lift towards a permanent comeback as a producer.

15,000 ACTORS OUT OF WORK

Speakeasy Waiter "Taken" by 2 N. G. Promoters for Closed "Paymates"

"Paymates" has been permanently limboed with cast scattering after several weeks of watchful waiting when H. B. Norris, producer, refused to dump any further coin into the pit to revive it for a New York showing.

Norris is now producing racket, with reports that he financed the only two performances, given in New Rochelle last month, from earnings as a waiter in a side street speakeasy. Besides investing the coin Norris also arranged with his speakeasy boss to permit the troupe to rehearse in the speak, thereby saving the usual \$1 an hour perk for rehearsal halls. Norris claims he did everything he could for a couple of short roll producers, whom he refuses to name, but says that he'll take care of in his own way later.

"The cast had been rounded up on a salary basis with Norris, who agreed to advance enough money for scenery rental and transportation to New Rochelle, also patied into signing the contracts, the promoting boys being N. G. with Equity.

Norris didn't know anything about Equity then but does now through the latter having demanded a bond. This was later fixed through the cast waiving security and they still are, with no redress for laying around a month listening to promises.

Norris isn't shedding any tears over the grand he went for to let the boys open. He's got some of the stock and picture rights, if they mean anything, vowing the producing bug will never bite him again.

As for the cast, they were compensated at the rate of two-nights of the promised weekly salary for the two nights in New Rochelle and four weeks of rehearsing. When pressed for a line on the amounts they blushed rather than mention.

Prov. as Legit's Dog Town Admits It's Now an Ashcan

Providence, Dec. 24.

Providence, once the toughest bark in dog town, is now the ash can as far as legit shows are concerned. The Opera House, venerable road show place, has been dark for two weeks. Previously a second-rate opera company flopped along for awhile. No attractions are listed for the weeks to come, and it looks as though the theatre will be silent for some time.

Big musical companies skirt the town because the theatre is too small to make money, even at capacity. Unless a show is a heralded smash it stays here.

"Comet" with Helen Hayes and \$15,000, only dramatic attraction this season to click.

Asks Hartford Subscribe For New Shubert House

Hartford, Dec. 24.

The Shuberts have asked local theatregoers to shoulder the financial responsibility of the building of a new legit theatre, to replace the antiquated Parson's.

A committee from the chamber of commerce will meet Wednesday to discuss the Shubert proposal.

CANCEL XMAS EVE SHOWS

Chicago, Dec. 24.

With legit business "wax" off all over town, "Abramson's Bossom" Playhouse, and "Hosson Time" Studhaber, both cancelled their proposed Christmas Eve performances tonight. Studios are looking for the coming year.

Dee Loretta on Screen

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Dee Loretta, who played "Lil" in the recent stage production of "Broadway" has been engaged by Universal for the same role in the picture.

Ervine's Opinions

The morning World's critic, St. John Ervine, brought over from London to review Broadway, witnessed one new production last week. He thought "The Kingdom of God" bad.

ACE'S HALF SHOT CHRISTMAS CARD

Chicago, Dec. 24.

Ace, dramatic critic of the Kansas City Journal-Post, startled his friends by using a phoney edition of the paper as a Christmas card, with a wild screamer across the front page reading: "Ace shot on busy downtown street—Attempt on critic's life by a fiend in the Christmas rush."

Detailed reading reveals that Ace was only half-shot, and that his wife went out to a bridge game when informed of his condition; by the police. Writhing deliriously in his hospital cot, according to the story, Ace called out a list of names sent with Cadillac, grand pianos, etc. The list is printed in full, and each received a copy of the phoney edition.

Aside from the nutty lead, the paper is a regular edition of the Journal-Post.

42nd and 7th Ave. Deal Takes in Two Theatres

A really deal of major proportions involving properties at 42nd street and 7th avenue is reported nearly completed. The sale of the Lyric theatre would be involved, the proposal taking in the Republic and the properties on 7th avenue (reilly Broadway) at this point) between the Lyric and 43rd street.

Lyric is owned by the E. E. Snodgrass estate. Republic is owned by Arthur Hammerstein.

1 Show Out

The holiday week has but one definite closing, "Tin Pan Alley" at the Republic. It was reported shutting down two weeks ago. Several other attractions remaining here for the holiday trade will go off or take to the road next week.

Kay Johnson, Film Lead

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Kay Johnson, who recently closed with "The Silver Cord" at the Figueroa Playhouse, has been chosen by C. B. DeMille to play the female lead in "Demianite". It goes into production Jan. 5 at M-G-M studios.

Miss Johnson in private life is the wife of John Cromwell, stage actor and picture director.

AHEAD AND BACK

John Willstach has returned to his first love, publicity work, and is handling the Lew Cantor show.

"Comet" Harold Berg, who led the Cantor assignment, is in Philadelphia doing press for the production of "The Show" (see page 11).

Leon Blum, who led the Cantor assignment, is in Philadelphia doing press for the production of "The Show" (see page 11).

BENCHLEY'S AUTO SHORT

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Benchley's auto short, "The Benchley Show" is to be produced by Benchley and his wife, and will be shown at the Lyric theatre.

YULETIDE TIME IS 'ALL A FAKE'

Unemployed Professionals Divided Into 10,000 Legits And 5,000 Variety Performers — Committee Formed to Alleviate Conditions

RUNNING UP BILLS

Chaotic conditions in all branches of show business, pictures excepted, has created a breadline of unemployed thespians in New York and elsewhere in numbers unprecedented in the history of show business.

The present army of unemployed eclipses in numbers the temporary panic during the Equity strike of 1917.

A casual count shows that over 15,000 actors are and have been carrying the banner for months, also living in escrow, piling up hotel bills with friendly hostesses whose proprietors haven't the heart to toss them out with the Yule season spirit in the air, but don't know how much longer they will be able to stand the gaff of the deadbeats.

Tailors, eateries and barber shops also have been carrying the burden on the cuff, especially those in theatrical districts who know the racket well enough to know the show folk have to keep up a front despite adversity.

The layoff figure divided into classes shows that more than 10,000, practically two-thirds, of Equity's membership which covers the legit division are without employment; add the other 5,000 of those without engagement in the variety division.

With no immediate relief in sight to alleviate the unemployment situation, the Managers Protective Association and Equity are combining forces in the shape of a joint ways and means committee which hopes to partially solve the staggering problem.

William A. Brady will head the manager sector of the committee with Frank Gilmore for Equity representing the latter group. The committee may attempt to arrange better terms with musicians and stage hands unions in outlying spots where scabs are now reported as prohibitive to permit road attractions to exist.

At the hotels actors have run out of alibis on their long past due accounts throwing themselves upon the mercy of the generosity of their landlords to carry them or throw them out.

Many performers, men and women, who foresaw no let up in conditions some weeks back, cashed in as extras for the holiday season in Broadway shops and department stores to assure if nothing else a synthetic Merry Xmas and Happy New Year for themselves and a penny in the pocket.

They were in a minority with the others doing a daily routine of calling on agents, casting and producers' offices and mail kidding themselves; that the elusive rainbow will yet permeate the unemployment clouds and they'll be OK.

But the unemployment and distress, unfortunate at any time, but especially so at holiday time, there are but few relief stations for these victims along the Crooked Square. The Actors Fund has received more \$50,000. Some have taken to the situation and are doing what they can and hold.

Dispute Over Salzer

Cruz of the Olson-Ziegfeld feud revolves about Ziegfeld putting Gus Salzer in as musical director and deducting \$75 out of Olson's salary for Salzer. Olson argued that Salzer's top never was over \$300 a week and furthermore stated that his own man, Eddie Kilfeather, was entitled to handle the orchestra direction, having been so engaged. Olson preferred charges with the American Federation of Musicians. Kilfeather conducted "Whoopie" from Monday through Saturday night when the band chafed, Olson having issued an ultimatum that his name should handle the job.

Olson, however, that Salzer, who was credited with Ziegfeld's success, was not to be displaced. He argued that the situation should be handled by the Ziegfelds.

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"Show Boat's" Calliope

A real old-fashioned and very loud calliope is operated outside the Ziegfeld theatre this week, calling attention to the start of "Show Boat's" second year. The use of the instrument came as the result of critical comment to the effect that there never was a river show boat without a calliope.

Ziegfeld ordered one engaged for the ballyhoo, but there is none in the show itself.

The calliope is on a day to day basis, it being considered that if there were too many squawks from the neighborhood which has many apartment houses, John Law might stop the racket.

The calliope was supplied through Fred Murray of the Exposition Tent and Equipment Co.

EDDIE, AS DOVE, FLIES FROM ETHEL TO ZIEGGY

Cantor Trying to Patch Breach So Miss Shutta Can Leave "Whoopie"

Eddie Cantor is interceding on Ethel Shutta's behalf with Ziegfeld to effect the release of the comedienne from "Whoopie".

With George Olsen's closing Saturday in the Cantor starring musical, Miss Shutta (Mrs. Olson) is desirous of leaving. Like her husband, Miss Shutta is under a run of the play contract and is also featured.

Ziegfeld pulled a smart one the latter part of the week in all advertising, devoting all advertising space to "Eddie Cantor in 'Whoopie'" with "Ethel Shutta" prominently featured solely under the title and the star's billing. Heretofore, Miss Shutta's name was among others including Ruth Etting and Frances Johnson.

Technically, Miss Shutta may be held to her contract, or Ziegfeld may sue for damages in the event he displaces her with a more expensive player. Equity has the matter under consideration but Cantor is attempting to straighten things out for the Olsons and Ziegfeld, being very friendly to the former as well as sponsor and patron of George Olsen's professional career.

Frank Frey, Bob Dugger and Bob Rice, from Olson's band, contributed bills and lines to the show without additional compensation, this being part of the Olson contract at \$1250. The Rice Quartet joined "Whoopie" in their stead. Jack Shutta, a brother of Ethel's, who changed his professional name to Jack Shaw, was also eased out through Ziegfeld demanding a 50 per cent. cut. Shaw did a bit.

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Carroll's Offer of Mammoth Theatre By Wealthy Woman

Earl Carroll may have another theatre if he agrees with the wealthy 70-year-old dowager, Mrs. Pendleton, who is backing his "Florotta," the new Carroll operetta.

Mrs. Pendleton wants to do an Edwinston with Carroll on a new revenue house of mammoth capacity. Like Edwinston, the Texan old man who first backed Carroll, the wealthy woman deems it a good investment. Her concern in "Florotta" is through her two young nephews, Bagby and Komell, composers of the score.

Mrs. Pendleton has a decided weakness for the theme waltz, "Gliding Gondola." Vincent Lopez is payrolled at \$200 a week from Mrs. Pendleton for regularly exploiting "Gliding Gondola" on the radio and otherwise. The odd part is that the Bagby-Komell score is genuinely meritorious irrespective of the financial considerations.

Shuberts Wiring Booth And Shubert in N. Y.

Shuberts have contracted with Western Electric for installations at the Booth and Shubert theatres, New York. This makes six of the Shubert chain of 40 that the owners are setting for talkers.

With indications that other houses will follow the report again springs up that the Shuberts have consummated something more than just the rights to two of their plays with Warners. But W. B. headquarters still sticks to its story that there is nothing on the board with the Shuberts.

Chicago, Dec. 21.

The Shuberts have started to wire the Woods and the Majestic for sound.

It is said that Coburn's Grand and the new Apollo, not open yet, will next be wired.

Musical with All Cabaret Talent, New to Shows

"Get Your Girl," musical, produced by Harry Walker, cabaret agent and the latest of the agent mob to be bitten by the producing bug.

Walker will cast his musical with 100 per cent. cabaret cast. Most of them have never appeared in production. Several out of town cabaret owners are reported in on the venture with Walker.

Son Follows Father

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Ben Hendricks, Jr., is playing the same part in the screen version of "The Fox" his father created in the original stage version 20 years ago.

"The Fox" is being produced at the Metropolitan studios with Marshall Neilan directing.

"LUCKY GIRL" FOLDS

Shuberts' "Lucky Girl" has folded up. Show may not be reopened.

Bill Housa, the subject of litigation by Harry Rogers against the Shuberts, may be at the Palace for the New Year's show.

Duff Takes "Courage"

Billie Holiday is to play "Courage" at the Palace for the New Year's show.

Frank O'Hara's New Play

Frank O'Hara's new play, "The Day After Tomorrow," is to be produced at the Palace for the New Year's show.

Plays on Broadway

That Ferguson Family

Comedy in three acts by Howard Chorney. Presented by Gustav Blum at the Little...

"That Ferguson Family" has been around for some time, and the script was scanned by other managers before...

First-nighters present Saturday were quick to note the "Show-Off" similarity, especially through the first act...

Jean Adair is well cast as Mom Ferguson, flinty old lady for whom all the joy of living seems to have flown...

POTIPHAR'S WIFE

Comedy in three acts by Edgar C. Millican, presented by Craig Theatre, Dec. 21...

Allen, Earl, ... Lady Sylvia, ... Major Tony Barlow, ...

This play with a biblical title is of English writing and was presented over there in 1912...

Plays with court room scenes are usually associated with melodramas, so far as America is concerned...

It seemed to be handsomely mounted in the new Craig theatre, another addition on West 54th street...

But Diana decides she is going to have her clout on also. Will Earl Charles is down London was making an address, she orders Allen to her bond on the pretext of fixing the electric fan...

Allen almost falls for the temptress but snags out of it and leaves Di. In fury she alarms the house party...

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missed her maid in order to be alone with him. During the trial scene, easily the best thing in the play, there was indication that Allen was sorry for the surviving woman, and a romance might yet be implied...

Miss Carson did very well in the court room, her dash of emotion making the best bid for audience sympathy. O'Neill, the hoodlum scene has a bit on the divan with Miss Carson that is briefly torrid but not near so hot as the same situation he and Moe West had in "Sick"...

The Whitbar Co., Inc., presents "Potiphar's Wife." Principally interested is said to be James D. Barton, concerned with foreign play's profits. The main setting pictures the hall at an English country home. It is remembered as having been used in another "attractive" picture against the production. There is one smart line, Lady Diana explains to a male guest that adolescence is the time when a man makes up his mind what sex he belongs to...

THE YANKEE LITWAK (YIDDISH)

Musical comedy in two acts and prologue produced by Jacob Jacobs. Written by Isidore Lesh. Music by Alexander Oshaneson. Directed by Aaron Lebedev. Starring Aaron Lebedev, Althea National, Dec. 21, 83 top.

Despite the shoddiness and lightness of the story, the superbundance of title platitudes and commonplace situations, this is a highly entertaining musical with a justifiable claim to recognition on the Great Side. It is a quality for a strong play upon the available list of Yiddish theatregoers.

Aaron Lebedev (star and director of the production, may be largely credited for most of the significant contributions in staging and delivery. Though familiar in secondary instances, the quartet is handled in a style which clothes it with a novel effect. Lyrics, by Jacob Jacobs, are mostly futile as far as results are concerned and in need of complete rewriting, especially the comedy comedy numbers.

Probably the most compelling effects are obtained through the theme running concurrently with the story. It is a scathing denunciation of the American Jew who would completely forget origin, religion, national consciousness, in the mad scramble for money and the status of a "big shot" in the city. This type is too exaggerated and represented through weak characterizations to be convincing, yet in this epoch of "strong" stage character being accepted by the majority of the patrons.

Contrasts between the old world and the new, with the immigrant boy (Lehev), and his college-bred half-brother (Maltz), is comical. The former with long, bushy side whiskers, and a coat of blue and red, is shown showing through the vest in the form of a lapizidekel, the voluminous black coat reaching to the knees at once a picture of both humorous and pathetic. Effect is undeniable; it awakes powerful sentiment through the resurrection of his dead father's ghost. Lebedev works hard with-but little result. He is needed on the stage as much as possible if any production this theatre is to be at all successful. He is possessed of a likeable delivery both as a vocalist and as a comedian. In Mr. Levin, the producers have a first rate singer of the plaintive type upon whom they fail to fully capitalize. Used for two or three numbers, he is then dismissed until the finale.

Yetta Zwerling, the fiery-haired comedienne, is a legitimate laugh getter, very often only taking a trivial and oft-used snipe. Properly exploited, this more attention is paid to this girl and she would rate more than her share. Entrance of cast is of indifferent caliber. Miss Goldie Eisenman registers freely as the blonde vaudeville singer at the top of the show. She is not a snipe. Bella Meissel, prima donna, as the coquet girl, flashes several becoming costumes and contributes to the show work. Jacob Jacobs, comedian, lyricist, co-pro-

ducer, co-operator of the theatre, and probably co-director, would do better off stage regardless of capacity. Serves as an unwelcome foil to Miss Zwerling and is merely a space warmer otherwise. Philip Maltz manages the show, the money he should be eliminated as the lover and cut to as few lines as possible to his speaking voice. Story concerns an immigrant boy brought to America by his wealthy father after 25 years. Foster-mother and brother don't want him, and he is finally obliged to leave. He repays their enmity by saving the foster-brother from committing theft and showing him that the chorus girl he planned to elope with is only after money. Mori.

PLAYS OUT OF TOWN

Boston, Dec. 21. Theatre Guild production of the Austrian comedy by Sigmund Freud, "Playing at Love," song version by Philip Mooler. First American showing at the Hotel Street, Boston, Dec. 21.

Rather thin fodder to be fed to the Theatre Guild subscriptionists and apparently given its premiere in Boston in honor of this city's surprising support of the Guild's invasion.

Called a comedy, it is really an interesting love thesis, transferred with no loss to Continental atmosphere and carrying with it much of the suave Molinereque dialog of Silvestre. The Frenchess critic, playwright, and novelist handles his sex problems so frankly that it is inoffensive and the story is direct and comprehensive, yet gets nowhere in particular.

The plot involves a philanthropist lawyer who has lived for a couple of years with a girl of intriguing beauty and yet inspires him to constant jealousy and incessant quarreling. He has his own affairs with his clients merely to keep his hand in.

Into the picture steps the girl he betrayed some 18 years before and who has since been living in his allowance to the child. The boy is now 17 and the father is told that it is about time he looks his offspring over and take him in hand before he becomes a pot.

Rather messy the son and finds him a finely bred lad who has had his head straightened by the mother. He takes the boy under his wing with quite a bit of paternal pride. The lad takes for granted that his mother will be taken into the apparently bachelor home, and that a belated marriage will occur. The widow senses the possibility and plots to get the boy out of the smouldering passions. The boy falls for her advances and the climax comes when his father informs him that the widow is his daddy's right-o'love. Lad and mother depart and the widow at the final curtains returns, the philanthropist daddy.

Nothing to be said for nothing new, mainly frank and brilliant dialog, spiced with Continental sex philosophy, the act of things that the Theatre Guilders may like as light comedy. The title does not register and will probably be changed. Playing with a single set and a small cast, will no doubt be excellent stock material, especially with the Theatre Guild background and the rapidly mounting list of Guild plays, however. It will be obscure, and missed but little if ultimately dropped. Libbey.

Sound Pictures Kill Off Stock Troupe at Lynn

Lynn, Mass., Dec. 24. Talking pictures have killed the legitimate stage here. The one stock company, at the Auditorium, has closed and in its place has been substituted a sound screen. Stock company put up a game struggle, but four hours of stultified the talkers it gave up the battle.

Mrs. Wilkins Theatre Mrs. Des Moines, Dec. 24. Mrs. Yarnall, of the city of Bedford, Ia., formerly in stock at San Diego, has organized the Bedford Community theatre. The first production is "The Unknown," Dec. 31-Jan. 1. Mrs. Wilkins is director.

Too Many Flops, Too Few Hits Blamed for Broadway's Low Ebb

Broadway is wondering what will happen to business after New Year's day. It has been so tough that the dailies hopped on to find out what's the matter with show business.

Most of the managers readily admit it is a rotten season and they can't see much chance for improvement during the balance. All sorts of angles and factors are contributing causes to the long slump. High prices at the box office, gyring by ticket speculators, picture houses, abundant traffic conditions which cannot be bettered until Eighth avenue is paved and radio are but some of them. But, mediocre shows figure in the situation more than anything else. Those managers who take their flops with their hits authoritatively state that this is what is the matter with show business. Other observers contend that bad theatrical seasons occur in cycles. The season eight years ago is referred to as a counterpart of the current one. It, too, was a presidential year.

Hardly better proof that too many poor shows have walloped show business than the success of several new productions. There is "Whoops," made no difference that last week was the week before Christmas, the gross here bettering \$49,000 again. And the big musicals stood up out of town in the major stands. Other stand-out musicals were but little affected.

"Three Cheers," "This Year of Grace" and "Hold Everything" had little cause for complaint.

As for the dramas and comedies, "Mina" went out in front, setting a gross of \$22,000 in its first full week at the Reliance. Such a gross is impossible except by drawing capacity and a scale of \$5.50 top. "Holiday," the new comedy leader, is another example. Its pace improved two weeks ago rather than dropping because of approaching Christmas and \$22,000 was grabbed. The above instances are set forth merely to prove that after all the play is the thing.

It is questionable if the week between Christmas and New Year's will be the harvest of other seasons. Indications are that it will not because of Christmas and New Year's day falling in different weeks and on Tuesday. That is seen as a bad break. An out of town exodus from next Friday until Wednesday is predicted.

Last week saw an abundance of theatre parties, managers taking advantage of slack going to keep grosses somewhere up to normal. More than 50 such parties at reduced prices were reported.

Only one show is due to close this week, this being "Tin Pan Alley" which makes way at the Republic for "Major Barbara," moving down from the Guild. The latter will offer "Caprice," "Lady Delouck" is listed for premiere at the Ambassador. They are the only two definite openings next week.

For the first time in memory there are several dark houses on Broadway during a Christmas holiday week.

Inside Stuff—Legit

The voice of Theodore Roberts will be the first post-mortem one from the screen. Shortly before his death, Mr. Roberts completed his first and only screen talking sequence in Pathé's "Nasty Neighbors," the only permanent shtick and sound record of the work of the actor who had been on the stage and screen for over 40 years.

Florenz Ziegfeld has made a tie-up with Ed Plaud, noted French performer concern. Plaud has a plant on 21st street, with American backing and will invade the beauty cream field, also extend on perfumery. The Ziegfeld name is employed because of its association with glorified beauties in his shows. Ziegfeld will not be concerned with the plant but is expectant of healthy royalties in addition to wide publicity.

The Edith Totten, a little theatre on West 48th street, has been changed to the President. The house, built a couple of years ago, has never made a dime and was put up for sale recently. The Leonl Brothers, who operate a French restaurant in the block, bought it in. The house reopens with "The Guinea Pig."

Of the Premiere of Shuberts' "BOOM BOOM" the critics said of

GENEVIEVE TICHE

WILMINGTON "NEWS," THURSDAY, Dec. 13: "In the specialty field Genevieve Tiche strummed a mean banjo; she was all over the strings and then put on a tap dance which took down the house. Miss Tiche is also very pretty."

WILMINGTON "EVERY EVENING," Thursday, Dec. 13: "The slender, pretty brunette, Genevieve Tiche, who played the banjo and gave a solo dance in the roadhouse scene, was unusually good."

Direction, Ralph G. Farnum, 1560 Broadway, N. Y.

EVELYN HOEY "GOOD NEWS"—LONDON

Advertisement for Evelyn Hoey's play "Good News" in London, featuring a large illustration of the actress Evelyn Hoey and the name of the play.

Victor's Prize of \$10,000 and \$5,000 Native Melodies

On this Friday (Dec. 28) at the Waldorf-Astoria, in the Empire room, John Phillip Sousa will preside at the Victor Talking Machine Co.'s award of the \$10,000 and \$5,000 cash prizes for the best two original compositions by composers of American citizenship for use by popular jazz, dance or concert orchestra.

The contest has been in vogue for the past six months under Victor's auspices, designed to encourage native American talent. Nathaniel Shilkret and the Victor orchestra, who, already, have recorded the prize-winning compositions, will perform the winning works at the dinner.

Tom Grisselle is the \$10,000 prize winner with his "Two American Sketches," so labeled by Jack Robbins, whose firm will publish the winning work. Felto's is bringing out the second winner, Rube Bloom's "Silhouette." The latter, recording jazz pianist, is already famed for his two ultra-modern pieces, "Soliloquy" and "Sapphire" which Paul Whiteman recorded. Grisselle was formerly in charge of the Gennett record company's laboratory work and has latterly been active in commercial radio.

Put and Sticks

The Mr. appeal about the theme song when it's synchronized into a film score is that it can't be yanked out after the "act" leaves New York. That's why all the publishers are nutty about the theme idea, knowing that once the song is in it's put.

No headaches about checking up on the plug when it gets to Chicago and falls for some more free meals from some rival publisher.

Commanders, Inc. Irving Aaronson's Commanders, Inc., has been organized as a business move by the maestro. Aaronson is doubling from "Paris," Irene Bordoni show, into the Club Richman.

Victory work and has latterly been active in commercial radio. Lou Alter's "Manhattan Moonlight," because it was once performed by Nat Shilkret on the radio, was eliminated and only comes in for an honorable mention since the contesting works were to be non-performed compositions and judged solely from manuscript. Tom Satterfield's "Anticipation" also comes in for an honorable mention.

Victor will make public announcement of these awards after the reception at the Waldorf.

Silvio Hein's Services Draw Heavy Overflow

An overflow assemblage thronged Campbell's Funeral Church at 66th street and Broadway, New York, at 2 p. m. Friday afternoon for the services of Silvio Hein, composer, one-time operetta producer and a founder and director of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, who died Dec. 19 at Saranac Lake, New York, at the age of 49.

At the mountain resort, the ailing composer had waged a long and bitter fight with lung trouble, having returned to New York and his business duties as assistant secretary of the American Society, only to be ordered back for his health on each of the three or four times that he deemed himself fairly free of the malady.

One of the most popular men in the music business, Mr. Hein was universally beloved and respected. A victim of humankind's scourge, Hein in a quiet, deft, tactful and withal efficient manner looked after the sick and the needy among the composer-author members of the society with which he later was so active.

Hein's career in the show business was long and colorful, coming rapidly to a close in 1927. In his teens he was a composer but before he reached his majority, best known as a composer and conductor. Born in New York on March 15, 1879, Hein was musically educated in Trieste and Vienna.

Famous Compositions His most famous operettas which he composed include "Nancy Brown," "Boys and Betty," "When Dreams Come True," "Matinee Idol," "The Yankee Girl," "Flo-Flo" and "Furs and Frills." One of his most famous songs is "All Dressed Up and Noted to Go." Hein also produced "The Merry Wives of Windsor" in which the late Tom Wise and Constance Collier were seen at the Criterion.

Hein's home of later years has been in Great Neck, L. I. His wife, Ann Moseley Hein, who faithfully nursed him throughout his illness, the deceased composer at his bedside, as were Gene Buck and J. C. Rosenthal, president and general manager of the A. S. C. A. P., and William Morris.

Masonic services were preceded by a religious ritual conducted by Rabbi Nathan Krass. The Lambs Club Quartet, comprising Scott Welch, Herbert Watrous, Frank Croxton and George Pasley, sang "The Long Day Closes." Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Brooklyn.

Besides his widow, his mother, Mrs. Irene Hein, survive. The late composer, a close friend of the late Victor Herbert and Louis A. Hirsch, is among the pioneering group which so doughtily worked in the interests of the then struggling composers.

Besides a founder-director of the American Society, Mr. Hein was a prominent member of the Lambs, Equity, Dramatists' Guild, Authors League of America, Jewish Theatrical League, Catholic Actors' Guild, Episcopal Guild, Frivets, Racquet and National Ping clubs of Washington, Actors Fund of America, N. V. A. and Pacific Lodge No. 233 F & A. M.

Honorary pallbearers were Mr. Rosenthal, Mr. Buck, Fritz Williams, Mr. Morton, A. O. Brown, F. H. Burnside, Jerome Kern, John Golden, Ray Hubbard, Jay Witmark, Max Dreyfuss, Irving Berlin, John Phillip Sousa and George Maxwell.

Wires Repudiated

Eddie Cantor and Ruth Etting from "Whoopie" will be the guest stars of the Majestic radio hour Jan. 6 on the Columbia network. For this reason Cantor would not appear at the inaugural ceremonies of WMCA Sunday night as, m. c. Through misunderstanding NTG had broadcast telegrams signed by Cantor to many celebs to attend.

Cantor later repudiated them to all the people he knew received the wires, which included the "Whoopie" and "Show Boat" casts, and instructed N. T. Granlund to do likewise.

Cantor is laying off of Sunday night operettas because of doctor's orders, and felt he could not participate in a less purposeful broadcast festival.

Harris Sells Old Musical As Talker for \$25,000

Charles K. Harris, music publisher, with dozens of many of the old-time comic operettas which he is sitting pretty concerning movie rights to these operettas. The first of these, "The Time, the Place and the Girl," by Will M. Hough and Frank Adams with score by Joseph E. Howard, has been acquired by Warner Bros. for \$25,000, he stated. The four were with Howard, Mort H. Singer (the original producer), the librettists (as one unit) and himself. Singer in turn shares with Herman Fein, his then backer.

Harris controls books and scores by Victor Herbert, Raymond Hubbard, A. Baldwin Sloane, Joe Howard and many others.

XMAS BOOZE PINCHES

10 People in Plantation on Coast Charged With Possession

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Christmas pinches by the new district attorney, Baron Fitts, include 10 guests at Roscoe Arbuckle's Plantation Cafe in Culver City. They are charged with possession of liquor.

Lige Conley and William Burkhardt, screen actors, charged with intoxication, while John Patrick, another thespian, is accused of possessing and transporting.

Sousa Resting

Chicago, Dec. 24. John Phillip Sousa closed his season here after playing 23 weeks, and will rest until spring.

Sousa's four touring key city from coast to coast, playing as many as 12 towns in a week.

HELD AT LOEW'S, FRISCO

San Francisco, Dec. 24. Horace Heldt will follow Rube Wolf as stage band conductor at Loew's Warfield, Jan. 12, when Wolf transfers to Loew's State, Los Angeles.

Heldt has been in Oakland for West Coast the past two years.

BOSTON'S ORGAN CLUB

The new Keith Altemoral theatre, Boston, of which Earl Weidner is organist, has been selected as the January meeting place of the recently organized Theatre Organists' Club of Boston. Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month. The Boston organists organized purely for social reasons and improved musical standards.

L. G. del Castillo is president, and the other officers are F. J. Cronin, Sallie Frise, M. B. Seaver and directors comprise Mrs. M. G. del Castillo and Roy L. Frazee.

LANDRY'S BAND OUT

Art Landry and his band flopped in and out of the Parody Club in a week. Jimmie Taylor displaced him last night (Tuesday).

Carr is doubling from the Colony theatre where he is in his fourth week as the presentation-co-feature with Benny Rubin.

Johns at Versailles

Russell Johns, pianist, will be the featured entertainer at the Versailles, new night club in the East 60's, opening Friday.

Other acts booked for the stage show, "Versailles Varieties," are the Kenting Twins and the Tomson Twins.

WIRED THEATRES USE INJUNCTION FOR MEN

New London Musicians' Tough Spot—Once Four Orchestras, Now One

New London, Dec. 24.

The question of canned music and "canned" musicians is going to be dragged into court here. And the first point has been chalked up for sound.

Judge Christopher L. Avery, in the superior court, has issued a temporary injunction restraining the Capitol Protective Association, No. 285, A. F. of M., from ordering its members not to play the organs at the Capitol and Crown theatres, both pictures, unless the Capitol employs at least a four-piece orchestra. The petition for injunction was brought for the Capitol Operating Company and Morris Lubchansky and Russell H. Corcoran, their counsel.

The Capitol is wired for Vita and Movietone, and although the Crown is running silent, only the organ is used for music.

The complaint of the theatres sets forth that on Dec. 7, the union notified the Capitol and Crown managements, both part of the New England Theatre Operating Corp., that on and after Dec. 15, the members of the Capitol Protective Association as organizers for the theatres would be withdrawn unless the four-piece orchestra order was complied with at the Capitol.

In addition to a permanent restraining order the theatres want \$200,000.

New London is a tough spot for musicians these days. Time was when there were four houses using orchestras.

\$30,000 Benefit Concert

Paul Whiteman's special request concert and souvenir program at Carnegie Hall, New York, on Sunday night, netted Dr. Edgar Mayer's Northwood Sanitarium in Saranac close to \$30,000. The boxes were sold twice over at fancy prices, the charity function carrying with it a high scale of \$100 top.

Whiteman and his orchestra donated their services.

Bee Palmer was an added attraction, doing a duet in "Honey, Miss Palmer is making a Columbia record with Whiteman, as did Ruth Etting from "Whoopie," who recorded the George Jessel theme song, "My Mother's Eyes."

GRID STAR IN SALES DEPT.

Pat Flaherty, former gridiron star and picture actor, is assistant to Dan Winkler, sales manager of De Sylva, Brown and Henderson. Flaherty will handle the mechanicals, relieving Winkler of considerable burden.

Flaherty is an experienced musician, having been with Stansy Company and Ted Browne of Chicago, managing the latter's New York office.

BANJO ACES Use B & D "SILVER BELL" BANJOS

TELEGRAM

New York, Dec. 5, 1928. Last Sunday night the executives were very much pleased with the soft pedal over the air. Sounded like a vibraphone. I did six numbers. Playing tonight on Stage WOR between eight and eight-thirty. Letter follows. Best wishes. ROY SMECK.

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Keith's Palace, New York
Personal Direction,
JAMES F. GILLESPIE

Disk Reviews

By Abel

Arden-Ohman Victor Arden and Phil Ohman, two-man piano team, with their own orchestra, have coupled the hits from Garshwin's "Pressure Club" on Victor No. 21735, "Feeling Im Falling" and "Got a Rainbow" are the titles, rhythmic, colorful fox-trots. The Arden-Ohman team is of the musical's cast.

Benson All-Star Orchestra For long a Victor artist, Edgar A. Benson's combination is now with Columbia. Their fox-trots are hits from two musical comedies, "Hold Everything" and "Three Cheers," titles being "Knock Out" is to (Continued on page 52)

Nite Club Reviews

RENDEZVOUS

(With Those Boys)

New York, Dec. 22. Between Clayton, Jackson and Durante running away from padlocks into wide open places and Jimmy Durante trying to make nurses in a hospital by becoming a phony patient, this trio has been hogging space in Variety. Late of course Jimmy didn't make the nurses but he got the space under the expectation that he would.

Moving from the Silver Slipper to the Rendezvous and including the hospital date, those boys lost several weeks. At \$3,000 a week and losing it, the wives squawk. Eddie Jackson had his, and another piece of property over in Flushing and intended to give it to his wife as an Xmas gift. Instead he got a howling from the missus. While Mrs. Clayton locked Lou out for 10 days, saying she couldn't stand him loafing. And Mrs. Durante had to hang around the hospital, to keep the nurses away.

In between the Rendezvous opened, without the boys. Not so smart and yelps that are still yelping, as it was a \$5 cent night with the gross around \$10,000, and the boys billed without explanation. That kept up for over a week until the trio opened last Thursday night, but without a second "opening" and at a covert of \$3 (\$4 on Saturday). It placed the Durante bunch under something of a handicap. However, their following is big enough to overcome it, and the boys personally are known not to have stood in with that first night absent start.

Johnny Irish and a couple of associates are running the Rendezvous. Gene Geiger is said to have a small piece and the kitchen through having in a contract with Shubert lease. While the Shuberts are probably in on a percentage of the gross for the rent (in the Winter Garden building) and have demanded a \$15,000 cash bond not to sell. One of those things probably, as Larry Fay handled the Shubert negotiations for a while, and is going solo. Though Larry is giving the place some of his attention to get it started right, Larry has no part of it.

This room is about the best adapted for the boys since their Dover Club, and there was the greatest joint in every way New York nite life has ever had. Two years at the Dover club, the Durantes, to a tough and rough mob that mixed with the milder and nice bunch, with never the sign of a scap in the place until the final New Year's Eve, and that started by a stranger in for the first time.

A good floor show by Roy Mack around the boys, Jess and Al, singing blues, Mildred Roselle depends upon her personality if nothing else; Estelle Fradus is a tapping hooper; Evelyn Dean does it on her toes, and there are eight sightly girls in the chorus. Mack is doing nicely in his floor show work around New York and this is another ex-ante.

The boys are putting over their stuff, with Jimmy still somewhat weak from "that operation." If Ziegfeld would slip up his mind what show he will do next and makes it "The Show Girl," the trio will be doubling; if he doesn't, the boys will think of another frame and blame Sir Jos. Ginsburg.

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LITTLE CLUB

New York, Dec. 21.

Hoping to weather things right on after the big New Year's killing, Phil Baker was installed at the Little Club by a host of new operators, including among them Abe Topfitz, Louis Bleet, Cleveland Afe man; a Mr. Morris and three or four others. The Shuberts are setting their usual 10 per cent of the gross to cover the rent and John and Christo are only interested as the kitchen concessionaires.

Baker and Sid Silvers may put the 44th Street theatre's basement cafe over, although once before, under Sam Weiss' sponsorship, both flopped, along with Marion Harris and other Shubert-contract luminaries in that joint.

With Baker and Silvers is Jan Garber's Columbia recording orchestra as co-feature, a snappy 14-man combo which goes in for the modern dance intended.

One man from the band stepped out for a farish acrobatic dance solo. Baker's name is lent to the Little Club, and while he is in only for three weeks, may continue if biz warrants it. He's getting a guarantee and percentage, doubling with the local Keith houses (now second more popular) appealing than one or two of the other outstanding m. e.'s that come to mind.

Baker as a floor show performer always impressed most favorably, so much so but there isn't any doubt he could carve a niche for himself in a middle-account cafe personality. Trouble is, though, that Baker takes it all as a lark and a gag. The division of his interests usually in Shubert production and now in a middle-account cafe, for this, and is quite understandable, especially under Shubert restrictions and further subject to their production calls.

With these qualifications eliminated, Baker, if he applied himself to it, and with the facile Silvers as foil and alternate comedian—"an organist" would quickly establish himself as a nite club regisseur. He has the nimble wit, the gifted personality, a sense of balance and values and a style that makes him more popular appealing than one or two of the other outstanding m. e.'s that come to mind. Baker will know how it works out best after that certain New Year's business is done and over with. That's the big take of the year and sure-fire generally. What he can do after that will determine the continuation of the Baker-Little Club alliance. Abel.

CLUB PLANTATION

New Orleans, Dec. 24.

One of the late places to which the rosters repair, but things not so good. Cheap, too. No cover. Checks must total a bux week nights per each and \$1.50 Saturdays. Several cutting in on the place but it needs a fresh roll. Entertainers are not good, although one or two female m. e. seems to have "it" or "that" or something. Has an undulating swing to her anatomy as she rumbles her notes.

Plato himself might have observed, "That gal swings a mean hip." Name doesn't matter. She has confidence and a lusty confidence that means. Boy, page Broadway's yokery!

The Plantation was once the Or-Orchestra, manned by Sal Roman, the noblest Roman of the racket. Successively it became the Ringside, into which former bantam champ Pete Herman sunk a pair of purses. It held ebony entertainers when opening several weeks ago but not for here. Now it's trying with a white ringer, but they'll have to come faster. There's an old mummy sitting in a corner with a red bandanna—for atmosphere, a log cabin—more atmosphere. But atmosphere never paid the overhead. Not a bad place, the Plantation. And it's quite restful. Quite. *Ornuel.*

Tex's New Backers

Tex Guinn's new nite club opens tomorrow (Thursday) in the Hotel Harding. It looks as if the room will be all set by then in view of the many extensive physical renovations, including the removal of certain obstructing pillars and the strengthening of the basement room's beams.

The Greeks formerly with Tex at the Salon Rola are not with her now. A new mob is backing her, dating back to the old Guinn 300 Club alliance two years ago.

Mrs. Jacobs Bond's Son Dies
Los Angeles, Dec. 24.
Fred Jacobs Bond died last week in his cabin at Lake Arrowhead. He is the son of Mrs. Carrie Jacobs Bond.

Young Bond had been in ill health for some time. *Abel.*

The Cheese Lady

Everyone around the road-house where this happened claims it's the pip gag of all seasons.

A party of five entered the place on a Saturday night. They ordered five cups of coffee. When the coffee was served one of the girls opened her bags, removing five cheese sandwiches.

The orchestra leader noticed the bag-opening business and reported it. There was nothing to do. Check with the covers amounted to \$9. A squawk was expected on the covert, although the party remained from nine until closing without missing a dance.

Check was paid without protest, with the proprietor suspecting a smart young lady had thought to get away with something.

Radio Rambles

Marathon Radio Bill

NTG staged a big hurrah Sunday night from 10 until unconscious at the inaugural festivities of the new WMCA studios in the Hammerstein theatre building. All of Broadway seemingly turned out, the marathon entertainment and succession of names probably keeping many a neighbor up beyond expectations. The assortment of names was great institutional ballyhoo for the WMCA station.

Granny slipped over a back-landed compliment with "those of the radio audience who pay for shows," etc., indication of his dubiousness that the free-air dealers give up pennies for their entertainment.

The crack Guy Lombardo Royal Canadians again were caught kicking pretty on the Columbia network from Chicago. WABC transmits them in relay in New York, and their good idea and popular reaction the highly favorable comment expressed in Chicago.

N. T. G.'s Announcing

Among the midnight danspators, Tom Timothy is doing pop stuff in medleys of three and four selections. It's a good idea and a popular reaction with the fans. Better to cut down a chorus or two per fox-trot and do a short medley as a dance set, smooth than the primitive's introductory announcing, NTG came on.

Something lacking about Granny's pep these days. Seems that under the WMCA restrictions, although actually there is no curb on Grand and being a dancer on a popular reaction, he is not as slip and fly as has been his wont. Fact remains that the nite life demands that from an announcer. It's not like sending a dignified commercial hour out into the hinterland with its unknown peasantry and babbling.

Ferhan's Crack Idea

Ferhan's has a crack pop song idea with its Song Shop commercials over NBC. Weekly, the hour is devoted to the nation's top song makers, offering a program of their works as with Milton Ager and Jack Yellen on last Thursday's program. There is some intimate data about the songsmiths; medley of their stuff is played; current pop songs go on and as the piece de resistance one or two new songs are played. Their initial broadcastings as part of the hour.

It's a grand plugfest for the Tin Pan Alley boys and a right song and inexpensive one for the idea for the sponsoring company.

Spitalny's Smooth Work

Phil Spitalny with his smooth syncopation from the Hotel Pennsylvania mixes it up nicely almost always with a full arrangement of some standard or classic composition. It's the same thing that made Vincent Lopez so popular at the Pennsy, giving them the syncopated symphonies, which always listen well.

Name's Lost Value

It's a big wacky Strike made. E. A. Rolfe eliminate the use of his own name on his midday Palais D'Or restaurant broadcastings. That can only be the result of his remaining anonymous from the Palais D'Or, with the restaurant played, and Rolfe contenting himself only with his big network on the Lucky Strike Saturday night programs. Of course, the Rolfe fans could identify the music by his intermittent trumpet solos that could not make provision for the new listeners-in. *Abel.*

Inside Stuff—Music

Gus Kahn's Lyrics in "Whoopee"

Gus Kahn, lyricist of "Whoopee," believes himself to have been slighted in the Variety review of the Eddie Cantor-Ziegfeld musical. Since Kahn contributed very literate and excellent lyrics, it was an oversight such as occurs quite often when space is limited, especially in a review as long and analytical as the "Whoopee" notice happened to be, dwelling principally on its people and production.

The Walter Donaldson score was gone into in detail without Kahn's worthy contribution mentioned. It is the veteran pop songwriter's first important production contribution.

Both Kahn and Donaldson are slated to do the songs for the new Ziegfeld "Follies."

Road House Trade Closing Up at 10.30

So far this is the worst road-house season New York has ever had. Saturday night is the only life-saver, and there is no dependence upon that at present (not meaning holiday time).

Some of the road-houses are turning off their lights and closing by 11.

One evening a road-house man with but six cars in his yard, and despondent, took a ride along the line. The first place he looked over had two cars, the next three and the next 10. The 10-car place killed him, but he was truthful enough to tell it and the name.

In these four places, all large and well-known were 21 cars, not enough people to fill one-sixth of the capacity of any of the road houses.

One of the best-known and most profitable road-houses in the past around New York has been starving to death so far this winter, and without competition within 10 miles either side.

WB-JOLSON AS MUSIC FIRM THROUGH BERLIN

Los Angeles, Dec. 24.

Warner Brothers and Al Jolson have made a deal whereby they are going into the music publishing business to publish picture theme songs. All tunes are to be handled through Irving Berlin, Inc., which will have the rights to any new songs used by Warners in production.

It is understood the deal calls for a three-way split, Jolson to write a number of songs.

A similar publishing hook-up exists between Paramount and Harms, Inc., under the name of Famous Music Corp., with Harms as the selling agents. Metro and Robbins Music Corp. are similarly allied, the latter retaining its corporate identity with Metro as 50-50 partners.

Berlin, Inc., the selling agents for the new Warners-Jolson alliance, also has a tie-up with United Artists for that company's theme songs. The friendly association of Irving Berlin and Joseph M. Schenck, president of U. A., accounts for this.

Chicago Not So Hot Over New Year's Eve

Chicago, Dec. 24.

From early indications it looks like a gloomy New Year's eve this year as far as the nite clubs and other surviving joy spots are concerned. So far the reservations have been almost all but the cafe boys considerably worried.

Top for covers this year will not exceed \$15. In former days three and four times that amount got unusual.

Most of the funding this year is expected to be done in the speaks, hideaways and flats, while the more sedate of the revelers will hie themselves to their own or someone else's home.

ROLFE'S 2 EDISON BRANDS

E. A. Rolfe has signed what is a record contract for the Edison Company. Rolfe will issue dance disks on the Edison under two names: Rolfe and his Lucky Strike orchestra and Rolfe and his Palais D'Or orchestra.

Rolfe is Edison's best seller, the radio exhibition having a field record that new to the company here before.

Slipper in A. C. Opening

Atlantic City, Dec. 24.
Singer Slipper, redebuted, opens Dec. 27 with a floor show produced by Roy Mack.

Sheet Song Selling by Publix Regular Biz

The Publix circuit is taking its sheet music merchandising seriously as evidenced by the "outside" songs being sold in the theatre lobbies where the current program holds no theme song published by the Famous Music Corp. Famous is Paramount's publishing subsidiary, tied up with Harms as the sole selling agents.

At the Paramount, New York, last week was the feature, "The Haunted House." Although synchronized with sound accompaniment, it did not hold a theme song. The ushers peddled the Ted Browne and Shapiro-Bernstein publications of the songs featured by Jesse Crawford. This applies throughout the circuit.

The theory is that after educating the public to turn to the permanent music counter in the lobby, Publix does not want to quit suddenly on the one week where a theme song is absent. Instead, to maintain innovation, copies of the songs which the organist, orchestra or stage presentation may feature, are displayed on sale.

This has raised the ire anew of the independent music dealers who are already complaining that the bulk of their business from popular theme songs has been cut into through the first-run sales in the picture theatre lobbies.

Shilkret Publishing

Victor recording laboratories in New York now number three, with a new loft laboratory at 46th street off 5th avenue. Lieberkranz Hall on 58th street has been utilized for synchronizations along with the 43d street labs.

Nathaniel Shilkret has been offered an executive berth in charge of the new RCA-Victor merger. Shilkret is with Victor under a \$100,000 annual guarantee for songs, recordings, radio, etc.

A proposal whereby Shilkret may engage in the music publishing business with Harms as his backer is being worked out.

4 Bands for Keith's

Keith's is lining up name bands for the New York houses. Four signed in the last week are Paul Whiteman, George Olsen, Roger Wolfe Kahn and Iernie Cummins.

Whiteman, doubling from the New Alhambra roof, and Olsen are booked for the Palace in the successive weeks of Dec. 30 and Jan. 6.

Kahn, recently out of the defunct "Americana" revue, will open Dec. 30 in Flushing on a route, while Cummins starts this week for Keith's at the 81st St. moonwalk continuing at the Biltmore hotel.



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Tom Mix Named to Head Revived Wild West—Am. Corp. Closes for 101 Ranch

Kansas City, Dec. 24. Bert Bowers, representing the American Circus Corp. (Mugivan, Bowers & Halliday), at Pocatello, Okla., completed the merger of Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch Wild West Show with the corporation.

The American controls Hagenback-Wallace, John Robinson, Sells-Floto and Sparks shows.

Zack Miller is quoted as stating: "The shows included in the deal were brought together under a holding company, but it is improbable that the individual makeup of any of the show will be affected."

The Millers are retiring from the show business.

With the announcement of the consolidation comes the report that plans have been contemplated towards the revival of the old Buffalo Bill's Congress of Rough Riders of the World. The circus corporation owns the title. There is talk of starting Tom Mix at the head of the Rough Riders.

Bill Rice's Monkey Farm

Los Angeles, Dec. 24. Bill Rice, promoter of bathing girl water shows for outdoor amusement, has promoted a monkey farm to be located on Washington boulevard in Culver City.

Rice has gathered 100 monkeys, to be trained by himself. Besides seeing different species of monkeys at the farm, patrons will be given one-half hour entertainment. It will open Jan. 1.

WANDERING YOUTH

K. B. Hazzard Loses Memory Until Seeing His Mother

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 24. Kenedall B. Hazzard, Syracuse University junior who during the summer months assists his mother, Mrs. Herman Hazzard Sica, in the management of Mid-City Park on the Troy-Albany road, is now recovering at the Sica residence from an attack of semi-amnesia during which he wandered from Syracuse to Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Columbus. An overdose of amphetamine tablets, taken to relieve a headache, may have been the cause of the memory lapse.

After walking around Syracuse he took a train to Buffalo, where he originally lived, and from there went to Pittsburgh. Following another day of wandering Hazzard entrained for Columbus. Realizing that something was wrong with his brain he went into a Columbus library to look up books on mental diseases. From the library he went to the office of a private detective, found in a telephone book an unlisted his aid. The detective, having seen newspaper stories of Hazzard's mysterious disappearance, wired Syracuse officials who got in touch with the mother.

Boy was in a semi-daze until his mother arrived, when his brain cleared sufficiently for him to remember her. Prior to that he could not recall his name, his home town or college.

CIRCUS FOR COUNTRY FAIRS

Chicago, Dec. 24. Earl Taylor Attractions have placed under contract the Sells-Steering three-ring circus and will book the outfit for county fairs next season.

Morris After Outdoors

William Morris Agency is going after fair and park bookings for next season. Office has installed a special department to handle such bookings with Martin Wagner in charge.

Wagner attended the recent outdoor showmen's convention in Chicago, placing two Albertina Rasch ballets, Sousa and Creature.

OTTO FLOTO VERY ILL

Otto Floto, formerly of Sells-Floto circus and managing editor of the Kansas City Post, is seriously ill at Denver.

BARNES-CARRUTHERS

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**WANTED FOR 1929 SEASON
 STANDARD NOVELTY ACTS
 SUITABLE FOR OUTDOORS**
 Largest Fair Booking Agency in America

Chatter in Nice

(Continued from page 6)

now. Paper and pencil boys have done a lot of figuring and are all for renovating the studios. Studios have been cobwebbed for a year. Franco Films will be in control. The studio will be brought up to date.

"Up to date" over here means the pre-sound proof construction era in America.

Ingram's scouts are looking for lead on studio matters, though under a heavy blanket of secrecy. Ills old studios are now Franco-filmed and he has been chafing under the loss of his stock. He is a nearly stockholder in this French company. But a divorce now looks likely. Cosmo (Fassions) Hamilton, the no. one stockholder's last piece, will probably go with him.

The American Idea

The American influence seems irresistible in Nice, France, and now tornados. A tempest made a wreck out of Constance Talmadge's nice cardboard yacht, used in her recent production of "Yenus." Smokestack blown along west and all that. Other simply elegant sets representing a palace were equally reduced to war scenes. All Florida's fault.

Paris Bars

Paris bars may be nearly as expensive as New York's, but Nice outdoes both. Newspaperman charged down Blackmer rushed into the Rendez Vous Bar for a ginergale highball and put down 10 francs. That's 40 cents. Banker said 80 cents the price. Scribe squawked plenty, but barkeep said: "You ought to get around more. Down at the Lido, in Venice, tried a two-bit cocktail and it set me back a dollar. And not being a newspaper man, I didn't have any swindle sheet to put it on either."

Shore Talker

The dozing linotyper has done it at last. The gag about the guy who complained that the water was in his soup and the waiter said: "Excuse me, a typographical error, sir; should have been a noodle," can now change costumes and move over to the movies.

Over here a talker is called "le film qui parle" and a sound film "le film sonore." A lyposetter mired it "the more and everybody cried 'See!' as one man."

Phil Plant, of New London nilions has taken Villa Nidou for the season. He has relatives. In the show business, his relatives have of Richard (Jarnegan) Bennett's daughters.

Money from Home Boys

Ninety-nine times sweet crack at the American lounge lizards of the Riviera, whose conversation takes the form of laughing off the relation back home who keep them in cocktail money.

Piece is called "Oh, Auntie, Please!" Pleased George Lorimer so much he ordered a raise for Nina.

Americans' British Comedy

Martin Brown, whose "Paris," with Irene Bordent seems over for a hit, has a villa at Cap d'ail (Garlic Point). Called Villa of the Little Blue Dog, and many celebrities have lost their reason trying to find it. Lives there with his sister Frederica. Brown was a hooper kicked upstairs to better things. Used to tap with the Dolly Sisters and others. Heart went bad and he had to do something or starve. So he took up play-writing and wrote "Cobra."

Harry Lachman and Monte Banks will be here for exteriors Christmas week. Lots of snow 25 miles away. Lachman's "Week End Wives" seems to have given British International the hit it has been looking for.

The Evening Standard says: "An American director, Mr. Harry Lachman, and an American actor, Mr. Monte Banks, have made 'Week End Wives' the best British comedy yet seen."

The head is "British—And Good." You see they still think America a colony.

Lady de Bathe, known to old-timers as Lily Langtry, has reached Monte Carlo, where she always winters.

Lady Russell ("Elizabeth and Her German Garden") is over there, too.

"Career of a Princess" exteriors have been taken in this region. A director from Holland (Boeve) is doing the picture for Warner.

Maria del Stat of "Madame Remontier," gets two-year contract with Franco Film.

Jersey Clubs Quiet

Night club biz in New Jersey isn't and hasn't been particularly brisk. Lido Venice, Camden, is getting about the biggest play, due, it is claimed, to the billboard, half-page newspaper ads and heralds.

Obituary

HARTLEY MANNERS

J. Hartley Manners, 55, actor and playwright, died Dec. 19 in New York. He has been ill some time but death was hastened by an operation. Nov. 25, and a following relapse.

Manners had been a prominent actor, but it was his play writing which brought him his greatest success, of which "Peg o' My Heart" was the most successful. It was during the "Peg" triumph, or just prior to its presentation, that he secretly married Laurette Taylor, actress, who survives him.

Manners was born in London. At 18 he went on the stage in Melbourne. In subsequent seasons he appeared in support of Forbes-Robertson and then Mrs. Lily Langtry. It was with the latter as an actor he came to this country, appearing in "The Crossways." In 1902 he launched his play writing career and for 21 years he turned out a play a year. Among his best known pieces were "The Indiscretion of Youth," 1906; "The House Next Door," 1909; "The Girl and the Wizard," 1910; "The Prince of Bohemia, 1910; "The Girl in Waiting" (in which Laurette Taylor appeared), 1910; "The Winding of Eve," and then "Peg o' My Heart," 1912. "Peg" ran 604 nights on Broadway and eight companies played it on tour. "Peg's" full record up to 1921 had been 11,286 performances, with a revival made in 1921.

Manners had a big but simple funeral, Dec. 21. He was buried from the Church of the Holy Cross, N. Y. Interment private.

MABEL BERRA

(Mrs. Charles H. Allen)

Mabel Berra, 35, vaudeville and musical comedy prima donna, in private life the wife of Charles H. Allen, general manager, M. S. Bentham offices, Palace theatre building, was killed in an automobile accident Saturday afternoon (Dec. 22) at Manhasset, L. I.

Miss Berra, an Irish star and sister-in-law, was motoring through Manhasset on her way to her home in Great Neck when a stop was made. When the door opened, her pet dog jumped out and ran down the road. Miss Berra in an effort to catch him was struck by an approaching car, which swerved to avoid hitting the dog. Miss Berra was rushed to Manhasset Sanitarium, where death occurred an hour later from a fractured skull.

Miss Berra had deviated her time between vaudeville and musical comedy. When the "Palace, New York" was opened Miss Berra was chosen as one of the main acts. Her principal show engagement was "The Last Waltz." She had at one time played in European theatres.

She was married to Mr. Allen about nine years ago when she retired from the stage.

The remains were taken to Low, denville, O., for interment.

CLARA LUTZ

Clara Lutz, 50, vaudeville, died Dec. 12 in Plattsburg, N. Y. She was the wife of Clare Lutz (Lutz Bros.).

The deceased had been on the stage 12 years, working as a member of the act of Lutz Bros. and Great Lutz Co. This act toured the Orpheum and also went around the world.

In 1903 when in the west tour she and Mr. Lutz were married. The husband, who survives, is in vaudeville with the act, "Peetology." He is using the family name of Chelm St. Orr.

WILLIAM LOUGHRAN

William Loughran, 60, actor, died Dec. 20 in the House of Calvary in the Bronx, N. Y.

Loughran, up until the time illness forced him to retire, had been on the stage 30 years. His last stage appearance was in "Gorilla," and "Papa Joe."

Among his most prominent shows were "Coccolate Soldier," "Mlle. Mischief" (with Corinne), "Happy Land" (in support of DeWolf Hopper), "Fair and Warmer," "Ben-Hur," "Hawallah Butterfly." He also appeared in vaudeville. Two sisters survive.

Interment in Catholic Actors' Guild Plot in Calvary Cemetery

MARTIN F. WESTWOOD

Martin F. Westwood, 45, screen actor, died at his home in Glendale, Cal., Dec. 19, following an attack of pneumonia.

HENRY F. CLARENS

Henry F. Clarens, 68, actor, died Dec. 19 in New York. Some 50 years ago he debuted here on the Boston Museum stage.

Among shows in which he had appeared were "Heaven Tappan," "Two by Two," "The Poor Nut," "Across the Continent," "Ups and Downs of Life" (with Kate Byron), and in "Killer," his last appearance. For a time he also did picture work. Clarens is survived by a son and two daughters. Interment in Actors' Fund plot, Kensico Cemetery.

ALFRED J. HAASE

Al Haase, 34, popular music man, died Dec. 19 of double pneumonia following a three days illness.

As head of the Alfred Music Co. he was an occasional music publisher, but principally occupied as a jobber through his Orchestra Music Supply Co., which set a pattern for several others who entered into competition with him. Haase was also a successful composer of ultra-modernist instrumental pieces, which his Alfred Music Co. exploited.

Married about three years ago, his wife survives.

RICHARD EASTON

Richard Easton, 28, for seven years assistant to Edwin Carewe, picture producer, died Dec. 19 at Hollywood Hospital, Los Angeles, from pneumonia.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Marcella Faye Easton, and two sisters, Mrs. Wallace Fox, sister-in-law to Carewe, and Miss Winifred Easton, all of Hollywood, and a brother, George Eastern of Indiana.

Walter Raymond, veteran stage manager at the Apollo theatre, Atlantic City, died in the Atlantic City Hospital Dec. 23 following an operation.

Raymond has been in the theatrical profession for 39 years and is survived by his wife. Funeral is being held today (Wednesday).

Joseph Fiore, 62, caretaker of the old Metro studios at Hollywood, died Dec. 17 from accidental asphyxiation. He is survived by a widow and four children.

The mother, 60, of Bobby Folsom (Mrs. Harold Kemp), died of pneumonia Dec. 17 in Los Angeles. Interment in Joliet, Ill.

Mrs. Jessie Love, 31, widowed sister of Rose Valys, died of the flu, Dec. 21 in Chicago. Daughter, 10, survives.

James J. Greeko, owner, Rialto theatre, Worcester, Mass., died recently.

BILLS NEXT WEEK

(Continued from page 33)

LaNeuve Lambert
 Martie Martelle
 Earl Pickett
 Jimmy Carl Orch
 Philip Morris
 N. Brockman
 Al Shun

Jack Abel
 Simon Braginsky
 Ruth Dea
 Larry Moll Orch
 Benzevoux
 Don Moran
 J. Durante's Rev

CHICAGO

Elizabeth O'Donnell
 Flo Knight
 Ethel Mae
 Inez Gambie
 Palmer House
 Ralph Williams Bd
 Dottie Dale
 Royale
 Eddie Cox
 Nellie Nelson
 Madelon McKenzie
 Gypsy Leonor
 Art Kasel Bd
 Roy Bealey
 Lillie G. G.
 Dan Moran Bd
 Terrace Garden
 Bobby Jackson
 Carrie Wood
 Knox & Traker
 Carolyn Lu Ras
 Art Kasel Bd
 Turkish Village
 Dan Moran Bd
 Jack Hamilton
 Eileen Tanner
 Don Moran Bd
 Freddie Janis Bd
 Vanity, Fox
 Lally Brundage
 Jane McAllister
 Betty Mae Dae
 Helen Savello
 Jean Anthony
 Dan Moran Bd
 Mary Graham
 Keith Beecher Bd

WASHINGTON

Max Jones, Ed
 Joe Bonnett
 Lotus
 Zona Hall
 Betty Mae Dae
 Mrs. Irv Bonnett's Rev
 Mary Philman
 Swanne
 Madelon McKenzie
 Max Lowe Bd
 Venus
 Pemberton Bonnett
 C Wright Orch
 Wardman Park
 Meyer Davis Bd

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HAL HALPERIN in Charge
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Phones: Central 0644-4401

CHICAGO

Professionals have the free use of Variety's Chicago Office for information. Mail may be addressed care Variety, Woods Bldg., Chicago. It will be held subject to call, forwarded or advertised in Variety's Letter List.

Gale Players have replaced vaude at Great States' Majestic, Bloomington, Ill., with dramatic stock Two shows daily, with a picture on each end.

Gerald Gallagher, manager of Great States' Plumb, in Decatur, Ill., has resigned. W. O. Butts, formerly a field man, replaces.

Broadway Strand has started a straight sound policy.

Great States Theatres will build \$2,000,000 theatre and building at Aurora to replace the one burned recently. New house, Venetian, will seat 2,500.

Architects, Rapp & Rapp.

Joe Christie (Christie and McDonald) broke up his vaude act to become m. c. at the Lerner theatre, Elkhart, Ind.

SELWYN Matinees Thursday and Saturday
JED HARRIS Will Present

HELEN HAYES in "COQUETTE"

SAM H. HARRIS Matinees Wednesday and Saturday

GEORGE JESSEL

"The WAR SONG"

A Comedy With Drama

Advertisement for Lester featuring presentation costumes and exclusive creations.

Charles Christensen, assistant manager of United Artists theatre, is back after an illness lasting nine weeks.

Harris, Inc., music publishers, have discontinued their local office, of which "Chick" Castle was manager.

Newly elected officers of Musicians' Local 208 (colored) are George L. Smith, president, and M. C. Buckner, treasurer. Board of directors

boosted from \$1 to \$1.25 for lower floor nights during Rambau engagement.

"My Maryland," in February, is only legit road show announced for the Metropolitan.

A. C. Bainbridge is negotiating with the Frohman offices to bring Jillian Foster here in her new John Colton play for a tryout in advance of the Broadway opening. The same thing was done through John Golden with "Night Hostess." Un-

Theatre Guild's new one, Theresa Helburn on for this opening also.

Lina Arambell, guest star at the Keith St. James stock, in "Enter Madame," Week Dec. 31.

"Mary Duggan" for Boston Jan. 21 at the Willbur. Ann Harding heads east.

Beacon Press of Boston is publishing this week "One Thousand Sayings of History" by Walter Fogie, member of Sunday Herald staff.

Dullest week before Christmas in many seasons here. All Shubert houses dark. Klaw and Erlanger theatres, three, all open.

Walter Kingsford in "And So To Bed" at Plymouth, opening Xmas mat.

BUFFALO

By SIDNEY BURTON

Teek—"Paris Bound," Erlanger—"Dracula," Buffalo—"Adoration," Great Lakes—"Women They Talk About."

Hipp—"Captain Swagger," Shea's Century—"Abie's Irish Rose," Lafayette—"Amphitruos."

John E. Carr, manager of Shea's Hipp for several years, went to Shea's Century in the same capacity when the house opened Saturday. George A. Mason, formerly assistant at the Hipp, becomes manager there.

Another large neighborhood theatre is in prospect for South Buffalo. Site has already been acquired.

Hal Mordant is attempting to convert the former Court Street Players into a civic theatre proposition.

Ann Nichols-Universal litigation over "Abie" and "Coburn and Kelleys" broke in the local newspapers simultaneously with the opening of Shea's Century, featuring Paramount's "Abie." Court story got a couple of columns and ran alongside of the ads of the Shea.

Erlanger and the Teek, both closed last week, reopen Monday with "Dracula" at the former and "Paris Bound" at the latter.

CORRESPONDENCE

All matter in CORRESPONDENCE refers to current week unless otherwise indicated.

The cities under Correspondence in this issue of Variety are as follows and on pages:

Table listing cities and page numbers: BALTIMORE 55, BOSTON 53, BUFFALO 53, CHICAGO 53, CINCINNATI 54, CLEVELAND 55, KANSAS CITY 55, LOS ANGELES 54, LOUISVILLE 54, MINNEAPOLIS 53, MONTREAL 54, NEW ORLEANS 54, PROVIDENCE 53, SAN FRANCISCO 54, SEATTLE 54, TOLEDO 54, TORONTO 55, WASHINGTON 55.

includes Charles Elgar, Clarence Black, Charles Cook, Raymond Whitsett and Robert Shaffner.

MINNEAPOLIS

Meek-Dark Shubert-Stock. Hennepin—"Captain Swagger"—Vaude. Palace—"Lonevue"—Vaude. Palace—Stock tab.

Minnesota—"Interference"—Stage unit. State—"Dream of Love." Strand—"Little Wildcat." Lyric—"Freedom of Press." Grand—"Caught in Fog." Second run.

Seventh Street theatre, formerly Orpheum circuit's W. V. A. house here, continues dark. It closed last summer. Belief is it never will reopen. Garrick, 2,000-seat B. & R. Publix house across the street from Seventh Street, has been available all season for rentals. Until closing last summer, among leading loop first-run film theatres.

Marjorie Rambau opens Dec. 30 in "The Sign on the Door" at Bainbridge stock house. Top prices

der Mr. Bainbridge's proposal to the Frohman offices, however, the try-out would be either by the Bainbridge Players (dramatic stock) at the Shubert, with Miss Foster as a guest star, or the entire New York production and company would be sent to the Metropolitan. Colton is a former local newspaperman.

Edward Straus, assistant Tribune drama editor, has started an interesting personal column of theatrical personalities in his Sunday dramatic section.

In conjunction with a local dancing school, Manager E. C. Bostick has staged a kiddies' revue for the current Pantages headliner. The performers comprise all local talent.

F. & R. are announcing their first "all professional" kiddies' revue as a stage attraction at the State next week.

BOSTON

Alex Woolcott in stage box at Hollis for opening of "Caprice."

PROVINCIAL

By J. J. SULLIVAN, JR.

Majestic—"Air Circus" (sound) Strand—"What A Night" Victory—"Alec Rube" (sound) Albee—"Vandium" Albee—"Vandium" Modern Stock Opera House—Bark Empire—"Speed Girls" Mutual.

Revised of "Charles's Aunt" will be tried by the Modern stock this week.

Jack Johnson, former heavy weight champ, took on local boys for a few rounds while appearing here in burlesque last week.

High-key games at the big Rhode Island auditorium, twice a week, are cutting into theatre attendances.

When in Chicago Visit These Hits

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Every room is outside, with bath, running ice water, telephone, bed-head reading lamp and Servidor. The last named is particularly appreciated by professional guests. It completely prevents contact between patrons and hotel employees when laundry, shoes, etc., are sent out or returned.

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The Morrison stands closer than any other hotel to theatres, stores and railroad stations. Yet, at this central location, rooms are rented for \$2.50 to \$5 that would cost \$5 to \$8 in any other leading hotel. Store sub-rentals here are so valuable that they pay all the ground rent, and the saving is passed on to the guests.

The Terrace Garden and Boston Oyster House

At these two famous restaurants, the intimate, carefree atmosphere has won international celebrity. In the Terrace Garden the light, vivacious dance music and sparkling entertainments have made it a favorite rendezvous for lunch, dinner and after-theatre parties. Programs broadcast daily from WBBM.

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LOS ANGELES

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Orpheum
Around this town they sense a good voice show. If it is what they sense it to be, business' okay all week! It not results the opposite. Last week they had a real show. Opening night was a house filler even to the boxes. Quite an achievement here now. Headliner was Bennie Davis with his orchestra and entertainers. But that was not the only good spot on the bill, which had been cut to seven acts due to the 40-minute running time of the Davis turn.

With one exception show clicked through and through. It opened with Eileen and Margorie, comedienne. Gals have a lot on the bill when it comes to twirling their carcases about and they got over in great style.

In the device was Olyn Landick, female impersonator. He had been fooled for a minute or two until they get a flash at his blonde wig, poorly tailored. Good routine of impersonator, but sort of got off the trail in putting over a couple of off-color gags that should not be used by a female delineator. The boy is there in all ways, clicks with his auditors, but would do better yet if he cut out the salacious material.

Then came the whang, bang, slam, etc., antics of Conlin and Glines in their suit of morning, noon and night, entitled "Whoa." Stopped things cold with Conlin dragging on the "Three Brox" girls from the audience to do a couple of numbers. They aid and looks as though if they want to play that Orpheum circuit later they can.

Next was the quick spot of the bill. Rather mistake in local book-

ing. A clasp, Jagger Bruce Jenner, and called him "the boy Padewski." The name of the Pole is tough movie, middle one with kid can play some classics, but nothing one wants in a variety theatre. Best for parlor entertainment when proud parents want to show a bit of 10 off.

Closing first part were Chamberlin and Himes. Nothing to it for this duo. They just rolled the mop up in the palms of their mits and carried them through to a panicky finish. Real stop at intermission time.

Following Pathic News and opening second part were Wilton and Rex Veleur, held over. Scored even better on this stum. They rolled the mop up in the palms of their mits and carried them through to a panicky finish. Real stop at intermission time.

Pauline Starke will go over the R-K-O vaude circuit in a sketch, as yet untitled.

Rolf Harold as managing editor in "Front Page" at the Belasco, Dec. 31.

D'Orley-Carte Opera Company. English troupe, in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas at the Mason late in January, indefinitely.

Fred McConnell, manager of shorts, Universal, is here on a sales mission covering the Coast.

At the fifth annual meeting of the Wasps, Jane McDonough, of the Pathic publicity department, re-elected president. Other officers: Helen Mason, vice-pres.; Margaret Kimball, treasurer; Eugene Crawford, sec.; Stanley Moorman, auditor. Francis Dillon was elected to the board of directors.

William Austin has been borrowed from Paramount by M-G-M to replace George K. Arthur in the cast of "The Five o'Clock Girl," which is being directed by Alfred E. Green. Arthur is taken out of the picture to enable him to start work in "China Bound," where he will co-star with Karl Dane.

Gayne Whitman has been added to "Daddies," next Duffy production at the Hollywood Playhouse.

Back salary claims amounting to \$1,805 against the Arterraft Organ Co., were filed with the State Labor Commission by 11 employees of the company. Hearing on their claims will be conducted by Deputy Labor Commissioner C. F. Lowy on Dec. 28.

Cynthia Hendryx and Mac La Jeta, ente claimers, filed claims for \$10 each against the Skip Cafe.

Lots, Wilson will play the female lead in "The Third Angle," by Florence Ryerson, as her second talking short for Christie. Production is to begin Dec. 28.

Production of Fox's "Through Different Eyes" has been postponed until after Christmas. The picture was interrupted when Jack Blystone, director, was called back to make additional scenes for "Captain Jack." The cast was finished several days ago, but it was decided to postpone the other picture until after Christmas.

Metropolitan Studios is building a scene dock 40 by 70 feet of concrete construction. It joins the new sound stages.

The first all-Oriental east picture ever made in America will go into production Dec. 26 at the Technicolor studio. It is to be a historical drama of China, called "Manchu Love" and will be made in color and sound.

About 100 people will be used in the cast, all Chinese or Japanese.

So Jim takes the lead male part and Tom Robbins, unofficial bur-

of Los Angeles' Chinatown, will be technical director. The film will be made in 16 reels and directed by Elmer Clifton.

Among the thousands of girls that answered the want ads appearing in the daily papers for a leading type to play in "Nobody's Children," more than 50 were selected by F. W. Murnau who was seeking inexperienced screen players for a scene in his current production "Our Daily Bread" for Fox.

Eric von Stroheim has finished filming the silent version of "Queen Kelly," starring Gloria Swanson, at the F. B. O. studios. He moves his production staff and players to the Pathic studios where dialog sequences will be made for the picture.

Edward Mayer, professor of visual instruction at U. of C., in Berkeley, read a paper on Educational Motion Pictures to the members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Hoot Gibson suffered a badly sprained ankle when thrown from his horse during filming of "Birds of a Feather" production is being held up pending his recovery.

NEW ORLEANS

By O. M. SAMUEL

Tulane—"Desert Song."
Saenger—"Able's First Love."
Saenger—"Three Week Ends."
Strand—"Adoration."
Tudor—"The Haunted House."

Saenger made quite an ado over the return of Ben Black as m. c. Theatre now has Don Phillipini leading its orchestra.

"Desert Song" opening at Tulane Xmas instead of Sunday. Legit south trying very hard to overcome the obstacles that beset it.

Ed Hebert asst. mgr. Tulane.

The jal alairs are busy again down at the Fronton in the lower section of the city.

LOUISVILLE

Rialto—"Someone to Love," vaude.
Brown—"Darc."
Wash—"Box of Facts" (Mutual).
Gandy—"On Trial," wired.
Loew—"Dream of Love," wired.
Mary Anderson—"Captain Swagser," wired.
Alamo—"Red Wine," wired.
Majestic—"Four Walls."

Roland Hayes last attraction at Brown this year. House closed until after Jan. when it reopens with road show, probably "Shanghai Gesture."

Clive's Concert Bureau announces Yale Glee Club at the Columbia Dec. 28, instead of Fisk Singers. Mme. Elizabeth Rethberg postponed from Jan. 18 to Jan. 25 on account of Dorothy Speare Jan. 17.

No announcement has been made regarding what the R-K-O interests intend to do with the National after the Majestic is dismantled Jan. 1. National has been dark since June.

Carrie Finnell, special attraction at the Gayety (burlesque) last week, held over for Christmas week.

SEATTLE

By DAVE TREPP

Met—"Sings."
President—"The Big Pond" (stock).
5th Ave.—"Woman Affairs"; show.
Seattle—"Drums Love"; stage show.
Columbia—"Wings."
Collins—"Water Hole."
Wash—"Box of Facts."
Blue Mouse—"Bachelors."
Wash—"Box of Facts."
Pantages—"Gipsy and Zerk"—Vaude.
Orpheum—"McCobb's Daughter"—Vaude.

Town is pretty well wired. Collinson in a few days too. This will leave Winter Garden, Embassy and Orpheum, only unwired first run houses.

C. P. Scates is now conducting a newspaper in the navy town and getting the kale. Jules Reisman West Coast manager now at Bremerton. He says the town is hoped up over the U. S. cruiser building plans, for it means more biz for Bremerton navy yards.

Construction has started on 800-seater in Everett, to be built ready for occupancy by April 1 by Al Pinkelstein and Al Rosenberg.

Monte Salmon, Tacoma manager for West Coast, called to Atlanta last week by serious illness of his wife.

E. Max Bradfield coming here Dec. 28 as m. c. at 5th Ave. Still returns to Broadway at Portland.

VARIETY'S SAN FRANCISCO

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Golden State Theatres will inaugurate their new Parkside (neighborhood pictures) at Taraval and 18th avenue, Dec. 28.

Three local current legit openings: "Gay Paree," at Curran; "Mary Dugan" (repeat), Columbia; "This Thing Called Love," President (Duffy production).

Chief of Police Dan J. O'Brien has been granted an extended leave of absence, due to ill health. High blood pressure is attributed. The chief is a correspondent-at-large for Variety.

At close of eight weeks and two days run of "The Singing Fool" at the Embassy, ticket articles sold approximately 225,000 paid admissions. Seating 1,367.

First "talker" to be played by Golden Gate (Orpheum junior) will be "The Spieler" (Pathe), New Year's week.

Henry Duffy is going the picture houses a step better in the matter of Scrip Books. At all Duffy box office, these books sold at 10 per cent. sale, are sold in demonstrations of \$11, \$27.75 and \$60. Sale is on only during December, with the scrip redeemable at any Duffy house.

"Shannons of Broadway," with Lucille Gleason, opened currently at Duffy's DuFwin, Oakland. "Mother's Millions," with Ray Robson, will be next attraction.

Brehany Productions, with capital of \$100,000, filed articles of incorporation at Sacramento. Incorporators are Jack Brehany, Eddie Brehany (son), Harriet Bennett, Emilio Lopez, George W. Anderson and R. E. McFarland. Purpose is to produce a musical by McFarland, with Miss Bennett in featured role.

Jerry Richard organized the NBC's Dixie Melodists, seven banjos. It's a weekly broadcast over the network and locally through KPO and KGO.

CINCINNATI

By JOE KOLLING

Shubert—"Burrhead."
Taft—"Walker stock."
Cox—"National stock."
Alamo—"Three Week Ends"—Vaude.
Palace—"Vaude film."
Embassy—"Night bar."
Capitol—"Woman of Affairs" (3d wk).
Lyric—"Pictures."
Keith—"Pictures."
Strand—"Spies."

Erlanger-Grand will end 11-week period of darkness Jan. 6, reopening with "Dracula."

John W. Moore, juvenile, debuting with National Stock this week in "Excess Baggage." Moore replaces Robert Reed.

"Burlesque" at Shubert, \$2.50 night and \$2 matinee.

Ted Lewis and his orchestra at Castic Farm New Year's week.

TOLEDO

By E. H. GOODING

Palace—"Flattered in Paris."
State (wired)—"Barker."
Emmanuel (wired)—"Silver Fox."
Viva-Temple (wired)—"Silver Fox."
Valentine—"Dream of Love."
Ernst—"Manhattan Cocktail."
Rival—Vaude film.
Keith's—Vaude film.
Empire—Mutual bur.

Loew's Valentine latest wired here, in "Three Week Ends" with "White Slideways" and M-G-M talking shorts.

Edwin M. Shonert, 63, noted solo-

1st and concert musician, died Dec 15 in Bucyrus, O.

Ritz, new \$250,000 film house at 211th, O., owned by Kfirwan & Ritzler, Lima, O., opened last week. James Werba manager.

Addison Q. Thacher, fight promoter here, will serve his annual Christmas dinner, with the pugs in his stable as waiters, Tuesday afternoon. "Everybody welcome and no questions asked" is the rule at these annual dinners, at which 1,500 take last year.

MONTREAL

Princess—"The Silent House."
Palace—"Mother Machree."
Capitol—"Three Week Ends."
Loew's—"Steinbock, Jr."
Imperial—"Moran of Marines."
Strand—Changes.
Empress—Changes.
Orpheum—Stock.
Gayety—Bur.

What the censors ban in Great Britain, Ontario and Saskatchewan can pass in Quebec, and "Dawn," Edith Cavell film, exciting talk recently, will be shown in Montreal. Likely at the Princess, legit.

Bransby Williams, British actor, at His Majesty's early in the new year. This legit house has been dark for six weeks.

Enforcement of the children's act barring youngsters under 16 from picture theatres is now hitting local houses hard. Statement is given out that all church halls are dangerous for theatrical or pictures and will not be permitted to be used for such.

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Gold Medal Column

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FANCHON and MARCO COSTUME CO. Specialize in creating the most attractive costumes for chorus and ensemble groups in stage presentations and local entertainment. They are used exclusively by the foremost producers in America. They are made to order and can either be purchased or loaned to responsible producers for single performances, a week, month or year.

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Lynne Eve
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Fox Dave
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Gordon Claire
Gould Adele
Hammond Al
Harris Oliver
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Howard Myrtle
Irving Rose
King Catherine
Kinslow Roy
Knight Frank
Lang Howard
Lee Irving
Lester H & C

BALTIMORE

Maryland—"Menth in May."
Auditorium—"Tenth Avenue."
Ford's—Thurston.
Garden—Vaughlin.
Guild—"Gambolers" (10th week).
Louise Molloy, formerly dramatic
critic on the American in this city,
has won the prize offered by the
Women's Eastern Shore Society for
the best historical play on that sec-
tion of Maryland.

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Double Rooms
\$3-\$4-\$5
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\$2.50 and \$3.00

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Absolutely
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Artistic Steel
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SINGLE ROOM WITHOUT BATH \$1.25 AND \$1.50 PER DAY
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DOUBLE ROOM WITHOUT BATH \$14.00 PER WEEK
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For Two Persons
One and Three Rooms, Bath, Kitchen.
Completely Furnished
In the Heart of Times Square
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Large Rooms \$2.00
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Running Water Newly Decorated a day and up
Courtroom Treatment Newly Furnished a day and up
Double Room for 2, Bath and Shower \$2.50 and up
Special Weekly Rates

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2-3 Rooms, Bath and Kitchenette.
Accommodate 2-3 Persons. Complete
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Under New Management.
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Three and four rooms with bath,
complete kitchen. Modern in every
particular. Will accommodate four
or more adults.
\$12.00 UP WEEKLY

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Lowest Theatrical Rates in Boston

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By HARDIE MEAKIN

Holmes (Shubert)—Cook musical stock.
Nelson—"Strange Incident."
Poll's—"Well Well Well!"
Gayety—Stock bur.
Strand—Musical.
Columbia—"Woman of Affairs."
Earle—"What a Night!"
Fox—"Frop and Pop"—stage show.
Met—"Haunted House."
Palace—"Harm Moscow"—stage show.

Colby Harriman, managing both
Palace and Columbia for Loew, con-
tinues to spend plenty of time look-
ing for unusual stock, finding them
and getting plenty of comment from
the local reviewers.

All of the downtown picture
houses are going in for midnight
shows New Year's Eve. Fox will
reserve part of the house while
others will stick to the regular.

George Peters on Palace staff.

Henry George, old time carnival
barber now settled here, is doing
his former line from the stage of
the Fox this week in that theatre's
stage presentation "The Circus."

CLEVELAND

By GLENN C. PULLEN
Ohio—"Rosale."
Hanna—"Manhattan Mary."
Palace—"Some One to Love" vaude
night—"Court Martial" vaude.
Stullman (wired)—"Alas Jimmy Val
Gardner—"West of Zanzibar."
Garden wire—"The Grand Silver F."
Hip (wired)—"Annals."
Columbia bur.
Empire bur.
Alhambra bur.

Gordon Square reopens this week.

600 HOUSEKEEPING APARTMENTS

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Stay at the Fairbairn. It's the
kind of hotel you've been look-
ing for in your travels—modern,
home-like, comfortable. Double
rooms, luxuriant beds, splendid
lobby and lounge, game room;
good food. Extremely moderate
rates.

Special Rates for Actors, Actresses,
and Theatrical Companies

FAIRBAIRN HOTEL
John R. at Columbia,
DETROIT, MICH.

with stock under Gordon Wade,
Blanche Wilcox, Eric Clavering,
Sally Fisher, Henry North, Violet
LeClair and Wade in company.

"Love Bandits," initial burlesque
show at Alhambra under new policy.

Empress, formerly Little, is Cleve-
land's newest burlesque emporium.
Stock consists of Paul Ryan, Lester
Dunn, George Murray, Gus Bondi,
Billy Harris, Benny Leonard, Ethel
Allerton, Ethel Spears.

"Trail of '98," booked for Stillman,
pulled out and "Alias Jimmy Valen-
dine" substituted for this week.

The question of who will get the
managership of the circus auditorium
\$15,000 plum job, not yet settled.
Every politician and theatre man in
town has thrown his hat in.

Reduced Rates

ROOM AND BATH
TWO PERSONS
\$15.00
WEEK

HOTEL AMERICA
149 West 47th St., New York City
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with stock under Gordon Wade,
Blanche Wilcox, Eric Clavering,
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LeClair and Wade in company.

Acropolis Hotel

310 W. 58th St., New York
\$12.50 Singles with Priv. Bath
\$14.00, Doubles with
Bath. All Conveniences
Catering to Theatricals

editor of the Toronto Globe (morn-
ing) and press agent for the Shus-
berts in Canada, grabbed off the wire
Canadian p. a job this week by
being appointed to the Canadian
National Exhibition as publicity di-
rector. Carries \$5,000 a year.

Edwood Hughes' friends after
holding the job two years to become
secretary of the William Wiegley,
Jr. Co.

Shubert Slipper is the first casualty
among the dance cards that decided
to begin an all-out bid for the win-
ter. Four other men still ahead of
the leader, two dozen will not be
included in this week of the
theater.

Stockholders in the Fairlyland
Park Amusement Company will pre-
vent a trustees' sale of the com-
pany by the liquidation of existing
claims against the organization, by
a special assessment. Bankruptcy
proceedings were brought against
the enterprise on claims totaling
\$45,000. Fairlyland company is cap-
italized at \$300,000 and owns \$50,000
equity in its site, priced to the com-
pany at \$110,000 but now worth
much more.

Third annual convention of the
Heart of America Showmen's Club
held at Coates Hotel Dec. 26-31.
Exhibits occupy the top floor and
convert the place into a veritable
carnival midway.

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KEN MURRAY

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A FUNNY MAN

PALACE THEATRE, NEW YORK

DEC. 23, XMAS WEEK

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ARE WITH ME

DIRECTION CHARLES ALLEN

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