

STAGE  
SCREEN

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Only Theatrical Newspaper on the Pacific Coast

# INSIDE FACTS

## Of Stage and Screen

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No. 19

# PHONEY SONG CHISELS UNDER POLICE SCRUTINY

## PUBLIC JOINS IN RETURN TO ACTS IN WEST

Paramount - Public this week joined in the landslide toward stage shows in picture and vaudeville class houses, which got its initial momentum in Hollywood with the proposed return of Grauman's Chinese to a lavish prologue policy and the announced opening of the new Panjages theatre with big stage productions.

Four big coast houses, the Paramount, here; Paramount, San Francisco; Paramount, Seattle, and Paramount, Portland, are slated to return to the stage support policy within the next month, it is understood, with the productions being built in San Francisco, Public coast headquarters.

Organization of a production department is now under way under the direction of Ralph Crabill, coast head. Former eastern production men with additions from the coast organization will take charge of the work when the plan gets fully under way, it is reported. Harry Gourlain, eastern producer for Public, will join the coast staff.

Complete details will be announced by Crabill immediately organization plans are perfected.

R-K-O officials this week admitted that the change of coast picture houses back to stage shows will force R-K-O to return to "big time" vaudeville on the coast within the near future.

Warners were reported still adamant in a decision to stick to the all-talkie programs, but inside reports had the Warner organization scouting about to protect themselves if the stage show landide gains expected proportions.

Meanwhile "Hell's Angels" has been definitely set to world premiere Grauman's Chinese on May 27 with a lavish Grauman prologue in support.



**JAMIE ERICKSON**

PREMIERE ORGANIST—CALIFORNIA THEATRE—SAN DIEGO  
BROADCASTING DAILY—RADIO STATION KFSD

The new Pan, in Hollywood, opens on May 29 with the Marion Davies picture, "The Floradora Girl," elaborate F. and M. augmented "Ideas" and "Slim" Martin directing the orchestra.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Sol Lewis, proprietor of the Strand Theatre, died last week after a long illness.

### BERNICE CLAIR ILL.

Overwork and failure to properly heed an incipient attack of influenza brought Bernice Claire, musical comedy star, now featured by Warner Brothers, down this week. Miss Claire was reported in a serious condition early this week. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Johnigan, rushed here from their home in Oakland.

### REMODEL EL PATIO

El Patio Ballroom here, collegiate and clerks favorite, closed for the summer season Saturday night, the management announcing plans for remodeling the place, one of the largest and most successful spots in Southern California. Fifty thousand dollars will be laid out for the revamping, with reopening scheduled for September 19.

### Grab Chicken Feed

"Grabbing off all the fat profits in sight, ranging from \$500 and a little higher, the boys are reported not averse to smatching chicken feed in tens and twenties, if the gullible ones can muster only that much. One of the lads even took a 1923 model Chevlie from an eager aspirant for teaching him tuncel

(Continued on Page 13)

YOU'LL SEE IT IN FACTS

# Studio Officials Told New Contract Must Be Lived Up To By Executives

## CAJOLE RECORDING MANAGER FOR RADIO

**By A. H. FREDERICK**

The idea, long advanced by Inside Facts, that the forcing out of William Fox from the production field would be the first step toward the complete Wall Streetization of the picture industry, seems to be generally accepted now as marking the next event of importance in Hollywood.

It is currently all up and down the Boulevard, and at other spots where picture people gather, that Wall Street has moved forward in a steady advance toward the one aim of bringing the picture industry toward the same systemization as big business puts into its other enterprises. First there was the handling of the Equity strike, secondly there was the aftermath of the non-strike clause in the new standard contract, and now there has been the elimination of the one biggest and most outstandingly independent. With Universal concentrating on roadshow-calibre pictures with K-O recently in a deal which will align Columbia with them, the industry now is engaged in the way of accomplishing one of the time-clock punchers.

## MASQUER REVEL MIDNIGHT SAT'D

**Workability Question**

This bill will be quite an innovation in show business, whether the public will be the best advantage of the work is problematical. It is, however, very doubtful that the artist's temperament may be sufficiently supple to being tamed to make it work within the rules of the show-bookkeepers and shopgirls, but whether it can flare to as great heights under these circumstances remains to be seen. Doubtless one result of a too systematized industry, and this despite any monetary indemnities that may be offered, will be that many of the stellar names of showdom will revert to that attitude which marked the earliest days of the "flickers," to wit, that artistry can best be served in freedom. It is the old traditional feeling of artistic independence and the opportunity for unhindered self-expression.

It is not among the artists that Wall Street-wisdom will hit hardest, but among the executives. The picture cannot well be taken to the theatre again its former unique place, destroyed by the talking pictures and the best available in talent would have to be obtained, even though concessions in time were made to that end. But with the executives it would be different.

There are some very smart men among this classification in the picture business, and this despite all the habit that has grown up of making men the slaves of the studios and jokes. But the reported plan is to offer them better money than they could make elsewhere, but nothing like that which they are now drawing. Unless there opens up some new field for their talents, apparently they would be trapped.

It is when the question of whether or not some of the bright executives will not find some new theatrical avenue for their talents, but also whether they will not eventually make a cut-in on the picture business that would have the most serious bearing. The Street-wiser in the first place, to have kept them, at least some of them, at their present prices. But Wall Street has lots of money brains, but so has show business, and not all of them are as bright as they are. And it may not be a bad guess that the New York money trusts will find that a certain Russian they have found the proverbial Tartar. It might be good for them to go slow.

## NEWSPAPERMAN DIES

A. Y. Tully, managing editor of the afternoon Los Angeles Evening Express, died of a heart attack here on Wednesday night of illness of some time. Tully was widely known for his vitriolic editorials on the politics of Los Angeles politics and civic affairs.

## NEW WARNER HOUSE

Plans are nearing completion for a new reception building at Warner Brothers theatre in Milwaukee, to represent an investment of a million and a half dollars.

Lowell Vere Calvert, for the past five years general manager of Educational Pictures, has been appointed manager of recording operations of RCA Photophone, Inc., to succeed H. L. Sommer, who returns to RCA-Victor Corporation as managing director of that company's activities in Japan, according to an announcement by Charles J. Ross, executive vice-president of RCA Photophone, Inc.

Calvert will assume control of the recording operations of RCA Photophone's two studios on the West Coast, the Gramercy studio in New York City and the RCA-Victor plant in Camden, N. J., as well as being the company's representative in its contact with Educational Pictures, Jack Kallman, Pathe, Tiffany, RKO and all other RCA Photophone licensees.

## VALENTINO STATUE

"Aspiration," statue in De Longpre Park in Hollywood, symbolizing the work of the late Rudolph Valentino, was unveiled here this week on the 35th anniversary of the actor's birth, with Dolores Del Rio unveiling the work sculptured by Roger Noble Nurthman. Many celebrities attended the ceremonies.

## SURPRISE PARTY

Beck and Regan, Orpheum act, were given a surprise party by several acts Tuesday night, just before leaving for New York to join the R-K-O circuit. Entertainment was put on by Ken and Debarth Brothers, Black and Fanchon, Seymour and Corcoran, Four de Albert, Valle, and many others. Billy Weir was hostess for the festivities.

## NEW ACT PLANNED

Dottie Roberts, solo dancer; Jean Roberts, contortionist-waltz clogger, and Momo, fast tumbler, are busy working up a new three-act and will probably bill it as "The Three Aces." They will leave soon for eastern dates.

## THIS REALLY WAS A BUNCH OF HOT AIR

All the trimmings of a Hollywood premiere were in evidence last week as publicity men gathered in the opening of a talkie feature. The star in the vicinity was a picture which had been made by several studio arcs were throwing their glare from in front of the house.

Everybody in town turned out to welcome the movie star in Hollywood. As they drove up to the theatre in expensive autos donated for the occasion by the local radio dealer. The mike was turned to the celebrities to let them air their feelings in being in attendance.

The mayor and councilmen made glowing speeches over the air, congratulating the manager for advertising the town throughout the country. When the mayor and councilman secretly unhooked the prop mike and shipped it back to the studio, they had a check for \$5.00. His synthetic movie stars set him back \$25,000. The whole stunt cost around \$2 million and no one was any the wiser.

## LIFE PAGE

**Off Rhythm and Tap Expert**  
Former Vaudeville Partner of J. Francis Haney  
"IN HOLLYWOOD—NOW"

**AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE BUD MURRAY SCHOOL FOR STAGE AND SCREEN**

**I. A. T. S. E. BENEFIT DRAWS BIG CROWDS**

The I. A. T. S. E. benefit show, billed as "The Biggest Show on Earth," held in the Shrine Auditorium last Tuesday night, was a success from every point of view. Headline acts at every description held an audience of approximately six thousand people in their seats from 8 p. m. until 11 p. m., next morning, and closed then with many acts still to play.

## FAIR BOOKINGS DEPT. IS BUSY

The newly organized Fanchon and Marco fair booking department is hitting on all sixes. Units are being organized to play a regular schedule of state and country events. Dozens of acts have already been placed in the smaller fairs.

## WARNERS SIGN AYLES

Wes Ayles, young player who earned recognition in "All Quiet on the Western Front," has been signed by Warner Brothers to star in "A Handful of Clouds," original story of the underworld, it is announced by Darryl Zanuck, associate executive.

## HOWE IN NORTHWEST

"Doc" Howe, Fanchon and Marco route manager, is in the northwest lining up new theatres for Friday. The body was sent to meet season and setting his schedule now in order to avoid the early fall rush.

## LINDWALL INJURED

Though painfully injured while arranging the set for "Goodfellows Idea" in the Fox Theatre, Sam Lindwall, F. L. Lindwall, F. L. M. roadman, directed the completion of the show before going to the hospital.

## OMARA TO S. F.

Harold O'Mara, assistant to Chester Sutton of the Mason Opera House, is to visit the "New Public" company in San Francisco next week.

## PIONEER AGENT DEAD

Ben H. Rothwell, pioneer motion picture agent, died in Banning Friday. The body was sent to Denver for burial services this week. Rothwell was associated with the firm of Willis and English, the first Hollywood players, writers and directors agency.

## DIRECTOR ALSO WRITES

George Abbott writes the screen adaptations for all pictures which he directs for Paramount.

## 7400 HERB CAFELEY AND CHISEL TALK

"The motion picture industry doesn't need to outsmart any men, women or children," Jack Warner told 500 casting directors, assistant directors, production executives and actors at a meeting to lay down the law on the letter and spirit of the new minimum contract for screen players, held Monday night, May 5, at the Roosevelt Hotel under the sponsorship of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

"The success of the new contract depends on the feeling of one man and another, giving him a square deal," Warner continued, in emphasizing that the industry had determined to halt chiseling of minor employees and over-zealous unfair practices in the casting end of the industry.

No individual examples were named at the meeting but the casting angle in general was strongly emphasized.

Other speakers were: Academy President William De Mille, who acted as chairman; Irving Thalberg, M. C. Levee and Fred Beeson, representing the production end of the industry; Harry Hardy, representing the actors; Fred Niblo, William Conklin and Charles Brannan.

The meeting was called at the joint request of the Academy Contract Committee and the Association of Motion Picture Producers to insure that the executive forces of the studios are in agreement with the nature, history and enforcement of the contract. A number of points questioned were clarified and it was pointed out that all the association producing companies have signed the Basic Agreement to abide by the Minimum Contract as have more than 400 actors. This agreement is legally binding for a period of five years with the one option that at the end of a year the actors may if they wish stipulate a new agreement. The period providing for a 54-hour week instead of the present 12-hour week with a minimum rest period between calls.

New regulations improving the employment conditions of extras were outlined by Fred Beeson. These will become part of the new agreement with the State Labor Board Commission in San Francisco but are being adopted immediately by most of the studios. The new regulations provide conditions for extras as nearly as possible in accord with those of the regular actors. Remarks of the various speakers followed:

Conrad Nagel—"If a thousand clauses were put in the contract it still could not possibly cover all emergencies. So the negotiations phrase can be introduced. 'The spirit of the contract' takes a great deal of advantage of the other, even where it is possible to do so."

M. C. Levee—"The responsibility of casting directors, producers and others in direct contact with the actors is the responsibility of the contract. The producers, like the managers of every other industry, have a responsibility of good will. That is why this contract is in existence and what it is for."

Irving Thalberg—"The producers are legally responsible even though their agents are not assigned to a binding contract. The purpose of giving the contract is that of achieving good will, is entirely in accord with the attitude of the administration employees toward the minor actor."

Fred Niblo—"Living up to the spirit of the contract is not so much a matter of giving the executive forces on the sets as much as it is a relief. In the past, the industry has been the casting director had the unpleasant responsibility of making the contract possible. Now it is being taken over by the being human, honest, just and satisfied."

Clifton Wundt, recently appointed Secretary of Public Relations, said:

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# "Ingagi" and Jolson Picture Lead Up 'And Down' Week In L. A. Film Houses

## DUFFY PLANNING TO LET PRESIDENT GO

The President led the Henry Duffy field in the legitts this week with a gross of \$6600 for the second week of the "Blue Ghost" thriller and looks good for two or three more weeks. Henry Duffy may let this house go, negotiations now being under way for its disposal, but so far no agreement has been reached on the price. Meanwhile, no show has been set to follow the "Blue Ghost." Other houses held to steady averages.

The El Capitan grossed an even \$5000 for the first week of "Love Em and Leave 'Em." Third week of Dale Winter in "Holiday" at the Hollywood Play House registered \$4700. "Gorilla" follows in on May 10.

The first full week of Lillian Albertson's "Student Prince" at the Majestic grossed \$14,500 and the second week started out at about the same gait. A new operetta, "Charita," is being seriously considered for a successor to the present production. Louis Macdonald is author of this house, and Charles Wakefield Cadman composer of the musical score.

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"Imaginary Invalid," fifth in the series of Civic Repertory productions at the Hollywood Music Box, grossed \$4700 on its second week. It has another week, then to be followed by Keanee Riddout's "Going Home," the National Drama League prize winner.

The Grand Tower is being seriously considered for a successor to the present production. Louis Macdonald is author of this house, and Charles Wakefield Cadman composer of the musical score.

Freud Warning's "Rah Rah Daze" at the Mason is to carry on for an eighth week and then close. Leonard comes in to replace the show for the final week. The take has been running around eight hundred dollars for the last week. A. Blatt production of the drama, "Subway Express," is talked of as the next offering at this house.

"The Criminal Code," with Arthur Byron, is being groomed for opening at the Belasco May 12, to be followed by Ray Bainter in "Caprice," and then David Belasco's "It's a Wonderful Life."

"Strictly Dishonorable" opened at the Biltmore on Sunday with a New York cast and started well. "Among the Married" closed at the Biltmore on Sunday with \$5000 for the last week, having been trimmed a little at the suggestion of George F. Baker.

"Questionable Elaine," opened there Sunday, and will be followed by George F. Baker's "The Great John Ganton."

The Mayan is still playing the picture, "Journey's End," with the stage play, "Decency," as a theatrical revue. "Up and at 'Em," played only eight days at the Pignero. Nothing definite was lined up to follow at present time.

## CHINESE STAR HERE

Endorsed by the Chinese government, Mei Lan-Fang, oriental female impersonator and a group of Chinese musicians, are expected to open a week's engagement at the Philharmonic auditorium under the management of E. E. Pomeroy. Profits from this American tour are to go to exploit the advance of the Chinese Republic.

Here Mr. Mei and his personal staff will be the guests of Mary Pickford.

## BAKER STOCK CLOSING

The Clarence Baker stock company, El Paso, closed their season April 26, after a very successful winter. When they reopen next September, the company will be equipped with a cooling plant, by the assistance of which it is hoped the season can be extended several weeks.

## RYAN AND LEE SHORT

Benny Ryan and Harriet Lee, leading comedians, are featured in a second comedy for "Telephone Varieties," "A Tenement Tangle," directed by Roy McKee.



## Natacha Nattova THIS WEEK—R-KO THEATRE—LOS ANGELES

### GUMBINER TO ERECT HOUSE

H. L. Gumbiner, owner and operator of the Tower and Cameo Theatres here, this week closed a deal for a fifty year lease of the Norton property, situated on the west side of Broadway between Sixth and Seventh Streets upon which he will erect a 2500 seat motion picture theatre to cost approximately \$10,000.

S. Charles Lee and L. Tilden have been selected as the architects. Construction is to commence June 1 and it is expected to have the theatre ready for occupancy by January 1, 1931.

### CASTING COMPLETE FOR MART VISUAL

Casting has been completed for the production of a new play "Round Heads." It is a musical comedy-drama, book by Paul Fickler and lyrics and music by Gordon Clifford, and will be offered at the Theatre Mart later this month.

Cast includes: Russell Hopton, Marion Burns, Roland Ray, Ronald, Bernice, MacFarlane, Francis, Stanley and Purves. James K. Barnes and Doris Morton. Paul Fick will direct.

### CONTINENTAL CLOSING SET

With Bullocks, big local department store, planning to build an annex to their Seventh and Hill emporium, Stanley and Purves are giving up their lease on the Continental Hotel, adjoining the Bullock property.

The 50-150 beds hostelry is known from coast to coast as a show business stopping place. Ventrone and Furness will continue to operate the Yorkshire here, and the Waldorf in San Diego.

### SHANE PROMOTION

Max Shane, publicity man at the United Artists Theatre, has been promoted to be western division supervisor of publicity and exploitation for Public Theatre, with headquarters in New York.

Andy Hervey, formerly with the Orpheum, succeeds Shane at the United Artists here.

### HEGGIE AT WARNERS

O. P. Heggie has been signed for a featured role in the Vitaphone production, "Outward Bound."

### PETTIFOLN VISITS BUT SAYS NOTHING

C. C. Pettifoln, of the National Film Board of Trade, is here from New York on his annual tour.

When reached by telephone at the Roosevelt Hotel he begged off from interviews and would not commit himself as to the nature of the subjects that would engage his attention while here.

"I am going to confer with the Film Board of Trade and, of course," he said, "and I will be here longer than is my usual custom. I am not feeling very well just now and want to give out little and that's about all the Inside Facts I know."

He hesitated a little and then volunteered, "I want to tell you the truth, but the nature of my business is such that to publicize it might do somebody some harm. I have facts that would engage anything to the press, during my visit."

The local Film Board is arranging a banquet in honor of Pettifoln.

### SUE CAROL ON R-K-O CONTRACT

Sue Carol has been signed to a long term contract by RKO, according to an announcement this week by William LeBaron, vice-president in charge of production in Miss Carol had been working in "She's My Weakness," and adaptation of the stage play cast opposite Arthur Lake. She previously worked with Lake in a picture at the Fox studio and is being a banquet in honor of Pettifoln.

### MILK FUND SHOW

Staged and underwritten by the Hollywood 33 club, a fund-raising, Masonic affiliation, the postponed Milk Fund Benefit here has been set for five performances on May 23, 24 and 25, with a mid-week show on May 24 and a matinee on the 25th. Each performance will feature about 40 acts, with Fanchon and Marco putting on the shows.

### EDDIE KAY BACK

Eddie Kay, who has for the past five months been featured at the Tavern and Silver Slipper in San Lake City, returned to Coffee Dan's, this week where he is supervising the night merry-making in his own extemporaneous m. c. fashion.

## ORPHEUM GROSS TOP WITH GORILLA FILM

"Ingagi" continues to lay gross picture totals at the Orpheum, grabbing off \$22,000 for its third week, making a total of \$76,000 for the three weeks, and still going strong. No closing date is in sight. Local high schools have taken an interest in the picture and are staging debates as to whether it is authentic or not, which has built the boxoffice.

The opening of Al Jolson's picture, "Mammy," helped the Warner Brothers' Downtown with a gross of \$25,000 for the first week. This is two thousands over average and the best the house has done for several weeks, but does not compare any too bravely with the high record made by "Shows of Shows" which drew \$35,000 on its opening week.

The Warner Hollywood house grossed \$16,700 on the second week of "Song of the Flame," considerably off.

The RKO Theatre bounced up from last week's sag with a gross of \$18,000, helped by the presence of Ken Murray on the vaude bill. This is two thousands over average. Screening was off "Framed," with Eddy Renda.

Closing week of George Barncroft's "Ladies Love Brutes" dropped the grosses to \$10,862. The RKO Theatre, grossing \$16,700. The Chinese suffered with the John MacCormack offering "Song of My Heart" grossing \$12,261 for five days. Carthy Circle grossed \$23,228 on a full week of "The White Man on the Western Front," which is a strong showing. The Whiteman picture folded to \$2713 for five days of its second week at the Criterion.

Lew's State was three thousand off, to the tune of \$28,176 gross, with the Gaynor-Farrell "High Society Blues" and "M. Box of Candy Idea. Hold-outs are "Caught Short."

The Egyptian was off, grossing \$9733 with "Belmont King" and the Boulevard rang up only \$5003.

### SAN DIEGO R-K-O POLICY CHANGE

SAN DIEGO, May 8.—(Wired Wire) News from Belmont, California, is managing the RKO here, replacing Jack Coudy. Earl Peterson is assistant. Policy of the house has been changed from a week's run four days with three shows per diem instead of four.

### SIGNED FOR SERIAL

Colonel Tim McCoy and Allene Ray have been signed by Universal for the leads in its twelve-episode chapter play, "The Indians Are Back." Production is being set in May 12 under the supervision William Lord Wright with Henry C. Brown directing. Silent and synchronized versions will be made.

### HALL GETS CONTRACT

J. L. Warner, vice-president in charge of production for Warner Brothers, has signed James Hall to a long-term contract.

### ERICKSON, ORGAN EXPERT, ALSO COMPOSES

Jamie Erickson, whose picture appears on page one of this issue of Inside Facts, is featured organist at the California theatre in San Diego and currently a big favorite with his organ "over-tures."

Jamie has been a featured organist for the past ten years. He opened the new Fox theatre in San Francisco and also the new Fox houses at Seattle and Oakland.

In addition to playing, he composes, having recently composed "Aristiana," "In the Tiffany picture," and "His Chinese Garden." In his latest piece is "Sailing a Love Boat," seen to be published.

## UNIVERSAL PROGRAM FOR 1930-31

Universal will make but twenty feature length pictures for 1930-31, instead of fifty, as they did in 1929-30, and will spend \$12,000,000 on these twenty features and about eighty short subjects, Carl Laemmle announced this week.

Last year Universal's program, in addition to the fifty features, included more than one hundred shorts and called for an expenditure of between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000. Change in policy for 1930-31 calls for greater expenditure on less than half the number of features.

Twelve of Universal's twenty feature pictures for the new program already determined upon, are: "Strictly Dishonorable," comedy by Preston Sturges, now playing in New York and Los Angeles, and transferred to the screen with John Gilbert in the lead.

The new novel by Erich Maria Remarque, author of "All Quiet on the Western Front," will be produced, title not yet selected.

"Durand Durand," comedy in the jungles of Borneo, being produced by Harry Garson, Dorothy Gray and the Argentine lead; "Sincerely, my dearest," novel by John Erskine, directed by John Stahl. Dorothy Yost did the scenario and dialogue.

"Saint John's," western novel by W. R. Burnett, author of "Little Boy Blue," directed by William Wyler, featuring John Gray and Lewis Stone. The film runs on big roles in "All Quiet on the Western Front."

"The Boudoir Diplomat," screen directed by John Brown, based on a title of European play, to be made as "Love," by R. Lothar and G. Gottwald, which has been prepared by the Warner Bros. Tom Reed, with an all-star cast; "Outside the Law," written and directed by John Brown, with a brilliant picture, to be remade by Browning as a talking picture with Mo'Khan and Edward G. Robinson, adaptation by Wells Root and dialogue by Garret Fort;

"The Little Accident," a stage play by John G. Saxe, with William Mitchell, which was adapted from Dell's novel, "The Unmarried Woman," played by William Mitchell, with William Craft directing, all-star cast;

"East of West," stage play of several years ago by Stan Sherman and John B. Hymer, purchased as a starring vehicle by Lew Veletz, dialogue by John G. Saxe, Thomas part technician;

"The Love Cavalier," historical play, twelve episodes of commedies as an operetta starring John Boles with Jeanette Loff, story written by Arthur Ripley and Charles Webb, to be directed by John Robertson.

"The Robbers and Kellys in Ireland," written and produced by Albert De Mord, filmed as a musical feature starring George Sidney and Charles Murray, picture written by "The Oregon Trail," epic of the old west;

John Murray Anderson, director of Paul Whiteman in "King of Jazz," which will make two big musical features in ten two-reelers directed by Webb, to be directed by John Robertson.

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# Picture Reviews "reviews" Shorts

## FRAMED RADIO PICTURE (Reviewed at R.K.O.) Los Angeles

Although this is just another crook meller, unoriginal with a cheap good taste as making a cheap hired killer the comedian of the piece, yet it has significance in that it presents Evelyn Brent as the best work of her career to date.

For the first time she becomes really noticeable, artistically. Cast frequently enough as a hard moll, this time she endows her role with human character, artificial only where the limitations of the story impose it.

The individual work of the cast is far superior to the story value or directorial treatment. The plot in brief, if possible, introduces Evelyn in a meaningless third degree scene, in which it develops that her father, whose connection with crookedness is not made clear, has been shot by a policeman.

Evelyn, at the crowd expediency of the scenario, picks up the police inspector as an object for her hatred. It is not consistent, but perhaps the author is one of those who do not believe in feminine consistency.

However, five years after, Evelyn, the inspector's daughter, and plays with his affections in order to hurt the old man's feelings. She tells the boys she's no good gal but the boy sticks up for her, believing in her pride-purity in spite of the fact that she has been mulling around for years and is at present a night club hostess.

The boy breaks his papa and goes to see Evelyn again. Meanwhile the night club owner and gang leader tells his killer to bump the lad off, and puts him on a spot. Evelyn gets help and lifts him before the police get there. The couple go to Evy's apartment, the gang leader follows them and threatens to pull the lad there, but she turns the tables and drills the crook. She makes him duck. The killer led shows up and when the cops come she frames him as the killer of the crook. Happy fadeout with the lovers clasped under daddy's blessing.

**EXHIBITORS' VIEWPOINT:** If your audience is not a little underworld yarn for some time they will find some entertainment in this. It moves along fairly consistently as to tempo and the work of the performers is of a uniformly good grade, which will make the average picture audience overlook story and directorial shortcomings. But if you play to a select audience it will not be so good. They'll shoot it full of holes, if not actually bored.

**PRODUCER'S VIEWPOINT:** One can well imagine that word went out to yet another crook yarn, and this is what the wheels ground out without too much thought being expensed on the job. The trick of repeating situations fore and aft of the plot is used, to doll it in the way a rabbit is used to fill up a gift box. Stock situations are liberally used, and rough spots are constructed to be politely skipped in favor of sensational effect. Juvenile fodder.

CASTING DIRECTOR'S

**VIEWPOINT:** Good work turned in generally by the whole cast, with Evelyn Brent coming to life encouragingly. Regine Toomey in a nice straight performance, without showing the slightest signs of inebriation. Ralf Harlode, as the arch crook, turned out without showing the slightest Maurice Black as the hiring killer, William Holden as the policeman, Robert O'Connor as a dick sergeant all delivered good standard performances in standard character roles.

## "THE MAN FROM BLANKET'S" WARNER BROS. PICTURE (Warner Bros., Hollywood)

Approved in other appearances prior to its opening here, this latest Barrymore picture is both a welcome break in the endless running off of monotonously similar talking epics, and a very pleasing incentive to chuckles other than those inspired by out and out slapstick.

Evidently, our "greatest thespian" is no longer satisfied to compete with the run of middle-class comedies, distinguishing himself from these petty lads merely by a considerably greater attention to the details of his pictures, his much publicized profile, and a great surplus of energy.

And you can lay that to the talkies! In the old silent days, Barrymore was a commanding figure in the fields of romantically contrived cinema excursions on the stage. You could hand him a stirring plot, a costume and a few kegs of makeup and Edward G. Robinson would be the ingredients into a sure-fire romantic epic, heavily flavored with super-over-acting.

But those days are over! Barrymore presently finds himself surrounded by an army of Broadway's shining stars, while every train unloads bigger and better shippings of acting, writing and directing talent. The reaction was inevitable, and "The Man from Blankety's," a bright, amusing farcical comedy is the first episode in the transformation of Barrymore back to more artistic and credible fields of action.

At last Barrymore has a task before him, that of regaining in actuality, the pre-eminence he holds through virtue of so little press-agency and the inertia of tradition. Perhaps that's what he needs. Certainly the stuff he has been turning out during the past few years, has not been of the sort to arouse the merest of Barrymore's asserted talents.

You may be sure that "The Man from Blankety's" is feathered in the direction of "Hallelujah," humok-loaded and packed with enough items of popular appeal, yet it is not a completely classic piece of writing. Loan this on the current success of Barrymore's ice-breaking venture and you won't be long before we will see probably the greatest versions of Shakespeare that the average theatre-goer

from Broadway to East Jollope will get a crack at.

It's something to look forward to. And let's hope that if the Barrymore transformation reaches the point that no Hollywood masters be coerced into collaboration with the Bard, as in a recent example.

Meanwhile, "The Man from Blankety's," a rather obscure little comedy of middle class English life is doing a nice job of breaking the ice.

**EXHIBITORS' VIEWPOINT:** This picture is a novel thing, in a show business filled with sameness of late, and it's a good idea to throw overboard other opinions and be thankful for something different. And as for critical estimates that the play might be, perhaps, somewhat over the heads of the average picture audience, the patrons on the night of review gave no evidence of either being thick-headed, or unappreciative of humor, no matter what kind.

**PRODUCER'S VIEWPOINT:** Reams of critical storming, pleading, condemnation and ridicule have been concentrated on the refusal of the average producer to try anything new. Warner Bros. have, with this production, taken it upon themselves. The rest of the boys might look this one over with profit to their minds, and, if they don't, overlook Al Green's direction.

**CASTING DIRECTOR'S VIEWPOINT:** Lord, overlook the nice, young governess, playing easily and naturally. The rest of the cast is strictly for type, and the selections were ideal. They were William Austin, Albert Henderson, Edgar Norton, Dale Fuller, D'Arcy Corrigan, Jay Miller, Charles Fox, Philip D'Arcy, Diana Hope, Tiny Jones and Angela Mabry.

## "THE TEXAN" PARAMOUNT PICTURE (Paramount Theatre)

Oscar, who is justly appreciated as an idea man for motion picture plots, is posthumously back again, in the "The Texan" of Paramount, in his "Double-Dyed Deceiver."

Gary Cooper is the lad around here, and his is a dramatic role that fits him nicely, providing a suitable follow-up on "The Virginian," though the treatment is more straightforward and abundant in rapid-fire climactic developments than the previous Cooper picture.

Cooper, in his professional writing career, often repeated himself, and this climax, as pictured, varies little from his previous conclusion of "Alias Jimmy Valentine." Remembered through a dim haze, it seems to us that the Texan tale had a tragic ending, however, and if the sheriff's kind, human gesture was dragged over the top, it was not so satisfactory. The point is scarcely worth the research needed to settle it.

The story is another tropical affair, with Hollywood-Spanish accents, and the action is dramatic and departure from the plausibilities of detail, Texas is merely the starting point of the story, most of the action taking place in the South American country, where Cooper is persuaded to go when he meets up with a gang of a wealthy widow, whose son has been missing for years.

Cooper meets the agent, while fleeing from a shooting scrape over a card game, and manages to work his way into the household as the missing son.

He falls in love with his "cousin," Fay Wray, is reformed by love, etc., etc., and refuses to steal the "money." Then comes the Texas sheriff, and that night, the sheriff's agent sneaks up with some desperadoes.

In the ensuing gun-fight, Cooper shoots down the villain, and saves just as he reaches the hidden store of gold, the girl rushes in and the sheriff, seeing "the love light in their eyes," congratulates Cooper on killing "himself."

**EXHIBITORS' VIEWPOINT:** This picture is surely a masterpiece for the average patron, with Cooper and O. Henry as the principal names. It is marvelous about the good average of exploitation and should have a satisfactory boxoffice appeal.

**PRODUCER'S VIEWPOINT:** John Cromwell's direction maintains the action at it even keel,

building the conventional story treatment to a satisfactory climax, and doing very well with a script that could have been better developed for more punch and dramatic tension.

**CASTING DIRECTORS' VIEWPOINT:** Cooper demonstrates a continual and steady improvement in his understanding of characterization in this picture, and continues to maintain his one big acting asset, a positive refusal to over-act.

Fay Wray, in a Spanish dialect role, was pictorially an excellent seniorita, but permitted her accent to slip once in a while.

Oscar Apfel handled the role of the creature great convincingly, and James Marcus was equally satisfactory as the Bible-quoting snuff.

In an excellent part, Emma Dunn snatched acting honors with an exceptional mother-in-law, Solidad Jimenez, repeated twice, duenna role in this picture for a maximum of effect. Other parts were minor importance, but all handled effectively.

## "CAUGHT SHORT" M-G-M PICTURE (Reviewed at Loew's State)

This picture is so convincing. It capitalizes at one stroke (a) a portion of nationwide interest recent enough to be still timely, (b) a generally re-awakened public desire for broad comedy, and (c) the waxing popularity of the Marie Dressler-Polly Moran team.

To our pleasant surprise this production does not turn out to be exactly the elongated short subject climax. It works to a sort of climax, with young love and a certain asperity for maintenance of interest, and a measure of characterization for flavoring.

The story presents Marie and Polly, each in the boarding house business, bosom friends and occasional enemies. Marie has a daughter, played by Anita Page, and Polly, a son, played by Charles Morton. Polly plays the market and goes ritzy with her winnings, but Marie resists temptation until an extra bitter word with Polly decides her to plunge her savings.

They join the leisure class and meet in a resort hotel, still bad friends. Then the advice of a manager, Polly tries to chase Marie by announcing the wedding of her son to an actress, which fails to work at Marie responds by saying she will be pleased to come to show she does not care, in fact she follows suit by declaring that

her daughter is to be married too. When the kids, who are in love with each other, hear that the other is to be married they feel in a bad way and the boy decides to marry the actress after all.

The wedding ceremony is in progress when newsways rush on the extras about the market crash. The actress' call off the wedding when she learns the boy is cleared, and Marie and Polly melt into each other's arms. Fade-out finds the two mothers fixing things for a grandchild, and back in the boarding house business.

Gags, of course, are planted all through the opus, but they are well handled and carry the action forward instead of retarding it.

**EXHIBITORS' VIEWPOINT:** Surefire. Big, wholesome belly-laughs in dozen lots for everybody plus romantic interest for the young folks. It never goes stale, waxes popular as the picture runs in the rougher scenes, and will glut the good old box office everywhere.

**PRODUCERS' VIEWPOINT:** The fine hand of a director who really understands comedy is plainly evident. It is remarkable how the interest as well as the humor is held up all through the picture, and the photography is commendably free of trick, disturbing shots. Nothing happens to break the mood, and even the song and dance act of Marie gets over. Credit some good work to Director Chuck Reisner.

**CASTING DIRECTORS' VIEWPOINT:** Marie Dressler and Polly Moran became very definite box office with this one. Marie leaves the largest (this is not a gag) impression for her fast delivery, her facile mugging and her never flagging tempo. Polly is right behind in value for her telling delivery of the malaprop speeches, and the photography of Charles Morton are just a nice ingenué and juvenile couple, fitting nicely enough into the grooves assigned them. The rest are standard character bits.

**Yester.**

## NOVARO VACATIONS

Planning an extended vacation in the east and middle west during which he will appear in a broadcast of songs from New York over the NBC network, on May 13, and during which he will study in Michigan with Louis Greare, his teacher for the past few years, Ramon Novarro has left for New York.

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## Something New Heard in Theme Songs

"Let me write a nation's songs," quoth a classic sage, "and I care not who makes its laws!"  
"Desires suppressed crop out in the form of sublimations," says a great psychologist.

Mix these two pointed remarks and you get a new concoction, currently and melodiously popular on the radio, in the theatre and wherever music is dispensed. It's the great national vogue for "stein songs," "mug songs," "drink songs" and other lyrical extollings of certain currently illegit quaffings.

The popular song beats a straw vote all hollow as a barometer of public reaction. It's a thing close to the mob spirit. It's something for hypocritical politicians, reformers and the great clan of "We Know Best" to think over every time they hear the marching rhythms.

It's particularly significant that in a current sound newsreel of the annual parade of the New York police, the presently sensational "Stein Song" was the predominating melody blared out by the marching bands. Even the bluecoats have caught the spirit.

And have you noticed that "How Dry I Am" isn't heard quite so frequently!

## TIBBETT-MOORE IN 'NEW MOON'

Lawrence Tibbett and Grace Moore will be starred in the MGM picturization of "New Moon."

Jack Conway will direct the motion picture version of the Oscar Hammerstein operetta with the original Sigmund Romberg music score. The book by Frank Mandel and Lawrence Schwab is being adapted for the screen by Sylvia Thalberg and Frank Butler. Dialogue is by Charles MacArthur.

### "IDEA" FEATURED

Fanchon and Marco's "Gyp Gyp Gypsy Idea" will be the featured entertainment at the Lincoln Highway celebration in Ely, Nevada, during the first week in June.

### SPOOR TO CONFER

G. K. Spoor, co-inventor of the Spoor-Berggren wide film process, is to arrive at RKO studios this week for a conference with studio officials.

### WANTED

Few Snappy Girls for Special Demonstration work. High Class Cosmetics and Beauty Preparations. Apply 1513 West First St., Los Angeles, Calif.

## B. B. B. Says:

Tips to my pals: Song-writers see "June Moon" . . . lovers see "The Questionable" . . . sophisticates see "Bristly Inimitable" . . . musicians see "Rah, Rah, Day" and for lifts . . . don't forget the CELLAR . . .

P. S.—The CELLAR is at Ocean Street and Hollywood Boulevard . . . between 330 and 340 . . . the phone numbers are GItchis 8883 and HOLLYWOOD 9189 . . . parking is free at the lot across from the CELLAR . . . THE OBEYBEE and THE SONS are ours.

## Thank You.

# SHAKEDOWN OF STARS BY MAG GANG DIES OUT

By GENE SWIFT

The days of star "shakedowns," which have yielded rich returns to some fan publication writers in the past, are about over.

The old-time star system has just about faded. The cloak of silent mystery which clothed the stellar lights of the inaudible screen, and which stimulated desires of the fan world for intimate stories of their idols, has been torn off by the talkies.

Somewhat, the little fairy princess of the silent flicker dispelled a lot of illusions when she was heard to speak. Then she became even as the little girl friend down the street. The glamor departed. The ideals she conjured up as a dream girl disappeared with the dream. The squeaky little doll sprang and awoke the buffet senses, and the avid appetite for fan yarns began to fade.

## Fan Mail Dropping

Fan mail has dropped off tremendously in the past year. Stars are no longer built up on mash notes. Solid technical ability must supplement picture comeliness, and voice outweighs voluptuousness. The publicity man and fan-mush fabricator can have no more the negligible effect upon the molding of a performer's career unless supported by real ability to work and build up.

A writer with an "in" used to be able to shake down the pretties of the old days for a few dollars in subsidies in return for romantic fan fodder, especially when said writer happened to have a little scandal as a sieve card. Sometimes, even when he did not have a little scandal, a little buff worked just as well as a persuader. Of course the hobby attracted a lot of flim-filies, and soon a lot of amateur writers descended upon every known—and a lot of unknown—picture players, seeking material for free-lance articles. They were flung in avalanches upon the fan mags.

## Speaks for Itself

New mags sprang up to absorb the material. When the talkies came it was a temporary blessing for the magazine writers, who got up new subjects and the fans ate up the new yarns about the way Minnie Gandy was going after her Minnie and language lessons. But after a couple of talkies made by Minnie had made the rounds and were dismissed as "talkies," Minnie's ancestors were fish peddlers, the mush market began to break. The sudden, dizzy fortunes are at an end. The hard working performers who really have some-thing on the ball cannot be kidded just as to the value to them of the fan as to the value to them of the fan as to the value to them of the fan. The new screen speaks for itself. The silliness have lost their force with the public, and the excess only read the appraisals of important trade papers.

The shakedown racket has faded, and now the mush fraternally are busy thinking up a new one.

## STUDIO HOSPITAL

Radio Pictures' studio will soon have a new five-room hospital for night and day service, equipped with latest medical apparatus—physiotherapy room, first aid, reception, office and two-bed ward, two nurses, Betty Greta and Theora Dana, will alternate day and night shifts. Dr. Stanley Immenman is in charge of all medical activities at RKO.

## LETTERS

There are letters at the Los Angeles office of INSIDE FACTS for the following:

- BIDMEAD Bros.
- DOWNING, Harry
- MATHEWS, Madeline
- MILLARD, S. S.
- PEDRO, Milly
- SHARLAND, Fred C.

# TEL-A-PHONEY by JAMES MADISON



Hello, Bob Shuler.

Hello, James Madison.

Many of your friends consider you a greater man than ever before.

That's probably because I am now in the Who'sWhoose-gow.

Hello, Mahatma Gandhi.

Hello, James Madison.

England has set up a lot of machine guns in India.

A person can almost imagine he's in Chicago.

Hello, George M. Cohan.

Hello, James Madison.

What's the first thing you did after tearing up your million dollar contract with Joseph Schenck?

Gave my publicity agent a raise of salary.

Hello, Pat Dowling.

Hello, James Madison.

Why are my brains like a can of Maxwell House coffee? Because both are vacuum packed.

Hello, Walter Winchell.

Hello, James Madison.

Why would some movie producers make poor grave diggers?

They'd fail to recognize a good plot if they saw one.

Hello, Harry Cohn.

Hello, James Madison.

What class of picture actors are called "Afternoon Editions"?

The "Extras."

Hello, Ken Murray.

Hello, James Madison.

What is the "absentent mentality" you encountered last week?

A girl who thought a black out is a negro away from home.

Hello, William De Mille.

Hello, James Madison.

They tell me Peggy Joyce has been married six times on account of her sex appeal.

That makes her ex-husbands a SEXtette.

Hello, Kay Hammond.

Hello, James Madison.

Last year more goats were born in Switzerland than ever before.

What you might call a bumper crop.

Hello, Dolores Del Rio.

Hello, James Madison.

A friend of mine who stutters wants to go into pictures. Let him make a slow-motion talkie.

## SCHULBERG ON TRIP

B. P. Schulberg, Paramount general manager, left Hollywood for New York this week to confer with other production and distribution department executives and attend the eastern sales convention to be held in Atlantic City. Schulberg will return to Hollywood late in May, following the annual Paramount-Public convention in San Francisco. He is accompanied on his trip by Harold Turley, of the studio production department.

## DUFFY CAST SET

Completed cast for Henry Duff's revival of Ralph Spence's thriller, "The Gorilla," at the Hollywood Play House on Saturday includes Clifford Dempsey and Frank McCormack as the detectives; Flora Bramley, John Maurice Sullivan, Gale Gordon, John De Weese, Edward Seabrook, Walter Marshall, Philip Morris, John Manning and Victor Donald. Edward H. Curtis is directing.

## BUSINESS BUILDER AND RECORD SMASHER

# EDDIE PEABODY

HIS PLUNK-PLUNK BANJO JOYS  
MEAN PLANK-PLANK AT THE BOX OFFICE

# HE NEVER MISSES

EXCLUSIVE MANAGEMENT

Mrs. Eddie Peabody

## WILBUR ENDS SEASON

The Wilbur Players closed their season in Honolulu on May 4, and are due to set sail for Los Angeles, May 17, for the summer. They are expected to reopen in the islands next autumn.

## DENNY WITH MOORE

Finishing a part in "Madame Satin," Reginald Denny has been signed by MGM to play opposite Grace Moore in her first starring picture, based on the life of Jenny Lind. Scenario by Hans Kraly and Claudine West and dialogue by John Meehan. Original music composed by Herbert Stothart. Arthur Freed and Harry Woods.

## NEW ORLEANS TRIP

Director Luther Reed, accompanied by a technical staff, left this week for New Orleans to film Mississippi River and levee scenes for use in Radio Pictures' original operetta, "Dixiana," starring Bebe Daniels, now nearing completion. "Extras" for the exterior scenes will be recruited from negro colonies in the Mississippi River bottoms.

## MISS BROX WEDS

Patricia Brox, of the Brox Sisters, was married to Robert D. Gerstenzang at the home of William Periberg, agent and hubby of another sister, on Monday.

## MRS. INCE WEDS

Losing by her marriage her inheritance in the principal of the \$2,000,000 Thomas Ince estate, his widow, Mrs. Elinor Ince, was on her honeymoon this week in northern California after her marriage to Holmes Herbert here on Saturday.

## NEW AKINS CONTRACT

Zoe Akins, playwright and novelist, has signed a new contract as a Paramount writer. Paramount first signed her to do the adaptation of Timothy Shea's novel, "Sarah and Son," which was filmed with Ruth Chatterton in the leading role.

Paramount's filmization of the Schubb and Mandel golf musical comedy, "Follow Thru," will be entirely in color.

Harold J. Beck

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'CAUGHT SHORT' IS LEADING S. F. FILM

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Marie Dressler and Polly Moran in Metro's "Caught Short" proved the outstanding attractions in the local picture field...

Another comedy combination, this one Bert Wheeler and Bob Woolsey in Radio's "Cuckoos," were a laugh clinic for the Orpheum...

On the second week of Lawrence Tibbett in "Rogue Song" Leo's Warfield pulled in \$24,000. "King of Jazz" with Paul White-man follows in about two more weeks.

Public's Paramount found Alice White not what she was cracked up to be. With the star appearing in person for two days in conjunction with her "Show Girl in Hollywood" house...

"Paramount on Parade" opened at Publix's St. Francis to the mighty sweet tune of \$15,000 and is still going strong. Wagon's Davies drew a nice \$8500 on the first week of Tiffany's "Mamba."

"Hold Everything." Wagon's Embassy got \$11,500 on second week of "Hold Everything."

NITA MITCHELL BACK SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—After a period of time spent in the studios and radio stations of Hollywood, Nita Mitchell has returned here and is set to open May 14 at the Silver Slipper Cafe.

COMICS APPEAR SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Bert Wheeler and Bob Woolsey exchanged wisecracks during six personal appearances on Saturday and Sunday where the pair's newest radio picture, "Cuckoos," had its premiere.

POSTER MARRIED SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Walter E. Foster, senior partner of Foster and Kleiser, bill posters, was married Sunday to Mrs. Edith E. Botsford, divorcee.

NINA FRELSON'S JUVENILE FOLLIES Permanent Address: Inside Facts

EMIL ERNEST Schmidt & Nickerson

Present a Novelty "NERO—MUSCULAR CO-ORDINATIONS" Permanent Address: Inside Facts, San Francisco

GUILD'S ANNUAL ELECTION SOON

The Catholic Motion Picture Guild will hold their election of officers on the 19th of this month, the end of their business year. It is not known yet whether James Ryan will be a candidate for reelection, but it is felt he will probably...

GINGER ALE DRIVES WARM NIGHT CLUBS

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Possible abatement for several of this city's night clubs looms following raids by prohibition authorities who swooped down on the Silver Slipper and Robert's at the Beach, as part of a campaign against the so-called ginger ale set.

Declaring it is illegal for a hotel or cafe to serve ginger ale, mineral waters and ice to customers when the former know it is for the purpose of mixing drinks, drys seized a quantity of liquor at tables in the night spots and departed without molesting anyone.

The raids and the resultant publicity they received at the hands of the dailies has resulted in a slashing of business at all night clubs in San Francisco. Customers are afraid to come to the places, fearing they will be implicated in more of the sudden raids that might take place.

Prohibitionists padlocked the Butter Hotel in Seattle some time ago when they held the place responsible for set-ups. It is feared that the same action might take place here.

ADDED TO CAST SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Paul Bissinger has added Esther Muir to the cast of his musically "Hi There," opening May 14 at the Columbia. Miss Muir, late of the productions "Lad in Fingert" and "My Girl Friday" in New York, is the wife of Busby Berkeley, currently staging dances in the picture production of "Whoopee."

MAKES APPEARANCE SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—First National sent up Alice White from Hollywood for two days of personal appearances in conjunction with the opening of Alice's latest picture, "Show Girl in Hollywood," at the Paramount. Her fiance, Sidney Bartlett, accompanied her.

MOVE HEADQUARTERS SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—San Francisco division of Fox West Coast, under the direction of A. M. Bowles, has moved its headquarters from the fifth to the eighth floor of Loew's Warfield building.

MRS. JOLSON VISITS SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Mrs. J. J. Jolson, previously married to Mrs. Edith E. Botsford, was in the city for a few days last week here.

Market St. Gleanings

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Evidence that the Orpheum Theatre, realizing manager, Frank Percy, verities that the theatre-going public is getting fed up on the song and dance flickers contained in the display space being used on Radio's "Cuckoos." Not a Revue heralds the adv. copy and in that short time there's a good deal of assurance that probably has attracted a flock of customers who otherwise would have remained away from the celluloid, thinking it another one of those things.

Unsolicted Interviews After cooling our heels for three hours in the outer offices of Richard (Henry Duffy's general manager) Marshall we got the jump on two character actors, three juveniles and five actresses engaged practicing the time step and bustle into the sanctum of this perpetually busy impresario.

"Howdy, Mr. Marshall, what shows are on the boards this week?" "Well, 'Elizabeth Sleeps Out' at the Alcazar with 'Mary's Other Husband' and 'Oh, Mr. Marshall'."

"—at the President." But my brother with shows? Let me tell you that the comedian who didn't want to do "Hamlet." But that's going a little too far, so we depart. \*\*\*

We prophesy that it's only a matter of time until some irate blue-note is going to rear up on his hind legs and demand a lot of scissoring in some of the latest triple reissues. The blue-note in pictures yet to come, our attention is the one in "Hold Everything," where the cook enters the room and the two fellows in more or less of a compromising position (they had been wrestling) find then remarks: "Oh, pardon me, you gentlemen probably want to be left alone." \*\*\*

Spotlights George Nickson saving money on socks. . . has taken up spats . . . the Silver Slipper Cafe. . . with Joe Wright's hot, rhythmic music. . . Jimmie Barr's showman's position. . . many show people there. . . Walter Behan from NBC. . . D. F. Inubilla from the Fox Oakland. . . Virginia Buchanan from New Moon. . . A. J. Perry. . . this big period and paragraph man, the Governor Hotel. . . looking like the Roosevelt in Hollywood. . . within five minutes in the picture we saw. . . Carlton Kelsey, Al Siegel and Jerry Whyte from HI There. . . Carl Lamont of Shapiro, Bernstein up from Los Angeles. . . Singer's Midgets from the Fox. . . Manny King and Al Erabell from the Golden Gate. . . Louis Graf, Bill Foy, Deiro, Florence Sprurrier, Ruby Lang, Jack Russell, Arthur Ford, J. H. Horne, John Smith, Chaz Chase. . . more theatrical people than there are tap dancers in vaudeville. . . 'em'on, let's steal another bow.

ORGANIST LEAVES SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—C. Sharp Minor, featured organist at Loew's Warfield, is leaving the house this week and will go to Hollywood where he has several things in prospect. Peter Paul and his orchestra will play all music of the house.

LYRIC CONTEST PLUG SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—K-O Orpheum is sponsoring a lyric contest in connection with a melody, "Springtime Every Day For Me," written by Geo. B. L. Brown, local composer. Local publisher, Buss McClelland, Orpheum organist, is tied up on the stunt with Braun.

PICTURE SHEET TROUBLING HIM

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—After taking a peep at the 24-shets out on "Ingagi"—they show a native woman in the clutches of a jungle gorilla—a film peddler remarked: "It's getting so a guy doesn't know with whom he can trust his wife these days."

WRIGHT PLAY FAILS TO OPEN PER SKED

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—While numerous legal difficulties beset Andy Wright here this week, William Foy and Kit Guard, two members of the cast of "Philadelphia" were negotiating for a new backing to whom he play at the Capitol here with a revamped cast.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—When a \$625 check for a week's rental of the Tivoli bounced back on W. J. Leahy, owner of the house, he cancelled Andy Wright's "Philadelphia" and that played off on Sunday night as per schedule.

Despite the fact that the cast was unprotected by an Equity board members of the troupe engaged among themselves to waive it until Monday, but when they showed up Sunday morning for a dress rehearsal, doors of the theatre were locked.

Included in the cast were Barbara Bedford, Ora Carew, Rock-life Fellows, Franklyn Farnum, Del Mar and others.

LEVIN IS DAD

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Jesse Levin, local theatre man, is a dad. The baby boy was born April 29.

NEW GEARY SHOW

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Charlie King is scheduled to open "Among the Married" at the Geary on May 11, following "Criminal Code."

DOLIN CONCERTS

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Max Dolin this week inaugurated the first of a series of Sunday morning Philharmonic Orchestra concerts in the Columbia Theatre, playing to a good house. Time of the features has been shoved ahead to 2:30 p. m., when future concerts will start.

'NEW MOON' CLICKS TO LEAD S. F. LEGIT

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—The Lillian Albertson-Louis O. Macdon show, "New Moon," came crashing through to increased business on its second week at the Curran, topping its nearest competitor by more than double. Geary was "Criminal Code" at the Geary, \$12,000 being the figure. Duffy himself impersonator, at the Capitol. Duffy shows took it on the chin.

Second stanza of "New Moon" showed \$24,000, deposited at the boxoffice and it looks good for several more weeks with "Student Prince" then set to follow.

Next door to "New Moon" there was "Criminal Code" at the Geary. Drew mighty nice comment as a great play and did pretty good business. \$12,000 being the figure.

Duffy's Alcazar with 'Hell's Bells' registered \$4000, while the President with 'Mary's Other Husband' did a weak \$3500. In Oakland the Dufwin garnered \$4000 with "Elizabeth Sleeps Out."

DOONE IS VISITOR

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Allan Doone and his leading lady, Edna Keceley, are here on a visit after several years' absence during which they played in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. They return soon to South Africa where they hold contracts for a return engagement.

ENTER SIXTH MONTH

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Don and Rita are entering their sixth month as featured dance team at Cafe Marquard, working in a Fanchon and Marco booked floor show. Don also handles the m.c. work for the night spot.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Victor Connors, 15-year-old college student, has written a three-act mystery play, "Midnight," which was produced at a local church show. His mother, Ruth Saville, is well known here as a stage player.

DON & RITA Pleasing Critical Audiences After Six Months as Featured Dance Team at CAFE MARQUARD SAN FRANCISCO

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REVIEWS COMMENT

RAILROAD

CHATTER NEWS

RADIO RECORD USE GOVERNMENT ANSWER

If it is good enough to record, it is good enough to broadcast, is the reply of radio stations who use phonograph records for program material, to criticisms of their policy.

They claim there can be no legitimate objection to such a policy, and that a broadcaster has as much right to offer recorded music for entertainment as a picture producer. The public is not charged for a consideration, in money or in advertising, therefore, they assert, no one is cheated.

Although the major stations use in-person talent and command higher prices for their time, the record stations claim their programs do not suffer in quality, using the argument that recording companies are able to utilize the most and most popular talent. If it is the kind of material people are willing to buy on record form, it should be acceptable as free radio entertainment, they say.

They declare this policy works no harm to musician-artists, as these smaller stations could not function at all with the heavier overhead of an in-person staff of sufficiently high grade. Their listeners inform them they would much rather hear a good recording than cheap or amateur in-person talent, and they believe the only real opposition to records in broadcasting comes from the manufacturers of the records, who believe the practice restricts their sales. That the station people dispute, stating that the disadvantage of the phonograph is the manual operation necessary.

BAND TAKES HOUR

Irene Franklin's dance orchestra will be heard over KMTZ every Thursday night between 6 and 7 o'clock from now on. Miss Franklin's music is well known here, having been formerly a feature of Solomon's in Los Angeles and the Egyptian Ballroom, Ocean Park.

WEEKS STILL HEARD

Anson Weeks' orchestra is moved from the Mark Hopkins, San Francisco, to the Roosevelt, New York, but will still be heard over CBS, local radio, twice weekly. Ted Shorto succeeds Weeks at the S. F. stand.

STAGED MANY PLAYETS

Georgia Fifield, drama director at KNX, is reputed to be the oldest woman in radio, but in length of service only and not in age. She has staged and played in over 250 playlets over KNX and appeared in the first dramatic production ever broadcast.

BACK WITH PLAYERS

Harry Hays, Jr., has returned to the Savoy Players, San Diego, for a part in "Unusual Weather." He left the players to take a flying course.

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By FRED YEATES

Pickups AND Viewpoints

Speech Professors Need Modern Ideas

These professors who teach "speech arts" in the private colleges are entitled to pursue their calling and thereby earn a living, but when they step before a radio microphone they are telling the world, and that's different.

Evidently the "speech arts" taught are those that supposedly apply to dramatic expression, for that is the vehicle used by the estimable and very sincere professor who declaims sententiously over a local station at regular intervals. However, if it is his intention to have himself regarded as an example of perfect dramatic speech art he should take a friendly tip to bring himself up to date on style, because with the generation-old method of delivery he employs he succeeds only in misleading the ignorant and making himself ridiculous with the informed.

The day of declamatory unction has long since passed. Today's school requires naturalness, sincerity and deep feeling, flavored with a measure of restraint. Moreover, the voice must fit the character.

NEON SIGN ON HILL AS PLUG

Figured as a great plug stunt for "Hell's Angels," Sid Graman is reported planning the erection of a huge Neon sign on the Hollywood Hills, similar to several other horizon brighteners, now burning in the interest of real estate developments.

Estimated cost for the addition to Hollywood's famed miles of lights, is \$75,000, with the sign certain to get a visibility, particularly at night, hundreds of times that of an ordinary message of building or board.

SINGERS SWAP POSTS

Elvia Allman, ballad crooner at KHJ, and Jean Wakefield, ditto at KFRC, San Francisco, are swapping jobs by way of a change, effective this week. Rumors that Miss Allman was going to S. F. to be married are denied.

NEW KECA SPOTTING

Rearrangement of KECA schedules puts Bob and Monte, harmony team, in a new spot, commencing this week they will follow Amos and Andy every Thursday night.

ANTHONY DUO VISIT

Harry Hall and Margaret O'Donnell, of the Earl C. Anthony program arranging staff, visited San Francisco over the week to study National Broadcasting Company methods.

EASTERNERS HERE

G. A. Richards, president, and Leo Fitzpatrick, vice-president of WJR, Detroit, Mich., were visitors in Los Angeles during the week.

KINGSTON TO STAY

At Kingston, recently appointed director of entertainment at the Blossom Room, Roosevelt Hotel, has been made permanent in the position, due, it is said, to the success he has achieved in the past few weeks.

ACTOR GETS FINED

Municipal Judge Parker socked a \$50 fine on actor and director, King Baggot, after he pleaded guilty this week to a charge of driving an automobile while intoxicated following his arrest by Hollywood police.

It does not follow that because a thing is old it is good. A piece of cheese, for example. Old methods of doing things are discarded because they do not fit present needs or tastes. No credit reflects upon a radio station that continues to broadcast the archaic, except as a novelty, and no doubt either the professor or the station, or both, will wake to this fact sooner or later. It is to be hoped so, especially in this world center of things theatrical where the tyro expects to find standards the very highest.

An example of high grade excellence in radio dramatic fare came over KECA, from the San Francisco R-K-O studios, last Sunday afternoon, when the National Players presented "Adventure in Love." It was exceptionally well done technically, well cast, well produced, well written, and the story contrived to be absorbingly interesting to the very end. The plot concerned the efforts of a philosophical expert to arrange the love affairs of a group of students and contrived to be not only philosophical but plausible as well.

A jarring note was one of those window announcers, who sounded as though either he had just run up 14 flights of stairs or was standing on his head.

Last week we published a paragraph to the effect that KFI and KECA were having difficulty finding stenographers, with some knowledge of musical matters. The day following publication found two rooms full of applicants at the Anthony studios, ranging from a grand opera star with a knowledge of shorthand to a business college graduate with operatic yearnings.

"Did you hear Mary Lewis?" is the topic of conversation this week. It seems everybody did.

Billed to the world as the star of the big-shot Atwater Kent show for last Sunday night, she opened up on "Blue Danube," and what a mess! She swooped and sailed, was off pitch, one moment breathing into the mike and the next seemingly far away, and was either ahead of or behind the orchestra most of the time. She came right back with another number, but whatever it was, she came last night of singing at the astonishing performance of June Parker's burlesque opera on the noisy, broad-band related here legitimate beside it.

The program was filled out with a quartet of negro spiritual singers and later on in the hour announcement was made that Miss Lewis had been taken suddenly ill.

Announcements were made for three days later that Miss Lewis' father had died in France, and that she was leaving on the next boat.

Graham MacNamee, sports announcer, is being accused in some quarters as being lacking in sportsmanship as the result of an unannounced broadcast related here last Saturday over the CBS, when, at the opening of the National Amateur Show in New York, he was allowed guest privileges in an airplane with which two-way broadcasting was being done for the first time. It was a CBS stunt, and Graham is an NBC man, but from the accounts he preempted most of the spotlight!

Bob Swan has been made chief announcer of KHJ. In giving us this item the publicity department

Numerous critics have particularly enjoyed a Diskard appreciation of the little intricacies of the art of singing before the microphone.

Benefit for Helper

Prominent theatrical folk joined with Los Angeles people in a special benefit for Faith Chevallier, noted here for years as the "little angel of the prisons," held at the Biltmore Hotel Tuesday night with Eddie Lambert as master of ceremonies. The aged woman spent most of her fortune in helping jail inmates and the benefit receipts were expected to save her home, threatened for lack of funds.

Crawford Broadcast

Jesse Crawford, local lad who made good in a big way on the organ, comes on the air with a new series of his own over a CBS beginning May 12. Mrs. Crawford, with a tenor and a master of ceremonies, will assist. N. Y. Paramount organ will be used.

Second Anniversary

The Don Lee chain celebrates its second anniversary this week.

Here's Opportunity

Eloise Kirkpatrick, staff soprano at KHJ, has resigned. Tryouts are now being held for her successor. A coloratura voice is required.

Lyons Arrives

Arthur Lyons, president of Lyons and Lyons, arrived here Tuesday on his first trip to the coast.

The Modernistic Rhythm Girl

Nita Mitchell

Opens May 14 at the Silver Slipper Cafe

San Francisco Broadcasting Nightly With Joe Wright's Orchestra Over KPO

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By Richard F. Mann

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WARNERS REPORTED GOING AFTER RADIO

Reports that Warner Brothers were going after the radio broadcasting business in big way followed announcement of the purchase of the Nacken patents last week. These patents give Warners a means of broadcasting sound and television free of all patents held by other interests.

Following the employment of Bill Ray by KGBR, Long Beach, to manage its station, the report got abroad that Warners had purchased the plant to add to its Hollywood station KFWB as the nucleus of a projected chain. Ray had been an employe of KFWB for some years.

These reports, however, are denied by Warner Brothers officials. Ray's move to Long Beach was an independent one, they assert, and has no connection with any radio plans of the picture producers. Moreover, they say, they plan no furtherance of radio activities under present contemplation.

SONG'S AIR PREMIERE

An English song success, "Give Yourself to Pat on the Back," is to have its first American presentation, and its world air premiere, over KHJ on the Merzmakers' program, May 8. Tubby Garron of the local office of Santley Bros., is arranging a tie-up for the occasion.

RADIO'S PERSONALITY GIRL JEANE COWAN Daily At KFWB

Over the Air From KYA SAN FRANCISCO Comes the Voice of Greta Gabler

The English Comedian Wm. DON CHARACTERIZED THEATRELOMIST National Broadcasting Co. SAN FRANCISCO

SEQUOIAS MALE QUARTETTE A Feature Over KPO SAN FRANCISCO

THE MODERNISTIC RHYTHM GIRL NITA MITCHELL OPENS MAY 14 at the SILVER SLIPPER CAFE SAN FRANCISCO Broadcasting Nightly With JOE WRIGHT'S ORCHESTRA Over KPO

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# COLUMBIA STUDIOS ON BUSY SCHEDULE

With five companies actually shooting, the Columbia studios hit the season's peak of production this week.

Companies at work on the Columbia lot at present include: "Hell's Island," with Jack Holt, Ralph Graves, Dorothy Sebastian, Richard Cramer, Harry Allen and Lionel Belmore, Edward Sloman directing;

"Temptation," with Sally O'Neill, Molly O'Day, Russell Gleason, James Robards and Morgan Wallace, James Food directing;

"Rain or Shine," starring Joe Cook, with Louise Fazenda, Joan Peers, William Collier, Jr., Tom Howard, Dave Chasen, Alen Roo-coe, Adolph Milar and Clarence Muse, Frank Capra directing.

## HARRIS HIT BY SPEEDY DRIVER

George Harris, diminutive comedian with the "Stuntin' Prince" company now at the Majestic theatre, suffered a painful accident last Saturday night. He was stepping out of his car at his home when another car came speeding along and slammed him back into his own machine, severely bruising him. His part was filled without rehearsal by Jack Goodrich. Harris is expected back in the company in a few more days.

## FOUNTAIN ON JOB

SAN DIEGO, May 8.—Lester Fountain appointed city manager for all Fox-West Coast houses here, took over supervision of the Fox, California, North Park and Egyptian this week. Fountain comes from Long Beach.

## NEWSPAPERMAN SIGNED

Maurice Henline, former literary editor of the Baltimore Sun, has joined the writing staff at the Paramount studios in Hollywood.

# Along Film Row

By FRED YEATES

The various and sundry national sales conventions of film distributors are large affairs, but only come once a year, and in no way overshadow the sidewalk conventions held daily along Film Row. These conventions, which, like ball games, are only stopped by rain, are more important to the film industry than said industry realizes, and many grave matters are discussed there and many serious problems solved. It is too bad that the ponderous truths developed there are so rarely used or even appreciated by the big shots.

Certain sidewalk spots along the Film Row curb have been occupied by individuals' so long that they have come to be regarded as private property. A particular mail box officiated as a combination office and leaning post for one salesman to such an extent that the mail collector got in the habit of apologizing every time he had to disturb him. But things are now changed.

One day last week, during the temporary absence of the inhabitant, some wag hung a sign on the mail box reading, "Gone to Lunch." Since then the box has hung lonely and forlorn. For some inexplicable reason the spot is no longer regarded as desirable office space.

Morrie Sudman, the Fox exchange booker, is back on the job after a tonsil operation. He can't talk, which is tough.

Remarkable but true. N. P. Jacobs, R-K-O exchange manager; H. C. Cohen, western division manager, and Morrie Jacobs, booker, are all men who have no time to go fishing.

Everything is ready for the R-K-O convention, to be held at the Roosevelt Hotel, May 19. Everybody will be here, from President Schnitzer down.

The wall between the R-K-O and Pathe exchanges is still in place, although this is the third annual appearance of the rumor that these two are to merge. Columbia is now hooked in on the deal, now that the latter has sold its product to R-K-O houses. Maybe the wish is father to the thought, and a little more rubbing on the wishing ring will bring it about.

George Caldaras, Tiffany exchange manager, who broke a leg last week, is on the mend. The office looks quiet without him, although everybody is attending to business just the same.

On Tuesday morning of this week an auto burst into spontaneous combustion in the middle of Washington street, right opposite the Row. It's a hot spot.

Some new faces at the Columbia. Fred Smith is a new shipper, and Lavida Thurston lends her piquant face over the inspection table.

The Pathe window has gone circus. A couple of bed sheets form the big top and dummiest dot the interior in the guise of performers. Salesmen cluster around and wish the glass wasn't there. The sawdust on the floor makes it a candy place to spit.

L. R. Scamaharn, who has been with the Paramount exchange since 1916 as a salesman, has been transferred to the Public Theatres and left last week for San Francisco, where he enters training class before getting an assignment.

M. C. Burles, California salesman for Paramount, takes over the Arizona territory formerly handled by Scamaharn.

The Film Board boys are planning some entertainment for C. C. Pettijohn, visiting mogul from the New York Board. C. C. is stopping at the Roosevelt Hotel.

"Benny" Benson, pilot of the United Artists exchange, proposes a vote of confidence from the show world to Sid Grauman and Fred Miller, two noble showmen who are returning to harness. He believes the boys should be started off with a great big hand.

"Benny" went to the wrestling match Monday night and didn't like it. He thought the champ was unfair.

He reports good biz with the U. A. features, class music shorts.

The Rialto Theatre, San Bernardino, has just changed hands. E. M. Masterson has taken it over.

## JOAN BENNETT AS U. A. STAR

Joan Bennett has been signed to a new long term contract that will give her the status of a United Artists star.

Although Miss Bennett's contract as a United Artists featured player still had a long time to run, it was torn up and a new pact substituted in recognition of her success. "Smith's Through" probably will be the first starring vehicle of the nineteen-year-old actress.

WATSON CHILD BURIED SAN DIEGO, May 8.—The five-year-old child of Howard Watson of the Savoy Players here was buried this week. The youngster was a victim of whooping cough.

## BUSINESS SLACKENS

SAN DIEGO, May 8.—Savoy Players, changing bills weekly here for the past four years, are currently experiencing a slackening up in business.

## WRITES SCREEN PLAY

Joseph Mankiewicz wrote the screen play for "The Social Lion," Paramount's first Jack Oakie starring picture.

## IN DIX PICTURE

James Nell and Paul Hurst have supporting roles in Richard Dix's third Radio starring film, now in production.

## HARMON RETURNING

Raymond Harmon, Los Angeles concert and operatic singer, after two years' study in Italy and appearances in continental capitals, will return here this summer.

## IN PICKFORD FILM

Robert Thornby and Ed Brady have been signed for the wild western sequences of Mary Pickford's current picture, "Forever Yours."

Exhibitor visitors along the Row this week, incidentally taking in the annual P. T. O. meeting, included C. J. Alder of Globe, Ariz., A. W. Thresher of Vasco, Calif., and John F. Keough of San Diego.

"Polly" Pollock, at the Film Board, has had to delay her vacation week. She is bearing up well.

# MODERNISTIC MOVIE THEATRE IN NEWARK

NEW YORK, May 8.—Michael Mindin, for many years identified with the operation of "arty" movie theatres, has opened his first "super-cinema" in Newark, N. J. Mindin's Playhouse embodies a many of the features of his Little Cinema Theatres, unique centers of attraction.

The seating capacity of the auditorium is 456 and the remainder of 22,000 square feet of space is devoted to a ballroom, ping pong courts, billiard room, and a foyer which can be converted into an art gallery.

In addition a room measuring 200 square feet is planned as television studio for the reception of broadcasts over this medium. House will operate on a weekly change, grain, straight talking picture policy, with 85-cent top.

# 400 HEAR ACADEMY TALK ON CHISELING

(Continued from Page 2)  
lation for the Academy, was introduced and briefly outlined the functions of this Academy work: "The method of adjustment provided in the contract is the most unique and novel experiment in any industry," it was pointed out by Nagel in introducing William Cooklin, new actors' relations representative. "The first appeal is a committee of five actors and the final decision in any dispute is made by a committee of four employees and one employer. It was felt useful to have a contact man as an agency of the Academy. In the course of a few months precedent will have been established in the interpretation of various clauses of the contract."

## STAR'S KIN ACTS

Gaylord Pendleton, nephew of Arthur V. Johnson, the screen's first matinee idol, is making his talking picture debut as one of Claudette Colbert's suitors in Paramount's "Manslaughter."

# CAPITAL WANTED

## Development of Sensational Improvement for Picture Production

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# Legitimate Proposition

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Los Angeles



# INVESTIGATE PHONEY SONG PROMOTIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

tricks. And it's reported that a certain restaurant proprietor is dishing up free chow to one of the wards for little lowdowns on the words and music markets.

With plenty of chumps digging in the trunks for that tenderly cherished masterpiece, the wise boys are still finding that finesse must be used in many cases.

### Fizzled Finance

An example is reported of a wise-cracking pal of one of the get-rich-quick boys, spooling an easy push-over by a flip remark.

One of those charming boys who would bust into a spring dance if handed a few yards of cheesecloth entered the gyp publisher's office and hopped up the boss with the possibilities of a big touch. Price and everything was hatsy totsy. The would-be publisher as a final shot asked the name of the song. When the customer in a high soprano voice exclaimed: "Oh, Come With Me to the Canyon," the wise-cracking pal let out a loud "whoops" and the sap fell out of his pants.

And neither the chump nor the wise promoters knew that event that title has been copyrighted.

### ARRIVE FROM EAST

Maurice Chevalier, with the Mrs. Bataille-Henri, Parisian wit and singer, and Helen Garden, operatic singer, were four Paramounters who arrived here this week from New York.

### JOLSON BUILDING

Al Jolson is building a house near Palm Springs on an acre recently acquired. It is to have sixteen or twenty rooms. This is the first house Jolson has ever built.

### NEW LEVIN DEAL

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—Following last week's consolidation of all houses in the Levin circuit, the T. & D. Jr. enterprises this week purchased a half interest in the Levin holdings, which include the Coliseum, Alexandria, Balboa and Metropolitan houses here.

### \$1,000,000 HOUSE

T. and D. Jr. has announced plans for construction of a \$1,000,000 theatre in Alameda, to begin in about a month. House will seat 2500. It will be equipped for stage shows and sound pictures.

### RUGGLES TOURS WEST

Charles Ruggles, who somehow or other can't seem to get a sober talkie part, is back in R-K-O vaude for a short tour. Ruggles is again using his former vaude skill. He'll make a trip with it westward shortly.

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## HE HUNG A NEAT HALTER ON THE WOLF'S NECK

Tough times made a smart promoter out of a studio employee who was formerly contact man for one of the large studios during the early days of the talkie inrush. Finding himself out of work and in a hall bedroom he devised a scheme that did no one any harm and placed him in fine style in a class apartment house.

He arranged with the apartment house to secure new tenants for a class apartment and a cut-in on the monthly rent charged his customers. He tabbed the eastern players for the list of players due on the coast. At the appointed time of their arrival he met them at the train and represented himself as a committee member of one from the studios.

He made all arrangements for their baggage and had them driven to the apartment house where his cut was added to their monthly rent. He now has a new front, with the bed and board taken care of, while the wolf is tied to the front porch of the hotel in which he did his hideaway.

### CONVERSATION ITEM

With a total of over 21,000 plane miles scheduled daily from Los Angeles, it's the world's largest air transport center, believe it or not.

### AL TRAHAN HURT

SAN DIEGO, May 8.—Al Trahan, appearing here this week on the RKO vaude bill, suffered a dislocated collar bone, but was able to continue for the balance of the engagement.

## PETER PAUL LYONS AND HIS CONCERT ORCHESTRA

LOEW'S WARFIELD SAN FRANCISCO

## JAY BROWER MASTER OF CEREMONIES

FOX EL CAPITAN SAN FRANCISCO

## MISS EDDIE JAYE "THAT PERSONALITY BLUES SINGER"

(Management—Lou Davis)

SHE DON'T SHOUT 'EM—SHE SINGS 'EM  
TOLTEC CAFE JUAREZ, MEXICO

Also Hear Her on Radio KFSM  
Every Tuesday and Saturday at 1:15 P. M.

## TECHNICAL ACTIVITY MEET IS SCHEDULED

An important joint meeting of the producers' and technicians' branches of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will be held on Wednesday night, May 14, at the Academy lounge in the Roosevelt Hotel.

This meeting will afford the first opportunity for the entire membership of the two branches to hear reports on the Academy technical activities for the year and discuss the general program in which the branches are working together.

A general report will be given by Irving Thalberg, chairman of the producers-technicians committee.

Several reports will be given by the chairman of the sub-committees.

1.—The series of tests and measurements which has been instrumental in stimulating construction of improved devices to quiet cameras has been completed. New features are being incorporated into the design of the device to make them nearly as sound-proof and far more convenient to the cinematographer than the original camera boots.

2.—Specifications for a standard release print makeup have been subjected to careful analysis and improvements which will affect the practice of all studios and exchanges are in the final stages before general announcement.

3.—A report has been issued on the acoustic classification of set materials and tests of additional materials are scheduled.

4.—Comprehensive data on methods of arc light silencing has been gathered subsequent to tests of studio generators. Information for the satisfactory solution of this

## NEW REVIVAL PLANNED AT PASADENA THEATRE

"Wings Over Europe," much discussed Broadway production of the passing season, will be the next production at the Pasadena Community Playhouse, opening on May 17. Maurice Wells will have the leading role with Gilmore Brown directing. The current production is a revival of Shaw's "Candida."

### PLAYSHOP PROGRAMS

The "Wizard of Oz" will be given at the Play Shop on May 9, 10, 16 and 17, with Stephen Zerkoff in the lead "Exiles," by James Joyce, will be played May 7, 8, 10 and 11, with Maurice Kuhlman, who was Walker Whiteside's leading man for three years, in the lead.

important problem is now available.

These sub-committees on screen illumination in relation to release Print Density and the quality of sound in release prints will report the progress of their investigations.

Carol H. Dunning, president of the Dunning Process Company, and former vice president of the Prisma Color Company, will speak on "Color In Motion Pictures," demonstrating the principles of various color systems and recent developments.

Motion pictures of the recent eclipse of the sun photographed from 16,000 feet above the earth by Electrical Research Products, will be shown.

## FAWCETT PLAY IS REHEARSING

George Fawcett's production of "The Great John Ganton" is now in rehearsal, cast having been completed this week. Following has been chosen:

George Fawcett, Earl McCarthy, Richard Beath, Al Hallett, Oscar Griffith, Forrest Seabury, Ara-Haskell, Josephine Brown, Marion Bowers, Mary Jane Higby and Virginia Kani.

Production is scheduled to open May 18 at the Vine Street theatre, Hollywood. Edward Elmer is directing.

### FRANCIS FORD SIGNED

Francis Ford, popular serial player in early screen days, and Don Francis, character player, have been signed by Universal for its twelve-episode chapter play "The Indians Are Coming." Ford has directed a number of serials and feature productions for Universal in recent years.

### FRANKLIN'S NEW JOB

Harold B. Franklin, president of Fox West Coast Theatres, was suggested as a director of the State Chamber of Commerce by Harry Chandler, publisher of the Los Angeles Times, and the State Chamber of Commerce put its stamp of approval on the suggestion by electing H. B. Franklin director by unanimous vote.

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# Vaudeville and Presentations

## RKO LOS ANGELES (Reviewed May 1)

Ken Murray, minus the hi-hat, but still with the cigar and a line of fruity gags, returned to dust off the boards with his headline gags, public act, and gathered plenty of laughs from the laugh-hungry audience.

The bill opened with the Kitayans, Japanese hand-balancer and assistant, who got some good returns for his few stunts. This act was very tastefully dressed, combining oriental lacquer color with occidental pastels in an effective manner.

Foster, Fagan and Cox, three harmony singers, deuced in a section of song numbers, including "Sunday Side Up," "Chiropractic Wife," "Good Old Sunny South," "We're on the Verge of a Merger" and "On the Night We Did That Boom-Boom by the Sea." Their comedy numbers brought laughs as they exited with two bows. Could have taken more.

Danny Duncan followed next in an act billed as a domestic comedy, "Old Sweethearts," really a song and dance act, clothed with a plot and an invigorated air. The girl had never quarreled and a young couple who did nothing else but, and a maid, for plot. This was Danny's last, joined by singing, the wise-cracks got plenty of laughs.

Ken Murray's appearance received a welcoming hand. He started right in shooting the gags and spilling Milton Charleston on the floor. Milton got a good haul for some squat dancing. Foster, Fagan and Cox joined the act and supported some garnet work by Ken, then Helen Charleston came on to swap chatter with Ken, going into the song "I've Got That Man" for some very heavy returns. Milton staged a burlesque adagio, assisted by an orchestra, which scored big; then the girl went to the piano while the boys warbled "I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling" for the close, netting a great big haul.

The bill was preceded by the K-O-Lian under Billy Street in a "Stein Song" medley, featuring a brass trio and a chorus of "How Dry I Am" played on empty bottles by the percussionist, which worked returns.

Business was capacity. Screen offering was Radio's "Framed," with Evelyn Brent and Regis Toomey.

Yates.

## MILLION DOLLAR

(Reviewed May 1)

Only four acts this week, opened by Fumi and Hori, a team of Jap. hoofers. The girl had lots of personality and enough ability to solo as an acrobatic dancer, but the boy appeared nervous and his work was labored.

Viophone Four, male quartet, delivered some "Dance" numbers, novelty numbers, a trick bass which tickled the comedy hours. Took two

hours, lights doused for the next act, but the crowd brought them back for an encore.

Clyde Hager, who opened and garnered a lot of laughs with his portokel-pole salesman act, then worked off some off-color gags that did not go so well.

Closing flash act was Corvova and Mexican orchestra of 12, assisted by Lucinda and Ricardo, dance team, and Nelita, soprano. The dance team offered a Spanish tango that went very well, the audience liking the personal and appearance as well as the ability of the dancers. Nelita sang "Estrella," which also went well received, then the team returned in a change of costume, followed again by the singer, then the orchestra in another change.

Costuming of these entertainers was noticeably good, and the whole act sold heavily with the crowd.

This house is now billing a Saturday matinee.

Screen offering was a second downtown run of Paramount's "Vaagbond King." Heavy matinee crowd.

Yates.

## ORPHEUM SEATTLE

Henry Santhey headed a wov of a three-act vaudeville bill, which opened with the "Daktas," cow-punching, rope and whip cracking artists, assisted by a delectable little blonde miss, Chic Cooper. Next came two boys, Buck Warren and Phil Darden, have a snappy entrance, with the girl doing a mix and match dance. Warren stands out as one of the classic whip crackers seen here in any number of places, with the miss also showing plenty of stuff cracking the hide and twirling the ropes. Snappy throughout, loud and weak, and could hold its own any place.

Tim Ryan and Irene Nabette's act earned every bit of their billing, bringing out the bellylaughs fast and furious. The hole material was clean, the gal is sure-fire Ray Dooley stuff and has a nip of a baby voice that sold solid with a ballad. Ryan is no slouch when it comes to putting a number over. Good material.

Ken Santhey held the closing spot with his "Soldiers of Fortune," with the boys producing some sweet music and nifty specialties. A ballet by an unbillied girl was nicely injected into the line-up for a change. The hole material was clean, the gal is sure-fire Ray Dooley stuff and has a nip of a baby voice that sold solid with a ballad. Ryan is no slouch when it comes to putting a number over. Good material.

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Jan.

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## RKO GOLDEN GATE SAN FRANCISCO

(Reviewed May 1)

A fast moving bill, heavily spiced with comedy, this show went through its matinee packages and former good returns. Marquee honors went to Nan Halperin with Burns and Allen, Tommy King and Fred Kelly following.

In the three sequences of her act built around a shady lady of the future, past and present, La Halperin displayed a rare sense of comedy values that, interlarded with a touch of the risqué, brought her heavy applause returns. Her initial offering, a shady lady of the future, brought into play her juvenile ability, while in her second—Catherine of Russia—she unfurled some clever lines on the subject of a man's love for her army. Her closing offering was as a Harlem gal, and in this Miss Halperin carried a dramatic part of intense proportions and carried it so well that she had every ticket holder in the place with her. Her own orchestra director was in the pit.

Closing the show Burns and Allen, still doing the Al Boazorg "Lamb Chops" act, chartered some of the cleverest repartee we've heard in a long time. The boys' favor-ability of the pair to hoof, to handle lines, to sing and to look natty—as it carried away heavy applause.

Manny King and company are a first class stage comedy act in which King, who has taken a flock of laughs. Act opened in one with Floyd Halley, who did a little of the comic, took a flock of laughs. Act opened in one with Floyd Halley, who did a little of the comic, took a flock of laughs. Act opened in one with Floyd Halley, who did a little of the comic, took a flock of laughs.

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ping routine, with the couple spotted, and the De Quincy and Stanley girl on later to kick a solo.

Laddie La Monte joined the bunch here, climbing an unsupported ladder, walking and dancing around in a manner which brought running applause. He spun a 'larial' and juggled, and then came around in a manner which brought running applause. He spun a 'larial' and juggled, and then came around in a manner which brought running applause. He spun a 'larial' and juggled, and then came around in a manner which brought running applause.

The special musical numbers, written by G Craves, were tuneful, and the costumes and settings were of the customary F and M. flash, although featuring the ordinary colors more than the usual pastels.

Screen feature was the Marie Dressler-Polly Moran comedy, "Caught Short" (Metro).

Yates.

## FOX SEATTLE

(Reviewed May 4)

Sixteen weeks and still hitting 'em off heavy with a snappy week-by-week Owen Sweeten routine. Boys knocked 'em over this week with a diversified program which opened up with boys doing "Charming," featuring Paul Tutmarc, banjost, doing a nice vocal on this and grabbing a sweet hand for his efforts. Boy has nice pipes and personality, newcomer to band, and should click.

Gang went into "Mysterious Mose" doing a special arrangement that reflected quite a little of Sweeten's musicianship and brought out plenty showmanship upon the part of him and his boys in their clever rendition of the hot darktown number. Bud Jenkins, Handy Cummings, Paul Tutmarc, Arthur Clark, Kenny Ayres and George Shelton did atmospheric bits, helped by clever lighting and orchestral bits that had the pastebored holders hollering for more.

One of the best things that Sweeten has done.

Closing the ten-minute program with Victor Herbert's "Fortune Teller," Sweeten featured a cornet solo doing "Gypsy Sweetheart,"

with the boys humming the melody as a background. Credit Ray Watkins, a clever boy at the traps, with a pip of a sycophone solo. He's plenty hot. Nice hands for all the efforts with the applause running into the picture.

Sweeten is a great bet, has a load of smiling personality, and a bunch of boys that know their instruments.

Jan.

## FOX EL CAPITAN SAN FRANCISCO

(Reviewed May 4)

Show started with the 16 girls singing "Kickin' a Hole in the Sky" with Dorothy and Frances working on the apron. Jay Brower, m. c., introduced Al Osborne, who stepped out from the band to direct the group of 10 men in a medley of operatic selections that featured Natalie Heyman, one of the line girls, in a cello solo aided by Osborne and his fiddle. Number took very heavy applause.

Alexander Bros. and Evelyn, in a ball bouncing routine, worked smoothly, although there were too many entrances and exits, slowing up the act. Larger chap of the two had good unfurled comedy.

The sixteen sweethearts again on this time to do "Cooking Breakfast" with Frank O'Leary singing the tune. Clever dance routine to this, devised by Peggy O'Neill.

Brower next brought on Mable Hollis, who chanted, "I'm in the Market for You," clowning with the m. c. Good returns forced her to an encore and she repeated the number with Bob Kimm.

Here Brower stepped out on the apron to announce a special arrangement of "The Swing Song," dedicating the number to this reviewer. Anyway, after we had returned to the theatre ten minutes later Brower and the band were still taking encores on the tune. Segued into the finale.

Peggy O'Neill sprung some nifties in staging this show which had a lot in its favor. Mel Herzog was in the organ. The picture was "Montana Moon" and a two-reeler "Up the Congo" completed the bill.

Hal.

(Continued on Page 15)

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