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The Theatrical Digest and Show World Review

JANUARY 2, 1926

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Will work wonders in lightening your skin
 Will hold your make-up fresh for hours!
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The ONLY way that removes ALL make-up and grease from the pores

THIS offers a test that will work unique results in your skin. Modern science has found a *right* way to remove cold cream.

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The ONLY way

We are makers of absorbents; are world authorities in this field.

On the urge of a noted dermatologist, we worked to perfect a *thorough* remover of cold cream. There was no other known.

It took us two years to perfect it. We developed an entirely **NEW** kind of material to attain it. Not a cloth, but a uniquely exquisite absorbent that's different from any other you have ever seen.

We call it **KLEENEX**. You use it, then discard it.

White as snow and soft as down, it comes in exquisite sheets, 27 times as absorbent as an ordinary towel, 24 times that of fibre or tissue substitutes.

It contrasts their harshness with a softness that you'll love. It does what no other

method ever known has ever done—removes **ALL** dirt and grease from the pores.

Stops oily skins and noses
Combats skin imperfections

Today, largely on the urge of the skin specialists, the profession is flocking to this new way.

It will effect quick changes in the texture of your skin. Will make it seem shades whiter than before.

That's because you use cleansing cream to *remove* dirt and germ inviting matter from the pores.

And old methods removed but part, *rubbed the rest back in*, thus inviting eruptions, imperfections and dark skins.

It will correct oily skin and nose conditions so quickly as to amaze.

That's because an *oily skin or nose simply indicates grease left in the skin*. You must powder now so often because the pores exude it.

Clip the coupon

This new way will double and treble the effectiveness of your make-up, make it last hours longer than you'd believe!

It will bring results to delight you. Will prove the inadequacy of towels and cloth. Will make a noted difference in the color and texture of your skin.

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No More Oily Skins



First

Instead of towels, cloths, harsh fibre, or paper makeshifts, you use this deliciously soft new material—27 times as absorbent!



Remove every bit of germ-laden matter, every particle of dirt, simply by wiping off face.

Then

—pay particular attention to the nose, so that it will be white and without shine.

Then

You discard the used sheets—no more soiling of towels!

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Again Flood The Billboard and Its Staff Members

THE BILLBOARD and its staff members have, as usual, been swamped with holiday greetings—by postcards, telegrams and letters—much to our gratification. As early as two weeks prior to Christmas these messages of cheer began to arrive and were still being received when the lists published below were compiled Saturday, December 26. Those received too late to be included will appear in the next issue.

To all readers, we say, many, many thanks, and may the new year be one of real happiness and great prosperity. These lists represent only those engaged in the amusement business or in some way allied with it—Billboard readers. There were many instances where several staff members in one office received cards, etc., from the same person. In those cases the person's name is mentioned only once for each office, otherwise the lists would be very much larger:

Cincinnati Offices

A

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C

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D

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E

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F

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(Continued on page 45)

Greetings Season 1926—A Prosperous New Year

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The Billboard

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Published weekly at Cincinnati, O. Entered as second-class mail matter June 4, 1897, at Post Office, Cincinnati, under Act of March, 1879.
100 Pages. Vol. XXXVIII. No. 1, January 2, 1928. Copyright 1928 by The Billboard Publishing Company.

Showmen's League Election Feb. 15

Nominating Committee Submits
Regular Ticket to Board of
Governors—Fred M. Barnes
Again for President

Chicago, Dec. 25.—The Showmen's League of America will hold its annual election of officers Monday, February 15, according to a decision at the regular meeting Saturday night. The league will again meet next Saturday night, instead of Friday night, owing to New Year, and will then go back to its regular Friday night meetings.

Four below zero and a high and piercing wind didn't add to enthusiasm and the membership was there in rather light numbers. Leo Lipsa, long absent, was present and extended the felicitations of the season. The Ladies' Auxiliary was given the use of the club rooms for an entertainment Saturday evening, January 3.

The Nominating Committee of the Showmen's League of America submitted the following ticket to the Board of Governors Saturday night, the same to be known as the No. 1, or Regular Ticket. The ticket reads as follows:

Chair Officers—President, Fred M. Barnes; first vice-president, Edward A. Mack; second vice-president, Fred L. Clarke; third vice-president, Sam J. Lacey; treasurer, Edward P. Neumann; secretary, Thomas Rankine.

Board of Governors—H. M. Barnes, Fred Beckmann, W. O. Brown, Felice Bernard, A. P. Beard, Charles Browning, H. A. Byfield, W. S. Cherry, Harry Cudington, W. J. Collins, M. L. Callahan, Thomas H. Canfield, Baba Delgratran, Andrew Downie, Charles H. Duffield, Walter F. Driver, Gene DeKroka, Bert W. Esler.

(Continued on page 22)

Georgia Fairs To Meet at Savannah

February 17 and 18 Selected as
the Dates—Harry C. Robert
Resigns—Succeeded by
E. Ross Jordan

Sandersville, Ga., Dec. 28.—President Gordon S. Chapman of the Association of Georgia Fairs announced today that the annual meeting of the association would be held in Savannah Wednesday and Thursday, February 17 and 18. Every fair secretary in Georgia has been invited to attend and all amusement companies and others interested in fairs are also invited to attend.

The Savannah Board of Trade is arranging a special entertainment for the fair secretaries and members of the profession, and a most enjoyable outing is in store for all those who attend.

Mr. Chapman is arranging a special program that will be of vital interest to fair association representatives as well as to the carnival representatives.

Harry C. Robert, of Columbus, Ga., who has served the association so faithfully and efficiently for the past 12 years, has tendered his resignation to President Chapman. At first Mr. Chapman refused to accept the resignation, but upon the insistence of Mr. Robert he finally accepted it and has appointed E. Ross Jordan, of Macon, Ga., as active secretary to succeed Mr. Robert. Mr. Robert is known to thousands of the profession, all of whom will regret to learn that he is no longer connected with the association. His resignation was due to his failing health.

Many prominent fair officials of Georgia will be on the program for the Savannah meeting.

An Unprecedented Demand For New Year's Eve Music

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—There has been every indication that the demand for musicians, New Year's Eve will be unprecedented, according to Edward Canavan, chairman of Local 802, American Federation of Musicians. It will greatly surpass the Christmas demand; that, at least, is certain.

"There has always been more of a demand on New Year's Eve," said Canavan, "than on Christmas. The reason is obvious. On Christmas most people stay at home, enjoying themselves with the kiddies. The family congregates around the hearth and spends a quiet evening at home. But New Year's Eve most people go out to shows, cabarets and the like. There are more midnight shows than ever before, and that means an enormously larger demand for musicians."

There is reason to believe that 1928 will be a prosperous year for the musicians, according to Canavan. All contracts have been signed for the coming year, and the greater majority of the men are working. Says for an inconsequential strike at a small music theater in Niagara Falls, said the chairman, there is no union difficulty anywhere throughout the whole United States.

KETTERING UNFOLDS PLANS OF ASCHER BROS.' GROWING VISIONS

\$14,000,000 Building Program Has Been Increased to \$23,000,000
and Outside Cities Will Be Included—Ascher School for
Managers Opens January 11

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Ralph T. Kettering, of Ascher Brothers, has just given out a statement outlining the vastly increased plans of his firm, a condensed statement of which appeared in this publication a few weeks ago.

Mr. Kettering announces that the building program of Ascher Brothers has been advanced from a tentative \$14,000,000 to a definite sum of \$23,000,000. In addition to their Chicago program of new theaters—one a month—Aschers will build 20 theaters in tributary cities. This is a distinct departure from the former Ascher policy, as this firm has in the past confined its major energies in Chicago, with the exception of some few important houses in other cities. Mr. Kettering points out that while Ascher Brothers 16 years ago controlled more theaters than any other circuit in Chicago, an unfortunate entanglement forced them to stand still for a spell. However, within the past year Ascher Brothers have come to the front again and come

with vigor, vengeance and kick. Already the circuit is one of the foremost organizations of its class in the Mid-West.

Ascher Brothers now have 14 theaters in Chicago, and 7 new ones—all major houses—are under construction. It is a rigid dictum of the firm that one of these new houses shall be opened each month. The first will be the New Terminal, at Lawrence and Spaulding avenues, which is scheduled to open the first week of next month. This house has 4,000 seats and will present the new type of program which the Aschers have inaugurated in their new Mid-West Theater.

As an evidence of the intensive Ascher policy Mr. Kettering announces that the Ascher School for Managers, under the direction of Lewis P. Newlander, will open January 11 to train and educate a personnel of managers who will be thoroughly conversant and in entire sympathy with Ascher methods of handling theaters. It is the students in this school who, it is

(Continued on page 22)

Ticket Brokers Organize To Wipe Out Sidewalk Spec.

Theater Ticket Brokers' Association of Greater New York Formed
at Meeting of Licensed Agents in Hotel Astor

New York, Dec. 28.—Organization has been made the keynote of what is to develop into a war by the legitimate, licensed theater-ticket brokers in this city, on the halfhearted speculators who prey upon theater customers by charging ridiculously exorbitant prices for their seats.

The first step in the campaign was taken last week when 30 of the 37 reputable ticket agents met in the Hotel Astor and formed the Theater Ticket Brokers' Association of Greater New York, to make a concerted effort to wipe out the sidewalk "highwaymen" who charge for their tickets anything they think they can get.

The primary purpose of the organization, it was explained, is to bring all the brokers together, so that the fight may be made systematically and concertedly. Another purpose of the association is to prove that the licensed broker is a necessity to the theater business, and to modify the existing State laws governing the sale of tickets by attempting to have legislation enacted permitting them to make a "reasonable profit for services." What this surcharge will be they intend to leave to the discretion of the State Comptroller.

Nathan Lieberman, of No. 1422 Broadway, has been appointed general counsel.

(Continued on page 22)

Brockton Free-Act Contract Is Closed

Wirth & Hamid Booking Agency
Lands Big Fair Date Thru
Stuart Kollins—\$20,000
Program

Boston, Dec. 28.—Stuart Kollins, manager of the local office of Wirth & Hamid Booking Agency, grabbed off the plum date of New England, the great Brockton Fair, for his organization, contracts having recently been signed for a \$20,000 free-act program for the fair, which takes place from October 4 to 8.

For the past five years this fair has been booked out of the Boston office of the Keith-Albee Exchange. Kollins was formerly with the Keith office.

This is one of the biggest free-act contracts Brockton has signed, its biggest being for \$24,000 for the Silver Jubilee in 1927. J. J. Cahill, chairman of attractions, signed the contract for Brockton.

A strong program, including Ralph Hankinson's Auto Polo and many big feature acts, is being prepared. A \$10,000 fireworks program will be furnished by the American Fireworks Company, of Boston, as usual.

H. of A. Showman's Club Celebrates

Sixth Annual Christmas Tree
Celebration, Vaudeville Show
and Dance a Great Success

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 28.—Bright and scintillating, magnificent and gay was the sixth annual Christmas Tree Celebration, Vaudeville Show and Dance given by the Board of America Showman's Club last night in the lobby and ballroom of the Coates House, with Sam Campbell and Mr. Posock, managers of this locality, cohorts and coworkers and lending every assistance to make this the great success it was. It seemed to the writer that the crowd was larger than at any previous celebration and a marked feature of it all was the tremendous amount of the Christmas spirit manifested everywhere, by performers, hosts, children and everyone, and this was due to the visit of Santa Claus and his reindeer brought to Kansas City by The Kansas City Star and which had made the merchants have one of the largest Christmas businesses in recent years. There was laughter, merriment, good-natured rallery, pleasant exchange of greetings and nothing but fun and amusement the entire evening.

Promptly at 8 o'clock the program was commenced, with Louis Hendaway, secretary of the club, as master of ceremonies and official announcer. The first act was The Reynolds with their Punch and Judy show, ever dear, the old fun, and this started things off with a bang. Next appeared Rosemary Loomis, child blues singer, in several popular selections, Alton and Company, a clever acrobatic act, followed, and then "our own" Allicity Loomis, the favorite of Kansas City, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Loomis, with the appearance of a professional, in some pleasing songs and dances. Opal Francis was the pianist for all numbers. Prof. Ravatta, in his juggling magic, was the next act, garnished with acrobatics. Margaret Hanley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hanley of photo and radio fame, old-time showfolk, Mrs. Hanley being the daughter of Doc and Mrs. Turner, two of the silent in the business and most beloved of showfolk in the city, received a demand for an encore of her singing of *Pat of My Grade Days*, and the program was brought to a close with a tremendous

(Continued on page 23)

BANNER YEAR FOR MAGIC SHOWS SHOWN BY BILLBOARD SURVEY

All Parts of Country Readily Responding to Such Entertainment, Which Continues To Draw Everywhere—Large Number of Full-Length Shows on Road, While Smaller Ones Are Also on Increase

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Reports from various parts of the United States indicate that magic everywhere throughout the country is waxing ever stronger in popularity as the old year wanes. Not only has it been a banner year for magic but the reports augur well for 1926. There is a surprising degree of unanimity—an encouraging fact—about the reports, whether they be from New York, Princeton, Ohio or Texas.

The report published in recent issues of *The Billboard* about magic thriving in New York might therefore be construed as being applicable to conditions throughout the country. Since New York is the most cosmopolitan of cities it might have been obvious that the popularity of magic enjoys in New York these days was being enjoyed also throughout the country as a whole.

New York has taken to magic to such an extent that Houdini's two-week stay at a legitimate showhouse, the 44th Street Theater, in itself indicative of the fact that magic has quite an audience in the metropolis, has warranted his holding his full show in the city for several weeks more. Houdini moved from the 44th Street Theater to the National Theater, where he is playing this week. He was supposed to have been playing in Brooklyn this week but New York was ready for more and Houdini decided to satisfy its appetite. After this week he in all probability will play a week in the Bronx, another week in up-town New York and will then fill his belated engagement in Brooklyn.

During his first week in New York Houdini had the competition of Blackstone, playing across the bridge at Werba's Brooklyn. The fact that both did very well is further testimony of the vogue magic enjoys in the big city. Furthermore, the two again are scheduled to be rival attractions this week. At this writing Blackstone is playing in Washington and is then to play the Bronx at Cort's new Windsor Theater, soon after. Two famous magicians playing the same town at the same time and both doing very well is certainly convincing evidence of the status magic is enjoying and indicates in no uncertain manner that the people want magic and are growing to like it more and more. And when these two magicians can again compete with one another at no less an interval than a few weeks—well, even the skeptic's most

(Continued on page 54)

Swor Bros.' Minstrels Open at Greenville, Tex.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 24.—Jim and Albert Swor, of the noted Swor family of burlesque artists, have organized a minstrel show of their own, known as the Swor Brothers' Minstrels, and are now touring, blazing a trail thru Oklahoma to very good business, according to reports. The show was organized in this city with a cast of 25 people, rehearsals were completed December 20, and the show played its opening date at Greenville, Tex., December 21.

Jim and Albert Swor are the featured comics, assisted by Ernest White, Cutly Wilson, Edwin Kline, Buster Williamson and "Pat" Wilds. The balad and harmony singers include E. J. Thomas, Lindsey Stevens, Joe Girman, Elmer Hod and Chester Williamson, the last named also acting as interpreter.

Press reports are giving the show a great runoff.

While a number of shows were turning the yuletide season over to Santa Claus and taking a week's rest the Swor Brothers stepped in, and, according to reports, are "coaxing 'em in" for a fair week's business. The boys are a very jolly lot and very optimistic, predicting a prosperous season.

"Madga" Staged by Kalich

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Bertha Kalich returned to the English-speaking stage for the first time in eight years here this week when she staged *Madga* at the Princess Theater. The first audience was enthusiastic and recalled her rapturously after the second and third acts. Charles Walkins replaced Frederick Kerr in the cast. The engagement is scheduled for an indefinite period.

FLORENCE MacBETH ILL.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Florence MacBeth, Civic Opera soprano, who was to have appeared yesterday afternoon at the Auditorium in *Marta*, was stricken with appendicitis in Fort Wayne, Ind., and is in a hospital in that city. Advice from the Indiana city say the singer's condition is improved.

Harry Ruppel Gives Farewell Party to Friends

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Harry Ruppel, who has been manager of the Chicago branch of Carl Fisher, music publisher, for the past 10 years, has recently become a partner in the firm of Funder & Urbanek, Inc. Mr. Ruppel gave a farewell dinner on the evening of December 24, at Tip Top Inn, which was followed by a theater party. Members of the Fisher Chicago staff were the guests. The guest of honor was Sam Harris, formerly with the Gambia Hinged Music Company, who succeeds Mr. Ruppel. The folks of the Chicago Fisher office presented Mr. Ruppel with a handsome watch and chain.

Sunday Morning Shows Attacked by Minister

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 24.—The Rev. King D. Beach, pastor of the First M. E. Church here, in an open letter to his congregation, has appealed to the management of the Isis Theater to abandon plans for holding Sunday morning shows. The letter suggests that other managers here "bring pressure upon him if necessary" if the manager of the Isis does not change his plans.

Paris Dancer Wins Suit

Paris, Dec. 23.—Mlle. Jeanne Langer, formerly a dancer at the Paris Opera, and who was injured in a railroad accident in 1920, was given an award of less than \$8,000 in a Paris court last week. The dancer sued for \$20,000, alleging that she has been permanently disabled since the accident and has been unable to earn a living by dancing.

Injured Actress Recovers

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 23.—Madame Chereka, a member of the Ruslan Art Choir, with the Song of Pines Company, was discharged from the hospital here December 21. This actress was taken to the hospital after being injured by falling debris at the Playhouse here when a chandelier iron buckled on December 11.

A. H. May Build in Seattle

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 23.—Joseph Muller, Northwest representative of the Ackerman-Harris interests, announced this week that the circuit will probably construct a 2,500-seat theater in the downtown district of the city next year. A site, costing more than \$500,000, is under consideration, he said.

Ceredo Theater Leased

Ceredo, W. Va., Dec. 23.—A. E. Booth has leased the Strand Theater to the Strand Theater Company, which was recently formed by C. H. Woffman, W. H. Lowe, F. M. Webb and Garfield Maynard. The theater was leased for a period of five years. Garfield Maynard is president and M. Webb manager.

Theater Robberies

Davenport, Ia., Dec. 23.—Two unmasked bandits held up Nels Nelson, assistant manager of the Grand Theater here, owned by the A. H. Hank interests, and escaped with \$200 which Nelson was preparing to take to the bank.

ROSALINDE FULLER



—Photo by Francis Bruguiere
A popular member of the regular company at the Greenwich Village Theater, New York, and at present winning much praise for her performance in the leading feminine role in "The Escapist", Eugene O'Neill's romance of Ponce de Leon, at this playhouse.

Washington Theater Owners To Oppose Censorship Bill

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 24.—Motion picture and theatrical interests of this city have been called upon for aid in opposing a strict picture censorship bill now pending before the special session of the State Legislature at Olympia. The measure, sponsored by several important State women's organizations, provides a \$500 fine for showing pictures which "glorify and justify crime, displaying the actual or completed crime of murder and pictures based upon the wanton exhibits of violence, obscenity or other form of lewdness tending to display moral delinquency." Hatred against other nations and race prejudices are also mentioned. A charge for inspection of pictures and the creation of a commission to act as a censorship board are outlined in the bill, which was introduced by Senator Christensen, of Shumassa.

That such a bill would be before the State solons was predicted last summer by *The Billboard* when a group of women in Spokane formed the original outline for the legislation.

Ruth Draper Ending New York Engagement

New York, Dec. 23.—Ruth Draper, whose New York season this year has been unusually successful, will end her engagement at the Times Square Theater with the Wednesday afternoon performance this week. Miss Draper's original booking was concluded a few weeks ago, but the popularity of her dramatic recitals led to an extension of the engagement into the holidays.

"Abie" Leads Honor Guests

Boston, Dec. 23.—Lorna Carroll and Teddy Gibson, who take the leading parts in *Abie's Irish Rose*, were the honor guests at a Christmas party given by the Green Room Club in the State Suite of the Copley Plaza. As Miss Carroll entered the hall she was presented with a beautiful red rose from the president, Mrs. Guy Currier.

On January 21 Anne Nichols will give the entire proceeds from *Abie*, now in its fourth successful month at the Castle Square, to the fund for the Disabled Exchange of Massachusetts.

Harris Refunded Money When Egels Sprained Ankle

Chicago, Dec. 24.—When Jeanne Egels sprained her ankle a week ago and had to stay out of the performance of *Bois* at the Selwyn for several days the theater management offered to refund money to anybody who was dissatisfied with the show. It seems that the understudy performed her work so well that the requests for refunds were few. The management refused to give out the amount of refunds but said it was not a large sum. As announced elsewhere in this issue Miss Egels is back in the cast.

Chicago Theaters' Toll \$15,000,000

Of This Sum Intake of Legitimate Houses in 1925 Is Estimated To Be \$9,080,000

Chicago, Dec. 24.—A survey prepared this week of the money spent by patrons of Chicago theaters—legitimate, motion picture and vaudeville—in 1925, places the estimate at about \$15,000,000. In the absence of official detailed figures that will be prepared after the first of the year it is the opinion of several managers that the grosses of all of the above divisions of the show business in Chicago will be somewhat less than last year. However, there were more long runs here within the last year than any other year.

The 16 theaters in the legitimate class will have grossed about \$9,080,000 this year if present intakes hold out next week. It is computed now that the different legitimate houses will have 1925 grosses substantially as follows: Illinois, \$445,000; Harris, \$500,000; Studebaker, \$450,000; La Salle, \$340,000; Princess, \$200,000; Garrick, \$550,000; Cort, \$200,000; Woods, \$1,840,000; Great Northern, \$840,000; Central, \$180,000; Playhouse, \$250,000; Cohan's Grand, \$500,000; Blackstone, \$450,000; Apollo, \$1,000,000; Selwyn, \$720,000; Adelphi, \$450,000.

Notable among the long runs of the year were *No, No, Nanette*, at the Harris; *Coppy and Eva*, at the Selwyn, and *Abie's Irish Rose*, at the Studebaker. These runs ended during the year. The Student Prince has been running nearly 44 weeks at the Great Northern, and *Appa Sence* had a fine, long run at the La Salle.

Rida Johnson Young Ill

Bridgeport, Conn., Dec. 24.—Specialists were rushed to Stamford, Conn., this week from New York to treat Mrs. Rida Johnson Young, playwright, who is in critical condition in her home at Southfield Point, supposedly suffering from cancer. Altho Mrs. Young is a Christian Scientist, the best doctors available were sought to treat her. While Mrs. Young is desperately ill in Stamford, her mother, Mrs. William A. Johnson, living in Baltimore, celebrated her 83d birthday, while at the same time Mrs. Marie Seward Kerr, also of Baltimore, aunt of Mrs. Young, was buried this week. Mrs. Young was married to James Young, Jr., son of a Maryland senator, but was divorced some time ago. Her husband again married and was again divorced, the second time by Clara Kimball Young, the movie actress.

Erlanger Wins Again

New York, Dec. 23.—A. L. Erlanger has won another legal point over his former partner, Marc Klaw, in the dispute over the Gaiety Theater. Back in 1921, after Erlanger had purchased this theater property, Klaw brought an action claiming that Erlanger, while he was a director of the Fox's Theater Company, which held a lease on the playhouse, had no right to purchase the property for himself and Klaw demanded an accounting and that the cancellation of the lease of the Fox's Company be set aside. Judge Joseph N. Troskauer decided against Klaw, whose attorney, Clarence J. Shaarn, then took the case to the Appellate Division, which a short time ago unanimously confirmed Judge Troskauer's decision. Shaarn thereupon made a motion for permission to appeal the case to the Court of Appeals and this motion has now been unanimously denied by the Appellate Division, which means that the victory is entirely with Erlanger.

Back Number Wanted

Requests have been received for several copies of the February 28, 1925, issue of *The Billboard*. Anyone having a copy of this issue that he does not need is requested to send it to *The Billboard* Publishing Company, Cincinnati. For each such copy sent 15 cents and postage will be paid.

Theater Fire Kills 13

Marfa, Dec. 23.—Thirteen natives were killed and more than 100 injured in a fire which destroyed a picture theater at Open, Cebu Province, on Christmas Eve. The blaze started when a film caught fire. The audience stampeded for the exits, causing many to be trampled under foot.

Mexican Theater Conditions Reported To Be in Bad State

Irving Eastman Tells Recent Experiences of American Troupe in "Modern" Playhouse of Mexico City—Gives Warning of What To Expect

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The playhouses in Mexico are utterly impossible at the present time, according to Irving Eastman, who has but recently returned from a sojourn with an American troupe of musical revues at the Teatro Regio in Mexico City. Eastman went along as special agent for the organization. He will know here as a scenic artist and creator of costumes for many Broadway presentations and as a producer of vaudeville offerings. Eastman is at present the art director of the Colony Theater on Broadway.

Theatro Regio, where we were booked for a six weeks' stay," Eastman told a representative of *The Billboard*, "is considered locally to be a modern house, perhaps on account of a few old type Copley-Hammer round dimmers on the switchboard. The playhouse is located on the main street, Juarez avenue. It has a very imposing front and seats about 100 people. But the stage! Well, the rear wall is literally a mass of huge studio-type windows from the floor to the gridiron and there is no provision for darkening them during matinees. The entire stagehouse is wooden, walls, roof, falls and stairs. A large stock of 1x2 battens is stored in a corner. The Mexican scenery is made of paper. There is no asbestos-curtain and no ventilators. Nothing is flameproofed, but everyone goes about the stage smoking vile Mexican tobacco. During our engagement the smoke was so thick at times that when the curtain was raised it was necessary to wait several minutes for the air to clear sufficiently to make the players discernible. A no-smoking rule could not be enforced among the house crew.

The electric equipment of the Regio, the finest theater in Mexico City, we were assured, is worse than inadequate. Foot-

(Continued on page 95)

Tacoma's Legit. Theater Is Sold for \$450,000

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 25.—The Tacoma Theater, built in 1885, was sold today by the Tacoma Theater Building Company, owned principally by Calvin Hellig and Charles Herald, Pacific Coast theatrical men, to S. E. Bakwell, a local capitalist, and others. The reported price was \$450,000, of which \$225,000 was in cash, with the purchaser assuming a mortgage of \$125,000 against the property.

At the present time a stock company is playing on dates not taken by concerts and road shows. The theater is the only one in Tacoma where the legitimate is played.

Altho it is still in the rumor stage, talk has it that the building was acquired for Warner Brothers, who were known to be looking for a Tacoma location a year ago. Should the property pass to the film company, it is said the present structure will be razed for a modern theater. When built almost 40 years ago the theater cost \$180,000.

"Lady Be Good" for London

Boston, Dec. 27.—*Lady Be Good* is shortly to be presented in London with the Astaire in their original roles.

There was no matinee of *Lady Be Good* on Christmas Day at the Colonial. The regular schedule was adhered to of afternoon performances on Wednesday and Saturday.

Cooney Bros. Begin Work On Their Paradise Theater

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Work on Cooney Brothers' new Paradise Theater, in Madison, near Crawford avenue, started this week. The owners concluded negotiations a few days ago whereby they acquired all of the necessary leases on the real estate involved. The house is to be in the neighborhood of 4,000 seats.

Betty Rand's Understudy

Boston, Dec. 27.—Eleanor Faron, dancer in *The Student Prince*, has been awarded the position of understudy to Betty Rand, who portrays the role of Grey-hen.

and the technical working conditions in present time, according to Irving Eastman from a sojourn with an American troupe of musical revues at the Teatro Regio in Mexico City as special agent for the organization. He

Busy Holiday Season in London

New Plays and Revivals Presented—More on the Way for January and February

London, Dec. 26 (Special Cable to *The Billboard*).—Christmas week was a busy one here in the theatrical line, with several revivals and some new plays presented.

The week included the successful presentation of a mystery play by Owen Davis and Sewell Collins entitled *9:15*, which is a probable winner. At the Gaiety Wednesday *The Blue Kitten* was presented. It is poor stuff wherein W. H. Berry and Ethel Levy waste their talent on inferior material. Margaret Halstan makes her first appearance here in musical comedy and scored a success, but 'tis a pity so good an actress deserts the legitimate for such an inferior place which, nevertheless, apparently pleased the audience.

Gilbert Miller will present *The Fire-bread* in London in February with Ivor Novello, Constance Collier and Hugh Wakefield.

Sir Alfred Butt may present *Sunny* here by arrangement with Charles Dillingham.

George McClellan called Wednesday with William Gaunt, whose six London theaters are now jointly controlled with the Shuberts. It is expected that McClellan will return shortly with Jake Shubert, as the latter directs rehearsals of *The Student Prince*, due at His Majesty's Theater in February.

James Darling accompanied Deslie Benson returning from New York to stage *Kid Boots* at the Winter Garden Theater, for which Mary Farrell is arranging dances.

Syracuseans May Develop Theater Chain in New York

Auburn, N. Y., Dec. 25.—First steps in the development of a large theater chain have been taken by Mitchell and Max Fitzer, of Syracuse. The purchase of the Auditorium Theater here for \$100,000 was followed a few hours later by the announcement that Mitchell Fitzer, President of the Fitzer Amusement Company and owner of the Rivoli Theater, has leased a \$500,000 picture house in Kenmore, a suburb of Buffalo.

Negotiations for the construction or purchase of at least three others in the State are under way. Mr. Fitzer informed *The Billboard* representative this week. Mr. Fitzer declined to name the cities, but said they were in or near Central New York.

Charles K. Gordon Opens New Office

New York, Dec. 25.—Charles K. Gordon, Broadway producer, opened new offices last week on the seventh floor of 1475 Broadway at the northeast corner of 42d street. Gordon was formerly quartered in the Loew's State Building but moved to temporary offices at 123 East 58th street last fall. At his new location on Broadway, the producer will begin preparations after the first of the year on his next production. He has several scripts and is as yet undecided which he will offer first.

Box-Office Boys Entertain Theater and Company Managers

Chicago, Dec. 24.—The Treasures' Club of Chicago, made up of the box-office boys in the different theaters, was host last night to the house managers and company managers of different Loop shows at Lindsey's Cafe in Randolph street.

THE "PLAYBOY'S" NEW YEAR BALL

New York, Dec. 26.—*Playboy*, the art and satire publication, will hold its annual costume ball New Year's Eve at Webster Hall. The event will again be attended by contingents from many of the current Broadway productions and by the Greenwich Village artists, authors and other followers of the seven arts. A committee of futuristic artists is now at work on the decorations and scenic effects, while a corps of trained electricians is designing the lighting effects. One of the features will be a wonderful spectacle called *The Pageant of the Stars*, designed by William Zorach and thrown on a great blue canopy representing the heavens.

"GORILLA" HELD OVER ON SUBWAY CIRCUIT

New York, Dec. 25.—The original Broadway company of *The Gorilla*, which recently returned to this vicinity for a tour of the Subway Circuit, did so well last week at the Shubert-Riviera Theater that it is being held over at the up-town house thru New Year's week. Clifford Dempsey and Frank McCormack continue in their original roles of Mr. Mulligan and Mr. Garrity, and the other members of the cast are Harry Herzman, Frederick Trussell, Betty Weston, Robert Strang, Frank Beaton, Augustus Minton, Joseph Guthrie, Harry A. Ward and Dean Borup.

Guy Robertson To Play Lead in "Song of Flame"

New York, Dec. 25.—Guy Robertson, who supported Edith Day during the entire long run of *Wildflower* and who has lately been appearing in one of the road companies of *Rose-Merie*, has been assigned by Arthur Hammerstein to the leading male role in *Song of the Flame*, the new opera which is to make its local bow New Year's Eve at the 44th Street Theater.

Robertson left the *Rose-Merie* company in Detroit about a week ago to prepare for his new part. He is feeling very fit and in fine voice since the recent operation on his throat and nose. Incidentally Robertson is about the youngest leading man of importance in the musical comedy field.

Actors' Assn. Begins Organization Campaign

London, Dec. 25 (Special Cable to *The Billboard*).—The Actors' Association is beginning an organization campaign with the backing of the Trades Union Congress.

Alfred Lugg, secretary of the association, addressed a meeting of Hull trades unionists as the first move in the new campaign and arrangements have been made for the local organization to support the aims of the Actors' Association in all possible ways.

It will be interesting to see whether the A. A. can recover any of its former esteem and power, but it is decidedly doubtful whether provincial stunts of this kind will be of any service, since the A. A. is negligible as regards the West End stage and seems almost defunct.

Peg Entwistle as Snow White

Boston, Dec. 26.—Peg Entwistle, who is starring this week in *Snow White* at the Repertory Theater, is one of the youngest—if not the youngest—regular members of a repertory company in America. Peg is 17 years old. First coming to notice as the coquette maid in *The Bivouac* on the opening night of the present repertory season, Peg assumed greater importance as the innkeeper's son in *Rip Van Winkle* and last as Hedvig in *The Wild Duck*. The part of *Snow White* is a particularly happy one for Miss Entwistle.

Mary Garden III

Chicago, Dec. 25.—Illness of Mary Garden, prima donna, due to a severe cold, will prevent her scheduled appearance in *Thais*, at the Chicago Civic Opera tonight, according to a statement issued last night by the opera press service. Instead of *Thais*, the opera *Faust* will be given tonight. In the cast will be Mason, Hackett, Lazart, Defrere, Gabriel Grovies will be the conductor.

Important Deals in Theatrical Property

Considerable New York Real Estate Involving Theaters Changes Hands

New York, Dec. 25.—Several important real-estate deals, involving the transfer or the contemplated erection of theaters, went into effect last week.

The Adelphi Theater, on the southwest corner of Broadway and 89th street, one of the landmarks of that part of the city, was sold by Walter J. M. Donovan to a client of the Wood, Dolson Company, Inc. The house with its adjoining buildings, involved also in the transaction, were valued at \$1,600,000 by Donovan and are said to have been sold for an amount close to the price asked. Klein and Jackson were the original owners. They sold to Adolph Mollenhauer, the sugar refiner, and he in turn, in March, 1922, sold to Donovan. The theater and buildings occupy a plot 105 by 132 feet. The Trio Amusement Company and Casper C. Trepel have leases on the theater and corner adjoining, respectively.

A vacant block front of about 14 lots on the south side of Tremont avenue, between University and Harrison avenues, was sold by the Harrington Realty Company, Inc., to Etnis & Sinselt for the erection of a 2,000-seat motion picture theater. The property was held at \$225,000. L. J. Phillips & Company were the brokers.

Edward Margoules bought from Samuel Krulwich the tenements at 312-315 West 54th street, directly opposite the Night Court, where he will build a theater. The houses are five-story structures on a plot 55 by 190.

Levy & Goldstein, operators, leased from the Empire Realty Corporation (L. J. Malino) for a period of 31 years a building at Tremont and Daly avenues, the Bronx, containing 22 stores and a theater. The aggregate rental will be about \$500,000.

Chester D. and Herbert Jude sold to the Ralco Construction Company 150 by 100 feet adjoining the northwest corner of Broadway and Academy street, in the Dyckman section, for the erection of a theater building.

HAMMERSTEIN ACTS AGAINST MARY ELLIS

New York, Dec. 25.—Arthur Hammerstein, the producer, has obtained an order from Supreme Court Justice Mahoney requiring Mary Ellis, former leading woman in the Broadway company of *Rose-Merie*, to show cause why she should not be enjoined from appearing in the production of *The Dabbler* at the Neighborhood Playhouse. Miss Ellis left the Imperial Hammerstein operetta at the Imperial Theater last July, giving as her reason that her throat could no longer stand the strain of singing every night. The producer holds an option on her services for another musical show and his action at this time is not for breach of contract but simply to ascertain the meaning of the clause in the agreement existing between them. Hammerstein, thru his counsel, House, Grossman & Voehaus, states that he is desirous of putting Miss Ellis in a new musical production at a salary of \$1,000 a week in New York and \$1,250 a week on the road. Miss Ellis, however, declares that the salary offered her by the producer to appear in this new piece was \$750 a week. In *Rose-Merie* she was getting \$500, while her salary in *The Dabbler* is much less than this.

Rialto Theater Using First-Run Releases Now

Chicago, Dec. 24.—The Rialto Theater, the last active vaudeville house remaining under the Jones, Linick & Schaefer management, is now using first-run releases for the first time in its history, thru the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Corporation. Jackie Coogan, in *The Ragman*, is being shown there this week.

Clock for Dick Green

Chicago, Dec. 25.—R. J. (Dick) Green, president of the I. A. T. S. E., was here this week and George E. Browne, business agent of Local No. 2, presented him with a grandfather clock with chain.

BROADWAY OPENINGS

Postponement of Mrs. Carter in "Shanghai Gesture" Permits Mrs. Insull To Reopen in "School for Scandal"—Another Generous List of Premieres This Week. Then the January Lull

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Altho the indications a week ago pointed to an unusually crowded program for New Year's week, the postponement of two new attractions has brought the list of premieres down to eight, which includes the third offering in the repertory of the Moscow Art Theater Musical Studio. After these arrivals the usual January lull will set in.

One of the postponed arrivals is the new Mrs. Leslie Carter vehicle, *The Shanghai Gesture*, which was booked to come into the Edgington Theater. The sudden change of plans has permitted Mrs. Samuel Insull, who closed a week ago in *The School for Scandal* at the Little Theater, to lease the Edgington for a minimum of two weeks, and the Sheridan revival will reopen there tonight under the management of Mrs. Insull, who has taken over the production from Druce & Street.

Changes in the cast will include Richie Ling as the new Sir Peter Teazle, Parker Mills as Trip, H. Ashton Tomare as Moses, Arthur Davis as Sir Harry Bumper, Lionel Bevan as Joseph's servant, and Walter Pfluge as Lady Teazle's servant.

The other postponement is *A Night in Paris*, the new Shubert revue for the Century Roof. This premiere has been put off till next week. Meanwhile the Century Roof has been renamed the Casino de Paris, and the plan is to conduct it along the lines of a Continental music hall.

This week's openings are as follows:

TONIGHT (MONDAY)

Belasco Theater, Nance O'Neil, in *Stronger Than Love*, by Doris Goodand, presented by Carl Reed. Cast also in (Continued on page 94)

Special Performance of "Alice in Wonderland"

New York, Dec. 28.—A special performance of *Alice in Wonderland* will be given tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon by the Children's Saturday Morning Theater at the Princess Theater for the benefit of the American Guardian Association, which is trying to raise \$2,000,000. The Children's Theater is composed of professional actors recruited from Broadway productions.

Mrs. LeGallienne, famous stage star, will address the children for five minutes, and will be followed by Madame Dorothy Fellows Thompson, soprano, who will sing *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

The Association, under the leadership of Major-General Leonard A. Wood, Governor-General of the Philippines, is aiding in sending these American children and children of mixed blood on the islands. There are now 1,300 children in need of immediate assistance.

Testimonial Dinner for Newball Given in Boston

Boston, Dec. 28.—Allen R. Newball, managing director of the Mark-Strand Theater at Lynn, was tendered a testimonial dinner at the Conroy-Piazza Hotel here Sunday night in recognition of 25 years of faithful service with the Mark-Strand interests. The dinner was attended by 100 theatrical men of the district, including Max Mark, directing head of the company, who presented Newball with a large diamond ring.

Lawrence Schwab to London

On the *MaJoette*, which sailed from New York December 23 for Cherbourg and Southampton, are Lawrence Schwab, who is going to London to arrange for the production of his New York success, *The Firebrand*, at the St. James Theater, and one of Paul Specht's orchestra, under the direction of Orville Johnston, band for the Kit Kat Club, London, and Dorothy Adelaido, gypsy dancer, who will appear with the orchestra.

Decision Reserved

In Picketing Case

New York, Dec. 28.—Supreme Court justice MacGrate in Brooklyn last week served decision on the application of the Carnation Photo Play Co., Inc., for temporary injunction restraining members of the Moving Picture Machine operators' Union Local No. 234 from picketing or otherwise interfering with the Empire Theater, which it owns at Richmond Terrace and Richmond avenue, Port Richmond, Staten Island.

T. M. A. Celebrates 60th Anniversary

More Than 500 Attend Banquet at Hotel McAlpin—Entertainment and Speeches Broadcast

New York, Dec. 28.—The 60th anniversary of one of the oldest organizations in the amusement business, the Theatrical Mutual Association, was celebrated last night in the Winter Garden Room of the Hotel McAlpin with a banquet and dinner, which was attended by members from New York and many lodges scattered in large cities throughout the United States and Canada. The T. M. A. is a unique organization in that it numbers among its members men from all walks of theatrical life, from the manager of the biggest shows down to the stage-hand with the smallest.

More than 500 people, it was estimated, attended the affair, the first of international significance given by the organization. It came as the culmination of efforts of Edward W. Otto, treasurer of New York Lodge No. 1, to bring together this year all the lodges throughout this country and Canada. The entertainment and speeches were broadcast over the radio thru the courtesy of Hotel McAlpin Station WMOA. William Baxter, of Jersey City Lodge No. 24, acted as toastmaster and introduced first John C. McDowell, president of the New York lodge, who spoke briefly, outlining the purposes of the T. M. A. and the benefits, financial and moral, derived by its members. Walter J. Mcmahoney, the grand lodge president, told the assemblage that during the annual convention in Los Angeles last summer a large tree in La Honda Park, a suburb, had been dedicated to the T. M. A., marking the first instance where an organization of its kind has thus been honored by the California city.

The guest of honor for the evening was John T. Thompson, first president of the organization. His oration was tremendous. The original minutes of the first meeting of the T. M. A. were handed him by Mr. McDowell and placed later in the custody of Mr. Mcmahoney as a sacred relic to be kept in the archives of the grand lodge of the association. Others who delivered addresses were Samuel Rothafel, who spoke highly of the back-stage men, and Peter J. Brady, president of the American Federation of Labor Bank.

Among the entertainers were Milton Wallace, of the New York company of *Abe's Irish Rose*; the Bossert Lombor Jacks, Jimmy Ward and Kablo Negrin, Russian tenor. (NOTE—A more detailed account reviewing the growth of the T. M. A. will appear in next week's issue.)

150 Injunctions Against Cabarets, Chicago Report

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A report, as yet unconfirmed, says that 150 injunctions will be asked for in the Federal Court here against centers of merriment, including a number of well-known cabarets and night clubs.

F.-R. Buy Site for Theater

Huron, S. D., Dec. 28.—An announcement was made here last week that property in the down-town section has been bought by the Finkelstein & Ruben theatrical interests upon which a modern 1,300-seat theater will be built in the spring.

Sentenced to 20 Years

New Orleans, Dec. 25.—Anthony Peligrini and William Kelly, who held up the Orpheum Theater recently, were sentenced to 20 years in State prison by Judge Echeverria. The prisoners admitted their guilt before sentence was passed on them.

ROY SEDLEY



Juvenile singer and dancer who is making an individual hit in "Oh, Oh, Noree", the Clark Ross musical comedy at the Ziegfeld Cosmopolitan Theater, New York. Sedley is under the direction of Levin Jacobs, who predicts a good future for him.

"The Night Duel" Soon by Playgoers

Organization's Intention Is To Present Plays on Road as Well as in New York

New York, Dec. 28.—The recently organized venture known as The Playgoers, sponsored by the MacGregor-Kilborn Corporation, will begin its activities with a drama by Daniel N. Rubin called *The Night Duel*, which is now in rehearsal with Marjorie Rombau as the star. Edgar J. MacGregor, president of the MacGregor-Kilborn Corporation, will direct the play, while Orson Kilborn, treasurer of the organization, is to look after the business details. January 13 has been set as the opening date for *The Night Duel* and after a preliminary tour of two weeks the piece will be brought to a Broadway theater about the first of February.

As soon as the Rubin drama is launched MacGregor and Kilborn will begin on the next production of the extensive program of plays and musical pieces which they are to stage on behalf of the Playgoers.

This is the first experiment in the history of the American Theater where a group of theater patrons will receive a participating interest in the production and it is the intention of The Playgoers to present its plays on the road as well as in New York—in fact, the organization plans to make a special effort to reclaim the one-night stands from their present indifference to dramatic offerings.

Miss Rombau, star of the first production by this group, is appearing this week in a revival of her former success, *The Goldfish*, at the Windsor Theater in the Bronx. In her supporting cast are Boyd Davis, Louis Sorin, Ethel Taylor, Andrew Leigh, Louis Turner, Gerald King and others.

Brady and Wiman Will Revive "Devils"

New York, Dec. 28.—Devils, the Daniel N. Rubin play which was given a road tryout last spring, will be placed in rehearsal within the next three weeks by William A. Brady, Jr., and Dwight Deere Wiman. Among the members of the cast are Helen Chandler, John Cromwell, David Landau and Louis Mason.

Brady and Wiman also plan a series of special matinees of Ibsen's *Little Eyolf*, with John Cromwell and Clare Eames in the principal roles.

Mrs. David Belasco III

New York, Dec. 28.—Mrs. David Belasco, wife of the noted impresario, is seriously ill at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Morris Gest, of 71 East 43d street. Mrs. Belasco was stricken Christmas Day while walking to her daughter's home, and altho her illness is serious, she is reported to be in no great danger. Morris Gest, however, is arranging for a special train to bring him back from St. Louis immediately.

Morosco Holding Co. Officers in Court

Charged With Defrauding Stockholders—Oliver Morosco One of Chief Government Witnesses

New York, Dec. 28.—The trial of 13 seven officers and salesmen of the Morosco Holding Company, accused of fraud was conducted all last week in the Federal Court before Judge A. Hand and jury.

The seven defendants, charged with defrauding the stockholders of the holding company out of \$3,000,000, are George R. Bentek, Benjamin Levin, William C. Amos, A. D. W. Blum, George Dur, George Pierce and G. C. Hymson.

One of the principal witnesses for the government at the trial was Oliver Morosco, producer, all of whose plays an motion pictures, their royalties and profits, had been turned over to the holding company of which, it is alleged, Bentek was the guiding hand. Its offices were in New York City.

The specific indictment under which the defendants are being tried is that of mail (Continued on page 94)

Daisy Harcourt Returns After Five Years in India

New York, Dec. 28.—Daisy Harcourt, a well-known vaudeville headliner during the Percy Williams regime in New York and later a feature in many burlesque shows, arrived last week on the S. S. Republic from Bremen with her husband Cliff Harcourt, after five years of trouping in India, where Miss Harcourt headed her own company under the management of her husband. When the Harcourts left here five years ago they went to Australia, where they remained for a short while, and then journeyed to India where they produced several musical shows. Miss Harcourt will probably go back into vaudeville shortly with a program of songs selected from the numbers which made her popular here several years ago.

Coward Back in "The Vortex"

New York, Dec. 28.—Noel Coward tonight will resume his role in his own play, *The Vortex*, at the Henry Miller Theater, after having been out of the cast for a week, due to an attack of tonsillitis. During the time that Coward was out of the show his part was taken by Allen Vincent, formerly juvenile with Doris Keane in *The Curious and Strange* and more recently a member of *The Grand Street Folies*. Vincent was engaged a short time ago as understudy for Coward.

Theater Treasurer Held Up

Detroit, Dec. 28.—Joe Innes, treasurer of the Gayety Theater, was on his way to the First National Bank this morning with yesterday's receipts of Hartig & Sisson's *Seven-Season* show when he was held up by armed bandits and robbed of \$3,288 of the theater's money and \$126 of his own money.

Dean Says Theater's Future Rests With America

London, Dec. 26 (Special Cable to *The Billboard*).—Basil Dean, just returned from New York, vindicates himself from charges made against him here of depreciating the English stage to call American favor.

Dean says he finds American theaters full of enterprise and courage and points to numerous Christmas revivals here as evidence of lack of initiative and of the fact that the future of the English theater rests with America. He says the success of Young Woodley in the States after rejection by the censor here is an example of the British writer obliged to go abroad for recognition.

Dean goes to Russia shortly under the auspices of the Bolshevik government to seek new plays. Later he plans to produce *The Constant Nymph*, which he is dramatizing with the assistance of the author, Margaret Kennedy. He also will present *They Knew What They Wanted*, with Pauline Lord.

BROADWAY CLOSINGS

Modern "Hamlet" Leaves Times Square Again--End of "Poor Nut" Run in Sight--"Wisecrackers" a Failure-- Other Departures

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—After several weeks of shifting around, including a journey to Greenwich Village and return, the Horace Liveright production of *Hamlet* in modern dress will leave Times Square again today. The much-discussed but poorly successful Shakespearean innovation is vacating its latest stopping place, the National Theater, and moving to the Hecksher Foundation Theater, an intimate playhouse on the upper east side of Central Park, where the venture, with the substitution on New Year's Eve, of Gertrude Bryan for Helen Chandler in the role of Ophelia, will continue its commonwealth career under the management of Talbot Players, Inc. Houdini, who completed his two weeks' booking at the 14th Street Theater last Saturday night, will occupy the National up to and including next Sunday's closing.

Among the closings last week was *The Wisecrackers*, the first production at the newly built 66 Fifth Avenue Playhouse. The play, a light modern comedy, by Gilbert Seldes, held the boards for only two weeks. Other departures were *Stolen Fruit*, from the Eltinge Theater; Cyril Maude, in *These Charming People*, from the Gaiety; the third edition of the *Vandier*, from the Carroll; and *The City Chap*, from the Liberty.

Cosetta Rossie, which was reported as having closed January 19, was continued at the Central Park Theater thru the past week and closed Saturday night.

Oh, Nurse, the Clark Ross musical comedy, will end its run at the Cosmopolitan Theater next Saturday.

The Poor Nut, now at the 48th Street Theater, will end its Broadway run January 9, at which time it will have reached its 200th performance or thereabouts. *Gay Paris*, the Schubert revue, also is scheduled to depart from the Schubert Theater in two weeks.

J. G. Bachmann Bankrupt

New York, Dec. 28.—Jacob G. Bachmann, motion picture producer, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy last week in the Brooklyn Federal Court. He listed his liabilities as \$638,829 and his assets as \$112,300, of which \$100,000 is in six life insurance policies.

The heaviest individual debt is one to Katherine MacDonald, motion picture actress, to whom \$50,000 is due for professional services. Bernard P. Fineman, No. 163 West 51st street, is creditor to the extent of \$18,500 as the balance due for the purchase of the Katherine MacDonald Pictures Corporation, the Attraction Distributing Corporation and the Ambassador Pictures Corporation.

Batavia, N. Y., Theater Sold

Batavia, N. Y., Dec. 26.—The Dellinger Theater, oldest legitimate house here, which for several years showed pictures in addition to dramatic shows and musical comedies, has been sold by William F. Hantz, the manager, who holds a life lease of the property of the estate of his wife, Mrs. Estelle Dellinger Hantz. In addition to the theater, seating about 900, there are two stores on the ground floor. The sale price is said to be \$75,000. Joseph R. Rosenblom, of Batavia, takes over the property for others.

Six Matinees for "Abie" During New Year's Week

New York, Dec. 28.—Ann Nichols' production of *Abie's Irish Rose*, now in its fourth year at the Republic Theater, will give a matinee performance every day this week. This will give the members of the company half a week's extra pay. Several other Broadway hits are giving additional performances New Year's week, but *Abie* is the only one that is doing two a day for the entire six days.

E. G. Dodds in Auburn

Auburn, N. Y., Dec. 26.—Ernest G. Dodds, of Rochester, has taken over the management of the Universal and Grand theaters here, succeeding G. B. DePauw, who has been transferred to Newark. Mr. Dodds has had wide experience in the theatrical field, having operated theaters in East Rochester, Corning, Poughkeepsie and other places. Mr. DePauw has been in Auburn about two years. He will manage the new Capitol Theater, which will be opened shortly after the first of the year.

Elizabethans of the English Countryside

By H. R. BARBOR

The revival of interest in the best type of legitimate drama, which is one of the most notable developments of the amusement world of London during the last two years, is by no means confined to the West End. Little theaters are springing up through the suburbs and provincial towns in mushroom growth. But the dramatic revival is making itself felt in no uncertain fashion elsewhere than in the great towns. Within easy reach of London several village societies are producing most interesting work. The County of Kent, for example, has the Hildenborough Players and the Penshurst Players, and this year at the charming old-world village of Shoreham, in the Darenth Valley, six miles north of Sevenoaks, two Elizabethan plays have been presented. The performances of these rustic thespians have attracted the attention of the London critics and



Shoreham Village Players revive Dekker's "The Shoemaker's Holiday". Tiny English village near Sevenoaks presents classic comedy not seen on London stage for 300 years. The village is only 20 miles from London but has no electric power or gas and is almost medieval in appearance.

public, as well as packing the Village Hall for several performances of each of the plays. In February last the Shoreham Village Players presented Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Six performances were given in the VII.

(Continued on page 25)

Powers and Wallace In "Stray Sheep"

New York, Dec. 28.—Maude Powers and Vernon Wallace, a well-known vaudeville team, at present appearing in the Keith-Albee houses in and around New York, have been added to the cast of two-day players who will be seen in *Stray Sheep*, a new "serious play" which is to be placed in rehearsal shortly after the first of the year.

Stray Sheep is the work of Charles Washburn, formerly of The Chicago Tribune and in recent years a press agent for Henry W. Savage, Anne Nichols and Wagenhals & Kemper. Washburn is at present doing the heralding for the George Macfarlane musical comedy, *Rainbow Rose*, which opened last week in Stamford.

Macfarlane is said to be financially interested in the Washburn play.

To Sell Theater

Anniston, Ala., Dec. 26.—The Noble Theater and office building has been offered for sale by F. T. Banks, of 1205 Quistard avenue. The playhouse has a seating capacity of 1,222.

Much Ado About "Naught"

It's only a little figure—naught. But sometimes it can make quite a difference, as was revealed last Tuesday night by Dr. Hugo Rosenfeld, treasurer of the Jewish Theatrical Guild, at a meeting of that organization.

Rosenfeld accounted, for the amusement and gratification of the members assembled, an encounter he had recently with Otto H. Kahn. The famous banker complained that a thousand dollars he had contributed to the Guild had never been acknowledged. Not that he wanted a fuss made over it, mind you. But he did think the donation ought to have been acknowledged. Rosenfeld said he knew nothing about the contribution, but that he would investigate.

Subsequent investigation said the treasurer, revealed that Kahn had been credited with a hundred-dollar donation. When the banker was apprised of the facts he himself did some investigating at his end, and learned that, due to the omission of a single naught, a check for \$100 was sent instead of \$1,000 as he had instructed his secretary. The following day Kahn sent a check for the additional \$900, and thereby became a life member of the Guild. So all's well that ends well.

Giacomo Rimini III

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Owing to the illness of Giacomo Rimini, baritone, *The Daughter of the Regiment* was not given by the Chicago Civic Opera Thursday night. Instead *Cosetta Rossie* was substituted as the first part of the double bill. *Namiko-San* completed the program.

Lambs' Gambol Held In Midwinter; First Time in Club's History

New York, Dec. 28.—For the first time in its history the annual public gambol of the Lambs' Club will be held in midwinter this year instead of in the spring, as has been done in the past. It is scheduled to be given January 24 at the Metropolitan Opera House with R. H. Burrows as collic, Charles J. Winnings as vice-collic, H. G. Somers chairman of the executive committee, and Harry O. Stubbs and George Le Guere as principal assistants in charge of the entertainment.

Thomas Meighan, shepherd of the Lambs, has cut short his vacation in Florida in order to return to New York to take charge of the gambol. Plans for the gambol were discussed last week at a meeting called by Meighan, and a feature this year, it is said, will be the staging of a number in which the more important lay members of the club will make their first stage debut. Adolph Zukor, Jesse Lasky, Lewis Strauss, Nathan Burkan, William Morris, Jules Bache and Herbert Bayard Swoppe are among those who will be requested to take part in the number.

Sues Theater for \$1,000

New York, Dec. 28.—For injuries sustained when she was crushed up against a brass pole in the Strand Theater Flora Paetz, of 345 Riverside Drive, has brought suit for \$1,000 in the Third District Municipal Court against the Mitchell H. Mark Realty Corporation, operator of the theater.

Thru her attorney, Sydney M. Kaye, the plaintiff alleges that the "defendant did not furnish either a seat in said theater or proper standing room therein" on October 11 last, the day she visited the motion picture house, and that the defendant, "in violation of its agreement negligently and in violation of ordinances of the City of New York and the regulations of the department in such cases made and provided, had permitted to congregate a great crowd in the lobby of the said theater, and had permitted the ropes to drop, causing the plaintiff to be pushed against one of the brass poles." She alleges that she suffered serious internal injuries together with numerous bruises, lacerations and abrasions and nervous shock and asks \$1,000 damages.

Jewish Theatrical Guild Preparing Big Benefit Show Early in February

New York, Dec. 26.—"The biggest show ever produced in any theater in this country," was the way Sam Bernard, vice-president of the Jewish Theatrical Guild, characterized the forthcoming benefit performance of that organization at the Manhattan Opera House in February, speaking at the Guild's meeting at the Bijou Theater last Tuesday night. One of the principal headliners, he said, would be none other than E. P. Albee himself.

George Jessel, of "The Jazz Singer," was present on the platform and had much to say about the younger generation of actors. Dora Bukha, a Russian concert singer, entertained with songs in Russian and Yiddish.

Mangan Leaves Capitol

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Charles C. Mangan, production manager at Cooney Brothers' Capitol Theater, has resigned and has been succeeded by H. T. Turrell, the house manager. Albert Short, musical director at the Capitol, will take over a part of Mr. Turrell's duties. John Nicholson, assistant to Mr. Turrell, has succeeded him as house manager.

Liberty in New Control

Boston, Dec. 28.—The Liberty Theater, Blue Hill avenue, Dorchester, passed into new control last week. The manager of the new house is Charles Morse, formerly at the Atlas Theater, Adams, and Strand, Watertown.

Frances French Better

New York, Dec. 26.—Frances French, of the Stewart & French office, has returned to her desk after a two months' illness, during which she underwent an operation for appendicitis and ulcers at the Polyclinic Hospital.

A. F. of M. Ruling on River Musicians

New York, Dec. 26.—Joseph N. Weber, president of the American Federation of Musicians, decided recently that so long as the members of the Albany and Troy locals performing on the Albany Day Line do not dock in New York they may play under the home local scale. But if said members play the entire trip to New York then they must receive the New York or the higher price.

More Performances of "Shrew"

New York, Dec. 28.—The special matinees of *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Klaw Theater, which were to have ended tomorrow afternoon, will be continued for three more performances on Monday, Tuesday and Friday of next week. Rolfe Peters and Ann Harding, of *Stolen Fruit*, and Estelle Winwood, who is now rehearsing for a new Broadway production, have the leading roles.

Perry, La., Theater Sold

Perry, La., Dec. 26.—R. M. Harvey has sold his theater here to Will Youngclaus, of Jefferson. The Perry Grand Opera House was built in 1897 by a stock company of local citizens, Harvey buying out the last stockholder a few years ago. The consideration is said to have been a little less than \$40,000.

40TH STREET THEATER, NEW YORK. Beginning Thursday Evening, December 24, 1925.

The Bohemians, Inc. A. L. Jones and Morris Green, Managing Directors.

ALL-NEW SEVENTH ANNUAL GREENWICH VILLAGE FOLLIES

AMERICA'S GREATEST REVUE. Conceived and Staged by Hissard Short. Lyrics and Music by Harold Levy and Owen Murphy.

Dances and Ensembles Arranged by Larry Coballo. Ballets in Lady of the Snow and Life Is Like a Toy Balloon Numbers Arranged by Alexander Ghabrilov.

Costumes by Mark Mooring and Charles LeMaire. Settings by Clark Robinson. Orchestra Under the Direction of Alfred Newman.

Program Subject to Change. PART ONE PROLOG

By Norman Mitchell and Emsell Medcraft. On the Road to the Greenwich Village Fair—1926.

The Farmer.....Sam Hearn. The Daughter.....Irene Delroy. The Greenwich Village Green. The Boy.....William Lloyd. The Girl.....Irene Delroy.

The Latest Styles. Paris.....Betty McLaughlin. Madrid.....Elsie Arlen. Stockholm.....Frank Kelly. Dublin.....Miss Lewis. St. Petersburg.....Alice Harris. Vienna.....Vivian Woodham. Constantinople.....Helen Spencer. New York.....Glady Glad.

Four Weeks Before the Opening Night of the Greenwich Village Follies—1926. Irene Delroy.....Irene Delroy. William Lloyd.....William Lloyd. The Stranger.....W.L. Hall. Hans Wago, Gayle Mays and Sterling Barney.

The Inn. The Bird of Paradise.....Irma Schepert. Red Passant.....Taddy Gill. Lonely Deer.....Lillian Morehouse. Green Monkey.....Elsie Fields. Blue Cat.....Oira Brucetti. White Fox.....Frank Kelly. Blind Tiger.....Archie Leachart. Pink Bear.....Catherine Janeway.

SCENE 1—"UP IN MARY'S ROOM". By Bert Kalmar and Harry Ruby. Mary.....Irene Delroy. Burglar.....Joe Lyons. First Policeman.....Frank McIntyre. Second Policeman.....Tom Howard.

SCENE 2—"WHISKEY AWAY, KOTIE BUBSKY". Lyrics by Leo Robin. Music by Richard Mowbray. Sung by.....Jane Green. Danced by.....Genevieve McCormack, Beada Coivin and Kendall Capps.

SCENE 3—"MOVING IN". By Norma Mitchell and Lewis Walker. Mary.....Florence Moore. Fanny.....Beada Coivin. Flower.....Frank McIntyre. Paper Hanger.....Warren Crosby. Carpet Mac.....Sam Hearn. Curtain Man.....Sam Hearn. Electrician.....Joe Lyons. Doctor.....Sterling Barney.

SCENE 4—"SONG, 'I HAVE YOU'". Sung by.....William Lloyd and Irene Delroy. SCENE 5—"TIE UP". The Colonel.....Joe Lyons. The Captain.....Warren Crosby. An Orderly.....William Walsh. A Soldier.....Sterling Barney. The Spy.....Tom Howard.

SCENE 6—"THE LADY OF THE SNOW". Sung by.....Ma Sylvester. The Wild Christmascorn.....Grace Kline. Jack Frost.....Herbert McCormack. The Snow Balls.....Dorothy Bartheaway. What? Golda, Marcelle Danovian and Edith Speed. The Lady of the Snow.....Della Varna. Snow Ladies.....Elsie Fields, Frank Kelly, Irma Schepert, Lillian Morehouse and Archie Leachart.

SCENE 7—"BEFORE THE CURTAIN". Kendall Capps. SCENE 8—"TIES, NOW AND SOMETIME". By Joseph E. Mitchell. The Announcer.....Royal Halse. The Girl.....Florence Moore. The Lover.....Joe Lyons. "Now". The Girl.....Florence Moore. The Lover.....Tom Howard. "Sometime". The Girl.....Florence Moore. The Lover.....Frank McIntyre.

SCENE 9—"WHITE CARGO". Sung by.....Royal Halse and the Hiester Sisters. (Narcissus Halse, Carl Halsey, Letitia Halse and Marion Adams). Slave Girl.....Mlle. Natasha Nativna. The Arab.....Jean Myrie.

SCENE 10—"THE WINDOW CLEANER". Lyrics by Bert Kalmar; Music by Harry Ruby. Sung by.....Frank McIntyre and Sam Hearn.

(Continued on page 22)

THE NEW PLAYS ON BROADWAY

CRITERION THEATER, NEW YORK. Beginning Wednesday Evening, December 13, 1925. Donald Gallaher and James W. Elliott Present.

FOOL'S BELLS

A Comedy of Fantasy by A. E. Thomas (Based on a Story by Leona Dalrymple). Staged by Walter P. Scott. Incidental Music by Percy Wenrich. The action of this play takes place in the days when the story of the old Madras Square Garden had not yet departed, when Delmonico's was still something more than a memory, and when our young men were laying down their lives for their country upon foreign battlefields.

CHARACTERS (In the Order in Which They Speak). David Hewitt.....Donald Gallaher. Michael.....Arthur Rhodes. Doctor Malton (Fool's Bell).....A. H. Anderson. Lucy Gray.....Sara Soteren. Dick Peters.....Harry R. Irving. Evill.....Asa Koss. Good.....Justin Hart. Mr. Pals.....Donald Gallaher. Marjorie Gillespie.....Janet McLeay. Gloria.....Sara Soteren. Mrs. Carey.....Beryl Mercer. Mr. Dubinsky.....A. G. Andrews. Mr. Gillespie.....Donald Hoek.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES. PROLOG. The Home of Rudolph and David Hewitt. A November Evening.

ACT I—Gloria's Apartment. (Intermission). ACT II—Scene 1: A Tenement House Along the East River. Scene 2: On the Edge of the Bell.

EPILOG. Same as the Prolog. Secenery Designed and Painted by Sethe Studio. For all its fine allegorical idea, the unusualness of its exposition, and whatever appeal it may have to the holiday spirit, Fool's Bells is just another miscalculation.

The theme of this fantasy is that our misfortunes are never as big as they seem to us, and that they fade away very easily when we devote ourselves to relieving the misfortunes of others. To expound this idea the author has taken the case of a crippled young man of generous means. In the prolog the hunchback is shown to be very sensitive in regard to his condition, while he secretly dreams of the adventures that he would embark upon if he were like other young men. The cripple has written a play embodying his thoughts, particularly the idea of forgetting one's troubles by thinking about the troubles of others, and the two acts that follow represent the acting out of this play. With the epilog the deformed man returns to reality, apparently benighted and resigned to his condition.

One of the chief troubles with stories containing a tragic predicament for which there is no real solution is that they require too much tolerance and indulgence on the part of the audience. The sympathy aroused by a cripple is nearly always an uncomfortable sympathy, and in a case where there is no ultimate relief, no ultimate satisfaction to the audience for having extended its sympathy, the device becomes a fatal imposition.

Another thing that plays havoc with Fool's Bells is the spooky business between several of the scenes. There is only one intermission in the course of the play, and to separate the prolog and the epilog from the fantasy, as well as to fill in the time while the sets are being changed, the various characters stand concealed behind a drop and recite curious lines. Whatever is intended by this procedure, and by the antics of the girl in white tights and the one in black tights, representing Good and Evil, the demonstration is absolutely unintelligible to 99 per cent of the audience, and therefore it only disturbs and disconcerts. As far as creating mood or explaining anything is concerned, the audience would be much better off if it were left to its own imaginative resources.

As to the element of fantasy, except in the comic episodes, particularly the scenes where the blustering hater of life, in his efforts to annoy people, actually does a great deal of good, the imaginative quality is seldom strong enough to transport the audience into the proper fantastic fields. Even these comic passages and the excellent fancy ball scenes are more or less ruined by a slowly paced performance and improperly attuned acting.

Several of the portrayals, however, are unusually interesting and enjoyable in (Continued on page 22)

49TH STREET THEATER, NEW YORK. Beginning Tuesday Evening, December 22, 1925. John Truck Presents.

ONE OF THE FAMILY

A Comedy in Three Acts. By Kenneth Webb. Settings Designed by Sheldon K. Viole. CHARACTERS (In the Order of Their Appearance). George Adams.....Raymond Van Sickle. Maggie Adams.....Beulah Bondi. Penelope Adams.....Lella Frost. Lucy Adams.....Georgia Backus. Miss Patricia Adams.....Louise Closser Hale. Frank Owens.....Fleming Ward. Henry Adams.....Grant Mitchell. Joyce Smith.....Kay Johnson. Martin Burke.....Edward Deemsly.

SYNOPSIS. ACT I—The Adams' Home in Boston. Late Afternoon of a Spring Day. ACT II—Henry Adams' Home Just Outside Boston. An Afternoon in October. ACT III—The Same. A Few Minutes Later. TIME—The Present.

One of the Family is the result of another shuffling of the family pack, and a pretty poor shuffling at that. If you ask any experienced card player—or playgoer. The deal brings forth a somewhat dense Boston bachelor, burdened with a lineage and with two dependent sisters and a dependent aunt who insist on doing his thinking, planning and acting for him in all matters up to and almost including the selection or rejection of a wife.

After suffering a long siege of abusive and injurious interference from his other, worse unoccupied relatives, the worm finally drinks a few cocktails and turns. The turning results in the pummeling of the rich neighborhood Lethario and the smashing of two vases, a table lamp, a statuette, a large framed wall ornament, and all the rest of the hric-a-brac presented by the dependents to their good provider on his wedding day. This "smashing" scene is the climax of the drama. The play closes with the newborn man reciting a parodied declaration of independence.

It is a rather noisy but harmless hodgepodge of the sort of domestic comedy with which almost every playgoer is quite familiar by now. There is little chance of its success as entertainment because, in the first place, the superficial family brawl is pretty well played out for the time being, and in the second place, there is altogether too much of the same stuff all thru the play. Three acts of not very fancy squabbling is hardly a good play. The characters are the kind of persons that make you wish the space under your seat were filled with bricks, so you could satisfy that aching urge to bean every member of the gang—the oppressors for their persistence in making trouble, and the oppressed for putting up with it so long. In short, the situation is such that the audience never feels an ounce of sympathy for anyone in the play, and when this lack of any emotional appeal is combined with the fact that the affair irritates almost as much as it amuses, there remains very little on which the play can make a bid for popularity.

The cast at least tries hard to make the jamboree amusing. Grant Mitchell offers a deft, interesting and generously comic portrayal of the man of the house. Mitchell's success, however, such as it is, comes as a result of his own personality and ability rather than from the material afforded him by the playwright. Louise Closser Hale, as the decorous and middle-class Back Bay aunt, works in her usual deliberate and confident manner, but she, too, has such poor lines that her efforts bring but moderate results.

Kay Johnson, with a conspicuously bandaged ankle which apparently has nothing to do with the play, does quite well with the simple role of the heroine, Lella Frost acts the part of a kid sister in the chirrupy style that makes all the old ladies in the audience exclaim, "Isn't she cute!" Georgia Backus has practically no opportunity in the colorless role of another dependent sister.

Raymond Van Sickle does good complementary work as another member of the family, while Mary Phillips, as his flirtatious wife, is fairly good, altho many of her words are lost because of an affected style of speech. Fleming Ward plays the part of a (Continued on page 22)

BOOTH THEATER, NEW YORK. Beginning Wednesday Evening, December 23, 1925. RICHARD HERNDON Presents.

THE PATSY

A New American Comedy. By Barry Conners. With CLAIBORNE FOSTER. Staged by Allan Dinshart. CHARACTERS.

Mr. Harrington.....Joseph Allen. Mrs. Harrington.....Lucia Moore. Grace Harrington.....Mary Hull. Patricia Harrington.....Claiborne Foster. Billy Caldwell.....John Diger. Tony Anderson.....Herbert Clark. ACT I—The Living Room of the Harringtons. Evening.

ACT II—The Following Monday Night. ACT III—The Friday Evening Following. Settings by P. Dodd Ackerman. Scenic Designer. The Patsy is just about as delightful as anything Santa Claus could have deposited in the Christmas stocking of the Booth Theater. It does the rare thing of living up to its subtitle in all respects: meaning that it contains something new and refreshing, that it is 100 per cent American, and that it has good comedy—not old saws and puns and gags, but real comedy of idea.

There is not such a great deal to the story. Just a little family affair, with something of the Cinderella theme in it. The mean elder sister wants everything for herself, including all the village suitors, while the younger daughter is regarded merely as somebody upon whom to lay the blame when anything goes wrong. But the kid sister is no dumb-bell. As a matter of fact, she's an uncommonly wise kid. She's in love with a fine boy, the faithful but rejected suitor for the hand of the big sister, and in order to land the fellow she prevails upon him to teach her how to go about winning the man she loves. So the unsuspecting smartass shows the girl who wants him how she can win him.

It's a great little situation, nicely worked out and beautifully acted. An (Continued on page 22)

Tony Sarg's Marionettes

In a puppet play, Treasure Is'nd, taken from Robert Louis Stevenson's story. Adaptation by Jules Eckert Goodman. Directed by Tony Sarg, assisted by Knowles Estrickin. At the Charles Hopkins Theater. Reviewed Wednesday afternoon, December 23, 1925.

Sarg's talented marionettes began their annual holiday engagement the afternoon of December 23 and will continue their delightful performances until the new year is rung in. It was a roaring, swash-buckling performance that Long John Silver and his crew gave, but without the play was real to the juvenile audience. It must have been quite satisfying to many a child present to see little Jim Hawkins embark on the search for the hidden treasure, kill the pirate, cut loose the boat, and many other things children would love to do if they could but get away from their fond parents long enough to realize their young dreams. The people who controlled the little figures preserved the illusion perfectly—terrific emotions shook the frames of the characters, heavy poundings of fists accompanied the many arguments, knees shook in terror and heart-rending sobe shook the frames of the doll-like womenfolk.

Treasure Island is in eight scenes, successively: Interior of the "Admiral Ben Bow Inn", The Dock at Bristol, On Board the Hispaniola, at anchor; The Woods, Treasure Island; The Stockade, Treasure Island; The Hispaniola Adrift, Skeleton Island and a Cave.

The characters present were Billy Bones, Mrs. Hawkins, Dr. Livesey, Jim Hawkins, Black Dog, Pew, Hands, Merry, Morgan, Dick, Squire Trelawney, Captain Smollet, John Silver, Captain Flint, Ben Gunn, his Goat, Silver's Parrot, an old Rustic, Sailors, Villagers, Men, etc.

According to the program "the people who talk and pull the strings" are Helene Lyvers Jim Hawkins, Sylvia Thorne, Mrs. Hawkins and Flower Girl; Edward Payfield, Dr. Livesey, Black Dog and Capt. Smollet; David Belinfant, Pew, Hands, Squire and Dick; Charles Searle, Billy Bones, John Silver and Ben Gunn. Edouard Townsend played the incidental music and controlled the effects. Llewellyn Thorne looks after properties, Madeleine Brown is wardrobe mistress, and Charles E. Searle acts as manager for Mr. Sarg.

MORE NEW PLAY REVIEWS ON PAGE 42

George Leonard Plays Santa Claus To Professionals at Ward's Island

Touching Scene When Bert Leslie and Wife Are Brought Together -- Suggested That Active People of Stage Raise Fund To Establish Separate Institution for Theatrical Members

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—George Leonard, of the Friars, played Santa Claus on behalf of both his club and himself last Thursday when he brought Christmas dinners and various other comforts to the profession. Visited by Leonard and several others who accompanied him were Mr. and Mrs. Bert Leslie, famous stars of yesterday; Evangeline Arnold, who played with Monty and Stone, Weber and Fields and over nearly all the vaudeville circuits; Robert Donaldson, Josephine Bernard, Julia Conlin, Sibyl Swwood, Yolanda Bijou, Marie Murphy, Yetta Nicoll, Timothy Murphy, Thomas O'Neill and Oka Bunda.

Walter S. Well, another member of the Friars, sent comfy slippers as his Christmas present to the professionals at the Island, and Joseph Haan, of the St. Regis Hotel, sent each of the patients a box of candy. Mrs. MacGregor Bond, wife of another Friar, will go over to the institution this Wednesday with boxes of food, wool stockings, sweaters and other clothing for Mrs. Leslie and Miss Arnold.

Leonard has taken it upon himself to make frequent visits to the island, and through courtesy of Dr. Isaac Furman, Dr. Godfrey Burns and Nurse MacDonald has been able to bring much comfort and happiness to the professional inmates.

Altho the members of the profession at Ward's Island are comparatively few and total number of patients is about 1,500 and all must live and eat together, it has been suggested that the active people of the stage raise a fund to establish a separate institution for theatrical members and Dr. William Seaman Robinson, well-known specialist, as well as Dr. Burns and Nurse MacDonald, of the Ward Island staff, have volunteered their services free if a separate home is established. Four nurses would be sufficient to look after the professional patients. It is said, and one suggestion is that the Peror Williams Home could easily accommodate all the patients.

One of the Christmas visitors arranged to have Bert Leslie and his wife, Sophie Leslie, brought together. Mrs. Leslie is confined to the institution thru blindness and lack of funds, while her husband is well enough in mind to go anywhere. They are kept in separate wards at the island, altho Leonard has made arrangements whereby in the future they will be brought together at least once a week. According to an eye witness when the couple met at Christmas they fell into an embrace and did not release themselves for about five minutes. Everyone present was moved to tears.

It is pointed out that members of the theatrical profession, being of different temperament from ordinary persons, could be given much better treatment and made happier if they had a special home of their own where they could associate together during the daytime and keep each other company. All of them are perfectly harmless and it is believed possible that a different environment might even tend to eventually bring about a cure for many of them. An appeal is to be made to the profession to do its part for those who did their part when they were able.

Bert Clements Monument Fund

In last week's issue of *The Billboard* a fund was started for the purpose of erecting a monument over the grave of the late Bert (Spot) Clements, billed as Greenleaf Cemetery, Brownwood, Tex. He was killed in an auto-truck accident at Brownwood October 2, while with the Sixth-Flute Circus. Fifty-three dollars and fifty cents was donated toward the fund. Since then donations have been received from the following: I. A. T. S. E. donation, \$28.48; Bert R. Wheeler, 45, and \$50 from I. A. Parker, secretary of I. A. B. P. & B. Local No. 17, which was collected at a recent meeting of that local. Mr. Parker is unable to give all the names of the donors, but sends the following list: Local No. 17, \$10; Harry Permer, \$1; James Ready, \$1; Edward O'Connell, \$1; Sam Brown, \$1; Tom Sullivan, \$1; Jas. Penno, \$1; J. J. Noonan, \$1; Hon. Foley, \$1; Eddie Halpin, \$1; Jake Hines, \$1; Fred Halpin, \$1; Chas. McCaree, \$1; Daniel Francis Messing, \$1; John Harmon, \$1; W. D. Jones, \$1; Tom Burke, \$1; Patsy Palanta, \$1; John Kelleher, \$1; Frank (Continued on page 19)

mediocre, with one or two possible exceptions, as to be better left unmentioned. These exceptions are a tall blond Russian dancer whose extraordinary gyrations provoked much deserved spontaneous applause, and a six-piece accordion band which, while presenting nothing remarkable in the way of music, is nevertheless in the nature of an innovation. The work of Boris Petroff, the ballet master, is acceptable, but not out of the ordinary. The chorus of nine young women, pleasing to the eyes, is of the ordinary variety both as to its training and its performance. The all-gold costumes of the principals and chorus after emerging from the melting-pot is old, old stuff (as is the melting-pot idea itself). The revue (which is not that in any sense of the word) runs about 45 minutes.

It is a fair picture-house presentation. That is the best that can be said for it. There are more to come from Mr. Anderson—consequently there are hopes. As a separate entity Eddie Ekins' Melody Mob Band is well worth hearing and was well liked by the customers. The Rivoli well liked by the customers. The orchestra lowered into a movable pit. The organ also is on a rising platform. The interior of the house has been tastefully redecorated in gold silk and two fully decorated in silver cloth and the other curtains, one of silver cloth and the other of light blue, add to the charm of the stage decorations.

Emily Stevens Out of Cast of "The Makropoulos Secret"

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Emily Stevens, by mutual agreement, was dropped out of the cast of *The Makropoulos Secret*, in which she was to have been starred by Charles Hopkins in association with Herman Gantvoort, opening at the Hopkins Theater this week. A dispute arose over the acting version of the play, which was translated by Randal C. Barrall from the Hungarian of Karol Capek, and as a result a new actress is being sought for the principal feminine role. The opening, originally scheduled for Wednesday night, will be delayed several days.

SHOWS UNDER WAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The productions which have been announced to open in New York this week and next are listed in another column under the head of *Brooklyn Openings*. Developments among other productions under way for a showing on Broadway in the near future are recorded as follows:

Naughty Riquette (Shuberts) held off the first half of last week and then opened Christmas night at the Shubert Theater in Newark where it is remaining for this week. *Mitt* is starring.

Rainbow Rose (George Macfarlane) opens tonight in Boston for an engagement prior to the Broadway premiere, the date of which has not been decided upon as yet.

The Matinee Girl (Edward Rosenbaum, Jr.) is playing at Werba's, Brooklyn, this week.

Sweetheart Time (Rufus LaMaire) is holding forth at the Majestic Theater in Boston. It will replace *Rose-Marie* at the Imperial Theater here January 13. Eddie Buzzell and Mary Milburn head the cast.

Money Business (Carter-Ashtart) opens Thursday night in Stamford. Next week will be divided between New Haven and Hartford, with three days in Springfield to follow, before the New York opening which is scheduled for January 14. *Low Fields* is starring.

Moose Ox (Edward A. Miller) will make its debut in Wilmington this Thursday night and come to Werba's Theater, Brooklyn, next week.

Honeymoon Cruise (Ned Wayburn) is playing this week in Springfield.

The Dancers (Robert Milton) is booked to open tonight at the Hollis Street Theater in Boston for its first tryout.

Captain Fury (Russell Janney) makes its bow in Washington tonight. It is headed toward a Chicago engagement scheduled for January 25. Otis Stelmer is starring.

The Kid Himself (Dowling & Anhalt) will open New Year's night in Easton, Pa.

Puppy Love (Anne Nichols) will start its second try-out tour in New London January 1. It will remain on the road, playing Springfield, Worcester, Hartford and Bridgeport, for two and a half weeks and then come into New York if it proves successful this time.

Cherry Blossoms (Dowling & Anhalt) is booked to open in Stamford January 11, with Atlantic City to follow, prior to the Broadway premiere.

The House of Usars will open at the 68 Fifth Avenue Theater here about January 11.

Private Source Pays For City Outdoor Opera

Musicians Bills Not Paid by N. Y. Comptroller for Open-Air Concerts

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The open-air operas presented at Ebbetts Field, Brooklyn, last August and which had been widely advertised as donated to the public free of charge by the city of New York, John F. Nylan, Mayor, were paid for by Philip Berolzheimer, chamberlain of the city. It was learned recently with the appearance of the current issue of *The Official Journal of Local 882, American Federation of Musicians*.

"After several letters had been sent to Comptroller Craik," reports *The Journal*, "word was received that the city would not pay the bill." This despite correct audits by the park department and also the finance department. Mr. Berolzheimer was communicated with and a check for the money was forwarded within 24 hours, together with this letter addressed to Edward Chasavin, chairman, Local 882, A. F. of M.

"I am very sorry to hear at this late day that Comptroller Craik has refused to pay the bill due our musicians for services performed for the public during last August at Ebbetts Field, Brooklyn, in spite of the correct audit by the park department as well as the finance department, their own inspector having approved payment for services rendered. Under these circumstances it gives me pleasure to pay the bill and I have accordingly sent check for \$1,108.58 to Mr. Joseph Zoro, the conductor with the assurance that I would have been glad to do so long ago had the matter been brought to my attention.

"Permit me to take this opportunity of thanking you as president of the Associated Musicians of Greater New York for the long-standing co-operation and courtesies extended to the city by you and the members of your union.

"With best regards, believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) PHILIP BEROLZHEIMER,
Chamberlain."

Ewing Easton Is Out of Cast of "Artists and Models"

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Ewing Easton, specialty dancer in last year's edition of *Artists and Models*, now on tour and playing in the vicinity of New York, was obliged to drop out of the show and spend Christmas in bed at her home, 155 West 73d street, as a result of injuries received when she was struck by an automobile while returning home from a matinee of *The Cocoanuts* last Wednesday afternoon. Miss Easton was rushed to Roosevelt Hospital immediately after the accident and remained there unconscious for more than an hour, but she was fortunate enough to come out with only a badly bumped head and shocked nerves.

Theater Manager Host

ANBURN, N. Y., Dec. 28.—J. W. Benough, manager of the Jefferson Theater here, acted as host at a Christmas party and dinner dance given Christmas night in honor of the artists appearing on the last half of the week. The party was given following the close of the performance. There was a lot of impromptu comedy connected with an exchange of small gifts and the medium of a brilliantly lighted Christmas tree.

The Famous Chicago Police Ocotette Reappears in Public

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—The greatest singing unit that the Chicago Police Department ever developed, the Famous Chicago Police Ocotette, appeared in public last night at a benefit for the widow of Policeman Edward Phaseno, who was killed last week by a burglar. The benefit was held at Ascher's Forest Park Theater. It will be re-created (with the Ocotette) was personally organized for the occasion at the Pagant of Progress on the Municipal Pier in 1923. The soprano sang in full uniform and wore a sash. Then the war came along and scattered them, according to draft requirements. Fortunately all came back from the world war as fit as fiddle. They attempted to get their musical or (Continued on page 19)

In association with William Harris, Jr., *The Kick-Off* (A. L. Erlanger), and *The Dusk* (Charles Frohman, Inc.).

Vaudeville

By M. H. SHAPIRO
(Communications to 1160 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

A. F. L. INVOLVED IN ROAD CALL AGAINST INDEPENDENT THEATER

Central Labor Council of Kingston, N. Y., Charged With Not Upholding Call Issued Against Orpheum in That City

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The action of the Central Labor Council of Kingston, N. Y., in not upholding the road call issued by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees against the Orpheum Theater there recently has brought about a controversy that already involves the American Federation of Labor.

Henry F. Hillers, a representative of the A. F. of L., Thomas Gamble, assistant to Joseph N. Weber, of the American Federation of Musicians, and W. D. Lang, representing the stagehands' union, went to Kingston this week to investigate the matter and found, according to reports, that the Labor Council there was defending the theater in the road call action, holding that the local should permit non-union members to work in the house with union members.

This is not permitted in any city, and when it was reported by the Kingston local of the stagehands' union that the management of the Orpheum insisted on employing non-union and union help a road call was requested and granted. Upon notice of the call, which takes effect two weeks after served, the Central Labor Council contested its enforcement, protecting the management, it is said.

J. Miller who owns several vaudeville houses in up-State New York, operates the Kingston stand. Miller is an attorney as well as manager and makes his headquarters in the New York office of the Walter J. Pflumer Agency which books acts into his houses.

Pending a settlement of the controversy between the union organizations the Orpheum is on the so-called "unfair" list of both the stagehands' and musicians' unions, it being operated now with non-union men. It is confidently thought a satisfactory adjustment of the tangle will be made at an early date. Miller, it is understood, will recognize the union and employ its members, but he wishes to have the right also to put in those who are not members.

Mills' Olympia Circus Best Yet Staged

London, Dec. 21. (Special Cable to The Billboard).—Berttram W. Mills' Olympia Circus ran so programmed and is undoubtedly the best show ever seen in London.

Mills cut the running time of the show and it now runs two hours and 20 minutes. Max Wirth, Phil and Family scored a big hit, also the Flying Colodons, Captain Alfred Schneider's 29 lions and William Truzzi's Circus. Mills' Indian encampment inside Olympia, with pony ride, is the feature side-show attraction, while the lion annex also does an enormous business.

Mills was a very busy, but tired, man after his successful opening luncheon and performance, presided over by Lord Londdale.

Palace, Cleveland, Leased To Opera Company for Week

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The Chicago Opera Company has leased the Palace Theater in Cleveland for the week of February 14, according to reports, to present an operatic program. The theater is one of the arc houses of the Keith-Albee chain and plays vaudeville shows on a weekly basis, booked by Bill McCaffrey. During the week the opera company has the house no acts will be played there, it is understood.

What is behind the innovation for the Cleveland house is not known, but it is said that the Chicago opera organization has rented the house and will not operate on a percentage basis. Advertising and publicity will be handled by the opera company. The Palace seats about 4,000.

Indep't House Reverts To Vaudeville Policy

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The New 126th Street Theater, across the street from Proctor's house, reverts this week to a policy of vaudeville, bringing back to the K-A. booked house the opposition it received from it last winter when a combination policy of acts and pictures was tried. The theater is the reconverted old Gotham, which always played photoplays. Jack Linder is supplying the vaudeville, opening today and announces the policy as six acts on the full week. Proctor's plays the same number twice weekly, with additional acts (troupe) Mondays and Thursdays, advertised as "double vaudeville".

When the Gotham was converted into the 126th Street Theater it opened with acts booked by the Pally Markus Agency and last spring took out the vaudeville, going to a straight picture policy on which it operated through the summer and until now. Under the new arrangement the house will play the six acts through the week, with a new bill of the same number of acts on Sundays.

Lewis and Gordon Lining Up "Names"

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—With Mrs. Rudolph Valentino's vaudeville vehicle well under way, Lewis & Gordon, who are presenting the film actor's wife in the two-day, have been lining up other "names" for presentation in vaudeville, among them Helen Menken and Francine LaRiviere. Vehicles for such are now under consideration and it is hoped by Ben Boyer, general manager of the firm, that rehearsals might be begun the latter part of the week.

Mrs. Valentino, also known as Natacha Ramkova, is scheduled to open Thursday at the Regent in a vehicle by Audrey De Lorde, entitled *The Purple Veil*. It is a dramatic sketch and includes in its supporting cast Paul McAllister, Charles Krauss and Emanuel Alexander.

Farber Girls Returning

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The Farber Sisters, Irene and Constance, who were a standard act in vaudeville for years, but have been in musical comedy for the past several years, plan a return to the two-a-day if the Keith-Albee Circuit will annex a suitable figure to their contract. Both of the girls married and have been living in retirement for the past two years. Constance last played the comedy lead of *Cora in The Dumb Virgin*, and prior to this both of the Farbers were in the *Greenwich Village Follies* and with Al Johnson. Alf T. Wilton is representing them in vaudeville.

New L. A. Orpheum Opens February 15

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The new Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles, which will play big-time vaudeville of eight acts on the full week, giving two performances daily, is set for opening February 15. It will take the place in Los Angeles of the present Orpheum as the big-time stand.



Peggy O'Donnell, of *Dario and Peggy*, formerly featured solo ballet dances with "Blossom Time" for three years, who opened last week in the Gold Room of the Bozox Acts (N. Y.) in an exhibition of specially arranged dances.

Odette Myrtil Cancels Night Club Engagement

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Odette Myrtil, opening at the Hippodrome today, with several weeks ahead booked, was forced to cancel a special engagement last week at the Anatole, a night club operated by Anatole Friedland, at which she was to have opened Wednesday.

Information of Miss Myrtil's engagement was received by the Keith-Albee Circuit, which does not allow artists under contract to it to work engagements in night clubs or cabarets, and after a conference between the violinist and K-A. officials the club date was called off.

Incorporated Separately

Are Theatrical and Real Estate Interests of S. Z. Poli

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Dec. 24.—The theatrical and real estate interests of S. Z. Poli, owner of the Poli Circuit of vaudeville, have been incorporated separately, according to certificates of incorporation filed this week. Incorporators of both companies are the same: Sylvester Z. Poli, Ross Poli and Louis M. Sagal. The real estate company is incorporated with a capital of \$2,000,000 and will start business with \$2,000,000. The capital of the amusement enterprise is \$100,000. Incorporation fees for the two companies amounted to \$2,100.

Jean Joyson Route

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Three-year contracts on the Orpheum Circuit are quite scarce, but Jean Joyson, singing comedienne, can count herself among those who have received such a route. She was signed for the long stretch on the Orpheum thru Edward S. Keller, her agent, who brought her into New York from up-State early this season and showed her act to the Keith-Albee bookers, who trowed and stalled, letting the Orpheum people jump in and sign her up.

The act opened yesterday for Orpheum at the Orpheum Theater, St. Louis.

Walker Teams With Mills

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—"Cornbread" Walker, of Walker and Cowan, who recently split partnership, has teamed up with Maude Mills, colored dancer and sister of the famed Florence. Walker and Cowan were working New York territory of late in their dance act. Cowan is a relative of Willis Cowan, of the team of Leonard and Cowan, now touring the Orpheum Circuit.

Dance Contests At Detroit Houses

Charleston Dances Take Local Patronage by Storm—Added Attractions Planned for All Miles Theaters

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 25.—Although business in general has been off at local vaudeville houses, the various theaters and respective patronage have gone dance mad, with Charleston contests being the rage right now and it proved somewhat of a stimulant to the box-office receipts during the past week.

The Miles Theater holds a Charleston contest every Tuesday evening and the Regent every Wednesday night. The Grand Riviera, a large capacity neighborhood house recently completed, is holding the dance contests every Tuesday and Friday night. The Palace also does the honors on Friday night while the Stratford offers \$100 in prizes every week.

Miles is planning to put on a three-cornered buck and wing elimination dance the latter part of January and the prizes will be the Miles Championship Gold Medal as well as cash donations. The entire State will be eligible and the first contest is to be held at the Regent Theater, the second at the Miles and the final back at the Regent.

Another stunt pulled by the Miles interests was the playing of Mrs. Karola Ostola, a young Polish grand opera singer said to be a niece of the late Joseph Conrad, author. As there are some 300,000 Polish people in this city, the stunt proved a marvelous business getter. Much publicity in the local papers resulted thru the stunt. The success of the act has resulted in Miles arranging to play a series of added attractions on all vaudeville bills.

STOLL REMEMBERS EX-SERVICE MEN

LONDON, Dec. 27. (Special Cable to The Billboard).—Five hundred ex-service disabled men, their wives and children, tenants of Sir Oswald Stoll's War Seal mansions, were guests there of Lady Stoll on Christmas Eve. Each received a money present, tobacco and other gifts. A vaudeville show also was given with De Groot, Sophie Tucker, A. C. Astor, Sisale and Blake, George Carney and Billy Bennett.

Split Week Hangs Fire

LONDON, Dec. 27. (Special Cable to The Billboard).—The question of the split week, so vitally affecting British vaudeville's present and future, must hang fire during the next few weeks, thru the majority concerned being fully occupied with pantomime. It is regarded as the most serious question the Variety Artists' Federation has had to handle during the last decade.

Loew Books No. 2 Co. Of "Bulldog Sampson"

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Ernest Pollock and Company, in Harry Holtzman's comic comedy, *Bulldog Sampson*, this being a sort of No. 2 production of the act, has been booked for the Loew Circuit to open today at the American. Pollock, well-known legit actor and stage manager, is supported by Isabel Dawn, Ruth Cochrane and Bob Page.

Lionel Atwill Returning To Two-a-Day With Sketch

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Lionel Atwill, legit actor, in the public eye in connection with the alleged elopement of his wife with another actor, is coming into vaudeville, according to reports, in a sketch based on a theme and period of the French Revolution. Atwill's last vaudeville appearance was in *By Right of Love*, for which he received a handsome salary. His new vehicle is a costume affair. It is already in rehearsal.

Billboard's Christmas Special Pleases London

LONDON, Dec. 27. (Special Cable to The Billboard).—The Christmas Special issue of The Billboard, with its more than interesting feature articles as well as the scale on which it is produced, is again arousing friendly enviousness among performers and the professional press here.

PANTAGES CONSIDERS N. Y. PLANS; HIGH STANDARD FOR NEWCOMERS

West Coast Magnate Will Return to East Soon--Willis Theater in Bronx a Possibility--Independent Managers Must Agree To Use Regular High-Grade Pan. Show Before Given Contracts

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The Pantages Circuit will enter New York after the first of the year if negotiations now on for the booking of vaudeville into the Willis Avenue Theater, at 125th street and Willis avenue in the Bronx, are consummated. The Consolidated Amusement Company, operating the house, the only acts have been played, has made the

who is working out a plan to have at least five reputable agents in New York with an understanding whereby they alone will submit acts with the offering's written consent.

Charlotte at Hipp. After Long Absence

New York, Dec. 23.—Charlotte, the ice skater, who returned to this country recently and opened this week an engagement at the Hippodrome in her ice ballet, plans taking action in an effort to restrain Elsa Schmidt, also a skater, from bidding herself as Charlotte with the "H" dropped.

This was announced following her arrival here when the Schmidt girl was engaged to skate with a male partner for the opening of the hockey season at the new Madison Square Garden. Miss Schmidt was advertised by the Garden management as being the "original Charlotte", and the skater now starting a vaudeville engagement at the Hippodrome offered her services gratis to Tex Rickard, who accepted the offer.

Following the hockey games at the Garden, Charlotte learned the Schmidt girl was booked in other sections of the country under the name of "Charlotte" and decided to take legal steps to enjoin her from the use of the name.

New Theater for Parkersburg

Parkersburg, W. Va., Dec. 23.—A new theater, costing approximately \$150,000, is to be erected on the present site of the Hippodrome by the Smoot Amusement Company. Fred Elliott, of Columbia, a leading theatrical architect of the country, is preparing plans for the new theater and contracts will probably be let in February, 1926. October, 1926, is set as the time of opening.

Both vaudeville and motion picture shows will be featured in the new theater. It is said:

The lower or main floor will seat about 500, while a mezzanine floor will care for 150 and the balcony 550. This is a third more than the seating capacity of the present Hippodrome. The stage will be greatly increased in size, the plans calling for a depth of 30 feet and a proscenium arch of 34 feet. A fly loft extending 40 feet or more above the stage will provide facilities for handling the scenery that is necessary in a complete vaudeville program.

Jacob Golden in Hospital

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Jacob Golden, manager of Proctor's Griswold Theater, is a patient in Beth Israel Hospital, Roxbury, Mass. He has not been feeling well recently and left Sunday for the home of his parents at Somerville, Mass., to take a rest and consult his family physician. The latter ordered him to the hospital Monday. Mr. Golden's condition is reported greatly improved and it is expected he will be able to resume his duties at the Griswold shortly.

Before becoming associated with the P. F. Proctor Circuit as manager of the Griswold and of Harmanus Becker Hall in Albany, he was a well-known newspaperman and was the author of several sketches presented by vaudeville by the Albany Players, a little theater organization. He also staged and managed several vaudeville acts.

Manchester Ball February 10

London, Dec. 27 (Special Cable to The Billboard).—Harry M. Snow stages his fourth Manchester Ball February 10, in aid of the V. A. B. F.

Yep. Harry's a Scotsman!

London, Dec. 27 (Special Cable to The Billboard).—Harry Ladder broadcast from London through the British Isles December 23 and put over a great gag by radiating to his wife in Glasgow the time of arrival of his train, thus, according to newspapermen, saving 25 cents for a telegram.

Al Shean Temporarily With Another Partner

New York, Dec. 25.—Until Ed Gallagher, now at his home in Beachhurst, Long Island, is well enough from his recent illness to return to vaudeville as he plans, Al Shean, his partner, is doing an act with James B. Carson, last seen in vaudeville in a short-lived Hookey & Green offering.

Alf. T. Wilton, who represented Gallagher and Shean when they were in vaudeville before, is to book them on their return. It was planned to stage the return early in January, but Gallagher's recovery is slower than anticipated and it may be two months or more before he and Shean are back on the boards.

Gulliver Buys Paris Theater

Paris, Dec. 24.—The popular Franco-Anglo-American vaudeville theater, the Alhambra, located on the Rue de Malte, has been acquired by the former managing director, Charles Gulliver, at a price said to be approximately 4,000,000 francs. Mr. Gulliver was for a long time manager of the London Palladium and was manager of the Paris playhouse up to the time it was nearly destroyed by fire a few months ago.

Mr. Gulliver intends remodeling the Alhambra into a first-class theater with a seating capacity of 4,000, making it one of the largest theaters in Europe. No announcement has been made as to the policy of the house but it will undoubtedly continue to present the same type of American and English vaudeville acts as formerly.

Victor Moore Considering Return to Vaudeville

New York, Dec. 22.—Victor Moore, comedian, now playing in *Boys Come, Boys Go*, at the Belmont, is announced as returning to vaudeville shortly, indicating he is either to be replaced in the Owen Davis comedy or it is closing its run. Moore, who formerly did an act in the two-a-day for more than 10 years called *Change Your Act or Back to the Woods*, has written a new vehicle for his return, entitled *The Bright Lane*. With him will be Emma Littlefield, who was with him in the previous act.

New Gerber Revue

New York, Dec. 23.—Alex Gerber is working on a new revue for vaudeville, which will be patterned after his *Topic* acts and be entitled the *Tip Top Revue*. There will be a cast of seven or eight, headed by Arthur Tyson. Rehearsals will begin shortly after the holidays and when this act is out, Gerber has two or three more he plans launching, he announces.

Fred Heider Branching Out

New York, Dec. 23.—Fred Heider, comedian, who recently closed a tour in his act *Under the Old Apple Tree*, written and produced by Harry Charles Greene in association with Heider, has become a producer and writer himself. He has associated with Jack Jordan, independent producer and agent and plans launching a few new acts in the near future.

New Flash Producers

New York, Dec. 23.—Fred Martin and Paul Poole have formed an association to produce vaudeville acts and announce they have several flash acts in preparation on which rehearsals will start after the first of the year with the plan to present them in the two-a-day during January and February.

Bartholomae Writes New Act

New York, Dec. 23.—Philip Bartholomae has written a new vaudeville act that will be produced immediately and have at its head Mabel Estratza. Iona Wright was engaged this week for a supporting part thru Rycroft-Peeris Agency.

Small-Strausberg's 1st Annual Banquet

150 of Theatrical Fold Attend Gala Event--Managers Receive Christmas Bonuses

New York, Dec. 23.—The managers of the Small-Strausberg Circuit held their first annual banquet last Tuesday at the Astor Hotel. In addition to the managers, owners and friends of the circuit there were several honorary guests present, among them Harry Hirschfeld, creator of "Abie Kabibble"; Fally Markus, Harold Eldridge and "Senator" Ward.

Jimmy Clark was master of ceremonies, Sigmund S. Solomon, managing director of the circuit, officiated as toastmaster. There were more than 150 people present.

The evening's climax came when Henry Rosenberg, treasurer of the Small-Strausberg Circuit, was called upon to speak. Instead of making a speech he turned Santa Claus and presented the assembled managers with Christmas bonuses.

Music was furnished by an augmented orchestra from the Republic Theater, J. Corrado, musical director, and Con Dehai, conductor. The guests were treated to a novel surprise when William Small, president of the circuit, who in his younger days had once played fourth violin in some local orchestra, got up and conducted the orchestra in a few numbers.

Dinner was served at midnight. It was rumored that it was held up pending the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Strausberg. There was dancing until four the following morning.

New York, Dec. 23.—In addition to the four houses now under construction for the Small-Strausberg Circuit a fifth will also soon be under way. It was learned this week when Sigmund S. Solomon, managing director of the circuit, announced that operations would be begun shortly at Myrtle and Vanderbilt avenues, Brooklyn. The stores and two-story buildings on the site will be razed in the immediate future, and digging will begin as soon afterwards as possible. Altho it has not been definitely determined as yet, it is believed the new theater will be operated as a vaudeville and movie feature house, with a seating capacity of 3,000.

KEITH-ALBEE HOUSES READY FOR SPECIAL NEW-YEAR-EVE SHOWS

New York, Dec. 23.—Special New Year's Eve shows will be given in all Keith-Albee houses, with added neighborhood attractions, yuletide carols and community singing, Christmas trees and Santa Claus and the annual passing out of toys and gifts to less fortunate children. In New York the special celebrations will center at the Hippodrome and Palace.

The various Keith-Albee managers have completed their plans independently and with special thought for the tastes and resources of their patrons, giving a neighborhood significance as well as special New Year meaning to their shows. At all theaters there will be after-show celebrations backstage for the artists, where they will have their suppers and dances, "seeing in" the new year with their own families and professional friends.

New Ward and Jonas Revue

New York, Dec. 23.—Joe Ward, Flo Reed, Gladys Reed, George Raft and a male pianist in the personnel of a new offering to be presented in vaudeville shortly by Joe Ward and Bert Jonas, the latter handling the bookings as well. Ward recently associated with Jonas. The act which will bring him back to the boards is described as a seductive comedy.

Ruth Chatterton Vehicle

New York, Dec. 23.—Ruth Chatterton, whose last Broadway appearance was in the play *The Man With a Load of Mischief*, has finally selected a vehicle for her appearance in vaudeville, which will be under the direction of Jone Jacobs. It is a one-act dramatic playlet by Vincent Lawrence entitled *The Cow/Net* and was chosen by Miss Chatterton over a one-act version of *Come Out of the Kitchen*, which she first considered. Miss Chatterton, who will be supported by Minor Watson, is scheduled to appear at the Palace next week.

Big City Vaudeville Reviews by Special Wire

B. S. Moss' Broadway, New York

(Reviewed Monday Matinee, Dec. 28)

A uniformly good bill this week and liberally sprinkled with comedy. Edith Clasper's Dance Revue is the highlight of the program and is replete with originality. The feature film is the pictorialization of Conrad's *Lord Jim*.

Dare and Yates, two agile young men, open with an acrobatic offering done in the spirit of burlesque. Yet despite the bounding and floundering of the pair, which incidentally draws some hearty laughter, there are some first-rate tricks in their bag.

Diamond and Brannan fill the dance spot with too much talk and some singing and dancing. Quite a bit of the dialog between the man and girl is decidedly clever and funny, but the whirled of talk indulged in to excess tends to become monotonous. It might not be amiss to abbreviate it. The man's antics in general and the business with his hat and whistle are good comedy. One of the man's gags is so old the house was laughing even before it was finished.

Pepito, "the Inimitable," gets his clowning and imitations across to a big hand as usual. The addition of the little fellow got up in a costume that sort of makes him a first cousin to Zin doesn't help the act much, as his interpretation of a popular song as it might be rendered by native Africans doesn't go so well, being a little more than much noise. Pepito's doll and crying-baby numbers are still being expertly sold to enthusiastic audiences. The comely lady assistants add music and grace to the offering.

Alan Stanley and Company went over with their usual bang at this showing. Stanley is still wearing out the house carpets walking up and down the aisle, each time delivering a new sally that gets a renewed hand. The business of speaking with his girl companion is also well sold and pleases the audience not a little. The gags for the most part are humorous, only a few of them being rather shoddy.

Frankie Heath's program of recitative songs got across to an immense hand and, thanks to her pleasing appearance, her agreeable personality, the boy accompanist at the piano and her general willingness, she certainly knows how to sell her songs and the material is well chosen, containing not a little of the "home and mother" hokum the public is always ready to receive. The *Butter and Egg* number in particular is neatly sold. This is too good an act to work against the drop house drop, and the fact that it gets a round of well-earned applause regardless indicates the caliber of the offering.

Edith Clasper, supported by a capable cast of three young men, presents a song and dance revue that is far above the usual venue in entertainment value and in originality. The settings, staging and costumes leave nothing to be desired. Two of the boys present a combination of difficult steps that probably can't be beat, and the other serves well as a partner in the double numbers. The two dances, in which Miss Clasper is supported admirably by two supposedly drunken boys, and the shadow dance are novel and well done. PAUL BENOV.

Keith's, Cincinnati

(Reviewed Sunday Evening, Dec. 27)

An ordinary bill, with flashes of "above the mediocre" here and there. Although billed as the headliner, Will and Gladys Ahearn almost stopped the show with their offering, *A Sensing Romance*. Perhaps Ahearn could have done so had he given more of his dancing exhibitions instead of the monolog while spinning a rope. Due no doubt to the extremely cold weather, this was the first Sunday night this season that the house was not sold out.

Pepe's News, Topics of the Day and an *Acrobatic*.

Groh and Adonis, man and dog, opened to a good hand. The man does balancing atop a piano, while the dog, a terrier, is one of the cleverest seen in many years. Seven minutes, in one, special; three bows.

Carl Nixon and Gusie Sands' offering, *Assorted Chocolates*, was mildly received. The man works in black, the girl in high yellow. The dancing of the two is the

The Palace New York

(Reviewed Monday Matinee, December 28)

Early sellout, with the largest attendance in months, the patrons lining 30 deep in back of the rail and along the walls of the side aisles. Great bill for laughs, topped by Elsie Janis.

Ralph Lohse and Nan Sterling gave the opening spot a liberal dose of pep with their snappy tricks on the rings and trapeze, done with precision. Toward the close Lohse works alone, doing a chair-balancing bit. The talk that is done for a few moments does not seem to be funny, but rather distracts from the class of the offering.

Jack Joyce, "The Boy With the Smiles," is staging a comeback hereabouts as being a movie actor direct from Hollywood, with his slogan being "Nothing is impossible." This monophonic dancer has perfected a real clever dance routine, which is preceded by a lengthy film showing his various activities and ability to get about on one leg. Assisting at the finish is a young motion picture actress, who displays her versatility at either laughing or crying, and then dances with Joyce. At a neighborhood house Joyce worked with this or another girl, who came on as a plant from the audience.

The Briants (Walter and Paul), in "The Dream of the Moving Man," did their knockabout comedy to the maximum amount of returns, the supply comic being nothing short of a marvel, who enlivened with each and every bit of business. As a couple of furniture movers they surely stay in character to perfection.

Norah Blaney and Gwen Farrar, English duo, were seen here a few weeks ago, but had to drop out of the bill on account of illness. Since then they made other appearances at local big-time houses, and after fulfilling their vaudeville dates, took the rest of a Ziegfeld show. Their songs and comedy were nicely received, being of an entertaining and distinctive style.

Trini, Spanish artiste, closed the first half in a new offering which strives for novelty and achieves sufficient flash despite its mild display of real talent. The money spent on the production is bound to warrant it a route, but it does not compare with her former effective vehicle when the Hirstate Brothers' *Marimba* Band comprised an act in itself. The present support in the South American *Trabuco*, a four-piece string outfit; Alberto De Lina, dancer, and Charlie Schenk, juvenile tenor, is quite ordinary as to the work done. Trini herself goes thru the offering without delivering the definite kick somewhere as the average patron expects her to. Will be further reviewed under "New Turns".

Hai Skelly, as "The Chump", in an offering by Howard Emmett Rogers, with Peggy Hope and Eunice Souvain, opened intermission with a comedy, singing and dancing act that about stopped the show. The locale appears to be a hotel lobby, and "The Chump" has a ready check book for the dames he meets. Skelly sticks to the spotlight like a leech, never leaving the stage for a minute, but keeps up an even-tempered delivery of his wares. Miss Souvain does excellent as straight woman and can wear gorgeous talent. Miss Hope is well known to theatergoers, and she actually exasperated with her vivacious style of working. Outside of that she is cute and a charming dancer, who hands an act sensational momentum.

Elsie Janis, with Albert King at the piano, evidently did the box office a favor this afternoon, judging by the generous greeting for one thing. Elsie was in fine trim and trotted out a few songs and imitable imitations and impressions that made them realize that there is really but one Elsie Janis. Included in the routine was an impression of a visiting French actress (no one in particular) singing songs in her limited knowledge of English and then her native tongue. Lepora Urie, Fanny Hrice, Jeanne Egels and Will Rogers came in for ingenious monkey, while a brand-new one of John Barrymore proved a knockout, for she catches the very flash of the eye of her subject, not to mention the usual characteristics.

Will Mahoney, nut comedian, covered himself with no end of glory and glued them laughing to their seats long after five o'clock, which is no small feat. His newest business includes eccentric hard-shoe dancing, losing his equilibrium meanwhile in a manner that beats some of the best film comies in California.

K. T. Kuma, in Japanese mysteries, closed the show with a varied assortment of old and new tricks and illusions capably sold. M. H. SHAPIRO.

best of their routine. Twelve minutes, in one, special; four bows.

Valerie Bergere and Her Company, in *A Woman's Way*, a comedy playlet, scored. The three principals are ideally cast and the offering is elaborately staged. Eighteen minutes, in four, special; four curtain and one bow.

Ethel Davis, late of the *Greenwich Village Follies*, went well in her offering of song chatter. Nothing new, but put over in pleasing fashion. Earle Browne assisted at the piano. Sixteen minutes, in one; slight bows.

Will and Gladys Ahearn almost stopped the show with *A Sensing Romance*. Ahearn does an imitation of Will Rogers, although he does not say so. His dancing, however, is what warranted and got the applause. One of their novelties was the Charleston while spinning a rope. Fifteen minutes, in one, special; encore and seven bows.

Mme. Emma Trentlin, operatic songster, and Erik Zardo, concert pianist, gave the lovers of music a "real treat", both receiving well-earned applause. Mme. Trentlin sang *One Fine Day*, *Cost Piange*, *Pierrot* and *Gianna's Aria*, while Zardo played *Frederick's March* and Liszt's *Rhapsodie Hoigrote No. 15*. Seventeen

minutes, from four to full to one, special; five bows.

Senator Murphy, billed as "The People's Choice", gave 15 minutes of his well-known stump speech monolog, talking on and about every happening in the news of the day. In one; four bows.

George Regee and Rae Oupce, skaters, closed the vaudeville portion of the bill and went well. Nothing unusual in their routines aside from the finale, when Miss Oupce swung her feet into a specially arranged holder and let her head drop while the man was circling on skates. Seven minutes, in full; two bows.

Good Cheer, an *Our Gang* comedy, closed. ROBERT E. MOORE.

Palace, Cincinnati

(Reviewed Sunday Matinee, Dec. 27)

A more diversified program at the Palace this week than the customary offering, with nothing to enhance the quality of the usual routine to be seen at this house. All in all it was a very enjoyable show. The Yip, Yip, Yaphankers, much-advertised headliners, somewhat disap-

Palace, Chicago

(Reviewed Sunday Matinee, Dec. 27)

Nathan and Sully gave 15 minutes of novelty dancing stunts. Full stage, special drop.

Taki and Yoki were billed as "Clever entertainers from Nippon". They must have been "pushed out", for they were certainly the tip of a bobbed-tailed cat. Mediocre dancing, poor singing and garbled English was all they had to offer. Of little or no entertainment value. It might be in Nippon. Twenty minutes of agony.

William Morris and Family—four of 'em besides himself. A clever actor himself, his company shared the honors. A splendid dramatic skit, reflecting the present-day family life, when it is not considered the thing to go to bed the same day you got up—"It is not done, you know." A well-staged, well-acted act, carrying a good lesson without being "preachy". Twenty minutes of excellent entertainment value; full stage.

John Steel just ran away with the show. His winsome personality captured the audience from the first. He has a marvelous voice, of wide range and flexibility, full of color and sympathy. He sang with perfect ease and in a manner that led one to believe that he just loved to sing as much as the audience loved to have him. Mabel Stapleton, at the piano, gave him wonderful assistance. The average auditor little dreams how much the success of a singer depends upon the accompanist. Twenty-five minutes; several recalls and encores, to which the artist responded graciously.

Dock Baker, the international lightning change artiste, and he is fully entitled to the name, for he makes some of the most "sudden" changes ever witnessed. If he could change his face and his voice as quickly as he changes his costume he would be a marvel. Mr. Baker is ably assisted by Miller and Wilson, the comely Harriet Towne and a bevy of beautiful girls. They all conspired to get the act over big, and they did. Several changes of scene; full stage, special scenery; 100 per cent entertainment value.

Jimmy Nervo and Teddy Knox put on a wonderful exhibition of muscle control, keeping the audience in excitement from start to finish. They give an exhibition of wrestling as produced by slow-action camera, and one could imagine he was looking at a silver-sheet exhibition. They kept the crowd in a con tant uproar and were recalled several times. It appeared the audience was of one mind, wondering what they could do next, so called them out to see. Twelve minutes of splendid entertainment, in one and full.

Rae Samuels is billed as "The Blue Streak in Vaudeville". That is a misnomer, for there is no blue streak in Miss Samuels—not a bit of it! She is a winsome personality, the sort that reaches out and takes hold of you and just makes you like her. Her entrance reminds one of that great favorite, Eva Tangany. Miss Samuels had a couple of assistants also, but they were lost in the radiance of the star, even tho they did some clever work. Miss Samuels favored the crowd with that old-time favorite, *The Babe*, which seems to never grow old. In one and full stage. The audience was loth to let her go, so she made a little speech. Underneath that speech one could catch the heartthrob inspiring it—a visitor from Lonesomehurst.

Willie Mauss, the world's champion bicycle rider, gave an excellent exhibition of riding, and while the bicycle is a novelty in this age of autos and flying machines, the audience seemed to appreciate his efforts very much. Ten minutes, in two. WILLIAM STERLING BATTIS.

pointed expectations, but they were entertaining.

The Lumars, man and a woman, opened this show with a few acrobatic turns, featuring the woman in balancing herself on tables, chairs and crossbar. Classy, snappy turn, well staged and well applauded. Seven minutes, in four; two bows.

Fred Elkins, Joy Fay and Jack Elkins, a trio of good singers, fast etppers and melody makers. With one manipulating the bones, one a tambourine and the other playing the piano in accompaniment to their vocal exhibitions they had a combination that was unusual and pleasing. Ten minutes, in one; applause, two bows.

Matthews and Ayers, man and woman, mello chatter, accompanied by the or-

(Continued on page 13)

Grand O. H., St. Louis

(Reviewed Sunday Evening, Dec. 27)

A rather well-balanced lineup this week. On the screen, *Acop's Fabies*, *Pathe News* and feature photoplay, *The Red Lungs*, with Harry Carey.

Joe Cody and Brother proved a splendid opener with their balancing and juggling of balls and Indian clubs and their act throwing and manipulating. Joe is the comic of the twin, while the brother works straight. Twelve minutes, in two; two bows.

Thornton Sisters fared well in the dance spot with their cycle of songs. They danced *Argentine*, *My Sweetie Turned Me Down*, *Sometimes and Dishes*, the last named to their own ukulele accompaniment. Both have sweet voices and make a neat appearance. Eleven minutes, special in one; two bows.

Christie and Daley, man and lady. The latter opens with a skip-ropes dance specialty, following which she introduces "Bozo", the educated dog. The man does a splendid imitation of the famous cartoon canine and they combine to give eight minutes of worth-while entertainment. They finish with a popo-stick dance. Special in three; three bows.

Frank Shepard did manifold tricks with a deck of cards, with two youngsters from the audience acting as props. He keeps up a line of comedy chatter throughout the offering, which evidently contained much laugh-getting material as the first 10 rows were enjoying his talk immensely. The auditors in the rear however were not afforded this treat, as his voice failed to carry that far. Twelve minutes, in one; two bows.

The Eugene Emmitt Trio seemingly is a family consisting of father, daughter and son. They harmonize splendidly in their series of well-chosen song numbers and were a decided hit. For a forceful finish the boy brought out his mother from the wings and following a short introduction, the trio sang a mother song with her in the midst, which was quite a tribute and was enjoyed by the house. Fourteen minutes, in one; three bows.

Snub Pollard and Company in a non-sensical skit, sans any plot whatever. The former movie comedian naturally furnished all the fun with his foolish actions. His makeup with the big mustache is worth laughs right off the reel. Two unblinded men and a lady constitute his company. Eighteen minutes, special in four; four curtains.

George and Paul Hickman, one in blackface, the other working straight, return here for the second time this season in an entirely new vehicle. We believe they garner more laughs with their current hit than their *Show We Saw in Pennsylvania*. It can be summed up as a conglomeration of tomfoolery, during which they give their version of how matters will be in 1944. An unblinded chap assists them as radio announcer and full. Fifteen minutes, special in one; two bows.

Cycle of Color. This is a posing act enhanced by beautiful lighting and scenic effects. Four shapely models present studies of *Excavation*, *Musie Pose*, *The Silence*, *Dear*, *An Oasis*, *Eventide*, *A Vision*, and *Math and Flow*. Twelve minutes, special in full stage; two curtains. FRANK B. JOERLING.

Majestic, Chicago

(Reviewed Monday Matinee Dec. 28)

Kama Japs opened the new bill at the Majestic Theater. There are three of them and they offer acrobatics and dancing. Well received. Six minutes, in full; one bow.

Reinhardt and Duff, two girls, entertained pleasantly with songs and piano. Very good. Special set. Ten minutes, in one and a half; two bows.

Johnny and Winnie Hennings have a comedy musical act in which several instruments are skillfully used. Lively and funny. Fourteen minutes, in one; three bows.

Reists, sometimes called "The Unblinded Girl", returned with the same novel routine and went well. Twelve minutes, in full; two bows.

Summers and Hunt, man and girl, have a comedy skit entwined with several song numbers. A very good act; plenty of life in it. Fifteen minutes, in one; three bows.

Meet the Prince is a miniature musical comedy with revue features. Two men and six girls. Well dressed and well put over. Twenty-two minutes, in full; three bows.

Melville and Ruiz, man and girl, have an eccentric but comedy offering with a

Hippodrome New York

(Reviewed Monday Matinee, December 28)

An exceptionally large crowd, with children in the majority, turned out for the matinee show and were crammed with exactly three and one-half hours of entertainment, the performance having run until 5:15. To accommodate the throng, the second balcony was thrown open. It was sparsely settled, but the first floor and the first balcony, as well as boxes, were jammed. There was much in the bill for the young folks to enjoy and according to the genuine applause demonstrations from the first to the last act the management picked the right kind of attractions. From a strictly comparative point of view, however, the big Sixth avenue house has had many better shows than this one. The holdovers are Singer's Midgets, beginning their second week, and Lillian Leitzel, who starts her fifth week here this season.

The Lamys opened in their excellent casting and trampoline act, going over big. They are a quartet of capable gymnasts and athletes who work in a beautiful manner. A woman, unblinded, plays a harp in the background while The Lamys go thru their routine.

Henry Regal followed with his novelty offering, in which he is assisted competently by Ida Gerber and O. Henry. Having seen Regal's act for the third time in as many weeks, it occurs that an improvement might be made by cutting his running time somewhat, doing this, if it is seen fit, by eliminating the stalling in the finishing trick, the toe catch, and speeding up preceding parts of the routine. For the dance spot here, at least, this would have been advisable.

The hit that was made last week was repeated today by the pretentious Singer's Midgets production, quite the most enjoyable, diversified and beautifully presented vaudeville extravaganza ever seen.

Moss and Fry cut rather short in the next spot their rollicking turn, but what they had to offer was voraciously devoured. The comedians are not so laugh-provoking as some in the two-a-day perhaps, but their singing is hard to beat. Kings of harmony, indeed, these fellows.

Lillian Leitzel, in her third consecutive week with the specially produced presentation novelty, *The Spider and the Butterfly*, with the Hipp girls represented on a huge rope web as spiders, closed the first half, gaining a fair round of applause.

Altho it may be sacrilegious reasoning on the part of the management to put Charlotte, the ice skater, for closing in order to hold the customers in, it would seem the position preceding intermission would have been a better one for her.

Odette Myrtil daddled and sang her way into a good hand on opening the second half. This is the French violinist's first appearance at the Hippodrome, and she was somewhat bewildered with it, since, having done the Palace so often, but she made the most of it, coming thru with colors. Miss Myrtil may not be the best violinist in the world, or the best singer for that matter, but she's a show miss who's hard to beat, and that means a lot.

Jimmy Morgan's Revue, with Lyle La Pine, comedian; the Cardell Sisters, Boots McKenna, Hazel Shelly, the English tap dancer, and a band of 19 men, in what is billed as a special Hippodrome presentation of a New Year revue, provided a wealth of diversion served in a light-cabaret style. The members of the revue are seated at tables, as in a cabaret, and the Hippodrome girls add to the crowd with their presence. Miss Shelly, the tap stepper from London, of whom we have heard a good deal, went more or less unnoticed at the afternoon show, having but one specialty, and, except for a brief note in the program, was less featured than any others in the Morgan revue. That she is an agile tap dancer and can run a close if not winning race with any of our American tap hoopers goes without saying. Besides Miss Shelly makes a decidedly good appearance, has a likable smile and personality and seems to be something of a show miss. The Cardell Sisters registered early in a couple highkicking, acrobatic specialties, Boots McKenna did reasonably well in a Charleston, Lyle La Pine put over a couple songs in a comic and entertaining manner, Morgan's Band played divertingly, and an unblinded young man stirred up a bit of a hand with an eccentric dance. The revue, in all, justified being specially produced.

Jimmy Savo, the pantomimist-comedian, assisted by Joan Frans, who divide their time between vaudeville and musical comedy, was a riot in next to closing. He was forced to do an encore.

Charlotte, the ice skater, heavily heralded on her return to this country after many years' absence, brought the show to a close, assisted by Curt Neuman, European ice skater and hockey expert, two unblinded girls and the Hippodrome's corps de ballet. In view of the press-agent copy that has been spread about for the last month in praise of Charlotte, her offering was somewhat disappointing. She is not the excellent skater she has been cracked up to be. Hers is sentiment more than anything else, or, as it might be more wisely put, the thought of past performances. She is not unusually graceful in her skating, does no outstanding tricks on the steel blades, and cannot be said to be superior to some American skaters who seldom get better than the opening spots when appearing in vaudeville. True, Charlotte is much better than the average, and her act has been specially produced, making it diverting to a degree, but a number of people walked out before its finish at this afternoon's show. Neuman, assisting her, seems to be a much more agile person on the skates.

lot of laughs. Went over well. Fifteen minutes, in one; three bows.

Armand and Marie Revue is a dandy band with seven performers, and, in addition, two unusually good dancers. A good offering anywhere. Fifteen minutes, in full; three bows.

NOTE—Galletti's Monks and Russell and Hayes not seen at this show. FRED HOLLMAN.

Pantages, San Francisco

(Reviewed Sunday Matinee, Dec. 27)

Five acts of vaudeville, an organ solo, the usual songology surprise and a first-class motion picture were today's offering. Maurice Barrett and Company, headline act, easily the class of an otherwise average bill.

On the screen *The Ancient Mariner*, featuring Clara Bow. Very timely in that the story is filmed around the yuletide season. Songology surprise, *The Birth of the*

Orpheum, St. Louis

(Reviewed Sunday Matinee, Dec. 27)

Annette Kellermann is headlining only a fair bill this week. Three of the eight turns are hokum.

Mankin "The Frog Man", contortionist. Twists his body in every conceivable shape. He is attired in frogskin and the novel frog-pond setting is commendable and certainly sets off his act admirably. Eight minutes, special in four; two bows.

Chabot and Tortoni, man and lady, indulge in a lot of tomfoolery and "hoke" the auditors' aptly. The male is a nut-piano player and can tickle the ivories in furious fashion from every possible angle, even standing on his head and playing a tune. The lady, portraying a French vamp, sings with the brogue of that country. Seventeen minutes, in one; two bows.

Amateur Night in London. This funny vehicle is a burlesque on an amateur night in one of the London music halls. Charles B. Homer, in the role of the announcer, makes a typical Englishman and introduces the various "amateurs" in a laughable manner. A "plant" in the box is instrumental in keeping the house in laughter throughout with his comments on the various performers. A quartet of men and two ladies constitute the cast of "hoke" actors. Twenty-one minutes, special in three; two curtains.

Jeanne Joyson, singing comedienne, worked hard and put verve and expression in her song numbers, which included *No Man's Home*, *Hold the Man You Love*, *Killed My Love for You* and *Waiting for Me*. Fourteen minutes, in one; three bows.

Florence Reed, in a one-act dramatic-comedy playlet entitled *Jealousy*, written and staged by Edwin Burke. Miss Reed is a finished dramatic actress and the sketch holds interest throughout. Many comedy lines and situations enrich the bit for numerous laughs. Supporting Miss Reed are Henry Gordon and the author of the sketch. Eighteen minutes, apartment interior in three; four curtains.

Chas. Chase is one of the most unique comedians on the American stage today. His style of comedy is entirely different from others in the two-a-day. He is a pipkin comedy eccentric dancer in addition. Eleven minutes, in one; encore and bows.

Annette Kellermann, supported by Castleton and Moxk, two male specialty stagers. The famous wonder woman of the water demonstrated her versatility in doing a toe and ballet dance specialty, some tight-wire walking, and then followed this with a physical culture demonstration. She didn't come into her own, however, until her tank was displayed and wherein she swam and dived as few women of today can. The act was presented neatly throughout, with the two boys filling in with dances and a burlesque acrobatic bit during Miss Kellermann's specialties. Thirty-nine minutes, special in three, one, two and full stage; curtains and a "thank you".

Equill Brothers, two splendidly built male athletes, closed the bill with some miraculous hand-to-hand, hand-to-head and feet-to-head balancing, holding everyone in for their strong finish. Five minutes, in two. FRANK B. JOERLING.

utes, special in three and one; three bows.

Maurice Barrett and Company in *Onk Pedro*, a colorful Mexican playlet, by Bradley Barker. A good vehicle, replete with humor and tense situations, in which Barrett, assisted by three players, got the attention of the audience by clever acting and kept it till the final curtain. Loud and continuous applause showed that those in front appreciated their efforts. Eighteen minutes, special, in full; three curtains.

Emerson and Baldwin, two comedians whose attire itself is laugh producing, but whose antics are still funnier. Their takeoff of magic a good laugh getter, and their juggling both clever and amusing. Twelve minutes, in one; three bows.

Closing, Carroll Dickerson's *Charleston Revue*. Ten dusky syncopators furnished in rapid succession a series of jazz numbers in pleasing style. Four colored men and one woman gave their separate versions of the Charleston. The grand finale all danced it together with such a variety of twisting and eccentric dance steps as to put most Charleston events, as seen here previously, in the shade. Twenty minutes, special, in full; three curtains.

E. J. WOOD.

LAST HALF REVIEWS

Keith's Orpheum, Brooklyn, N. Y.

(Reviewed Friday Evening, December 25)

Camilla's Birds open with a fairly entertaining routine of dances, acrobatics and specialties. The Australian cockatoos, all of them white, form a picturesque scene as they are put thru their paces by a comely miss who does not permit the act to lag for a moment. The bird gymnasts, doing their stuff on miniature horizontal bars, and the closing fire scene are the features.

Tom and Dolly Ward fill the dance spot with some comical songs and some truly comic patter that get across in great style. Tom's funny suit, vest and hat, together with his jovial face, help him out a little in getting his song hits over. Miss Ward accompanies on the piano, does a solo and serves as a straight for Tom's comic lines, only a few of which are old.

Clarence Oliver and George Otp present a sketch, *Wife Collect*, upon which its author, William Anthony McGuire, should be highly complimented, and who, in turn, owes no little credit to the team, especially Miss Otp, for their intelligent and effective presentation of it. Its plot concerns a young lady telegraph operator at a nine o'clock town where a dapper young man finds himself stranded two days before Christmas. The young lady sacrifices a fur coat to help the young man, unconscious of the sacrifice, to get back home. Several months later he returns to thank his benefactor and the romance is consummated. The plot is refreshingly different from most of the type plots seen in vaudeville, has plenty of cleverly funny lines and the desired dramatic qualities. Miss Otp's sincere and intelligent performance, this Christmas evening, seemed to make one wonder if she didn't feel keenly how relative to real life was this sketch about being away from home on Christmas. Miss Otp's acting is far superior to the straight acting usually seen in vaudeville.

Harry Hines gets his monolog over in inimitable fashion. The spirit of informality and intimacy which he somehow slips up wins his audience from the start. There is nothing stale about his lines, the remarks appropos the recent action against 41 night clubs by the prohibition agents prove that. Personality stamps his offering from start to finish. But just because it was Christmas was no excuse for delivering, seriously, a sermon to close with, especially since there were spots in his routine not exactly worthy of a preacher in the pulpit.

Miss Meyer Mary is a song and dance revue which contains some excellent harmonizing by the three boys, some graceful dancing by two girls, and a pretty good musical comedy plot. Some high kicking gets over to a tremendous ovation. The setting is sumptuous and the costumes are in good taste.

PAUL BENOY.

Proctor's 125th St., N. Y.

(Reviewed Thursday Evening, Dec. 24)

A small but highly appreciative audience partook of the last-half fare here in a manner that was wholly satisfactory, altho we have seen better shows at this uptown house.

The Three Saitos, knockabout acrobats and Risley artists, opened the show to a fair hand. There is an act that includes a number of nicely executed stunts, a bit of clowning and a good deal of slapstick. They work with the back-drops hoisted, revealing the back-stage wall, apparently for no reason except that it might be novel. The trio is two men and a woman.

Alpha and Gloria followed in a guitar novelty that took exceedingly well, clinching a good hand. They play their instruments capably and among the numbers are a tropical waltz melody, a Hawaiian number entitled *On the Beach*, *Wade's Lady* and an old Hawaiian tune. Gloria whistles an accompaniment to the numbers and on one or two occasions does a bit of vocal work. A good descent turns this musical novelty.

The Rose Renee, headed by Cavalier Rene Valerios, dramatic tenor, formerly in opera in France and Italy and who appeared in the Shubert production, *Breathless Dream*, was on next. There are four people in Valerios' support, Ida and Nellie Blaster, a male dancer and a pianist. Valerios has a much better

than average voice and offers among other numbers *O Sole Mio* and a soprano, both of which are nicely rendered. The sister team engages in dancing, but is not above average, while the specialty dancer, featuring in hard-shoe and tap numbers, is quite removed from the average. He is an agile hooper and is understood to have formerly worked with Eddie Leonard. *The Rose Renee*, however, is not in shape to be played in even the better class family-time houses. It needs a great deal of work, speeding up and improvement in its presentation. It has the mark of the amateur about it at present.

Laura Kelly, doing a violin and song single, fared favorably in the following spot with a routine of numbers that are beautifully played and as beautifully sung. Miss Kelly makes a nice appearance, has an easy-stage presence and in her act makes herself not a little entertaining.

McGowan and Knox, the former a brother of Jack McGowan, fighter, offered a song and dance melange, relieved with a dash of patter. Miss Knox features in the singing. She has a good voice, and among other numbers puts over *Pol of My Cradle Days* in a sure-fire manner. The act scored easily.

A novelty revue entitled *Oh Gobby*, with a cast of five (three men and two women), which deals with an actress' return to Broadway after a few years' retirement, shapes up as a good laugh for the neighborhood houses, or will when it has had a little more work and the minor changes that come with the "rehearsing" out. The girl playing the part of the returning actress does nicely, and a specialty dancer, specializing in drunk characterizations, executes his numbers in a sure-fire way. The others, one a Broadway manager, look and act their parts well. A good hand was received at the finish.

Bert Fitzgibbon and Brother (Low) had next to closing in their laugh-provoking turn and got the laughs all the way, but in doing an encore Bert apparently started something he couldn't finish. He began telling how Harlem came into existence and the story he started meant it sort of petered out. Bert, however, clownes so much, no one knew the difference and laughed anyway.

The Rita Serenaders, a girl orchestra of seven, directed by a violinist and augmented by a man and woman specialty team, brought the proceedings to a halt, holding 'em in nicely and getting a fairly good round of applause. The offering is reasonably entertaining, the band and the playing being somewhat above the average. It is tastefully presented, hits a fast pace and is routined with an eye to novelty.

ROY CHARTER.

B. S. Moss' Regent, N. Y.

(Reviewed Thursday Evening, Dec. 24)

Several good acts in a show that drags for the most part and proves unsatisfactory, due no doubt to the way the different turns are spotted. The traditional spotting (in the smaller houses at least) of Joe Darcey next to closing didn't help the show any, particularly when such a marvelously strong offering as Pepto was available, and he went on second. The dancing act or Darcey might just as well have preceded the two or three acts they followed. Business was quiet here during the matinee and until the latter part of the supper show.

Van and Tyson were more than adequate opening the bill, the duo offering its well-known assortment of fancy soft-shoe steps while clad in attractive bellhop costumes. Both the man and woman dance well enough to work in a better spot, but opening the show here in a different proposition since the acts were cut down and higher grade material is used.

Pepto, Spanish clown, was a gorgeous one from every angle. His comedy clicks at each performance, due to extreme versatility, not only as to the usual pantomime stuff but his various imitations of noises mechanical or human. His talk is also funny and he is ably assisted by two songstresses, who offer excellent musical selections on saxophones, cornet and clarinet. Now in us was the Zulu who did comedy singing and other bits.

Jimmy Conlin and Myrtle Glass in their *Morning, Noon and Night* comedy vehicle, seem to get by to a great extent now on the assistance of the back-stage crew, who do no end of offstage yelling working in with the act. The first scene deals with golf, the second with a canoe

and the third is the piano business somewhat similar to that done in their former offering. Miss Glass is attractive and makes an excellent straight woman and Conlin has his funny moment, but this turn does not seem to be half as funny as the old act.

Le Quorne, De Long and Company combined several fine dances with unusually fine piano accompaniments and solos. From the meager billing it is difficult to tell who's who. However, the pianist appeared to be coaching the dance team, who opened with a waltz of foreign flavor, followed with a beautiful tango and closed with the Charleston. Between the team's dances a single girl did a Spanish dance and later a song with some steps between verses. The pianist obliged with a masterful solo and from every angle we think the offering worth a big-time showing. In spots it is real easy.

Joe Darcey, black-face songster, did a few new published numbers and between songs told about the same stories he has been telling for years. At this particular performance his efforts were not productive of an encore, which is rather surprising, we suppose.

The Four Jangleys, Risley artists, closed the show in their familiar routine of clever stunts. One of the boys has been replaced by a younger one, making the present duo almost like twins. Snappy, clean-cut offering that never avails itself of a minute in which to stall around for breath. M. H. SHAPIRO.

K.-A. Entertains Boys' Club

New York, Dec. 25.—A holiday party will be given at the Hippodrome Wednesday morning for 5,000 members of the Boys' Club of New York, with Edna Marie Sedawick, of Providence, R. I., ten-year-old winner of *Our Gang* scenario-writing contest conducted by the Hal Roach organization, as the hostess. Charlotte, the ice skater; Singer's Midgets and others on the current bill at the Hippodrome will entertain the boys. The Boys' Club, located on the East Side, is an organization for the education and promotion of good citizenship among the poor boys of the city. Charles H. Sabin is president and among its trustees are Otto H. Kahn, George F. Baker, E. Roland Harriman, W. Averill Harriman and Philip Le Boulfiller.

Miss Sedawick, the scenario-contest winner, will arrive in the city tomorrow and be presented at the office of the Hal Roach concern with the cash prize she won in the contest. Later she will visit the Keith-Albee office and be the guest at a luncheon at the N. V. A.

Children Entertained At Three Proctor Houses

New York, Dec. 25.—About 1,200 children were entertained by F. F. Proctor in his New York theaters on the day before Christmas, thru the co-operation of the Children's Aid Society, which brought to the shows kiddies who seldom have an opportunity to enjoy any form of theatrical amusement. The children were selected from the Italian School, the West Side School, the Jones Memorial School, the Home for Homeless Boys, the Harlem Boy's House and other institutions. The three Proctor houses thrown open to the children were the Fifth Avenue, the 53th Street and the 125th Street.

Tap Dancer Again Issues Challenge

New York, Dec. 25.—Hazen Shelley, the English tap-dancing champion appearing at the Hippodrome this week, has issued a challenge to all American tap dancers to meet her in competition before a committee of judges for the International championship. She is particularly eager to compete against Ida May Chadwick, who claims the American title and was issued a challenge by Miss Shelley before she left England.

The Hippodrome management plans staging the contest at the big Sixth avenue house during the English dancer's engagement.

Big Ovation for Mellie

Boston, Dec. 25.—Mellie Dunham and "Gram", his wife, received a tremendous ovation in this city where they are appearing as headliners at Keith's. Record business is reported and it has been some time since anyone graced the footlights of the Keith house who received anywhere near the welcome that Mellie is receiving.

St. James Opening Is Gala Event

"Mellie" Dunham Officially as Ticket Seller at Opening of K.-A. House in Boston

Boston, Dec. 25.—Several hundred persons attended the pre-opening of the Keith-Albee St. James Theater, Huntington and Massachusetts avenues, Sunday night. "Mellie" and "Gram" Dunham, exponents of old-time dancing, and the former the champion fiddler of Maine and friend of Henry Ford, in the absence of Irene Rich, the star of *Congress*, welcomed the guests to the new playhouse—Mellie wearing the aged backwoods clothes that have attracted so much attention while Gram was dressed up for the occasion.

Mellie and Gram sold the first 50 tickets to the theater at noon Monday. Irene Rich was ill and unable to attend the opening. Preceding the program Sunday night the hundreds of visitors who were greeted by Alden Peterson, manager, were free to inspect the building. Women and even their men escorts crowded the upstairs ladies' suite, where the rooms have been finished in old rose, cream and gold, with little rose-shaded lights and graceful atomizers filled with rose perfume on the dressing table.

Anthony J. Philpott of *The Boston Globe* acted as master of ceremonies and introduced Mellie and Gram Dunham, but there were no speeches.

The program for the week includes the photoplay *Compromise*, a Warner Bros. production; a Charley Chase comedy, *Pathe News*; *Assis Fobbs* and *Topics of the Day*; Charlie Hector's St. James Orchestra, which once played at the theater when it was a stock house, was on hand to give a long and pleasing program of classical and popular music and to play during the presentation of the film.

The theater adds one more to the group of palatial which E. F. Albee, head of the Keith enterprises, has been building for more than a decade all thru the East.

The stage facilities are of the latest, including a remarkable switchboard, a projection room equipped with the latest scientific projection device has been fitted. This was accomplished by "strapping" the room onto the rear inner wall of the playhouse, with huge steel girders like a series of giant belts. These girders hold the 52-ton room in place, as it projects out over the theater lobby. This room has also showers for the operators.

The opening vaudeville bill was Shelby and Adams Revue, a combination of the smartest modern dancers and singers; Cooper and Kennedy, eccentric comedians; Dolan and Gale, all harmony; Pormaine and Sheller, music and fun; Frank Work and Company, novelty entertainers, and the other features as outlined in this story.

Theater Manager Assisted

in Providing Toys for Poor Children

Richmond, Va., Dec. 25.—Several thousands of toys of every imaginable description, piled in the lobby of the Lyric Theater Christmas Eve, was the response of the well-to-do children of Richmond to an invitation to join with Manager Rex in providing toys for the children of the poor on Christmas Day.

In exchange for one or more toys, old and new, Manager Rex gave the kiddies who contributed to the Santa Claus pack for the children of destitute families a ticket of admission to the Christmas Eve matinee performance. A great mountain of toys was built in the lobby. Beside it the theater manager set up a brilliantly illuminated and tastefully decorated Christmas tree.

After the matinee performance the toy mountain, constructed by Gilbert Slaughter, assistant treasurer, and Henry G. Drew, superintendent of the Lyric Building, was broken up and the toys turned over to several organized charitable agencies for delivery where they would do the most good.

This custom of providing toys was instituted by Manager Rex eight years ago. The Lyric's manager provided Christmas night at a jollification and *Tuistide Feast* given for the artists appearing on the current bill at the theater. Among those participating were: Lydia Barry, Hewitt and Hall, nine members of *The Gosses Show*, musical revue; the Five Harmonians, Dec. Jung, Don Heath and His Orchestra, Bill Sneed, stage manager; Tommy Jones, property man; Henry Drew, doorkeeper; Mort Wilber, treasurer; Gilbert Slaughter, his assistant; Bob Golden, press agent, and Otis Bugge, electrician.

New Keeney Theater Opens in Elmira

Sun-Keeney Agency Negotiating for Additional Stands--Will Play Vaude. Eventually

New York, Dec. 25.—Frank Keeney's State Theater in Elmira, built during the past summer by the Southern Tier Corporation, opened its doors last week and did tremendous business. It is announced by the Sun-Keeney Agency here, which plans instituting vaudeville programs in the stand later. At present the policy is motion pictures and presentations. Vaudeville is deferred. It is understood, because the Southern Tier interests booked a number of large pictures for the house and they must be played first.

Since Keeney closed the deal to take over the Elmira house he has been instrumental in opening the theaters there on Sunday, the first performance on the Sabbath having been given yesterday. Local playhouses with the exception of those devoted to legitimate attractions will henceforth be permitted to operate on Sunday, as they are in other up-state towns.

The Elmira house is under lease to Keeney for 21 years. It is located in the downtown section, one block off Water street, the main thoroughfare, and has a seating capacity of 2,500. When vaudeville is inaugurated and booked from the Sun-Keeney Agency here the policy will probably be five acts on a split-week basis. In the meantime it is reported the Sun-Keeney firm has opened negotiations for the acquisition of other houses into which it will book acts, but no deals have been consummated thus far. Rumors that Pantages may tie up with the Sun-Keeney interests are said to be entirely unfounded.

Pan. Managers Named

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 25.—Raymond B. Willie is manager of the New Pantages Theater here, formerly the Jefferson, which opened yesterday with first-run pictures and five acts of Pan. vaudeville. Mr. Willie has been with the Palace Theater of San Antonio for the past year and a half. On the program are *The Feds and Fancies* Revere, Jane Courthope and Company, the *Caledonia* Four, Hal Jerome and Gloria Gray, and Murad and Leo, Lon Chaney in *The Mowster* was the photoplay attraction. Charles Shtyle, who has been house manager of the Ma-jestic Theater here, is to take charge of the Pantages Theater, formerly the Rita, in Ft. Worth. He was engaged by Simon Charmsky, managing director of Pantages Circuit in Texas.

Entertain K. C. Vets.

Kansas City, Dec. 25.—Christmas Eve the inmates of the Veterans' Hospital here were entertained with music and song furnished by Jack Benny, appearing on the bill at the Orpheum Theater week of December 29; the Marcell Sisters, at the Pantages; Ray Stinson's Orchestra, and the Musical Ishams, who gave seven numbers on the piano, solo tenor, banjo, Hawaiian steel guitar, musical saw, ukulele and mandolin. The Musical Ishams appeared at the hospital as a courtesy to the boys, the management and the local office of *The Billboard*.

Mike and Ike Featured At Fashionable Moulin Rouge

Chicago, Dec. 25.—Mike and Ike, mid-gets, are one of the featured drawing cards at the Moulin Rouge Cafe and are proving a hit with their burlesquing and bits. They are on the same bill with Evelyn Nesbit.

Victoria Palace Declares 20 Per Cent Dividend

London, Dec. 25 (Special Cable to *The Billboard*).—Report of the Victoria Palace for the year ending November 5 showed receipts of more than \$122,000, so the usual 20 per cent dividend is being paid.

The reserve fund amounts to \$125,000.

Negotiating With the Coburns

New York, Dec. 25.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coburn are in negotiation with Jenie Jacobs, of the Pat Casey Office, for a tour of vaudeville in a condensed version of *The Better 'Ole*, which would have a cast in their support of five people.

Christmas Parties

Detroit, Dec. 25.—Luther E. Goble, manager of B. F. Keith's Temple Theater here, was host at a Christmas Eve dinner to performers appearing on this week's bill, members of the house staff and officials of the theater in the Italian room at the Book-Cadillac Hotel. The menu consisted of roast turkey with all the trimmings, and the web hours were turned over to dancing and merry making. Those attending included, Ilae Samuels and her husband, Marty Forkins, who came on from New York for the party, and Mildred Land, Miss Samuels' accompanist; Will M. Cressy and Blanche Dayne (Mrs. Will M. Cressy), the Lorraine Sisters, Roy Sheldon, Billy Taylor, Virginia Rucker and mother, the Weaver Brothers and their family, the Rieffenach Family, Miller and Mack, Jerome Mann and mother, the Aurora Troupe, Charley Ottrott and Edith May, and the officials and house staff from the theater. Veteran Will M. Cressy in a few well-chosen remarks paid tribute to E. F. Abee, president of the B. F. Keith-Albee Circuit of theaters, and the great work he is doing for the vaudeville artists.

Toledo, O., Dec. 25.—Robert Evans, company manager of the Rose-Merle Company playing at the Auditorium here this week, was host to members of the company at a Christmas dinner in the Ft. Meigs Hotel last night. Gifts for all were hung on a huge tree.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 26.—Harry Mitchell, manager of the Temple Theater here, was host to the 40 artists appearing on this week's bill at a banquet given at the Hotel Seneca last night. A number of city officials were guests of honor.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 25.—Vaudeville artists and house employees at Proctor theater in Albany, Troy and Schenectady, numbering 200, were guests of P. F. Proctor at a Christmas supper in the theaters following the evening performance last night. Manager Joseph J. Wallace was host in Albany, Manager Ackerman H. Gill in Schenectady and Manager Charles H. Goulding in Troy. Following the meal of turkey and fixin's an impromptu entertainment was given by the various performers.

P. D. C. Releases for Early 1926

New York, Dec. 25.—The lineup of Producers' Distributing Corporation for the first half of 1926 will consist of 23 attractions, according to an announcement made last week by John C. Fina, vice-president and general manager of the company. The list made public is that of attractions to be released between January 1 and June 30, 1926.

There will be eight productions from the Cecil B. DeMille Studio, including *The Volga Boatman*; 12 productions from the Metropolitan studios, including two specials from A. H. Sebastian and one from Renaud Hoffman; two from Marshall Nellan and one big comedy feature from Al Christie.

The title list includes adaptations from 7 stage plays, 13 from novels and magazine stories and 4 originals.

DeMille will contribute two: *Reput Julian* productions, *Three Faces East and One West*; two Paul Szorens productions, *Made for Love and Sex's Loves*; one Alan Hale, *Broncho*; Red Dica in his own *The Volga Boatman*. Another production, *Bachelors' Brides*, will star Rod La Rocque, as will also *Broncho*.

The Metropolitan includes *Steel Preferred*, *The Rocking Moon*, *Paris at Midnight*, *The Million-Dollar Handicap*, *The Danger Girl*, *Verdés Waters*, *The Dice Woman*, *Shipwrecked*, *Whispering Smith*, *Fifth Avenue*.

From A. H. Sebastian will come *The Prince of Pleas*, adapted from the famous musical comedy of the same name. *Widg Oats Lase* will be one Marshall Nellan Production. Renaud Hoffman will present *The Unknown Soldier* and Al Christie will contribute *The Champion Lover*.

Fifth Week at Hippodrome

New York, Dec. 25.—Lillian Lelz, feature aerial act with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, enters her fifth week at the Hippodrome. She appeared for two weeks in her regular act as a feature, then laid off two weeks, and is now in her third week in a special web act.

Best Christmas Ever For Dorothea Antel

Hundreds of Gifts Received by Bed-Ridden Artist—Special Showing of "Stella Dallas" Gives

New York, Dec. 25.—A Christmas that was replete with cheer, gifts and tokens of the wonderful friendships in and out of the theatrical world that are here was enjoyed by Dorothea Antel, former vaudeville performer, who has been confined to her bed since the unfortunate accident five years ago to Poll's Theater, Hartford, Conn., when she fell down a stair and injured her spine. The plucky entertainer of a few years back was showered with letters, cablegrams, wires and cards on this, the best Christmas she has ever had, and a host of callers and armful of gifts made her Christmas Eve and Christmas Day one she will never forget. Her bedside shoppe, Miss Antel's rapidly growing enterprise, took sudden spurts of activity this year and among those who purchased gifts were E. F. Abee, Anne Nichols, Eva Le Gallienne, Nellie Rossell, Minnie Dupree, Fanny Helce, Dorothy Tierney and Florence Fair.

One of the most prized of the gifts this Christmas brought was a small silver medallion, a has relief of Sister Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus, sent to her by Pope Pius XI. Telegrams came from almost everyone in the theatrical firmament. Henry Chesterfield, Sophie Tucker, Patricia O'Hearn and Anne Nichols are but a few who wired their Christmas greetings.

The holidays were not without entertainment for Miss Antel. A moving picture party was given by Belle Bennett, at which the complete film of *Stella Dallas* was given.

Fox's Spring Releases

New York, Dec. 25.—The spring schedule for Fox includes 25 features, 32 two-reel comedies, 14 one-reel varieties and 52 issues of Fox news. This covers the period from January 1 to August 15.

The features, with their release dates, include: *The Glided Butterfly*, Alma Rubens, Bert Lytell and Humfrey Gordon, January 2; *The Palace of Pleasure*, Betty Compson and Edmund Lowe, January 10; *The Yankee Senator*, Tom Mix, January 10; *The Outrider*, Jacqueline Logan and Walter Pidgeon, January 17; *The First Year*, Kathryn Perry and Matt Moore, January 24; *A Trip to Chocotown*, Earle Fox and Margaret Livingston, January 31; *The Johnnies*, Flood, George O'Brien, February 7; *The Road to Glory*, May McAvoy, February 14; *The Dixie Melodist*, February 23; *My Own Pal*, Tom Mix, February 25; *Rustler for Cash*, Corcoran Kelly, Mammoth, Yellow Fingers, Siberia, Separate Reboas, Tony Russ Wild, *Hardballed*, *A Man Four Square*, *The Gentle Cyclone* and *The Fighting Ruckaroo*.

Short subjects include Fox Ribber comedies, *Special Comedies*, *Heles* and *Warren* series and *East Side-West Side* comedies.

"Cinderella" Terrific Hit

London, Dec. 27 (Special Cable to *The Billboard*).—Harry Day's *Cinderella* pantomime at the Palladium, with Carlos Mayne, Charlie Austin, George Mozart and Maugham and Gold, made a tremendous hit both as regards the scenic investiture and the artistry of the performers.

Hamm Leading Liberty Orchestra

Chicago, Dec. 25.—Fred Hamm, who formerly led the "Boss' Own Orchestra", is now the conductor of the Liberty Orchestra over Radio Station W.L.B., and has been booked by the Benson Orchestra Circuit for 24 dates in the Midwest. The dates are in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

Palace, Cincinnati

(Continued from page 12) chestra in the pit, and a few gags evoked some laughter as well as applause. Ten minutes in one; two bows.

Carl McCullough opened his act with an Irish song, followed by a few gags. It was not until he told the story of the lady in the telephone booth that he awoke the audience to his possibilities. As an encore he impersonated noted actors such as Al Jolson, David Warfield and Eddie Foy, as they would sing. Twenty minutes in one; three bows.

Frank Kellam and Patricia O'Dare, in *Bright Bits of Tragedy*, might well be labeled a medley of foolish fun that

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ACTS

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evoked a flow of laughs and a ripping hand. Song and patter, Kellam, tall and part time in grotesque costume, and small Patricia, in flashy red tights and abbreviated skirt, made a whimsical combination that pleased the audience. Patricia O'Dare did the singing, which was good. Fifteen minutes in one; many bows.

Yip, Yip, Yaphankers, with John Rothman and Frank Melina, presenting *A Day in Casp*, as a whole was amusing; very good in parts. This troupe is composed of 10 doughboys, embracing some good singers and lively steppers. The quartet scored an encore. Fifteen minutes in one, then four with special; three bows.

Frankie Kelcey and Company, in *All About*, were not on the program at this show.

On the screen, photoplay, *The Ancient Mariner*, featuring Clara Bow.

A. HOMER CLARK.

JOE AND KATHRYN MURRAY, straight man and prima donna, who closed with the H. C. Lewis *Howgreen Teas Revere* recently, write that they are spending the holidays at their home in Kalamazoo, Mich., and hope that a big Christmas party was given at the Fuller Theater there on Christmas. Joe with the Murrays as guests. Shortly after the first of the year they will take to the road again.



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Vaudeville Notes

AN item in this department in the December 26 issue regarding LESTRA LA MONTE being in Cincinnati on a short vacation should have read: MRS. HAZEL LA MONTE, mother of LESTRA LA MONTE, known as the Paper Fashion Plate, is in Cincinnati on a short vacation. MRS. LA MONTE left Saturday to join her son for a tour of W. V. M. A. Time, opening shortly after the first of the year.

Contrary to reports that CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG was shelving TOM BARRY'S vehicle, *His Adorable Wife*, to do a song act with a pianist, the former picture star apparently has no such intention, she having been routed in this act for the big K-A houses. She was at the Riverside, New York, last week.

Among new offerings for the Loew Circuit at the American, New York, next week, are JOHN LE CLAIRE booked for the first half; the HERBERT BOLT Trio, in the house for the last half, and STANLEY CHAPMAN, "single", also for the second half.

KENNETH GRATTON, former vaudeville artist, but of late years employed by the Loew Circuit at the Delancey Street Theater, New York, was transferred in the Suite, see house of the circuit, last week as assistant to J. K. EMMETT, manager.

MARGARET LAWRENCE and WALTER EDDINGER are preparing a new playlet for presentation in the Keith-Albee houses under the direction of LEWIS & GORDON. They will make their debut at the Palace the week of January 11.

HARRIET HOCTOR, dancer, who made a big hit with the DUNCAN SISTERS in the musical show *Topsy and Eva* last season, is in vaudeville in an act titled *Dancing on Toast* and produced by HARRY KRIVIT. MISS HOCTOR is assisted in her offering by JEAN LA FARGE, pianist, formerly in ELSIE JAMES' *Pussies of 1925* and last in vaudeville with EMMETT O'MEARA.



tenor. MISS HOCTOR'S act opened at the Palace last week after it had been switched from the Riverside, and ARTHUR KLEIN, who is handling the offering, has about 20 weeks tentatively laid out.

FLORENCE O'DENISHAWN, SNOW and COLUMBUS, who recently joined the ill-fated GERALDINE FARRAR show, giving up a vaudeville route to join it, have been signed for the winter at the Fleetwood Hotel Roof, in Miami, Fla. Vaudeville dates on the K-A Circuit are to follow, it is understood.

LEONARD FRIES and IRENE CODY, who do a comedy skit, entitled *Est and Goss This*, are opening on the Loew Circuit the first half next week at the Grassy Square, New York.

SIDNEY BLACKMER, just out of the legit, is to open this week for the Keith-Albee Circuit, probably at the Fordham, New York. In his act, *The Modern Garrick*, by TOM BARRY.

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FREEMAN and MORTON, who have just finished a tour of the Loew houses, opened on the K-A Time Thursday at Lawrence, Mass., in their act, written and produced by ALEX GERBER.

MILLER, PACKER and SELZ, who bill themselves as the Three Grouch Killers, are returning to the Loew Circuit this week after a long absence in their song, talk and dancing turn. They open the first half at the Greeley Square, New York.

One of the several offerings NED NESTER put out this season is NED NESTON'S DARLINGS, an offering of seven girls, billed as "Southern Sweeties". The act opened Thursday in Paterson, N. J., for the K-A office under the direction of FRANK EVANS.

TOM KENNEDY, former K-A agent, booking acts for H. BART McHUGH, of Philadelphia, who recently entered the real estate game in Camden, N. J., is in New York for the holidays. He reports that real estate there has been on the boom since the new bridge connecting Philadelphia with Camden was built.

THE WALSH SISTERS, EDYTHE and VIOLET, doing an act of songs, opened at the American, New York, for the Loew Circuit the first half this week for a showing. They bill themselves as "Bits of Personality."

LEO DE VALERY, manager director of the ALBERTINA RASCH productions, one of which appeared at the Palace, New York, recently with MISS RASCH at its head, is sailing for Europe on the De Grasse January 9 to arrange for presentation in Madrid, Rome and other European centers of permanent RASCH bulletins. The plan of opening a RASCH school in London is being seriously considered. It is reported.

The colored team of GULFPORT and BROWN have separated after a partnership of many years. BILLY BROWN is doing a "single", while GULFPORT, so far as is known, has no definite plans as yet.

MRS JIMMIE HAMMOND, formerly of the GUY BARTLETT TRIO, has teamed up with FRED FRAZER in a harmony and pantomime novelty entitled *It's O'Clock*. The act is touring Western Vaudeville Time, on the completion of which it will sail for Australia to play in vaudeville there.

WILL HIGGIE and Girls, an offering of seven people from the West, opened at Keith's 51st Street Theater, New York, this week for a showing. The act is under the direction of FRANK EVANS.

The TRADO TWINS have been booked

on the Orpheum Circuit on the same bills with the SIAMERSE TWINS (DAISY and VIOLET HILTON). They will do their own act earlier in the bill, appearing with the HILTON girls when their offering goes on.

GERTRUDE VANDERBILT, who has been out of the two-day for some time, is said to be preparing to re-enter the field after the holidays in a routine of songs and dances with a male partner.

Despite his first protest against the small salary paid for break-in dates and the loss of interest in his act by LEWIS and GORDON, FRANK MAYO, of the silver sheet, is breaking in AARON BOFFMAN'S sketch, *The Unexpected*, in outlying houses of the K-A Circuit near New York. MILDRED WAYNE is in his support. MAYO is expected at the Palace before long.



Mildred Wayne

The team of ANDERSON and GRAVES are doing a new act which it is expected will be in readiness for the New York houses within a short time. They formerly appeared in a PAUL GERARD SMITH vehicle, entitled *Up to the Air*.

RUBY NORTON and her assistant, CLARENCE SENNA, who have recently been playing Keith-Albee Time around New York, are booked for Loew's Stage for next week as the headliners. A route is expected following this date.

GRACE MOORE is planning to play two or more weeks in vaudeville here beginning at the Palace next week, preceding a trip to Europe to complete her operatic studies.

FRANK SINCLAIR, formerly with GEORGE CROOK acts, opened on the Poll Time at the Capital Theater, Hartford, Conn., in a new playlet, titled *Puff-Bluff*. The cast includes seven people.

FRED E. MARTIN is scoring a big hit with his eccentric-character dance called *Legomastic* in the BREWSTER-POMEKY Revue which is now playing the Poll houses.

FRANCIS and RUTH, a novelty musical act, is making its first trip over the Poll Time. The girls play violin, Guit, piano and bagpipes in a pleasing manner and scored in Hartford, Conn.

HARRY SHANNON, JR., and His Pennsylvania Orchestra, opened at the Pantages Theater, Newark, N. J. December 31, for a tour to the Coast and back on the Pan. Time.

A luncheon was tendered the San Antonio Siamese twins, DAISY and VIOLET HILTON, at the Checker Inn, in Boston, Mass., last week. On this occasion representatives of the theatrical and newspaper profession were present.

F. A. BREWER, of the Brewster Amusement Agency, Boston, Mass., has signed a contract with the Lynn Auditorium to supply five acts and a picture every Sunday. Popular prices will prevail. This will keep the house going seven days, the JOHN MACK Players being there the other six.

HOWARD MCCOY, division manager of Loew's, Inc., and LEON FLESCHEMAN, chief engineer for the Loew Circuit theaters, were in New Orleans, La., last week inspecting the Loew State Theater, which will open the first or second week in April.

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NEW TURNS AND RETURNS

Joe Boganny and Company

"THE MANIAC BAKERS"

Reviewed Monday afternoon, December 21, at the Hippodrome, New York. Style—Acrobatic and comedy novelty. Setting—Special set, in full stage. Time—Sixteen minutes.

Joe Boganny and his company of acrobats are making their first appearance in America in five years in their slapstick acrobatic and comedy offering, appearing under the title of *The Maniac Bakers*. The act is one of the slapstick brand, but many of its features are neither new nor unusually entertaining, either on the whole Boganny and his company are diverting. Among the act's features are a boxing match between Boganny, similar to the one staged in Leo Singer's presentation of little people, but it is not as good, and there is also a wrestling match with a referee, which is a good imitation and nothing more of nerve and Knox in their slow-motion specialty.

However, the Boganny act is not a deep disappointment. There are a number of healthy laughs here and here, particularly in the fore part of the offering, and there is a deal of novelty in the way it is presented as well as in the dressing and setting of the act. Boganny and all the members of his company are dressed as bakers, and the scene represents the oven room of a bakery. Considerable skill is displayed on occasion by the writer in the company, but there were no tricks of an outstanding or extraordinary nature. When reviewed Boganny appeared in the No. 4 spot.

R. C.

The Six Rockets

Reviewed Monday afternoon, December 21, at the Hippodrome, New York. Style—Acrobatic-gymnastic novelty. Setting—In full stage. Time—Eight minutes.

The Six Rockets in other words, six nice-looking young women, sturdily built and with engaging personalities, offer a "little bit of everything" as their billing reads. They open with ladder balancing. One of the girls stands on lower rungs of two ladders, which are in a perpendicular position, standing them while her companions form various combinations on the sides and from the top. They present many "pictures" in a short while, working rapidly and changing to the poses without delay.

The next feature of the act is a bit in which two of the girls, lying in a "fishy" position, play with their feet in contraption on which their feet are attached to straps. It is not exactly musical but adds to the novelty of the routine, which has for the finish a collection of acrobatic bits of a highly entertaining and skillfully-executed nature.

An outstanding trick on which a hand was scored when reviewed was one girl swinging two others who hung onto her arms, looked behind her neck as if to look them. It is a stunt in which the girl must display a great deal of strength. This, however, all of the six seem to have. Their tumbling in various shapes and fashions, singly and together, is of a grade far above the average.

The Rockets appeared in the opening spot when reviewed and scored a good hand. They make a fine attraction for this spot.

R. C.

Zemater and De Varro

Reviewed Monday evening, December 21, at Keeney's Living-room, Brooklyn, N. Y. Style—Horizontal bar act. Setting—Full stage, special. Time—Four minutes.

These two men have a very neat, fast opening act that contains a goodly portion of comedy and is well sold to the customers. Both members of the duo bring pretty good showmen. One of them works straight and the other works in a sort of "rube" makeup, contributing the comedy element to the offering. They do a usual bar routine, the feature trick being full swings to an upright standing position on the bar. One of the team does some bent-body swings around the bar, jumping these from the other's arms. He puts this trick over very well, the comic does a little good work on the bars besides his clowning and hand swings around the upright bars. They went over well when reviewed.

J. P. M.

Edgar Bergen and Company

With Christine Caswell

Reviewed Tuesday evening, December 21, at R. S. Moss' Regent Theater, New York. Style—Ventriloquist. Setting—end top. Time—Fifteen minutes.

Operation is the title of the offering, for it lies in the novelty of the imitation as in most ventriloquism. Opening in one, in the park with the dummy as a newsboy. The man and girl walk past at the same time and hear the newsboy's

complaints. The ensuing dialog is fairly funny and brings forth the fact that the man is a physician and would help the ill boy out by performing an operation free of charge. The girl is a nurse and would also gladly help.

In two, the dummy is placed on the operating table and he goes thru the usual performance of taking the anesthetic, etc., and in this part there are also many laughs. The doctor and nurse are both clad in white and the general atmosphere of an operating room is in evidence. There is a bit of boy-making on the part of the doctor and nurse, with the dummy doing the usual wincing cracks and pecking at the lady's shapely limbs.

While there is no unusual kick to the turn, it is a competent one and more than pleasing for the intermediate-time house. Bergen has excellent muscle control but does not inflict any songs or otherwise try to show extraordinary ability.

M. H. S.

Mayo and Glenn

Reviewed Monday evening, December 21, at Proctor's 125th Street Theater, New York. Style—Caloved song and dance novelty. Setting—In one. Time—Nine minutes.

Near family time offering of the dance-spot brand in which a colored team (mixed) offers a routine of songs and dances, the best part of which is the hoofing by the man, an agile stepper. They open with a special song, topped with a dance, and then go into a tap dance, that took nicely when reviewed. Following the man did a published number and a back dance, topped with an imitation of Pat Rooney in an old-fashioned waltz clog, in which the taps were excellent. His specialty is by far the best feature of the routine.

The girl re-enters to do a song and dance, and while she is not possessed of a very charming voice or does not dance with unusual agility and grace she has much personality and by this puts herself across fairly well. With another tap single by the man, who is joined later by his partner, turning the specialty into a double, the routine is brought to a close. When reviewed a fair hand was received.

R. C.

Gene and Myrtle Moore

Reviewed Monday evening, December 21, at Proctor's 125th Street Theater, New York. Style—Song act. Setting—Special drop, in one, end, cutout. Time—Fifteen minutes.

The Moores, pleasant people with pleasant personalities, offer a song turn in tasteful surroundings that makes entertainment of a wholesome kind. Their appearances are good and the special drop used are attractive to a degree above the average. Opening with *First-Place*, a double, they seat themselves on a bench at one side in front of the drop, with backs to each other, for a special number that might go by the title

of *It Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do*. Myrtle Moore launches into a solo, of *Business*, *It Ain't*, etc., the conclusion of this number and does quite well with the ballad. In a scene cutout and under what is apparently supposed to be an apple tree in full blossom the Moores do a character number as old people, singing a double version of *Street Address*. It is sweetly done. Coming before another special drop, on which is represented a house (with practical entrance), the team does *Mandy*, a rather intriguing number, and for the close they have a special Christmas greeting in song.

A good act for No. 5. This was the position it had here when reviewed.

R. C.

Hector and Holbrook

In Dancing as Usual

Reviewed Monday morning, December 21, at the Palace Theater, New York. Style—Dancing. Setting—Full stage, special. Time—Sixteen minutes.

Harriet Hector was last seen in local vaudeville a few years ago with Snow and Columbus, leaving for the Orpheum Time soon after opening. Later she joined the Duncan Sisters' Topsy and her musical show as premier danseuse, wherein she scored an outstanding hit. William Holbrook appears to be a suitable partner in the present turn, and an unbridled pianist further assists the offering.

Altho the title of the act is *Dancing as Usual*, Miss Hector's efforts are not to be taken as anything but unusual, for she has developed a style of her own with many individual accomplishments that easily stamp her as a ballerina extraordinary. Opening is an impression of Miss Murray doing the waltz in the film *The Merry Widow*. She wears a gown similar to that worn by Miss Murray in the picture, but outside of that there is no special reason for the announcement, since the film version of the waltz is more theatrical, yet Miss Hector is a better dancer than Miss Murray. Subsequently an Oriental-flavored dance was offered as a solo incorporating some of the art of Miss Hector, altho it is not the sensuous style usually associated with that number. Her cleverest effort, and the one she is conceded to have skillfully perfected beyond fear of competition, is the toe specialty combined with graceful backbending, a sort of butterfly or bird dance that can't possibly miss. In the intervals Holbrook offered a variety of soft-shoe dances, using some of his own steps and not a few of the regular run. The opening and closing numbers were the only double ones. The finale was a delectable Charleston. When reviewed Holbrook apparently failed to tone down the rouse which gave him a scarlet-faced countenance that placed him at a disadvantage with his audience. Miss Hector, while confident and more than competent dances as the duo progresses, she forgets altogether that there is an audience out front which would like to see her smile, warm up and play to them more.

Properly spotted there is no reason why the turn should not prove a desirable big-time offering of its kind. Personality, talent and ability is there in abundance.

M. H. S.

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Billie Baker and Company

Reviewed Monday evening, December 21, at Kew-Forest, Brooklyn, N. Y. *Style—Song and dance revue, settings—In three, special, and full. Time—Fifteen minutes.*

The "and Company" in this act consists of a male pianist and a man and woman dance team, besides Billie Baker herself. The act opens in three, with the pianist accompanying Miss Baker, who works in crocheting costumes, and she sings several Southern ballads. During one of her songs the back drape opens to reveal an old mother sitting in the window knitting. The dance team is introduced during these songs and they put over a clever dance routine. Then the pianist plays a few selections on the piano and sings while Miss Baker and the dance team make a change. The male member of the dance team coming on for an exhibition of tap dancing prior to Miss Baker's entrance for a blues number. They close with all four of them on the stage, the man at the piano and the other three dancing off.

With the best of intentions we suggest to Miss Baker that she drop the Southern ballads from her routine, as her voice isn't quite right for that sort of offering; she has a nice voice but it hasn't that soft, lilting, crooning mellowness to it. In her blues number she goes over great; that sort of number seems to be her forte. She had a cold the night reviewed which gave her a little trouble.

The dance team have a corking good routine and are a pair of clever steppers. They could easily put over an act by themselves. The man dances well but would make a much better appearance if he dressed a little bit neater. We would also suggest to the piano player that he put away his morning clothes and attire himself in a business suit. We realize these are small things and have nothing to do with the act as an act, but it's the little things that count; appearance makes a lot of difference in the impression an act gets across the footlights. The act went over great when reviewed, taking one encore. It's a nice offering and can hold its own in the neighborhood houses. It's fine for the circuit. It is now 47. J. P. M.

Allen White's Collegians

Youth, Pep, Harmony

Reviewed Monday evening, December 21, at the Palace Theater, New York. *Style—Entertaining orchestra, settings—Full stage (except). Time—Twenty minutes.*

This clever seven-piece aggregation, under the direction of Allen White (not with the band when reviewed), is from the Coast and probably played picture houses en route to the East. A clean-cut spirit of youngsters, versatile as to their instruments, singing, dancing or comedy. Their musical style is soft and pleasing since there is no open brass at all and the trumpet was conspicuous by its absence.

They are never tiresome because they do not go in for plinking away one particular number over and over, different changes before it is over. On the contrary they open with a medley and from then on never stick to any one thing too long. Singing is well mixed with the playing and they have several different singing combinations. The dances are also strong and register alike. The outstanding number was the circus effect with a Barker telling of the side show's merits, all of the instruments imitating the animals in real funny style and other bits of clowning to go with it.

Allen's collegiate in style, they are clad in checkered white flannel trousers conservatively cut and striped jackets. About the best band of its type that ever played this house. Personnel and instrumentation is Kenneth Gillies, piano; Herbert Huxford, saxophone, clarinet; Robert Holman, saxophone, cornet; Louis Wood, trombone, violin; Ray Adams, bass, saxophone; Percy Landers, saxophone, violin, and Ned Wood, drums, cornet. M. H. S.

Everett Johnson and Cadets

Reviewed Thursday afternoon, December 24, at B. P. Keith's Jefferson Theater, New York. *Style—Band. Settings—Full stage. Time—Twenty minutes.*

Chicago outfit formerly known as Al Sweet's Cadets, that played fair and picture houses this past summer.

It is a rather unusual offering presented by a neat and snappy brass band of 11 young men, led by an handsome leader as any act ever had. The marches and popular numbers are excellently rendered and the routine includes a good deal of dancing that adds considerable strength to the offering.

Against a backdrop representing a military assembly the 11 boys open in column formation. There follows a march off the stage, and soon after the boys are proving that good music can be got out of a brass band as well as from a symphony orchestra. The instruments include cornets, trombones, tubas, euphoniums, saxophones, clarinets and a flute. The boys change their formation for every number, which is tactful staging. The handsome Everett not only leads, but also plays cornet and saxophone solos, ac-

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companied by his colleagues. There is also a violin solo that is well sold. The songs by the full company are a pleasing variation in the routine and get over big. The specialty song is a woe, and bids fair to stop the show. The neat cadet uniform, the splendid program and the staging attest to the big-time caliber of the act. P. B.

Toodles and Tod

Reviewed Monday evening, December 21, at Professor's 125th Street Theater, New York. *Style—Dog society. Setting—In three. Time—Eight minutes.*

An adequate dog act for the family house, presented by a man and woman, who put the little fox terriers thru a routine somewhat along the regular lines. A special eye of taste is hung in three, and there are a couple tables among the props. Among the tricks the canines are standing on the hind, walking upright on the hind feet and also on the front, doing somersaults and outstanding all, balancing on one foot in the palm of the man's hand. A dash of the usual comedy in acts of this kind is provided. When reviewed the offering opened the show and got across nicely. R. C.

Smiletta Sisters

Reviewed Monday afternoon, December 21, at Moss' Broadway Theater, New York. *Style—Dancing and light acts. Settings—Full stage, special. Time—Seven minutes.*

These pretty sisters present a variety of wares that prove them to be extremely versatile young ladies. The act opens with the two playing saxophones, one balancing on a tight-wire by one foot. There follows some tight-wire dancing. Concluding on the wire, the girl juggles some clubs to prove she is quite expert in maintaining her balance.

After changing to costumes as pretty as the others, one of the pair entertains with a violin solo that is pretty well sold. The two then close with dancing of the acrobatic type, the backbends and spins getting over nicely.

Usually when performers have a routine as diversified as this they are not expected to be more than mediocres. Per-

fection is expected only of specialists. Yet here are two artists who, despite the variety of their offerings, reveal more than ordinary ability, and this is especially true of their dancing. P. B.

American Ballet

Reviewed Monday afternoon, December 21, at Moss' Broadway Theater, New York. *Style—Dancing. Settings—Full stage, specials. Time—Twenty minutes.*

A company of a dozen ballet girls, a premiere danseuse and one man present a series of classic dances that for sheer beauty of movement and arrangement has comparison to the best seen hereabouts for a long while.

The opening tableaux is an indication of the classic numbers to follow. Not one, but all of these ballet girls do some toe dancing that shows any of them could be starred in an act of less sterling merit. The dancing of the man and girl is capably supported by the chorus. There is a certain unity in the dances in which the ballet girls figure alone which betokens finesse and artistry of high order. The veil number was most exquisitely rendered of them all. The whole cast do their bit in this part of the program. The act is classic from start to finish. Even the closing Charleston was executed as a toe dance. P. B.

Yacopi Troupe

Reviewed Thursday afternoon, December 24, at B. P. Keith's Jefferson Theater, New York. *Style—Acrobatics. Settings—Full stage, special. Time—Twelve minutes.*

Six men, a boy and a woman are now presenting their acrobatic routine indoors and affording the vaudeville patrons as much pleasure and entertainment as they did the outdoor crowds during the summer.

There is plenty of the expected tumbling, leaps, twirls and somersaults and they keep the act moving fast. There is not a dull moment from start to finish. The five-man bridge particularly drew a big crowd. But even that was outdone by the closing work from the springboard. The boys hurtling thru the air and landing on the shoulders of one of the troupe. To cap the climax, two of the boys did this stunt, the younger crouching on the

(Continued on page 23)

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Land O' Melody

By GEORGE D. LOTTMAN

(Communications 16 1560 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

"Iss Diss a System?"

The famous *Gross Exaggerations*, which the Press Publishing Company is syndicating, and which are authored by Milt Gross, are to be "canned" by one of the leading phonograph companies.

Gross, whose song *Business Oil*, founded on his cartoon by that title in *The Floating World*, was recently published, struck a gold mine when he conceived the idea of writing of the family life of the Peitebaums in the phonetic Yiddish dialect. This feature brought him immediate fame and attracted even Charlie Chaplin, who forthwith signed Gross to concoct the "gags" for the next Chaplin release.

The records of *Gross Exaggerations* will be on the market in a month.

Who Is the Important Member?

"To decide a wager," reads a letter from a betting man in Kansas City, "will you please answer the following:

"A says the man who picks the songs is the most important official in a music-publishing firm. B, calling a 'full of puns', declares that the professional manager is far more valuable? What say you?"

The query is not answered, as is usual, by mail, because it is of much more import than one would suppose after a cursory glance.

The inquiry resolves itself into the following: Who is more important—the lad who picks the songs or the fellow who "makes" them after they're picked out? Well, now!

In the opinion of many of the industry's leading lights, a good professional department can put over any song for a hit. As a prominent songwriter declared recently:

"Every song is a good one. All music is beautiful. It's simply a case of hearing a number often enough, and permitting it to plant itself indelibly on your memory. Could any tune be simpler than *Hay, Hay, Farmer Grop*, for instance? Constant and concentrated listening, rather than its own virtues, made this song."

And yet, on the other hand, see how often small publishing concerns, with no professional departments at all, have created tremendous hits. For instance, Denton & Harding's *Somebody Stole My Gal*, L. B. Curtis' *Son*, Sheridan's *Marchena*, Milton Wolff's *The One I Love Belongs to Somebody Else*, etc., etc.

It is the opinion of the head of one of the biggest music-publishing firms on Melody Mart that a big firm can create hits at will, in a manner of speaking. A true hit, they say, can't be squelched, regardless of how small the publishers thereof may be, or how limited their resources are.

As we wrote the last paragraph, a well-known songwriter, who has many hits to his credit, dropped in.

"Ah!" we ejaculated. "Just the man! Maybe you can enlighten us. A correspondent has written to inquire who is the most important official in a music-publishing firm—the 'song-picker' or the 'terminal manager. What's your opinion?"

His reply was quick and to the point. "Neither," said he. "The way I look at it, the most important lad in the whole deal is the songwriter."

So there you are! Or rather, where are you?

Food Songs Again

Maybe—heaven forbid!—the "food" song is coming back! Everybody remembers what happened two years ago when the immortal *Bananas* was in its heyday. "Apples," "codfish," "peanuts" and "onions" were but a few of the sillies subjected in song at that period.

The Alley's current food offerings include *Have I Got a Piece of Boiled Beef for You!* (Potat), *A Cup of Coffee, a Sandwich and You* (Harem), and *Hot Coffee* (Triangle). All three songs are doing nicely, and it's possible that other publishers may again follow suit. Which proves that, as far as Melody Mart is concerned, the silliest is more or less chronic.

And Now the Coconuts

"Whoopie and Whataiz Fello of In-sturction for the Coconut."

Records like somebody has been violating the 18th Amendment, but here it is before us—black on white, as the saying is. For from Honolulu comes the information that a new and novel musical instrument is rapidly approaching the last stages of perfection under the supervision of its inventor, one George Duncan. The instrument, whose base is made from a coconut shell, is called the "Nu Kani", pronounced, if you'd really like to know, "Nee-oo Kawnnee". It is arm in equipped with four strings, and the notes it gives off are of the humming variety. The instrument will be exploited as the "singing coconut".

Three special instruments are being prepared for presentation—one to President Coolidge, another to the Prince of Wales, a confirmed "uke" addict, and a third to the Hawaiian Territorial Governor, Wallace H. Farrington.

Melody Mart Notes

L. A. Wachlin, of Sayville, N. Y., announces the publication of a song with lyrics by himself and music by Al Morgan, entitled *When Eve Was Absent Without Leave*.

A special series of Christmas numbers in book form have been selling well for Frank Harding, New York publisher. The book is called *Christmas Day in the Yuletide* and *Other Famous Recollections*.

The Eugene West Music Publishing Company, which opened offices in New Orleans, La., recently, for its first release has *The Greatest Misfit: I Never Made*. This ballad, by Mr. West, has become quite a favorite in the South. It is said:

The Columbia Phonograph Company reports success with its recordings by Jack Buchanan, Beatrice Lillie and Gertrude Lawrence, stars of the new *Charlot Revue*; of the leading musical numbers in that imported revue. The aforementioned artists recorded *A Cup of Coffee*, *Sandwich and You*; *Poor Little Rich*

FLORIDA OR BUST

New York, Dec. 28.—It's all Florida this season. One by one the local bands are washing up and silently straining away to what has been referred to as "the Sunny South".

A Melody Mart wag said last week that, from present indications, it looked like there wouldn't be a bass drum left on Broadway after the first of the year. The White Way haberdasheries are crowded these days with lads buying light-weight

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued on page 23)

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Orchestra and Cabaret

By GEORGE D. LOTTMAN
(Communications to 1340 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

New Drive To Close Broadway Resorts

U. S. Attorney Serves Notice of Padlock Proceedings Against 41 Places

New York, Dec. 25.—United States Attorney Emory H. Buckner played Santa to 41 New York cafe owners on Thursday, by presenting the cabaret impresarios with beautifully printed notices of padlock proceedings.

Four United States marshals made the rounds Wednesday evening to serve the summonses. Buckner didn't accompany them, but in a statement he declared:

"This is the season of Christmas greetings. It is an appropriate time, therefore, to send my Christmas card to violators of the Volstead law."

In view of the fact that each defendant gets 20 days in which to answer the charge of violating the liquor law, it was admitted that the procedure probably would not interfere with Christmas conviviality or plans for New Year's Eve in these places. The establishments served must consent to a six months' closure or stand trial by jury in the Federal courts.

The list of places against which proceedings were instituted follows: Club Kentucky, White Horse Tavern, Peter's Blue Room, Meadowbrook Club, Pallard, Inc., Chummy Club, Maxine Supper Club, Texas Tommy's, Band Box Club, Club Rivoli, Inc., Club D'Orin (formerly Vogue), Club Madria, Cozy Step in Club, Hop-Up Club, Cafe De La Bourree, Jack & Jill Chop House, Clip & Gilette, Eugene Club, Blue Bird Club, La Penne, Lounge Club, Ark Club, Stadium Club, Miami Chop House, Waverly Club, Moscow Inn, Murphy Brothers, Charleston Club, Green Pan, Club Chateau, Club Comarcho, Fitz-First Street Club, Club Ritchie, Frank's, Mount Royal, Old Homestead, Biedlar Restaurant, Studio Club, Forty-Fifth Street Yacht Club, Necka Club, Lexington Tavern.

Bamboo Gardens Reopen

Cleveland, O., Dec. 25.—Bamboo Gardens, popular Euclid avenue dining and restaurant, the interior of which was destroyed by fire recently, reopened this week.

The attraction is a jazz orchestra led by Art Kozlik and a boys of girl dancers and singers led by Mary Lee, of Chicago. Approximately 20,000 had been expended in making additions and improvements to the establishment, Charles W. Tend, president and manager of the operating company, announced.

The dining room, Tend said, had been enlarged to accommodate 200 persons instead of 125, the former capacity. The dance floor also has been enlarged. The impression of an Oriental garden has been maintained throughout the entire scheme of decoration and equipment.

Goldkette Opens Roseland Engagement—Three Weeks

New York, Dec. 25.—As announced recently in these columns, Jean Goldkette's Victor Record Orchestra opens at Roseland on January 24 for a three-week engagement.

Goldkette controls most of the important band jobs in Detroit, where he is the leading orchestral impresario. This will be his first Eastern engagement.

Dance Halls Must Toe Mark

The leader of an orchestra playing at one of the more prominent dance halls in New York delivered himself this week of a few interesting observations on the attitudes of a ballroom band. He said:

"Dance hall orchestras have the world's toughest assignment. Playing as they do to a clientele that knows rhythm and execution, they've got to be up to snuff all the time. The slightest deviation from perfection is at once noticeable.

"On the other hand, take the hotel or cafe orchestra. Their public is a transient one, knowing, as a rule, little or nothing about the 'inside' of dance music. Again, they play often to mellow crowds, who don't care what's going on as long as the waltz flows freely. Very dance hall patron, however, has paid to dance, and permits no stalling."

BUYS PARIS CABARETS

Paris, Dec. 24.—Charles Falkenberg, former New York brewery owner, has purchased three well-known Paris cabarets and announces that he intends running them on popular American lines. Probably the best known of the trio is the old Quatre Arts, long located on the Boulevard Clichy in the Montmartre cabaret belt. The other two are the Grand Teddy on the Rue Caumartin, another popular night-life quarter of Paris near the Opera and the mid-town theatrical district, and the Royalty roof garden on Rue Frochot in the Russianized section of Montmartre. The Grand Teddy will be retained the Serge and retains its Russian characteristics in harmony with its present decorative scheme. The Quatre Arts will probably continue under its ancient and popular name, but the Royalty will be given a new appellation reminiscent of Broadwayland will be run in the Broadway manner.

Proms Seek Kahn Band

New York, Dec. 25.—Roger Wolfe Kahn and His Blithedale Orchestra will play at three important college proms during February.

Director Kahn signed this week to appear with an augmented orchestra at the



Howard Thomas and His Cotton Pickers of St. Louis, who made a sensational hit on the slope in the Meowd City, are now being featured at fraternity and club dances.

Yale Prom, which takes place in New Haven, February 5. On February 5 the same organization will furnish the dance music at the Porcham prom and on the 15th the orchestra will appear in Ithaca, to perform a similar service for the Cornell Juniors.

L. O. Beck Sells Out

Akron, O., Dec. 25.—L. O. Beck, operator of ballrooms in the Middle West, has disposed of his interests in East Market Gardens to other members of the East Market Gardens company. It is announced. Beck is a pioneer dance hall man and his connection with local ballrooms has extended back 14 years.

R. S. Grant is president of the East Market Gardens Company, John A. McManis in vice-president, T. J. Seibert, W. E. McCormick and D. W. Thornton are the directors.

Folsom and Denny at Frivolity

New York, Dec. 25.—Bobby Folsom, late of Earl Carroll's Vanity, has opened at the Frivolity Club, where she will be featured with Jack Denny's Orchestra, with which until she formerly appeared in vaudeville.

Denny formerly worked for Miss Polrom. Now the tables are reversed.

Capacity New Year's Eve Reservations at Usual Rates

Broadway cafe owners expect the biggest New Year's Eve in White Way history. At the time of this writing it is next to impossible to obtain reservations for that night of revelry in any of the better places in town. Prices per couple range from \$20 to \$25, which includes a seat, a supper and a souvenir.

Not a few places that have been considerably "on the nut" plan are to fold up right after New Year's. Several, in fact, have been kept running at a loss in the hope that a heavy New Year's Eve business would make their exit less disastrous.

Convert Covent Garden Into Huge Ballroom

London, Dec. 25.—Two jazz bands, one of them made up of women, are at Covent Garden and hundreds of dancers are fox-trotting nightly on a temporary floor laid over the seats and stage of London's home of grand opera, which opens for the opera season on May 10.

Warburg Does a Kahn

New York, Dec. 25.—Gerald Warburg, son of Felix Warburg, millionaire banker, is going to try to do "a Roger Wolfe Kahn". Young Warburg this week announced his intention of entering the concert field as a collier. He says that it isn't unlikely that he will eventually give jazz a trial.

Helen Macfadden Opens As Casa Lopez Feature

New York, Dec. 25.—Helen Macfadden, daughter of Bernard Macfadden, publisher and physical culturist, is appearing at Vincent Lopez's Casa Lopez. Miss Macfadden, who is featured in a dance number at the Lopez club, was formerly with the Ziegfeld Follies, later playing an engagement in vaudeville.

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Orchestra Reviews

George Hall's Arcadians

(At the Arcadia Ballroom, New York)
As pleasing a musical ensemble as New York has ever danced to is the George Hall combination at the Arcadia, which, looking hefty competition from Thompson and a block away, manages, despite all reports to the contrary, to exhibit itself as being too bad that this "profiling" arena doesn't register better for it provides far and away the best dance-hall atmosphere in town and would probably be strong opposition for the others if the management were a trifle less hard-bodied in its attitude toward the profession.

The Hall organization, rhythmically, is as near perfect as any aggregation in these parts, and its offerings are characterized by no mean degree of finesse and precision. Well rehearsed, its staff fits balances neatly and executes its stuff with a technique and brilliance that many of the more prominent leaders might well emulate.

George Hall's Arcadians, in short, are a good "buy" for the discriminating stepper. The patrons of this place like the outfit and it appears that the original four-week engagement, which began last September, may be stretched out for that many years.

The personnel of the combination follows: Sam Horowitz, piano; Jack Linton, Sam Rose and Rudy Reinhart, saxophones; Frank Kominaky and George Knapp, trumpet; Mike Martin, trombone; Max Spivack, drums; Charles Irons, banjo; and Ben Raffoel, bass. The latter also manages the combination. George Hall directs and an arranger, Rudolf Winthrop, is carried.

The Hall outfit's last engagement was at the Moonmouth Beach Country Club, Moonmouth Beach, N. J. Previously the band appeared for a spell at the Hotel Ambassador, New York. G. D. L.

Mal Hallett's Orchestra

(At the Arcadia Ballroom, New York)
Although not quite as colorful as they were when playing at Roseland, the current Mal Hallett orchestral offering, with a toning down of volume, will come into its own any day now.

This aggregation has been touring the New England States for the past several months, and which territory it is conceded to be a heavy draw. Offering as it did on tour a wretched "hookum" performance, it will, of course, take the Hallett bunch another week or so to round into their customary dance hall form. Let it be said here that this is no slur on the Hallett ensemble, the fact is that we expect so much of Mal that the slightest digression from perfection is at once noticeable.

It is in the rendition of the waltz and tango that the Mal Hallett band doesn't look so good. Its "hot" business is good and the little "hookum" they showed when reviewed registered. Hallett, himself, is a sweet showman and manipulates the fiddle capably, as well. He has an abundance of personality, too, which, coupled with a fine appearance and a waxed mustache, could sell him anywhere, with any kind of a band.

The lineup follows: Andy Russo, trombone; Bill Carlin and Carl Swearingin, trumpet; Sam Sherman and Nelson Arguoso, saxophones; Vic Mondello, banjo; Frank Guilfoyle, piano; Larry De Lawrence, bass; and Frank Friselle, drums. Otis Abrams, an entertainer, is carried. G. D. L.

Paul Ash With Columbia

New York, Dec. 26.—Paul Ash, leader of the orchestra at McVicker's, Chicago, will in the future record exclusively for Columbia, switching last week from Brunswick, with which concern he has been affiliated as record artist for many years.

Ash returned last week to Chicago from a vacation he had been spending in New York with his wife. It is the general impression that he will direct the orchestra at the new Paramount Theater in New York when it opens next year.

"Affairs of Anatole"

New York, Dec. 26.—Anatole Friedland's Club Anatole opened this week at 145 West 54th street. The fittings are elaborate and costly. Leading Broadway celebrities attended the opening. Included in the entertainment at Broadway's newest night club are Chester Fredericks, Sam and Pepper, Ruth Gillette, Miss Nina, the Doolley Twins and Ramon and Hesita, a dancing team.

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Chicago Notes

Van and Scherck will leave the Rendezvous Cafe after a whirlwind engagement and next week will leave for Florida. Charley Straight's Orchestra is supplying the dance times at this cafe.

Heary Therrien, the tenor, who has been held over so often at Terrace Garden, is featuring Spanish numbers this week and next. Leo Faldon, famous Castilian folk song, is one of the principal numbers. Olive O'Neill, opera prima donna, is still on the bill and Beatrice Gardel is giving dance impersonations. Frisco, of clear and derby hat fame, is the big attraction at the Frisco's. Frisco hasn't been around Chicago for years since he played the old Green Mill Garden in 1920. His eccentric and pantomime comedy is going over big.

Aaronson Gives Party

New York, Dec. 26.—Irving Aaronson, director of the Commodore, who open in Daytona, Fla., January 1, gave a party to his orchestra and his subsidiary unit, the Crusaders, at Janssen's mid-town Hofbrau on Christmas Eve.

Aaronson, who has been appearing with his band in the local Keith houses, presented the members of both bands with handsome gifts. Publishers and newspapermen were also invited to the party.

Lopez at Ritz-Carlton Teas

New York, Dec. 26.—Vincent Lopez discovered last week that there were two hours daily during which he had nothing to do. Accordingly, he arranged with the Hotel Ritz-Carlton to personally direct a band at that exclusive hostelry from four to six p.m. every day. Lopez will sign a Columbia recording contract soon, it is reported.

"Congress" Ballroom Opens

New York, Dec. 26.—The Congress, a new ballroom, opened Wednesday night atop the Congress Theater, in the Bronx. The theater shows movies and an admission ticket entitles the patron to go upstairs and dance after the show.

Dancers at Detroit Cafe

Detroit, Dec. 26.—The novelty dancers, Mack and Ann, are the featured attraction at the Eastern Star Cafe here. Stanley Cassa's Orchestra of 11 pieces is furnishing the dance music.

Jim Morgan at "Backstage"

New York, Dec. 26.—When the Backstage, a night club, reopened this week, Jim Morgan and His Orchestra were the musical attraction. The Morgan combination has been playing picture theaters.

New Turns and Returns

(Continued from page 20)
shoulders of the other and both flying thru space to land safely on the underman's shoulders.
Incidentally, the one woman in the act was more than just an ornament, doing as much as any of the men folks. The gold and red drop-and the green costumes provided color to a whirlwind of skillful acrobatics. P. B.

Lowry and Lacey

Reviewed Monday evening, December 21, at Proctor's 125th Street Theater, New York. Style—Comedy skit. Setting—Special drop in one and a half. Time—Thirteen minutes.

Lowry and Lacey, man and woman youths, enter the stage in a canoe drawn up to what is represented as an island. The "background" concerns a lake. In the dialog that follows it develops that the island is a deserted one and without the canoe there would be no way to return. The patter is not strong for laughs, and most of the comedy develops on the cowardice of the fellow when the girl begins to assert herself. She goes after him with a rock after he tries to catch her with a method and in other ways stir up a laugh here and there, but on the whole the act is not very punchy. On closing they leave in canoe as they entered. A fair hand was received, when reviewed. R. C.

Helen Lewis and Girls

Reviewed Monday evening, December 21, at Proctor's 125th Street Theater, New York. Style—Girl band. Setting—Special epic, in four. Time—Eighteen minutes.

Helen Lewis appears with a girl band of eight, including herself, that dispenses music of an average caliber. Sydney Faye, a dancer, completes the nine-piece offering, and in his specialties gets across in nice fashion. The band, with Miss Lewis at the drums, opens with a jazz number. In succeeding numbers there are various hits to break the monotony, among them being one in which the accordion player is featured, and another in which the girls sway to and fro with cocktail glasses in their hands while doing a published number that has to do with drinking. Miss Lewis has a bit in another number which the girls sing, and for a ballad five of the girls play saxophones. A jazz tune closes. Faye, an apple dancer, has three specialties, one in which hocks feature. He's a worth-while complement to the act.

Miss Lewis' offering closed the show when reviewed, and managed to hold 'em in nicely. R. C.

Florida or Bust

(Continued from page 21)
"undies" and sparking cravats. "Buy a musical instrument and see Florida this winter," said a member of the 47th street "curb club" the other day.
Several of the larger music publishers are planning to send members of their band and orchestra departments to Florida soon after New Year's Day. Railroad officials estimate that 250,000 New Yorkers will go south this winter; so, the publishers reason, why overlook a plug like that? Again, by concentrating on a publisher, centralizes his plug and gets folks at the psychological time, that is, when they're in a mood to listen to his offerings.

Yes, SURE, it's all Florida this season!

Daley's Orchestra at Twin Oaks

New York, Dec. 26.—Frank Daley and His Melody Boys are the orchestra attraction at Harry Carroll's new Twin Oaks, which opened this week on West 44th street, with Doty Wilson and Beryl Halley among the featured entertainers.

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Chicago Theater Guild Plans Permanent Policy

Seeks a Playhouse of Its Own and Will Eventually Produce Strong Professional Plays

Chicago, Dec. 24.—The Chicago Theater Guild is something new and something ambitious. Its sponsors claim they have watched the Little Theater movement and found that it is not combining its activities. The Guild plans for a definite goal. It hopes to have a theater of its own to be operated on a professional basis. It aims to enter into competition with legitimate Loop playhouses. To accomplish this the Guild intends to create a trust fund out of the proceeds from interesting plays done throughout the city by the best non-professional players. It is organized as a non-profit-making body. It is not subsidized and claims to be free from social entanglements.

Included in the membership are several who have been active in the production of most of the city's Little Theater groups. Among these are Frank H. Pette, Paul G. Tschannen, Ben Meyers, Perry Miller, Clara Marie Rauman and Dorothy Fay. The director is H. Campbell-Duncan, who has had wide experience in the management and production of his own professional companies.

Mr. Campbell-Duncan is quoted as saying that Chicago should have an independent producing body to supply it with plays upon which the regular commercial theater would not venture, similar to the theaters already existing in New York. He believes this can never be attained by a subsidized institution. Mr. Campbell-Duncan said the working capital has been supplied in the form of dues from a limited sustaining membership. The first productions put on by the Guild will be Shaw's *The Man of Destiny* and O'Neill's *The Rose*, on January 10, at the theater in Vestian Temple, 16 East Ontario street. The Guild is now searching for a theater of its own which will comply with all of the requirements of the city fire laws.

"The Enemy" Presented Before Blind Audience

New York, Dec. 24.—Several hundred blind persons from institutions in and around New York attended a special matinee performance of Channing Pollock's play, *The Enemy*, at the Times Square Theater December 21.

The play was given in its entirety, the only difference being that the actors spoke sometimes additional lines to make the play intelligible to the audience when the regular lines did not suffice. For this deviation the cast was rehearsed under the direction of Mr. Pollock and Walter G. Rohrer, head of *The Morningside People Magazine for the Blind*, whose idea it was to give the special performance. The program was printed in raised Braille type.

The audience was composed of patients from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, the Home for the Deaf, the Blind, the Catholic Center for the Blind, the Jewish Guild for the Blind and the Hospital for the Blind on Welfare Island. The boxes were occupied by Helen Keller and Katherine McGire.

Hermann Lieb Drama For Special Matinees

New York, Dec. 24.—Dope, a drama by Hermann Lieb, the well-known actor, who is at present appearing in the Actors Theater production of *Moena*, at the Comedy Theater, will be presented for a series of special matinees on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, beginning January 4, at the 48th Street Theater. Lieb will also head the cast, and other members of the company include Jennie Thurston, Dodson Mitchell and Harry C. Mortimer.

Anglo-Jewish Playhouse At Fifth Avenue Theater

New York, Dec. 24.—The Anglo-Jewish Playhouse announces that it will open its season Sunday evening, January 2, at the newly built 68th Fifth Avenue Theater, with *Penix*, Hershfeld's idyllic romance, *Green Fields*, translated by Jack Charach, stage version by Samuel S. Grossman. John Brown and Molly Daxbaum head the cast. The production has been staged under the direction of William W. Schorr, while Mina Margolis designed the settings. Performances will be given every Sunday evening.

May Robson in "Ma Pettingill" Opens Jan. 14 in St. Joseph. Mo.

New York, Dec. 24.—May Robson, who has been touring in *Helena's Boys* under the management of Augustus Plou, will give her final performance in that play at Omaha next week and immediately start rehearsing in *Ma Pettingill*, the play by Owen Davis, founded on the Harry Leon Wilson stories in *The Saturday Evening Post*, in which play Miss Robson will begin a starring tour under the direction of George C. Tyler and Hugh Ford at St. Joseph, Mo., January 14.

Hugh Ford is now preparing to leave for Omaha to direct the rehearsals of the new production. The cast for the piece will be drawn from Miss Robson's present company, with the addition of E. M. Favor and Burke Clarke, who are leaving for Omaha with Ford.

The tour booked for Miss Robson in *Ma Pettingill* will take her all the way back to California, where she is a popular favorite and has scored successes in all her recent productions.

Remarkable Remarks

"Produce a play with good taste, no matter what intricate problem of sex it deals with, and you have sound human drama—that is the art of the theater."—Daniel Frohman.

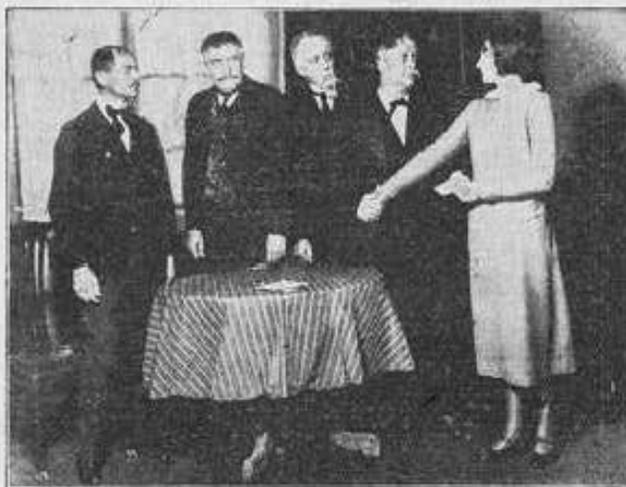
"The real actor is never daunted by a 'cold' audience."—Lorraine Goddard.

"The people out front often are the best actors in the cast."—Charles Wessinger.

"We hear a good deal about the menaces to the theater—and there are menaces. There are those who feel the motion picture will kill the theater, but they will not. I think, instead, that the theater will reform the movies—and God knows they need reforming."—Otto H. Kahn.

"Every producer has his weakness. One has a weakness for blondes, another for tall girls, another for 'types'."—Marion T. Byrnes.

SCENE FROM "MERCHANTS OF GLORY"



—Photo by Francis Bruguiere.
A tense moment in the excellent new play being presented with an excellent cast by The Theater Guild in New York. The girl in the picture is Betty Lively, a promising young newcomer, and the others are, from left to right: Charles Helton, George Nash, Edward Fielding and Augustin Duncan.

Maud's Farewell Appearance Armstrong Staging "The Kid Himself"

New York, Dec. 24.—Cyril Maud's farewell appearance will be in the form of a special performance composed of selections from recent plays in which the noted English comedian has appeared and the event will take place in New York, sometime in the spring, following the brief road tour of *These Charming People*. Complete acts from *Grumpy*, *Asen't We All* and *These Charming People's* will make up the program for Maud's swan song.

Cohan To Present Carrillo In "The Bobber of Sayville"

New York, Dec. 24.—George M. Cohan is planning to present Leo Carrillo on Broadway about the first of March in a new farce by Dornst Hersey. Titled *The Bobber of Sayville*, Cohan purchased the rights to the piece last Tuesday and is already preparing its production with Carrillo. It will be put into rehearsal in New York as soon as Cohan has launched his new revue in the Four-Corner Theater in Chicago, the opening of which is scheduled for early February.

Roger Pryor in "Aloma"

New York, Dec. 24.—Roger Pryor, who was last seen in *Peid*, has succeeded Frank Thomas in the leading male role in *Aloma of the South Seas*, now on tour. Pryor joined the company in Detroit this week.

New York, Dec. 24.—Robert Armstrong,

who plays the role of the prize fighter in *Is Zar So?* at the Central Theater, is making his debut as a legitimate director. He is staging *The Kid Himself*, the Bernard S. Schubert comedy to be offered by Dowling & Anhalt, which is now in rehearsal. The cast includes William W. Quinn, second; Marjorie Daw, William Quinn, Maxine Flood, Jack McGrath, John Gaillardet, John T. Dwer, Earle Craddock, Frank Conner, Bert Gorman, Milton Krims and William Morris. Eddie Ellipse is the general understudy. The piece will open in Elston, Pa., New Year's night and will be seen on Broadway about the middle of January.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—The forthcoming

engagement of *The Miracle*, at the Auditorium, has attracted attention over a wide territory tributary to Chicago. Advance orders for seats indicate that the engagement will be a seasonal one in scope.—The play will be shown here from February 2 to March 20. Those working on the enterprise believe it will be the most brilliant theatrical engagement in the history of Chicago.

"Poor Nut" for Boston

New York, Dec. 24.—The *Poor Nut*, with Elliott Nugent, will end its Broadway engagement January 2 at the 48th Street Theater and go to Boston. The comedy built around college athletics has been running here since April 27.

SHEA AND BRADSHAW FORM CORPORATION

Producers of "Chivalry" Plan Six More Productions, Including Dramatic, Comedy and Musical Pieces

New York, Dec. 24.—Joseph E. Shea and Leslie H. Bradshaw, coproducers of the new William Hurbit play, *Chivalry*, in which Violet Heming and Edmund Breese are now playing at Wallack's Theater, this week signed articles of incorporation under the name of Shea and Bradshaw for the purpose of presenting six more offerings, including dramatic, comedy and musical pieces.

The incorporation came about as the result of the association of Shea and Bradshaw in presenting the Hurbit play. Shea has been a producer in his own right for many years, while Bradshaw is an ex-newspaperman of this city and was formerly secretary to Herbert Hoover, although his most recent activities have been in Wall Street financial circles. Although the exact amount of the incorporation has not been made public, it is understood that several of Bradshaw's former associates are interested in the new venture.

Headquarters of the organization will be in the Strand Theater Building, and within the next week or so work will be started on the second offering of the Shea-Bradshaw combination, a musical comedy entitled *Sweet William*, by R. C. Williams, author of *Boddy*. This will be followed immediately by another William Hurbit comedy called *The Lough*, and four other productions, the names of which are to be announced shortly, will follow in due course. The firm also plans to have one or two noted stars in the leading roles of each presentation.

"Money Business" Set

New York, Dec. 24.—The cast which is to support *Low Fields* in the forthcoming Carter-Argatzoy production of *Money Business*, by Oscar M. Carter, has been formed and rehearsals are nearing the final stages under the direction of Lawrence Marston. The company includes, besides Fields, Pola Carter, Beatrice Maude, Austin Fairman, A. J. Herbert, Harry Lyons, Arthur J. Wood and Sam Lovett. The production will have its premiere in Stamford, Connecticut, December 31. The following week will be split between New Haven and Hartford, with a three-day engagement in Springfield to follow. The New York debut is scheduled for January 14.

Richie Ling as Sir Peter

New York, Dec. 24.—Richie Ling, whose last Broadway appearance was with Percy Wood in the Actors Theater production of *Guadalupe*, when it played a return engagement at the Comedy Theater last month, will assume the role of Peter Teagle in the *Druce & Street* revival of *The School for Scandal*, headed by Mrs. Samuel Insell, when the Sheridan classic reopens at the Kings Theater next Monday evening after a week's lay-off. Hubert Druce played Sir Peter during the engagement at the Little Theater.

Henry Fiske Carlton Assumes School Duties

New York, Dec. 24.—Henry Fiske Carlton, author of *Up the Lobe*, the Harvard prize play, which Richard Herndon will produce right after the holidays, has assumed his duties as instructor of English at New York University. Herndon is now assembling a cast for Carlton's play and will put the company in rehearsal within the next few days.

Engagements

New York, Dec. 24.—Claude Cooper has been engaged by Edward A. Miller for one of the principal roles in the forthcoming production of *More Oa*, a comedy from the pen of Charles Barnfield Hoyt.

Van Cleve Smith has been signed to appear in the *Green Cockatoos*, the next offering at the Triangle Theater.

Evelyn Wright will be Ethel Barrymore's understudy during the run of *The Merchant of Venice* at Hampden's Theater.

Ruth MacCollen has been appointed understudy of the feminine roles in *Log That Off*, current at the 34th Street Theater.

Changes in Casts

New York, Dec. 24.—Eva Randolph has retired from the cast of *Atlas* the Deacon at the Hudson Theater.

Lloyd Neal has replaced Gateway Herbert and Bert Blum and William Newman has dropped out of the cast of *Andros* and the *Lion* at the Kluge Theater.

Charles Waldron has left the cast of *Hamlet* (in modern dress) at the National Theater. Charles Warburton has replaced Ernest Laufford in the same company.

Evelyn Gosnell has withdrawn from Irene Bordoni's supporting cast in *Yvrogny Obedience* at the Lyceum Theater.

January 2, 1926

Willard Sails To Seek Plays For the Dramatists' Theater

New York, Dec. 24.—John Willard, author of The Cat and the Canary, is booked to sail tomorrow night on the Paris for a visit to the European theatrical centers in search of plays suitable for production by the Dramatists' Theater, Inc., which is now presenting Young Blood, at the Ritz Theater.

Willard also has contracted to finish a play which the Dramatists' Theater has already accepted in scenario form, and after his tour of England, France and Germany, he will journey to the south of France and remain there until he has completed his manuscript. The new play has a foreign locale and Willard hopes to gather atmosphere on his trip to give his work the proper amount of first-hand local color.

Dillingham Buys New Arlen Comedy

New York, Dec. 24.—Charles Dillingham has secured the rights to a new comedy by Michael Arlen. It is titled What Pus Freshmen Have and will be produced by Dillingham in association with John Golden. The premiere will not take place until late spring or possibly next autumn, however. Winchell Smith will stage the piece and the cast will be headed by a trio of stars whose names are being withheld at present.

Laurence Schwab Sails

New York, Dec. 24.—Laurence Schwab sails for London Monday aboard the Maestri to be gone about six weeks. While in the British metropolis he will supervise the production of The Firebrand, which will be presented at the St. James Theater the first week in February under the joint direction of Gilbert Miller and Charles Mandel. The London cast will be headed by Ivan Novello, as Cellini; Constance Collier, as the Duchess; and Hugh Wakefield, as the Duke. Schwab will also arrange for the London production of Coptans Jinks, the firm's musical comedy now running at the Martin Beck Theater here.

Eva Le Gallienne To Offer 'Borkman'

New York, Dec. 24.—Eva Le Gallienne will place in rehearsal next Monday Ibsen's John Gabriel Borkman. She will work on the production between performances of The Master Builder in which she is at present starring at the Princess Theater.

Florence Johns To Play Lead in 'Love 'Em and Leave 'Em'

New York, Dec. 24.—Florence Johns has been engaged by Ted Harris, thru the office of Murray Phillips, to play the leading role in Love 'Em and Leave 'Em, the new comedy by John V. A. Weaver and George Abbott. Casting is under way and rehearsals under the direction of Abbott will begin next week.

Lucia Moore Back in 'Patsy'

New York, Dec. 24.—Lucia Moore, who created the part of Mrs. Harrington in The Patsy when this latest American comedy by Barry Conners opened in Chicago early in September, resumed her role when the play made its Broadway bow at the Booth Theater this week.

Join 'Captain Fury'

New York, Dec. 24.—Narcissa Varney and Wanda B. Joyce have been added as understudies to the cast supporting Otis Skinner in Captain Fury, the new play by Cornelia Otis Skinner, which opens Monday night at the Shubert-Belasco Theater, Washington, D. C.

Russell Gleason, 17-year-old son of James Gleason, comedian and principal player in Is Zat So? at the Central Theater, New York, is appearing nightly in a minor role of the prize fight scene in the comedy during his Christmas holidays from school. He will shortly make his debut as a playwright when All of You a musical production which he wrote, will be presented in the annual production at the University High School where he is studying.

'Young Woodley' Author Reveals His Identity

New York, Dec. 24.—John Van Druten, about whom there has been considerable mystery ever since the opening of his controversial play, Young Woodley, in which Glenn Hunter is starring at the Belmont Theater, has finally stepped forth and revealed his identity. His name is really John Van Druten, his age is 23, and he is a lecturer at Aberystwyth University in Wales and at other English schools.

Young Woodley, the first play to secure production out of four that have been written by the same author, was placed in the hands of a London broker who sold it to both Basil Dean and George C. Tyler on the same day, inasmuch as nothing was known or could be learned about the author at the time, the story began to go around that the play was the work of some prominent Englishwoman with an ax to grind in regard to the educational system of that country. With the discovery that the author is really the person represented on the program of the play, it also develops that Edna Best, who is appearing with Cyril Maude in These Charming People, is the only person in this country who has met him. Miss Best is now reading a play which Van Druten has written for her.

Thus ends the John Van Druten mystery. It was great publicity stuff while it lasted.

A. H. Woods Takes Over 'Souvenir' and 'Glamour'

New York, Dec. 24.—A. H. Woods has taken over the producing rights of two plays which have been announced for Broadway production recently by other managements. The first and perhaps most important is Souvenir, formerly called Nadja, the Noel Coward piece for Nazimova. This play has at various times been in the hands of Charles Dillingham, Joseph Bickerton, J. C. Basil Dean, and several other interests. Woods has now acquired the control but will not commit himself to a definite date of presentation.

The second play to be taken over by Woods is Gosmore, a work of Warren Lawrence, young brother of Vincent Lawrence. It was sold by Lewis & Gordon, who originally planned to offer it this winter but now find their program too full.

Superb Mounting for 'Henry VIII' Presentation

London, Dec. 26 (Special Cable to The Billboard).—Henry VIII, presented Wednesday at the Empire Theater, marked the triumphant return of Sybil Thorndike to the West End after a long provincial tour.

This is quite the most notable theatrical event of the season, but the laurels undoubtedly go to Charles Ricketts, who designed the superbly effective and shapely Tudor mounting for Shakespeare's most shapeless play. The production by Lewis Casson was admirably handled and both spectacle and acting were adroitly arranged.

Miss Thorndike as Queen Katherine was sincere, pathetic and always thoroughly workmanlike, her performance never reached supreme tragic heights.

Dramatic Notes

Gavin Gordon played in Kiki last week at the Morocco Theater in Los Angeles.

O. Leo Tripp has written a play titled The Web which he announces will be produced on Broadway during the winter.

Ann Rogers is now play reader for the Actors' Theater, of New York, taking the place of Sam Janney, who is on a trip to Europe.

Jeanne Eagels has returned to the cast of Robt. at the Savoy, Chicago after being incapacitated for several days with a sprained ankle.

Frank Craven denies that the Universal Film has bought the picture rights to his play, Too Many Crooks. The company recently made such an announcement in the daily press.

Norval Koedwell, now appearing in Laff That Off at the 29th Street Theater, New York, has written a sketch titled Jiro which will be presented at the forthcoming Lamb's Gambol.

Ruth Chatterton has deserted the legitimate stage, temporarily at least, to appear in vaudeville in a playlet by Vincent Lawrence titled The Conflict. Miss Watson will play in her support.

Kenneth Macgowan lectured on 'What Is a Theater Not a Theater?' at the drama discussion meeting Wednesday

night, December 24, at the 115th Street Branch of the New York Public Library.

Mrs. Inzell, who recently closed in The School for Scandal at the Little Theater, New York, is considering a production of As You Like It. If her plans materialize she will play the role of Rosalind.

Betty Gardé, now appearing in the cast of Easy Come, Easy Go at the new Hillmore Theater, New York, will read comedy excerpts from the play at the monthly meeting of the Liberty Study Club at the Hotel McAlpin January 12.

John Barrymore, Jane Cowl and William H. Crane were represented with articles in the November issue of The Ladies' Home Journal. Barrymore is writing a series entitled The Confessions of an Actor. Miss Cowl has been writing a series entitled Footprints and Echoes. Articles by prominent people of the stage are taking up considerable space in the general magazine of late.

Wallace Kolb, after playing Marton and a role in a new play especially written for him in New York, is now appearing in the part created by Hunter in Clarence at Utopia, N. Y. Kolb will be seen in a New York production in January.

L. Lawrence Weber has had two new plays submitted to him. They are titled The Show and The Love respectively and are the work of Walter M. Gostreich, managing editor of The Brooklyn Times.

Willard Mack, while on tour in vaudeville in a tabloid version of his drama, Rick Jo, is spending his spare moments rewriting the play of Achmed Abdullah. The play, The Passionate Prisoner, for A. H. Woods and Carl Reed.

Prof. George Pierce Baker and a group of his students from the playwright class of the Yale School of the Drama attended a performance of Is Zat So? at the Central Theater, New York, last Saturday night.

Vladimir Nemirovitch-Danchenko, founder and director of the Moscow Art Theater Musical Studio, which is presenting a season of repertory at the Johnson Theater, New York, was tendered a reception by the Theater Guild at the Guild Theater last Sunday afternoon.

Ruth Garland is spending the holidays with relatives in New Bedford, Mass., while her husband, Robert Sparks, is obliged to remain in New York to look after his duties as publicity director of the Actors' Theater, which is now presenting Morals at the Comedy Theater.

Mary Shaw will speak on The Man Who Never Died at the Provincetown Playhouse, New York, December 23, before a "discussion meeting" of subscribers. James Light will preside and opinions pro and con on the play will be in order.

Another Channing Pollock manuscript, that of The Bazaar, has been acquired by the Storo Public Library, of San Francisco, which already has the original scripts of many other Pollock plays, as well as the original manuscripts of works by Clyde Fitch and many other distinguished American dramatists.

William Anthony McGuire canceled the Christmas matinee of 12 Miles Out at the Playhouse, New York, in order to give his cast an opportunity to enjoy the holiday festivities. The company gathered at the theater in the afternoon and entertained each other with an impromptu show.

Ralph Cullinan, now playing in The Fountain at the Greenwich Village Theater, New York, is the author of two new plays scheduled for early production. Mcoppies, an Irish tragedy, will be given at the Abbey Theater, Dublin, under the management of Michael Dolan, and You Can't Win will be produced on Broadway after the first of the year by Whitford Kane.

Ina Claire, starring in The Last of Mrs. Cheesey at the Fulton Theater, New York, received a cablegram last week from Gladys Cooper, who is playing the same role at the St. James Theater in London. The message congratulated Miss Claire on the 50th performance of the American presentation which took place last Monday night. Charles Dillingham, producer of the piece, also received a cable from Frederick Lonsdale, author of the hit.

Helen Menken and Francine Larrimore, well-known stars of the legitimate stage, are planning to venture into vaudeville this winter under the direction of Lewis & Gordon, provided they can find suitable vehicles. Miss Menken was to have appeared shortly in My Lulu Belle, under the management of David Belasco, who has the actress under contract, but this play has now been decided upon as the next production for Lorraine Cleric, who recently returned to the Belasco fold.

Jack Rosclair as Captain Plagg and Jack Carlisle as Sergeant Quirt in The

Long Run Dramatic Play Records

Number of consecutive performances up to and including Saturday, Dec. 26.

Table with columns: PLAY, OPENING NO. OF DATE, PERFS. Lists plays like 'Able's Irish Boos', 'A Man's Man', 'Andros and the Lion' with their respective performance counts.

IN CHICAGO

Table with columns: PLAY, PERFS. Lists plays like 'Charm', 'Dancing Mothers', 'Dora' with their respective performance counts.

What Price Glory Company now playing in Philadelphia, were the recipients of much glory in the newspaper reviews of the opening of the play in that city last week. Desire Stempel and Nick Long also received praise and good notice was given to the rest of the company which includes James A. Devine, Gilbert Rodney, Allen Jenkins, Walter G. Kelly, Willard Joray, Reed Hamilton, Clyde North, Harry McCue, Bert Sobourin, Gordon Hamilton, J. Merrill Homes and George Hatten. Phyllis apparently likes the play as well as did her Broadway neighbors.

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Repertoire

By ROBERT E. MOORE
(Communications to 25-27 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

BEACH AND JONES DISSOLVE

Partners in Well-Known Repertoire Company Agree To Separate—Organization To Be Called the Guy and Eloda Beach Stock Company

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—More widespread interest is attached to the dissolution of the partnership existing between Guy Beach and M. T. Jones, of the Beach-Jones Stock Company, than perhaps any happening in repertoire in months. A greater and more successful company never operated in the Prairie State area of the Midwest. M. T. Jones made a direct and unqualified statement to *The Bill* today regarding the dissolution of partnership between the two men who in the short space of six years have made the greatest success in the history of Western repertoire, taking rank with three famous veterans, John and Frank Winninger, in the domination of that select and exclusive territory—and, it might be added, that clannish territory—Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

In fact, since George Robertson and Eskill Gifford quit this particular territory and left it in its entirety to the two Winninger companies and Beach-Jones it hasn't been a particularly attractive field for new folks to bump into. The people up there in the Northwest pick out their favorites and stick with them. They don't care one single whoop about a Broadway brand or a show, but they know a lot about peddled bulls, creameries and certain repertoire managers and their wives that they wish to invite to their homes. That's where the Winninger and the Beach-Jones outfits have been especially strong. They were close to the people.

Mr. Jones informed *The Billboard* that Mr. Beach has purchased his interest in the show and that in the future it will be known as the Guy and Eloda Beach Stock Company, and will continue its seasonal tours as in the past. Guy Beach, leading man with the Beach-Jones stock, and Eloda Slizer, leading woman, who in private life is Mrs. Beach, are two of the most talented performers in the entire repertoire field, and two of the most estimable members of the profession. Mr. Jones was never an actor, but is regarded as one of the best business men in charge of a company, as well as one of the most capable advance men who ever made a success of a week-stand show anywhere.

Mr. Jones said he is now looking for a good, permanent stock location with no definite announcement to make as yet regarding his future plans. The Beach-Jones coalition was formed six years ago when Mr. Jones was advance agent for the Gifford-Young Players and Mr. and Mrs. Beach were members of the cast of the same show. The success of the new organization was instantaneous and has continued since that time in increasing measure.

Karl Simpson Placements

Kansas City, Dec. 24.—Karl F. Simpson, manager of the Karl E. Simpson Theatrical Exchange of this city, reports the following recent placements: Lem B. Parker, Mona Lee, Claudie DeVore, Monte Montrose, Frank Scott, Billy Weston Smith, Edwar Jones and Fern Spencer with the Manhattan Stock Company; Billy Wilson, manager, at El Dorado, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Vern Calhoun with the Jack Griffith Players, Newcastle and Haynes with the Bobby Warren Attractions; Chas. Ellis with the Toby Wilson act, Orpheum road show; Mr. and Mrs. Pat Mills, Frank Myers, Mickey McNitt, Irene Jones, Giv and Bea Henderson with the Dubinsky Show; Cleve Terhune, manager; Al Fisher and wife with the Larkin Show, Monte Stucky, manager; Louise Schultz with the Jack Griffith Attractions; Warren Lyle with the Allen Bros' Attractions; Jack Vivan, manager; Bonny Rose and Mildred LeRoy with the Lyric Theater Musical Stock Company, Ft. Dodge, Ia.; Tracie Maslow with the Brunk Shows; Sam Bright, manager; Pete Wight with the Brunk Shows, Fred Brunk, manager; Harry Murray with the Lem Thompson Attractions, Jimmie Haha and wife with the M. M. Dubinsky Players, Jean Noble with the Ed C. Nutt Players.

Bennetts Spend Christmas With Relatives in Kalamazoo

Chicago, Dec. 25.—Mr. and Mrs. A. Milo Bennett and son, A. Milo, Jr., left yesterday to spend Christmas Day with Mr. Bennett's relatives in Kalamazoo, Mich.

REP. RIPPLES FROM K. C.

Kansas City, Dec. 24.—As the old year goes out and we are on the threshold of 1926, please accept the best wishes of this writer for a happy, prosperous new year, and may it be better in every respect for all of you than dear old 1925.

Frank Sherman, seen here last year in *Little Old New York* at the Missouri Theater, is in Henrietta, Tex., spending the holidays with friends.

Dick Wakefield, pianist, joined the Kaufman Players at Tripoli, Mo., last week. This company is playing theaters in Missouri this winter.

Elmer Wright and Lillian Murray arrived in the city last week to spend Christmas and the holidays.

John G. and Fern Ray left here December 12 for a few weeks' visit in Chicago before opening their show.

Clyde White, orchestra leader for the Ted North Players, has been spending a few days in Kansas City.

The Three Millons arrived last week for a few days' stay "in our midst."

Mamie Sheridan Wolford Paul returned last week from a two weeks' visit with friends in Chicago.

Jimmie Wilson, stage manager for the Ted North Players, is here for a brief stay.

Gordon Kelley and wife came in last week. They will be here for a short visit and shopping trip.

Fred Plumleigh, with the Justus-Berman Company the first half of last season and with Charles Ellis the latter half, is in the city and will remain until after the Christmas holidays.

The Charles E. Ellis Company, after reorganizing here for a couple of weeks, left K. C. December 19 for St. Louis to make a swing over Junior Orpheum Time.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Chenoweth are in the city until Christmas, when they go to Arkansas City, Kan., to visit relatives for the festive day and until early in the new year. Mr. Chenoweth was electrician and drummer on the L. D. Brunk Show this past season, while Mrs. Chenoweth was cashier and did "bliss."

Billy Hannah, who was agent with Riondini's *Muff and Jeff Show*, which closed about two months ago in Texas on account of the death of Jack Hoskins, has been in Kansas City since then but is expecting to leave soon for Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. William Anton are in Kansas City until after Christmas. They closed their house show in Higginville, Mo., December 19, and are expecting to get their spring show in readiness soon after the new year.

Hugh Estinger is in Alabama booking dates for the Bob Athon vaudeville act. Mr. Estinger was with one of the Hoskins shows the past season.

Major George J. Barton writes that *Shadriff's* *Seven From Alabama* played to \$1,524 matinee and night Thanksgiving Day at Reading, Pa.

Dell Phillips and wife recently joined the Hils Morgan Stock Company in Texas.

"Bud" Duncan, who played *Jeff* with one of the Hoskins *Muff and Jeff* companies the past season, has a vaudeville act playing independent dates in Missouri. He is the original "Bud" of "Ham and Bud" of moving picture fame.

Harry M. Cooke, who recently closed his dramatic tent show in the South, is spending his winter vacation in Mobile, Ala.

Will H. Bruno, who recently joined the Irene Summery Stock Company at Tulsa, Ok., writes that the company is a great favorite with Tulsa theatergoers and is planning to go on business.

Ed Sherwood and wife arrived in the city the first of December and will be here until after the holidays. Mr. Sherwood is a well-known playwright of this territory, being owner of the Sherwood Play Bureau.

HARLEY SADLER



Owner and manager of one of the largest repertoire attractions playing thru the Southwest. The organization, called Harley Sadler's Comedians, at present is in Texas.

To Open January 9

Definite Announcement Made for Will Krieg-Lola Painter Players at the Labor Temple, Louisville, Ky.

Definite announcement of the opening of the Will Krieg-Lola Painter Players was made last week, Miss Painter advising that this new repertoire organization will present *Love and Politics* at the Labor Temple in Louisville, Ky., on January 2. As announced in a recent issue of *The Billboard* the company will then play circle stock after finishing the one-day engagement in Louisville.

The Louisville engagement is under auspices of the 35 allied local unions of that city and the players will be the first show to play in the new auditorium, according to Miss Painter.

The cast is complete and includes: Lola E. Painter, leading woman; Will Krieg, leading man; Harry Lloyd and Norma Taylor, characters; John White, heavy and impersonator; Sam Davis, juggler; Beth Johnson, soubert, and Jack Muehl, heavies.

Mr. Krieg, the leading man, lately has returned to Cincinnati from California, where he was seen in pictures. He has entered into partnership with Miss Painter and at present is in Louisville looking after the business interests of the company and holding rehearsals. Miss Painter needs no introduction, being well known in repertoire circles.

As announced, the company will go under canvas upon completing its house dates and in addition to the acting cast will carry a four-piece orchestra.

Early plays to be presented by the players as announced by Miss Painter are: *Paik and Muzg Ann* and *A Doll's Wood Madonnas* by Ted and Virginia Maxwell, and Robert J. Sherman's *The Painted Lady* and *Soapy Sam*.

Christmas Banquet for Mason Bros.' "Tom" Co.

Quincy, Ill., Dec. 24.—After the matinee performance here last Saturday members of Mason Bros.' *Ukole Tom's* Cobia Company were the guests of Thomas Alton, owner and manager of the company, at a Christmas banquet at the Virginia Hotel. Every member of the company attended and enjoyed the meal prepared by the chef. Dave Livingston was toastmaster and expressed the company's appreciation to Mr. Alton.

Four New Plays for Ray Howell

Robert J. Sherman, Chicago rep. playwright, has completed the first of a series of four plays for the Ray Howell Players, now playing thru Texas and Oklahoma. In addition to these special plays the Sherman Play Company is supplying the remainder of the bills used by the company.

Repertoire Manager Recalls Old Days

H. D. Whetten, of "Tom" Company, Remembers When "Road Operas" Played Small Towns at Least Once a Week

Mason City, Neb., Dec. 26.—H. D. Whetten, manager of *Ukole Tom's* Cobia Company, laying off for the holidays in this city, in a reminiscent mood one day this week, said:

"How different things are today in the smaller towns compared with a few years ago. During those days, Dakota was not so far away, and, although this is our third week in Nebraska, we have not met one attraction.

"To my mind this hurts business. People get out of the habit of attending theaters and stay at home. Good business can be had if attractions are properly advertised. In by-gone days we had George Hobbs' *House of a Thousand Coffees*, Primrose, Gaskell & McVitty, Colman & Crosby, East-Whison, E. F. McCann, Carl Dalton, George Engesser, Al Gerrell, Bill Bruce, Dad McKibben, Brown's Tennessee Minstrels, Bob and Eva McGinley, Jack Benjamin, Boyd Harrows, The Berger and another company out of Chicago which played *The Wolf, The Virginius*, and *Prisoner of Hope*, and many more I am unable to recall at the present time. A road show played in every town at least once a week, yet today I am nearly an orphan in this territory.

"Many of these managers have gone to the great beyond, some have graduated to bigger things theatrically, some have quit the road and entered other pursuits while other troops during the summer months with a tent opera."

The Tom company of which Mr. Whetten is manager will reopen soon after the first of the year to play three-day and full-week stands until the opening of the season under canvas.

Wallace Bruce Players Tour Kansas-Oklahoma

Company Now Playing Regular Territory After an All-Summer Run in Hutchinson, Kan.—Show Receives Nice Notices

The Wallace Bruce Players, after finishing an all-summer run at Riverside Park Hutchinson, Kan., are playing over their regular route thru Kansas and Oklahoma, and from reports received by the repertoire editor the show is meeting with much success in this territory.

Special scenery is carried for each bill, the opening one being Neil Schaeffer's *The Yuletide*, followed by *Idle Wives*, *What Every Woman Wants*, *The Girl in the Case*, *The Old Growth* and *Her Actors Child*, the feature bill. Four acts of variety are presented every night. In addition to this a musical act, *The Dible Melody Boys*, with special stage setting, is featured.

Blanche Cooke and Jean Kirkland are cast for the leads. L. Fred Stein general business, Dorothy Ray characters, Ruby Bruce impersones, Fred Dunning characters, Irvine Phillips juveniles, Gene Duncan general business, Ethel Duncan fifth business, and Wallace Bruce comedian.

While playing Blackwell, Ok., the second week in December the company received some nice notices from *The Blackwell News*. One dated December 8, is as follows: "The clever performance by the Wallace Bruce Players at the Palace Theater last night has won a place for the artists in the esteem of theatergoers and approval is voiced in many ways. Manager Via played a trump card when he presented it covered by the Wallace Bruce Players and there is good reason for the overflow crowds at the Palace each night.

"*The Yuletide* proved a real mystery play with a concealed plot until the closing act, but in the end things worked round to the satisfaction of the large audience. The specialty numbers and the jazz orchestra were especially good, but the scenery was perhaps the most refreshing of all. The screened effect during the appearance of the orchestra was very prettily and added to the attractiveness of the happy musical program. Wallace Bruce's droll humor kept the house in an uproar."

"A Hollywood Madonna" Gets Simultaneous Production

Ted and Virginia Maxwell's *A Hollywood Madonna* will be given simultaneous production thruout the country by a number of stock managers Christmas week, according to word received by the repertoire editor from Mrs. Virginia Maxwell, who advises that the piece is receiving praise from every manager who has read the script.

Dick Wilbur, who is to take a company to Honolulu this month, has leased a number of plays from the Hoffman-Maxwell Play Company, among them being *Paik and Muzg Ann*, *Dolle of the Follies* and *Neomi of the North*, all written by Ted and Virginia Maxwell. The rights to *Headlines*, *How*, by Robert Lord, and *The Bullroarer*, by Dick Wilbur, have been secured by the play company and both will be released during the coming month or two.

REP. TATTLES

Bob Wilson, manager and director of the Ed Williams Stock Company No. 2, which has just completed a year's run in St. Louis, is visiting his mother in New Orleans, La., for the Christmas holidays.

M. M. Murphy, manager of the J. W. M. Theatrical Company, a vaudeville-pictorial organization, writes that the dates the company has played have been good and comments on the shows are fine. The organization is playing thru Kansas.

Irene and Kenneth Wayne, who closed a 40 weeks' engagement with Tom's Comedians recently, motored in Tampa, Fla., to spend the holidays. The company had a most enjoyable and successful season, they write.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Glinvian, of the Glinvian Dramatic Company, are now located at Pleasant Lake, Ind. Winter quarters of the company will remain at Ashley, Ind., the former home of the Glinvians, they announce.

Harry Lloyd, character man, who will open with the Krieg-Painter Players at the Labor Temple Auditorium, Louisville, Ky., January 5, filed a one-day vaudeville date at the Hippodrome Theater, Covington, Ky., Christmas Day.

Jack Gamble, well known in repertoire, has closed with the Mack-Hurray No. 2 Show after a long engagement. While nothing definite has been announced yet, it is said Mr. Gamble is contemplating the organization of a rotary stock company to play thru Northern Ohio. The company is to be named the Gamble & Tuttle Comedy Company.

This is the time of the year when contracts are signed for the new year. The repertoire editor would like to hear from all members in the repertoire field who make connections for the summer season. It will cost but a two-cent stamp to send in the details to this department and in return your friends will know with what company you will be seen next summer.

Ivan Stenberg, general business man and musical director, and Lucille Star Stenberg, leading woman, closed a 27 weeks' engagement with the Newman Comedy Players at Brockbridge, Tex., recently, opening two days later with the Ray Howell Players at Coleman, Tex. Mr. Stenberg writes that both companies are doing good business and hopes that the Howell Players have one of the finest tent outfits in the Southwest.

Raymond C. Brown, of Newton, Pioneer & Holland's Uncle Tom's Cabin Company, which is laying off in Mason City, Neb., until after the first of the year, left the Nebraska city after the closing to return to his home in St. Louis to spend the holidays with his folks. Mr. Raymond's mother was in Mason City December 13 when the company arrived and saw her first Tom show, which was given by the company that evening.

The Jolly Stock Company

St. Tucson, Ok., Dec. 25.—The Jolly Stock Company, which started out five months ago with one truck and two touring cars to play houses in Texas and Oklahoma, has grown very fast, the equipment now numbering four trucks and seven touring cars. The show is carrying 9 people and a 30x50 top. It is owned by Madge Dawson and Orval Maxwell and is making a long jump into Louisiana to escape the cold weather.

In the company are Madge Dawson, manager and director; Verle Mayfield, solvent and leads; Kenneth Dawson, characters and banjo; Walter Whitvall, characters and banjo; Orval Mayfield, leads and banjo; Frank Arral, general business; William Tenistry, stage carpenter; Ralph Jones, property man, and Ed (Slade) Blatterby, advance man. The four-piece orchestra is composed of Madge Dawson, piano and director;

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- W. I. Swain, now the W. I. Swain Show Company, Inc., opened on a show lot housed by canvas first Monday in April, 1893, at Poplar Bluff, Mo. (Ref. Mel-Rider, then song and dance team Rider and McGowery). Expiring season 1921. (manager with Pawnee Bill) each consecutive season has been made in full, except the "12" year show closed in September.

W. I. SWAIN SHOW CO., Inc., Swain Bldg., New Orleans

Frank Arral, tenor baritone; William Tenistry, cornet and saxophone; and Verle Mayfield, drums.

Thomas Bros.' Comedians

Carroll, Tex., Dec. 24.—Thomas Bros.' Comedians are now playing thru North Texas to good business, according to reports. Several changes have been made in the cast and orchestra recently and nothing but royalty bills is produced. In the company at the present time are Mrs. Earl W. Thomas (Coryl Scott), featured in leads and specialties; Lois Willis, ingenue; Mrs. Shule Thomas, characters; Cody Thomas, banjo; Ole Olson, characters; Ed Hughes, comedian; Albert Kelly, general business; G. B. Simon, parts; A. G. Ribble, general business and banjo in the band; Earl W. Thomas, leads and traps; Slim Morgan, boss canvasman, with three assistants; Mayne Bullard, tickets, and Loyd Baum, musical director.

In the orchestra are E. W. Brady, Lord Sams, cornet; Charles Summers, trombone; Fuddy Dean, clarinet, and Albert Kelly, bass drum in the band and piano in the orchestra.

Stockton in New York

At Stockton, formerly of the Young Adams Stock Company, a dramatic company touring New England, and who recently closed an eight weeks' tour thru New England with the Charlie Metrop tab. show titled *The Speedster Girl*, was a recent visitor to the New York office of *The Billboard*. He is spending the holidays in the metropolis, where he is negotiating another engagement for the coming year.

A London Letter

Tearing of the Legitimate
By "COCKAIGNE"

Universal Theatrical Society

LONDON, Dec. 11.—Firmly Gember, director of the Odeon and People's theaters of Paris, outlined an ambitious scheme to set up a Universal Society for Theatrical Art at a well attended meeting at the St. James's Theater on Sunday evening. The British Drama League was responsible for holding the meeting, which was in the nature of a preliminary discussion, and I understand that further meetings of a more practical character are projected. The object of this international association is to bring together all the artists and craftsmen of the theater and

to facilitate a continuous exchange of views between these both as individuals and corporately as associations. As a beginning it is proposed to start in each country a national theatrical union, each of which would consist of 15 sections representing the various departments of theatrical activity. Each national entity would have its special committee and official organ and each in turn would be subject to some extent to the international council. This body would promote a congress to take place every year in Paris, a feature of which would be a festival to include the most notable works presented in any country in the course of the year.

Annual Paris Congress!
M. Gember proposes that three theaters, a studio with about 500 seats, a comedy house with about 1,000 and an opera house seating up to 2,000, should be erected to embody the most efficient new ideas of the various national committees. These theaters, he considers, should be temporary structures, made as cheaply as possible and the apparatus used therein should be returnable.

This is an splendid ideal and it is to be hoped that M. Gember's scheme will be put into practice. So far as this country is concerned, however, judging by the success of various organizations which have so far been established to promote theatrical efficiency or excellence, results have not by any means given us cause to believe that this will materialize. After all, the fate of the theater rests finally with the profession and, as it has been my melancholy duty to chronicle very often, the English professional element is nothing like so responsible in regard to its social and aesthetic obligations, so workmanlike, ambitious and practical, and above all nothing like so loyal, as the American profession as a whole seems to be.

Tchebov Popularizer

The Stage Society's first English production of Tchebov's early play *Imsoff* comes very suitably on the heels of a distinct Tchebov boom, one of the most remarkable signs of the change towards more serious theatrical taste in London to which I have repeatedly drawn attention. My own opinion coincides with that of a number of responsible critics who suggest that this piece might find a market on the ordinary West End stage at the moment.

It is of course a ghastly play, a tragedy-comedy of failure, like several of the author's other works. But its reception on Sunday and Monday was very different from that accorded to the Tchebov plays when first introduced by the Stage Society years ago. The name part in this presentation was taken by Robert Farquharson, an actor (Continued on page 79)

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Dramatic Stock

By ALFRED NELSON
(Communications to 1580 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

Vaughan Glaser Players

Present Annual Christmas Pantomime, "Babes in Toyland"

Toronto, Can., Dec. 26.—A cordially audience greeted the Vaughan Glaser Players, under the directing management of Vaughan Glaser, last night, at the opening performance of the fourth annual Christmas pantomime, titled *Babes in Toyland*, at the Uptown Theater.

For the past three years Vaughan Glaser has invited the sick, unfortunate and crippled children of the city to attend the annual pantomime dress rehearsal the day before Christmas, and this year he followed his usual custom, supplemented by new and novel innovations for the specific benefit of the poor unfortunate of the city.

The Uptown School of Dancing held a prominent position in this year's pantomime production, as the chorus was selected mainly from pupils of the school, included among whom were Eleanor McCabe, Beatrice McCabe, Gladys McCall, Hilda Leonard, Violet Howard, Beth Weyms, Stella MacAlinden and Marie Whitney.

The ensemble chorus and soloists included Grace Patterson, Vivian Manton, Constance Joyce, Anna Roney, Lois Roney, Marion Black, Vera Butcher, Florence Power, Judith Harrington, Gertrude Corbett, Robert Rymore, Charles Roworth, Len Vanderburgh, Thomas Allen, Edward Austin, Joseph Kelly, Bert Selman and George Spivov.

The book and lyrics of this production were written by Glen MacDonough and the music by the late Victor Herbert. The scenes were created and painted by Vincent DeVita and executed by W. S. Hart. The book was staged by Samuel Godfrey and Dan Marble, with Charles Emerson as stage manager. The entire production was staged by and under the personal supervision of Len Daly.

The cast included Vaughan Glaser, Charles Fletcher, Ruth Amos, Hal Thompson, Gladys James, Dan Marble, Lee Daly, Belle D'Arcy, Edith Champion, Sheila MacAlinden, Grace Patterson, Marion Black, Eleanor McCabe, Dorothy McCulloch, Hilda Leonard, Beatrice McCabe, Florence Weyms, Vera Butcher, Beth Weyms, Gladys McCall, Marie Whitney, Edward Paul, Jack Wright, Charles Emerson, William Powell, Mortimer Weldon, Will Lloyd, Samuel Godfrey and a number of drummers, trumpeters, Dutch dolls, widows and dandies.

The production included 14 fairy-like scenes, 80 funmakers, including ballet dancers, clowns, famous nursery characters, a children's toyland ballet, beautiful costumes, scenery and lighting effects.

Blanche Wilcox

New Leading Lady of Century Players

Bayonne, N. J., Dec. 26.—The Century Players, who have been playing to profitable business since they opened at the Opera House in New York, are making a reputation of current successes and the more favored of the old dramas and comedies will have a new leading lady next week when Blanche Wilcox appears in the lead of *Pop of My Heart*, the New Year's week production.

Miss Wilcox was with the Harder-Hall Players, who held forth at the Opera House for two successful seasons in 1923 and 1924, and who were succeeded by the Century Players this year. Previously she had played the leading role in *Gold Seal* movie comedies, and was also with the Fox Films. She returned three weeks ago from a trip abroad.

She will take the place of Thelma Ritter, who will follow the orders of her physician and take her first vacation after three years of continuous work as leading lady. First of the Poli Players at Erie, Pa., and then with the Century Players. She was formerly a stock receptionist by the cast and employees of the theater on the stage following the Christmas Eve performance.

The Roberson Players

Hamilton, O., Dec. 26.—The Roberson Players, now in their 11th week at the Jefferson Theater, are making good, and indications point to their continuance into the spring.

Nora Drossen, ingenue, is an addition to the company, having been transferred from the Opera House, making her first appearance here in *Way Down East*, succeeding Jennette Reese.

The Roberson Players have also established a stock company in the Colonial Theater, Erie, Pa., opening there Saturday last with *The Best People*.

EDITH (LUCKY) LUCKETT



Miss Luckett is leading woman with E. H. Wilson's *Dallas Roadster* Players, now playing at the Circle Theater, Dallas, Tex. Miss Luckett was formerly leading woman for George M. Cohan and acted the role of *Leola Lane* in Cohan's comedy-drama, *The Song and Dance Man*, at the Circle Theater, week of December 14.

Andrew Leigh

Returns to Broadway With Marjorie Rameau

New York, Dec. 25.—Andrew Leigh, former leading man of the Permanent Players, Regina, Sask., and more recently a member of *The Half-Cent*, a production presented by Jack McCallan and Walter Scanlan, which closed a tour of five weeks December 14 in Regina, and ere he could erase the road dust from his wardrobe was engaged to join Marjorie Rameau in her production and presentation of the old favorite, *The Goldfish*, at the Windsor Theater, Fordham road, this city, during the current week.

Miss Rameau and her company will present a revival of *Asiatic* during the coming week.

Harder-Hall Players

Paterson, N. J., Dec. 26.—When it comes to active participation in civic, fraternal and social activities, the Harder-Hall Players, now at the Lyceum Theater, have few equals, for they are up and doing all the time.

Some of their innovations have brought cheer to otherwise cheerless people outside of their patrons, for which they have been highly commended by various local organizations.

In preparation for Christmas greetings to many unfortunates in this city Nell Buckley and Larry Fletcher started a campaign to collect discarded overcoats, to be distributed among the needy hereabouts.

In exchange for the contributed coat the donor was given a pass for two orchestra seats good for the Tuesday night performance Christmas week. Messrs. Buckley and Fletcher were heart and soul in their self-imposed task of rooting for coats. It was a friendly contest between the two of them as to who would turn over the greater number of coats to charity, with Mr. Harder of the firm promising a nice reward to the winner of the contest.

Edith King, leading woman, also had a Christmas mission to help Dorothea Antel, selling Christmas cards to see out a living these days. Dorothea fell down a flight of stairs in a Poli Theater in Hartford, Conn., six years ago. Since then she has been sitting propped up in bed, never lying down as others. Two years ago they took her out of the plaster cast and got her in a steel jacket and yet she smiles and says: "But I know I'll be better again because God is so good." Miss King did exceptionally well selling the well-known Dorothea Antel Christmas cards, the Harder-Hall Players and patrons responding in numbers.

What the Harder-Hall Players did in Paterson for those in distress can be done by other players in other sections of the country for other unfortunates.

Changes in W. H. Wright Players' Company

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 26.—Kathleen Conroy, formerly of the Malcolm Panett Stock Company, has succeeded Marguerite Klein as leading woman of the W. H. Wright Players at the Strand Theater. Miss Conroy, in addition to being well known both theatrically and socially in this city, has appeared in several Broadway productions, including *The Dover Road* and *Roseanna*.

Gertrude Deitz, a popular member of the company, finished her engagement with this organization last week in *Charley's Aunt*.

Thomas Evans, Jr., will join the company as juvenile in the near future. Leon Costello, stage manager and one of the principal members of the company, recently recovered from a severe attack of acute indigestion.

During the past several weeks Blanche Seymour has become a big favorite with her associate players as well as with the patrons of the theater, due to her apparent versatility, for no matter what kind of a part is assigned to her she always shines.

Brockton Players

Brockton, Mass., Dec. 24.—Edgar Selwyn's *Pierre* of the Players was the attraction at the City Theater, by the Brockton Players last week, directed by Carroll Day and embellished with artistically painted scenery.

Leading man, Ivan Miller, had the title role originally created by Robert Edson, Leontine, leading woman, having served her novitiate, is gaining rapidly increasing number of admirers by good portrayals of intense dramatic characters. Earle Mayne was a visiting player last week after an absence of a month, during which time he has been with Clyde McCardell's *Somerville* Theater Players. Bernard Burke, juvenile, whose new showing has been made in comedy parts, portrayed a highly dramatic role, Val Galbalth.

Director Daly made no mistake in entrusting the important role of the Sorcerer of the Royal Mounted Canadian Police to Myrtle Clark. He is the ideal type. Myrtle Clark, second woman, with proven versatility, adequately portrays the small part of the Indian squaw, Miami. She has been announced as the star in the next musical comedy, *Widowmaker*, underlined for production by the Brockton Players.

The cast of *Pierre of the Plains* included Ivan Miller, Leona Eastelle, Myrtle Clark, Arthur Holman, Walter Redell, Arthur Hickey, Bernard Burke, Carroll Daly, Frank MacDonald and Earle Mayne.

This week's production, a Christmas revival of *A Message From Mars*, with Arthur Holman in the Sir Charles Hawtrey role.

Times Square Players

Fall River, Mass., Dec. 25.—Last October the management of the Times Square Players offered a prize of a handsome silver loving cup to the player on the local soccer team securing the most goals up to and including December 19. R. H. White was the winner of this novel contest, and on Monday evening of the current week the 16 men comprising the team, the manager and trainers attended the Academy of Music in a body, accompanied by their many friends and followers.

Between the first and second act of *Kiss and Make Up*, the current week's attraction, Diana Farris, leading woman of the company, presented Mr. White with the trophy. The evening was considered more or less of an athletic event, as the play was very largely attended by leading citizens of the city, where soccer football is the most popular of outdoor sports.

Verily, the new, novel and unique contests inaugurated by C. O. Sachs, manager of the company, has done much for increasing the patronage of the Academy during the current season.

Savannah Loses Stock

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 25.—The Ann Johnston Players' dramatic stock engagement at the Savannah Theater was of short duration. They opened Thanksgiving with a matinee and night performance, played two bills each week for three nights and a matinee, closing Saturday night, December 18.

The dramatic stock engagements at the Savannah this season by two different companies have been a complete reversal of the 1924 season in point of attendance and interest manifested by regular patrons of the house.

Best Stock Season in Midwest in Many Years

Booking Agents Say Practically All Stocks Within 300 Miles of Chicago Doing Well

Chicago, Dec. 24.—That this is the best stock season in the Midwest in a number of years is the opinion of local dramatic booking agents. Sistrare & Clarke, owners of the Majestic Players in Waukegan, Ill., went into Waukegan about 12 weeks ago and made a solid success in what had been regarded as the hungry orphan of all stock locations around here. They are still going fine. Their new *Fond du Lac* stock is scheduled to open December 27.

The Grosz stock has moved from Lexington, Ky. to Terre Haute, Ind., and will open tomorrow. Karl Way, prominent Chicago leading man, has been engaged for leads. The Fred Weber stock in Oak Park reports a steady increase in patronage each week and appears to be making a solid go. Albert Landis, formerly an Oliver Norcross director, is directing at Oak Park.

The *Billboard* in its last issue chronicled the success of the Gifford stock at the Orpheum Theater, Peoria, Ill., and the Robertson & Gifford stock at the Jefferson Theater, Hamilton, Ill. Both companies report a continued increase this week. Other companies writing in about good business are Keres Sisters' stock, at the Palace Theater, Moline, Ill., and the Earl Ross stock, at the Rockford Theater, Rockford, Ill. Still others appearing to be well pleased with their stock are the Shor stock, at the Temple Theater, Hammond, Ind., and the Barton-Garrett stock at the Orpheum Theater, Racine, Wis. To this might well be added the splendid reception that the Ascher stock in the Chateau Theater, Chicago, is receiving from the public of the North Side.

Malden Players

Malden, Mass., Dec. 26.—Manager Edmund A. Hayden's selection of *The Glimpse* Vite as the production by the Malden Players at the Auditorium Theater after their then another opportunity to display their skill in musical comedy. Two of the principal roles, Antoinette Allen by Hazel Shannon, Mrs. Anthony Alton, the flapper grandmother, by Frances Brandt, and Jimmy Manning by George M. Hill. Mrs. Shannon, a new singer and dancer, Mr. Hill, a newcomer, made a most favorable first impression. Other principals are Dorothy Cheenond, Sidney Mansfield, William Webb, Edith Spora, Charles Harrison, Ernest Woodward, Riked Kent and Robert McClung. The dance chorines included Margaret Cassidy, Anna Callahan, Florence Merrithew, Lucy Feener, Beatrice Malatesta, Natalie Shargue, Pauline Hares and Patry Anderson. Recruited locally and from districts of Boston, for the most part pupils of Harry Corbett's dancing studio at Somerville.

Madeline McCarthy of Brockton, one of the Four Hurley Dancers, selected, outlined and trained the chorus in its dancing numbers. Louis Cheney is the musical director of *The Glimpse*. He and the regular leader of the Auditorium Theater orchestra, Societies were introduced and Pauline Hares in solo dancing stopped the show Monday night. Another hit was made by Miss Hares, Patry Anderson and Kent Tauber, director of productions, in a title Bowery number, with songs and dances.

Pierre of the Plains with George Hill as Pierre was the attraction this week.

Irene Summery Players

Tulsa, Ok., Dec. 25.—Manager Roy S. Cameron of the Irene Summery Players, selected for their 12th week at the Akdar Theater the old favorite *Madame X* and did big business owing to the magnificent portrayal of the title role by Irene Summery, leading lady.

The cast included Selmer Jackson, Frank McNeill, William E. Brady, Kenneth Lane, Warren E. Lyle, Roy S. Cameron, Ed. H. Hines, Walter Kiley, Gene Lane, Wil Bruno, Harry Hoxworth, Allen Mason, Maxine Miles, and Alne Berry. Director of Productions Harry Hoxworth, who has made a great hit here by his character work, came in for his full share of praise for his part.

Three W. H. White was the attraction last week, with *Way Down East* holding the boards during the current week, and *Six-Cylinder Love* for New Year's week.

Manager Cameron has secured the co-operation of every civic organization in the city and has so far this season had capacity nights for the college women, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Teachers' Association and the drum corps of the American Legion. The Junior Chamber of Commerce has contracted for the entire seating capacity of the house for a night in the first week in January.

There has been no let down in business at the Akdar Theater since the entry of the Irene Summery Players, who have a two-year lease on the theater, which is kept open the year round with the exception of the two hot summer months.

Musical Comedy

By DON CARLE GILLETTE
(Communications to 1560 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

WORDING OF NEW TAX BILL MAY EXEMPT MUSICAL PLAYS

Phrase "With or Without Music" in Definition of Legitimate Spoken Drama as Recommended by the House Automatically Includes Musical Comedy, Says Dillingham—Predicts End of Revue and Extravaganza

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Musical comedy may become automatically exempt from admission taxation under the wording of the Tax Inequal Bill as it exists at present, due to the phraseology in which is couched its accompanying recommendation to the Senate that the tax be lifted on "legitimate spoken drama." Upon the inclusion of four words in this definition of legitimate spoken drama, an interest proved by the House in its recommendation to the higher body of Congress, musical comedy producers are placing their hopes that their productions may be free from taxation as to admissions.

These four words are: ". . . with or without music."

The theory that the tax is automatically lifted from musical shows was advanced this week by Charles Dillingham, well-known producer, who stated that by these four words musical plays come under the classification of legitimate spoken drama, and thus are included in the kind of plays the House Ways and Means Committee had in mind for exemption.

When the bill first was presented to the House Ways and Means Committee, its members in their decision what, if any, plays on which to recommend exemption, asked for a series of definitions of legitimate spoken drama from several well-known producers. The following definition was the one finally accepted by the committee, and the subsequent recommendation made by the House was that all plays which came under this heading should be tax exempt.

" . . . a spoken play, with or without music, in which there is told a consecutive story interpreted by the same cast of players in not less than two acts and running not less than one hour and forty-five minutes."

This definition immediately excludes vaudeville, burlesque, the one-act play and extravaganzas and revues (neither of which contains necessarily a consecutive story, but which is rather a series of disconnected acts, none of which has any bearing on its predecessor).

It would seem at first as the only plays commonly known as "dramatic" productions come under this heading, but Dillingham points out that a musical comedy proper contains a consecutive story, known as the "book," as one of the mainstays of the production, and thus arrives at the conclusion that this kind of play must be exempt.

The producer cites as a case in point his own current production, *Sunny*, which, he says, is in every sense of the word a musical comedy and contains a very decided and important story necessary to the intelligible performance of the play.

Dillingham predicts the ultimate disappearance of the revue and the extravaganza, prophesying that producers, in the future, in order to have their offerings tax exempt without question, will build them in every case around a connected, coherent story.

Edna Morn Quits "My Girl" To Prepare for "Geraldine"

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Edna Morn, who was the original Mary in *Sally, Fred and Mary* who played the title role in George M. Cohan's musical comedy, *Mary*, resigned her present leading role in the Thompson-Archer piece, *My Girl*, this week at the Chestnut Street Theater in Philadelphia. Mildred Kentz took over the part and Miss Morn returned to New York to prepare for forthcoming rehearsals of *Geraldine*, the musical version of Clyde Fitch's *The Shabbiness of Geraldine*, in which she is to have the title role.

George Graves Arrives

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—George Graves, the English actor-manager, who was seen here about 15 years ago with the musical play called *Little Nickles*, arrived this week on the Atlantic to look over some of the current attractions on Broadway. Graves is said to be particularly interested in *The Student Prince*, which he would like to produce at His Majesty's Theater in London if the Shuberts are willing. He expects to sail for home again on the *Homeric* January 2.

LIDA MAE



—Photo by De Mirjan Studios.

A recently graduated member of the ensemble who is now singing and playing a part in "Mayflowers", with Joseph Santley and Ivy Sawyer, at the Forrest Theater, New York. In addition Miss Mae has just been appointed one of the understudies for the leading feminine roles in this delightful musical comedy. The other understudy, also selected recently in recognition of her good work, is Josephine David. Miss Mae also has been studying voice for some time under Ethel Sesto and will give her first operatic recital in the spring. The only other Broadway appearance made by Miss Mae was in "The Dream Girl", and the Shuberts predict a good future for her.

LONG TOUR PLANNED FOR "CHARLOT REVUE"

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—A long tour, extending over a period of 40 weeks and covering all the important theatrical territory in the United States and Canada as far west as the Pacific Coast, has been laid out for the latest edition of the *Charlot Revue*, which is now playing at the Schwab Theater. The attraction is to leave here early in the spring, and this time the star trio, including Margaret Lawrence, Gertrude Lillie and Jack Buchanan, will stay with the show throughout the road tour. Last season the entertainment was allowed to deteriorate after the show left the metropolitan centers, with the result that business dropped and the company finally had to close.

According to present plans, the revue will wind up its tour in Boston next December, returning to London in January, 1927, and will visit New York again in the fall of 1928.

Margaret Byrnes and Edward Cutler Promoted

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—As a result of her outstanding work while a member of the chorus Margaret Byrnes was this week made a Christmas present of an appointment as junior principal in *Mayflowers*, the new musical comedy featuring Joseph Santley and Ivy Sawyer, at the Forrest Theater. She assumed her new role Christmas Eve.

Miss Byrnes' management in *Mayflowers* is her first stage job. She is a graduate of the Columbia Teachers' College, and her sister, Marlon T. Byrnes, who is also in the cast of this musical comedy, is a graduate of Barnard College and was for nearly two years associate editor of the magazine section of *The Brooklyn Eagle*. The father of the girls is a member of the Board of Education.

Edward Cutler, stage manager of *Mayflowers*, also was honored this week by being selected an understudy for Robert Woodson, the principal comedian in the show. Previous to his present engagement Cutler appeared in many Broadway productions and with numerous out-of-town stock companies.

NEWSPAPER SYNDICATE WANTS "SUNNY" JOKES

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—A new wrinkle in the general amusement business came to light this week when it was learned that the manager of a well-known newspaper syndicate had written Charles E. Dillingham to ask for permission to use all the good jokes and gags from *Sunny* for reprinting in the humorous columns of more than 200 newspapers throughout the United States and England. The syndicate manager naively requested Dillingham to lend him the manuscript of the musical comedy, in which Marilyn Miller is now playing at the New Amsterdam Theater, so that the good material could be copied correctly.

Our representative has already seen *Sunny*, the letter read, and was unable to get good seats, so that in making his notes in shorthand he possibly missed some of the best gags. Of course, you realize the tremendous publicity of having us use these jokes and gags, and we want them correct, and will give your show full credit. This is a new departure which we plan to inaugurate, having our agents visit all comedies and musical shows, copy out the best gags and jokes, and then print them in all the newspapers in our syndicate."

Dillingham, who is strongly opposed to the idea of publishing the comedy material from his productions, immediately instructed his attorney to write the syndicate manager and point out that the book of *Sunny* and the books of all other Dillingham productions are copyrighted and cannot be reproduced without permission, which he will not grant.

The idea of printing jokes from theatrical productions is not a new one, however. It has frequently been employed by newspapers, which made use of the best lines from legitimate productions and vaudeville bills, and the practice has always been condemned by producers.

Engaged for Miami

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Among the prominent entertainers already lined up by William F. Wilson, the English director who is to stage the big spectacle known as *Fossilized*, which the Vestal Productions will present in Miami this winter, are Ethel Hook and Arthur Ardent. Two London stars with notable careers to their credit, Mary Klass, formerly of Artists and Models, also has been added to the large cast being assembled for this production, and the entire company, consisting of about 140 people, is scheduled to sail December 31 on the *Kronland* for Miami, where the attraction is to open January 11.

The book and lyrics of the show are by J. P. Wilson and several others, while the music is by Alfred G. Robyn. Arthur Vestal is president of the enterprise, with Charles A. Pearson as vice-president.

Auto Mender Sues Ziegfeld

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Florenz Ziegfeld has been named defendant in a suit for \$1,500 filed this week in the Long Island City Municipal Court by Emil Van Cura, head of the Van Cura Machine Company, an authorized Rolls-Royce repair station. The papers allege that the *Follies* producer had his Rolls-Royce repaired at the shops of the Van Cura Company the early part of this year and the action is being brought for the amount of the repairs. Ziegfeld, however, asserts he paid Van Cura \$2,800 for the work done on the car. The case has been set down for trial next Monday.

Janearl Johnson Playing Nanette

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Janearl Johnson, whose last appearance on Broadway was with Fred and Adele Astaire in *Louie Be Good*, has been engaged by H. H. Frazer to play the title role in one of the road companies of No. 59, *Nanette*. Other principals in this company, which is playing the Southeast territory, are Eunice Young, an Pauline; Lella McIntyre, as Sue Smith; Roland Woodruff, as Billy Early; Helen Case, as Lucille; Floyd English, as Tom Trainer; John Hays, as Jimmy Smith; Mildred Joy, as Betty from Boston; Myrtle Miller, as Winnie from Washington, and Dorothy Newell, as Flora from San Francisco.

In the ensemble are Ann Hollywood, Marjorie Purple, Paula Washburn, Emily Satterfield, Almo Warren, Catherine Collins, Margaret Purple, Nellie Clifton, Juliet Lookey, Barbara Harbour, Irene Evans, Lillian Ross, Esther Lawton, Oba Kenneth, Minnie Clifton, Ethel Ozer, Jack Parker, Richard Tyte, George E. Burke, Edward Pierce, Harold Brogan, Floyd Marlon, Floyd Thurman and Hamilton Rign.

Managers All Pondered

"The Student Prince" Knocked Them All Cold in Milwaukee

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—There's no end to the *Student Prince* stir. The predictions are that the Chicago company is going to break all records here and on top of this state news comes a word from Milwaukee. The company of *The Student Prince* at the Davidson Theater in the Wisconsin metropolis is reported to have grossed \$23,000 last week. For a corporation that has been in the business for 10 years, the week before Christmas and "the week in Milwaukee" were the worst of the year. The takings above referred to appear to vindicate Milwaukee and to indicate that *The Student Prince* is one of the best—and maybe the best—looking that the Midwest has had in a great many years. The Chicago company is on its 43d week now and hasn't a hint of a closing notice in sight.

Paddy Harmon Loses Suit For \$25,000 Against Cantor

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—A suit for \$25,000 against Eddie Cantor, star in *Edie Boots*, filed against him by P. D. (Paddy) Harmon, owner of Dreamland Ballroom, was declared a mistrial in Judge Hugo Pan's court yesterday by agreement of the counsel for both sides. The action was directed against Mr. Cantor and Nan Halperin, who was associated with him in the show in 1921. Mr. Harmon claimed he engaged Mr. Cantor to go to Dreamland on Thanksgiving evening of that year and said the comedian failed to show up.

Changes in Casts

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Betsy Kieckhefer has succeeded Gertrude Vanderhilt in the cast of *Oh, Oh, Nurse*, at the Cosmopolitan Theater.

Jane Aster, Virginia Marchant and Suzanne Beutt have dropped out of the cast of the *Vasities* at the Earl Carroll Theater. Lucille Upton, Muriel Greer, Dorothy Deider, Edith Joyce and Don Verhees have been added to the company. Max Greer has replaced Florence Marshall. Charles Irwin replaced Julia Tamm and Cliff O'Hourke replaced M. de Jari when the revue left New York for its road tour this week. Irwin and O'Hourke were engaged by Carroll thru the office of Tom Rooney.

Jane Overton, Percy Woodley, Marita Dennis, Geneva Price, John Valentine, Louis Gomez, Walter T. Burns and James McNoll have left the cast of *Dearest Enemy* at the Knickerbocker Theater.

Florence Osbeck replaced Florence Reagan in *The Cocoanuts* at the Lyric Theater last week.

Marika, formerly of the Continental troupe of Gertrude Hoffmann girls which arrived here recently, has joined the cast of *Artists and Models* at the Winter Garden, replacing Catherine Gallone, who has been promoted to a principal role in *A Night in Paris*, the new Casino de Paris show atop the Century Theater. Miss John Clare, already in the Winter Garden company, has taken over Catherine's roles in the sketch while Marika is going her Hoffmann numbers. Gertrude Mudge has also been added to the cast.

Engagements

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Edith Thayer, Jerome Daley, E. R. Titus, Robert Andre, C. J. Davis and Jack Burns have been engaged, thru the office of Rycroft-Perrin, for the cast of Dowling & Anhalt's impending production of *Cherry Blossoms*.

Eather Muir and Madeline Kilene have been signed, thru the office of Tom Rooney, to appear in the new fourth edition of the Earl Carroll *Vasities*.

January 2, 1926

Carroll's "Vanities" In Merry Xmas Mixup

New York, Dec. 25.—Earl Carroll, whose unusual talents have brought him a certain reputation in the last few seasons, handed Broadway another surprise this week.

Carroll has two editions of the Vanities under his management at present. One, the third of the series, which had been playing at the Earl Carroll Theater since last July, left town after the Wednesday performance to open Christmas night in Philadelphia.

The fourth edition is to make its premiere at the Earl Carroll Theater next Monday night. So far, so good. But with one of the Vanities departed for the Quaker City and the other apparently in rehearsal for its premiere the next week, Carroll has continued to present a Vanities at the Earl Carroll Theater through the latter half of the week and Broadway is wondering which Vanities it is.

The show that left for Philadelphia to begin a road tour consists of several members of the show-lived Earl Carroll musical comedy, Florida Girl, in addition to many of the entertainers who have been appearing in the third edition of the Vanities at the Carroll Theater. This road production was presented as the attraction at the Carroll for the first half of the week before leaving for Philadelphia. The cast includes Lester Allen, Jack Norran, Allyn King, Charles Irwin, Nellie Green, Eileen Carmody, Cliff Icarick, Irene Swor, Marjorie Peterson, Harry Avers, Frank Wisner, Buddy Carr, Dave Chasen, Kenneth Lackey, Jack Sherman and the Misses Hines, Hawkes, O'Shara, Doyle, Paul G. Young, M. Young, McKechnie, French, Santos, Condon, Brooks, Nash, Ellen, Green, B. Pedman, Hart, Warner, French, Connelly, Murray, Allen, Moreno, G. Douglas, B. Douglas, Baron, Slater, Ray, Lee and Tillman.

Joe Cook, Frank Tinney and Julius Tannen make up the trio of comedians that will head the new edition of the Vanities which opens Monday night. Dorothy Knapp, the American Venus, who made her first stage appearance in one of the Carroll revues and was more recently a member of the Egghead Polka, also will be in the new edition. Tannen has been one of the leading principals in the previous edition of the Carroll revue and several other members of that production will be in the new show. The bill being presented for the last half of this week is made up of a combination including members from the original third edition of the Vanities, those in the fourth edition and members of the recently closed Florida Girl.

The new Vanities, according to report, is such a costly production that it will have to do big business steadily in order to break even. One of the biggest items of expense is the salary of Joe Cook, whose honorarium has been increasing each season under the Carroll management, and the salaries of Tinney and Tannen also run into good-sized figures.

Carroll, incidentally, is said to have slipped something over last Sunday night by presenting the entire Philadelphia company of the Vanities as the program for his regular Sunday night concert. The producer claims he only broke in a few new parts in which Lester Allen is to appear, and denies having played the whole show with all the principals in their regular roles and doing their regular business. He admits, however, that some of the chorus members were used Equity is investigating the matter, and if it is found that the Sunday regulations were violated in any way the association will take disciplinary action.

Ask \$12 Top for "Sunny" At Charity Performance

New York, Dec. 25.—Orchestra seats at \$12 and \$10, balcony seats at \$8, \$6 and \$4, and boxes at \$125 are being sold for next Tuesday night's performance of Marilyn Miller in Sunny, at the New Amsterdam Theater. The evening has been given over for a benefit to go toward the completion of the new home of the Alice Chapin Adoption Nursery on West 24d street.

"Shufflin' Sam" To Tour Europe During Summer

According to information reaching the Billboard, Shufflin' Sam From Alabam, colored musical comedy company, which has been playing to big business on tour, will be seen in London, Paris and Berlin during the coming summer months. The entire present company, which is now playing thru the East, it is said will be seen in the European production.

Hartford (Conn.) Critics Praise "Honeymoon Cruise"

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 25.—Ned Wayburn's Honeymoon Cruise, the Christmas week attraction at Parson's Theater here, pleased large audiences, and local critics were loud in their praise of the show.

Nicknames Bring Fame To the Marx Brothers

New York, Dec. 25.—The Marx Brothers, now appearing in the Sam H. Harris musical production, The Cocoanuts, at the Lyric Theater, have achieved such fame and popularity with the help of the nicknames given critics last season that they intend to discard their regular given names and stick to the magic appellations of "Groucho", "Harpo", "Chico" and "Zeppo". Their right names are Julius, who is known as "Groucho", Althea is the comedienne at all times, "Harpo" is the dumb actor and harpist; Leonard, who acts the part of an Italian and plays the piano expertly, known as "Chico", and Herbert, the straight man, called "Zeppo". The boys range in years from 31 to 22.

In The Cocoanuts the Marx Brothers, with the exception of "Harpo", sing for the first time in their career, and all four of them dance. Their comedy is unique and ever changing. While the boys pay strict attention to the lines of the book as written, they insert little bits of business and situations that tend to emphasize the comedy, but the interpolations are made only after the stunts have been worked out and their values demonstrated.

Miss Massey Now Singing "Rose-Marie" on Broadway

New York, Dec. 25.—Madeleine Massey replaced Destrée Ellinger in the prima donna title role of Rose-Marie at the Imperial Theater here last Monday night. Arthur Hammerstein, producer of the operetta, decided to again shift his feature singers around and removed Miss Ellinger from the New York cast a week ago. She was dispatched post haste to Washington to replace Dorothy Segar at the head of the ex-Philadelphia company which opened at the Follies Theater in the capital this week. Miss Massey was brought into New York from the Chicago company playing in Detroit. Her role was taken over by Virginia Johnson, who has recently been gaining experience in the ex-Boston company on tour.

Miss Massey sang in Chicago for many months last season and headed the Boston company during its record-breaking run last summer. She also substituted for Mary Ellis on Broadway for a week last February.

First Writing Score For Ziegfeld's Show

New York, Dec. 25.—Rodolph Friml has been commissioned by Florenz Ziegfeld to append a score to Fluke Beach Yacht, which is about to go in rehearsal under the direction of Ned Wayburn. Art Hickman and His Orchestra, engaged to interpret the music for the presentation, leave Los Angeles next week for a brief rehearsal in New York before the whole company leaves for Florida January 9. The show will open at Palm Beach January 14, according to present plans.

Frank H. Grey, composer of The Madeline Girl, has added a musical number and an accompanying dance to that show, which opened out of town this week. The number is called The Honeymoon Roll and promises to be one of the high lights of the show. It is of the type of Bambaloo, the famous number in Wildflowers.

Century Theater To Have Sunday Night Concerts

New York, Dec. 25.—Due to the success of the Sunday night concerts at the Winter Garden, the Shuberts will inaugurate a series of similar entertainments at the Century Theater, commencing tomorrow evening. The bill of the first concert at the Century will be headed by Jack O'Connell, who will act as master of ceremonies. Evelyn Herbert, Phil Baker, Bronco Alb' Revue, Seed and Austin, Brennan and Rogers, Miller and Lyles, Leo Hill, Violet Carlson, Prosper and Maret, the Calis Brothers, Floyd Jones, Dorothy Kenton and many of the feature players from Princess Florida, Artists and Models, Goy Revue, Magflowers and The Student Prince have been booked to appear.

"Queen High" Will Be Title Of Musical "Pair of Sixes"

New York, Dec. 25.—Queen High will be the title of the forthcoming production of a musical version of the farce, A Pair of Sixes, to be offered in the early spring by Schwab & Mandel. Lewis K. Gensler, composer of Captain Jinks, has been commissioned to write the music. Laurence Schwab and H. G. DeSylva have already adapted the book and the latter is now working on the lyrics.

Musical Comedy Notes

Marjorie Gatenon is about to embark on a sojourn in vaudeville.

Blossom Vreeland, recently in The City Chap, is appearing at the Frivolity Club, New York.

J. Frank Cork is conducting the orchestra for Magflowers at the Forrest Theater, New York.

Jed Wynn, with his latest production, The Grech Boy, which is now on tour, drove unusually fine business in his recent engagement in Louisville, Ky.

Eileen Carmody, of the Earl Carroll Vanities, won a contest held recently for Broadway chorus girls at the Silver Slipper night club, New York.

Harry Puck, leading man in Merry Merry, at the Vanderbilt Theater, New York, has composed a new song which he calls The Only Way To Love.

Marion Dale, of the Earl Carroll Vanities, is doubling at the Caravan night club, New York, after the theater hour.

Rosalie Claire has left the cast of the Greenwich Village Follies in Chicago. Her work has been divided between the Diesel Sisters.

Carlo and Sanders added two new songs to their score in Oh, Oh, Yaree, at the Cosmopolitan Theater, New York, last week.

W. J. McGowan, engaged thru the office of Ryeoff-Perrin, was added to the cast of the Greenwich Village Follies just before the Broadway premiere last week.

Captain Jinks, the musical comedy now holding forth at the Martin Beck Theater, New York, has been booked to begin an engagement in Philadelphia February 8.

Dorothy Dickson, former American musical comedy star, is reported to be securing a great personal success in the title role of Peter Pan at the Shaftesbury Theater in London.

Greetings of the Season Mr. and Mrs. Norman Phillips and Norman Phillips, Jr. in "GEORGE WHITE'S SCANDALS" Vaudeville Direction PHIL OFFIN Max Hayes Office Productions HARRY BESTRY

THE BILLY MAINE MUSICAL COMEDY CO. Direction Col. J. L. Davis, Room 103, 16 W. Randolph St., Chicago. BROKE ALL RECORDS At Sanford, D., December 25, double pre-Xmas show. SOME OPEN TIME AFTER JANUARY 25. WANTED—BUSINESS AGENTS, Ned Alford, Homer Drake, write.

Long Run Musical Play Records

Number of consecutive performances up to and including Saturday, Dec. 25.

Table with columns: PLAY, OPENING NO OF DATE, PERFS. Lists records for various plays like Artists and Models, Captain Jinks, etc.

IN CHICAGO

Table listing records in Chicago for plays like At Johnson, Castles in the Air, etc.

Bela Lobsov is conducting the orchestra of Princess Florida at the Century Theater, New York, during the absence of Alfred Goodman, who is directing the musical end of A Night in Porto for the first few weeks of its existence.

Lester Allen's name, contrary to reports, is being featured in the billing of the third edition of the Earl Carroll Vanities, which began its road tour at the Shubert Theater in Philadelphia Christmas night.

Millie Freeman and Myra Lee, in the cast of Blossom Time, which played at the Shubert Theater, Cincinnati, last week and is being held over for this week, and Miss Lee's mother, Mrs. Mae Lee, who travels with the show, were present callers at the Broadway office December 21. Miss Freeman is the widow of Frank W. Bendick, Sr., who was a well-known actor.

(Continued on page 79)

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American Concert Field and American Achievements in the World of Music

By IZETTA MAY MCHENRY
(Communications to 1540 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

Dmitri To Give His First N. Y. Recital

Dmitri, young dancer, has chosen January 15 for his first public recital in New York, and that evening in Town Hall will present a program of eight numbers. Included in this program will be a dance number called *Little Nemo* which will be a dance interpretation of the famous comic series by Winsor Mackay revived recently in *The New York Herald-Tribune*. The music for this dance is by Josephine Lambdin Kay.

Next, with music also by Josephine Lambdin Kay, will be a feature of the first half of the program. This dance, created by Dmitri, illustrates the folly of misdirected energy and will be given in four parts with special costumes and lighting effects. The most spectacular number of the evening will be a temple dance which is a part of a religious rite of the Chinese, and for this the musical accompaniment will be played by a Chinese orchestra of seven men, and this dance too will have special lighting and costumes.

Young Dmitri commenced his career as a dancer by participating in programs at Greenwich House, New York, which led to engagements for special events in homes for charity benefits, etc., and finding this field best itself well to creative work, he followed it in Paris, where he danced for some time. His recital in Town Hall will mark his first public appearance in New York and is being awaited with keen interest by those interested in the creative dance.

Music Teachers To Hold National Meeting in Dayton

The 4th annual convention of the Music Teachers' National Association is to be held in Dayton, O., December 23, 24 and 25, at the Hotel Miami as headquarters. Although the delegates will be busy with business sessions they will also have opportunity to hear several concerts. On Monday evening the Dayton Federation of Music Clubs will present in concert the Women's Club Chorus and the Dutch Club which together will sing the cantata *The Highwaysmen* under the direction of Gordon Battelle, and a special feature of the program will be a group of violin numbers by Cecil Katz, Dayton violinist, who is attracting attention thru his work with the Cincinnati Orchestra. On Tuesday afternoon Edwin Arthur Kraft, of Cleveland, will give an organ recital, and on Wednesday evening the Dayton Westminster Choir, under the direction of John Finley Williamson, will be heard in a concert with Ursula Greville, of London, England, as soloist.

Chicago To Have New Opera

Holiday week brings a premiere performance of opera in Chicago as well as in New York, as the Chicago Civic Opera Company will give first hearing in this country to Franco Alfano's *Gianni Schicchi*, which is based on the novel of that name by Tolstoy. New Year's Eve is selected for the presentation and Mary Gordon and a star cast including Ferdinand Anseau and Georges Baklanoff will create the several chief roles, and Robert Moranzoni will conduct. Other operas include *Patigari* on Wednesday, December 31, at the Metropolitan Saturday evening, and on Sunday, January 2, another Suburban Matinee at popular prices will bring a double bill consisting of *Hansel and Gretel* sung in English and *La Fete a Robinson* by the Fawley-Oukrainsky ballet.

Seattle Is Organizing Its First Civic Opera Co.

The work of organizing the Seattle Civic Opera Company has been going on for the last several weeks and Graham Hoggan, director of the Amphion Choral Society, who has been appointed musical director of the opera company, is busy selecting voices. Montgomery Lynch, general director, well known thru his excellent work in producing the specialties *The Waggoner* and *Agave*, given in recent years in the State at Seattle, has announced that the best singers in the city will be given every opportunity to participate in the opera to be presented by the newly organized Civic Opera.

Brilliant Array of Artists Booked for Roosevelt Recitals

Under the management of Beckhard and Macfarlane arrangements have been completed for the Roosevelt Recitals which are to be held in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Roosevelt, New York, beginning early in the new year. These enterprising managers have announced a brilliant list of artists for these concerts and the series opens Saturday afternoon, January 2, with a program offered by Willem Mengelberg conducting an orchestra of 22 men selected from the New York Philharmonic, and the assisting artist will be Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist. The second recital is scheduled for Friday afternoon, January 15, for which the artists will be Elroy Ney, pianist, and Tamaki Miura, soprano. February 3 has been chosen for the next event and will bring a program presented by Hilda Loshanska, soprano, and Frederic Millar, basso. The second February concert takes place Tuesday, the 16th, when Marguerite D'Alvarez, contralto, and Woodland Bohlen, tenor, will be heard. The March concert, three in number, will be given by Louis Gravaux, Josef Szegedy, violinist; Dusolina Giannoli, soprano; Ignace Hildberg, pianist; Tito Schipa, tenor, and Rozsa Varady, cellist. The series closes on Tuesday, April 20, with a concert by Sophie Brazaud, contralto, and Effrem Zimbalist, violinist. In announcing these concerts Beckhard and Macfarlane call attention to the fact that the most prominent program to be presented will offer not only an opportunity to hear the most famous artists in intimate recital, but also an opportunity to hear beautiful programs presented only as artists of first prominence can give them.

Operas Selected for Season in San Francisco

Gaetano Merola has announced the operas to be presented at a special season at the Columbus Theater, San Francisco, commencing Monday evening, January 11. A feature of the season will be the American premiere of *Fay Yea Pah*, which was given its first performance at Monte Carlo last year, and the cast will include Tosi Dal Monte, Josef Schwarz, Elinor Maria, Giovanni Martinelli and others. The repertoires for the two-week season also includes *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Tuesday, January 12; *Rigoletto*, January 13; *Lucia*, Saturday matinee, January 16; *Fay Yea Pah*, Saturday evening; Monday, January 18; *Rigoletto*; *Fay Yea Pah*, Tuesday, January 19; *Tales of Hoffman*, Thursday, January 21; a special matinee of *Lucia* on Saturday, January 23, and a final performance of *Fay Yea Pah*, Saturday evening, January 25.

"The Jest" To Be Given For First Time in N. Y.

New York will have the premiere in this country of the operatic version of *The Jest* on Saturday afternoon, January 3, when it will be produced at the Metropolitan Opera House. This is the play, in which Lionel and John Barrymore attained tremendous success a few seasons ago and which in operatic form created considerable interest when presented in Milan at La Scala in December, 1924. The three chief roles will be sung by Mrs. Ada, Beniamino Gigli and Tito Ruffo, as these three took part in the South American premiere last summer when the conductor was Tullio Serafin and he will conduct at the Metropolitan performance. Others in the cast include Merle Alcock, Grace Anthony, Henrietta Waketield, Adama Didiu, Milla Pieco and Louis d'Anzebo.

Atlanta Will Extend Season of Summer Opera

The annual meeting of the directors of the Atlanta (Ga.) Municipal Opera Association was held a few days ago and all the officers were re-elected and plans were started under way for a greater and more elaborate season of light opera in the summer of 1926. The directors authorized President Charles Howard Chandler to proceed with the plans, also to close contracts for the second season of summer opera, instead of six weeks as in 1925. It was decided to extend the season to eight weeks, and negotiations are already under way with some of the most famous stars of the operatic stage.

Damrosch To Repeat Gershwin's New Concerto

So many requests have been received for another hearing of Gershwin's new Concerto that Walter Damrosch has announced it will be repeated at the concert to be given by the New York Symphony Society in Mecca Auditorium, New York, Sunday afternoon, January 3, again, as at the first presentation. Mr. Gershwin will play the piano part in his Concerto in F. This concert will be the last major concert conducted this year by Walter Damrosch and the program will include Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E-minor and selection from Ravel's ballet *Daphnis and Chloe*.

Coming Events in Dallas

Dallas, Tex., is quite active this winter with musical events, as many prominent organizations are lined for appearance in the next several weeks. In addition to the concerts by its own Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the San Carlo Opera Company will give five performances in the Fair Park Auditorium from December 31 to January 2. Paul Whitcomb and his concert orchestra is scheduled for a concert in the same auditorium on January 21. In the Palace Theater on January 24 the opera *Quaerles Rusficus* will be presented, and on February 11 will occur the concert by John McCormack. In the way of other musical entertainment to be offered at the Fair Park Auditorium there is *Rose-Marie*, *Lady Be Good*, and *Blossom Time*.

Lyford Announces Date for Performance of His Opera

Ralph Lyford, artistic director of the Cincinnati American Opera Foundation, has closed contracts for two performances of his opera *Castle Agnes* in Music Hall, Cincinnati. The premiere takes place Thursday evening, April 29, followed by a second performance April 30. Mr. Lyford will organize a large mixed chorus early in January and has already had application from many of the best local singers. The scenery and stage settings are already under construction and the opera will be given an elaborate production.

Noted Artists To Sing At Mira Mar in Sarasota

Sarasota, Fla., is to have a brilliant musical season, according to arrangements which are almost completed by the management of the Mira Mar Auditorium in that city. Contracts have been signed whereby Gail-Curet, Chappell and John McCormack will appear in concert during February and other artists of international fame will also be heard and their names announced shortly. In addition to concert artists, the Mira Mar will present musical attractions each week, these to be of a popular nature and include the *Follies*, also the *Friskettes*.

Concert and Opera Notes

The annual New York recital by Yolanda Moro is announced for Monday afternoon, January 11, at Aeolian Hall, this to be followed shortly after by her annual recitals in Philadelphia and Chicago, a tour of the New England States, and a Southern tour in February.

For the appearance of the New York Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D. C., February 9; Baltimore, February 10, and Philadelphia the 11th, Frederic Esser will be the soloist.

A recital will be given in East Orange, N. J., by Marie Sundelius, soprano, of the Metropolitan.

For the performance of *Samson and Delilah* by the Washington (D. C.) Opera Company on January 25 Paul Althouse has been re-engaged to sing the role of Samson.

Under the auspices of the Woman's Club of New Rochelle, N. Y., May Johnson will appear in concert the evening of February 5.

The first event in the New Year on the Eastman Concert Series, Rochester, is the appearance of John McCormack January 7.

Special students' subscription organ and piano recitals are being given by Lymanwood Farnum, noted organist, and Winifred Cornish, pianist, and the Far-

nam pupils, the series commencing December 31, in the New York Town Hall. These recitals, with special reductions, afford excellent opportunities for hearing. (Continued on page 35)

Motion Picture Music Notes

Christmas week at the Eastman Theater, Rochester, N. Y., opened with Wagner's *Mastersingers* overture, with Guy Frazer Harrison and Victor Wagner directing. Robert Berensson featured a Voltaire Fantasy at the organ recital twice a day, and a tableau, *The Adoration of the Magi*, was designed by Norman Edwards.

George Lyons, the singing harpist, played a week's engagement at the Century Theater, Baltimore, recently as the added attraction. He was accompanied by the Century Orchestra, directed by George Wild.

Tyler's Cameo Theater Orchestra, of Pittsburgh, played as a special overture last week the first movement of Beethoven's *Evans* Symphony.

One of the favorites of Capitol Theater (N. Y.) audiences, Maria Gasparelli, premier danseuse, was presented recently at the Stanley Theater, Philadelphia, in *Volpe Bluetie* (Drigo) and Kreisler's *Schnee Rosemarie*.

Among the interesting numbers presented at the Madison Theater, Providence, R. I., recently were the *Municipal Four*, a sterling quartet that has been meeting with much success.

Charles Posen at the Wurlitzer of the Arcade Theater, Jacksonville, Fla., featured novelty numbers as one of the regular units on the Arcade programs.

Everett Johnson's Famous Cadet Orchestra of 14, a unique singing and musical band, was featured on the stage at the Adline Theater, Pittsburgh, recently.

According to an announcement made by C. H. Buckley of the Clinton Square Theater, Albany, Edward D. Fitzgerald has been appointed organist at that theater. Mr. Fitzgerald has been organist of several theaters in Philadelphia and Atlantic City.

In the Joseph Plunkett presentation *Protes* of 1924 at the Mark Strand Theater, New York, this week are DePace, mandolin virtuoso; Pauline Miller, prima donna; the Mark Strand Male Quartet and an augmented mixed chorus of 16. The special music for this number was written by Jacques Gruenberg, associate conductor of the orchestra, and arranged by Cecil Copping, in charge of orchestras.

A descriptive novelty in keeping with Christmas week, *The Toy Shop*, was the opening number at the Palace Theater, of Dallas, with Alexander Keesee conducting the orchestra. A Doll Ballet with the dancers directed by Helen Doty, was another attractive feature of the week.

The concert portion of the Capitol's (New York) program this week includes the debut of Carlo Perrelli, baritone, a members of the Moscow Grand Theater; *Astra's Dance*, from Grieg's *Peer Gynt* Suite, interpreted by Doris Niles, and a brass sextet composed of members of the Capitol's Orchestra. The *Fay Yea Pah* ballet number, which was so well received last week, is being held over.

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Tabloids

By ROBERT E. MOORE
(Communications to 25-27 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

MIL AND MRS. HOWARD KING passed the Christmas holidays at the Hotel Sevilla-Biltmore, Havana, Cuba.

IS YOUR COMPANY listed this week in the route department? The deadline for this department is Friday of each week.

KITTY H'LAND, who has been with Eastwood Harrison's Vanity Fair Revue, has returned to her home at Columbus, O., for a short rest.

FLORENCE CHAPMAN has been engaged thru the office of Meyer-Perrin, New York artists' representative, as a soloist for the Hagner & Lahr Company.

HARRY SUTTON has joined I. J. Irvine's Knick Knack Revue as musical director. The company played an engagement at the Orpheum Theater, Grand Rapids, Mich., last week.

THE TABLOID EDITOR wishes to thank the many hundreds of the profession in tabloid who so kindly sent holiday greetings. His wish is that all may enjoy the most prosperous new year in their career.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that the Grand Opera House, recently reopened after being dark several years, will offer combined musical tab, and pictures, effective last week. Go Naps, Mabel, was the opening attraction.

MRS. THOMAS GAULDEN, better known as Dixie Arway, of Frank Newman's Fashion Plate Revue, who closed with that company in St. Paul, Neb., recently, is spending a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. McCarthy, at Newport News, Va.

JOHN H. MULLEN, well known in the tabloid field as a musical director, is visiting his sister at Lankershim, Los Angeles, Calif. Altho he is journeyed to California for a visit, John writes, conditions are so favorable that he may remain.

LENA BABORN, who has been in Cincinnati since closing with Harvey D. Orr's Million-Dollar Dolls Company some time ago, has joined Izzy Meyer's company, known as Izzy's Folies, a rotary tabloid organization in Cincinnati, as character woman and producer of the chorus.

DIANE WALTERS, well known in tabloid, has been engaged by Charlie Elin as principal comedian for *Hey Rube*, a comedy act owned by Tom Howard, now with the new edition of the Greenleaf Picture Folies. Walters recently closed with E. J. Ryan's show on the Mutual Wheel.

THIS IS THE FIRST issue of The Billboard in 1926. The tab editor is endeavoring to make this department just as newswy and up to the minute as it can be made, and with a little co-operation from the readers it can be done. What about it? When you hear or see anything that you think will interest tabloid readers send it in.

MARGIE RUSSELL



The pretty featured tonight with the stock company playing at the Gaspee Theater, a tabloid and picture house in Kansas City, Mo.

BOBBY STEVENS (late of the Sophie Tucker act) writes that he does not know with whom he will be seen during the coming year, but he hopes to be with one of the standard companies before many more days pass. Stevens has been playing in vaudeville, but claims the call of the road, meaning tab, is too strong to let it pass unnoticed.

ROSS FRISCO of the Ross Frisco Amusement Agency, of Boston, Mass., has opened another office in Concord, N. H., to take care of his bookings in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Ross declares that he is getting the circus three weeks' work in nets, placed by him and having two tabloid companies on the road.

HAVING COMPLETED the book for Norma Fridenwald's new spectacular musical show, the Sherry Agency has been busy selecting types for casting the show. Because of the heavy mechanical effects and the many scenes depending upon them, rehearsals will not begin until January 4. The show will run about an hour and a half and will be seen on the Junior Orpheum Stage.

WHILE PLAYING the Lena Theater, Longport, Ind., recently, the California Quartet, composed of Betty McKay, Rufus Armstrong, Sam Lupo and Clyde Hodges, which is one of the featured attractions with Armstrong's Garden of Mirth Company, en route the Sun Time, gave a program over WJW in that city. When the company played Valparaiso, Ind., the quartet was the guest of local lodge of Elks at a rabbit dinner.

ALBERT K. FITCH, professionally known as Al Brennan, of the Brennan Twins, is confined to the U. S. Veterans' Hospital, No. 98, at Muskogee, Ok. Fitch writes that he may be in the institution for some time yet and infers that he would appreciate a line from some of the bunch out Denver way and also his other friends. Mail addressed to Albert K. Fitch, U. S. Veterans' Hospital, No. 98, Muskogee, Ok., will reach him.

AL LEMONS, principal comedian and manager of Mary Brown's Gullwing Shoes Company, which opened over the bus Sun Time in Covington and Newport, Ky., last week, received a telegram from the Sun office in Springfield Saturday morning that the show was to open in Detroit Sunday afternoon. The last train for the Michigan city leaves Cincinnati at 10 p.m., but after much hurrying and scurrying about interviewing passenger agents Lemons exacted a promise that this train would be held for half an hour longer than the scheduled leaving time. At the Hippodrome Theater in Newport the last performance ended at 2:45 p.m. All trunks were packed and the baggage was loaded and at 10 p.m. three taxicabs and a baggage truck started for the Central Union Station in Cincinnati. This is believed to be a record for speed, as this company carries more than the usual amount of baggage.

FRED HURLEY'S What's Your Herry Company, managed by Ralph Smith, was the attraction at the Hippodrome Theater, Covington, Ky., week before last for an engagement of four days, and after a layoff of two days was seen for one day at the Hippodrome Theater, Newport, Ky. At both houses the attraction pleased. Like Hurley's Big Feet Limited, reviewed by the tabloid editor earlier in the season, this organization is up to the standard seen on the Sun Time. Bud Brownie, comedian, and Jack Noff, tenor, were outstanding in their characterizations in the bill seen. In the company were: Jim Tom Story, saxophone specialties and hits; Ralph Smith, straight and manager; Vera Brownie, ingenue and character; Opal Noff, soprano; Bob Smith, ingenue, and Ross Nevins, musical director. In the chorus are Loreto Kishlow, Carrie Ross, Peggy Davidson, Peggy Morris, Dodie Johnson, Norma Story, Catherine South and Ethel Hurst.

THAD WILKERSON, owner and manager of Thad Wilkerson and his Rip Toes Circus Company, writing from Elwood City, Pa., where the company played an engagement Christmas week, states that altho there are a number of new faces in the company which were not seen when the show played Covington, Ky., earlier in the season, Rip Toes Circus is still going big and during the Copeys it has been out has lost but three days. All script bills are used, and the show is featuring Foster and Ida Elliott, as follows: Foster and Ida Elliott, characters, prinn donna and musical specialties; Walter Johnson, a singing and dancing juvenile and straight; Dixie Moore, "Little Miss Pep From Pepper-ville", soprano; Claude (Black) Clark,

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who is scoring with his stamp speech and saxophone specialty, general business; Marie Mack, ingenue and blues singer; Thad Wilkerson, owner, manager and comedian; Frank Rodgers, comedian, and Oscar Chaplin, musical director. In the chorus are Betty Alice Ray, Peggy Carlson, May Raymond, Babe Bowman, Carroll Paul, Grace Eddie, Mabel Trout and Jackie Rodgers. The Four Harmony Hounds from Hoke Town, composed of Elliott, Rodgers, Johnson and Wilkerson, is one of the big features of the show, Mr. Wilkerson says. The company also has a featured trio, composed of Ida Elliott, Marie Mack and Dixie Moore.

LAST WEDNESDAY EVENING the tabloid editor caught Mary Brown's new show, Gullwing Shoes, at the Hippodrome Theater, Covington, Ky. The bill seen was put on the same evening for the first time. Doc Paul produced all the bills with Miss Brown. Considering the time the show has been out, a very pleasing look will be given. Al Lemons, the featured comedian, well known in the eastern section of the country, certainly does "wow" them with his antics. Lemons knows what the auditors want and he surely gives it to them. Give this company time to break in properly and the show should play in any town on the Sun show scenery and costumes are new and make a flashy appearance. In the company are Doc Paul, manager; Al Lemons, featured French comedian; Jack Foley, straight; Ross Gilmore, prinn donna (takes a flashy appearance); Catherine Cody, characters; Billy Bar-Kathryn comedy; Lester Baer and Kathryn Dehary, dancing specialties; Leo Goelzler, xylophone and accordion specialties; Edwards and Moran, musical specialties and eight girls in line. A number of clever bits have been incorporated in the show, which ran for 45 minutes at the performance the tab editor witnessed. Following the show and while chatting with Mr. Paul it was learned that Miss Brown intends to produce at least three more companies in the near future, all to be routed over the Sun Time. On Christmas Day the company will play a one-day engagement in Hamilton, O., returning to Cincinnati the same night for a one-day engagement at the Hippodrome Theater, Newport, Ky., December 26. Many people in tabloid will recall that Lemons is the man who holds the long-distance cigar-dancing championship, having danced at Madison Square Garden in New York for 68 consecutive minutes. This has never been equaled, it is said. In Covington he gave a short exhibition in Covington in which he did this feat by repeating a step. At the conclusion he was greeted by applause seldom heard at this house. In one of the bits used every principal does a dancing specialty. This, too, went over with a bang.

FRANK WOLF, manager of the Kansas City, Mo., office of the Gus Sun-Ackerman-Harris Circuit, corrects a statement in The Billboard, issue of December 15 (Continued on page 25)

"Happy" Meininger Quits Aschers' Forest Park Theater

Chicago, Dec. 24.—"Happy" Meininger, well known in picture house circles, has resigned as manager of Ascher Bros' Forest Park Theater and has gone to Fond du Lac, Wis.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Springfield, O., Dec. 24.—Several thousand children of this city were the guests of Gus Sun, of the Gus Sun Booking Exchange, at a Christmas party held at the Regent and Fairbanks theaters on December 23. Four barrels of apples, 4 Indian bags of English walnuts and 4,000 packages of candy were distributed to the children, who also saw Jackie Coogan in *The Kid*. A special party for orphan children and a program for soldiers at the tuberculosis hospital also was arranged by Mr. Sun.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 24.—An old-fashioned Christmas dinner was served on the stages of S. Z. Pott's theaters here Christmas night by Managers Clancy of the Capital and Benson of the Palace to performers playing at the houses. Members of the orchestras and the stage crews also attended. Presents were distributed from a large tree, which was attractively decorated.

Detroit, Dec. 24.—More than 1,900 children were entertained with a Christmas playlet by the Bonstelle-Casari dancers at the Bonstelle Playhouse here December 24. Fruits, candies and toys, donated by Detroit merchants, were given to the children.

The annual Christmas party for ar-

Be a Booster for Milt Schuster

No commutation charged Chorus Girls after January 1, 30 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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WANTED

Experienced Chorus Girls. Permanent job and sure pay. Nightingale three shows. Give age, weight and places worked last. All good men, people answer. BIALTO THEATRE, Oklaoma City, Oklaoma.

WANTED

A-1 Straight Man, one playing saxophone musical instrument or specialty preferred. Write or wire, stating all. Hotel Grafon, W. Va., week December 27. Mabel McKeon, Pa., January 3, 1926; Belle Vernon, Pa., week January 19. BELLA CHIFF LITTLE, M.K., Manager. Postoffice Pleasanton, Ca.

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lates appearing at Cincinnati vaudeville theaters was held at the Hotel Metropolitan Christmas night, at which a midnight supper was served. Ned S. Hastings, manager of Keith's Theater, Roy L. Beattie, manager of the Palace, I. Libson, general manager of the Palace, and W. A. Clark, director of publicity, officiated as masters of ceremonies.

Burlesque

By ALFRED NELSON
(Communications to 1569 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

Clark's Big Capture

Brings 101 Ranch Into Burlesque
---Unit Opens at Miner's Empire, Newark, January 3

New York, Dec. 25.—Fred Clark, franchise-operating manager of Let's Go, on the Columbia Circuit, after playing the West to profitable business, came into this city fully determined to put his show over in an effort to make it more profitable to houses and himself.

In an effort to strengthen his presentation Clark entered into negotiations with Terry Turner of the Leaky office for the vaudeville unit of the 101 Ranch, under the personal management of Jimmie Horan, a former agent and manager of Jack Reid's *Second Breakers* on the old American Circuit, and later treasurer of the Walter L. Main Circus, under the regime of "Gov." Andrew Downie.

The vaudeville unit of the 101 Ranch carries a lot of live stock in addition to the performers, and calls for a much higher salary than the vaudeville houses are willing to pay on independent terms up to the present and welcomes the opportunity of coming into burlesque at a guarantee.

Clark is noncommittal as to what arrangements he has made for the payment of the act, but those in a position to know claim that he is guaranteeing the act \$2,500 a week, with a sharing arrangement over and above the guarantee, if the act proves to be the drawing card that the promoters claim for it. How strong and how long it will prove a drawing card in burlesque houses is problematic.

Its burlesque opening begins with Let's Go at Miner's Empire Theater, Newark, N. J., week of January 2.

Changes in Companies

"Golden Crook"

Jean May will succeed Edie Mae as prima donna in John G. Jermol's *Golden Crook* at the close of the engagement at the Gayety Theater, Washington.

"Innocent Maid"

Fox & Kraus, since taking over the Jennie Rice *Innocent Maid* show on the Mutual Circuit, after several reorganizations of the company, are in agreement with Miss Rice, the captivating leading lady-in-charge in the stellar role, supported by Fred Beck, comical comic; Clara Burkham, June Lawrence, Homer Beachum, Miller Evans and Tommie Vick. Harry Shapiro, general manager of all Mutual Circuit shows, is directing manager of the company.

"Happy Moments"

Lo Lo Pullman, inmate of Sam Williams' *Happy Moments*, on the Columbia Circuit, will close its engagement at the Casino Theater, Philadelphia, and will be accompanied-in-chief of the same company, was all set to close his engagement at Harrie & Seaman's, but self-appointed arbiters at H. & S. on Monday night convinced Lew that he could serve his seasonal interests and the Columbia Circuit better by finishing out his season with Sam and Lew family decided likewise.

"Round the Town"

Charles Fagan, tramp comic of Ed. J. Ryan's *Round the Town* Mutual Circuit show, will close his engagement with that company in the near future.

"Her He"

Al Golden, of Albot & Golden, franchise-operating producing managers of *Her He*, a Mutual Circuit show, is dismissed over the sudden illness of George Levy, eccentric comic, that calls for Levy's two weeks' layoff at Pittsburgh by imperative orders of Dr. Nil, the attending physician.

Golden, doing straight and a dope characterization in the presentation, will hold the role open until Levy returns, as he considers Levy a great and old burlesque.

Autoing to Springfield

New York, Dec. 26.—Kitty Madison, franchise-operating producing manager of the Kitty Madison *Jeannette Reese*, having played the Newark Theater, Boston, last week, came into this city to visit her seventh son at a military academy on the Hudson for her three-week layoff prior to playing Springfield, Mass., the last three days of the week.

While visiting Columbia Corner Kitty met her old pal, Buster Sanborn, the real-estate inviolated soubret of bur-

lesque, with the result that Kitty, Buster and Kitty's cousin son autoid in Kitty's new car from Manhattan to Springfield, where they are now the guests of Miss Kern Isaacs, former featured feminine of burlesque and for several years past, the wife of Fred Isaacs, mine host of the old Haines Hotel, and now the progressive proprietor of the new Crown Hotel, Springfield.

Changes on Circuit

New York, Dec. 25.—Columbia Circuit shows heretofore playing Wheeling, W. Va., Monday and Tuesday will eliminate Wheeling as a Tuesday night stand after the play date there of John G. Jermol's *Golden Crook* Company, and play Newark, O., as a Tuesday night stand of the Canton week prior to Cleveland.

Seen and Heard

Frank McAleer, a former attaché of Columbia Circuit shows and houses, is now company manager of *Chivalry* at Wallack's Theater, New York.

Harry Dittman, for several years manager of the late Harry Hastings' Company on tour the Columbia Circuit, is now a prominent resident of Florida, holding a contract to handle the U. S. mail between Bradenton and Anna Maria Key.

Lon Dittman, former company manager for Mollie Williams and her own show, but more recently a realty operator in Florida, was a visitor to Columbia Corner last week disposing of options on what Lon claims to be the future garden spot of the world, otherwise Lauderdale Harbor, Fla.

Eddie J. Cole, former treasurer at the Casino Theater, Brooklyn, more recently manager of Mollie Williams' Company on the Columbia Circuit, played his former place of employment last week, during which he was the recipient of a solid platinum watch, suitably engraved, from a big theater party that included all the Casino attaches from Uncle Jim Curtis to the pretty subverts and the Mollie Williams Company in its entirety, with Uncle Jim and Mollie making presentation speeches to the blushing and overjoyed Eddie.

Beatrice Tracey, prima donna of Barney Gerard's *Polites of the Day*, was painfully injured in Toronto by the falling of a heavy window she was trying to lift in her hotel room. Beatrice declined to lay off and continued in the show.

Frank Forrest, well-known old-time variety actor, more recently doorman at the Empire Theater, Toronto, has been forced to give up his position due to illness. Forrest has a host of friends in burlesque who will regret to hear that he is ill.

Bobby Clark (former president of the Burlesque Club), of Clark & McClellough, like many other members of the Burlesque Club, received tickets for the forthcoming ball and entertainment, but Bobby, somewhat different from some of the others, returned his 10 tickets, accompanied by a check in payment, with a letter saying that his bookings would not permit his attendance, but to accept payment of the tickets and sell them over again to someone else who could attend. Atta boy, Bobby!

Joe Costabano, a sharing partner with Sammy Kraus in *Moonlight Melod*, and the contended gray-haired shik of Tammany Hall, will operate an independent show of his own on the Mutual Circuit next season, titled *Bright Days*, and has already signed up Dolly Davis to be featured. Dolly is now with *Laffin' Thru* on the same circuit.

A. R. ("Dick") Hill, former "juvenile nut" of Columbia Circuit shows, later on in the *Some Girl* musical comedy company, has teamed up with George Manning, the "Carolina Rolling Stone," formerly of burlesque and vaudeville, in a new vaudeville act, billed as Hill and Manning, *Those Carolina Rolling Stones*, singing, talking and comedy act, on the Keith Time.

M. W. Pickens, manager of the Empress Theater, St. Paul, and *Etchpe* Cavanaugh and *Red Gang*, of Mutual Circuit performers, are the proud recipients of a letter from Warden Sullivan of the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater, commending them highly for their humanitarian spirit of co-operation in bringing cheer into the prison by their Thank-

THE BOWER SISTERS



Florence and Mayson Bower are graduates of the Central High School, Newark, N. J., later on received dancing instruction from the Elia Greenwood Dancing School and the Dorothy Palmer Dancing School in Newark, thereby developing the talent inherited from their father, Charles Bower, a member of the late George Pelemos act. They have appeared on the Leaky Circuit in an act billed as "Freddy Kelly and the Bower Sisters". At the close of their contract's engagement they joined the Four Marx Bros' Broadway production, "I'll Say She Is", and after playing on Broadway for a year and a half returned to Newark in "Ringing Up Father", and at the present time are singing and dancing specialties in front of C. Cleaver's "Matt and Jeff" Company on the Columbia Circuit.

giving Day entertainment of the prisoners. What they have done others on the circuit can do for inmates of prisons and hospitals in many sections of the country.

Joe Burton, former producer of burlesque, is wintering in Florida, putting on burlesque stock at the Park Theater, Miami, thence to Palm Beach for another engagement of six weeks along similar lines.

Miss Germaine, shimmy-shaking specialist of burlesque, completed a special engagement of two weeks at the Empress Theater, Kansas City, December 19.

Charles ("Kid") Koster has returned to his former position as special advertising agent on the Mutual Circuit by billing Pasadena, N. J., for the opening there of Mutual Circuit shows are taking a flyer over the circuit for special billing campaigns where required.

Ruth Gibbs, prima donna of M. Shafer's *La Venus Parisienne*, who has been confined in the New McKinley Hospital, Columbus, O., is now convalescent from an operation for appendicitis and hopes to rejoin the company in the near future.

George Jaffe, manager of the Academy Theater, Pittsburgh, Pa., presenting Mutual Circuit shows, is putting on added attractions in the form of classic dancers, *Ma Thers* appearing with the *Hey, Ho* Company.

Joe Demer, comic, and Peaches, Shik of shimmy dancers, now being featured in the *Band, Boy, Revue* on the Mutual Circuit, are the recipients of numerous offers of more lucrative engagements on the closing of their present contracts. Demer has one from Martin Sampter for a Broadway production, while Peaches has received one from Max Colton, manager of the Trocadero Theater, Philadelphia, for a summer engagement in stock at Philly.

Rebe Almond, the cute and cunning singing and dancing soubret, had looked forward to a Christmas dinner in Newark, N. J., with Hubby Duke Boyd, assistant to Jim Sutherland, at the Lyric Theater, a Mutual Circuit house, but Warren B. Ryan, operating manager of Matt and Jeff on the Columbia Circuit, spoiled Rebe's plans by booking his show into Easton, Pa., for two days, including Christmas

MUTUAL CIRCUIT

Star Theater, Brooklyn, N. Y.

(Reviewed Tuesday Matinee, Dec. 22)

ROUND THE TOWN

A Mutual burlesque attraction. Produced and presented under the personal direction of Ed. J. Ryan week of December 21.

THE CAST: Charles Fagan, Lew Newman, Pat White, Henri Keller, Mabel Lee, Gladys Clark, Jacques Forbes, Blanche White.

REVIEW

There is nothing on the program to indicate who put on the scenes, bits and numbers, therefore we take it for granted that it was a co-operative company production, staged under the personal direction of the franchise-operating producing manager, Ed. J. Ryan.

Scenery, gowning and costuming were typical of Mutual Circuit presentations.

Charles Fagan is doing his usual tramp characterization and Lew Newman a dignified Englishman. These two comedians work in many scenes together and in other scenes with other principals. Both do uncouth tramp of contrasting personalities, taking many and varied funny falls during their presentation of many backeyed burlesque bits. Newman supplementing with a comedy, singing and talking specialty.

Pat White's reappearance on the circuit in this presentation was given an ovation by the customers out front. Pat is the same likable lad, opening with his workman song, leading an ensemble of over-acted choristers with an interpolated Irish jig with Gladys Clark, thence into his political scenes—*Labour vs. Capitalism*—where, oh, where, was Pat's fall-playing dog, Jack, was the audible comment heard on every side.

Later in the show Pat showed that he hasn't lost any of his former art of self-defense, for in a burlesque boxing bit with Cornie Fagan a la where's my hat Pat landed Fagan with several clean-cut wallop on his sole leather mitt that resounded sufficiently loud in their artistic, apparently realistic, delivery that the audience howled with glee.

Henri Keller, a high-silk-hatted vocalistic straitlaced man who made several changes of classy attire, rounded out a cast of well-balanced masculines that are sufficiently versatile to please the average burlesque fan.

Mabel Lee, a pretty, petite, bobbed-brunet soubret, with a somewhat pathetic, pleasing personality that grips those sentimentally inclined, could have stopped the show cold with her every number. In a Jackie Cogan makeup and number, Mabel Lee captivated one and all alike. Her pathetic emotionalism in her singing *Pat of My Cradle Days* was heart-grabbing. If Soubret Lee can put the same pathos into spoken lines, she is creating her time on burlesque, for the dramatic stage holds for her a place that she can never attain in burlesque. That Miss Lee is versatile was evidenced by her quick change from the sublime to the ridiculous. Her transition from tragedy to comedy was almost instantaneous, for in comedy scenes and fast numbers she was the laugh-evoking comedienne and sizzling singing and dancing soubret, who fully merited the applause given her comedy and encores given her songs.

Blanche White, a slender, shapely, ever-smiling, titan-totod ingenue-soubret of the shimmy-shaking specialist type, handled her roles in scenes admirably and in numbers in a manner that brought forth encores aplenty.

Gladys Clark, a modlesque Dresden-doll type of soubret, was an optical feast in scenes and numbers, which she put over acceptably.

Jacques Forbes, a dazzling blende of the baby-toothed type, with a modlesque form, was also acceptably in scenes and numbers. This little kiddie has the makings of a soubret that will be among those featured in another season or so.

The short legs for the most part have youth, beauty, talent and ability, giving every evidence of their desire to please with conscientious work in their ensemble numbers.

Day, on the regular lay-off week between Philadelphia and Baltimore.

New York and Westchester newspapers are giving up a lot of space these days to the ready exploits of Barney Gerard, operating manager of *Polites of the Day*, with Tommy ("Boro") Snyder on the Columbia Circuit. Barney is one of the most active realty operators in Westchester County. He recently purchased a \$140,000 tract at Scarsdale.

We have received hundreds of Christmas cards and tokens, but few if any of them more appropos to the sender than the miniature rubber boot we received from Clyde Bates, comique-in-chief of Rebe Bernstein's *Reddy Beauties*, in which Clyde makes bows in an old rubber boot for bows of delight from audiences everywhere.

Billy Pitzer, former character straightman of burlesque circuit and stock com-

(Continued on page 34)

COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

Hurtig & Seamon 125th Street Theater, New York

(Revised Monday Evening, Dec. 21)

HAPPY MOMENTS

A Columbia burlesque attraction. Production staged by Slim Williams and Leo Stevens. Special music by Hegley Shurler, Vernon Bestor, and Henry Gray. Pleasureous musical numbers and dancing ensembles staged by Sol Fields. Produced and presented by Slim Williams from December 21.

THE CAST: Lew White, Doc Dorman, Allen McDougal, Fred Halley, Walter McDowell, Pauline Glenmar, Gladys Vaughan, Lo Le Pullman and Mildred Steele.

REVIEW

This production is a reminder of the Columbia Amusement Company's order of several seasons ago to producers to make their shows bigger and better along the presentation lines of musical comedy, and Slim Williams gives ample evidence of his efforts to carry out those orders, for his scenic production covering and contouring of his feminine principals and grooming of his masculine principals are equal to many Broadway productions.

Having fulfilled the C. A. C. order for a bigger and better production, Slim, the discerning showman, included several musical comedy scenes and specialties apropos to the production, interpolated with sufficient slapstick comedy demanded by patrons of burlesque. Lew White, a short-statured, pointed nose-face Hebrew, is evidently congenial-in-chief and proved his worth through the presentation by a likable personality, supplemented by the ability to please the patrons, who rewarded his conscientious work with ever-increasing laughter and applause. White makes frequent changes of comedy clothes and we opine that his makeup and mannerism in the rehearsal scene is one that could be utilized to White's advantage in more than the one scene.

Doc Dorman, a tall, blond-wigged, clean-dressed, funny-face, somewhat eccentric comedian, may be characterized as a Soeder with a Southern dialect and shuffling gait, but whatever he intends it to be is immaterial, for Doc's makeup, mannerism, dry, droll delivery of lines and erratic actions are those of the able burlesque comedian of talent and ability.

Allen McDougal is a clean-cut, clear-eyed, juvenile, straight masher, clear-headed, admirably. Fred Halley, a classily dressed juvenile, is a great asset to the presentation in straight-man roles and as a vocalist leading numbers. Walter McDowell, a manly appearing fellow in several characters, fitted into the presentation like a thoroughly seasoned actor of ability.

Pauline Glenmar, a bobbed, brunet singing and dancing sobriet, worked exceptionally well in scenes, led numbers and put over an acrobatic dancing specialty that can only be mastered after several years of constant practice.

Gladys Vaughan, a slender, stately, symmetrical bobbed brunet with an intellectual, refined face, evidenced the ability of a former dramatic actress, harnessing her lines for burlesquing purposes in scenes, and proved vocalistic title to prima donna par excellence in her numbers and singing specialties.

Lo Le Pullman, a marcel-waved bobbed blonde with a slender, shapely form, handled an ingenue role in scenes (a typical musical comedy actress, sure of her every line and act, and the same was applicable to her numbers).

Mildred Steele, a personally attractive, bobbed brunet with a slender, shapely form, as a Greek classic dancer, was all that could be desired in a specialty of this kind.

The choristers for the most part were pretty of face, slender of form and exceptionally vivacious, doing full credit to the producer of musical numbers and dancing ensembles, Sol Fields, for anyone seeing the picturesque ensembles in Happy Moments would know it was a Sol Fields ensemble without consulting the program.

COMMENT

A scenic production gorgeously gowned and costumed, with lighting effects apropos. A burlesque presentation by a well-balanced company of talented, able, versatile burlesquers who can please patrons anywhere on the Columbia Circuit.

Chuckles vs. Barney Google

New York, Dec. 26.—When Chuckles, Inc., operating a show by that title, heard of the wonderful drawing qualities of cartoon plays on the Columbia Circuit Phil Dalton, an official of Chuckles, consulted his client, Gus Hill, and on Hill's advice Phil and his official associates, with the sanction of Sam A. Scribner, changed Chuckles to Barney Google.

Barney as a title proved a bloomer and Chuckles has won a well-deserved verdict of being a far more attractive title for profitable patronage.

Chuckles will celebrate its victory over Barney Google at the Gayety Theater, Rochester, with the entry of Ernie Mack

as comique. Mack recently closed his engagement as a comedian in the musical comedy *Plein Jume*. He succeeds Ed Quigley, who exited along with Barry, Brock and Barry at the Gayety Theater, Buffalo.

Picked Up in Philly

The Gayety ran another speedy and nifty show entitled *The Radio Girls* with a cast that included Eleanor Cody, Mona Raymond, Betty Palmer, Eddie Miller, George Pelletier, Sam Bachan, Bert Rose, Harry Seymour, supplemented by a chorus of charmers under Rose Griffith's direction.

Frank Kramer, straight man last season on the Mutual Circuit, and his wife, Connie Fuller, prima donna, have just returned from a six months' tour with the Adams boat show. They will play vaudeville dates around Philly.

Adelaide McKeever, ingenue-scoubert at the Gayety, known as the girl with *The Million-Dollar Smile*, has just finished a long run at this house and is breaking in a single dancing and singing vaudeville act.

Madame Pi-Pi, well-known dancer, came to town after a long run at the Olympic Theater, 14th street, New York, to spend the holidays with her folks here, then goes to Pittsburgh for two weeks, and then to Miami, Fla., for a much-needed vacation.

Dave-David Johnny Reynolds, who flirts with death, is a holiday visitor, in from Chicago after playing a string of fares thru the West. He will also spend a few days in New York.

Low Joseph, Minneapolis boy, formerly assistant treasurer at the Aldine Theater, and later at the Desmond, has been in the Anderson Hospital the past five weeks with an attack of appendicitis, but is now on the way to recovery and expects to be out in about 10 days. He thanks his many friends for their letters and well wishes and wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dave Arnold, son of Harry Arnold, leader of the 16th ward and well known to theatrical folks, tendered a box party to Eilctor Cody, popular sobriet at the Gayety, last week. After the performance a special dinner gathering was held.

Buddy Howard, doing a single xylophone act, also well known to burlesquers here, will play around Philly for a while under Frank Wolf, Jr., and Harry Dibben, agents.

Ray (Tramp) Murphy, featured comedian on the Mutual Circuit and recently playing vaudeville, jumped in at the Casino Theater last week with John G. Jermon's L. B. Hamp and his *Fashion Parade Show*.

Jack Beck, popular assistant manager of the Gayety Theater, advises us of the clever burlesque comedians seen around the corner of Eighth and Race at various times; George Carroll, tramp comique; Geo. B. Teeters, eccentric Dutch; Tom Healy, Irish and German; Frank Ernest, tramp; Lewy Blosser, Hebrew; Jimmy Daly, boob, and George Martin, tramp, who mark the coming of *The Billboard* on Wednesdays.

The Teeters family, George B. former producer and featured comedian with Stella Morrissey and her *Chick-Chick* Company, and his wife, Lily Nelson, ingenue, after finishing an engagement at the Gayety, are now playing vaudeville and club dates around town. Their young son, George B., Jr., is a popular boy around the Kariavagn.

Gertie McDermot, formerly of burlesque, is doing a nice single vaudeville act, and always in demand with the agents about town.

Our old friend Tom Hymes, all-round theatrical man in indoor and outdoor en-

terprises, is busy as heat and seeing things are in good order at the Kariavagn.

Herman M. Levy, proprietor and manager of the Hollywood Hotel, Atlantic City, home of theatrical folks playing the Savoy Theater, stopped off for a "hello" to his many friends here on his way to Reading, Pa., to make reservation for the burlesque show.

Another visitor was Charles Platt, proprietor and manager of the Commercial Hotel, Baltimore, Md., home of the showfolks playing the Academy and Palace theaters.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to all.—ULLRICH.

Bertrand's Ankle Broken

New York, Dec. 26.—Bert Bertrand, featured Hebrew comique in Lou Talbot's Wine, Wines and Soap Company, on the Columbia Circuit, met with an accident in Montreal December 15 that resulted in a broken ankle.

Coming out of the stage door, Bert fell on the ice and broke one of his ankles in two places, necessitating his confinement in the hotel with the injured leg in a plaster cast.

He managed to accompany the company to Boston, and from there he will come to this city, stopping at the American Hotel, while the company plays in and around New York, in order that his wife, Gertrude Kathleen Bertrand, leading lady of the company, and their associate players can keep Bert from being lonesome for the coming six or eight weeks that he will be confined to his room.

Bert during his confinement will welcome letters and visits from all his friends in burlesque.

Bustling Bonnie

New York, Dec. 24.—Burlesquers in general have wondered for some time past as to the whereabouts of Bonnie Lloyd, former sobriet of circuit and stock shows, and as a result of numerous inquiries we have ascertained that Bustling Bonnie retired from burlesque for a matrimonial alliance with Jack Reynolds, world's welterweight champion, more recently coach at the Indiana University, where Bonnie became a local social favorite until the call of the stage became sufficiently strong to bring her back headlining in a vaudeville act, *Bossie Reynolds and Her Four Colletes*. Bonnie is doing her singing and dancing specialty, supplementing as a jax-band leader, with piano, while the boys play drama, piano, clarinet and banjo.

Bonnie and Jack will feast together over the holidays while the act plays Stratford and London, Ont.

Benevolent Bernstein

New York, Dec. 26.—Rube Bernstein, franchise-operating manager of the *Bathing Beauties*, on the Columbia Circuit, who recently joined his own show as agent in advance, took a leave of absence last week in order to prove that burlesquers are benevolent.

Rube rounded up the talent and directed the stage presentation at the Cosmopolitan Theater, Sunday evening, December 26, for *The New York American's* Sporting Department Fund for the Poor of Manhattan, thereby netting the fund more than \$5,000 for the presentation of gifts to the poor.

While Bernstein is noted as a wit in public, he is also known to those closer at all times to give up his time, labor and money to aiding those in distress.

Tabloids

(Continued from page 33)

5. That Tom Ataway's *Red Bird Revue* was booked in Picher, Ok. Mr. Wolf advised that the Sun office dropped the

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Book Reviews

By DON CARLE GILLETTE

(Communications to 1545 Broadway, N. Y.)

A GERMAN DIRECTORY INTERNATIONALER ARTISTEN ALMANACH, 1926. Published by Deutsche Verlags-Aktiengesellschaft, Berlin.

The title of this "International" artist's almanac, printed in German, is largely confined to its own country. The thousands of performers listed in the directory are classified under such heads as acrobats, athletes, contortionists, runners, trapeze workers, balancers, clown, equestrians, cyclists, dancers of all kinds, humorists, sketch artists, imitators, jugglers, instrumentalists, musicians, singers, clowns, circus, vaudeville, burlesques, ensembles, etc., including everything in the circus, music hall, concert and variety fields.

In addition to this the book contains articles on the cinema-variety, theater, cabaret, circus, dancing and the amusement situation in various sections of Germany. Then there are lists of the variety theaters, circuses, cabarets, arenas throughout Europe; theatrical agencies, concert directors, trade papers, theatrical organizations, concert directors, of all countries, telegrams and postal rates in Germany, obituary calendars for 1925 and 1927, and other miscellaneous information of value to artists who can read German.

PUBLISHED PLAYS

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYS BY AMERICAN DRAMATISTS, edited by Montrose J. Moses. Published by E. P. Dutton Co., New York. \$5. The second volume, covering the years 1915-'25.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYS, by Virginia Gholson. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$1.5. Typical characters and adaptable selections from the drama of England, Greece, Italy, France, Armenia, Germany, Japan, Switzerland.

EVERY-DAY PLAYS FOR HOME, SCHOOL AND SETTLEMENT, by Virginia Gholson. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$1.75. Simple and appealing plays for children. Illustrated in a helpful and practical manner.

RODERIGO OF BIVAR, by T. Sturge Moore. Published by William Edwin Rudge, New York. A blank verse play in one act.

COMEDIES, by William Congreve. Published by Oxford University Press, New York. Pocket-size edition containing four famous restoration comedies, with an introduction.

SEVEN PLAYS FOR LITTLE PLAYERS, by George Murphy. Published by John L. Noble, New York. Sixteen plays in verse for children to present at parties, etc.

ROADWAY TRANSLATIONS: THREE PLAYS OF PLAUTUS, including *The Slipshod (Muders)*, by F. A. Wright; *The Crock of Gold (Aulus)* and *The Trickster (Paradus)*, by H. Lionel Rogers. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$3.

IN THE MUSICAL LINE

HOW MUSIC GREW by Marten Bauer and Ethel Payne. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$4.50. With 24 illustrations.

SYNCHRONIZING SAXOPHONES, by Alfred V. Frankenstein. Published by Robert O. Ballou, Chicago. \$2. Essays on jazz.

MASTER MUSIC SEERIES: Richard Wagner by William Wallace, and Ferenc Liszt by Frederick Corcoran. Published by Harper & Bros., New York. \$1.50 each.

THE LIVING TOUCH IN MUSIC AND EDUCATION, by H. Ernest Hunt. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$2. A manual for musicians and others.

MELLOWS, by R. Emmet Kennedy. Published by Albert & Charles Boni, New York. \$3. Negro work songs, street cries and spirituals.

MISCELLANEOUS

PLAYS AND BOOKS ABOUT THE THEATER AND DRAMA, a newly published list, distributed free by Little Brown & Co., Boston, giving plays by authors, anthologies of plays, books about the drama and the theater, plays for children, biographies and an index of plays and authors.

THE PRODUCTION OF AMATEUR PLAYS, a leaflet distributed free by the Dramatic League of America, Chicago. It gives amateur plays and directors a few of the simplest principles that govern the production of plays.

BOOKS AND THEATERS, by Edward Gordon Craig. Published by Dent, London. In 6d. net. A charming and discursive book of essays, illustrated with many plans and drawings of Italian and French theaters.

THE WORLD'S BEST HUMOR, by George A. Fennel. Published by Fennel Publishing Co., Philadelphia. For entertainers, readers and speakers.

SKALLAGRAM, by Richard West Sorenson. Published by William Edwin Rudge, New York. \$5. An operetta in three acts.

Central Casting Bureau Organized

In accordance with its promises the Association of Motion Picture Producers of Los Angeles has organized the Central Casting Corporation, which is calculated to go away with many of the injustices of which extras in the West Coast studios had complained for some time.

The success of the bureau is squarely up to Will Hays' organization, the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc. For Fred W. Bronson, its local representative in Los Angeles, has been elected president of the corporation.

Other officers of the Central Casting Corporation are: William H. Fraser, first vice-president; Irving G. Thalberg, president and vice-president; and Victor L. Clarke, treasurer.

The actual work of the bureau will be in the hands of Colonel O. C. Wyman, manager of the central office, which will be opened about January 4 in the Guaranty Building, Hollywood, and Marian L. May, director of the women's division, and Davis Allen in charge of the casting department.

The new organization has a big job on its hands, for the motion picture studios of Los Angeles and its vicinity employ more than 20,000 extras during the course of a year, and the payroll is not far from \$2,000,000 annually.

Previously there has been great dissatisfaction among the extra classes in the practice in some studios of engaging their extras thru some agency which exacted a fee from the people they placed. Again some studios had adopted the practice of paying off their extras in scrip which would be redeemed only at certain times and at the studio.

Inability or unwillingness on the part of the extras to make the long trip to the studio, with the consequent loss of playing time, often necessitated offering this scrip to banks, stores and offices for discount at a great sacrifice.

This will no longer be necessary, for the new service promises that commissions will be absolutely eliminated, and that payment will be made in uniform checks which will be acceptable for their face value.

Furthermore, the Central Casting Corporation, after being organized, administered and financed by the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, promises that it will furnish its service to members of the association without cost to them.

The casting Corporation also declares that with this vexatious problem out of the way it will attack other difficulties which have beset the path of extras, including hours of work, methods of employment and conditions on the lot and in the dressing rooms.

They are all problems which have needed attention for some time. With its work in solving them Equity extends to the Central Casting Corporation and those responsible for its control best wishes for success.

Lower Hit Small Ticket Books

The way of the lesser brokers of theatrical tickets is becoming an increasingly heavy one on Broadway. Following the recent decision of the New York State Court of Appeals that the law limiting a profit on the resale of theater tickets to 25 cents over the face value was unconstitutional, the police and State Comptroller Vincent B. Murphy have descended upon them.

The increase in two agencies doing business in the Times Square district have been revoked and others are threatened with the same treatment.

But a conference of 57 ticket agencies placed the blame for the prices they ask upon the producing managers and a few of the larger agencies for New York claim that the managers sell large blocks of choice seats to a few of the big agencies, and that when the smaller brokers try to get seats they can be obtained only at prices which make it impossible to resell them for 25 cents over the face value and no more.

This is of more importance to the actors than merely as a squabble between two factions of ticket agencies. For when the public gets the impression, regardless of who is at fault, that tickets can be gotten only at extortionate rates, it stays at home, or turns to the vaudeville and motion pictures, where seats can be bought direct at the box office and at box-office rates. Then theater attendance drops and fewer plays are successful.

Only Four Kinds of Actors, Says Winthrop Ames

"All actors can be divided into four classes," Winthrop Ames recently told Fred George Baker, Baker's dramatic students at Yale University in his recent lecture at New Haven, in which Mr. Ames also quoted as calling actors "the most sensitive, concealed and difficult class in the world." They are:

"1.—The Race Horse" who must be allowed to run pretty much on his own.
"2.—The Violin." He is not a careful thinker, and is emotional. He can be played upon at the producer's will.

"3.—The Wang Thinker" is the bane of the producer's existence. He is the actor who thinks and who thinks wrong.
"4.—'Patty' gives the producer a body and voice with which to do as he pleases and nothing else."

There is not as yet a list of the classes into which producing managers may be divided, but there probably will be following upon this issue of *The Billboard*.

Actress-Manager New Life Member

Jeannie Bonstelle, whose recent career has been more concerned with managerial problems but who never has relinquished her Equity membership, has recently been elected a life member of the association by the council.

On the same date the council elected two other life members. They were Tessa Kostia and Edward Everett Horton.

Christmas Mail Paik His Office

All indications point to the fact that even more than the ordinary Christmas mail rush is crossing the attention of the office force at Equity headquarters. It was thought that last year, when 704 letters, telegrams and packages addressed to members were handled in the week before Christmas, and 2,685 during Christmas week, the peak had been reached. But that mark seems likely to be surpassed this year.

A tally is being kept of such class of remembrance this year and the statistics which will be available within a short time will prove beyond a doubt that actors are among the most remembering of people.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION.

Chorus Equity Assn.

FIFTY-FOUR new members joined the Chorus Equity during the past week. We are holding checks in settlement of claims for William Perloff and Mae Fee.

There is a clause in the Chorus Equity contract which provides that "the actual salary of the chorus shall be stated in the contract and not a lesser or fictitious salary." Every clause in the contract was put there to guard against an existing clause which was very unfair. Members have no right to decide that such and such a clause is of little value and can be overlooked.

Members have been constantly warned against leaving the country without first consulting the Chorus Equity Association. There is little which can be done when members are so far away. Always remember to report at this office before accepting a contract other than the contract issued by your association.

Members have been asked to report to this office the first day of rehearsal and the place they are rehearsing, but it has been called to my attention that this is not being done. There is apt to be a time when you will find just how necessary this is.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Genevieve Moore (known also as Pat Moore) will kindly communicate with this office. She was last seen in Philadelphia about to join the *Ziegfeld Follies*. Her sister is aged and blind and will appreciate any news of her.

Again we urge the members to take advantage of the dramatic classes held at the Chorus Equity Association. Often chorus members are given a part to understudy in the production in which they are now playing and have very little opportunity to rehearse. If, then, on a moment's notice they are asked to go on in the part. In these classes Grant Stewart will be only too happy to teach you the correct interpretation of such parts so when you are called upon you will have an intelligent conception of what you are doing.

CHORUS EQUITY MEMBERS MUST SIGN A PINK CONTRACT AND NOT A WHITE ONE.

DO YOU HOLD A PAID-UP CARD?

If your dues are paid to November, 1925, you now owe \$5.25.

Every member in New York companies should hold a card paid to May 1, 1925. Those who do not should make arrangements to pay this at once. Make all money orders and checks payable to the Chorus Equity Association and not to an individual.

THE SEASON'S BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE.
NELLIE MELVILLE,
Assistant Executive Secretary.

Theatrical Notes

The management of the Majestic Theater, Little Rock, Ark., recently installed two new motion picture machines.

Following its annual custom, the management of the Empire Theater, Fort Henry, N. Y., entertained local children with a free show Christmas morning.

W. H. Chapman recently sold the Valtio Theater, Clifton, Ill., to George L. Genotte. Mr. Chapman will devote his time to the insurance business.

A. L. Sorenson recently purchased the Garden Theater at Phillips, Wis. A number of improvements were made in the theater, one of which was the overhauling of the heating system.

The Home Theater, Crowell, Tex., owned and operated by J. D. Vaughan, was sold recently to M. M. Hart, Jr., and Bill Norman. Mr. Hart has been projectionist at the house for some time.

The Key Opera House, Hastings, Neb., has been leased for a year by the Hotelier Amusement Company of Omaha and will be used as a vaudeville and picture house, replacing the Empress Theater, which was destroyed by fire several weeks ago.

The Star Theater, Farrell, Pa., was purchased recently by a group of business men of Farrell and Pittsburgh. The theater, which has been closed for several months, will be remodeled and redecorated at a cost of \$45,000, with the opening in February.

A deal was closed recently at Williams, Pa., between Earl J. Johnson and Albert Mabel whereby Mr. Johnson, became owner of the Strand Theater, in that city, possession to be given January 1. Mr. Meyer, who has operated the theater since the middle of last summer, has not decided as to his plans for the future.

Many improvements were made recently on the Queen Theater, Knoxville, Tenn., managed by Carl L. Hux. A new tile floor was placed in the lobby, the entire interior and exterior was repainted and redecorated and many other minor repairs made to the building. The interior work was done at night so as not to interfere with the presentation of the picture.

The Toledo Westway Theaters Company, which was recently incorporated by Edward G. Sourber, Howard Fiegley, Mabel Crowley and Sam B. Harris, has taken over the Liberty Theater at Detroit and Avondale avenue, Toledo, O., and will operate it as a movie house. The Trio Theaters Company, recently incorporated by the same interests, operates the Diamond Theater on Broadway, Toledo.

The Platte Theater, Columbus, S. C., owned by L. T. Lester, Jr., was recently placed in the hands of the painters, decorators and carpenters and since they have completed their work the playhouse presents a decidedly improved appearance. The theater did not give a performance during the two weeks the work was in progress. The front has been transformed and the doors have been done in opaque Tiffany relief. Joe Fernandez, of New York, did the repainting and redecorating.

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BALLET
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Black or White Kid.

Phonetic Key

1. He is met there at my.
(hi: iz met ðeə at mi)
2. Who would throw water on father?
(hu: wud θəʊ wɔ: tɔn fɑ:ðə)
3. Bird above.
(bɜ:d əbʌv)
4. Yes, the singer's thin whisker shows
(jes, ðə sɪŋə sθɪn wɪskə ʃəʊz
θru: ðə ru:ʒə.
θu: ðə sɪŋə)

Reprints of the complete Phonetic Key will be sent upon request. Address W. P. Daggett, 16 West 12d street, New York. Please state number of copies wanted and inclose stamp for postage.

The last request for reprints of Walter Hampden's speech, published a year ago, took all the remaining copies. A few copies of Tilly on R are still on hand.

AMERICAN NORMAL ENGLISH: (1) The fact that Krapp puts "loss of R before consonants and finally" or "retention of R" at the head of his list in describing the main types of American English suggests the possibility that the grammarians' secret letter have raised in American pronunciation. But Krapp's history of the loss of R in American speech and his accounting for the retention of R by the grammarians and in frontier English gives ample evidence that loss of R should be considered standard usage in American Normal English.

Loss of R is an outstanding feature of Eastern speech and Southern speech. Krapp makes two statements of special significance in this connection: (a) "The loss of R, both in America and in England, was a natural and early change in language which took place in popular speech unaffected by learned or standard influences." (b) "The parallel between British and American speech in the loss of R is due therefore to the emergence of a feature of Southern dialect speech in England in the approved standard of British speech and in the approved standard of New England and Southern speech."—Krapp, *The English Language in America*, Vol. II, 228.

All that can be said about retention of R has to do with the "heterogeneous" speech of the new West, a type of speech that has no local seat of culture, and which is a democratic mixture of national odds and ends.

As teachers of speech are supposed to know something about art forms of speech, the acoustic improvement of speech by loss of R is important to them. In practical use the "reverted R-sound" may be said to mean a curling back of the tongue. The resulting sound obstructed by a lifting and stiffening of the tongue, a thing that has given this abnormal "R" the name of the "dog's letter". There are first-class singing teachers in New York who will not take a pupil who has to contend with this "Western R" in his speech. The pupil has to get rid of this obstacle before he can go on with his singing. The actor has the same difficulty if his speech has the dog-sound in it. It is the first thing he has to contend with.

It is probable that "loss of R" has always been standard usage in the American theater. Walker's dictionary (1791) described "soft R" as pronounced so much in the throat as to be little more than the middle of Italian-a lengthened into "bar, band, cand" for "bar, band, card", etc., and further described that particularly in London, the R "is sometimes entirely sunk." It is obvious that he is describing the "loss of R" of present speech in Southern England and in American Eastern and Southern cultured dialect. It is probable that the first English actors who came to America from London (1752) brought the speech culture of the London stage with them.

William Tilly makes this statement in his lecture on R: "By 1650 the old R before a consonant, as in 'form' and 'fame', had dropped out of existence except in the spelling. Shakespeare was conservative in this respect and Spenser sounded the R. Clergymen kept on in the older fashion, but the change of fashion had come about. By 1750 the loss of R had spread widely, and by 1800 the reverted standard was universal among thoughtful speakers."

The first American actor, in the records of Dunlap, made his appearance in 1790-'91. The history of the American "loss of R" is pretty closely coincident with "loss of R" in spoken English. Even today, however, a boy from Connecticut or an actor from the West may come to New York with a reverted R-sound, but he is soon stepped on or rebuffed to parts of "heterogeneous" pronunciation. In the art of speech in school and college a great injustice is done by teachers who allow reverted R-sounds to go uncorrected. At some time or other the pupil is likely to blame his teachers for bad instruction.

What Krapp has to say on the subject promises to go a long way in clearing away misunderstandings. Teachers and students have quickly changed their attitudes when the facts of the case were presented to them. In this connection Tilly on R, reprinted from *The Billboard* two years ago (May, 1923), has done a missionary service. Ten thousand copies

The Spoken Word

Conducted by WINDSOR P. DAGGETT

of this brochure have been circulated and the plain facts of the case have been widely accepted where misunderstanding had before prevailed. Now that Krapp has said all that Tilly has said and more, by showing that the same thing happened in America that happened in England, there is every reason to believe that the "dog" will stop growing in speech education to say the least.

(2) In the use of "Italian-A" in words like "laugh, peak, path, dance" this pronunciation is established in the speech of the East and in an early speech-outlet area in Virginia. In the arts of speech it is a favored pronunciation for this reason and also because of the acoustic value of "Italian-A." Some words in this class (see *Billboard* October 21) are pretty generally pronounced with Italian-A, in others the choice of vowel is more doubtful. Speakers who aim at an artistic or a cosmopolitan standard of English usually prefer

Italian-A in the doubtful words. An educated speaker, whether he uses the Italian-A pronunciation or not, needs to know when Italian-A pronunciations are correct in educated speech and when they are incorrect. A person's speech education should not only prepare him to choose his pronunciation intelligently but it should prevent him from displaying his ignorance by his attempting to correct pronunciations that may differ from his when the thing he is correcting in another is as good as if not better than his own choice in pronunciation. This sort of exposure and misunderstanding is constantly occurring and it can only be corrected by careful teaching of whatever is standard in doubtful words. And so if Italian-A in "bath" (ba:θ) sounds like an extraordinary usage to an individual that is all the more reason why he should have the experience of saying (ba:θ)

instead of (baθ) until he stops shying at the former pronunciation.

In the art of horses, when Western bronchos used to be brought into the East, it was a custom to "break" the bronchos at a public exhibition in the market place. If a horse shied at a blowing newspaper he was tamed by being driven among blowing newspapers until he learned that there was nothing to shy at. That is one reason for going to some extreme in teaching standard English. People need to be taught to stop shying. If they don't like the rustling newspaper that may be their business, but it is a bad adjustment in their education if they snort and rear at it. Therefore teach Italian-A on doubtful words and leave the rest to Darwin.

(3) One of the notable marks of present American English is the frequent occurrence of an unrounded (ɜ), scarcely distinguishable from (ə), in words written with o, as in "not, good, cost, soft, coffee, frog", etc. Usage varies in these words between (ɜ) and (ə), and sometimes (ə) slightly lengthened over appears for (ɜ), as in "caught" (kɔ:t), indistinguishable from "cot". The differences in usage in America are notable, however, and are not easily reducible to rules. In different sets of words "difference in practice are varied and unsystematic."—Krapp, II, p. 144.

In selecting an American normal English the question arises whether to be guided by a well-selected minority in cultured speech or to take what is most general by popular vote. When practice is "varied and unsystematic" there is something in favor of choosing the American type of pronunciation that most closely corresponds to cultured usage in the main channels of present English regardless of a more general American practice. The "hip-lazy American" can well afford to acquaint himself with the acoustic values of lip-rounded vowel sounds. Good speech is really a matter of "placement" and counts mostly to the lips have a forward projection and a "warmth" of tone of good effect. These lip-rounded sounds are heard not only in New England, but are used by good speakers in other localities. They are the pronunciations usually heard on the stage, and in the literature of cultured usage they are a later development than the vowel unrounded.

(4) "By the beginning of the 19th century the distinction between (ɔ:) and (ɔ) in these words tended to become confused or to disappear, and all of them to be pronounced with (ɔ). . . . All these words may be pronounced with the r slight in standard speech, also, but the vowel remains (ɔ) unchanged, except that it may be lengthened, 'court', for example, being pronounced (kɔ:t) or, perhaps, with a slight glide vowel before the t (kɔ:ɪt) sufficient to distinguish it from 'caught' (kɔ:t)."—Krapp, II, p. 139.

As an illustration of Southern dialect in these words, Read, *The Southern E. in University Bulletin*, Louisiana State University, Vol. I, No. 2, gives the anecdote that "the brilliant orator, Senator Daniel of Virginia, is said to have asked on one occasion whether Senator Hoar (hoə) was on the floor (floə). 'No,' replied one of Daniel's colleagues, laughing at the Southerner's pronunciation, Senator Hoar (hoə) will not return to the floor (floə) until half-past four (foə)."

This type of pronunciation represents an early dialect tendency that has maintained its existence in the popular speech of the South. It is the more standard speech of the North in this instance that is taken for normal English.

(5) The (ɜ:ɪ) in words of this classification is unquestionably the usage for normal English, because universally established in the best speech of America and England.

(6) The same general statement can be made in this case as in (5).

(7) See (7).

(8) "In America the rule is that pronunciations have been modified to accord with the common analogies of spelling, or spellings have been modified to accord with pronunciation. This is due especially to the influence of elementary popular education upon speech, and in the exaltation of literary and theoretical standards of speech above the social traditions of spoken language."—Krapp, I, pp. 59-60.

This tyranny of spelling has led to "retention of r" and the popular notion of (r) (Continued on page 45)

I, II, III American Normal English

- (1) loss of r before consonants and finally.
- (2) "a" = (ɑ:) before (f, s, θ, ŋ), etc.
- (3) "o" = (ɔ), "hot, rock, drop", etc. (hɔ:t, ɔ:k, drɔ:p).
- (4) "o, ou" = (ɔ:), "court, port, more", etc. (kɔ:t, pɔ:t).
- (5) "u" = (ju:), "duty, tube, new", etc. ('dju:ti, 'tju:z).
- (6) "o" = (ou), "stone, home, whole", etc. (stəʊn, həʊm).
- (7) "a" = (ɔ:), "water, watch", etc. 'wɔ:tə, wɔ:tʃ).
- (8) caution against "back-word" pronunciations. Teach weak forms.
- (9) handling of local differences as local differences:
 - a. pronunciation.
 - b. lax articulation and slow tempo.
 - c. characteristic cadences.
- (10) correction of nasal vowel sounds and harsh voice.
- (11) comparative study of intonation.

—By W. P. DAGGETT, based on George Philip Krapp's *The English Language in America*, as published in *The Billboard* under Type of American English December 12, 19 24.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SPEECH will hold its annual convention at the Hotel McAlpin, New York, December 29, 30, 31. On December 29 American Standards of Pronunciation will be the subject for discussion. The editor of *The Spoken Word* and Charles H. Woodbert of Illinois will present their views on the subject at the opening of the meeting.

To clear the air for discussion on a subject as detailed and intricate as speech, Krapp has done a useful service in giving the main outline of the geographical boundaries of speech in America, and in giving a brief summary of the outstanding and fairly well-established traits of speech in the three main types: I, Eastern; II, Southern; and III, Western or General.

As no one of these types exactly represents the standard pronunciation of the theater, or the best speech of the country as I believe it should be taught, it remains for me to outline the outstanding features and fairly well-established traits of American "Normal" English as I know it to be taught to artists on the stage and as I believe it should be taught in all circles where an American standard speech is desired.

The term "Normal" has been selected for the purpose in hand. The question before the National Association of Teachers of Speech is: "What standard of pronunciation seems most suitable to teach in our American school system?" The term "Normal" in this connection has some significance.

1. It is used in a school sense as applied to a method of instruction or as a model standard of pronunciation. In one sense Normal English is taken to be the authoritative standard from which all types of speech are measured, and at the same time it is recognized as an established type of speech.

2. As an American type, "Normal" English as described in this column represents something regular and of natural growth, historically and geographically, in American life. It is taken as a "norm" of American English not only for its credentials on American soil but because of its conformity to what is considered regular and established in the cultured use of modern English in other parts of the world.

The term Standard English is sometimes objected to as an arbitrary term. It seems to imply that there is one definitely accepted standard of "correct" speech and that all other standards are incorrect. That there is a pretty definite standard that takes preference above all others is proved by the fact that educated speakers from all parts of the world may be heard to use a type of speech that is characterized as "pure English" without bearing the brand of any particular locality or social mannerism. But to call all dialects that differ from this as "incorrect" is to usurp authority. What is correct and incorrect depends to a limited extent on one's personal ideals and legitimate choice.

But in a school system of teaching the student is entitled to be shown what standards of speech are best established in those communities and groups of society where "favorable environment" has been most likely to nurture cultured and authoritative standards of English. That favorable environment in the Mother Country has been in the south of England. In America it has been in the historically important "radiating centers" of culture in the East and South.

Cultured speech, it goes without saying, is the speech of a select minority rather than of the masses of population. To eliminate from Eastern speech what is most obviously stamped as "local" New England dialect, and to eliminate from the speech of the South what is most obviously archaic and "different", ought to leave something "normal" and inherently national that could serve as the basis of an American Normal English. Altho the resulting dialect might fall to fit what is most outstanding and characteristic of the heterogeneous Western type of speech, this fact does not alter the national application of Normal English to Western territory. There is a minority of speakers in the West, Westerners by birth and education, who have never taken local pride in the local dialect and who have avoided it. And others, thru travel or education or interest in the arts of speech, have aimed to acquire a standard of English like the one described. For further comment see column 1.

Mummy, dear old Tennessee, and

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The M. Stein Cosmetic Co.
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Feminine Frills

By ELITA MILLER LENZ
(Communications to 1560 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

The Billboard's
FREE SHOPPING SERVICE

Rules for Ordering

Please do not send personal checks. Remittances should be made by money order, payable to The Billboard Publishing Company, and correspondence addressed to Elita Miller Lenz, care The Billboard, 1560 Broadway, New York. Every article mentioned in this column may be ordered thru The Shopper. Space on this page is not for sale for advertising purposes. The officer you call on The Shopper the bagger she'll be, for she will then know that her column is holding your interest.

Since pajamas occupy an important place in the wardrobe, it is wise to select those which are made of a durable material which will not lose its beauty in frequent tubbings. The pajamas illustrated are made of heavy crepe de chine, with piping of contrasting color around neck, armholes and skirt. An applique futuristic flower trims the bottom and patchpockets, pinned to match. Give the jumper an interesting appearance. They come from a dependable "maker-to-wearer" manufacturer and are offered at \$6.95. May be had in all shades of the pastel family.

Lingerie supporters, which enable one to wear lingerie comfortably without the nuisance of sliding shoulder straps, is one of the new things in accessories. It is composed of a dainty chain which is pinned to the underwear and which has a sliding adjustment. The lingerie supporter is so ornamental that it may be worn effectively with an evening gown. The one illustrated is of 14 karat gold and is offered at \$3.50. A more ornate supporter of solid gold is \$19.

Every actress who plays a variety of parts should start the new year wardrobe with a pair of riding boots. Why? Because riding boots are the one article, judging from our experience as a shopper, which every actress buys in a hurry. When the sudden need for riding boots arises, as it always does, she hesitates to invest in an expensive pair. Then, on looking around in the small city shops, she finds to her dismay that she has little choice and that prices are prohibitive. Her next step is to write The Shopper to select for her a slightly used pair and rush them on. But rightly used riding boots are not to be had in a rush. Time there was when there were plenty of them to be had, but the supply has become so depleted that there is practically no choice. Furthermore, there is little to be gained by buying used boots. They are only a few dollars cheaper than the smart new ones illustrated. These new boots have good style, value not possessed by the older makes. Styles in riding boots have changed, as you will note on studying the lines of the boot illustrated. They have become decidedly English in type, embodying the smart pipe-top and artistic lines across the instep. The new boot is offered by an exclusive New York shop at the special price of \$15 a pair, tan or black calf.

So many inquiries reach us regarding the new lumberjack sport coats of suede, with knitted collar, cuffs and waistband, plus two nifty patch pockets, that we believe we will save time for our readers by advising them that these are luxuriously lined through and come in tan, gray, orange, green and Copenhagen blue. Sizes 36 to 44, \$4.95. This is a special price—in fact, a wholesale one. The tan, green or blue seem to be most effective under stage lights and, of course, most becoming to all types.

Those desiring to purchase kid gloves of the heavier kind, with a view to long service and smart cut, may procure the very best make thru The Shopper as follows:

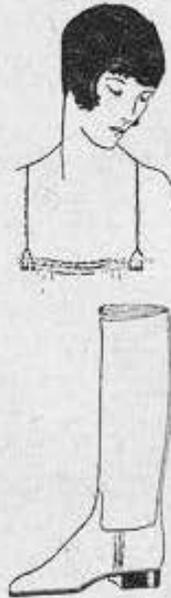
Tan capskin, one strap, machine sewn, \$2.75; tan capskin, one strap, hand sewn, \$3.85; white doekin, one button, \$2.75; mocha alpaca, gray, beaver or kaaba, \$3.50; 16-button real kid, black and white, dress wear, \$5.25; 15-button natural chamal, \$3.50.

Those, of course, will outlast the novelty gloves, now so prevalent in the cheaper makes, by many months.

She who prefers the shorter-vamp shoe with extra high heel and one instep strap, has undoubtedly made the dis-

NEW IDEAS FOR MILADY

Pajamas, Lingerie Clasp And English Riding Boots



Descriptions of these articles will be found in The Billboard's Free Shopping Service column, this page.

Beauty Knowledge Valuable to Women

"If every woman would select her adviser on the important subject of beauty knowledge with as much care as she selects her modiste, she would find it a great economy in time and in money; and the results accomplished an enlightenment," declares Lucille Savoy, whom we know to be one of the best beauty specialists in the country. She has spent years in an advisory capacity with other beauty specialists and has become a reliable expert on treatments that actually beautify in half an hour. For the benefit of women seeking usable beauty knowledge, which they themselves can practice intelligently, Lucille Savoy has written a book which reveals many of her most treasured beauty secrets. The book is entitled *Beauty*

Molding and is replete with charts illustrating each step of beauty molding. It includes chapters on cleansing, freshening, molding away unattractive lines, protecting the skin, face powder and its clever use, accentuating the beauty of the eyes and how to apply rouge to overcome defects, the latter chapter being of peculiar value to the actress. This interesting 20-page book may be purchased for \$1.

Lucille Savoy, as you all know, is a theatrical makeup expert. And she is the busiest of women, visiting the dressing rooms of well-known stars on Broadway, teaching them how to achieve a seemingly elusive effect of youthfulness with certain shades of makeup. To assist her clientele to obtain the best results she compounds her own makeup materials, which are now on sale. If you are finding it difficult to achieve a certain effect in makeup, write Miss Savoy for advice, addressing her in care of The Billboard's Shopping Service, 1560 Broadway.

One of Miss Savoy's specialties is *Debutante Face Powder*, which is intended for general use. It is a clever combination of Rachel and Chair tints. It imparts even to the matron's face a girlish glow which will bear the inspection of broad daylight. Its fragrance will please the most discriminating and it sells for \$1.50 a box.

The essence of camomile flowers has been the "old reliable" for keeping blond hair a golden color for many years. Steeping the camomile flowers used to be quite an undertaking, but today the essence of these flowers comes in shampoo form, all ready to use. The Camomile Shampoo may be had for 50 cents; box of six packages, \$2.

There is also a special *benna* shampoo for bringing out the hidden lights of russet and Auburn which lie hidden in dark hair. The small quantity of benna in this shampoo is just sufficient to tone up and intensify the Auburn tints.

(Continued on page 33)

Stage Styles

JANE COWL IN
"EASY VIRTUE"

Jane Cowl, in *Easy Virtue*, at the Empire Theater, New York, wears resplendent costumes which enhance her beauty. Perhaps the loveliest of these is an evening gown of shimmering silver cloth, ablaze with small mirrors and crystal beads arranged in graceful all-over designs. This model is a sheath with circular bottom flare and a deep V décolletage to the waist in back. Panels of the silver cloth, faced with jade, and repeating the mirror and bead motifs, fall into trains which sweep the floor. A long necklace of pearls and emeralds with matching bracelets compose her jewels. With this glittering gown is worn an evening wrap of the same silver fabric, lined with black velvet. As the symbol of the changeable disposition of the character portrayed, leopard is utilized for cuffs which form a deep border on close-fitting sleeves which gradually widen to wings. The collar, too broad and upstanding, is of leopard.

Miss Cowl makes her first entrance attired in a silver cloth coat embroidered in pastel green, with high collar and reverse of soft gray fur. Beneath the coat is a frock of pearl gray silk crepe finished by a snug-fitting felt hat and shoes. Dominant features of the frock are a narrow scarf collar which ties at the back and a row of glass buttons which fasten down the left side.

Miss Cowl is girlish looking in a white crepe afternoon frock with a V collar and cape panel in the back. The lines of the bodice are plain but the flared skirt is elaborated with a wide border of cream lace. A low-set waistline is defined by a wide crushed girde of the same material as the frock.

Less interesting and sometimes amusing are the sartorial effects of others of the cast, altho in the last act are seen groups of chiffon and taffeta evening frocks on the younger folk which show the vogue for pastel tints. Gowns of satin and brocade worn by the older women utilize the draps.

INFORMAL CLOTHES IN "MERCHANTS OF GLORY"

Betty Linley and Armina Marshall in *Merchants of Glory*, at the Guild Theater, New York, wear some informal clothes which show faithfully the trend in general fashions.

Ultra smart is a coat of coral cloth with circular cape worn by Miss Linley. A high, turnover collar and matching buttons from neck to hem in the center give a very neat and chic effect. The sleeves are fitted tightly, another new style feature. A wrapped turban of silk to match the coat should inspire the woman who means her own hair. Another distinctive frock worn by Miss Linley is a two-piece model of flat crepe in the new shade known as tanbark. The jumper has a V neck and a boyish collar embroidered in bright shades and a deep hip band composed of alternating squares of ribbon to match the embroidery on the collar. The skirt is accordion-pleated.

Armina Marshall is winsome in a bottle-green flat crepe frock, the bodice plain and set off with collar and jabot of superfine cream lace. From the somewhat low waistline the skirt continues into wide box pleats. In another scene Miss Marshall wears a street dress of unusual kaaba, combined with crepe of the same shade. Over this frock is worn a kaaba coat of straight lines, elaborated by a strikingly generous shawl collar of leopard. A hat of brown satin with upturned brim is trimmed with triangular cutouts of gold cloth.

PAJAMAS IN MUSICAL COMEDY INTERESTING

Pajamas worn in *Oh, Oh, Nurse*, at the Ziegfeld-Cosmopolitan Theater, New York, take on the semblance of a negligee. They are made of metal cloth, a chiffon "coat" being draped over the sleeveless jacket and long trousers and looped up to an immense buckle at the waistline.

Speaking of negligees for 1926, these are making their appearance in beautiful printed silks, some in ombre (different shades of a color), diamond patterns. There is something demure looking about these negligees, which are simple, with softly rounded necks and reverse of georgette which fall over the arms in deep back wings or capes.

Style Notes

Considering the purchase of a couple of new frocks to tide you over the winter into spring? It is wise to bear in mind, when selecting these frocks, that straight and flare lines, long sleeves and circular capes will be popular in spring. Fabrics which will retain their style value into the first flush of summer are beige and navy printed crepe de chine, plain and plaid taffetae and flat crepes, not to overlook the combination of the dull and shining sides of satin. Lustrous satin by itself, however, is not considered good.

Spring coats are going to be somewhat starchy in fabric, of fine to heavy weaves, with three-quarter necklines and circular capes. Belts, slightly below the natural waistline, will be a feature.

MANSTYLES

PALM BEACH SHOWS FASHIONS FOR MEN

Even the you aren't even dreaming of taking a trip to Florida to see the seeds of a great little turnover in real estate, it's a bad idea to acquaint yourself with the fashions now being worn at Palm Beach if for no other reason than to take a forethought of the things you will be wearing "Up North" in spring and summer.

New York shops specializing in men's apparel for Southern wear advise their clients to carry along several two-piece suits in light-weight material, such as flannel or gabardine, in the preferred shades of the sea, the tan and buff range.

Another English novelty is a pull-over sweater that is shaped like a single-breasted waistcoat.

SIDE GLANCES

Choosing Stage Fabrics

Several of our correspondents are asking questions about stage fabrics. Perhaps the answers will prove helpful to our readers:

Mittie ventures the opinion that gold and silver cloth-metal brocades have a tendency to detract from the personality of the wearer if she happens to be extremely small and dainty.

Mittie's opinion is based on common sense, for there is no more incongruous sight than an extremely tiny person in gold and silver cloth or in metal brocade. If Mittie longs for the glitter of gold and silver she should trim her dainty taffeta frocks, which, by the way, must not be too bouffant lest they detract from her height, with dainty gold-lace edgings. She may even scatter a few gold-lace motifs on the skirt.

Costuming a Pageant

From a community theater comes an inquiry about figuring on costuming a series of pageants. The cost of costuming pageants is too broad a subject to discuss thoroughly, but it would seem to us that you could estimate the cost approximately by toning down the climax of the country represented by the characters. The expense of costumes revolves itself into the simple expedient of designating cotton, linen and other thin materials for Oriental countries, remembering that the upper-class characters must be more richly costumed than those of the lower class.

Stock Actress Has Chance

One of the most inspiring things about our readers, especially those who are playing out in the "sticker," is their superb optimism, expressed in the hope to meet us on Broadway soon.

RAYON SILK CHEMISE, \$1.00
RAYON SILK PRINCESS SLIP, \$2.00
RAYON SILK BLOUSE, \$1.50
DIRECT FROM MANUFACTURER wholesale prices. All colors. Sizes 32-44. Postage prepaid. 346 5th Ave., New York City.

shorts and stock, and Katherine Cornell, who had a weekly following at a Detroit stock company house before she was discovered by Broadway.

Reflections of Dorothea

Dreams so fleeting, sweet and hurting, Dreams that sigh and steal away, Can I hold you—still aserting? You are mine then slight and gay!

NOW that the holiday rush has subsided I have more time to reflect upon my many blessings and the great happiness the season brought to me. I still have my Christmas tree to support my belief in Santa Claus and hope I never grow too old to enjoy one. It would do your heart good to see some of the neighborhood kiddies as they gaze at that tree with wondering eyes and long for a box of true joy.

It would be practically impossible to mention all of my visitors, there were so many of them, but I enjoyed their company immensely.

I had not seen Vera Gordon in many months for she has been very busy in Hollywood. She has just finished a picture called Coheas and Kellys, and will soon leave New York to begin work at the First National Studio on a picture to be titled Melosese.

Princess Wajietka had written me before, but it was a pleasant surprise to have her walk in on me arrayed in her picturesque Indian costume which she wears off stage as well as on.

Also had a pleasant visit from Mabel Brownell. Miss Brownell is well known as a leading woman in stock and productions and I enjoyed many of her performances when I was up and about.

Dear Mr. Albee didn't forget to put me on Santa's visiting list and I can't help but marvel at his thoughtfulness.

So you see I've really had a wonderful time in spite of the jolts and aches caused by the bustling for the building next door which seems endless. However, it has got to stop sometime as everything does and how I will enjoy the relief. Even now I enjoy the quiet of the night more and in the sweet stillness of the early morning hours I often lie awake and dream of my blessings and the happy days I must come just as surely as the light of dawn breaks over the globe.

My postman kept his good nature all thru the holiday rush and still likes to carry your letters to 496 West 18th street, New York City.

Dorothea Antel

Beauty Knowledge

Valuable to Women (Continued from page 38) without dyeing the hair. Fifty cents a package; box of six packages, \$2.

The treatment for saltiness at the Helen Rubinstein beauty establishment is very effective. It consists of the application of Pasteurized Face Cream and Bleaching Cream on alternate nights, each followed by the use of Beautifying Skinfood, which is left on all night. The Pasteurized Cream is \$1, the Bleaching Cream is \$1.50, the Beautifying Skinfood, \$1; making the total cost of treatment \$3.50.

Florentine Beautifiers, brought to America by Cecile of London, are said to be made from formulas belonging to the famous beauty, Mona Lisa. You know, Mona Lisa, the immortal Italian artist, four years to reproduce it on canvas. The Florentine Beautifiers are:

La Crema della Mattina, a cleansing cream, which does more than merely clean the surface of the skin. It penetrates into the pores.

Della Mattina, a day cream, which refreshes and tightens the muscles of the face and neck. This is putted into the skin until it provides an excellent powder foundation.

Della Dotte, a night cream, which is left on the face during the night to impart the truly transparent effect and preserve the delicate natural oils of the skin.

Cecile of London is selling the Florentine beautifiers directly to her patrons for the modest price of \$1 a jar, each jar containing four ounces of cream. The Florentine Creams cannot be purchased in the shops.

A beauty specialist who has been successful in giving skin-peeling treatments which are said to be absolutely painless and harmless is giving the entire course of treatments for \$50. To take the treatment it is necessary to remain in New York and no instructions are given by mail.

Line-No-More is a harmless liquid preparation which, when applied to the face, causes fine lines to disappear as it dries. The preparation is famed dry loose skin tightens. Many women use it for keeping the skin young. It is \$1 a bottle.

Line-No-More is a harmless liquid preparation which, when applied to the face, causes fine lines to disappear as it dries. The preparation is famed dry loose skin tightens. Many women use it for keeping the skin young. It is \$1 a bottle.

Costumers

By G. M. LRLAND (Communications to 1560 Broadway, N. Y.)

Kathryn Arlington, New York, is executing the wardrobe for the new floor show at the Cotton Club, special costumes for Frances Grant, of the Club Richmond, and new creations for the vaudeville act of Marguerite and Gill Harriette Liebman furnished the designs for all of these orders.

Booth-Willoughby & Jones, New York, are executing an elaborate wardrobe for M. Dimitry, the classical dancer, who is to appear at the Town Hall, New York, next month.

Alfne Bernstein designed the costumes in The Dybbuk, current production at the Neighborhood Playhouse, New York.

Milgrims, New York, is represented in three of the productions which opened on Broadway last week. The gowns worn by Violet Fleming in Calcutta at Wallace's, by Helen MacKellar in Open House at Daly's and by the feminine members of the Merchants of Glory cast at the Guild Theater are all Milgrims creations.

Isaac Rabinovitch, the distinguished Russian artist, designed the costumes for Lysetta, the first offering of the Moscow Art Theater Musical Studio at Johnson's Theater, New York.

Marjorie Content and Daphne Carr executed the costumes, designed by Robt Peters, for The Taming of the Shrew, which is now being presented for special matinees at the Klaw Theater, New York.

The Brooks Costume Company, New York, is putting the finishing touches on the wardrobe of something over 3,000 costumes which it is furnishing for Elsie of the American Tropics, the big pageant picturing the return of Ponce de Leon to the shores of the flowery State, to be staged in Miami, Fla., on New Year's Day. The Miami Chamber of Commerce is providing a special car for the transportation of the costumes.

Charles LeMaire, the head designer of the Brooks establishment, is keeping busy during the pre-holiday period designing wardrobes for Elsie Janis, who is to appear at the Palace next week and is then to play a special engagement in Florida, and for Marjorie Gateau, who is soon to start on a two-day tour of the Keith-Albee houses. The hustling young artist has also been signing the new 1926 calendar, which is shortly to be sent out by Brooks, and he has been making exhibition sketches for display at the Beaux Arts Ball. He is about to start work on the designs for Fez, the forthcoming Ned Wayburn musical production, announced to follow close on the heels of the Wayburn Honeycrisp Cruise on Broadway in the early spring.

Many new LeMaire creations, executed by Brooks, were injected into the Greenwich Village Follies just before its Broadway premiere last week.

Baron Lipperheide's Costume Collection has been called to the attention of the writer of this column several times recently. The exhibit, which in its extent and scope is unique, is housed in a wing of the Prussian State Museum of Arts and Crafts in Berlin. Baron Lipperheide, a well-known Berlin publisher, in 1855 founded the periodical Die Modeswelt (The World of Fashions), which up to the present time has been

CIGARETTES WITH TURKISH TASTE

MWA, 25.50 per 100. Ladies Sultan Tin, \$3.50 for tin of 50. Delightful Holiday Box of 100, assorted. 17th Street, U.S. OFFICE OF LONDON, 173 Lexington Ave., New York.

Cameo Cleansing Cream

THE CHOICE OF THE PROFESSION. A delightfully scented and cream of the proper consistency for quickly removing all kinds of unsightly makeup; also to deaden cream, 8-oz. tin, 50c. postpaid. Mail orders promptly filled upon receipt of money order.

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Headquarters for Gossard Corsets for all figures. Youthful lines assured when properly fitted by our Gossard-trained Corsetiers. Remarkable values, \$3.50 up. Dancesuits; Madama Z. Rubber Reducing Girdles; Elastic Corseting Caps; Armbands; Combinations, Brassieres, etc. ALMSTEAD CORSET CO., 179 MADISON AVE., At 34th Street, New York. Tel., Ashland 6642.

QUILTED ROBES, \$9.98

A good-looking, warm, Pullman Robe, lined with genuine lamb's wool. Also, robe, pajamas, bathrobe, beach suit, baby, boy and other shades, all standard. Miles in weight, \$2.95 per pair. Also Gossard Girdle, Elastic Girdle, Length Hosiery, \$2.75 a pair. Direct 50¢ trade price of charge. Postage Prepaid on All Orders. THE T. W. SHOP, 678 6th Ave., Cor. 51st., New York City.

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RADICALLY REDUCED. Every Fur Coat on our racks MUST GO. It will mean a big saving for you if you BUY NOW. \$425 and be continued. SAFCHIK & CO., Inc. Established 1894. 36-38-40 W. 50th St., Cor. 5th Ave., New York City. The Only Wholesale Fur House Selling Direct to the Public.

MASCARILLO

Darkens and Beautifies Eyebrows. An absolutely harmless preparation for retouching eyebrows, eyelashes, hair and baby. NOT A DYE. Prepared in all shades. For sale at all dealers, or sent direct on receipt of The 10c tin to Liquid Form. Generous samples for only CHARLES MEYER, 15 E. 12th St., New York City.

Marybelline

DARKENS AND BEAUTIFIES EYEBROWS AND EYELASHES AND BABY HAIR INSTANTLY, makes them appear naturally dark, long and luxuriant. Also wonderful beauty and expression to wet hair. Guaranteed to give the look of lovely woman. 10c tin of MARYBELLINE, suitable for all hair, or sent direct on receipt of The 10c tin to Liquid Form. Generous samples for only CHARLES MEYER, 15 E. 12th St., New York City.

Savoy

CLEANSING CREAM. Used and endorsed by Mary Nash, Marjorie Rambeau, Alice Brady and hundreds of other prominent stage and screen celebrities. Recommended for the profession in constant use. Sold and recommended since 1910 and \$1.50. If your dealer cannot supply you, order direct. Includes 50c. tin postage. LUCILLE SAVOY. Sold Exclusively Since 1910. 145 W. 45th St., New York City.

and still is a favorite fashion paper in Germany. About the same time he began to collect books and plates dealing with dress and costumes from the earliest period to the most modern dress of the time. In 1899 he presented this collection to the Arts and Crafts Museum founded by the Prussian State. It then contained 11,000 volumes, 30,000 plates and 200 paintings and as many miniatures. Designers, theater workers, costumers and dressmakers from all over the world visit the museum in droves. It is said the costume books of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, full of beautiful woodcuts representing the different dress then worn or characteristic of a particular period. There are also a great many old periodicals and magazines illustrating the costumes of their day. A number of actual material wardrobes, containing the costumes of persons of different rank, are on display, and the library contains every piece of literature on fashion and period costuming that ever has been considered of worth. The exact extent of the collection as it stands today is not known but it is surely the largest specialized exhibit on costumes in the world.

GARRET PLAYERS GIVE "JOHN GABRIEL BOEHMAN"

The Garrett Players, 31 West Eighth street, New York, are giving a performance of Ibsen's John Gabriel Boehman...

THE CELLAR PLAYERS IN A MELLODRAMA

There is something as delightfully human and real about the players and their director, Adria Gutman...

The title of the melodrama offered by the Cellar Players is The Song by Bertram Blach and Leonard Hess...

An attractive young woman with a good speaking voice, Ruth Wagner, made her debut as a player in this piece...

William Gowrie, as the villain, plays like a professional veteran. Those who remember seeing him in Ho, Bossed East for Century Players...

Other members of the cast who do splendid work are Frank Carney, John Hayle, Thomas Patrick O'Brien, Patrick Finnegan, Marie Walsh, Jack Bridgman, John Carroll and Edward Calhoun.

LABOR TEMPLE PLAYERS PRESENT FIRST BILL

The Labor Temple Players of the Labor Temple School, 719 East 14th street, New York, under the direction of

WILLIAM J. GOWRIE



Character man of The Cellar Players, New York City. He is a letter carrier in the theatrical district, 42d and 43d streets, New York, and is on "hiding" terms with many a producer and actor.

Little Theaters

By ELITA MILLER LENZ (Communications to 1340 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

William J. Portman, will present their first bill of three one-act plays at the new Labor Temple Auditorium January 15 and 16. The plays in rehearsal are The Decency Kid, by Eugene O'Neill; The Floating World, by George Kelly; and Fusticid, Fusticid, by Rita Wellman.

CORPUS CHRISTI PLAYERS IN "A FULL HOUSE"

Marie Marion Barnett, director of the Corpus Christi Players, Corpus Christi, Tex., advises us that her group of players gave a three-act comedy, A Full House, by Fred Jackson, at the High School Auditorium under the auspices of the C. C. League 10th and 11th for the benefit of the Christmas Basket Fund.

TACOMA WASH. LAUNCHES A NEW LITTLE THEATER

"After seven years of existence, during which the ultimate aim of an adequate little theater and art center for Tacoma has been constantly in the minds of the organization leaders and members, the Tacoma Center of the National Drama League is ready to open its new home and to welcome all interested to its first production," says the Tacoma News-Tribune...

AMATEUR PLAYERS IN "CHIMES OF NORMANDY"

A social organization known as the Gamma Kappa Delta Society, a social organization of St. James Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., is rehearsing the old Gilbert and Sullivan opera, The Chimes of Normandy, to be presented at Kismet Temple, Brooklyn, evening of January 12.

THE TOWN THEATER, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

We have the following communication from Charles Bernard, our representative at Savannah: "The Town Theater organization continues steadily to interest the co-operation and support of a membership among the citizens of Savannah that is financially, morally and intelligently prepared to give permanent success to any undertaking that has its endorsement. The Town Theater presentation of plays has been a succession of artistic and financial successes. The Goose Hangs High, second play of the current season, is being presented in the historic old playhouse that has been used continuously as a theater since its erection in 1818 and has the distinction of having had almost every actor and actress of note in the past 100 years to appear on its stage.

H. O. STECHHAN CORRECTS AN ERROR

The following letter, reprinted from The Christian Science Monitor, should be

of interest to our readers who are keeping a scrap book of little theater events:

"THE FIRST LITTLE THEATER CONFERENCE"

"To the Editor of The Christian Science Monitor: "Interesting and inspiring is the recent account in The Monitor captioned 'Pittsburgh Conference on Drama in Colleges and Little Theaters.' Permit me to call attention to one misstatement, however. The concluding paragraph reads: 'The Pittsburgh conference will go on record as not only the first concerted attempt to face the problem in a nationwide survey but also perhaps the first articulate statement of the situation and most certainly as a stimulating and courageous attack on it—meaning the growth and development of the little theater or community dramatic movement.'"

"In the interest of accuracy the first nationwide little theater conference was held by Pasadena, Calif., during the last week in May, 1924, under the auspices of the Drama League of America, which was in convention there at the time. This conference was convoked especially to participate in cornerstone-laying ceremonies of the new Pasadena Community Playhouse. It was attended by representatives of little theater groups from all parts of the country. The deliberations were fully reported in The Monitor at the time.

"It is gratifying to know that the seed sown in Pasadena is bearing fruit, as evidenced by the splendid numbering in Pittsburgh. Each year should see a gathering of workers in the non-professional ranks of the little theater. Their problems and opportunities are common. By getting together and exchanging experiences progress will be more certain. "Hollywood, Calif. H. O. S."

THE PLAYERS OF BUFFALO, N. Y.

The Buffalo Players have just finished a most successful two weeks of Evered Holmes and the play-reading committee is considering the selection of a play to be produced this month. It is rather expected that this play will be one of the Broadway successes. The Playwrights' Group of this little theater is coming along nicely, having provided Joe Calhoun, director, with many manuscripts.

Edith Natalie Stark, editor of The Cue, published monthly by the Buffalo Players, advises us that that publication is to be enlarged to twice its present size beginning with the January issue.

25 KIDDIES PRODUCE OWN MIRACLE PLAY

The Madonna of Light, a modern miracle play, made up of stories told by children in the tenements of Greenwich Village who frequent Greenwich House, one of the city's best settlements, was presented at Town Hall, New York, Dec. 10. The Madonna of Light evolved from stories told by the children themselves, 25 of them, ranging from 2 1/2 to 15 years in age, was enacted by 25 of the wee authors. A program of music by the Greenwich House Music School was given, also another play, The Real Princess, dramatized by the children from an ancient story. Similar plays are being given by the children and presented once a month during the season. Mary E. Carpenter and Helen A. Murphy direct the children, with a view to having the children build their own performances. Mortimer Browning, improviser and adapter made to their needs.

NORWOOD ART THEATER, NORWOOD, OHIO

December 16 marked the opening of Norwood's first art theater in the new Federated Clubhouse. Mrs. William Friedman, managing director, and William Hartman, director of productions, are planning a season's program of six pieces, to be presented three weeks apart. The first offering will be Cosmo Hamilton's The New Poor, while others to follow are Outward Bound, The Forebears and Soe Hoops To Conquer. The cast for The New Poor includes Mrs. Friedman, Sylvia Fisher, Mildred Stepp, Alma Mark, Norma Belsinger, Malcolm Parker, Carl Tottman, Marie Farrell, George C. Peacock, John Rooney and Mr. Schlei.

MOVEMENT DISCUSSED AT HAET HOUSE

The New Movement in the Theater formed the subject of an interesting lecture by Roy Mitchell, former director of the Hart House Little Theater, Toronto, Can., at the Labor Farm December 13. According to the speaker, the movie picture craze had killed the legitimate drama, or rather had hastened the disintegrating process commenced by commercial producing magnates of New York. The new or little theater of the future would be a real community house, a kind of social and recreational club, owned and controlled by the people in every city, town and village. People

were tired of the trash served up to them by the New York dictators and looked for real art. That longing was responsible for the inauguration of the "little theater" movement, which was making such wonderful progress all over the continent, he said.

MEMPHIS LITTLE THEATRE, OF MEMPHIS, TENN.

The Memphis Little Theater announces that Miner Coburn of Chicago has been obtained as director of the organization for the remainder of the season. Mr. Coburn directed the first production of the season, Philip Barry's You and I, which played a solid week in packed houses at the new playhouse.

Mr. Coburn is widely known as an actor and director in both the modern and classic field of the drama. He has been intimately associated with many of the leaders of the little theater movement, including Oliver Hassell of Dallas, Alexander Dean and Winford Ward of Northwestern University, George V. Deany of the Carolina Playmakers, and others equally prominent in the field. "The Memphis Little Theater, after five years of futile struggling, reorganized last spring. From that time on it has progressed with astounding rapidity. Offered an old stable in the rear of the Memphis Art Academy Building, and aided by the Memphis Drama League in a drive for funds to rehabilitate the stable into a playhouse, and to bring on a production of the production of the season, the Little Theater has been successful to the extent of procuring a producer for the season and establishing itself once again in the eyes of the Memphis public. The stable theater, seating at the utmost 125 persons, is not only saved but also renovated in artistic in structure. What were originally an old carriage house and harnessroom are now an auditorium and foyer. No little amount has been spent on lighting equipment, and the most modern in stage equipment is being installed. A plaster that was already been constructed and will be used to advantage in January, when a group of three one-act plays will be presented. After the first of the year a workshop will also be established under Mr. Coburn's direction.

AMERICAN LABORATORY IN "THE SCARLET LEVER"

The first presentation of Marjorie Stockton's dramatization of Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter, directed by Richard Bouché, at the American Laboratory Theater, 107 West 53rd Street, New York, takes place on Tuesday night, December 29. Helen Coburn and Constance McLaughlin will alternate in the role of Hester Prynne. George Macready and James Daly are the Rev. Arthur Dimmesdale, Greaves Burgess and Herbert V. Gekindre as Roger Chillingworth, Morton Brown, George Auerbach and Donald Keyes as the Rev. John Wilson, Walter Dugan and Howard Buchanan as Governor Babbalanza and Pora Sawyer, Cecelia Piriz and Ann Hitchcock as Mistress Hibbin.

DETROIT PLAYERS IN NEW QUARTERS

The Players' Club of Detroit, Mich., took possession of its new clubhouse, East Jefferson near Elmwood, Thursday evening, December 10. The new theater of the Players has an auditorium seating 400 and will be rented for theatrical and musical events. The Players' Club with a membership of men has been in existence for many years. It does short plays by its own members or by more widely known writers at monthly meetings. Once a year the public is invited to a program including the finest offerings of the preceding season.

The new theater is very up to date, its stage being completely equipped mechanically, with comfortable dressing rooms with conveniences which would awaken envy in any professional actor. These dressing rooms are not numbered, but are named for famous actors of the past—Booth, Barrymore and Jefferson. There are a motion picture booth and screen kitchen. (Continued on page 47)

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Minstrelsy

(Communications to 25-27 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

Here's hoping all the boys, their wives, families and sweethearts, had a jolly and Merry Christmas.

Odell Rawlins, stage manager with the J. C. O'Brien Minstrels, says the show is now playing the East Coast of Florida.

Ralph Wray, old-time clog dancer in minstrelsy from the '70s, '80s and '90s, is now living in Los Angeles. He retired some years ago and is now taking life easy, says a note from Billy S. Garvie.

A minstrel show under the auspices of the Keokuk (Ia.) Post, American Legion was given recently under direction of W. H. Bower and Arthur Lumburg, the latter acting as stage manager.

Henrietta Thomas writes from Houston, Miss. that Mr. Hunt, manager of the Bogart-Red Green From New Orleans Minstrel reduced the personnel of the show to 18 people, with a nine-piece band and eight on the stage. Several of the bunch left the show at Morgan City, La.

John Swor, one of the well-known Swor Brothers, burnt-cork artist, was a pleasant caller at the Cincinnati office of The Billboard recently. He and Charlie Lee were on the vaudeville program at the Palace Theater during the week, going over big in a comedy skit titled *Cosmo Ship*.

Sherman S. Carr, last season with the Nell O'Brien Minstrels, and Guy H. Savory, theatrical director, produced their first home-talent minstrel show, or revue, at Cairo, Ill., recently. According to local papers the show was a great success. Carr is spending the holidays at Mt. Vernon, Ind., while Savory is visiting in St. Petersburg, Ind.

Back Leahy shoots a few more. Do you remember: When Dracula Rescued Williams, Nick Huffer, Tuscano Brothers, Dell Chain, Tommy Donnelly and Governor Bowen were with Donkey & Hatch field Minstrelsy? When Dan Scudder played the Leahy trio with act at the Star Theater, Chambersburg, Pa.? When Geo. Manchester was advance agent for Yale Devil Auction Company? When Bernice Waters got snatched in an auto at Burma, Me.?

Homer Fisher, Wheeling, W. Va., writes that he recently had the pleasure of meeting Roland Culley, Dallas, Tex., who used to carry messages with Louisa White. He says they were "fanned" about the Swors, Rody Jordan, Curly Burns, Mahon and Cholet, Chilli and Bob Willis and all the Dallas bunch. Culley is playing banjo without a pick in an act called *The Pastimes* and doing straight and blues solos. He had a letter from Jack Adair, who told him that Jim and Albert Swor are putting out a minstrel show from Dallas. Tom Howard, on the Field show, lost his mother recently. The stagehands of Wheeling sent a beautiful floral piece.

The minstrel show given by the Amsterdam (N. Y.) Lodge of Elks at the Rialto Theater December 14 and 15, under direction of George Decker, formerly of Nell O'Brien's show, was very successful. Edward Dechanty, producer of amateur shows and former professional, and other black-face stars from Albany, appeared in the production. In return for this courtesy, the Amsterdam minstrel men entertained the Albany Elks in the clubhouse on December 13. It was a busy week for Decker and his troupe, as they also appeared in an entertainment given for the benefit of Catholic missions in Schenectady, N. Y., December 13. George did a monolog at that performance. The Fisher Sisters, who have appeared professionally; Olga Bauznan and her 15 Charleston Sisters, Russell Van Valkenburg, Russian dancer, and Forrest Willis' Collegian Orchestra, were among the featured turns in the olio. The performance was under the direction of H. J. Byron.

Hi Tom Long's Who recollects: When Bert Swor, John Swor and Jack McCreary did an act in the company with the Norris & Ives and the Wagon O'Brien and Jimmy Bogart did a burlesque musical act with Primrose & Decker's Minstrelsy. When Hi Tom Ward, Jim and Billy Fulton did an act together? When Lew Tatum thought it funny to catch magpie flies while the man opposite him was telling his gas? When J. Henry Smith, one uncle, was manager of the Beach & Bower Minstrelsy? When Harry Holmes did the barber-shop imitation as a home solo? When Richard Jose, Billy Windom, Manuel Romaline and Mar Kofke were rated as among the best singers in minstrelsy? When Jim Swor and Johnny Hathaway first went to the Pacific Coast team? When Mills and Baker did the *Fough-a-Ruffin Boys*? When Jimmie Woodville was shot in the abdomen for not singing a request number? When Joe Fox was ever known



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to be without a clmr on parade? When George M. Cohan got his idea that minstrelsy was dead?

Berlin News Letter

By O. M. SEIST

BERLIN, Dec. 2.—The Flying Codonas passed thru Berlin from Warsaw on their way to Brussels where they are looked at the Cirque Royal and from where they will go to the Olympia, London. They said that no salaries were paid at Warsaw and that the circus has closed down on account of bad business, leaving several acts stranded in the Polish capital, among them Manzoni's Bulla. The Codonas naturally went to see the big Ufa film *Vendredi* at the Palace am Zoo which features them and they got the surprise of their lives when they were recognized by the audience and received a big ovation.

The situation created by the sudden dismissal without notice of Max von Schilling, composer of *Moss Lisa*, from the post of general director of the Prussian State Opera House has been further complicated by the resignation of Professor Jessner, intendant of the State Playhouse and several protest meetings by actors, journalists and artists in favor of Schilling and the minister of culture seems to be on the point of giving in. The charge against Schilling is that he could not fill the bill, either from the artistic or business standpoint. Schilling's wife, Barbara Kemp, has for a long time taken the leading lyric soprano parts at the State Opera and, thanks to her husband's position, made it impossible for other younger stars to get a real chance. The main difficulties, however, are resulting with Kroll's Opera House which like wise is managed and subsidized by the State and where business has been extremely bad ever since Bruno Walter took the reins at the Charlottenburg Civic Opera. In spite of the yearly subvention of \$250,000 for the four Berlin State theaters there is a substantial additional loss which is growing every year. Erika Kern is well known in New York where she appeared two seasons ago at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Clara Dux will return to America next week in order to resume her activities at the Chicago Civic Opera. The Chocolate Kiddies are playing at the Victoria Theater, Ewald, following their tour thru Austria and Hungary. The Apollo, Berlin, has been sold by James Klein to the Wilhelm Feindt Picture Corporation, which will turn it into a first-showing movie theater. Thus the Apollo, in pre-war days one of the leading vaudeville stages of Berlin, has finally disappeared from the first city. The Cavalu, Cologne, has been closed on account of bad business and no salaries were paid to the acts engaged for the current month. The Cavalu was the only big-time house in Cologne.

Theresa Reisz, veteran horsewoman and the only living member of the old Circus Reisz dynasty, is appearing in a splendid high-school act with two fine horses at the Scala, the current month. Other acts note are the Nine Allisons, O'Hannon and Zamboni, Akabonos Japs, Pezard Company, Rolf Hansen, Rodella Ruiz and Arik, Bistrot and Partner Felovis, Leo Tesco. In addition to the world-renowned Circus Busch, which enjoys good business, another circus will play in town commencing Christmas at the enormous Exhibition Hall on Kaiserdamm, holding 10,000 people. The enterprise is organized by the Swiss Circus Knie and the German Circus Barum-Kreider, and Willie Zimmernann, the American agent here, is backing additional acts and clowns. The year's Hamburger Don is styled the biggest ever staged and business so far is satisfactory. No less than five figure-eight rides have been erected and a real American caterpillar and a whip are the main attractions besides a flood

of other interesting rides and amusement devices. More than 400 carnival applicants had to be turned back on account of the many large space-consuming shows and there is a fearful crowd on the big Hollwegsfeld. The business done by Hugo Haase, Stebbel, Schippers von der Ville, who provide the biggest attractions, leaves nothing to be desired. Hugo van Albert, well-known Dutch giant, is reported very ill in Holland, suffering from tuberculosis and unable to walk. The Ulap amusement park on Lehrter station will open shortly a Christmas carnival on a large scale, this being the first of its kind in Berlin during the winter months. The Sport Palace on Potsdamer street has opened the largest real ice skating rink in Europe, holding 10,000 people. A good show in the shape of a revue on skates is given nightly in addition to several expert skaters of both sexes.

A REVIEW

Of Salt Lake City Amusements

By HAROLD H. JENSON

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 26.—Local amusements during 1925 have had a banner year. Theaters have enjoyed unusual prosperity and their record shows a great gain over the previous year, both in the matter of attendance and from a financial standpoint. Salt Lake City for its size probably has more amusements than any other place in America. The city also boasts and takes pride in having what is termed the third oldest theater in America, the historic Salt Lake Theater, in which almost every actor and actress of note for a great many years past has played. It was here that Maude Adams made her debut when a baby. The cradle in which she made her entrance on the stage is still the property room. Thousands of dollars was spent this last year in making the Salt Lake up-to-date. The latest addition is the installation of beautiful upholstered seats in the entire parquet and dress circle. The interior and exterior have also been repainted and other terior have also been repainted and other improvements made. Manager George G. Pyper also holds a record for the management of this theater and promises some big productions for 1926.

During 1925 Salt Lake has seen several successes of the East. The fact that sending road shows is very costly has been responsible for rather a dearth of some of the larger class of shows. Musical comedies seem to be the most successful and Shakespeare has perhaps suffered from the "jazz" age more than anything else. The Pentagon Theater is among the most costly and artistic houses in America. Alexander Pentagon is very proud of his local house, which is one of the best paying of his many theaters. Great credit for this is due to Manager E. S. Diamond, familiarly known as "Reddy," who is rated as one of the best advertising men of his profession. Manager Diamond reports the most successful year in the history of the house.

The Wilcox Theater has the Ralph Cloninger Players. The fact that the theater week shows is very costly has been responsible for rather a dearth of some of the larger class of shows. Musical comedies seem to be the most successful and Shakespeare has perhaps suffered from the "jazz" age more than anything else. The Pentagon Theater is among the most costly and artistic houses in America. Alexander Pentagon is very proud of his local house, which is one of the best paying of his many theaters. Great credit for this is due to Manager E. S. Diamond, familiarly known as "Reddy," who is rated as one of the best advertising men of his profession. Manager Diamond reports the most successful year in the history of the house.

ports that during the coming year this theater is to be further beautified. New seats are to be installed, the lobby is to be redecorated and other improvements made. The Fred Daniken Theater interests own the American as well as a string of theaters in the East.

The Paramount-Impress and Victory are two of four theaters under the direction of the Louis Martin Enterprises. The other two are the Paramount, Odeon, and Idaho Falls Theater, Idaho Falls. Manager George E. Carpenter, a former Salt Lake newspaper man, manages the Paramount-Impress and Carl A. Porter is manager of the Victory, which is about to celebrate its second anniversary. These two theaters each employ broadcast their orchestras and organ solo.

The Orpheum is under the direction of Edwin A. Morris, who represents Ackerman & Harris, Alhito Manager. Morris is comparatively a newcomer to Salt Lake, but has already put over the house, which previously seemed a financial failure, in a manner that merits praise. His assistant manager, Brigham Young III, the son of Brigham Young, Jr., is taking quite an interest in the theatrical game in which his grandfather was so active. The Kirova has changed ownership of the past year. The manager and part owner, Ed Mix, cousin of Tom Mix, is one of the most popular and congenial managers and film men in the West.

The Gem and Temple, 60 State street, are managed and controlled by W. H. Shilley and P. C. Peterson, who take a great pride in the artistry of the interior and exterior.

A new theater of the past year is the Star, which was recently enlarged to the same proportion as the old Majestic, under which name it operated in the days when Willard Mack and Maude Leone appeared in stock. Louis Strike is manager.

Other houses of the movie variety are the Isis, under the direction of Dad Rand; Photoplay, with H. Y. Olson as manager; the Hyland and It-Incess in Sugar House; the Coxy, operated by an American, and countless smaller ward houses.

A new theater, now in course of building, will be located opposite the northwest corner of Liberty Park.

Salt Lake also boasts of a large number of dance halls, including the Odeon, Auditorium, Louvre, Danante, Shay's Cafeteria and the Black Cat. During the summer the hotel roof gardens also prove popular.

Hollywood's French Rival

Paris, Dec. 23.—Maurice de Camonne has announced plans for a new film producing center on the lines of Hollywood to be constructed at Ibarritz-Biarritz, a few miles from Biarritz, which has almost as much sunshine and scenic beauties as Los Angeles—according to the promoter and realty dealers.

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Scenic Artists

By G. M. LELAND
(Communications to 1560 Broadway, N. Y.)

The production opening on Broadway the week of December 14 were: Helen MacKellar in *Open House* at Daly's 62d Street Theater, settings designed by Joseph Physio and executed by the Physio Studios, for Samuel R. Golding; *Merchants of Glory* at the Guild Theater, settings designed by Ben Webster and executed by the H. W. Bergman Studios for the Theater Guild; *So Thank You* at the Cherry Lane Theater, settings designed and executed by M. D. Renwick, for the Theater League, Inc.; *Chinatown* at Wallack's Theater, settings in first act designed by William Hurlbut, author of the play, second and third act sets designed by R. Forester, all executed by Gates & Morsanne, for Joseph E. Shea of Bradshaw Productions, Inc.; *The Wise-Guicks* at the Fifth Avenue Playhouse, setting designed and executed by Cleon Throckmorton, for the 66 Fifth Avenue Theater, Inc.; *The Dybbuk* at the Neighborhood Playhouse, settings designed by Alisa Bernstein and executed by and for the Neighborhood Players and the Moscow Art Theater, Musical Studio, in Lavinia at Jolson's Theater, settings designed by Isaac Rabinovitch and brought to this country from Russia.

The old administration won a sweeping victory at the polls of the United Scenic Artists of America, Local 829 meeting of December 14. The returns showed the election of the following officers for the ensuing year's term: Charles E. Leasing, president; George Williams, vice-president; Charles Rossen, treasurer; Walter S. Persival, recording secretary; Karl Ramel, financial secretary; John Quinn, trustee; A. Conklin, warden; F. Conklin, conductor, and August G. Volk, business representative. The largest vote ever cast in the history of the organization was recorded.

President Leasing was authorized to take charge of the Claim and Research Department of the union for the coming year. A full report of all commissions should be filed with his office immediately following award and all doubtful points should be taken up with Leasing before acceptance. Members holding claims or bills collectable may refer them to Leasing for settlement. All work to be undertaken must be reported to the Claim and Research Department promptly and by designers and painters alike.

The United Scenic Artists have an active program laid out for the year 1926. Members who may have suggestions as to how the organization may be improved are requested to communicate at once with the officers of the union at the New York headquarters.

The next quarterly meeting of the U. S. A. A. will be held on the third Friday of the month, January 15, as the first Friday falls on New Year's night. There will be no meeting January 1.

A Trial Board of the U. S. A. A. Local 829, in conclusive last week, found a certain prominent Broadway studio guilty of violation and neglect in its failure to secure proper permission before executing the scenery for a production now playing on Broadway. A fine to the amount of the total price of the contract was imposed, establishing a precedent for future guidance. In reporting the case in this column it is unnecessary to give names. The circumstances, however, will be of interest. A New York producer, about to produce a play on Broadway which had been presented in England, accepted the sketches of the foreign artist who designed the original production. The artist had come to America but was not a member of the U. S. A. A. The New York producer sent the designs to a New York studio with a commission to execute. This studio took the matter up with the union, as there is a strict working law prohibiting the execution of work from the hands of an artist outside the U. S. A. A. unless the work is passed upon as satisfactorily clear and detailed and a special permit is granted. The union turned down the sketches of this particular artist on the ground that they were not sufficiently complete and instructed the studio that the work was not to be executed until the sketches were made satisfactory. The producer then secured photographs of the settings as they were offered on the English stage and sent them to another New York studio with a commission to execute. This second studio did the work without consulting the union and without securing a permit on the photographs. The first studio lost out on the work. The second studio was found guilty and was fined the total price of the job.

Designs for scenery by artists outside of the membership of the U. S. A. A. must be passed upon by the board of the U. S. A. A. found to be acceptable in detail and construction and a special permit granted, before they can be used. This particular artist was well known abroad, but her sketches were pronounced

(Continued on page 58)

In the Spotlight of Quality



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Theatrical Mutual Association

By DAVID L. DONALDSON

Office Grand Secretary-Treasurer
The anniversary banquet to be held Sunday, December 27, in New York City at the Hotel McAlpin seems a fitting climax to our 10 years of toiling and struggling trying to benefit our fellow-men. Great credit is due those who were the means of bringing about this great event. A review of banquet and entertainment will be given later in this column so that those who did not attend can read of what they missed and will never have another opportunity to take a part in.

With deep regret we report the passing of our Grand Lodge member and official, Brother W. H. Torrione, of Pittsburgh Lodge No. 37. He was a very comestive worker for the T. M. A. always ready to help a brother; was of a jovial nature and made many friends. He will be missed by both the Grand Lodge and Pittsburgh Lodge.

Brother Dan F. Pierce of Toronto, Ont., member of the laws and appeals committee was a visitor at this office while in Buffalo December 11 and 12 attending the Shriner ceremonial.

New York Lodge No. 1

At the last meeting the following officers were elected for 1926: J. C. McDowell, president; J. C. Vermilyea, vice-president; Edward W. Otto, recording secretary-treasurer; Wm. T. Butler, financial secretary; John Lilly, marshal; Thomas Boylan, sergeant-at-arms; Paul Schmidt, chaplain; George Becker, trustee one year; Jacoba Hovey, trustee two years; A. M. Buland, trustee three years; Walter Mulvihill, past president; Wm. Bradley, outer guard. The banquet committee reports that everything is going fine for the big time. The annual entertainment and ball was a grand financial success.

St. Louis Lodge No. 5

Brother Charles S. Thiell, fourth grand vice-president, contemplates attending the banquet in New York, December 27. Brother John Nick has returned to his labors after undergoing an operation for appendicitis a few weeks ago and is feeling very good. Brother William Horn is still on the job and says he is just as young as he ever was. Brothers John Riley and Steve Newman, of Los Angeles, stopped off here on their way home after a trip to New York.

New Theaters

The Malestic Theater, Du Parc, Wis., owned and operated by Joseph Speaker, opened recently to capacity business.

Plans are being prepared by William L. Charr for a picture house which will be erected at 60th street and Lansdowne avenue, Philadelphia. Construction will be of steel, stone, concrete and brick.

A \$100,000 theater is contemplated to be erected at the rear of Parks Block, Westfield, Mass. A number of well-known theatrical men are interested in the project but nothing definite has been decided upon.

Ernest A. Harms, proprietor of four neighborhood movies in Omaha, Neb., recently closed negotiations for the construction of a \$75,000 movie house at 45th street and Military avenue in that city.

The Saunders Theater, recently completed at Harvard, Ill., was formally opened December 14. The playhouse has a spacious auditorium, large and comfortable seats and is first-class in every respect.

Archib G. Spencer, representing the Great States Theaters, Inc., the Balaban & Katz syndicate, of Chicago, recently conferred with the Chamber of Commerce at La Salle, Ill., for the purpose of selecting a site for a theater to be erected soon in that city.

Amarillo, Tex., will soon have a new, and its fifth, theater, according to Louis Dent, of Dallas, Tex., member of the Dent-Musselman Syndicate, which firm now operates the Mission, Fair and the Deandt theaters in Amarillo, having recently acquired these from the D. F. & R. Enterprises.

The Capitol Theater, at 400 West Green street, Iron Mountain, Minn., owned by G. W. Brassington, was recently completed. The theater is of brick and tile with steel reinforcement throughout. It was erected at a cost of \$45,000 and will accommodate 1,800 persons, 750 on the main floor and the remainder in the balcony.

D. R. Hy's State Theater, State street, Concord, O., recently gave its initial performance. A feature of the first program was a recital by Mrs. Olga Sokoda

Musical Musings

By THE MUSE
(Communications to 25-27 Opas Place, Cincinnati, O.)

Paul Hamilton announces that the Musical Klubs had a very successful opening week thru Southern Georgia and Northern Florida.

"Hap" Ruggles postcards that Don Wagner and his Syncoaters have left the Palace Theater, where they were doubling from the Hotel LaFayette, Little Rock, Ark. They are now playing nightly at the hotel for dinner dances.

E. Joe LaFrance writes from Toronto, Can., that his orchestra, The Hay-Sisters, is still going, looked up until next fall. He is now touring Canada, but will return to the U. S. A. after January 15, where he will play return dates for five weeks in Pennsylvania.

J. H. Iveshart was elected director of the Philmont (N. Y.) band at a meeting held recently. Other officers chosen were: President, James White; vice-president, Lyle New; secretary, Edward Korman; manager, Ben Simmons; treasurer, Edward Cole, Jr.; Lewis Cole and William Hart.

W. A. Jourdan, formerly pianist with the Milwaukee Night Hawks, Green Bay, Wis., informs that he has been engaged by the President Jefferson Steamship Orchestra as dance and concert pianist. The steamship leaves Seattle, Wash., February 3 for the Orient, returning some time in April.

The Chicago Miami Orchestra Booking Office have at present 21 orchestras and bands booked, including the race-track band, McSperron & Nuvak have enlarged their booking offices and are now working thru the Morris & Tom Powell offices, New York and Chicago. Rogers and his band recently arrived in Miami, Fla. for the winter.

Cleo Pollard, manager of the Foxroters, sends word that his organization is gaining in popularity in Northern Oklahoma as a dance band. The roster includes: Lewis Marshall, violin, director; Barnett Healey, saxophone, clarinet; Al Jennings, saxophone, clarinet; Dudley Brown, piano; Fred Hornbaker, banjo; Milton Marshall, drums; Cleo Pollard, trumpet.

Lois Richmond, Dexter, Mo., writes that after three years of playing "still" he will again be "out there" this coming season. He has booked his 18-piece band with J. H. Hildrett's Dixieland Shows for the coming season. He has had the town band at Dexter for the past two years and says he has had wonderful success, but that it is "all in a few words: What makes a trouper trouper?"

Frank Walter, director of the orchestra at the Capitol Theater, Albany, N. Y., was re-elected for the 14th consecutive term as president of the Albany Musicians' Union at a meeting held recently. Other officers chosen were Peter Smith, vice-president; Ray Hake, secretary; William Blewett, treasurer; Fred Engel, sergeant-at-arms, and George Decker, William Donah, Roberts Starr, John Andrews and Frank Schumacher, directors.

Ray Gorrell informs that his Original Paragon Entertainers, upon completing a tour thru Michigan, begin a tour thru Ohio, opening December 14 at Madison Gardens, Toledo, for a two week stand. He has enlarged the orchestra to 10 men, the personnel of which is: Ray Gorrell, drums; Chalmers MacGreager, piano, director; Ross Gibbo, violin; Harold Knapp, saxophones; Johnny Hiner, saxophones; Boss Forco, saxophones; Louis Lebow, trumpet; Howard Mulvaney, trombone; Bruce Dalms, banjo; Walter Gilbert, bass.

Benny Reah sends Christmas greetings from Tampa, Fla., stating that he closed at the Arabia Garden, Mass., on the Mohawk Trail and opened Labor Day at Tampa, where the band has been "going strong" ever since to good business. The personnel: Sammie Swenson, pianist, vocalist; Frank Bush, banjo, saxophones; Ernest Reepel, trumpet; Everett Van Nea, reeds; Hal Delooy, reeds; Roy Jamis, bass; Harry Cody, drums; Benny Reah, violin, director.

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Open Letters

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Commends Will Rogers' Trip To Entertain

Genoa

Befford, Va., December 18, 1925.
Editor The Billboard:
Sir—Last Saturday Will Rogers, the celebrated humorist, made a trip of more than 50 miles over a very rough road from Lynchburg to Befford and entertained the guests of the National Home of the R. P. O. L. with one of his famous performances, lasting nearly an hour.
Mr. Rogers is a member of the New York Lodge, No. 1, and upon reaching Lynchburg, where he was to give a performance in the evening, he secured an automobile at his own expense and drove here to give a performance for the guests, and from the applause he received his visit was certainly appreciated.
Some artists, some boys and a fine fellow in every way; well, in fact, a true B.K. in spirit!
(Signed) CHAS. NAUGHTEN.

Prize for Walter Article

La Crosse, Wis., December 17, 1925.
Editor The Billboard:
Sir—For sheer downright cleverness and hitting with facts and ideas for all, I think the special feature by Eugene Walters—The Paradise Drama—in the Christmas Number, takes The Billboard medal for being the best feature in a year. Everybody in every branch of show business should read, digest and then read it over again. It is simply great.
(Signed) WM. J. (BILL) HILLIAR.

Praises Dixon's "Putting the Road Over"

Chicago, Ill., December 20, 1925.

Editor The Billboard:
Sir—We are nearing the close of another year and while some have gained, others who are less fortunate have lost. I have been a constant reader of The Billboard for a great many years, and I have been very interested in what I have read. If I did not understand an article from the first time, I would read it again. I read the recent article under the caption, Putting the Road Over. The writer, Harry L. Dixon, deserves much credit for the painstaking manner in which he has gone at it, so to speak. He knew what he wanted to write, and I am glad that he wrote it so ably and that The Billboard published the article. I hope it will bear the fruit it is intended to bring forth.
I hope to continue in the theatrical business, but I do not think that a manager or producer can sit in a chair directing a production. If he is a real manager he knows he cannot. A real trouper in the man who is with his show and who knows what the public that he plays to wants. He listens to others' comment; he does not pull that old gag, "How did you like my show?"; he hears what the people who have witnessed it say. You give the people what they want, the house manager will say, but some people do not know what they want, and you cannot please everyone. If you know you have a good play and that a certain performer does not do his duty, just speak to him about it. He may be miscast. It is hard work for a comedian to appear in a serious role, and it is much harder for a leading man to appear as a comic. The fault in a case of this kind lies with the manager, because he should not inflict a torture on a comedian to ask him to play a part he cannot.
There is too much commercialism in the show game today to think of asking your show to appear as a comic, and your competent performers, who will work for your interests, as you, Mr. Manager, must work for their ultimate success, and the show game can come back in the repertoire or stock attraction.
(Signed) DANIEL P. ROWE
Of Rowe & Walsh's Own Comedy Co.

Manager Complains About Practice of Some Performers

Sioux City, Ia., December 18, 1925.
Editor The Billboard:
Sir—Please insert the following in the Open Letter issue of your paper and many thanks for the same.
I received a wire from a certain Chicago agent, who solicited me one Billy Shepard and wife and a chorus girl. I telegraphed and said Shepard to the extent of 18 worth of wire before acceptance, and finally upon his request I wired him three tickets from Kansas City, Mo., to Sioux City, Ia., and 12 in cash. For my own protection I wired the above amount to Western Union and Western Union purchased tickets for the said party. Anyway the said Shepard and wife and chorus girl have never arrived and nothing has been heard of them since.
Here is No. 2: In December 9 I received a collect wire from one Jack Konald and two chorus girls from Terre Haute, Ind., asking for 140 and railroad fare, which amounted to \$130. I confirmed same immediately and offered the fare an engagement, which they at once accepted. I wired the Chief of Police in Terre Haute to handle same for me for

my own protection, and he wired me his okay. I also wired Konald and the two girls that the Chief of Police would purchase tickets for them. Konald was never heard from since on the out 98 or 87 on wire to him.
Here is No. 3: On December 10 came a wire from one Bert Walter and wife from Hannibal, Mo., asking for an engagement. I wired said Walters an offer. He accepted and at the same time asked me for two tickets. I wired him to give me his hotel address, which he at once wired back as the Windsor Hotel. For my own protection again I wired the manager of the Windsor Hotel cash for two tickets for the said Walters and wife on their departing time for Sioux City. The manager wired me they would leave on the first evening train for Sioux City, said Walters and wife are still en route, but not to Sioux City.
(Signed) EDDIE BIRELEY
Mgr. of Sines and Chuckley Co.

AUSTRALIA

By MARTIN C. BRENNAN

SYDNEY, Nov. 23.—Hugh J. Ward, of the Ward-Fuller interests, left for America last Wednesday. The trip was made on the spur of the moment, as this well-known entrepreneur had just previously signified his intention of remaining in Sydney for some time. Two movements of J. C. Williamson, Ltd., which have been most marked of late, has no doubt had some bearing on the visit to the United States.
At the head voyage dinner to Beaumont Smith held last Wednesday, the theatrical and film industries were well represented. Among the guests was John Fuller, whose firm has so many holdings in New Zealand that it has often been referred to as Fuller's Earth. In responding to a toast, H. J. Tall, whose firm will be in formidable opposition to the Fullers, mentioned the fact that the Dominion was Fuller's Earth, they (J. C. W. Ltd.) hoped to get something out of it, even if it was only the tin. To this Mr. Fuller replied that they would welcome clean opposition and that he and his brothers could not hope to hold the New Zealand entertainment field for all time. They had previously encountered opposition, but never of a very strenuous kind. This time he felt that the new firm, which was really an old one so far as Australia was concerned, was to be contended with.
There is still talk of a revival of first-class minstrelsy in some of the Australasian vaudeville houses. The thing is to get the end men of caliber to take corners. This form of entertainment was previously in high favor for many years.
Pauline Frederick is now on route to San Francisco, after a highly successful tour in both Australia and New Zealand. The American stage and screen star, together with June Etridge, taken back many pleasurable memories of these countries.
James Moran, the Irish tenor who was appearing at the Capitol Theater, Melbourne, last week with success, will be seen in a J. C. Williamson production shortly.
Stella Power, "The Little Melba," is at the Tivoli Theater, Brisbane.
The following acts are playing the Union Theaters and Master Vaudeville: Princess, Bambi, the Bobemans, Big Four, Barbara, Jans, Ray Scott, Mignon Don, Bambalina, Chris, the Cameos, Miss, dame Hensleys, Leo Mason and Sunny, Hayden and Nevard.
Billy Tredale, a new London baritone, has joined Lee White's show for the Adelaide season.
The State Opera, with Dorothy Brandon, opened at the Victoria Theater, Newcastle, last Saturday night.
Those English clown comedians, the Megan Brothers (playing the Fuller Time up till recently) have been in ill health for some few months, this accounts for their work not being up to the mark of late. A few weeks ago one of the boys went into a sanatorium, to be followed by the brother last week. It is anticipated that the dry mountain air and much needed attention will have a most beneficial effect.
The much favored Walter ("Hats") McKay has just returned from Honolulu after a stay of eight weeks.
When Andre Siskel played the Sydney Town Hall three years ago his concerts were not a financial success, and when he finished his season he owed the City Council 145 for the hire of the hall. At the time he pledged that he was unable to pay and asked permission to leave the country, promising to meet the debt when he was in. Money was sent abroad. The council has not heard from him since and the City Treasurer, with the approval of the council, will now wipe off the debt.
Beasts Lester, American comedienne,

who left here just over a year ago to Rossy Java, and the last, starting in a company of seven, returned here recently with her husband, Mr. Elshout.
Claude Fleming, at present appearing in Melbourne in The Street Singer, will be Marie Burke's leading man in the forthcoming production of Madame Pompadour to be seen in Sydney at Christmas.

Eileen Alexander, who played Doreen in The Seafarer's Joke, joined the Frank Nell comedy company in Melbourne last week.

The Three Wild Kittens, at present at the Bijou, are all Americans and have played the Gipsicum Circuit several times.

Maxwell Carow was appearing at the Rialto, Kew (Vic.), last week. This performer will probably be seen as Dunc in one of the Christmas pantomimes. His first appearance in Australia in the forthcoming production of The Farmer's Wife at the Theater Royal, Melbourne.

Percy Blundell, well-known tenor, who has been on a trip to England, returned to Melbourne last week.
The State Governor of Victoria (Lord Strathfield) and Lady Strathfield entertained members of the theatrical profession who assisted the fund of Girl Guides recently at a garden party at Stounington last Friday.
Chas. Wegman, associate director of J. C. Williamson, Ltd., returned from a 10 months' tour in England and the whole time was spent in England and on the Continent.

Willie Wollard (Continental), who has been appearing in the act Fun in a Hat Shop at the Tivoli for the past few weeks, has been appearing under a big disadvantage, he has been suffering with severe stomach trouble for the whole time.
The increasing number of curtain calls noted nonchalantly calls for a rigid censorship on the part of the theater manager, in view of the fact that some of the artists are prone to abuse a privilege which is afforded only by virtue of liberal applause and not, as is so often the case, to their own audacity. Many vaudeville performers may be first-class in their act but they are mighty poor entertainers when making a speech before the tabs. And the less capable they are the more insistent they appear to be, so that the frequent appearance of a person floundering, as it were, in the depths of mixed metaphors—or worse still, ungrammatically expressing his thanks for an appreciation which is by no means spontaneous, becomes decidedly objectionable and tedious to the theatergoer who would prefer to be entertained and not bored stiff by the gabbling individual who thinks he can orate as well as he can dance.

Resumption Smith, who is leaving for New Zealand Thursday, was tendered a luncheon by the members of the theatrical and film industries at Farmer's Junction on his departure.
Mrs. John N. McCallum (wife of the former Brisbane entrepreneur), who was seriously injured recently in a motor accident at Manly, N. S. W., is now making gradual progress.

Bobby Leach, world famous as the man who went over the Horseshoe Falls in a barrel, jumped from the Steel Arch Bridge, within three whirlpool Rapids and performed other death-defying feats equally as amazing, arrived here last Saturday by the Niagara, well fortified with letters of introduction from American and Canadian theater managers for whom he appeared.

The Fuller Theater, vice Big Ernie Apollo, who has been transferred to the Majestic, Newtown.
Nick Carter, of the Sebnick Sydney office, was a thru passenger on the S. S. Aorangi last week on route for the States from New Zealand.
W. W. W. (W. W. W. W. W.) several Famous-Lucky Film Service, Ltd., is at present very busy shifting to his new offices on the corner of Cuba and Dixon streets, Wellington, New Zealand.
The Cinema Supplies, Ltd., was registered in Auckland last week with a capital of £3,000.
The State Opera, leaving today, carries to New York a piece of the stone from the beach at Komet, N. S. W. taken from the spot where Captain Cook first stepped ashore. This piece of stone will constitute a portion of the lobby of the giant new Paramount Theater now being built in New York. It was last Wednesday formally handed over to Managing Director John W. Hilder, Jr., of Paramount, by Aubrey Halloran, Jr., President of the Royal Historical Society of Australia. The ceremony took place at the base of the Captain Cook statue in Hyde Park, Sydney.

Encouraged by the big success which characterized the Melbourne season of Charlie Ann's farcical comedy, Frank Nell and his party of mirthmakers will be seen in this production at the termination of the Music Box Revue. The production will fill in a few weeks while preparations are gone on with in respect to the Fuller-Ward Sydney pantomime.
Leslie Patrick Backwood, who appeared on the stage in Melbourne in 1924, is staying long in Uncle Henry's Heir at the Kew Theater, England.
Kath Hart, of the N. S. W. office of Universal, was recently presented with

Lyceum and Chautauqua

(Communication to 2527 Opera Plaza, Cincinnati, O.)

The Open Door was the subject discussed by Mrs. W. J. Cox in an address at Miami, Fla., last week.

Princess Cantacuzene, granddaughter of General D. S. Grant, gave a lecture at the North Dallas High School, Dallas, Tex., recently on My Life Here and There.

Maurice Samuel, author and lecturer, was the speaker at the Masor Theater, Pittsburgh, Pa., December 20 at a meeting conducted under auspices of the Squirrel Hill Zionists of that city.

Clairborne S. Mobbey, who was superintendent of one of the Western Welfare Circuits during the past summer, is now in the sales department of the International Harvester Company.

Charles Brandon Booth, lecturer, social welfare expert and grandson of General William Booth, gave a course of four lectures in Denver, Col., last week, under auspices of the Big Sister and Big Brother Federation of New York.

Gregory F. Morgan, lecturer, closed his Eastern tour at Fort Wayne, Ind., on December 10, and on the morning of the 14th addressed the Teachers' Institute in Santa Monica, Calif. One of the featured speakers this year at the California Institute was Edmund Vance Cooke, who gave his new address The Laughter of Lissip.

Thomas Elmore Lucy opened a six-number lyceum course for the Kingston, Ark., Community High School on December 15. According to Mr. Lucy, Prof. O. E. Ryburn, the superintendent, is a live-wire and in addition to giving that Ozark community a fine cultural program, is publishing an attractive little magazine called Ozark Life. Mr. Lucy spent the Christmas holidays at his home at University City, Mo., doing some local broadcasting.

H. W. D. Tooley and T. Floyd Adler of the Teesley Opera Company, now playing engagements for the United Lyceum Bureau of Columbus, O., were callers at the home office of The Billboard last week. Mr. Tooley advised that the company of six has been kept very busy all season and that upon the completion of their bookings for the United Bureau will jump immediately to Kansas to work for the Kansas University Extension Bureau. In the company are: Mr. and Mrs. H. W. D. Tooley, T. Floyd Adler, Ioss; J. R. Miller, baritone; Jeanne O. Hayes, contralto, and Pauline Myers, pianist.

James R. Pund, of New York, owner and manager of a lecture bureau in that city, in an interview with New York newspapermen last week said that in his opinion the automobile and radio have both hurt the platform business and that unless the lecturer can offer real entertainment his name alone is no longer an attraction. The writer of this department has for the past several months written short items regarding reasons why lyceum and chautauqua has declined rather consistently for a number of years, even the some managers claim that such stories are not true. From all over the country reports come in of the failure of the smaller towns to contract for another season of chautauqua. But how

(Continued on page 47)

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PARIS' UNDERGROUND "WHITE WAY"

Street Lined With Stages and Attractions Being Built Under the Moulin Rouge

By THEODORE WOLFRAM

PARIS, like New York, is making rapid strides in the enlargement of its theatrical district. Unlike New York, Paris has no one definite amusement center, but on the contrary has at least three, the district surrounding the Opera, the Latin Quarter and Montmartre. The latter quarter is probably the most popular quarter with the average American visitor, as here one can find amusements to suit all tastes and all purses.

One of the best known resorts of Montmartre is the famous "Moulin Rouge", which has been entirely rebuilt and remodelled since the end of the war. A'ho the rebuilt Moulin Rouge already contains a large music hall, a huge ballroom, an after-theater dining room, an "American bar" a penny arcade and a cabaret. Mr. Fournier, the director, is now busy superintending a new project which will add several new attractions and novelties to those already under its ample roof.

This is an underground street extending from the entrance of the music hall on the Boulevard Clichy to a little side street used for the parking of automobiles, the impasse Veron. Excavation has been under way for some time and this new street directly under the Moulin Rouge will soon be opened for business.

Aspects of various large-scale form will be let for stores and concessions as well as "attractions," the director stipulates that novelty and attraction are compulsory. No definite announcement has yet been made as to the exact nature of the concessions, but it is quite probable that several of the novelties which proved successful at the "Parc des Attractions" at the Modern Arts International Exposition in Paris will be found here at the inauguration.

On the so-called "unfair" list September 15 last after failure of the local union to reach an agreement, it is reported the outlook for a settlement is favorable at an early date. The theater plays could be booked by the Keith-Albee Circuit, and has been operating on an open-shop policy since September, when both stagehands and musicians were taken out. It is said some misunderstanding, which led to the road call, is expected to be wiped out, making the way clear for the return to the up-State New York house of the backstage and pit men. W. D. Lang, of the I. A. in New York, is handling the matter.

Representative Krains has been assigned to go to Albany, N. Y., in connection with the dispute there between the management of the Majestic and Royal theaters and the local moving picture machine operators' union (No. 324). The nature of the trouble is not known at the I. A. office in New York, the Albany local having merely asked for the assistance of a representative.

The new officers for the Aurora, Ill., local of the I. A., No. 221, for the year

burban legend country. London will be reached the second week of July. The last week of July and the first week of August will be spent in Oxford, where a course of study has been arranged for the mornings, and many interesting events will take place, among these being the John Massfield Prize Poetry Reading Contest. The second week of August will be spent in Stratford-upon-Avon, visiting the haunts of Shakespeare and witnessing the performance at the Shakespeare Memorial Theater. The last week may be spent in Paris or a week in the English Lake Region and the Trossachs.

Press and Advance Agents

By ALFRED NELSON
(Communications to 1560 Broadway, N. Y.)

Solutions From Sinker

IL. J. Sinker, press representative of Brooklyn Local, No. 33, I. A. B. P. and J., reports that: "All of the boys are working at present and everything seems to be prosperous with them. At our last regular meeting all of the old officers were re-elected for the season of 1926. Officers of the local are: William McCarthy, of the Dekalb Theater, president; James J. Dally, of the Gaiety Theater, vice-president; Charles Stern, of the Palace, treasurer; Leo Burns, of the Gaiety Theater, financial secretary; Charles Aboens, of the Brevoort Theater, corresponding secretary; Harry Irving, of the Casino Theater, business agent; Ernie Montrose, of the Empire Theater, assistant business agent."

Hook's Harvest

While there are some press publicity-seeking representatives on Broadway

holding down a press-publicity desk in the office of George M. Gatto, who is releasing many of his former productions for dramatic stock company presentations.

Koester Kinetic

Fred J. Koester, of *The Buffalo Times*, is always in motion. If not writing news for the progressive paper sponsored by Norman E. Mack he is active in the interest of Roy E. Van, versatile manager of the Garden Theater, Buffalo, presenting *Muyal*. *Berlesque* shows. Koester's copy is always interesting, instructive and entertaining.

Alexander Meris Award

Donald Alexander, having been connected with the Capitol, Garrick and Liberty theaters, St. Paul, and made decidedly good in all his positions with these houses, merits the award tendered him as director of publicity for the Pinkelstein & Rubin Theater in Duluth. Edward Kueppers has been appointed successor to Alexander in St. Paul.

Dorfman With Selwyn

Nat N. Dorfman has resigned his position as representative for Rosalia Stewart and has been engaged to handle the press publicity for Arch Selwyn's *Charlot's Arcus* at the Selwyn Theater, New York.

Reginal Ford Becomes French Cinema Magnate

Paris, Dec. 21.—Reginal Ford, who has considerable interest in English and American motion picture concerns, has recently taken over two of the largest French film distributing agencies, the Societe des Films Theatraux, with a capital of 13,000,000 francs, which will be increased to 17,000,000 francs and has 12 branches, and the Societe des Grandes Productions, an organization that produces about 60 films a year.

Directing French Musical Show

Paris, Dec. 21.—Earl Leslie, American dancer, who made his bow to Paris as the partner of Mistinguett, not only is dancing with the million-dollar-legged danseuse in her new revue, *Revue Mistinguett*, at the Moulin Rouge, but is also engaged as stage manager and producer of the winter production of the Apollo, *Revue a Revoir*, or *Lips to Lips*, in plain English.

Stage Employees and Projectionists

By ROY CHARTIER
(Communications to 1560 Broadway, N. Y.)

The International Alliance plans taking more drastic action than ever before against members of local unions who violate the laws, and in no cases will "another chance" be given. Suspensions from membership, fines and the like are to be meted out when a backstage employee or both man commits an infraction of the union's rules. Recently several members of unions scattered throughout the United States have been suspended, chiefly for working in houses classed as "unfair." This is the most common offense, while among others is the favoring of one stage employee and his wife, working in the company, to be employed on a joint salary, bringing with the deduction for the artist's end, pay for the stagehand that is below the union scale.



The "Moulin Rouge", center of Montmartre "night life".

1926, are announced by Fay J. Mikessell, and include Henry Anderson, president; Charles Fox, vice-president; Ralph Johnson, secretary and treasurer; Tom Morrisette, business agent, and Fay J. Mikessell, Walter Kline and Harold Nelson, trustees. Mikessell reports the Aurora local is getting along nicely and has two theaters 100 per cent organized.

The Spoken Word

(Continued from page 37)

"Soundin' all the letters". It is the thing that leads many Americans to ask if it is correct to pronounce "dictionary" as ('dikjanari). For this reason, the use of weak vowels in unstressed syllables should receive special attention in American normal English so that "book" words will not hamper the speaker in spoken language. In teaching American students to read for the stage, this reverse for book words presents a problem in developing speech of natural flexibility.

(11) Too little study has been made of American intonation. British intonation has certain definite characteristics which can probably be studied, not for imitation, but for ear training and illustration and for general elucidation of the subject.

Miss Edith Margaret Small, of Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass., will conduct a small group to visit literary landmarks in England, and to study in London, Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon. Special attention will be given to speech and the voice in interpreting verse or drama. Some opportunities will be given to meet poets and playwrights. The party will sail from New York or Montreal about June 25. The first 10 days will be spent motoring thru Cornwall and Devonshire and a stop of several days will be made at Glastonbury, the center of the Ar-

these days seeking engagements that are not forthcoming until after the holidays, Wells Hawks (T. P. H. of A.) is not one of them, for the work usually seeks Wells. At present Hawks is exploiting the wonders of Arthur Voegtlin's *Pueblo Fels*, which means *Happy Town*, in Florida. That Hawks is somewhat of a celebrity in Florida is evidenced by his picture and three-column biography on the front page of *The Miami Daily News*, heralding his advent as director of publicity for the Col. Henry D. Lindsay roasty projects.

Weston in Bristol, R. I.

Fred Weston, exploitation man and press agent for the past 30 years, having handled *Shuffle Along*, *Seven-Eleven*, *Madame Cherry*, *Poor of Steel*, also house manager at Palmer and Springfield, Mass., is at present manager of the Olympic Theater, Bristol, R. I.

Buckingham on Broadway

Keith Buckingham, of the press department of the Sells-Floto Circus during its summer season, closed his engagement with the show at Houston, Tex., December 1, and he and the Missus are now seen frequently on Broadway, Keith seeking another engagement and the Missus seeking suitable Christmas gifts for her hubby.

Walsh Heraldin' "The Monkey Talks"

Thorwald Walsh (T. P. H. of A.), press representative of the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus during the summer, is now press representative of Arch Selwyn's presentation of *The Monkey Talks*.

Mack With Gans

Harry Mack, late contracting agent with the Sparks Circus, has finished his season with the big tops and is now

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Jinx Pursues Clayton

Mystic Clayton didn't believe in jinxes. But that was before he took the trip from Los Angeles to Oakland, Calif., several weeks ago...

Australian Magi Hold Their Annual Meeting

The Australian Magicians' Association held its annual night at the Railway Institute Hall, Melbourne, recently...

Houdini Film Disposition Sought by Stockholders

An action for \$150 was brought against the Houdini Pictures Corporation in the Washington Avenue Municipal Court, New York...

Kenny, the Magician

Richard Kenny, the magician, writes The Billboard that he is arranging with churches and clubs of New York City...

More Durbin Illusions

Printed below is a portion of the second part of the program of illusions and tricks offered by the Kenton, O., magician-theater owner...



Wallace's novel Christmas greeting card. Old St. Nicholas, most beloved 'magician' of all for the kiddies...

Magic and Magicians

(Communications for 1540 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

New Books on Spiritualism Published in London

J. Malcolm Bied and A. Campbell Holms Authors of New Publication

There have been two books published in England recently which will be of considerable interest to those interested in spiritualism...

Mr. Holms inverts the position of those skeptics, says the reviewer, and the other book, 'who say that spiritualistic phenomena can never be proved to be genuine by showing that they can never be proved to be fraudulent'...

Fleming Busy in Pennsylvania

Paul Fleming has been busy presenting his evening of magic in and around Swarthmore, Pa., of late...

Christmas Greetings from the Following

Christmas greetings from the following are hereby gratefully acknowledged: Arthur D. Gans is working hard to make the special 'Billboard Number' of The Linking Ring for January a success...

Walter G. Peterkin, Professional Realtor and Amateur Magician

Walter G. Peterkin, professional realtor and amateur magician, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was so intrigued by Blackstone's performance when he played in that town that he was moved to send him an eloquent letter of praise...

Texas may be the State where women are governors and the spaces are wide and open

Texas may be the State where women are governors and the spaces are wide and open. But, reports McDonald Birch from the Lone Star State, the spaces aren't so wide...

Alfred P. Saal, president of the Toledo Magicians' Club

Alfred P. Saal, president of the Toledo Magicians' Club, believes the present exposing of magic is only the beginning...

It is probable that F. W. Conrad, of Berlin, will soon have his monumental work on card effects...

Edwood, master mimic and artistic ventriloquist, was the chief entertainer at the Lions' Club party for poor new-layers of Columbus, O., at the Chittenden on Monday evening, December 21...

Thurston entertained the children of

bring in the box; and remember, he never comes near it and never comes off the stage...

Magic Notes

Charley DiMondie returned from Canada a few weeks ago and is now booked solid over the Small-Strassburg Circuit...

KOVA-WAH-WAH THE SERPENT! SEE HIM RISE! HE UNTIES HIMSELF.

THAYER MFG. CO. 884 SOUTH SAN PEDRO STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

bring in the box; and remember, he never comes near it and never comes off the stage. Then he shakes out the cloth and commands the silver box with its coins to appear inside the box...

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Blackstone's Vanishing Animals

So good is Harry Blackstone's Vanishing Horse and Camel illusion that it works even when the animals are off stage. Recently while playing Boston his camel was being led thru the street when two sailors tried to climb on its back...

the combined orphan asylums of Washington, D. C., at one of his matinees and showed himself a master in the art of pleasing the youngsters...

If the consensus of opinion warrants it and plans materialize

If the consensus of opinion warrants it and plans materialize, the International Brotherhood of Magicians may hold a convention, if successful, the convention would be made an annual affair...

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MAGIC TRICK CARDS advertisement for R. L. Gilbert.

NEW WONDERFUL TRICKS advertisement for The Chess Linking Ring.

THE WONDERFUL MAGIC HOME AND PENNY TRICK advertisement for Magic Tricks.

1000 JOKER'S NOVELTIES advertisement for Magic and Illusions.

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Magicians advertisement for R. S. Schlosser.

THE LATEST MAGIC ILLUSIONS advertisement for R. S. Schlosser.

MAGIC advertisement for Chicago Magic Co.

32D YEAR The Billboard

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in the world.
Published every week
By The Billboard Publishing Company,
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E. W. EVANS, Bus. Mgr.
I. M. McHENRY, Gen. Mgr.

F. G. KOHL,
President.

Main Office and Printing Works:
THE BILLBOARD BUILDING,
25-27 Opera Place,
Cincinnati, Ohio. U. S. A.
Phone, Main 5800.
Cable and Telegraph Address, "Billboard", Cin-
cinnati.

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Vol. XXXVIII. JAN. 2. No. 1

Editorial Comment

ANOTHER year is about to pass out. A new year is before us. What has 1926 in store for us? we ask. That is a question, a big question, and just as difficult to answer now as at the beginning of any preceding year. About all one can say is that, judging by statements issued by statistical experts, indications are favorable—very favorable, in fact—for a good year for amusements in 1926. We hardly believe it will be a record year—but a good one just the same and much better than 1925—albeit, after all is said and done, many in different branches of the amusement profession did as well if not better than they had expected in 1925.

The United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor in Washington in its last monthly bulletin described general industrial em-

ployment conditions in the country as satisfactory. No great amount of unemployment exists in any section, says the report, excepting in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania, where the miners are on strike.

Altho some of the steel mills closed at noon the day before Christmas, not opening until the following week—in-
cidentally, there has frequently been a closing for one or two weeks at the year end—the outlook for the steel industry appears to be cheerful.

Many of the cotton trade believe there will be a revival of demand and a steadier market after the turn of the year, when, with the disturbing influence of Government reports out of the way, the market will be controlled entirely by supply and demand.

Building activity is above the average for this time of the year and credit conditions in the agricultural regions are generally in good shape.

So, taken all in all, 1926 looms promisingly for amusements.

And, to each and every one in the amusement business or in any way allied with it we say GREETINGS! May 1926 be replete with happiness and prosperity is our sincere wish to you.

preferring to wait until after the count up before taking up the manager's time to verify the cast as programmed.

When he approaches the box office or doorman with an inquiry for the house manager, they invariably treat him as a process server, and disclaim all knowledge of the manager's whereabouts until he (the stock editor) finally convinces them that he is only seeking news of plays and players; then their attitude changes to a feeble attempt to locate the manager who isn't to be found.

What is there about dramatic-stock operations in the smaller towns that calls for the hiding away of the house managers, who could do much to increase patronage by their presence in front of the house, where they can be found by those having legitimate business to transact with them in the interest of their plays and players?

MORE than a hundred professional pantomimes will be presented in England during the holiday season this year. Most of them are for children, altho every child attending a performance is invariably accompanied by an adult, and the demand for artists for

Which Shall an Artist Please— His Employer or the Public?

SEVERAL incidents have come to attention recently which give rise to the question: Shall an artist strive to please his employer or shall he strive to please the public?

In two of the cases that came to notice the artist, tho giving an entirely satisfactory performance and making a decided hit with audiences, was dismissed because of personal dislikes on the part of the manager.

What should the matter of personal like or personal dislike between producer and artist have to do with the business proposition of presenting a theatrical attraction before the public? If an artist is doing his work properly in every respect and audiences are enthusiastic in showing their appreciation of his efforts, is it businesslike or professional to dismiss him just because the manager isn't pleased?

There are plenty of artists who have a better idea than some managers have of how to please the public, and results in this respect is all that any practical manager should ask of the actors whom he employs—particularly when the artist's way of doing things proves most acceptable to the public.

But strictly personal feelings should have nothing to do with professional relations. If artists permitted personal feelings to influence them in accepting or rejecting offers of employment, there are some managers who would find it a pretty tough job to get a decent cast together.

THE ambitious and indefatigable Shuberts, now that they are all set in England, are reported to be preparing to extend their activities to the continent of Europe. Their aim, it is said, is to internationalize theater interests.

Meanwhile the German dramatists have risen in protest at the unusual number of foreign plays being produced in Germany. Somewhat similar protests have been voiced in England at various times.

But little complaint is heard about the Shubert invasion. Why? Because it means more work for the foreign actors both at home and over here—particularly over here. Very few English actors are out of work in New York now.

DRAMATIC stock is a form of theatrical entertainment which for the most part is confined to the smaller towns. Nevertheless, it crops up from time to time in the larger cities, and where it becomes fully stabilized in the larger cities one will invariably find a thoroughly experienced house manager ever alert to greet his patrons and please them if any way possible.

On his visits to dramatic stock houses for the purpose of reviewing plays and players where he is unknown personally our dramatic stock editor seldom if ever discloses his identity at the box office at the time of purchasing seats,

this year's productions is far greater than the supply.

New York, too, usually has a number of Christmas pantomimes, but nowhere near as many as London.

Why not more pantomime? It would be a change and a relief from so much of the same trite and obvious dialog that hack playwrights keep turning out year after year.

THE ostrich is noted for its lack of discernment in sticking its head in the sand where it can't see but exposing its body to those looking for it.

Some burlesque managers and performers are like the ostrich. These managers, knowing censors or reviewers to be in the theater, relay the info. to those on stage, and they act accordingly in the belief that the censors or reviewers seeing a clean performance will okay their show, and then they (the burlesquers) can cut loose later with indecency, losing sight of the fact that local reformers unknown to managers and performers are always alert to utilize anything they can get against burlesquers to harass the local police department.

There have been several instances of the ostrich-like burlesquers and police-harassing reformers during the past few weeks, when it is alleged, Mutual Circuit burlesquers in Jersey City and Passaic, N. J., let themselves

Answers to Queries

200—It is claimed that lions live longer in captivity than in their natural wild state.

G. W. E.—Colombese Elvira played the role of Queen Isabella in the opera *Colombus*, by Franchetti, when it was produced in Geneva in 1892.

DAN—Unable to locate poem titled *The Wealthy Barber's Daughter* and *The Rich Shoemaker's Son*. If any reader has poem would appreciate copy for reader.—Editor.

N. G. V.—Julia Dean was born July 22, 1838, and died March 6, 1888. She was successful in Juvenile, tragic and farcical parts and was considered one of the most successful stars of her time.

COMPLAINT LIST

The Billboard receives many complaints from managers and others against performers and others. It publishes below a list of such complaints, with the name and address of the complaining party, so that persons having a legitimate interest in the matter may make further inquiries from the complainants if they desire.

The publication of the list does not imply that the complaint is well founded, and The Billboard assumes no responsibility for such information as may be given by the complainant to parties inquiring.

Names will appear in this list for four weeks only. Anyone interested might do well to make note of them:

"FADS & FOLLIES", BOWELL'S, Tab. Show.
Complainant, J. Linsigarten,
Dolly Varden Theater.

REMSON, ARTHUR, Vaude Actor.
Complainant, Harry J. Harrington.

and the local police open to the attacks of local reformers.

Burlesquers may fool the censors and reviewers part of the time, but they can't escape the police-harassing, political-playing local reformers all the time.

IN some London theaters, according to news dispatches, a policy has been put into effect whereby the audience is allowed to take a hand in working out the plot of the play.

At crucial moments in the drama, such as when the villain is about to strangle the heroine, the action on the stage suddenly halts and the dominant character turns to the audience and asks whether he shall or shall not go thru with what he is about to do. The wishes of the audience are then obeyed.

This scheme wouldn't be at all bad for New York. There has been an unusually large number of occasions the past season when the audience would have felt thankfully relieved if some character in the play had asked: "Shall we or shall we not—continue with the performance?"

"Look before you leap." Those freaks or "strange people" who were left stranded and penniless by an indoor show may or may not have believed in the old saw, but they "fell" just the same, and, without doubt, much to their regret. A lesson has been taught and we'll venture to say "Look before you leap" will, without fail, be borne in mind when the ones concerned go to accept future engagements of a similar or any other nature.

The radio drama and the radio novel will never be much of a success unless a way is found for the authors to make as much money from this method of circulation as they do from theater presentation and book publication.

Theatergoers in the smaller cities have been fooled so often with No. 2 road shows at No. 1 prices that about the only thing good for a sellout nowadays is a *Matt and Jeff*, a *Bringing Up Father* or an *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, where they know at 50 cents top they can't lose much.

Firmin Gemier-- Don Quixote of the French Theater

By BARNET BRAVERMAN

AMONG the two or three outstanding personalities who want better things in the French theater there is Firmin Gemier, director of the Odeon, with its staff of 70 players. This winter Gemier is to be with us and present himself in roles which he has not played here before.

His appearance in New York last winter recalls the eagerness with which his productions were pounced upon by writers of the dramatic columns of the newspapers in that very provincial city. For New York is a most provincial town, big, it is true, but full of folks from the remotest hinterlands and populated in general by people whose conception of things that count begins and ends with Neo Yawk.

Shortly after Gemier invaded the shambles of Old Gotham our amiable self-conscious writers of dramatic "columns" began fretting about the poor scenery and settings in Gemier's productions. As most of them probably didn't understand French any too well, the shortcomings of the settings were about all they could pick on as the bait of their critical observations. I have no desire to throw paper wads at him, but I refer to George Jean Nathan as an example, because he has a good theater sense. Not content with kidding the sprinkling of unreliable intelligentists, a number of newly rich, a bedroom-story magazine publisher, and a few financiers who had gathered to tell Gemier what a fine actor he is and what a wonderful company he directs, G. J. N. heaped an uncalled-for vituperation upon Gemier. *Wirklich, es war eine Schande. Quel ennui!*

Gemier, Critic of the French Stage

IN the face of what anybody may write about Gemier and French histrionic art, the fact remains that such criticism is as tame as a Sunday in Toronto when compared with Gemier's opinion of the theater in France. Why? Because Gemier himself is a severe critic of the French theater. Indeed, he appears as a veritable Don Quixote, vainly attacking reactionary traditions of the French theater in spite of his connection with the Odeon, which is State owned.

When in Paris, Gemier expressed to me certain of his reactions to the theater of his country and to the theater in general. His hulk, the big dome of a shining pate, the small beady eyes, the heavy shoulders, the thick-roled shoes of a gendarme, the utter simplicity of the man—these suggest the workman of the theater who has little patience with the artificial and the bombastic.

Gemier is no iconoclast of the theater as are Meyerhold, Jessner, Talbot, Kessler, Leger and others. And yet he says the French theater is decadent, backward, reactionary; almost as reactionary as French imperialism. He holds that the causes are (1) lack of liberty for the regisseur and actor because the government has a hand in matters dramatic, (2) lack of dramatists who can write for today, (3) unwillingness of the French public to accept experiments, (4) the artificial training at the French Conservatoire, and (5) the traditions as maintained by the Comedie Francaise, the Opera Comique and the Opera. These constitute the frustrating factors which erect difficulties for the ambitious, forward-looking regisseur in the French theater. And Gemier told me he doesn't care who may come across this bit of information. It is therefore remarkable that he and his designer, Rene Pucier, function so well at the Odeon.

French Dramatists Ignore Present-Day Realities
Gemier hasn't yet found any French dramatists who write for and about this era. Such dramatists, he maintains, simply do not exist, altho he thinks Lesourd had found something precise. As long as the French play continues to picture 19th century bed situations and boulevard themes, Gemier doesn't see how

French drama can be of value to the French theater. Not so long ago Gemier accepted the services of a society for the promotion of French drama to read any and all plays sent to it by aspiring writers for the theater. Not one play proved acceptable to Gemier. Most of them pictured the boulevard. The trouble with the young French author as it seems to Gemier is that he doesn't depart from the method of playwrighting in vogue 30 or more years ago. Plays were written then wholly for the edification of the upper bourgeoisie and their imitators rather than for the crowd. Subtle sex plays were the style. They serve today as patterns for the French dramatist. He ignores the dramatic possibilities of present-day realities. That is why Gemier thinks the French theater is decadent. The French public clamors for boulevard productions, and it is one of the reasons why Gemier, much to his regret, could not stage a robust Wedekind play if he would.

The fine play, as Gemier points out, usually has universal appeal . . . a quality which he complains is lacking in French plays of today, but which is also the reason for the continued popularity of plays by Moliere and Shakespeare. They appealed to everybody, even to the man who couldn't read or write.

Gemier thinks it is a mistake for the French dramatist to limit his work to the small theater. His contention, oddly enough, is that the public is capable of assimilating better things in drama and acting, and that it is a false managerial idea that the public always wants trash.

Gemier Against Artificiality

NEXT to the lack of dramatists capable of dealing with the realities of their time, Gemier ascribes the limitations of the French theater to the artificial, declamatory French training which theater students receive at the French Conservatoire. These young people are taught to carry on the cobwebbed practice of the 18th century French theater in the four State-owned playhouses—the Opera Comique, the Comedie Francaise, the Opera and the Odeon. Because nothing new is attempted by them, with the occasional exception of the Odeon, Gemier regards them as old curiosity shops or museums, the Opera and Comedie Francaise as lyrical museums and the Comedie Francaise and Odeon respectively as the Louvre and Luxembourg of the French theater world. After the discriminating person has seen the junk in both of these museums that surrounds the few works of art on their walls (notwithstanding the barrage of travel bureaus, home-coming tourists and swivel-chair museum directors), it is easy to perceive Gemier's conception of most of the productions in the French theater. . . . Further, Gemier says that French theaters are museums of histrionic antiquity because the French government wants them to remain as such. Nor does the French theater-going public care.

Gemier maintains that the Comedie Francaise, which stages plays of French origin only, lives in the past and is patronized by people who want to live in the past and who resent plays with a modern tinge. Then the government policy, ever imbued with the reactionary point of view that springs from the self-interests of imperialism, fashions the taste of French audiences into a conservative mold. As for the Conservatoire training, Gemier traces its banality to an indifference to life as it is, to over-emphasis on the vocal technique and gesture, and to the requirement of self-expression before the students are capable of living and understanding life. Gemier, then, is obliged to give these young people a new set of mental habits in histrionic practice, and to have them discard, after they come to him, what they have learned at the Conservatoire. Which is the reason, perhaps, why the acting is better in the Odeon than in any of the French theaters, with the exception of the excellent performances by that insurgent, Charles Dullin, and his company.

Gemier's Difficulties

GEMIER believes that people going to the theater have their taste formed therein, and that this taste would be certain to improve if the leading theaters departed from their ultra-artificial productions. They might lose financially for a time, but the public soon would fall in line. The trouble with those who rule the destinies of the French theater world is the insistence upon immediate returns, observes Gemier, whereas in the United States, even a taxi driver in the United States is certain to receive financial support if his idea be a good one. But isn't Gemier a bit too sanguine? True, a taxi driver's idea, if profitable, will find investors who are willing to wait for their returns, but where are they who would agree to wait for returns over a period of two, three, five or more years in a venture to promote and maintain an experimental theater? Gemier doesn't yet realize that for a country as wealthy as ours, we have few, far too few wealthy men who possess style. Outside their own business, our wealthy men, with rare exceptions, are hopelessly dumb and dull. If such men had style and a genuine conception of living, hardly a city in the United States would be without its group of experimental theaters. Even Belasco only very recently was compelled to withdraw from a theater because its owners ruled that not enough seats were filled during the first two weeks of a new production, despite that Mr. Belasco was satisfied with the profits therefrom. No, Gemier. We Americans must also learn how to wait! Our wealthy citizens will put money behind a taxi-driver's idea where they won't invest 5 cents (count 'em) in a new conception of stage production. So Monsieur Gemier must not be too hopeful. We just don't happen to have enough Otto H. Kahns to go around.

But the principal cause of Gemier's difficulty in realizing some of his aspirations in the French theater is that form and custom practically forestall experiment. He says that the people who dominate the French theater and its patrons simply cannot stand anything new, because they think nothing else other than what they have known and seen can be good. All the French theatergoer wants is a good story, and beyond this acting and production do not interest him. Thus it is easy to perceive the difficulties with which Gemier has been contending for many years. In this respect the French are a good deal like the Italians, as neither care for stylization. Gemier told me that once he attempted to stage a play with steps leading from pit to stage and the audience simply wouldn't stand for it. I don't know the details about this production, as I didn't see it, but the usual attempt to connect stage and pit with steps, unless skillfully handled, is so full of possibilities that come under the classification of holism that an audience is likely to feel skeptical about this trick. It is one way, however, of admitting that the picture-frame stage has some awkward limitations. Gemier also feels handicapped by the lack of theater architects, engineers and electricians who know lighting. Modern stage lighting, Gemier adds, is in its infancy in the French theater; but if I were Gemier I'd give this matter a minimum amount of thought, as a good production requires very little lighting equipment. The subject of stage lighting has become something akin to sleeping potions with which to lull the clearness of the spectator's brain when good acting and regie are absent in a production. And some of our arty theaters that go in so much for lighting effects are frequent offenders in the realm of acting and directing.

Disfers Star System

GEMIER'S conception of the regisseur's or director's function is quaint. He puts it this way:
1—The good director is always on the stage, never in the office.
2—He must know how to choose and direct his troupe.

- 3—He ought to be able to write drama as well as to produce it.
- 4—He must know just what he wants from the painter and not let him run wild.
- 5—Nor must the director run wild.
- 6—He must know more than his players and be stronger than they or else be laughed at by them nor be listened to by them . . . for they are vain, horrid infants.

In general, Gemier finds that many actors are ignorant of literature, possess limited education in, and have no perspective on, the history of the dramatic art of their own country, and depend too much on their natural gifts . . . for Gemier demands intellectual vigor as well as talent and instinct in the actor.

Nor is Gemier a friend of the star system. To him it is deplorable because it plays up the vanity of the actor and becomes a detriment to the importance of the play as a whole. Which viewpoint is quite opposite to that of the richly endowed Adolphe Appia, whom I saw in Geneva. Appia holds that the personality of the player is important and should be given the widest scope for its realization. But then, Appia applies this formula to all players, while in Gemier's mind, the star system resolves itself into the success of one person and makes him more important than the part he plays. Nor does Gemier believe that the American theatergoer really cares much about the star system. His observation is that the American playgoer, theoretically, doesn't ask for the star system and wants nothing more than to be amused or entertained.

He sees no difference between French and American acting except that the French actor is more declamatory. Otherwise, they have the same simplicity. He avers that all classic acting, however, is declamatory, be it in American or French productions of the classics. However, this doesn't lessen his opposition to the declamatory style. He added that until a good actor has stopped declaiming he is not successful, and as instances referred to Baron, pupil of Moliere, to Talma and Rachel during the reign of Napoleon III.

His Idea of a Theater Organization

GEMIER is quite complimentary about the productions of the Actors' Theater, the Theater Guild and the Greenwich Village Theater. He thinks these theater groups augur much for American drama, but when it comes to our musical comedy and revue—well, in them we are just stupid. But Gemier should visit a Negro revue while he is with us for nothing is more typically American. However, he would like to see the repertory theater, fully equipped with a personnel capable of working together, established as an institution in the United States as that would stimulate the development of promising talent and impart a better appreciation of theater among the public.

Here is his picture of a comprehensive theater organization. He would have one theater playing to huge audiences of 5,000; this theater would be supplemented by a small laboratory theater for experiment. And between these two there would be an intermediate theater with a seating capacity of 1,000 to present plays of intimate proportions. The larger theater he would use for plays requiring sweep of movement or for spectacles, and its construction would be so flexible that it could be adapted both to styles of the Greek or the Shakespearean stage.

The Gemier believes all things are possible in the theater he holds form in production must achieve perfection if it is to be understood. This formula also includes expressionism, for Gemier, endowed with elasticity of mind, is receptive to all experimental effort in the name of theater. That he isn't able to do as he would like to in the French theater is perhaps his own loss, for if it needs anything at all it is his salutary criticism. But if we consider the French national characteristic of self-satisfaction as a criterion, Gemier is likely to enact the role of the Don Quixote of the French theater for some time to come.

Motion Pictures

By CLARK BRANION
(Communications to 1360 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

New L. & T. Theaters Boost Realty Values

Estimated That Houses Under Construction
Will Add \$40,000,000 to Tributary
Property

Chicago, Dec. 24.—A contribution of more than \$50,000,000 to Chicago in the form of increased realty values in 1925 was forecast yesterday by Lubliner & Trins in an announcement of their program for next year. This includes the \$15,000,000 in new construction investments by that organization, and \$40,000,000 or more reflected in the values of holdings adjoining the new theaters.

The announcement states that the local theater building boom has not yet reached its peak, and that the L. & T. firm plans a number of new structures next year. "If this program exceeds six theaters," reads the statement, realty values in Chicago will be enhanced by more than \$100,000,000 thru Lubliner & Trins activities.

The above figures are based on a recent survey which the theater owners say indicates that property values in the vicinity of a new major picture house have increased at the rate of \$1,000,000 for each 1,000 seats. The six prospective theaters of 3,000 seats each thus would add about \$18,000,000 to the present estimate of more than \$40,000,000.

Four Warners in January

New York, Dec. 23.—Warner Brothers have set four pictures for release for the coming month. The first is the John Barrymore picture, *The Sea Beast*, which will be released about January 9. The Fighting Edge, with Kenneth Harlan and Patry Ruth Miller, will be released January 10; *His Jazz Bride*, with Marie Prevost and Matt Moore, will be released January 23, and *The Golden Cocoon*, which already has had a premiere at Warners' Theater here, will be released officially January 30.

Four additional Warner pictures have been completed in Hollywood. They are *The Man Operators*, originally called *The Apey Cobans*, with Monte Blue; Syd Chaplin's *Oh, What a Noise!*; *The Coco Man*, with Matt Moore and Marie Prevost; and *The Bride of the Storm*, from James Francis' Dewey's novel *Myriadland*. *My Myriadland*, with Dolores Costello and John Harron.

'The Big Parade' at White House

New York, Dec. 23.—A special showing of *The Big Parade* was given December 21 at the White House for President and Mrs. Coolidge and a party of guests invited from Cabinet and Congressional circles.

A special orchestra was taken from New York under the leadership of David Mendosa, leader of the Capitol Theater orchestra.

'Ben-Hur' at Cohan's Dec. 30

New York, Dec. 23.—The long-looked-for Metro-Goldwyn offering, *Ben-Hur*, opens for a run at the George M. Cohan Theater December 30. Ramon Novarro has the title role. Francis X. Bushman, May McAvoy and Carolee Myers lend the supporting roles. Betty Bronson is the Madonna in the Nativity scene of the plot.

First National January Releases

New York, Dec. 23.—To give exhibitors exceptionally strong releases for First National Month, Richard A. Rowland, general manager of First National, announces a schedule of release for the five weeks of January, 1926, as follows: *Blackboard's Seven Wives*, January 3; *Henry Lane*, January 10; *Just Suppose*, January 17; *Too Much Money*, January 24, and *The Fur Cry*, January 31.

De Mille's Next for Paramount

New York, Dec. 23.—William De Mille's next production for Paramount will be *The Flight to the Hills*, by Charles Neville Buck.

Chaplin To Direct Edna Purviance Again

Los Angeles, Dec. 23.—Charles Chaplin, the report goes, will star Edna Purviance, leading woman in his *A Woman of Paris*, in a new picture which he will direct. There are no details as yet.

Plan To Apportion British and American Films Not Favored

London, Dec. 23.—A canvass recently made of proprietors of motion picture houses here shows a slight majority against the proposal to compel the motion picture houses in London to project a proportionate number of British films with American-made pictures, as suggested by the Board of Trade.

Ballots were distributed among 2,600 proprietors. The returns showed 617 against and 409 in favor of the scheme.

Movie Censorship May Be Abolished in N. Y. State

New York, Dec. 23.—It is thought that Governor Smith, in his annual message to the next Legislature, will recommend that the State Commission for the Regulation of Motion Pictures be abolished, thus putting an end to State censorship as far as New York is concerned, as he has done in all his annual messages since he succeeded Governor Miller in 1923.

A strong sentiment is said to prevail among the members of the commission, headed by Charles Evans Hughes, Secretary of State, which at present is framing legislation to render effective the constitutional amendment providing for the short ballot and a general reorganization of the State administrative departments.

Amateurs Warned Against Fake Casting Agencies

New York, Dec. 23.—The Better Business Bureau, 230 Broadway, has issued a warning to persons with aspirations to become stars of the screen to look out for so-called casting agencies which offer to find employment in that line for amateurs. Many of these agencies, the bureau points out, offer to star amateurs in motion picture productions at fabulous salaries, some charging as much as \$50 for the service; whereas the most that any amateur can hope to get from a legitimate casting agency is a position as an extra.

Short Subjects Luncheon

New York, Dec. 23.—Joseph Dannenberg, of *The Film Daily*, and R. F. Woodhull, president of the Motion Picture Theater Owners of America, were the speakers at last week's luncheon of the Short Features Advertising Association at the Hotel Lorraine. Their speeches stressed the importance of giving short subjects adequate mention in the reviews of Broadway programs, due to the rapid growth of these as attractions rather than as fillers.

Texas Exhibitors Veto Percentage Bookings

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 23.—The Motion Picture Theater Owners of Texas have passed a resolution opposing percentage bookings and is urging its members not to do business with exchanges on this basis, even if it becomes necessary to exclude that type of picture.

The organization opposes what it classifies unjustifiable splits above fixed figures and accuses several companies of indulging in this sort of practice.

Arrow Has New Distributing Agency in Kansas City, Mo.

New York, Dec. 23.—Contracts have been signed between the Arrow Pictures Corporation and the Independent Film Corporation of Kansas City, Mo., whereby the latter company assumes charge of the distribution of the 24 Golden-Arrow feature features for 1925-26 in the territory served by the Kansas City exchange.

St. Louis Company Expands

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 23.—The St. Louis Amusement Company, which laid plans some time ago for an expansion of its interests, by a growth that would ultimately give it control of 50 theaters, has begun its contemplated move. Harry Koplar, vice-president, has announced the purchase of the Ozark, Webster Groves, Mo.

N. J. Theater Owners For Sunday Local Option

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 23.—The Motion Picture Theater Owners of New Jersey, at a meeting held last week at the Stacy-Trent Hotel, adopted a resolution authorizing the introduction of a bill in the coming session of the Legislature. The measure is said to be of the local option type to enable the voters in each community to determine at the polls whether or not they want Sunday pictures. The bill provides that the pictures must not be shown during an hour which conflicts with Sunday services.

The Red Grange matter came up too. Joseph M. Seider, president of the New Jersey organization, expressed the opinion that the members of the association should decline to show the picture until the makers of the film (said to be Arrow Pictures Corporation) retract their announcement given out recently to the Trade press that Grange had signed a contract for \$300,000 for his initial appearance in the film, whereas the actual figure was said to be \$10,000. Seider's opinion was endorsed unanimously by the members.

Metro's Fire Prevention Film

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Data concerning the fire prevention film which Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer will make in co-operation with the International Association of Fire Engineers appears in the current issue of *Fire and Water*, the local trade paper of the fire department.

Under the terms of a contract signed recently at Culver City, Calif., the association will receive 25 per cent of the profits of the picture, in return for which it will conduct thru its individual members in different cities an extensive publicity campaign. The production cost of the picture will be about \$250,000. Hunt Stromberg will direct it from a scenario made by Kate Cobler, Charles Ray, Elsiezer Boardman and Henry B. Walthall will have the leads, and Hobart Bosworth and Claire Melowid may also be seen in important roles. The original title was *The Passing of the Horses*, which has been changed to *Fires*, but Metro is not satisfied with either of these titles and is offering prizes to the extent of \$1,000 for the best title. Prizes only are eligible. The first prize is \$500, and there will be other prizes of \$50 each. In addition, four silver cups will be given for notable fire prevention work. The money received by the association will be devoted to a nation-wide fire prevention campaign. State Fire Marshal Stevens, of California, is in charge.

'Peter Pan' at Rialto

New York, Dec. 23.—*Peter Pan*, starring Betty Bronson, is having a morning show at the Rialto Theater. It began Christmas Day and will continue next week excepting Sunday, in conjunction with the run of the regular feature picture, *The Enchanted Hill*.

The house will open at 9 a. m. at the regular morning price of 25 cents, with the showings of *Peter Pan* until noon time, after which the regular feature and incidental program will follow.

The Enchanted Hill is a Western melodrama, featuring Jack Holt, Florence Vidor, Noah Beery, Mary Brian and George Bancroft. Peter H. Kyne is the author. Irving Willat directed.

Big Revue at Strand

New York, Dec. 23.—The attraction at the Strand Theater this week is a pretentious one, known as *The Mark Strand Revue of 1926*. Amelia Allen, late of the *Musical Revue*, who has just returned from a dancing engagement at the Pavilion in London, has been engaged as one of the dancers.

The number will have 5 scenes, 50 singers and dancers, and at least 5 individual stars of music and dance.

Neilan With Famous Players

New York, Dec. 23.—Marshall Neilan last week signed a contract with Famous Players to direct for them a series of specials, the story for the first of which is now being made. Later, according to present plans, he will direct Betty Bronson.

Neilan's current contract is with Producers' Distributing Corporation, for two pictures, the first of which, *Wing O'feet Lane*, has been finished. His connection with Paramount is expected to begin in February.

Chadwick Plans Rebuilding Of State-Right Exchanges

New York, Dec. 23.—Plans for a national organization of independent and State-right exchanges are being made, with the appointment last week by E. Chadwick, president of Chadwick Pictures Corporation, of a committee to draft the proposal. The committee consists of the following: Chairman, Samuel Ziegler, Commonwealth Film Corp., New York; Oscar Neufeld, De Luxe Film, Philadelphia; Edward A. Golden, Golden Distributing Corp., Boston; Jack Cohn, Columbia Pictures Corp., New York; Sam Sax, Gotham Productions, New York; Henry Ginsberg, Henry Ginsberg Pictures.

Such an organization was recommended by Chadwick in his address at a recent meeting of the Independent Motion Picture Association, when the proposal received unanimous approval thru the adoption of a resolution authorizing the appointment of the committee for this purpose.

The chairman is expected to issue a call for the first meeting of the committee to be held in New York, when consideration will be given to the preparation of a constitution and by-laws, and a tentative set of rules and regulations which will be submitted to the exchange men throughout the country.

Max Graf Productions Start Work January 15

New York, Dec. 23.—An extensive production schedule for the 1926-27 season is planned by Max Graf Productions at their new Peninsula Studios, San Mateo, Calif. According to Bert Perkins, scenario editor and director of publicity for the organization, who, in company with Mrs. Perkins, leaves for the West Coast tomorrow, Perkins formerly was director of exploitation for Metro pictures.

Production will start January 15 on a series of 12 two-reel Western comedies, built around the character Half-Pint Hogan, created by Perkins, featuring Pee Wee Holmes. The comedies will be released at the rate of one a month thru February for the next five years.

The schedule for the company's feature production, actual work on which will start July 1, has been outlined. Four feature pictures a year will be made. The first production will be *Finnson's Bull*, the old Murray and Mack stage success. The second will be a screen version of *Rowdy and Eva*, starring the Duncan Sisters, the scenario for which has been written by Perkins. This production will be an addition to the scheduled four, all of which will be released thru one of the largest and most important distributing organizations, the name of which is for the present withheld.

Patricia Jewel is the first star signed under contract by the company. The directors include Terry Wright and Jay Howe.

The studio, entirely new, is fully equipped in the most modern style. It has six stages.

Novelty Movie Ball At Plaza December 29

New York, Dec. 23.—Society and screen celebrities are expected to be on hand to throw light for the Novelty Movie Ball at the Hotel Plaza, given under the auspices and for the benefit of the National Motion Picture League. This is an organization of non-professional social workers whose object is to encourage the production of clean, wholesome pictures.

Mrs. Adele Woodard is president of the league. The executive committee is composed of Frank W. Hitchcock, chairman; Thomas W. Churchill, vice-chairman; Com. Daniel Carter Beard, vice-chairman; Edward A. Maher, Jr., vice-chairman; Lee K. Frankel, treasurer; Mrs. Irving Crane, secretary; Mrs. Margaret Fuller Steinbrugge, Countess d'Aix; Miss Mildred Hahn, Mrs. J. Harrison Irvine, Mrs. Richard A. Meester, Mrs. J. Riley Gordon, Mrs. John C. McIntyre.

Among the celebrities for whom box parties will be given are Gloria Swanson, Betty Bronson, Amelia Allen, Dorothy Gibson, Leon Errol, Milton Sills, Conway Tearle, Thomas Meighan, Mary Boland, Beulah Love and Jackie Coogan.

Chadwick January Releases

New York, Dec. 23.—Chadwick Pictures Corporation announces two pictures for release in January. *The Prince of Prosperity*, a story of a prize ring, starring George Walsh, set for release January 1, and *Sweet Adeline*, Charles Ray's screen version of the popular ballad, which will be released January 15, after pre-release showing over the Keith-Albee Circuit.

United Artists Want Gloria

New York, Dec. 23.—It is believed that Gloria Swanson will accept the offer of United Artists of 55 per cent of the net profits and a salary of \$15,000 a week, which the concern is expected to have held out to her as an inducement to leave Famous Players.

AS THE N. Y. REVIEWERS SEE THE FILMS

"His Secretary"

(Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at Capitol)
TIMES: "... fairly amusing photoplay. Miss Shearer handles the role of the stenographer with a good deal of thought and earnestness—at times she overdoes the pantomime. Lew Cody is acceptable. Willard Louis is very funny. Green, Lee tends to her part a natural ease and buoyancy. Karl Dane is cast in a somewhat thankless and unnecessary role. The idea of the picture is well worked out up to a certain point, after which it drags, ending up in a harmless but not particularly interesting or original manner."—Mordant Hall.
MORNING WORLD: "... one of the finest of its kind, and manages to combine sly shafts of satire on the habits of the not so tired business man with the absurdities of its utterly preposterous plot. Its first half is genuinely amusing, thanks to a collection of shrewd and sophisticated subtleties and the agreeable antics of Miss Shearer.—A. S.
EVENING WORLD: "... free from pretension, moralizing and any excess of plot... capital entertainment and for the most part highly diverting. Well cast throughout and directed with the light touch needed for such a mildly romantic comedy of business life... Norma Shearer... is an actress of ability. Lew Cody has one of his best roles. Most of the material is familiar, but it is handled smoothly, lightly and with occasional touches of novelty. It is never uproarious, but fairly constantly amusing... recommended for all and sundry."—Palmer Smith.
POST: "... rather more than fairly amusing. Satisfactory light entertainment, and it won't bore you."

"Tumbleweeds"

(First National at Strand)
TIMES: "... quick as a flash with rope and gun, and sitting his horse with the same old ease, the hero and not infrequently theoric William S. Hart... frequently won applause from the audience... not an annoying character, being only a superhero in this photoplay, which incidentally, deals with horsestealers and horse owners in the fight for a plot in the Cherokee Strip."—Mordant Hall.
MORNING WORLD: "... precisely the same stuff which Mr. Hart has always done; not one scratch of variation in its conception or in its methods... Western melodrama, with the leading man a cowboy. Mr. Hart appears younger than ever. His riding is delightful—a picture of no regrets."—Quinn Martin.
POST: "... pretty thrilling Western film material, nothing so very new, but never too old to be entertaining. Mr. Hart has lost little if any of his much vaunted ability to look sternly into the eyes of villains."
EUN: "... a film check-a-block with horsestealers, cattle, old-fashioned screen villains and messy continuity. There is a sequence of excellent cowboy riding, but that's all there is. The rest of it is sloppily told melodrama, badly acted and indifferently photographed. Mr. Hart has given some better efforts in the past."—The Moviegoer.

"Steel Preferred"

(Metropolitan Pictures at Warners)
HERALD-TRIBUNE: "... a naive production which manages in an easy-going sort of way to be rather entertaining. The story follows the old formula 'He got the job'. Bon Turpin in one scene as a bartender furnished more laughs than all the others put together."—Harrlette Underhill.
TIMES: "... a gaudy melodrama stumbling about in a jester's cap and bells—a cap of heavy steel and bells of soundless lead. It is a film which should be seen in a party of three or four persons for then the comments might easily arouse laughter. Flowed alone it is dull."—Mordant Hall.
EVENING WORLD: "... the film is described as 'an epic of chuckles', which is a little more praise than the work deserves. A melodramatic piece with liberal smears of slapstick comedy. Some of the slapstick was worse than ordinary, but on the whole the picture offers better than average entertainment."—Palmer Smith.

EXPLOITATION

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's ballyhoo, the Trackless Train, is going service in the exploitation of The Big Parade, now playing at Grauman's Egyptian Theater, Hollywood, Calif. It is being called "The Big Parade Special", and is touring the environs of Hollywood.
A co-operative campaign that cost very little and yet got excellent results was put over by C. D. Haug, Metro-Goldwyn exploiter, and Howard R. Kingsmore, manager of Low's Vendome Theater, Nashville, Tenn., when Ramon Navarro's starring vehicle, The Midshipman, played

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there. A tie-up was arranged with the Navy and Marine recruiting services. Booths were erected at the best two locations in the city. In each booth the recruiting officials of the two services were posted to pass out publicity in aid of enlistment. The front of each booth bore a large sign, reading: "To anyone enlisting in the Navy or Marines during the week of November 15 to 21 will be given five tickets to see Ramon Navarro in The Midshipman, Low's Vendome all this week. Special attraction—C. S. Lewinthal Orchestra."

Novel exploitation from the children's angle made the run of Jackie Coogan's Old Clothes at Low's Valentine Theater, Toledo, O., a big success. The campaign, featuring free performances for child members of Jackie Coogan's Play Pals of America, was put across by C. C. Deardouff, Metro-Goldwyn exploiter, and Manager E. H. Gerstle of the theater. A chapter of the Play Pals of America organization was started in Toledo, which greatly added to the box-office results on the showing. The Toledo News-Bee conducted the Play Pals movement by inviting all girls and boys to see the movie. All the announcements were carried on the front page playing up the special performance on Saturday morning. The free tickets were sent to the children who had cut out and sent the coupon, printed on the second page of the paper to the Chief Friend. The ticket was accompanied by a certificate of membership and a badge. More than 1,200 children were given tickets during the run without any cost to the theater.

A number of small boys were used by Larry R. Jacobs, Miami exploiter, and Manager J. C. Fisher, of the Mammoth Theater, Philadelphia, to put over an effective but inexpensive campaign on The Unholy Three. They paraded thru the streets in comic masks with banners spelling out the title The Unholy Three, while two of their number carried sandwich boards toiling where the attraction was playing. The kids paraded the streets for two days preceding the run of the picture. Other boys gave out circus heralds.

When Buster Keaton's picture The Navigator played in Guatemala City, a ballyhoo was constructed made of huge circular pieces of cardboard printed with

the name of the attraction and the time of the showing, and mounted on the wheels of a horse-drawn cart. This was drawn slowly thru the streets. It was probably the first ballyhoo that many of the natives had ever seen. A unique exploitation stunt was employed by Earl Cook, manager of the Pantages Theater, Kansas City, Mo., during the showing of The Last Edition, distributed thru F. B. O. In an announcement inserted in The Kansas City Star, Manager Cook invited all the newsboys of that paper to a showing of the picture as his guests on a specified night. A clever piece of exploitation was put over recently in connection with the showing of Reginald Denny's I'll Show You the Town when it played in Jacksonville, Fla. For the use of the real estate dealers there 50 cards were printed with the script "Come In—I'll Show You the Town". These were used in the windows of the real estate offices. Street cars carried signs reading "Hop In, I'll Show You the Town".

About three weeks before the opening of The Phantom of the Opera, Universal picture, starring Lon Chaney, in the Colonial Theater, Indianapolis, Ind., W. R. McCormick, Universal exploitation man in the Indianapolis exchange, made a tie-up with the Public Library. Each of the 15 branches, as well as the main branch, were given book markers, advertising the picture, with every volume which went out of the library. On the reverse side of the marker was a list of seven other mystery stories which the library could supply to its patrons.

News for Exhibitors

Two additions to the executive field force of Producers' Distributing Corporation are announced by W. J. Morgan, sales manager. Harry I. Goldman has been appointed manager of the New Haven branch and Jacob B. Cohen has been made manager of the company's branch in Pittsburgh.

Fox News has been booked by Ascher Brothers for their entire circuit of theaters in Chicago. Jack Eaton will manage the State Theater in Boston for the Loew Circuit. Captain P. E. Kleinschmidt will pro-

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duce a series of 12 one-reel pictures dealing with adventure and animal life in the Arctic and Alaska. He is also preparing a six-reel picture, entitled Alaska-Siberian Station Pictures.

Al Ferraro, sales supervisor for Famous in Brooklyn, has been transferred to the home office. He will soon go to Italy to represent the company there. The Colonial Theaters, Inc. has bought property in Bristol, Conn., on which it will build an 1,800-seat house. Work will begin early in the spring, and the house is expected to open in the following November.

Fred N. Harris plans the erection of a new motion picture theater next year in Hart, Mich. After a period of five months, The Marriage Pair has been passed by the Pennsylvania censors. Purchase of a strip of property at Lake street and Stevens avenue, Minneapolis, Minn., is announced by the Hamm Steady Company. It is reported that a new \$1,600,000 vaudeville and motion picture theater will be built there.

The Statesville Inn at Statesville, N. C., will shortly be replaced by a \$220,000 theater and office building. It will be seven floors high, with stores and lobby on the first floor, office rooms on five floors and assembly hall on the top floor.

The Stanley Company of America has bought the Grand at Chester, Pa., from Gilbert Bernstein for a reported price of \$150,000. It has a seating capacity of 1,250. Stanley now controls the two

(Continued on page 59)

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"IT'S ALWAYS ON THE JOB" THE Trade Directory will work for you and help you to find new customers and hold the old ones if your name and address are placed under a proper heading describing the line of goods you sell. THE BILLBOARD PUB. CO., Cincinnati, Ohio: If my name and address can be set in one line under (name heading).....insert it 52 times in The Billboard Trade Directory for \$20. If it cannot be set in one line, write me about rate.

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Free Bargain List of New and second-hand Magical Apparatus. THAYER MAGIC CO., 234 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, California.

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ACTS THAT MAKE GOOD—LOWEST PRICES. Mind Reading, Crystal Gazing, Magic, Ropes, Acts, Secrets, Tricks, etc. Big selection. Six cents binding catalogue, none free. Prompt service. GEO. A. RICE, Auburn, New York.

PROFESSIONAL MINDREADERS, CRYSTAL GAZERS—Our new large catalogue, containing the largest selection of Mental and Psychic Acts and Apparatus in the world, is ready. Illustrated, better descriptions, lower prices, new effects galore. With Homepage Samples, 3c. HELLER ENTERPRISES, 64 W. Town, Columbus, Ohio.

SEEKING SILVER PROFESSIONAL PUNCH Whistles, 41, PINNY, 2 Liberty, Charleston, South Carolina.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND ACCESSORIES

FOR SALE—WANTED TO BUY.
\$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢.
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Wanted—Saxophone, Clarinet, Maracas or Orchestration. Will trade Radio, Printing Equipment, Novelties, M. O. Books for same. LAURENCE BARQUE, Ooltah, Indiana.

A NO. 128 WURLITZER BAND ORGAN. GOOD playing condition, \$275.00; 175 pipes, Richardson Street, Hester Street, \$100.00. WICHNER BROS., Winner, South Dakota.

ALL INSTRUMENTS AND SUPPLIES FOR band and orchestra. New and rebuilt instruments, many standard makes, completely overhauled and made over in our own shops. Over 200 in stock, here are a few. French Saxophone, Clarinet, B-flat, Albert, in case, \$77.50. Cash also Saxophone, silver plated, gold bell. Fine condition, in case, \$90.00; Buescher Alto Sax, late silver-plated model, in fine case, \$95.00; Conn C Melody Sax, late model, silver plated, in case, \$95.00; Harswood C Melody Sax, fine condition, latest model, silver plated, in case, \$85.00; Cornets and Trombones from \$25.00 to \$40.00; Trombones, standard models, \$16.00 to \$19.00. Send for complete catalogs, bulletin, free. Our big new catalog now ready, send to everyone who asks for it. Write today, it's free. Complete line of new Buescher instruments, including Saxophones, Vega Banjos, Ludwig Drums and Drummers' Supplies, Hoegaen Bells and Maracas, Violins and Violinists' Supplies. Band and orchestra music (the vocal or piano) all published in popular and standard. Best service our motto. "Deal with the Professional Home." Everyone here experienced band and orchestra musicians. We serve traveling musicians all over the country. CRAWFORD-RUTAN CO., 1913 Grand Ave., Kansas City, Missouri.

BIG STOCK OF TROMBONES, USED AND NEW, all makes, also other makes, also number of alto saxophones. We will take any old instrument as down payment. Write quick. SLOVACEK MUSIC COMPANY, Temple, Texas.

DEAGAN UMAJON, FOUR OCTAVES IN special fiber trunk, new six months, \$200. one-fourth cash, balance C. O. D., privilege examination. FULLER'S GROCERY, Brookville, Pennsylvania.

FOR SALE—DEAGAN PROFESSIONAL FOUR- octave Nazard Xylophone No. 812, with carrying case. Used three months. E. O. EWERELL, Huntington, Iowa.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS REPAIRED— Reasonable. Write JOSEPH WATSON, 711 South Third, Pasco, Idaho.

NEW STOCK OLDS TROMBONES, CORN Saxophones, Trompae, Saxophones, Vega Banjos, Buffet Clarinets, Brownhorn Corn Trompae, gold finished, \$75.00. Immediate deliveries. CARL B. WALTERSDORF, Music House, Crystal, Iowa.

SAKOPHONISTS, CLARINETISTS, CORNET- ists, Trombones—Let "Free Palatiers" VISUOSO MUSIC SCHEOLA, Buffalo, N. Y.

NEW STOCK OLDS TROMBONES, CORN Saxophones, Trompae, Saxophones, Vega Banjos, Buffet Clarinets, Brownhorn Corn Trompae, gold finished, \$75.00. Immediate deliveries. CARL B. WALTERSDORF, Music House, Crystal, Iowa.

SAKOPHONISTS, CLARINETISTS, CORNET- ists, Trombones—Let "Free Palatiers" VISUOSO MUSIC SCHEOLA, Buffalo, N. Y.

SALESMEN WANTED—OUR BEST seller. Sample, 25 cents. F. BIESENBECK MFG. CO., 2040 Maryland Ave., Chicago.

NEW CATALOG OF EVERYTHING FOR THE band and orchestra musician now ready. We sell nothing else but. Sent free wherever you are. Instruments, Supplies and Music. Write today. Deal with the Professional Home. CRAWFORD-RUTAN CO., 1913 Grand Ave., Kansas City, Missouri.

NEW TIKEDO SUITS, WONDERFUL VALUES, \$22, 27, 32, all sizes. \$12; Derby Hats, \$1.00; Red Hand Coats, \$4.00. WALLACE, 1834 North Halsted, Chicago.

SEVERAL BRAND-NEW ORIGINAL PROFESSION- al Import d Soprano Piano-Keyboard Accordion, 61 keys, 4 voices with copier, 120 bases, extravagant celluloid inlay; subject to examination before purchase. \$145.00 each, cash only. BOX NY-16, Billboard, 1590 Broadway, New York.

UNA-PONS, DEAGAN, ALL SIZES, FOR SALE and wanted. State all. C. W. DICKEY, 612 East Washington St., Indianapolis, Indiana.

\$35.00 CHINESE VIOLIN, 3-STRING, VERY odd and rare, fine condition. Other Musical instruments on hand. We have and sell. WELLS CURIOSITY SHOP, 30 South Second St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

NEW CATALOG OF EVERYTHING FOR THE band and orchestra musician now ready. We sell nothing else but. Sent free wherever you are. Instruments, Supplies and Music. Write today. Deal with the Professional Home. CRAWFORD-RUTAN CO., 1913 Grand Ave., Kansas City, Missouri.

\$55.00—OLD VIOLONCELLO, SWEET TONE, cost \$100. Also carried other Musical instruments, all kinds. WELLS CURIOSITY SHOP, 30 South Second St., Philadelphia, Pa.

\$4.500 KESBURG ORGAN, STYLE S. A. C. major, price \$1,200.00; use Expression Piano, A. C. motor, cost \$1,100.00, price \$500.00; two Photograph Machines, A. C. motors, each \$75.00. WELLS PENNSYLVANIA AMUSEMENT COMPANY, 102 Forbes St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

AMERICA TAKES TO MUSIC

THE impression that music in the United States is largely of the "canned" variety is found to be erroneous by the civic development department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The musical development of this country, on the contrary, appears to be going forward with extraordinary rapidity. Today there are 45 symphony orchestras maintained in American cities. These range from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, with its own building and a permanent endowment said to be \$1,000,000, to the symphony orchestra of Boulder, Col., which has a population of 10,323. In at least nine of these cities public funds are expended for the support of bands and orchestras, organists and directors of music, the greater number of orchestras have been privately supported. New York City spends large sums for music in public parks. Baltimore is experimenting with low-cost admission tickets. The Denver Civic Orchestra maintains a training school for players. Nor is this interest of latter-day origin. As early as 1823 the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston offered Beethoven a special commission to write an oratorio for its use. The New York Philharmonic was organized in 1842, simultaneously with the founding of the Vienna Philharmonic, the third of the great symphony orchestras to be established. All of which would go to prove that the phonograph and radio are fostering public interest in good music. —CLEVELAND PLAINDEALER.

BIG COLLECTION OF NEW AND USED VI- olins, Write for prices and descriptions. Make any musical instrument as down payment and balance as low as rent. We repair and adjust Violins of the highest quality. Try us. SLOVACEK MUSIC COMPANY, Temple, Texas.

PARTNERS WANTED FOR ACTS (NO INVESTMENT) \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

LADY PALMIST, UNNUMBERED, TO JOIN Astrologer. State all. A. STEEN, Kirksville, Missouri.

PATENTS \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

PATENTS—WRITE FOR OUR FREE GUIDE Booky and "Record of Invention Rights" for free. Send model or sketch of invention for inspection and instructions free. Terms reasonable. VICTOR J. EVANS & CO., Niabi and G. Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

WANTED—ADDRESS OF HARRY HEMING- way of Mrs. L. Young; important. G. E. EVANS, 4522 North Radio, Chicago, Illinois.

SALESMEN WANTED \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

Salesmen Wanted—Our Best seller. Sample, 25 cents. F. BIESENBECK MFG. CO., 2040 Maryland Ave., Chicago.

Newest Invention—Sells Every- office, home, store. Automatically codes telephone and iron cords. Abolishes scales and clocks. Great time and tempo saver. \$3. daily. Samples for test if desired. NEVER-KNOT, Dept. 1-4, McClure Bldg., Chicago.

Salesmen To Earn \$300 to \$600 weekly. Withdrawal new dealer specialty. Liberal credit terms. \$40.00 weekly expenses guaranteed against commission. Only producers wanted. Write reference as to ability. SALLIE MANAGER, Box 282-P, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

NEW DISCOVERY—REPEATS FAST, PRO- tected territory. Good profit. Send \$1.00 for 25¢ can, enough for automobile, either clear or black. DOUBLE-CROSS MYER, Joplin, Missouri.

LIVE-WIRE SALESMEN TO JOIN OUR PRO- sperous sales force. New spring 1926 line now ready. Earn \$75-\$125 from the start, selling the largest and fastest selling tailoring line. Set your own profits on each sale. 300 All-Work Fabrics, retailing from \$22.50 to \$45.00. Satisfaction guaranteed. Experience helps, but not necessary—we teach you. Write for complete free sample outfit today. Ambitions never can become district managers. EDWARD E. STRAUSS & CO., INC., 403 E. Market St., Dept. 502, Chicago.

SELL AT EIGHT—PRINTS AD ON WRAP- ping paper, boxes, bags, etc. Large commission. Send 1lb for sample work. AUTO-MATIC AD STAMPER, Joplin, Missouri.

TAILORING SALESMEN—3 LINES MADE-TO- order, custom label suits, Overcoats, \$24.30, \$29.50, \$39.50. Coats, \$14.35, \$17. Nobby case, 26¢ weather's "1/2". Quickest deliveries. Write SCOTT SYSTEM, 190 Bedford St., Boston, Massachusetts.

TATTOOING SUPPLIES AT LOWEST PRICES from manufacturer, MILLER, 2201 Main, Norfolk, Virginia.

TENTS FOR SALE (SECOND-HAND) NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$2 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

Sidewall Special—4,000 Feet, 280 ft. long, new, but slightly soiled, eight feet high, machine roped, \$27.70 per hundred feet. Act quick. Wire deposit for share of this bargain. KERR MFG. CO., 1054 Grand Ave., Chicago.

Used One Short Season, 80x120 Tent and 3,000 Folding Chairs. B. J. RUSSELL, Box 187, Peoria, Illinois.

THEATRICAL HOTELS \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

BUY MAWR HOTEL, 4330 WINTERBLOT, Chicago. New building, 50 rooms, 30 baths, \$10 week up.

TYPEWRITERS FOR SALE \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

TYPEWRITERS—REMININGTON, CORONA, Underwoods, Smiths and Victor. All new. Bankrupt stock, guaranteed. \$15 up. RED-INGTON CO., Scranton, Pennsylvania.

THEATRES FOR SALE \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

THEATRE, FULLY EQUIPPED, TWO HUN- dred and fifty seats, towns of five thousand, seven-room modern flat, overlooks, five-year lease. All letters answered. A. J. HAND, Little Falls, Minnesota.

THEATRICAL PRINTING \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

Curtiss, Continental, Ohio. \$7.25; 2,000 \$12.50; 3,000 \$10.00; 5,000 \$20.00; and 10,000 \$30.00. Address: THE DARTHELL PRINT, Bangor, Minnesota.

500 LETTERHEADS, 500 ENVELOPES, \$2.35. Low prices all printing. Ask for prices. 5,000 Tenthers, \$5.00. LEADER PRINTING CO., Warren, Illinois.

500 HAMMILL ROAD LETTERHEADS, printed, prepaid, \$1.10; 200 Envelopes, same. Flash or commercial. KING PRINTERS, Warren, Illinois.

500 THREE-LINE GUMMED LABELS, THREE dimes, WEST MOORE, Martinsburg, Ind.

3,000 4x3 (3 FORMS) DODGERS, PREPAID, \$3.75; 3,000 6x3 (1 form) \$3.00. KING PRINTERS, Warren, Illinois.

WANTED PARTNER (CAPITAL INVESTED) \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

PARTNER, MAN OR WOMAN, SMALL CAP- ital. Good investment. I have Calligo Truck. JACK DALTON, Billboard, Cincinnati.

PARTNER WITH \$2 OR 30 FOOT TOP WITH two 30 or 40 foot Middle Pieces or Over Circles. Times for week-end circus. BOX 78, Wilmore, Pennsylvania.

SMALL INVESTMENT SECURES HALF IN- terest in Repertoire Company, PHIL MAKER, Richey Hotel, Ualltown, Pennsylvania.

WANTED—PARTNER UNUSUAL OPPOR- tunity for a wife-aways man to fill the place as Sales Manager, Manufacturers of Office, Factory and Household Specialties. Get proposition at once—Now. GENERAL PRODUCTS CO., Bradford, Ohio.

WANTED TO BUY, LEASE OR RENT \$2 WORD, CASH, NO ADV. LESS THAN 25¢. \$5 WORD, CASH, ATTRACTIVE FIRST LINE. Figure Total of Words at One Rate Only.

Wanted To Buy—Arcade Ma- chine. YANONICK, 446 E. 17th St., New York City.

Wanted—Mills, Ben-Hur and Black-Cat Machines. State serial number. Address GEORGE MONIER, 65 N. E. Sixth Street, Miami, Florida.

Wanted To Rent or Buy—300 pairs of Fiber Roller Skates. CLYDE HANAN, Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Will Purchase, in Good Condition, Vending Machines of all description...

DEERE CONCESSION FOR SHOOTING GALLERY in good city park for summer of 1926.

PENNY ARCADE MACHINES WANTED FOR traveling purposes...

WANT TO BUY EVOLUTION SHOWS, VIEW Books, Photographs, Slides, cheap for cash.

WANTED TO BUY—OCEAN WAVE, DELOO Light Plant, Beds for restaurants...

WANTED TO BUY—LANDSCAPE DROP WITH three legs, plain chamber or kitchen...

WANTED—LARGE TESLA OR OUDIN COIL for electric act.

MOVING PICTURE FILMS FOR SALE—2D-HAND

For Sale—Big Feature Circus Film, bargain.

Lecture Films, Slides, Machines, bargains.

News Weeklies, \$2.50; West-ems and Comedies, \$5.00 per reel.

Real Bargains in One-Reel Comedies at \$2.50 per subject.

Sample Prints as New, Mix. Hart, Heald and others.

HEAD OR ALIVE? "CYCLONE BLISS" "If He of Hate" and "Man From Nowhere"...

FEATURES—GIVE-AWAY PRICES, FRED HUGHES WITH, East Second St., Carthage, Missouri.

GOOD FILMS, \$1.00 UP—LIST, FRANCIS KEY, 2519 Jackson, Anderson, Indiana.

ROAD SHOWS, WE HAVE THE STUFF FOR 799. Write ACME, Box 6, Atlanta, Georgia.

2ND-HAND M. P. ACCESSORIES FOR SALE

Motion Picture Supplies—December pre-inventory sale of used Motion Picture Machines...

COMPLETE MOVING PICTURE ROAD SHOW for sale, sold separately or all.

FOR SALE—MOVING PICTURE OUTFIT, amazing bargain.

MOVING PICTURE MACHINES, SCREENS, Opera Chairs, Fire-Proof Booths...

MOVING PICTURE MACHINES, SCREENS, Portable Projectors, Stereopticons...

SACRIFICE—PORTABLE PROJECTORS, NEW Automobile Generators...

THEATRE EQUIPMENT BARGAINS—SPOT Light, Mazda or carbon, \$25.00 Motor, \$1.50...

GA POWER'S, \$100; ARBESTON BOOTH, \$75; 500 Malagony Venice Opera Chairs...

WANTED TO BUY M. P. ACCESSORIES—FILMS

WANTED—STANDARD MOTION PICTURE Camera, must be in good condition.

WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES FOR USED MOVING Picture Machines, Opera Chairs...

New Theaters (Continued from page 42)

on the new \$10,000 Tellers-Kent pipe organ.

The Arcade Theater, which Lester Norcia is building at St. Charles, Ill.

THE LAGGING DRAMA

As sensible as any recent suggestion of means to lift the "one-night stand" from its present desecrated one...

many novel effects, is being built for the playhouse by Marr and Colton.

The Dundee Theater, located at 50th and Dodge streets, Omaha, Neb.

The \$100,000 theater being erected at Frostproof, Fla., by Frank C. Thompson.

Work will start shortly after the first of the year on the Gillis Theater, Kansas City, Mo.

Arthur Voegtlin, who was for years the guiding scenic director of the original New York Hippodrome...

News for Exhibitors (Continued from page 51)

largest houses in Chester. The other is the Washington.

well as the latest and best motion pictures.

The Manchester Theater, Los Angeles, the latest West Coast addition, will have its opening on or about January 1.

Scenic Artists (Continued from page 43)

insufficient by our scenic artists' organization and executive from them was ruled against and justly.

The new Public Theaters' Corporation, recently formed to handle theater properties...

THE SCENIC DRAMA

As sensible as any recent suggestion of means to lift the "one-night stand" from its present desecrated one...

many novel effects, is being built for the playhouse by Marr and Colton.

The Dundee Theater, located at 50th and Dodge streets, Omaha, Neb.

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Work will start shortly after the first of the year on the Gillis Theater, Kansas City, Mo.

Arthur Voegtlin, who was for years the guiding scenic director of the original New York Hippodrome...

News for Exhibitors (Continued from page 51)

largest houses in Chester. The other is the Washington.

Greater Features, Inc. has bought for distribution in the Seattle territory a series of single-reel films.

The new Embury Theater at Mount Vernon, N. Y., is scheduled to open January 10.

L. O. Lukau, formerly manager of the First National Exchange at Minneapolis, has been appointed to the position of district manager for the West Coast territory...

William E. Vincent's Colonial Theater, Harrisburg, Pa., was closed for a few days recently to permit of alterations costing \$30,000.

Film Shorts

Laurence Stallings, author of The Rio Grande, has been engaged as special dramatist for Old Inland, the story of the frigate Constitution...

Gilda Gray has completed her Paramount picture, Alone of the South Seas.

Richard Dix, Lois Wilson, Adolphe Menjou, Clara Bow and Percy Marmont have been added to the cast of Glorious Fourth...

W. C. Fields, who was taken away from the Big Game Follies, will begin work on his first starring vehicle for Paramount...

The new Public Theaters' Corporation, recently formed to handle theater properties...

The cast for I'll See You Tonight has been completed with the addition of Josephine Drake and Ida Waterman...

Patronage Politics, third of the Fox Films' East Side-West Side comedies, has gone into production at the Fox Studios under the direction of Benjamin Stoolery.

Adria Rogers St. John is preparing an original story for Tom Mix for next season's release.

E. A. Dupont, one of the best-known motion picture directors in Europe, has been signed by Carl Laemmle...

Universal plans to make a special feature to be entitled The Star-Spangled Banner. It will be a screen presentation of the colorful incidents which led up to the writing of the American national anthem.

Metro-Goldwyn Pictures has signed E. Mason Hopper to direct parts of Midnight, the next Frances Marion production.

Kathleen Myers, Jerry Murphy, Ray Ripley and Ivy Turner have been engaged for the cast of Lefty Flynn's next production for F. R. O. The Traffic Cop.

William Powell has been signed under contract by Paramount.

Thomas Holding and Joseph Smiley have been added to the cast of Famed, which Gloria Swanson is making for Paramount.

Elinor Glyn has been signed under contract to write the scenario and personally supervise the production of her novel, Love's Blindness, for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Final shots for Too Much Money, from the stage play by Israel Zangwill, have been made at First National's New York studio.

Shirley Mason has been signed by Famous to play the feminine lead in Desert Gold, which George B. Seitz will direct.

Crimes of the Arrowhead Club, by Arthur Somers Roche, is being prepared by Herbert Blanche and Helen Broderick for production by Universal.

Blanche Sweet may make her next picture with Marshall Neilan as her director.

Reinold West has begun production work on The Mad in Hollywood.

Warner Baxter will play the lead opposite Bebe Daniels in Miss Brewster's Millions.

The Speed Limit, by James J. Tynan, has started in production at the Metro-Goldwyn studio in Hollywood as Renaud Hoffman's next Gotham release.

The Famous Chicago Police

Octette Reappears in Public (Continued from page 11)

ganization together again, but it wasn't easy, as they got assigned to various outlying police stations after coming home. It is understood that Chief of Police Morgan Collins interested himself in the boys and helped them to arrange for rehearsals against the Chicago Police. Chief Collins is a university man and a patron of opera. This fact didn't hurt a bit. The coppers last night scored a knockout at the benefit. The members of the octette are: Frank Demski and Al Rosenquist, tenors; Frank McCann, Joseph Martin, bass; Lee Hamann, Bach, Ernest Ross, baritone; William Hazenkamp and F. M. Crook, basses.

Step On It; (Gayety) Kansas City 28-Jan. 2; open week 4-9.

MUTUAL CIRCUIT

Band Box Revue; Route No. 2, 28-Jan. 2; (Academy) Pittsburgh 4-9.

ROUTE NO. 1-Albion, Pa., Monday; Lebanon, Tuesday; Williamsport, Wednesday; Easton, Thursday; Reading, Friday and Saturday.

MINSTRELS

Belle Ruffs, Leon Long, mgt.; Jacksonville, Fla., 30-31; Starks Jan. 1; Hawthorne 2; Gainesville 3-4.

BANDS AND ORCHESTRAS

Seather's, Harry; Yokohama, Japan, 1-7; Kobe 8-12; Shanghai, China 15-18.

TABLOIDS

Adair's, Ray, Youth & Beauty Revue; (Premier) Valparaiso, Ind., 28-Jan. 2; (Crystal) Anderson 3-9.

Harley's What's Your Hurry?, Ralph Smith, mgr.; (Alvin) Mansfield, O., 28-Jan. 2; (Circuit) E. Liverpool 4-9.

REPERTOIRE

Antler Bros.' Stock Co.; (Armory) Dawson, Minn., 28-Jan. 2; Pierre, S. D., 4-9.

MISCELLANEOUS

Birch, McDonald, Mastigon, C. J. Duggan, mgr.; (Quinton) Tex., 31-Jan. 2; Palmyra 4; Hale Center 5; Littlefield 6-7; Amherst 8; Susan 9.

Katzenbocker; Blackbear, Ga., 28-Jan. 2; Valdosta 4-9.

ADDITIONAL ROUTES ON PAGE 95

BARLOW'S BIG CITY SHOWS

McCLELLAN SHOWS

NEW BOOKING SHOWS

Australia

(Continued from page 44) a silver coffee service on an oak tray, silver mounted, prior to her departure from that firm.

WARNINGS

A. L. THOMAS, of North Carolina, writes: "I had in mind to discontinue my subscription for The Billboard, but after I had mixed a few copies I had to continue."

THE BILLBOARD PUBLISHING COMPANY. Please accept this as my order for The Billboard. I want a copy every week. I am enclosing \$..... as payment.

to be present at the wedding of Manny Sioman, secretary to P. W. Thring, Associated Theaters. The ceremony was set down for last Monday.

New Incorporations

Delaware: Paramount Chain Theaters' Corporation, Wilmington, \$100,000.

real, \$225,000; A. Smith, V. I. Mathews, J. F. Perdue.

PHILADELPHIA FRED'K ULLRICH

At the Theaters Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—What Price Glory opened this week at the Adelphi to capacity houses.

The Stanley had The Keeper of the Bee and will open Christmas Day with A Kiss for Cinderella.

Laurence Stallings, one of the authors of What Price Glory, now playing the Adelphi, was given a "night" at the Pen and Pencil Club on Monday.

Theatrical Revival Under Way in Akron Akron, O., Dec. 22.—A theatrical revival is under way in Akron.

Outside construction work has practically been completed on the Keith vaudeville house, the total cost being estimated at \$1,000,000.

Fiber & Shea, New York lessees of the Colonial Theater, have completed negotiations for its purchase from the Mill & High Theater Company.

Beck's Death Was Natural Chicago, Dec. 24.—The death of William Beck, baritone, for 14 years with the Chicago Civic Opera Company, was due to natural causes.

Marty Goldberg Is New Manager of the Bryn Mawr Chicago, Dec. 24.—Marty Goldberg has succeeded Lew Well as manager of the Bryn Mawr Theater on the north side.

Circus and Side Show

By CHAS. WIRTH

(Communications to 25-27 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

QUESTION OF INDEMNITY BOND FOR SHOWS SPRINGS UP AGAIN

Calls for \$5,000 for Each Employee Up to and Including 10. With Minimum of \$50,000, and \$5,000 for Each Employee in Excess of 10. With Maximum of \$300,000---Frink Urges Quick Action

SHOWMEN have a stiff problem staring them in the eyes and quick action is imperative. The question of an indemnity bond for each circus and Wild West show—and no doubt other shows moving in freight service—to be filed with the railroads has again bobbed up.

There was some secret agitation along this line last year and while it looked like it might not amount to much at that time the matter, it seems, has assumed great importance now, as witness the following letter sent to all interested parties by F. J. Frink, railroad contractor of the Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Wild West Show, December 21:

"The writer has positive information that the railroads are making every effort to compel all shows to supply an indemnity bond as follows: \$5,000 for each employee with a minimum of \$50,000 and \$5,000 for each employee in excess of 10 persons with a maximum of \$300,000, which means that every show would be required to file a bond for \$200,000.

"I understand that no bonding company will issue a blanket contract to cover all the railroads that we might move over during the season and if it did consider same the rate would be prohibitive.

"This measure is now in the hands of the Legal Committee of the Truck Lines and it is my understanding will be brought before the Truck Line Traffic Committees in the near future.

"While some few individual representatives who handle the circus contracts have advised against the measure they do not carry weight enough to keep the railroads from adopting same and unless the showmen will get together and make some definite plans to be represented in some way we are sure to have to supply this bond.

"I have been requested by two railroad representatives to offer some suggestion regarding the handling of the bond. It might be possible that the showmen could offer a suggestion so that the railroads would carry this bond themselves as they do for regular freight shipments.

"I would suggest that all interested get together on this matter at once and discuss the above.

"The writer will be in Chicago December 31. Mail will reach me at 7 South Dearborn street, care National Printing Company.

Yours truly, F. J. FRINK."

Seils-Sterling Circus

Will Have Larger Big Top. Use Two Rings and an Arena. Perform Animal as Well as Circus Acts

The Seils-Sterling Circus will have a larger big top the coming season and use two rings and an arena, informs Fred Worthing. Numerous wild and domestic animal acts will be offered in addition to aerial and ground numbers. An Indian act will be featured, with Orville Lindeman and Milton Grimes as the riders, using two beautiful white horses. The management will also produce a magnificent spec. outfit, America, in which elaborate wardrobe and trappings will be used. The entire company will participate. The outfit will be transported on 22 trucks and two five-ton trailers, pulled by tractors. The advance will use two trucks and a roadster.

The animal acts are booked for a number of indoor engagements commencing January 10. These will be worked by Milton Grimes and Al Lindeman. Al Lindeman, Manager Billy Lindeman and Assistant Manager O. H. Lindeman and their families are spending the holidays at Shobogon, Wis. The writer is busy around quarters, buying feed and lining up the indoor doings.

Lehrter With U. S. Tent and Awning Co.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—"Whiskey" Lehrter, who was boss property man for the Sparks Circus, has taken a winter job with the United States Tent and Awning Company.

No Wild West Show

For American Circus Corporation Next Season. Says Magivan—Other Shows Same Size

All the talk about the American Circus Corporation putting out a Wild West show next season has simmered down to nothing.

There will be none says Jerry Magivan to The Billboard—and Mr. Magivan should know if anybody should.

He further says the Seils-Floto Circus, John Robinson Circus and Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus will go out in 1926 the same size they were the past season.

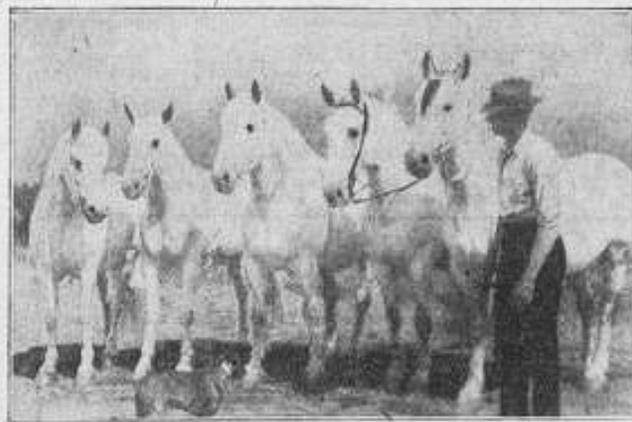
I. A. B. P. & B., Local No. 45

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 24.—At a recent meeting of I. A. B. P. & B., Local No. 45, the following officers were elected for the coming year: Charles Gossard, president; J. P. McDonnell, vice-president; Mike Wetner, corresponding secretary; Joe Kugler, financial agent; George Kugler, business agent; Mike Neumann, sergeant-at-arms; Albert Berg, L. Kesler and William Thompson, trustees. Bro. Guy Hopkins is ahead of the Topsy and Zoo Company, Pat Langan is in advance of the Dolly Gray Stock Company, and Bert Wheeler is at the Empress Theater.

George V. Connor Re-Engaged

As Side-Show Manager of the Sparks Circus

George V. Connor has been re-engaged to manage the side show of the Sparks Circus, which will be his fifth season with that show. He is now located at his home in Chillicothe, O., looking after his farms.



Showing the ring stock of the Riding Roomers, who were with the Sparks Circus the past season and who will return to this show next year.

Haag Shows in Quarters

Marianna, Fla., Dec. 24.—The Mighty Haag Shows brought their season to a close here December 15 and despite inclement weather did nicely. The receipts of the closing performance were given to the Marianna Lodge of Elks for its Christmas Charity Fund. The shows are in winter quarters here.

The feature of the afternoon performance was the presentation of a loving cup to Ernest Haag, owner of the show, by the Saturna Shrine Club. The presentation address was made by U. S. Senator W. H. Milton, the potentate of the local temple of Shriners.

Bert Snow on West Coast

Kansas City, Dec. 24.—Bert Snow, general manager of Cullen's Animal Circus, has informed the Kansas City office of The Billboard from Turlock, Calif., that he arrived there the first of December and will remain all winter. Mr. Snow further stated that the show is in winter quarters at 19th and Central avenues, Minneapolis, Minn., but that some of the acts were working in department stores in that city for the holidays and after that have 10 weeks in vaudeville in and around Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Mr. Snow reports that the show will be larger the coming season. New animal acts will include a troupe of goats, more dog acts, more ponies, a "January" mule. A 10-piece band will be carried in addition to the callopes. Another middle piece is being added to the big top, so that the show will have a seating capacity of 1,200 people. There will be two side shows with the usual concessions. The circus (two cars) will have new and larger tents and will carry 10 people. Lew F. Cullen, the veteran animal trainer, promises some novel animal acts.

Ringling-Barnum Circus

Menagerie Enlarged and New Sleeping and Stateroom Cars Added

Bridgport, Conn., Dec. 24.—The winter-quarters efforts of the Ringling-Barnum Circus are now directed to getting in repair such parts of the old equipment as will be used the coming year and at an early date all the Bridgport shops will undertake the building of the new paraphernalia that will be added for 1926.

Five shipments of horses have arrived in Bridgport and are now in training. Many additions have been made to the menagerie and others are contemplated as soon as importations, now on the road, arrive and can be inspected. The new equipment of tents is almost completed and ready for waterproofing. All tents used by this show are built in the Bridgport plant and the crew of tent makers is kept at winter quarters the entire year. As soon as the 1926 outfit is completed the 1927 tents will be cut and their making started. There are to be additions and replacements in the railroad equipment, several new sleeping and stateroom cars having been added.

A number of the acts that came into Bridgport at the close of the season have opened their vaudeville season and from reports all are meeting with success. Among this number are Loyal's Dogs, Ruffenach Sisters, the Ernesto Family and Lillian Lettice. Fred Braden's indoor Circus has been enjoying an unusually prosperous season and has made many bookings for next year. Pollenberg's Bears, on their European tour, are adding new laurels to their reputation. Buck Baker, with his "Bucking Ford", is playing a limited engagement on the Columbia Burlesque Circuit prior to opening at the New York Hippodrome. He has in his company a number of well-known clowns from the R.-B. Circus.

Workman Buys Interest In Heritage Bros.' Circus

Is Widely Known in Outdoor Advertising Business---Was at One Time With Barnum & Bailey Circus

Richmond, Va., Dec. 24.—William W. Workman, State Senator, and one of the best known men in the outdoor advertising business, and who was twice president of the Poster Advertising Association of America, is now a circus magnate. He has bought an interest in the Heritage Bros. Circus, a 10-car show, which is being organized by Arthur and Albert (Hoffman) Heritage, for years with the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, at Burlington, N. C.

Mr. Workman, it is said, will not accompany the circus on tour the coming season. His position will be executive and will not necessitate his absence from his office here. He is in control of a large billposting business—the Dixie Poster Advertising Company—which some time ago absorbed the Herby System, controlling the billboards in many Southern States and extending into the Middle-Western country.

He has an extensive career with the advertising departments of the old Barnum & Bailey Circus and has held important executive positions with that show. He is widely popular in the outdoor amusement field, being known to many showmen.

101 Ranch Show

Advance Personnel Re-Engaged for Coming Season

Geo. L. Miller and C. W. Finney, general agent of the 101 Ranch Show, made a flying trip East, stopping at Washington, D. C., and then proceeding to New York City, Friday, to confer with Harry Long in the metropolis, as he was anxious to spend Christmas with his sister, Mrs. Howard Henry, at Aurora, Ill.

Mr. Finney announces that the advance personnel will practically remain the same as last year. John Nowlin, formerly of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, has been engaged as contracting agent. Lawrence Ledoux will also return. Clyde H. Willard will again command advertising car No. 1. William Polkington will be manager car No. 2. Charles McCarran manager brigade No. 1 and Joe Hawley manager of the opposition brigade. F. J. Frink, traffic manager, will return to the throttle shortly after the new year. Frank Braden will again hold the position of general press representative and has been engaged the season ahead as last year—Allan J. Lester, Ora Parks and Jerome T. Harriman, the writer, Charles McMahon will handle the advertising banners.

Col. J. C. Miller, who has been making a tour of Europe for new novelties will arrive in New York City on the B. & M. Pacific December 29.

The Miller's miniature WFD West vaudeville unit, which was produced by Terry Turner and Frank Braden, will open January 2 as the first part of Fred Clark's Let's Go Company on the Clubhouse Burlesque Circuit. James Haron is the company manager for the Wild West unit and Dan Dix stage director. The act has been playing independent time in and around New York for the past five weeks. Ora Parks is at the present time press representative of the mighty Circus. Allan J. Lester is in Revere, O.; Wm. Polkington is in Los Angeles, Calif. and Clyde H. Willard at his home, Charlotte, N. C. F. J. Frink is supervising the remodeling of his new home at Oxford, Pa.

I. A. B. P. & B., Local No. 5

St. Louis, Dec. 24.—Ted Nicholas, a member of Local No. 45, Detroit, Mich., who was on the No. 1 car of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus the past season, is in town. Dave Muir, formerly on the advance of the Ringling Bros. Circus, is now manager of the unit. Dolments Theater, Charles Ross, business agent of Local No. 5, is handling the lithographs and looking after the outside billing in general. Dave Trocette, after a few weeks on the road, has returned to the city. He is at present on the sick list.

Tex Gordon, old-time circus billposter, who was with the Sparks Circus Advance, Car No. 1, will be here for the winter. He will again be with the Sparks show the coming season. Timie Yall, advertising agent for the Arcadia Dance Hall, has returned after a hunting trip in the Ozark Mountains. William Lynch, a member of Local No. 3, Pittsburg, Mo., reported at the local headquarters a few days ago and says that he will remain here for the winter.

William Broom reports that he is now custodian at the showmen's club here at 512-514 Market street. John Dix is handling the advertising for the Fox Music Hall, assisted by Albert Wolf, late of the Ringling show. There was a big fire recently in a hotel near the Garrick Theater and Advertising Agent Sam Lowenstein made an announcement to the audience that it did not amount to much. All remained seated and the show went on regardless of the fire.

Driver Bros.' Factory Beehive of Activity

Tremendous Strides Made in Business Since the Place Opened in 1921

Chicago, Dec. 26.—A reporter for The Billboard, departing from his customary channels of news the other day, wandered into Driver Bros.' establishment and picked up a genuinely interesting bit of trade news. He got the story by looking over the place and asking a few questions of Walter and Charley Driver. This curiously interesting place started in 1921 and it has never stopped growing. The reporter found eight people in the office and they were all busy. He observed five telephones and asked how come so many. Walter Driver explained by stating that three of the phones are long distances and are kept open for show people at all times.

Sixteen union workmen are employed in the tent-rope department of Driver Bros. There are 14 sewing machines in use, each one operated by a woman. There are three tent cutters and the average daily cutting is 4,000 yards of duck. Charley Driver pointed to the cutting on the day this story was assembled and it was some pile of cutting.

Walter Driver called the attention of the reporter to the fact that every employee who started with the firm is still on the pay roll. The equipment of the Driver factory is the most modern throughout. There are electric cutting machines, electric balling machines and lots of other mechanical appliances that run by electricity.

Five scenic artists are employed in the studio and Mr. Driver said that the firm has on hand orders for side-show banners from the John Robinson Circus, Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, Sparks Circus, Sells-Floto Circus, Christy Bros' Circus and 191 Ranch Wild West Show, as well as about 50 miscellaneous banners for independent shows and carnivals.

Mr. Driver also called attention to the firm's second-hand tent department. He said he had a carload of second-hand tents already sold and ready for spring delivery. He added that he also had four complete circus outfits completed and in the warehouse. Driver Bros. have gone to the front hitting on all cylinders and their factory and business shows it. "Walter and Charley" are familiar figures on the lots and they always get the glad hand and a big welcome on their visits with the show boys in the field.

Walter told the reporter that the firm enjoyed an especially big business in 1925-26 and that not one customer or order was neglected. Every customer, he said, got his goods even before they were promised.

Walter remarked that one of the big attractions of the firm had been realized, namely, that the firm had gained the confidence and esteem of the show fraternity. He said he and Charley had worked hard for this big asset and they felt they had earned it by the service and good fellowship they always extended to their patrons.

Della O'Dell's Circus

Having Very Good Business in Lone-Star State

The Della O'Dell Circus (motorized), is now in its 35th week, playing Texas territory to very good business. Informants Jim Allen, hammerman at Needville, it was necessary to drive three shows in order to accommodate the public. This has occurred 13 times this season. The



Reproduced above are Si. H. Simon, general agent for the Nat. D. Rodgers Rodon and Wild West Show, and Billy Eton, on the beach at Miami, Fla.

WALTER F. DRIVER, Pres.

CHAS. G. DRIVER, Sec'y & Treas.

DRIVER BROTHERS, Inc.

300-308 SOUTH GREEN STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
3 Long Distance Phones, 3: Haymarket 9223, Monroe 6122, Monroe 5075.

Everything for the Show

TENTS—BANNERS

CIRCUS and CARNIVAL TENTS

WRITE FOR NEW BARGAIN LIST OF TENTS IN STOCK

THE BEST ARTISTS SEE OUR BANNERS THEY PLEASE

FIVE SLEEPING CARS

Twelve Sections, Drawing Room and Smoker
RIGHT OUT SERVICE MAIN LINE RAILROAD

70-Ft. Inside Body—Six-Wheel Trucks, Steel Wheels, 5x9-In.
Journals—Electric Lights, Axle Generators—Full Vestibuled.
Ready for Use.

GEORGIA CAR & LOCOMOTIVE CO., ATLANTA, GA.

A YEAR-ROUND GIFT

AN ARMADILLO BASKET MAKES A MOST UNIQUE GIFT.

From the bared shell of the curiously beautiful little animal, which should be the title of Wild Years, Armadillo Baskets are made. The handle is formed by bending the tail around until it makes the mouth, where it is securely fastened. The illustration shows an attractive silk trimmed foot board. Our Book, in relating the story of "The Basket Makers", will be sent free upon request.



THE APEL ARMADILLO CO., Comfort, Texas.

DEALERS—Send for our interesting prospectus.

NEUMANN TENT & AWNING CO.

18 N. May St., near Madison St., CHICAGO. Phone Haymarket 2715.

CIRCUS and CARNIVAL TENTS and BANNERS

TENTS and CIRCUS SEATS FOR RENT. PICTORIAL BANNERS.

WE HAVE FOLLOWING NOW IN FLORIDA AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL.

Tent, 100-ft. round top, with six 40-ft. masts (100x40), 10-ft. wall, canvas, cover to set up.
12,000 Circus Seats, including 5,000 Reserved Seats with wide seat boards, with lined backs and foot-rest boards, and 10,000 Circus Seats with plain seat boards and arranged with foot-rest boards.
Write for prices and advice desired.

WANTED for the BIG DOUBLE ANNEX—SIDE SHOW

SPARKS WORLD'S FAMOUS SHOW—Season 1926

Novelty Acts of all kinds, sensational Grand-Sweeping Art, Troupe of Geophiles Hawaiian, Melodians and Danes; small Troupe of Real Millionaires that do an act, novel Musical Art or Kyobama Art, small Troupe of Trained Dogs of Showers, Comedy Troupe, sensational Iron-Jaw Act. In fact, Wild-Show Acts of every description, any and everything is PLANNED, ARRANGED and INTERESTING the showcasing public. P. M.—Good Shows and full satisfaction of your act in your best letter. GEORGE V. CONNOR, Manager Sparks Side Show, 223 1/2 N. Hickory St., Columbus, Ohio.

WANTED—For the Sparks Side-Show Band and Old Plantation Show, Colored Musicians of all kinds. Two string, sensational Cornet Players, two string Trombones who can not anything yet before them. Saxophone Players. All right, good, reliable. We necessary \$100.00 with \$25.00 THE OLD PLANTATION and dancing comedians to play outside and in Musical First Part; must denote first class or Trombone in Band. All of the above parties must be A-1 in their line of business. Write to HARRY WRIGHT, address 211 Caroline St., Carrollton, Mo. P. O. Box 310, Carrollton, Missouri, enclosed correct paper. Best Patton, musician, write me at once.

FOR SALE OR LEASE

60 and 70-Foot SEMI-STEEL PLAY CARS, equipped with Steel Coorie Sills entire length, Metal Dash Arms and All-Metal Trucks. Also Box, Stock, Horse and Riding Cars.

VENICE TRANSPORTATION CO.

OFFICE, (132) Title Guaranty Bldg., St. Louis, Mo. SHOWS: 21st St. and Lynch Ave., E. St. Louis, Ill. P. O. Box 21222 and Repair Work advised.

veteran showman, Lucky Bill, is blazing the trail and reports that the territory ahead looks good. The Uysco troupe has a new top-notch act, Master Bunny See Uysco nearby location in Jim Williams and wife, formerly of the Sells-Floto, Christy Bros.' and Gentry shows, have joined. The former named is equestrian director and has well under way the breaking of an eight-pony drill, two manage horses, bucking and football mules, leaping grayhounds, part dog, six trick dogs and a revolving table number. Whitey Simeron, late of the Robbins Bros. Circus, is boss canvasser. Two new cages were recently received—one for the hyena and the other for the monkeys. The Ferris wheel inside the "evolution" cage furnishes much merriment. Paraphernalia from the Japanese market has come to hand from Faps Uysco in Japan. This turn is the big drawing card of the concert. Della O'Dell Larkin received as a Christmas gift a 10-tube radio set and the folks are sitting up until the wee small hours, enjoying the various programs. Pete Layton, boss property man, has purchased a victrola and keeps the boys busy buying records.

The American Blondin

Few people know that the feat of Blondin, French tight-rope walker, who walked across a rope over Niagara Falls in July, 1860, was surpassed by a rival later. In *The Life of Dan Rice* the showman refers to Blondin but does not mention Harry Leslie's performance.

Harry W. Cole, of Detroit, Mich., submits this account: "Harry Leslie walked the rope at Niagara June 13, 1865, at the same place Blondin performed this daring feat near Suspension Bridge. He crossed from the American to the Canadian side and back. When Blondin performed his feat the distance was given as 300 feet, at a height of 243 feet above the water. On July 4 Leslie repeated his performance before an audience estimated at from 15,000 to 18,000 persons. His first crossing was made in 5 minutes and 19 seconds. The second—after receiving the congratulations of Canadian friends and partaking of some proffered refreshments—was made on the full run in four minutes. After a short respite Leslie again made his appearance in woman's

garb and for about 15 minutes astonished his audience by enacting a drunken scene, staggering, reeling, etc., with a perfect recklessness of life and limb. He wound up his foolishly exploits by running out on one of the gay ropes without a balance pole and throwing himself at full length on his back. This, it was admitted, surpassed any venturesome feat ever performed by Blondin.

"But he furnished the greatest thrill of all when he crossed the falls on the rope July 16. At this exhibition he carried a pail of water in each hand and balanced a third on his head, with his balance pole strapped to his neck—a feat he had never before attempted. When near the middle of the rope he dropped one of the pails, which caused him to lose his balance and let go of the pail in his other hand. This mishap resulted in his slipping or falling from the rope, where he hung suspended by one leg with a 45-pound balance pole dangling down on his neck. By a superhuman effort he managed to reach up and grasp the rope with one hand and pull himself back upon it, where after a short rest he resumed his walk and reached the bank safely. He gave another performance August 19 in the presence of General Grant and while his wife and child looked on, although a brisk wind was blowing at the time."

Glen Ingle is at home in Detroit, Mich. He closed a 25-week season ahead of the Rabbit Foot minstrel company.

44 YEARS REPUTATION BACK OF EVERY TENT

GOSS' SHOW CANVAS

CARNIVAL TENTS

FLAGS Waterproof Covers

SEND FOR NEW CATALOG AND SECOND HAND LIST

The J. C. GOSS CO. DETROIT MICH.

TENTS

Special Bargains

In need Dramatic style, in the following sizes:

40x50	50x75
45x60	60x90

Also other sizes in regular style Tents. Write for prices.

We will gladly quote prices on new Tents on request of your request.

CARNIE-GOUDIE MFG. CO.

Kansas City, - - Missouri

TOTAL DAILY CASH RECEIPTS

AT A GLANCE with the AUTOMATIC SYSTEM

Automatic Ticket Regular Collection and the Cash and the Automatic System.

Write for more information.

2 BAGGAGE CARS 2

Completely rebuilt, with all steel trucks, and page eye inspection. For sale at bargain prices.

PREMIER EQUIPMENT CORPORATION

HOUSTON, TEXAS.

FOR SALE

Between 50 and 60 Khaki Riding Habits, Ladies', all sizes, cost, \$1.50 per Suit. Also between 50 and 10 Ladies' Lion Riding Coats, shawls and slippers, slightly worn, \$2.00 each.

WILLIAM WRIGHT

2 West 6th St., New York.

Wanted Wanted

Dakota Max wants to buy Charltons and Harness. 303 Realty Bldg., Savannah, Ga.

tents

CONCESSION TENTS

of QUALITY and FIT

Big Tops Made of Famous "SHURDRY" Waterproofed Cloth. Write for our prices before buying.

FULTON BAG & COTTON MILLS

ATLANTA - BROOKLYN - DALLAS

MINNEAPOLIS - NEW ORLEANS - ST. LOUIS

Under The Marquee

By CIRCUS CY (Communication to 15-17 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

A happy and prosperous 1926 is the wish of Cy to all in the circus world.

Mary Grimes has signed with the Stella Sterling Circus for the 1924 season and will be featured in her revolving trapeze act.

Michael H. (Pie-Show Mike) Welch, who closed with the Al G. Barnes Circus, is now at the Barnes Zoo, Culver City, Calif.

S. D. Warren is located at Wichita Falls, Tex., and Harry Bowman at Jeannette, Pa. Both were ahead of the Huntington Minstrels.

Mark Fribble, who was on the advance of F. S. Woodett's Reddit Foot minstrel company, will be located at the Alexander Hotel, Monroe, La., for the winter.

After playing an indoor date at Jamestown, N. Y., the Shannon Brothers headed south, Joe going to his home at Houston, Tex., and German stopping off at Paducah, Ky.

Horace Laford and His Merry Jesters have joined the Hildreth Vaudeville Circus unit. They opened at the Metropolitan Theater, Philadelphia, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Irwin, of Steelville, Mo., were recently called to Buffalo Gap, where their daughter, Mrs. Richards, is ill of pneumonia. She is reported to be recovering.

John L. Downing, head waiter with the Walter L. Main and Robbins Bros. circus last season, says that he will be on the job with the Main show the coming season.

The little town of Sterling, Colo., had four circuses season of 1925, as follows: Cooper Bros., May 13; Al G. Barnes, July 2; Robbins Bros., August 8, and Sells-Floto, August 27.

Dr. J. E. Derrick, who closed a very pleasant season with the M. L. Clark & Son's Wagon Show, is spending the holidays with his daughter, Annie Bell, at Ardmore, Ok., following which he will join the Davis & Sons' Shows in Florida.

George E. Engesser, owner of the Zetimar Bros.' Wild Animal Circus, has purchased another elephant and a number of small animals. A 12-piece band and callopie will furnish the musical end of the program next season.

Violet Kechaho, singer and dancer, recently closed with the Bob Morton Circus and spent Christmas with her father in Houston, Tex. Her husband is planning a Hawaiian theater for the Morton show for the coming season.

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows have gotten out quite a novel holiday greetings card. It shows a woman, dressed as a clown, doing a handstand on an elephant's head; also a clown, holding "Santa Claus" on one of his shoulders.

Norman, the wizard of the piano-accompaniment with the Tilton Society Circus, recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Tom J. Butler, of the Butler-daMuth Company, playing week-ends in Texas. After the show Norman favored them with several selections on the accordion.

Prof. Candler, with his Pinch and Judy Show, closed an engagement at the Lion Store of Toledo, O., Christmas Eve and left for his home in Mt. Clemens, Mich., where he is spending the holidays with his wife and little son. Candler says that he went over big in Toledo.

Prof. Franck (St. Pickette) says that he was the chief clown in the Namm Department Store parade at Brookville, and at the line of walking was entertaining the children, doing "Santa Claus" at Baumans Department Store, New York City. He recently filled a number of engagements advertising feature films, such as The Ten Commandments, in the East.

Doc P. H. Pope and wife, who have seen with the Sparks Circus for the past two years, are located at Huntington, N. Va. The former is employed by the J. D. & P. Specialty Company and doing mostly Mr. Davidson, of the Davidson Bros.' Shows, is in the dental business at Huntington. He, Guy Berk and Alex Brock recently returned to Houston, O., and visited John and Charles Hite.

Writing from Sydney, Australia, November 16, Ben Reno says: "I was to have sailed for Africa two weeks ago, but the shipping strike held up all boats. Thanks for the news. Brokecovered a great deal of contact here. Am now breaking a double aerial act which will be a sensation. The little lady, Alma Mackie, a Sydney girl and not 19 years old

THE MT. VERNON CAR MFG. COMPANY
 MT. VERNON, ILL.
 Make a Specialty of All-Steel Circus Cars.

ROBBINS BROS. SAY: "It is a pleasure indeed to have them, and I only wish I had ordered these long before this." Send us your inquiry. We build to suit your particular requirements.

yet, The act will be known as the Bees—Alma and Ben. I intend to be back in the United States within a year."

P. Day Gardner, of Maywood, Ill., left the latter part of December for the South, stopping off at Louisville, Ky., to see the King Bros.' Shows in quarters there. From there he went to Macon, Ga., to visit with the Sparks troupe. He will be in Florida for a while and states that he will see the Ringling-Barnum Circus when it opens in the new Madison Square Garden next spring.

Jack DeVon and Willard C. Morgan, who closed the season with the Sparks Circus, are working the State of Georgia for a New York publishing company. DeVon was formerly connected with the Al G. Barnes Circus, staging the role of Capt. John Smith in the spec. and working animal acts. Morgan had out at one time his own musical tabloid show, Morgan's, Hick Kicking Steppers. Both will return to the Sparks Show next season.

A party of 13 from Beaumont, Tex., drove to Orange, Tex., to see the final performance of the Lee Bros.' Shows December 14. They included Mr. and Mrs. B. C. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Macaskey, Hettie and Vessie McMillan, Wally McKeith, Eugene Wilcox, Mr. and Mrs. McGrath, Marie Waldron and M. Below. They wish to compliment Manager Louis Chase and his entire company for the treatment accorded them.

Lee Norris has finished his third consecutive year with the Bob Morton Circus and is now starting on his fourth. He met a number of showfolk and acquaintances at various Florida stands. In Sarasota he met Harold Mikolton and Joe McDermott; in Tampa, "Doc" Ogden; in Orlando, Lou Marks; in West Palm Beach, Mrs. DeYoung. The latter is making on laugh with her comedy stunt used in the W. H. Rice Water Circus.

John W. Roscoe, former trouper, is making his home in San Francisco, Calif., and is following the trade of an interior decorator. He is 45 years of age and started in the circus business in 1887 with the old Bob Stricker's Wagon Shows. He went to bare-back riding in the bigger shows after that, with Barnum and Sells. He developed into a graceful rider and turned somersaults over a hanging pony. He was later made ringmaster. Sells' tented wonders were striking that the great open spaces of those days and Kittie O'Neal and Puddy Welch were among the names that stand out in this old showman's memory. Roscoe also managed the New Orleans Minstrels.

Frank Summers writes The Billboard that he has been sentenced to one year on the Fulton County Chain Gang, Atlanta, Ga. (address Route 4, Box 246), on the charge of vagrancy and asks that those acquainted with him come to his assistance. He also asks his friends to send him cigarettes, Lucky Strikes being his favorites. He has been with the Ringling-Barnum Circus off and on for the past four seasons and was with the Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1918. The past season he was on the long end of the cookhouse with the big show from August 21 to October 8, in 1918 on the train, in 1919 on the dining car for performers and 1921 on the pie car.

Who says that clowns are not versatile? Charley Post, well-known producing clown, played slide trombone on the Frank A. Robbins' Circus in 1913, was bandmaster of Henri Bros. Circus in 1914 (also played cornet), producing clown with Jones Bros. Circus in 1916, bandmaster of the Little Miss Sevens dramatic show winter of 1915, producing clown on Cole Bros.' Circus in 1916, bandmaster with Cole Bros.' Circus in 1917, producing clown on the Al G. Barnes Circus, 1918; organized and conducted a factory band for the Four-Wheel-Drive Automobile Company of Clintonville, Wis., winter of 1919; worked in the movies for the Fox

Film Company in 1913, costarred with Billy Franzy for Reicraft Pictures in a series of 19 comedies in 1920, producing clown with the Al G. Barnes Circus, 1921; directed the Birmanswood (Wick) City Band, winter of '21; producing clown on the Al G. Barnes Circus, 1922; put on a circus for the American Legion at Fort Smith, Ark., winter of '22; located at Fort Smith in '23 and played in the Orchestral Theater orchestra three seasons—'23, '24 and '25—also organizing a boys' band in that city. He is now located at Tonawanda, N. Y., organizing a 50-piece boys' band (beginners) for the Rotary Club of that town. Post says he will again take to the road next season.

WITH AUSTRALIAN CIRCUSES

By Martin C. Brennan

Sydney, Nov. 18.—George Peterson is in Hobart making arrangements for the coming of Wirth's Big Tent Show.

For some weeks prior to the opening of the annual show at Devonport (Tasmania) several carnival workers remained in that town, in which there are two picture shows, one at the Town Hall and one at the Strand Theater. By courtesy of the respective managements recognized the showmen were enabled to visit the greenhouses free of charge. This little favor was greatly appreciated by those present.

Eisle and Barney, the fat couple, are in Tasmania. Charlie Ross is managing the pair. Brother Bob is working posters and several small selling stands around the Tasmania shows.

Heller and Morris are still filling in suburban dates and will probably book for pantomime, Westbury Show (Tas.), drew about 3,000 people last week. Only one side show attended and did fairly well—Billie Clarke's glass-blowing exhibit.

The Westwood Brothers, who have been again meeting with conspicuous success in New Zealand, will not play the Dunedin Exhibition. They were at Palmerston North last week.

Maggie Briggs, Australian rough rider, left for America on the Niagara several weeks ago. Her destination is Los Angeles and on to New York, where she will be a participant among the riders in the Millionaires' Horse Parade. If her riding is favored among the picture producers of L. A., she will remain at Hollywood indefinitely.

Beaumont Pickups

By FLETCHER SMITH

Beaumont, Tex., Dec. 24.—Ray Morrison, of the Christy Show, is at the Plaza Hotel. "Red" Ebeddon, after a visit with friends here, has left for St. Louis, where he will spend the winter.

Mrs. Ray O'Westney is spending the winter at her home in St. Louis. Lois was taken ill a few days before the Christy Show closed and suffered a bad fall from the train as it was entering the yards here. She has been confined to her bed since she arrived home, but is doing nicely at this writing.

Walter McCookhill, 24-hour man of the Christy Show, is being kept busy filling the positions of purchasing agent and a sort of superintendent of everything at the quarters.

Louis Chase, who made a big success of the Lee Bros.' Show the past season with Mrs. Chase, will remain in Beaumont.

Jack Hendrickson, of the Christy Show, was recently made an Elk by the Beaumont Lodge. He is at the quarters making necessary repairs on the sleepers.

Harry Deloane has returned from a visit in Houston and has taken up house-keeping here.

Charlie Russell, of the Christy Bros.' Shows, has entirely recovered from his serious illness and is able to walk down the quarters daily. He will assist Merritt Below with the ring stock this winter.

J. C. Tracey, contracting agent, writes that he is located for the winter in

Birmingham, Ala., but will be back in the game in the spring.

Herman Blotner and brother are busy this winter at their home in Haverhill, Mass., getting their shows ready for an early spring opening. The Zigzag boys, who were with the Lee show, are now at their home in Jersey City.

Walter Hodgson, for many years with the Christy Show, has enjoyed the fishing around Beaumont since the show closed. Walter will lay the gold and silver lead out at the fairgrounds this winter and assist in the decorating.

The manager of the Christy Show has been increased by the birth of two cubs.

The Christy reindeer, which have been used for Christmas advertising by the Gumbel Bros.' stores at Philadelphia, Newark and New York, where they were exhibited in charge of Ray O'Westney, made such a big hit that they have been engaged for next year.

I. A. B. P. & B., Local No. 14

Kansas City, Dec. 24.—Frank Barnett, advertising agent of the Mutual Embrace Theater, was elected president of Local No. 14, I. A. B. P. & B. He is vice-president of the International Alliance. Frank Stevens was elected vice-president and Oscar Stevens re-elected treasurer. Paul Nichols is the new business agent for the local and is located at the old Thos. Curvick Shop, now the General Outdoor Advertising Company. The local's headquarters are at the Musicians' Club, 1017 Washington street.

KANSAS CITY
IRENE SHELLEY

Kansas City, Dec. 24.—Never has this city presented a more beautiful appearance at Christmas than this year, for all the merchants in addition to decorating their stores had Christmas trees on sidewalks, on every trolley pole, and arches of evergreens, with the red and green colors of this season, because The Kansas City Star brought Santa Claus and his six reindeer to the city for the special benefit of the children (and the grown-ups too). The main shopping street was made to resemble a forest and Santa and his reindeer had a forest home on the south side of the Star's grounds. Santa arrived December 11 and stayed until December 24.

The Kansas City Theater presented its third play of the season, The Goose Hunt, at the Ivanhoe Masonic Temple, December 16-19, to packed houses, as the more or less college play was well adapted to this season of the year. Yielding to popular demand the theater gave one more performance of this production on Wednesday night, December 23, especially for those returned home for the Christmas time.

Devin Vance the Hines opens Christmas Day at the Missouri and remains thru January 2. The Student Prince in the New Year's week attraction at the Shubert and this week The Haven is pleasing the Christmas crowds.

Danny Sullivan, the midjet clown for the past two seasons with the Ringling-Barnum Circus, has been clowning in one of the large department stores of the city since Thanksgiving and will finish this engagement Christmas eve.

Mr. Tadlock, with the Christy Circus until July, now general superintendent for the Southern Pacific R. R. at Fresno, Calif., was a caller at this office Monday. Mr. Tadlock informed he would be here until Christmas and would then return to Fresno. He is planning to be with the Al G. Barnes Circus the coming season.

J. H. Gibbs, with the 101 Ranch Show the past season as chief electrician, was a caller at this office last week. Mr. Gibbs was here en route to Edorado Springs, Mo., for Christmas. He informed he would be with the ranch again the season of 1926. Mr. Gibbs is the man who was raised when the 101 Ranch Show was in K. C. last April, but completely recovered in a short time.

Edward F. Wayne writes from E-to, Pa., that he is there for the winter. He will be with the John Robinson Circus the past season.

Jack Clark was a caller at this office December 11 when on his way from Salt Lake City to Tampa, Fla. Mr. Clark has a new show on the road entitled Jack Clark's Circus.

A. O. Duncan, ventriloquist, has been playing vaudeville dates in this territory for the W. V. M. A. Time.

William McCabe's Georgia Troubadours are playing opera houses in Southern Missouri to good success.

W. B. Dunham, saxophone player, arrived early in December from Joplin, Mo., where he was playing in an orchestra. While his home is in Los Angeles he will make K. C. headquarters at least the coming year. Mr. Dunham was with Jack Smith's Fairmount Park orchestra the past summer.

Mark Leon, well-known agent, has returned from a trip to St. Louis and the East. Mr. Leon is making K. C. headquarters these days.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Z. Wilson, who were with the John Francis Show, that season arrived in the city December 17 and will be here until the middle or last of January. After the shows close in Houston

(Continued on page 70)

The Corral

By ROWDY WADDY (Communications to 25-27 Opera Plaza, Cincinnati, O.)

Friday, this week, starts the "new year"!

Here's to success for contest and Wild West folks thruout 1926!

There were several accidents to contestants at the rodeo at Miami, according to local press accounts.

The year closing recorded the number of contests greatly augmented and but very few "boomers".

Pete Shultz says he's wintering in Chicago, also that he is preparing to stop along some in rope spinning the coming season.

Nat D. Rodgers, Herbert Maddy and Fog Horn Clancy are the "live wires" this winter so far from a contest-producing point of view.

According to late rumor a big Wild West show that it was thought might be launched this year in the Middle West will not be on for at least the early part of the season.

J. D. M.—Haven't heard from or of the Frank Butlers lately, in fact since early last spring. Write them a letter care of The Billboard, care of Mail-Forwarding Department.

Wonder what promoter will land the contract to put on the rodeo at Tulsa, Ok. In June during the National Convention of Real Estate Boards? B. M. Grottko, please let us know as soon as you sign up a man for the place.

Billy Klen writes that he closed a successful trick and break riding season with Deck Bro's Wild West at Williamson, N. C., and is wintering at home in Horsepen, Va. He wonders what has become of Skeeter Bill Robbins.

The Corral editor wishes to express his thanks to the readers who sent him Christmas and New Year's greeting cards. Incidentally quite a number of these came from folks who have been lax about sending in news for the "showman". Don't let your news show interest and that's to be appreciated.

A "new event on the program" that would probably make a hit with contest fans of the vicinity would be to corral all the "busy bodies" in town who knock the contest merely in favor of their own or other "business" interests, line 'em up behind kiddy bronks and give a gold-mounted nosebag to the horse that kicks its object the farthest.

B. F. (San Angelo Jack) Hughes wrote that he was leaving Washington, D. C., for Atlanta, Ga., near which city he is scheduled to remain several years. His address being P. O. Box 1738, and he would like letters from acquaintances to add in cheering him up during that time. Will and Gladys Abern visited him when they played the Keith house at Washington a few weeks ago.

The Corral editor's thanks to the Cheyenne (Wyo.) Frontier Days Committee for a copy of its calendar for 1926! It is a very neatly gotten up affair. It by 21 inches in color and with several cuts, the title of the event and the dates (July 27-31) printed in red, and the 24th annual contest at Cheyenne is announced, the 12 months of the year being attached at the bottom of the card.

The omission of a word (promotion) in an article in the December 5 issue may have caused a wrong impression to readers not knowing the circumstances. Vernon C. Stiles, Kamloops, Can., was quoted as stating in a local paper, "I managed the program and concessions for Mr. Welch and Mr. Wall at the recent stampede," etc. It should have read program promotion (the printed program) and concessions.

"California Jack" wrote from Orlando, Fla., that there were quite a few of the folks in that section. Some were picking oranges, others driving new automobiles from Jacksonville, and others to Orlando because of the railroad freight embargo, and "I am here in bed with a fever and smallpox. Slim Gibson is my nurse. My fever was very high, but it is broke, but I feel I would rather be somewhere in Montana or Oregon long enough to lie down and take a good drink of running water."

Notes from the Dakota Max Wild West and Circus, wintering at Savannah, Ga.: The folks are rebarreling and breaking stock for next season. A program of 15 acts is planned and being arranged. Following is a list of the people here in quarters: Dakota Max Svends, Mr. Sanders, Betty Harren, Prudie Max, Joe Carney, Mexican Joe Kesey, "Scotty" Profit, Texas Kid (rube clown), Jim Miller, Bill Brown and "Pony Slim". Dakota Max recently returned from a visiting

Outdoor Showmen Dont miss your biggest money maker!



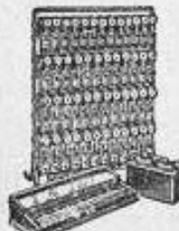
The Deagan Unafon

Packs 'Em In

GREATEST BALLY OF THEM ALL Played same as piano. Brass band volume. Two sizes, \$375 and \$500. The largest size will go in a Ford.

Write for Full Information J.C. Deagan Inc.

1760 Deagan Building, Chicago, Ill.



and business trip that took him to various points between Georgia and Western Kansas.

From Spokane, Wash.: After the announcement that J. A. Striker, publicity man for the North Idaho Stampede at Coeur d'Alene, Id., had been made directing manager of the show for 1926 reports have it that a disagreement afterward resulted in Striker going the corporation in charge for back wages. The case has aroused considerable interest in Coeur d'Alene, as Striker was generally credited as being the guiding spirit of the very successful show last year. The new manager for 1926 has not been named to succeed Striker, it is said.

An outstanding versatile worker with ropes and circus, is Bill Rogers who has not yet pushed his way into theatrical "big time" (in which there should be a berth for him) is the well-known entertainer, Weaver Gray, the past four seasons with the Sparks Circus. That's that, for the opinion of this scribble on him. Incidentally the Corral received a letter from Weaver last week. It stated in part: "I have been a reader of the Corral for some time, altho I have never been a writer, but the old home town (Chickasha, Ok.) seems as 'lonesome' I'm dropping in a few lines."

Bill Rogers has a home for the winter after another pleasant season with the Sparks Circus. I feel like a stranger almost here now, as all the old bunch have gone to find a new cow country and I can't find a person to talk with on trick roping or Wild West shows or anything about "the Charleston" now! Nice bunch, folks with the Sparks concert last season. Mr. O'Shea handles a whip in real style and gives action every minute. Dave and Rose Neuma, who were only three years in the circus field, are real comers at both trick roping and trick riding. Clyde Widener, I believe, rides a jumping horse perfectly. Francis Widener also worked in the concert until the last few weeks of the season. We also had Jim Sanders, a new boy last year, who does as good as anyone the first year. If any of the Wild West bunch happen into this town I hope they will come to the "cookhouse", as the "flag" is always up!"

"Doc" Harnett writes from Long Beach, Calif.: "Thought I would drop a few lines, the incentive to do so being a visit last night to an old friend of mine with whom I tramped a number of years ago and who in those days had one of the finest Wild West shows of its size on the road, and had such oddtimers with it as Al and Lemm Paule, Capt. Jim Kidd, Howard Lemond, Col. Victor Cody and wife, California Harry and wife, Chas. Brown, Frank Kintockey's Indian Band, also a white band and many others 'too numerous to mention.' One man I speak of is G. P. Kemp, known to all who were with him as 'Daddy Kemp'. He is now retired and living at Downey, Calif., and is the proud father of a bouncing boy, born just a week ago to the wife he married about three years ago, who was formerly Violet Thompson, of Arkansas. We had a great visit and a good talk over old times. I have been off the road for over a year, but am going back again very shortly, as I open with The Kennedy, sharpshooters and knife throwers,

tomorrow at Venice, Calif., to remain during the holidays. After that, Long Beach for two weeks, then we will play Alhambra and the Orange Show at San Bernardino, with the Mine Shows, and will open our regular season, the first of March, with the Archie Clark Carnival, with which I will also have the plant show. We certainly regret the passing of Bill Farley, as he was a trouper's friend in this part of the world."

Christmas Dinner Served

At Winter Quarters of Walter L. Main and Gentry Bros. Circuses, Louisville, Ky.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 26.—A Christmas dinner was served to 30 men at the winter quarters of the Walter L. Main and Gentry Bros. circuses in this city. Speeches were made by Jim Scully and Frenchy Higgins. Everything was served very nicely and great credit is due to both of the old-time stewards, A. Norman Baines and Al Deam. Mr. and Mrs. Howard King gave each of the employees a present. Music was furnished by Prof. Scully and his band. Milie Plato took the place of his brother, John Plato, who was called away on business. The menu consisted of stuffed olives with pimentos, salted almonds, Michigan celery, oyster cocktail, shrimp salad, roast young turkey with oyster dressing, giblet sauce, cranberry jelly, roast young sucking pig with peanut dressing, prime rib roast of beef, pudding with lemon sauce, mince pie, Christmas cake, assorted French cakes, assorted nuts, saltines and American cheese, Florida oranges, apples, candies, grapes, coffee, tea and milk.

The Davidsons Give Party

The showfolks in Huntington, W. Va., had quite a Christmas. Dr. Davidson and wife gave a fine party night of December 23 to a few of their friends. They served a three-course dinner. The house was decorated from front door to back with holly and pine. Of course there was a Christmas tree, also a rigging, with dolls on it to represent the performer—iron jaw, rings, swinging ladders, traps, etc. The interior decorating in the Davidson house was done by Doc Pope, who has been superintendent of the front door with the Sparks Circus the past two years. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. A. Brookmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Evans and daughter, Marceline; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Stauler, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Lister and Doc Pope.

Sparks Circus To Again Travel on 20 Cars

The Sparks Circus will again be 20 cars during the coming season. Two elephants and several camels will be added to the managerie. The big top, also the seating capacity, will be greatly enlarged. It is reported that a stock car will be replaced by a 70-foot steel flat.

Spirit of Sadness

Pevades Winter Quarters of 101 Ranch Show Occasioned by Recent Death of James R. (Dad) Williams

Marland, Ok., Dec. 24.—A spirit of sadness pervades the quarters of the 101 Ranch Show here, occasioned by the death recently of "Dad" Williams. Dad was assistant on the privilege car of the show during the past season, came in with the show train and, after putting his car in order for the season, he was put in charge of the men's dormitory for the winter. "Dad" had been failing in health for some little time, the immediate cause of his death being a complication of heart and kidney trouble.

The death of James R. (Dad) Williams marks the passing of another showman of the old school. First and last Dad had been connected with all the big circuses of his time and knew the business from front to back. A typical oddtimer, he resented modern innovations that have operated to displace so many of the customs and traditions of circus life and business. He was intolerant of sham, had little patience with a bustling type. He was a good judge of human nature and could pick the fourflusher from the squaresooter with an uncanny accuracy.

Williams died in the Ponca City Hospital December 15 just a few hours after being taken into the institution. As soon as communication could be had with his wife, Mrs. James R. Williams, surviving him and now residing at Fort Myers, Fla., arrangements were made for the burial of the body. Interment taking place on December 20 in the I. O. O. F. Cemetery, Ponca City, Ok. Rev. E. C. Whiteaker, of Ponca City, pastor of the First Christian Church, performed the burial rite. Some of those attending the funeral services were George W. Miller, son of Colonel J. C. Miller; W. P. Christian, secretary of the 101 Ranch Show Company; Shorty Robinson, of the concessions department of the show, and Art Eldridge, manager. Fellow showmen acting as pallbearers were August Christ, Frank Walker, Jim Howard, Frank Danahy, Harry Smith, Hugh Leighton and Joseph Kahn. Mr. Williams' home was Philadelphia, Pa. He was a member in good standing of the Eagles and the order of Red Men.

Manager Art Eldridge is taking time by the forelock in the matter of repairing work on show equipment. He has a considerable list of new in the show, putting the show stuff in good order. Some few changes are being made in both cars and wagons.

Tim Caroy writes that he came thru his operation in good shape and expects to report for duty at an early date. Colonel Joe Miller, now colorguard in Portland, wisled from Paris, France, a few days ago that he had just made the trip from London to the French capital by air.

Pete Staunton To Manage Hagenbeck-Wallace Annex

Pete Staunton, the well-known circus side-show manager, has been appointed annex manager of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. He succeeds Arthur Hoffman, Circus. He has been years a side-show manager of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. The past season Pete was assistant to Clyde Ingalls of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Side Show.

"Buster" Cronin Busy

"Buster" Cronin has been recently appointed official banner solicitor of the American Circus Corporation for the winter season. He is now busily engaged preparing season advertisements for the soliciting programs of the John Robinson, Hagenbeck-Wallace and Sells-Floto circuses. These programs are distributed to the patrons gratis.

Poodles Hannford & Co. Return to Sells-Floto

Poodles Hannford and Company, the famous barrelback riders, featuring the inimitable Poodles himself, will return to the Sells-Floto Circus as featured performers for the 1926 season after an absence of two seasons.

CARS FOR SALE

SLEEPING CARS, BAGGAGE CARS, WAGONS AND CAGES. BLANCK'S CAR STORAGE 324 Post Avenue, PITTSBURGH, PA.

WANTED MULE RIDER

Also run table, table sets of posts. Must be reliable. Good salary. Act looked with. Write MARIAN HARRIS and PAUL INGLETON, Box 2, Elmer, Mo. Dec. 17, 1925.

FOR SALE—CARS

Five Pullman Cars, Rezzano and Flat Cars. W. J. ALLMAN, Care of Home, Kansas City, Mo.

Fairs and Expositions

By NAT S. GREEN
(Communications to 25-27 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

Program of Minnesota Fair Men's Meeting

R. F. Hall, secretary of the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs, has sent out the program of the annual meeting that is to be held at the State Capitol, St. Paul, January 12 and 13.

The forenoon and afternoon of Tuesday, January 12 are given over to the delegates and concession men.

At 5 p. m. there will be an executive meeting of the officers of the federation.

The evening meeting from 8 o'clock on, will be held at the St. Francis Hotel.

On Wednesday the meeting will be called to order at 10:30 a. m. by President Serline, who will then appoint the various committees.

Co-Operation Pledged

By New York Sesqui-Centennial Committee at Dinner to Philadelphia Mayor

New York, Dec. 23. — W. Freedland Kendrick, Mayor of Philadelphia, was the principal guest at a dinner held last evening at the Hotel Roosevelt by the New York Sesqui-Centennial Committee.

W. L. L. Barnham, president of the Board of Trade and Transportation, made a speech during which he said: "The whole nation should rise in support of the International Sesqui-Centennial celebration."

Mayor Kendrick, responding to the speeches of the New York members of the committee, declared that there was no truth in the rumors that the exposition would be postponed.

"The only change of date I will listen to at all will be to open the exposition a month sooner rather than one day later than scheduled on June 1, 1926," he declared.

Twenty-six foreign countries have assured the committee that they will participate, said the Mayor.

(Continued on page 71)

Many Topnotchers

Among Acts Listed for 1926 by Wirth & Hamid

New York, Dec. 21.—The 1926 catalog issued by Wirth & Hamid has just come to hand. It is a very beautiful, well-getten-up book, replete with pictures and details about the various attractions listed in its pages.

Among the elephant acts controlled by Wirth & Hamid are Wels', Powers', Robinson's and Mivanna's. Other acts listed include Geo. Hammett & Co., Joe Hodgini Troupe, Dave Castello & Co., and the Riding Lloyds.

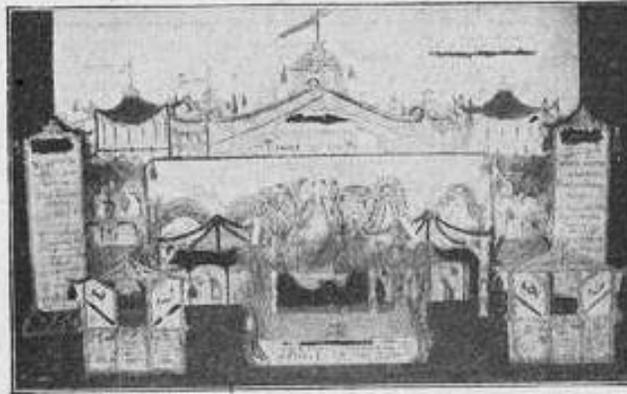
World's Fair Idea Is Backed by South Side

Chicago, Dec. 24.—The first group of citizens to answer Mayor Dever's public call for the serious consideration of a centennial exposition for Chicago came this week from the district of the South Central Association.

Those Louisianas and Texas Meeting Dates

The editor of the fair department has received word from officials of the Louisiana and Texas associations of fairs definitely setting the dates of both meetings.

A BEAUTIFUL SHOW FRONT



Experienced fair men know what a difference there is in show "fronts" on the midway, and how cut, clean, attractive fronts "dress up" the grounds—also how the opposite sort detract from the general appearance.

lady contortionists, from Germany; Evans and Perez, perch and equilibrist, from Spain; and "The River," a return act, from Germany.

Several additions have been made to the staff of Wirth & Hamid in the past year. Fred Murray and Larry Boyd, last season with the World Amusement Service Association, are now field representatives.

"Our bookings are 25 per cent ahead of 1925 already and we have only started contracting for next year," Wirth said.

"While many of our fairs are spending the same amount of money as last year, there are many others that have increased their appropriation for next year. There is a demand for new and novel acts, more so this year than in years past; that is why we have made our catalog for this year as strong as possible."

A cash bonus of from 10 to 15 per cent has been declared by the firm and will be given to all employees in the form of a Christmas present.

as much conflict as there would have been in the first place.

Here are the dates finally agreed upon: Louisiana, January 21 and 22, at Alexandria; Texas, January 22 and 23, at Dallas.

Julius F. Castello, of the Texas association, writes: "Our dates have been advanced to January 22 and 23. We did this to avoid conflicts, as we thought, with other State organizations, and now it is too late to make still another change."

Cleveland Would Stop Pari-Mutuel Betting

Cleveland, O., Dec. 24.—Horse racing around the city's five ovals—Cramwood, North Randall, Brooklyn, Maple Heights and the new \$1,000,000 Thistle-down plant—may cease as a result of action begun today by Safety Director Edwin Barry and Municipal Judge Alva Corlett.

Judge Corlett and the safety department chief, probing deeply into gambling heretofore, have struck upon some distasteful facts emanating from the various tracks and have directed their most recent attack upon pari-mutuel betting.

No immediate steps toward curbing race-track pari-mutuels will be taken, Judge Corlett said, but by spring, it was indicated, it is hoped to have enlisted the aid of suburban authorities—most of the tracks are located just outside the city limits—and between them they hope to eliminate the practice entirely.

At the moment race-track managers are silent as to the action of Judge Corlett and Safety Director Barry, but resistance to any effort designed to stop machine betting is expected.

Lengthy Program

Announced for Annual Meeting of Louisiana Fair Managers

Quite a lengthy program has been announced for the annual meeting of the Louisiana Association of Fairs, to be held at Alexandria, La., January 21 and 22.

On the night of January 21 a banquet will be held at which there will be some special entertainment features that are sure to be enjoyed.

The program announced is as follows:

1. How Glad We Are You Came to Alexandria.—George Merkel.
2. How Glad We Are To Be Here.—Wm. E. (Billy) Hirsch. (Don't talk too long or we will not be glad.)
3. Why Fair Secretaries Will Not Answer Letters.—Dean, Bellale and West. (This number will be extremely brief.)
4. Is a Parish-Wide Tax a Success?—E. J. Watson.
5. Carnival Companies at Fairs.—E. P. Norman.
6. Some Schemes To Increase the Revenue of a Fair.—R. S. Vickers.
7. Why Fair Dates Should Not Conflict.—Dr. W. W. Perkins.
8. How To Get Morning Crowds.—B. P. Bellale.
9. Free Gates at Fairs.—Col. Wm. H. Sullivan.
10. Reasons Why the College and Extension Department Are Interested in Agricultural Fairs.—Dr. W. R. Dodson.
11. Races at Fairs; Local Horse.—H. B. Skinner.
12. Value of Fairs to Agriculture.—J. K. Smith.
13. Does It Pay To Own Good Live Stock?—A. H. Henderson.
14. Does It Pay To Offer Premiums on Live Stock and Poultry Not Raised or Gained in the State?—P. O. Benjamin and D. T. Brown.
15. Are Fireworks Any Longer Necessary?—H. B. Skinner and W. R. Hirsch.
16. How To Get More Parishes Represented at State Fairs.—W. A. West, Mrs. T. J. Smith and E. J. Watson.
17. What a Pleasure It Is To Be President of a Big Fair.—Geo. Freeman.
18. Why Not More Lady Secretaries?—Margaret Appel and Lucille Decuir.
19. Why Good, Clean Shows Pay the Fair Managers.—Mr. Barne.
20. What is the Reason That So Much Interest is Shown in Washington Parish Fair?—W. S. Burrus and W. C. Flander.
21. The Benefit the Press Is to Our Fairs.—R. C. Jarreau, Dolf Fruits and Capt. John Ewing.
22. Why Is the Gladway Glad?—Morris and Castle. (They both will not talk at once.)
23. Do Fairs Benefit Railroads?—J. L. Lazzarus and L. W. Baldwin. (If you cannot be present send a good pinchletter.)
24. Why Some Fair Secretaries Go Crazy.—Dr. J. W. Thomas and W. A. West.
25. Are the Bankers Interested in Fairs?—Andrew Quebec, Travis Oliver and James Boston.
26. What is the Best Idea To Use in Securing Additional Aid From Police Juries?—Benjamin, Norman and Owens.
27. What Percentage is Spent for Advertising? What Form Gets the Best Results?—Hirsch, Warner and Watson.
28. How Many Fairs Operate on a Budget?—Skinner, Ellison and St. John.
29. Opening Day Parade at Fair.—E. E. Bowens.
30. Value of Grand-Stand Attractions.—Wm. R. Hirsch.
31. What the Farm Demonstrator Means to a Fair.—H. L. Brinkley and R. C. Calloway.
32. Would Like To Hear From Anyone Present Not on Program.

South Louisiana Fair Made Substantial Profit

An audit of the books of the South Louisiana Fair, Donaldsonville, La., for 1925 has been completed. It shows a total gross income of \$18,167.24, expenditures of \$24,168.10 and a net income of \$7,199.14.

The attendance the past season was the best in the 13 years' history of the association, having reached the 78,000 mark, an increase of more than 26 per cent over last year.

As the southern section of Louisiana is on the eve of wonderful agricultural and industrial development, the South Louisiana Fair Association is preparing for the tremendous expansion that this new era will demand.

Splendid Banquet Program for Ohio Fair Mgrs.' Meeting

As this issue goes to press the program of the two-day meeting of the Ohio Fair Managers' Association, to be held at the new Neil House, Columbus, O., January 13 and 14, has not been completed. The banquet program, however, is far enough advanced to announce its main features, and these Myers Y. Cooper, president of the association, gave to the editor of the fair department Saturday.

All indications point to a wonderfully interesting and entertaining evening. Mr. Cooper stated that the following speakers had been arranged for:

Tom L. J. Baker, Master of the National Grange; Hon. A. P. Bandler, director Federal Land Bank and for many years identified with the fairs of Ohio; Hon. Chas. V. Truax, Ohio's director of agriculture; Dr. John Wesley Hill, of Lincoln Memorial University, New York City.

In addition to the banquet and the addresses there will be an abundance of entertainment. Various features have already been promised by the World Amusement Service Association, Chicago; the Gus Stan Booking Agency, Springfield, O.; the Gordon Fireworks Co., Chicago; and the Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, Chicago.

Hartford (Mich.) Fair Re-Elects Old Officers

All officers and directors of the Van Buren County Fair Association, Hartford, Mich., were re-elected at the annual meeting held recently, with the exception of the speed secretary. George L. Reiner, veteran starting judge, was made speed secretary to succeed Dr. W. S. Hinckley.

The officers re-elected, all of whom have served for many or more years, are: President, Edward Riley; vice-president, R. F. Brown; secretary, Frank G. Simpson; and treasurer, James Ingalls.

The six directors who hold over for the year are Donald P. Cochrane, E. W. Ewald, J. Oppenhejm, Charles M. Thompson, J. Incalls and Frank G. Simpson. Directors Cochrane, Ewald, Brown and Wilkinson are the veterans of the society, having served since its organization 13 years ago.

Reports of the fair, held from September 30 to October 4, showed that the total receipts were \$24,999.94, the expenditures \$28,102.15, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$6,897.79. More than \$4,000 was expended in new buildings and permanent improvements at the fairgrounds.

The Hartford Fair has shown a substantial profit every year since it was established in 1913. In excess of \$50,000 has been invested in the grounds and buildings, all paid for out of profits of the annual fairs. The balance reported in the treasury is in excess of the original stock subscription of \$6,400 with which the fair was first launched.

Officers of the fair claim this record is unequalled among Michigan county fairs.

Texas State Fair Directors Meet

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 24.—Stockholders of the State Fair of Texas met in annual session Tuesday, December 22, at the Chamber of Commerce and heard the report of directors for the 1925 session of the State Fair. The report of directors, as read by Secretary W. H. Stratton, was the same as given to the press last week and showed a profit of

\$101,924.42 was made from the 1925 exposition.

Nine directors, to succeed themselves for a two-year term, were re-elected as follows: Edgar L. Phillips, J. C. Dulak, N. M. Baker, Robert K. Gaston, Louis Lipsitz, L. R. Mungler, H. A. Oimsted, Edward Titcher and W. I. Yopp. The hobby directors, with one more year to serve, are J. B. Adams, Jr.; William Doran, J. Eckford, Royal A. Ferris, T. W. Griffiths, A. Jackson, E. J. Knight and R. T. Morgan.

The stockholders expressed complete satisfaction with the splendid showing of Secretary Stratton's report.

Inclement Weather

Blamed for Heavy Loss of Oklahoma Free State Fair in 1925

In the annual report of the Oklahoma Free State Fair, Muskogee, made public a short time ago, inclement weather is given as having been largely responsible for the heavy loss suffered by the fair in 1925. The fair showed a profit the previous year.

The largest source of revenue was the county tax levy of one-half mill, which amounted to \$24,032.81. In lieu of donations by city and county authorities, which had previously amounted to approximately \$20,000.

Cecil Moore, auditor, found the books of the fair association in excellent shape. As the question is frequently asked: "Where do the receipts of the free fairs come from?" the complete list of receipts and expenditures of the Oklahoma Free State Fair are given herewith:

Receipts and source of income: Cash on hand, \$2,231.72; admissions, \$18,073.95; attractions, \$1,511.88; automobile show, \$1,475.75; bird entry fee, \$1.25; concessions, booths, carnival, parking space, \$14,511.13; electric service, \$68.78; fitter family contest, \$50; demolition aply building, \$30; dog show, entry fee and advertising, \$298; miscellaneous, \$27.80; 1926 accounts collected in 1925, \$1,544.97; advertising in premium list, \$1,812; poultry entry fee, \$139.50; special premiums, \$351; grounds and building rents, \$107.39; race-horse entry and starting fees, \$520; telephone, \$10; county one-half mill levy, net, \$24,032.81; bills receivable, \$802.54. Total \$70,722.23.

Disbursements: Attractions, \$16,477.92; admission department, \$355.05; advertising, \$1,511.13; annual dues, \$560; banquet, \$8; bird department, \$123.55; exhibitors' banquet, \$237.75; concession department, \$1,032.89; decorating buildings and grounds, \$510; electric service, \$259.56; feed, \$68.95; fitter family contest, \$78.08; improvements and repairs, \$193.55; dog show, \$785.01; labor on buildings and grounds, \$113.95; during year, \$2,573.90; miscellaneous, \$133.58; 1924 accounts paid in 1925, \$321.80; office supplies, telephone, gas, light, janitor and expense, \$323.87; plumbing, \$16.65; printing and stationery, \$147.90; postage, \$605; premium list (\$10,000); premium list preliminary education

(\$2,500), premium list preliminary negro boys and girls' club (\$1,000), premium list preliminary white boys and girls' club (\$5,000), premium list horse show \$2,000; entry blanks, \$1,984.31; premium ribbons and badges, \$798.57; loss for poultry, \$61.95; police and guards, \$2,101; salaries and office help, \$4,397.59; sanitary department, \$298.45; supplies for departments and grounds, \$305.21; racing department (purses, draught track and miscellaneous), \$5,591.70; surplus, \$492; fairs, judges and assistants, \$2,386; telephone and telegraph, \$211.72; tents, \$277.32; draft horses, \$1,250; light horses, \$590; jack, jennets and mules, \$240; short-horn cattle, \$1,705; Hereford cattle, \$1,845; Aberdeen Angus cattle, \$341.50; Red Polled cattle, \$500; grader and cross bred cattle, \$75; Jersey cattle, \$1,810; Holstein-Friesian cattle, \$587; Guernsey cattle, \$184; swine, \$2,542; sheep, \$1,569; poultry, \$512; apinary products \$484; dairy products, \$232.50; agriculture, \$2,279.50; horticulture, \$385; floriculture, \$192; caged birds, \$23.59; bird-house, contest, \$35; home school science, \$492; farm women clubs, \$114; household arts, \$395; fine arts, \$571.50; education, \$509; girl scouts, \$69.25; boys' and girls' clubs, \$1,876; dog show, \$150.50; bills payable, \$14,848.01. Total, \$41,568.09. Total receipts and bills receivable, \$79,722.25. Total disbursements and bills payable, \$51,568.59. Deficit, \$11,154.37. Bills receivable, \$802.54. Cash on hand, \$3,710.66. Total, \$5,513.20. Bills payable, \$14,648.01. Deficit, \$11,134.81.

Batavia (N. Y.) Fair Assn. in Good Shape

Batavia, N. Y., Dec. 9.—At the annual meeting of the Genesee County Agricultural Society the report of the treasurer, John C. Pratt, showed that the society for the last year operated at a net loss of \$3,558.78. The indebtedness of the society now amounts to \$112,940, which is made up chiefly of bonds standing against the steel grand stand which was erected a few years ago, while the assets of the society are \$285,992.62.

The officers elected for the coming year were as follows: President, Cyrus W. Carter, of Corfu; vice-presidents, H. L. Bradley, of Pavilion; J. James C. Brodie, of Forest; secretary, Fred B. Parker; treasurer, John C. Pratt.

OWATONNA FAIR "MADE" THRU ADVERTISING

The Steele County Fair of Owatonna, Minn., has gained the distinction of being the largest county fair in the State, and in the report of the annual meeting of the fair association directors published recently in an Owatonna newspaper credit for the wonderful growth of the fair is given to intensive advertising, particularly through the newspapers. "Who Steele County Fair directors," the report stated, "were unanimous in (Continued on page 70)"

FAIR FACTS, FANCIES and COMMENT

Fairs Mark the Progress of States and Nations

The new leaf is turned! It's 1926!

Maybe there were disappointments, blots, in 1925. What of it? That's past.

There's a clean page now, and it's up to all of us to keep it that way.

My, but we've got good intentions! The question is, can we keep pace with 'em?

As Congressman J. Adam Bede said at the Chicago meeting, it's a pretty good old world even if there are some things that need straightening out.

And as for straightening things out—if each one of us will watch his own kinks there'll be a darn sight less crooked timber extant.

Lots of meetings of State associations this month, starting off with the Wisconsin association, at Marshfield January 6 and 7; then there are Ohio, Michigan, California, Kansas, Minnesota, Virginia, Nebraska, Massachusetts, New England, Utah-Idaho and Pennsylvania, with a number of others to follow in February. Watch the list published each week.

Last year it was Wisconsin; this year it's Michigan. Now the wise ones are making predictions as to the third—and they're pretty well agreed as to its location.

R. Mendenhall, secretary of the McClain County Free Fair, Purcell, Ok., starts the new year off nicely for us by handing us a compliment, which is, of course, appreciated. "We had a very successful fair," says Mr. Mendenhall, "and as you know Oklahoma county fairs are all free gates, therefore we must depend on concessions and race-track receipts for any extra money; but you can depend on

The Billboard to get the concessions for you. I don't see how any fair secretary can have a fair without the help of The Billboard."

The Prince of Wales is to open the British Industries' Fair, which will be held in London in February.

Annual Fair Elections

Coffeyville, Kan.: Montgomery County Fair Association. President, W. O. Savage; vice-president, S. E. Ford; secretary, Elliot Irwin; treasurer, R. A. Muzzy.

Wahingo, Wash.: Thurston County Fair (newly organized). President and manager, H. W. McGaughey; secretary, H. L. Slaughter. A meeting of the association will be held January 3 at which time a constitution and bylaws will be adopted and a site for the fair chosen.

Alva, Ok.: Northwestern Fair. President, Mack Hunt; vice-president, A. C. Davis; secretary, I. R. Boyce; treasurer, Harry Tyree.

Mebane, N. C.: Mebane Six-County Fair Association. President, W. W. Corbett; vice-president, C. S. Loftis; secretary, C. S. Farnell; treasurer, J. S. Vincent.

Nashua, Ia.: Big Four Fair Association. President, G. W. Smith; vice-president, Dr. J. McDaniel; treasurer, A. L. Kent; secretary, E. P. Foster.

Larry, Va.: Shenandoah County Fair. President, Dr. James H. Smoot; vice-president, C. N. Hoover.

Bourbon, Ind.: Bourbon Fair Association. President, H. M. Milburn; vice-president, Will Weiser; secretary, F. M. Beck; treasurer, T. W. Parks.

Abilene, Tex.: West Texas Fair Association. President, Charles W. Barnes; vice-presidents, W. J. Fairweather, W. G. Kincaid and O. E. Wooten; treasurer, John H. Ray.

Fuller and Lewis To Speak at Texas Meeting

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 24.—The program committee of the Association of Texas Fairs held a session in the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday, December 15, at which a tentative program for the State convention in Dallas January 23 and 24 was outlined by the committee.

President Jolks F. Castellaw announced that Senator Frank D. Fuller, manager of the Tri-State Fair at Memphis, Tenn., and G. R. Lewis, manager of the Ohio State Fair, Columbus, will be speakers at the State meeting. More than 100 secretaries and officials of Texas county fairs are expected to attend the coming convention.

WHERE AND WHEN THEY WILL MEET

Annual Meetings of State and District Associations of Fairs

Western Canada Association of Exhibitions (Class A fairs): W. J. Stark, of Edmonton, Alta., secretary. Meeting to be held in Regina, Sask., February 2 and 3.

Wisconsin Association of Fairs: J. P. Malone, of Beaver Dam, secretary. Meeting to be held at Marshfield, Wis., January 6 and 7; headquarters at Hotel Woodport.

Ohio Fair Managers' Association. Helen S. Maher, Columbus, O., recording secretary. Don Detroit, Bellefontaine, O., executive secretary. Meeting to be held Wednesday and Thursday, January 13 and 14, at the new Neil House, Columbus, O.

Virginia Association of Fairs: C. B. Risterson, of Staunton, secretary. Meeting to be held at the Hotel Richmond, Richmond, Va., January 18 and 19.

Michigan Association of Fairs: Chester M. Howell, Saginaw, secretary. Meeting to be held at the Fort Shelby Hotel, Detroit, January 14 and 15.

Nebraska Association of Fair Managers: Wm. H. Smith, Seward, Neb., secretary. Meeting to be held in Lincoln, Neb., January 18 and 19.

Minnesota Federation of County Fairs: E. P. Hull, Minneapolis, Minn., secretary. Meetings to be held at St. Paul, Jan. 12 and 13 at the State Capitol.

New England Agricultural Fairs' Association: Herman T. Hyde, South-bridge, Mass., secretary. Meeting to be held at the Copley Square Hotel, Boston, Mass., January 20 and 21.

Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs' Association: A. W. Lombard, secretary-treasurer. Meeting to be held at the Copley Square Hotel, Boston, January 20 and 21.

New York State Association of County Agricultural Societies: G. W. Harrison, Albany, N. Y., secretary. Meeting to be held in Albany February 16.

State Association of Kansas Fairs: Charles A. Babbitt, Wichita, Kan., secretary. Meeting to be held in Topeka, Kansas, January 21 and 22.

Utah-Idaho Fair and Racing Circuit: J. M. Markel, Pinar, Ida., secretary. Meeting to be held at Pocatello, Id., January 21 and 22.

Association of Tennessee Fairs: W. H. Dancy, Nashville, Tenn., secretary. Meeting to be held in Knoxville Tuesday, February 2.

Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs: Jacob F. Seldombridge, Lancaster, Pa., secretary. Western Pennsylvania meeting to be held at Pittsburgh January 27 and 28. Eastern Pennsylvania meeting to be held at Philadelphia February 3 and 4.

Texas Association of Fairs: Jolks F. Castellaw, president. Meeting to be held in Dallas January 23 and 24.

New England Agricultural Fairs Association: H. T. Hyde, secretary. Meeting to be held at the Hotel Kimball, Springfield, Mass., the last week in January; exact date not yet decided upon.

Louisiana Association of Fair Managers: H. B. Skinner, La Fayette, La., secretary. Meeting to be held at Alexandria January 31 and Feb. 1.

Western Fair Association. Meeting to be held at the Hotel Whitcomb, January 8.

Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs: E. N. Robinson, Ellsworth, Me., secretary. Meeting to be held at Skowhegan January 28 and 29.

International Association of Fairs and Expositions: Ralph T. Hemphill, secretary. Spring meeting to be held in Chicago February 17.

Secretaries of State and District fair associations are invited to send in dates and place of meeting of their associations, to be included in this list. The editor will appreciate having his attention called to any error that may inadvertently appear in this list or in any part of the fair department.

RALPH T. HEMPHILL



Mr. Hemphill was recently re-elected secretary of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions for his second term.

Parks, Piers and Beaches

By NAT S. GREEN
(Communications to 25-27 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

A New Year Resolution For Park Men

Rockaway Beach, N. Y., Dec. 24.—In his capacity as Chairman of the N. A. A. P. Membership Committee, Harry E. Tudor, manager of Thompson Park, Rockaway Beach, in regarding the approach of the "good resolve season" as a favorable opportunity for broadcasting a suggestion to nonmembers of the National Association of Amusement Parks to resolve to delete the "non" from their individual status. Tudor feels that, with the memory of the 1925 convention as fresh in the minds of those fortunate enough to be able to be present, the progress of the aims and work of the association is now so well known among those for whose benefit it has been organized that a long explanation is no longer necessary. Continuing, he says:

"With publication of the proceedings of the seventh annual gathering in process of production—and with distribution restricted to members of the N. A. A. P.—application and acceptance for membership will insure those enrolling for 1926 acquiring a copy of a bulky and invaluable volume setting forward the experiences and views of prominent and successful park men and touching upon every problem of park operation in its diversified departments, and, moreover, proven successful solutions of the greater majority.

"Constructive and practical in all details of its object, the N. A. A. P. has already demonstrated its being essential to the maintenance of the summer amusement park under present and prospective conditions demanding ceaseless watchfulness against the killjoys who would legislate away the innocent enjoyment purveyed by reputable park operators and, in countless other ways, protecting the park operator and concessionaire from undeserved persecution and annoyance and all in addition to the providing of ways and means to materially improve the financial success of the individual operator or concessionaire.

"The Membership Committee strongly urges application being made for the necessary 'blankets' to the secretary's office, Riverview Park, Chicago, forthwith, and, for the further information of intending members, copies of the association's rules and by-laws.

"Looking back upon the past convention meetings, and particularly that of 1925, there, assuredly, is none of the increasing army of member-delegates who can recall a single moment of lack of activity or personal enjoyment in the superlatively interesting proceedings and display of amusement devices and relative manufactures.

"Let's join! would seem a fitting New Year resolution on the part of those as yet unnumbered on the membership roll of the N. A. A. P."

Schloss Chairman

Of Board of Advisors of N. A. A. P.—J. Eugene Pearce, a Member of Board

L. B. Schloss, general manager of Glen Echo Park, Washington, D. C., is chairman of the 1926 board of advisors of the National Association of Amusement Parks.

In publishing the list of officers, directors and advisors in the Christmas Special issue it was inadvertently stated that D. S. Humphrey was chairman of the board of advisors.

J. Eugene Pearce, of Dallas, Tex., is a member of the board of advisors. His name was unintentionally omitted from the previously published list. Other members of the board of advisors are A. B. McSwigan, secretary; F. R. Ormsby, Rex D. Hillings, Sam Benjamin, Fred A. Church, J. M. Mitchell, Harry C. Baker and Geo. F. Scholt.

Jeffries at Richmond

Richmond, Ind., Dec. 31.—Lloyd Jeffries, who was connected with Broad Ripple Park at Indianapolis the past season, has arrived here with his wife and will do some organizing for the Moose for a couple of weeks or so. They are regarding the loss of Jeffries' grandmother, who died December 3 of pneumonia. The grandmother, who was 85 years old, was active and well up to Thanksgiving Day. She was a granddaughter of Capt. James Stinson, who was chief on George Washington's staff.

Professional Aquatic Events at Florida Beach

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 24.—Professional and amateur swimming competitions and aquatic events of various kinds will feature the new casino and swimming pool which the Majestic Homes Corporation is planning for Florida Beach.

It is the plan of the corporation to make the Florida Beach casino and pool the big attraction in this section of the country for competitive water events of various kinds, just as the Ambassador swimming pool at Atlantic City is the focus for water sports lovers throughout the North.

The proposed casino and pool will be located directly on the beach at a point where Florida boulevard touches the sands. The casino proper will house various amusement attractions as well as an

improvements have been planned for the park, which will include the installation of a zoo and possibly a radio broadcasting station.

Officers of Riverview Park are: W. F. Jones, president; Frank Noid, secretary-treasurer; Eddie Francis, manager; and Blake McDowell, counselor. Allen T. Simmons, Tim Slebert and Ed Polhman form the board of directors.

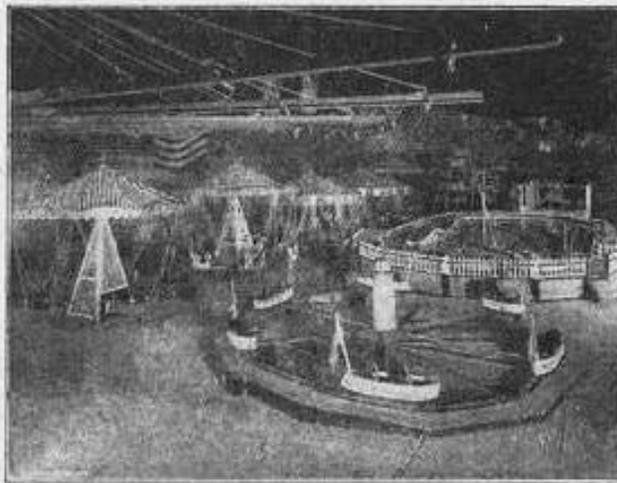
The opening date has not yet been determined.

Shaner To Manage Cascade

New Castle, Pa., Dec. 24.—Carl Shaner, long identified with amusement enterprises, has been named manager of Cascade Park at New Castle.

Shaner is now arranging details of the 1926 season. He announces some new features will be added soon after the first of the year, to be completed before the opening in May.

MANGELS' KIDDIE RIDE EXHIBITION



The above is a photograph of the Kiddie Ride exhibition now going on at the plant of W. F. Mangels Company of Conroy Island, N. Y. In the picture may be seen Fairy Whip, Galloping Horn Carousel, Little Bronco Coaster, Chair-o-Planes, Flying Swans, Ferris Wheel, Airplanes and Motor Boats, as well as various sizes of Organs. The feature of the exhibition is the Little Bronco Coaster.

expensive dancing floor and will be reached directly by the new boardwalk now being planned by the authorities at Jacksonville Beach to extend the limits of the corporate ocean-front boundary of the city. Construction of this boardwalk, and also a new sea wall, already has been decided upon by the Jacksonville Beach council.

The swimming pool will be an indoor arrangement under glass. The water will be tempered to suit weather conditions and to permit salt-water bathing all the year round. The pool will be constructed so that bathers will be able to walk directly from it to the ocean for surf bathing.

H. Roberts Tyson, widely known authority on the construction of swimming pools, left Jacksonville yesterday to make a study of some of the important indoor and outdoor pools in Florida and elsewhere.

Mr. Tyson will get in touch with nationally known swimming teams and induce them to participate in the events scheduled for Florida Beach. His tour will cover about two months and it is planned to have the new casino and pool at Florida Beach open and ready for use some time in the spring.

Riverview, Akron.

Under New Management

Akron, O., Dec. 26.—Riverview Park, formerly under the direction of Jack Griffin, will reopen next season under new management. It was announced this week by W. F. Jones, president of the Riverview Park Company, the new organization which will direct the activities of this well-known playspot.

A 15-year lease between the Riverview Park Company and the N. O. T. and L. Company has been signed. Extensive im-

San Francisco

(Continued from page 15)
they drove to Decatur and Clinton, Ill., to bring relatives.

Mrs. J. H. Johnson is visiting in Chicago and St. Louis and will return home the first of January. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are well known in the outdoor show world, but are now operating the Rosedale baths in Rosedale, Kan., just outside the city limits of Kansas City.

Capt. E. H. Huser arrived here December 17 from Florida and after spending a few days visiting friends in this city left for Colorado to spend Christmas with relatives.

Noble and Viola Fairly of the Noble C. Fairly Shows were in the city the fore part of December, but returned to Ft. Smith, Ark., the winter quarters of their show, for a short stay. They expect to be back here for the big annual banquet and ball of the Heart of America Showman's Club.

E. Warren Appleton, proprietor of the Appleton Printing Company, well known in the outdoor show world, of which he was a popular member previous to embarking in business here, has gotten out a clever route-sheet—season 1926—book which he is presenting to his many show-folk here.

John R. Castle spent a few days here last week. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer C. Volare are in the city until after the holidays. They came here to enjoy the Christmas tree celebration and New Year's Eve banquet and ball of the Heart of America Showman's Club.

We wish to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation receipt of beautiful Christmas cards to date from the following showfolks: The California Quartet (Rufus Armstrong, Scotty McKee, Clyde Hodges, Sam Lupo), Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Wilson, Jack Lovely, Col. Dan MacGugin, Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard Hen-

dricks, Stoen D. J. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Sedlmayr, Morris & Castle Shows, John Francis Brown, Mr. and Mrs. John Francis, Louis Hamerway, Mr. and Mrs. George Engesser, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Loomis (The Gumps), Mr. and Mrs. Sam R. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Zeiger, Cavilla the clown, Harry E. Strubbar, Mrs. Kathryn Swann, Raymond, Percy L. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Harrington and Millie Harrington, H. F. Vickery, Roy E. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Dukhart, Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Bennett, Fred B. Flood, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Turck, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. McDaniel, "Toby" Nucus, Kansas City Costume Co., Inc.; Geo. S. Kogman, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie DeLay, Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Melville, R. E. Derringer, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Paul "Pat" Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Chapman, Glenn and Corey, Rex and Eva McCall, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Feigar, Mickey Blue, By-Gosh, Maxine Miles, Blaine A. Young, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Justice, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene W. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Deane, Craig Nelson, G. W. Fretwell, M. J. Deaghen, Mr. and Mrs. Al C. Wilbur and family, The Raymond, Capt. Larry O'Brien, The LaVettes, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hawk, Williams and Lee, Deunio E. Howard, Mike T. Clark, Gertrude Kuhn—Gertrude Parker, H. & C. Theatrical Exchange, Mr. and Mrs. A. Walter, P. Ditt, Ned Stoughton, Alvin Gruba, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Kehoe, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Klein, Joe Sheehan, Joe Letter, Doc and Mrs. Bacon, Jimmie Tubbs, C. M. Miller, Emil M. Deanna, James H. Scooper, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wellington, Gordon Howard Candy Co., S. W. Brundage Shows.

Owatonna Fair "Made" Thru Advertising

(Continued from page 44)
the opinion that the fair could not begin to pay for the work he has done without any remuneration whatever. . . . The success in putting across the fair was due to publicity gives a good fair."

The publicity end of the fair has been in the hands of O. M. Thurber for a number of years. This year he announced that, owing to the demands of his business he would be unable to continue as publicity director for another year. Speaking of the necessity for advertising, Mr. Thurber, in his report to the directors, said in part:

"The most successful business institutions must sell themselves and their wares to the public and keep themselves and their wares sold. They do this by a continuous, well-planned and organized educational and publicity campaign commonly known as advertising. Any noticeable decline in such a plan soon shows its effects in diminished business.

Your publicity chairman and committee have kept this thought in mind during the three years' connection in this important part of the fair work. I sincerely hope the program will be continued by whoever succeeds me to this office.

"The Steele County Fair is sold to the public, but the fair is growing every year. In 1926 it will be the Steele County Fair and Southern Minnesota Exposition. As it grows it must be kept sold to those who have attended in the past and must sell itself, and be sold, to other thousands. Only a constantly increased attendance will make progress and enlargement possible.

Edmonton Association Holds Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Edmonton Exhibition Association, Edmonton, Alta., was held December 16. The financial statement for the past year showed a surplus of \$4,511, which was very gratifying compared with last year's deficit of \$5,932.

Expenditures in connection with the spring show were \$127,710, with receipts of \$14,742. The summer show also brought a substantial profit.

New Fair Incorporated

Organization of the Lake Chelan Fair Association at Chelan, Wash., with a capital stock of \$150,000 has been perfected, out of which it is expected a large annual show will be staged at the scenic and resort town in 1926. The promoters have incorporated two parks. Principals named include J. A. VanSlyke, A. N. Burke, L. W. Barnes, C. C. Campbell and Charles Sargeant.

Bill To Discontinue Washington State Fair

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature of the State of Washington seeking to "disestablish" the State fair. It is still pending and has been referred to a committee, but is said to have no chance passing the Senate.

New Stand for Mansfield

Mansfield, O., Dec. 26.—A new grand stand will be erected next spring at the fairgrounds here and will be completed in time for the fair next fall. Recently commissioners have announced. The seating capacity will be 1,500 and the stand will cost approximately \$20,000. The old stand was recently destroyed by fire.

Coney, Cincinnati, Plans Improvements

New Rides To Be Added. New Entrance Built and Grounds To Be Further Beautified

Many improvements are under way at Coney Island, Cincinnati, O. It has been announced by George F. Schott, president of the Coney Island Company, and Arthur L. Rosenberger, general manager of the park.

While in Chicago attending the annual convention of the National Association of Amusement Parks, early in December Mr. Schott contracted for a new gravity ride to replace the dip-the-dips, a new merry-go-round and a coaster ride.

The old "dips", which has done service for many years, is being demolished. Its successor, Mr. Schott promises, will furnish still greater thrills than the old ride.

The coaster, which will be the chief feature of a new mall to be built east of the present location of the roller rink, will be a long one.

A new paved entrance to the park which will be broad enough to accommodate all traffic coming and going will lead directly to the swimming pool entrance, and landing and loading stations will be roofed over so as to afford protection in any weather. The "umbrella" will be placed elsewhere in the park and the space occupied by it used to facilitate the entrance of autos. This area will be beautified with shrubbery and landscape gardening. It is estimated that the improvements will cost \$360,000.

Before the Ohio freeze it is possible that the Island Queen and Island Belle will be sent to Louisville for the winter, where they can duck into the canal to escape the ice. The Island Maid is now in Paducah, Ky., where it is being overhauled and redecorated. She will join her sister ships of the Coney fleet in Louisville when the work is done.

Washington Zoo Gets Many Animals as Gifts

The annual report of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., covering the year 1924, contains some interesting data on the National Zoological Park at Washington.

The report shows that during the year 71 persons donated to the National Zoological Park a total of 221 animals of many varieties.

Another interesting feature of the report was the fact that the attendance record exceeded all previous years, the total number of visitors being 2,442,880. The report also asks for additional funds with which to buy animals, and suggests that an endowment be started for this purpose.

Spillman Books Big Business

The Spillman Engineering Corporation booked many thousands of dollars worth of orders as a result of its display at the annual convention of the N. A. A. P. in Chicago, early in December. Its new ride of English design, the heyday, proved to be its most popular ride, an official of the company stating that 31 orders were taken for this ride alone.

Representing the Spillman company at the convention were George Cramer, vice-president; Myron Spillman, secretary, and C. V. Starkweather, a member of the sales force.

Park Paragraphs

M. P. Canessa, well-known Cuban park man, is now in Havana for the winter.

Bob Stephan, general manager of the Cincinnati Zoo, recently visited zoos in Chicago, Toledo and Milwaukee.

Here are the sincere wishes of the park editor for a happy and prosperous 1926 to every park man!

"In the snowing and the blowing"—little (and big) park projects begin to show life, and by spring many of them will have expanded into healthy, luscious realities.

According to a recent issue of The Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Charles Browning, well-known Chicago park man, who has a winter home at Clermont, Fla., is investing \$25,000 in a new home there.

Ben Hollingsworth, of Sullivan, Ill., has leased a 40-acre tract of land near Clay City, Ill., for two years with the privilege of buying and has begun preparations for the establishment of an amusement park on the tract.

Every big city paper we pick up has something about a zoo in its news columns. Dallas has added a big 10-foot column to its collection. Cleveland kiddies

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TUMBLER BUS. A virolic coaster with wonderful thrills, taking top money seat in Coasters New Haven, Newark, New Castle, Scotland, Dapunta, Tulsa, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Kansas City.

CATERPILLAR. Reopened 1918. \$2 built since 1923. Closed over \$1,000.00 many days. Coney Island greatest ever. Only 3rd season. Many good seats left. One 1922 machine.

SEAPLANE DE LOUXE. Wonderful new design. Most beautiful ever seen. See it at Kenwood, Pittsburgh, Okla.; Columbus, South Beach, New Haven. 307 Seaplanes all over the world.

JAZZ RAILWAY. Latest novelty steel coaster 1924. Fastest ride on the market. Taking top money Rocky Glen Park, Berkeley. A wonderful laugh maker and thrilling coaster.

BERRY MIX-UP. Best portable ride. All steel, including cars and frame. Heavy chain. Dish-man machine. Easily filled. Loads on one wagon. Weighs 5 tons. 57 built in two years. Best chain ride.

MISSOURI MULE. Laughing, halting, sliding new portable ride. Got \$1,145.00 one day, Memphis, \$2,137.00 in week. An exceptional sensation. Will draw crowds to Park or Carnival.

Some of above portable except the Merry Mix-Up. See 1925 Blue Book.

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we've "Cincy", the big African lion received from the Cincinnati Zoo, a royal welcome. The National Zoological Park at Washington is advertising for a snake keeper for the zoo. The New Orleans Zoological Association has been endeavoring to induce the city to increase its appropriation (hitherto \$10,000 a year) for the New Orleans Zoo. Everywhere there is interest manifested in the zoo.

Co-Operation Pledged (Continued from page 63) Switzerland, Spain, and Scandinavian countries, Hungary and Belgium. On motion of Frederick H. Allen, seconded by Louis A. Barrows, a resolution was adopted by the New York Zoological Committee, pledging its full co-operation to the Philadelphia committee and authorizing the appointment by the New York committee of subcommittees to carry into effect this co-operation.

Lisbon Fair Elects Lisbon, O., Dec. 24.—Announcement is made that the 1926 Columbiana County Fair will be held September 14, 15 and 16. Officers for the year were elected as follows: President, J. M. LeVan; vice-president, Frank Bowman; secretary, Harry Maraden; treasurer, J. O. Ewing. Mr. LeVan was again elected as a delegate to attend the Ohio Fair Managers' Association to be held at the Neil House, Columbus, next month.

Plans for the 1926 exhibition will be made at a meeting to be held soon after the first of the year.

WHY THEY MOVED THE FAIRGROUNDS

No. "Bill" Sartore Didn't Tell This One! Down in Dallas, Tex., they have an organization known as the Bone Heads, tho' the members are far from such. Their long cut is story telling. During the recent State Fair of Texas one of the members remarked that the fairgrounds were located in North Dallas in the old days. Another member asked why they had been moved. Up spoke the aforementioned gentleman, according to The Dallas Morning News, and said that once upon a time two old darkeys were talking about the fair. One of them had remarked that the Dallas Fair was no the attraction that it had been to him when he was a boy. "Now," answered the other, "ain't, but it is beens dey ain't got de fine music dat dey had in dem days. Now my paw was fiddlin' in dem times, an' he was jes' neberdy de best fiddler in Dallas County. One time, when dey had de fair over in North Dallas, dey invited my paw to cum out dar an' fiddle for dem. Es he did. "Well, sir, when my paw commence ter fiddle de people stopped bewathin' moe", and dey crowed aroun' him an' jes' listen for moe. Ater while my paw he played de 'Mockin' Bird' chane, an' all de mockin' birds in Dallas and in Dallas County cum an' perched aroun' de rafters an' on his fiddle stick, an' he had ter stop playin'." "The other old darkey looked disgusted. He grunted with disapproval. 'Rub,' he ejaculated, 'yo' paw wan't no fiddler



New Automatic "Loop-the-Loop" Game for all amusement places, soft drink parties, shooting galleries, etc. From ball-into-magic electric cabinet and exciting device. Thrilling sport! Reversible play—win, win and withdraw! Your profits your profit! Each Whirl-O-Loop Game is \$347.50, and has a earning capacity of \$1. an hour. You can put it to 12 Games in one ordinary week or less. Takes in \$11 to \$50 per day. Moderate investment required. Write now for catalog. BRIANT SPECIALTY CO. 25 Bibb-Warrior Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.

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Turner's Corner Park LAKE RONKONKOMA, Opening for Concessions. Address ARTHUR H. TURNER, Box 4, Westport, N. Y. "Well, You ought to heard my paw play de fiddle." "Huccum yo' paw play de fiddle?" "Cause de fair president' cum out ter his house an' say: 'Sam, dey lusa nigger' (Continued on page 79)

SAFE CASH RECEIPT RECORDS WITH AUTOMATIC SYSTEM Get facts on Complete Cash Control. Automatic Ticket Register Corp. 123 Seventh Avenue, New York.

Carnivals

By CHAS. C. FOLTZ (BLUE)
(Communications to 25-17 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

M. V. Showmen's Assn. Completes Arrangements for 2d Banquet-Ball

Will Be Given at American Annex Hotel, St. Louis, "Valentine Eve"—Gala Event and Heavy Attendance Assured—Committees Appointed

ST. LOUIS, MO., Dec. 25.—At the regular weekly meeting of the Mississippi Valley Showmen's Association at its club rooms at 508 Market street last night final arrangements were made for the big second annual banquet and ball. This will be in the form of a Valentine Day banquet and dance, and will be held in the large ball room of the American Annex Hotel Saturday night, February 13. The price per plate will be \$5. This particular decided upon to give the many showmen and fair secretaries who will attend the February meeting in Chicago the following week opportunity to be present at the annual affair of the Mississippi Valley Showmen.

It is expected that there will be approximately 500 dinners served on this evening. Last year there were 456 present at the gala event, and it is an assured fact that the 1926 affair will surpass last year's from all angles.

The general banquet committee appointed by President D. D. Murphy last week consists of Walter S. Donaldson, Fred Beckmann, Col. H. N. Morgan, Harold Barlow, Duke Pohl, James Simpson, Leslie Brophy, Sidney Belmont, Henry Gehm and Frank Jeorling.

Relative to the subcommittees of the dance: A ticket committee, Frank Jeorling has been appointed chairman and will be assisted by Jerome N. Duggan, James F. Southern, Maurice Slight, Charles Oliver, Gregg Wellington, Tom Kearney, J. J. Layman and Harry Libenstein. Sidney Belmont has been appointed chairman of the entertainment committee, on which Col. H. N. (Brocky) Morgan, A. C. (Duke) Pohl, John O'Shea and Henry Gehm will serve with him. A. H. Dally, as chairman of the program committee, will have Charles H. Kidder, Morris Feldmann, William DeJezal, Ed. C. Reiter, Edward S. Todd, E. O. Bennett and Nick Rederer working with him. Leslie M. Brophy as chairman of the decoration committee will be assisted by Sam Schwartz, Owen Berni, H. H. Detjen, O. H. Tye and Daniel Hogan. The reception committee will consist of Fred Beckmann, chairman; James C. Simpson, D. D. Murphy, Walter Donaldson, Joseph J. Priesmeyer, John E. Mahor, A. H. Barkley, P. K. Hallet, W. X. MacCollin, Harold Barlow, A. A. Aldridge, Denny Pugh, Maurice Gilliam and Tony McDonald.

Wise Shows Several Weeks In the Tampa (Fla.) Section

Tampa, Fla., Dec. 22.—The David A. Wise Shows' business in Ybor City, on the lot at 17th street and Second avenue, was satisfactory under existing weather conditions, and the shows opened last night at 25th street and Seventh avenue, with very encouraging prospects for Christmas week, according to an executive of the show, who further advised that Agent W. H. Brownell reports his promotions going very encouragingly in connection with the show's engagement under auspices of the American Legion at St. Petersburg next week, the location to be on Center avenue.

Taylor Makes Shipment to Philippine Islands

C. O. Taylor, of the Taylor Game Shop at Columbia City, Ind., and who has been manufacturing various costumes several years, recently informed The Billboard that his firm had made an interesting shipment abroad. The shipment, more than a ton in weight, included some complete outfits and merchandise stock consigned to Manila, Philippine Islands, and was to reach that port by January 5; to Chicago from Columbia City by rail, thence to Vancouver, B. C., and then by steamship to Manila.

Russell Joins Rollins' Show

Jack Russell, well-known outdoor showman, with various companies in past years (including Barfield's Metropolitan Shows), was in Cincinnati last week and called at The Billboard, during which he was informed that he had recently joined the No. 2 wax-figure show of Geo. W. Rollins, playing storerooms this winter, in an advance capacity.

Lyons to Hot Springs

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 25.—Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Lyons are here for Christmas after a trip thru Alabama and Georgia via auto after closing with the Greater Sheesley Shows a few weeks ago. They expect to eat New Year's dinner at Hot Springs, Ark., leaving here by motor December 28. Their day at Hot Springs will last about a month.

Thieves Enter Quarters of Michigan Greater Shows

A communication to The Billboard from O. A. Baker, one of the operating heads, along with R. T. Wade, of the Michigan Greater Shows, from Adrian, Mich., where the show paraphernalia is in winter quarters, December 23 informed that parties unknown at the time of writing had broken into one of the main buildings in which the outfits were stored and taken away quite a bit of concession stock, the lot including about 100 season shawls, 15 overnight cases and 12 sewing trays. Mr. Baker further informed that Mr. Wade's garage had also been broken into and his automobile taken, the car being found by police in Detroit the following day in a damaged condition. The damages to the machine were covered by insurance, but no insurance was carried on the concession goods. These suspected persons had been arrested but were released after proving their innocence.

Relative to his shows Mr. Baker outlined in his communication about as follows: The show's quarters are very convenient from all angles. They are located near Mr. Wade's home, have electric lights, plenty of heat, a good driveway and are close to the business center of Adrian. The work of preparation for next season has been going on steadily. Plans call for 8 shows, 3 rides, 39 concessions and a band and free act as the entertainment offerings, and the regular season to open in Detroit about May 15, a 10th contingent will open in that city April 1.

Edward Karn in New York

New York, Dec. 22.—During a visit to the New York office of The Billboard early this week Ed L. Karn announced that the two shows he and his brother, C. S., will have with him, the D. B. Murphy Shows will be the exclusive on the 10-in-1, Karn's Fat Family and International Wonders, combined under a 110-foot top, with a 120-foot banner front—there will be eight working acts, with the Fat Family as the feature attraction. Twenty-five cents admission, charged and nothing at all will be sold inside the tent, and Mrs. Edward Karn will have Laughland, a laughing mirror show. Ed, by the way, claims that he and Walter K. Gibby were the originators of the 10-in-1 idea, having operated one at the Cotton Palace, Waco, Tex., in 1907, when they were with the Con T. Kennedy Shows.

Percivals in Oklahoma City

Thomas A. Percival and wife are spending the winter visiting Thomas' mother and sister at Oklahoma City, Ok., and will again be in concession row with Dodson's World's Fair Shows next season. A letter from Mr. Percival informs that after closing the season with the Dodson Shows at Waco, Tex., with five concessions they joined the P. W. Miller Shows at New Orleans, the stands being in charge of C. B. (Tablum) Carter, the agents including Doc Jaeger, Jim Boyd, McEwan, Jack Howard and Carter, and with Carl Masterson truck driver.

RECOGNIZE THIS VETERAN?



Probably no one who has had the pleasure of meeting the subject of the above picture would fail to recognize him. It was "snapped" in the atmosphere near to his heart—"on the lot." Yes, it's the dear old living veteran and other outdoor show press agents, Doc Waddell—once the veteran "Punch" Wheeler passed on a few years ago. The "Doc," whose heart-touching tributes in The Billboard to departed showfolk have many times caused "lumps" to rise in readers' throats, this winter is story-writing for the Dutton Circus in the South.

Barkoot Shows Close

Reopen in Florida January 15

Lake City, Fla., Dec. 22.—The K. G. Barkoot Shows brought their 28th season to a close here and are scheduled to reopen for season 1926 at Palatka, Fla., at the county fair January 15.

The shows are now in quarters here and work has started in the way of repairing, painting, etc. Dewey Arbuckle is in charge of quarters. Quite a number of showfolks are spending the off spell in Lake City, among them Edward Jessop, Mr. and Mrs. Doc Silver and Mr. and Mrs. Don Shiver, Capt. and Mrs. Stanley Speedy Merrill (Mrs. Merrill is visiting relatives in Wisconsin) and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Saunders are visiting relatives in Savannah, Ga.; likewise Mrs. R. C. McCarter in South Carolina. Patsy Reis and Gus Kress are handling promotions at Palatka. Babe Barkoot has gone to spend the holidays with his family at Detroit, Mich., leaving his concessions in charge of Henry Frederick, General Agent R. C. McCarter is busy on work incidental to his position with the shows.

Among visitors to the Barkoot showfolks here have been Henry J. Polle, of the Zeidman & Polle Shows; Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Scott, of the shows bearing their name; E. C. May, of the May & Dempsey Shows; J. J. Page, of the Page Shows, and Ned Conn, of the Zeidman & Polle Shows. An executive of Barkoot organization states that the show will have a great deal of new paraphernalia and some novel features for the coming season.

Reiss Shows Issue Attractive Publicity Booklet

The Nat Reiss Shows, thru the efforts of their publicity director, Carleton Colpitt, last week issued a very attractive booklet of special advertising matter. It is tastily gotten up and contains pages of "heart-to-heart talk" in favor of the show and reproductions of praiseworthy articles appearing in newspapers of cities where the organization exhibited.

Harold Bushea Recovering

Cleveland, Dec. 24.—Harold Bushea, general agent and railroad contractor of the Luchman-Carson Shows, who was taken ill on arrival here from the fair men's meeting in Chicago, is improving.

Victor Neiss in New York

Inform He Will Have 15-Car Show Next Season

New York, Dec. 23.—Victor I. Neiss, brother-in-law of Vic Leavitt and owner of the Canadian Victory Shows, arrived in town yesterday morning after leaving Mrs. Neiss in Atlantic City, where she will spend the holidays. Victor will join her there for a few days and after that they are headed for a month's sojourn in Florida.

Victor stated his show will be out again next season on about 15 cars. He carries a whip, merry-go-round and Ferris wheel, together with a number of shows and concessions, and plays pretty much the same territory in the United States and Canada each year. He reports that the past season while not a real "red" one was quite satisfactory. While at the New York office of The Billboard he regaled us with wobbly tales of the "old days" of "Francis Ferrari, Frank Roslock, Con D. Kennedy, Clarence Wortham and many others."

Ex-Showfolk Honored in Masonic Circles at Tarpon Springs

Of special interest to showfolk friends of Mr. and Mrs. (Pearl) Artie Shields, who have the Meres Hotel at Tarpon Springs, Fla., were two announcements that appeared on the front page of The Tarpon Springs Leader of recent date. One of these was headed "Masonic Elect Officers," and first on the list given was Artie Shields as Worshipful Master. This is especially significant in respect to Artie, who has been a Mason but three or four years. The other article was headed "Ladies' Star Elect Officers" and among the new officers of the local chapter of O. E. S. announced was Mrs. Pearl Shields as Conductress. Among other showfolks now residing at Tarpon Springs are Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Paul, and in addition to the above The Billboard was informed that Mrs. (Hazel) Paul had been elected treasurer of the Star Chapter, but resigned on account of duties dependent upon her in connection with their Paul's Hotel.

Smith's Southern Shows

Smithers, W. Va., Dec. 23.—Attaches of Smith's Southern Shows are making preparations to start work in the winter quarters.

Mr. Smith has placed his order for lumber, hardware and paint. Mr. Collins has taken a trip to Logan in interest of the show. J. L. King has shipped his animals to winter quarters from Beech Glen. Mr. King will give an animal show this year. The natives of Smithers like to listen to the Stanley Brothers' Orchestra. Miss Stanley has just come back from Detroit. Irene Stanley is now making plans for a big Christmas dinner for the "bunch." Mr. Stanley has bought a costly popcorn machine from Creter & Co., Chicago, and is getting his four concessions ready—all new canvas.

Cracraft in Cincinnati

C. W. Cracraft, general agent and traffic manager of the Greater Sheesley Shows, spent Christmas with relatives in Cincinnati, having returned to the city the preceding day from a successful special business trip in interest of Capt. John M. Sheesley, the details of which are not yet ready for public announcement. He is informed during a visit to The Billboard, Mr. Cracraft seemed very optimistic regarding the coming season of the Sheesley Shows.

SHOW PERSONAGES

Sketch No. 2

BORN at Macon, Ga., June 29, 1871; son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cherry, both of whom are dead, father dying 19 years ago and mother about 26 years ago in Macon, Nationality, Scotch-Irish. Educated at Macon, and in his early years, after leaving school, entered daily newspaper business, working in such capacities as reporter, printer and editor until 1903, when he called his first experience in show business as general agent of the Smith Greater Shows. With this show he continued for 11 seasons. In 1917 he and Rubin Gruberg organized the Rollin & Cherry Shows, with which he has been ever since, with the exception of season of 1923 when he was with the Dodson & Cherry Shows. In 1904 he was married in Savannah, Ga., to Sarah Sanford, a non-professional of Savannah, who died in 1909 at Gulfport, Miss., where she went for her health. Has one son and two daughters, one of whom is married—Mrs. J. Eley, Jr., who resides at Birmingham, Ala. Member of F. & A. M., Macon Lodge No. 5, and Elks, Concord, N. C., Local No. 857. A great baseball fan and has made his home in Chicago at the Sherman Hotel for the past four years.

WE TAKE PLEASURE IN INTRODUCING TO YOU MR. W. S. CHERRY (Wishur Scarborough Cherry, if you care to know his name in full).

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Most of the big fast-moving Operators are making up their Salesboard Assortments from Ireland's Chocolates. Get on the Band Wagon and convince yourself that we have the most Wonderful Line in the country for your Board. We are offering to the trade a large assortment of attractive packages, ranging from one-fourth to five pounds, in various shapes and designs. They are filled with a Delicious Assortment of Chocolates, including Nut Centers and Cordial Fruit Centers.

WE ARE KNOWN FROM COAST TO COAST FOR OUR HIGH QUALITY CHOCOLATES. EIGHT PRICES AND INSTANTANEOUS SERVICE. ASK ANTONIO! WRITE FOR JOHNSON'S PRICE LIST. TERMS: N. CASH WITH ORDER. BALANCE C. O. D.

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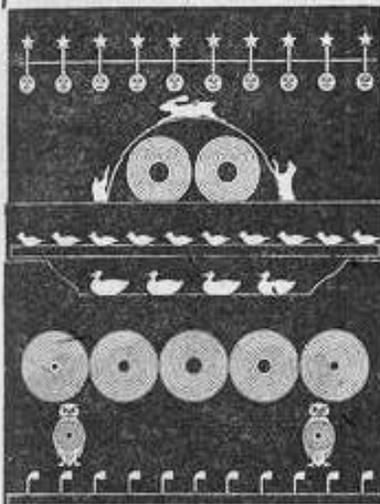
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Take operators do it and here is how and why. Novel method of popping and beautiful. Really hard baked snappers on steel plates. Machines draw the snappers. Even so tender it melts in the mouth and with rich salty flavor makes them buy again and again. This is due in selling the grain in bill just as it pops. Economical capacity—4 to 6 bushels per hour—enables you to keep up with biggest crowds. You never turn them away. Convince these operators with any other device. Absorb the profits with any other machine. **746—YOU'VE GOT THE BEST AND TIME SAVINGS MEN, BUY TALBOT'S.** 22 models—new for every purpose including the famous Talbot portable trunk machines. Write for the illustrated catalog. It's free.

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Merry-Go-Round and Ferris Wheel, Shows and Concessions. Opening Export, Pa., April 24. Help for Mix Up and Good Man for Light Plant. Gay White, writer. Several Concession Teams, Ferrises and Wheels for sale. **J. V. MORASCA, Point Marion, Pa.**

IT HELPS YOU, THE PAPER AND ADVERTISER, TO MENTION THE BILLBOARD.

Miller Bros.' Sunshine Shows

Miami, Fla., Dec. 23.—The seventh week of Morris Miller's winter show to Florida found its tents pitched in the heart of Miami. This same location was used by the Sparks Circus a few weeks ago and the writer wondered at that time how it was done.

To clearly demonstrate the phenomenal development this town is undergoing it was but three weeks ago since this show played Little River, Fla. (now within the city limits of Miami). The location on which it exhibited could not locate a Ferris wheel at this writing.

Four carnival companies were exhibiting within the city limits of Miami: J. Wallace, with Ferris wheel, 1 show and 20 concessions; Jack Pinfold Show, with 1 ride, 2 shows and 20 concessions; this organization with 3 rides, 2 shows and 20 concessions, and Condon's Amusement Company, with 1 ride, 2 shows and 20 concessions. The Eike's Rodeo on the Bay Front, conducted by Rodgers & Harris, with a good lineup of Wild West people, drew the crowds last week.

Hundreds of showfolks can be seen in Miami this winter. Among the more recent visitors to the midway were Matthew J. Riley, W. T. Wright, E. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Mrs. McGee and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Trout.

One carload of show paraphernalia joined the Miller midway recently, when Joy C. Herbert arrived with his arcade and a number of concessions. The United Harry show, another new arrival, has been doing excellent business. George Gregg arrived two weeks ago, in charge of the Filipino Midgets, who recently concluded their museum engagement in New York. Fred Munter is rearranging his 250-foot banner front, incidentally Mr. Munter purchased a good "chunk" of Coral Gables property. One of Munter's feature exhibits is a monster snake 27 feet in length. Maurice Miller, Jr., a cadet at the Freehold Military Academy, is expected here for the holidays, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Morris Miller at their new home in Coral Gables. The writer last Friday enjoyed his birthday—two times "Sweet 16".

Johnny J. Jones Exposition

Tampa, Fla., Dec. 24.—Since the Johnny J. Jones Exposition closed its season at Jacksonville much work has been accomplished by the large staff of employees at the winter quarters at Orlando. Johnny J. Jones arrived home from New York about two weeks ago and has been "on the job" ever since with the general superintendent of construction, Louis Corbelle; Col. Robert Bigsby, Abe Jones, William Sturgis and Samuel Smith, and a crew of blacksmiths, carpenters, painters and tent men is making wonderful progress with the attractions which will start out January 15 to play Florida fair. Madison, Berlin and Fireisle have the restaurant at winter quarters, which is now under the management of Thomas White, who advises the writer that he is at the present time feeding 165 people.

Mr. and Mrs. John Murray, accompanied by Col. Phil Ellsworth, are away on a fishing trip. Mrs. Johnny J. Jones recently made an automobile trip to Sarasota to visit Mrs. Samuel Gompertz. She was accompanied by the midgets. Harry Wells, the well-known advertising promoter, has a crew of men constructing a new farmhouse, which will be in readiness the coming season. The weather in Florida so far this year has not been the beautiful sunny days of yore, consequently has not been very beneficial to the health of the writer, who has been sojourning at Safety Harbor for the past 10 days but who is now at Tampa, living at the home of Dr. L. B. Oppenheimer and receiving treatment from him. Many outdoor showfolks are acquainted with the doctor. There are a great many outdoor show people in and around Tampa. The city is overcrowded; living apartments and eatables are very high and a great many are leaving for the North. C. Scieder informs the writer that the entry for the different exhibits for the South Florida Fair surpasses any previous year and he predicts that the attendance will be almost double. The writer expects to return to Orlando next week. Ed R. Junior, will not spend the holidays with his daddy, as the father, being ill, did not deem it advisable. **ED R. JUNIOR**
(Johnny J. Jones' "Hired Boy").

WANTED WANTED
Mau's Greater Shows
General Agent at winter salary. CAN PLACE Athletic or small 50' Show. C. C. Booth, who. Compositions of all kinds. Hobbies, Candy, Glass, Radio, etc. Home, two Ball Games, and Gains Army, one Man for Colonel. Must be circular people. R. S. McCaskey does not own this show any more. Contact with same. All address W. W. MAU, Tallahassee, Fla.

The last "word" is your letter to advertisers. "Billboard".

DANCE NOVELTIES

100 Beachballs (Marble) \$1.50
100 Ast. Midget Hats (Very Good)..... \$1.75
1000 Serpentine Assortment, Best Grade..... 2.50
10-15 Bag Castles (Best Grade)..... 4.00
100 Castles, in Glassine Packages..... 2.25
100 Chain Assorted (Not Graded)..... 2.75
100 Paper Hats, Ass. Shapes and Colors..... 3.50

Saunders Merchandise & Novelty Co.
825 St. Clair, West, CLEVELAND, O.
CASH: 15% Deposit with all orders over \$10.00. Orders less than \$10.00 money order. Must be in full. Personal checks should be certified. No free samples.

BIG PREMIUM SPECIAL

No. 6620—Fancy Imported Glass Barrel Set. In heavy colored glass and crystal-finished trimmings. Furnished in crystal, blue or topaz colored glass. Six individual glasses, ruffled on holder, attached to barrel. Capacity about 1 quart.

Each, \$1.75 Per Doz., \$17.50

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JOSEPH HAGN COMPANY
"The World's Bargain House"
Dept. B, 223-225 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.
BUY FROM JOE HAGN, CHICAGO.

NEW PICTURE MACHINE PHOTSCOPE

OPERATORS CARNIVAL MEN

The smallest all-metal Photo Machine made. Holds five sets of genuine photo views, views from spring views. Lenses work like watch lock. Hundreds of sets of pictures. Write for descriptive circular and prices.

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NEW SMYRNA, FLA.

First Chair Cornet, Baritone, Bass, Sousaphone preferred. Also need Trump Drummer with Xylophone or Maracas in addition. Salary, \$25. Three months weekly. Guarantee board and room for \$15.00. Good jobbing opportunities. Drive your own auto and also should enjoy other show matters. Gooding boys and good family connections. Barber and Mechanic. My first-class reputation guaranteed. Address Chairman of Commerce, **W. H. SMALL, Secretary, New Smyrna, Florida.**

FUTURE PHOTOS NEW HOROSCOPES

Magie Wand and Double Peers. Sent in for analysis.
103, LEDDUX,
100 Wilkes Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

MORRISON SHOWS
WANTED, season 1926, capable people, handle Merry-Go-Round, Ferris Wheel, etc. Also will book any show of merit. Address: Room 2111, 2nd Floor, Cookhouse and all other Concessions open. Experienced Man for Sides. **T. W. MORRISON, Mgr., Marysville, Kansas.**

WE WISH YOU A Happy New Year

May it be bigger and better than ever for you, and we trust you will call on us to serve you. We have an increased stock, larger facilities, and all orders receive careful, prompt attention. SEND FOR OUR 1926 CATALOG, NOW READY FOR DISTRIBUTION. IT'S FREE. Contains many items too numerous to mention.

MIDWAY NOVELTY COMPANY

304 West 9th St. KANSAS CITY, MO.



SOUVENIRS

- 3-16. Silver Buck Canteen, Dueson, \$2.00
- Melrose, Dueson, \$2.00
- Wesley, Dueson, \$2.00
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- Dueson, \$2.00

PADDLES

- 10-16. Paddle, \$1.00
- 12-16. Paddle, \$1.00
- 14-16. Paddle, \$1.00
- 16-16. Paddle, \$1.00
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- 40-16. Paddle, \$1.00

Send for Catalog. Name of park or town printed on box. **BRADFORD & COMPANY, Inc.** St. Joseph, Michigan

Silver Horse Track

16 silver-plated horses, mounted on a 20" x 24" folding board. The newest and best game of the day. Price complete, with enamel cloth cover, **\$75.00**

BEANO OR CORN GAME

35-Player Layout \$5.00
75-Player Layout \$8.00

CARNIVAL SUPPLIES AND NOVELTIES. Send today for our new Catalog No. 128. **SLACK MFG. CO.** 128 W. Lake St., CHICAGO



A REGULAR GOLD MINE The NEW GUM VENDING Bowling Alley

A ball of gum and a shot at the bowling—all for 1c. Machine in all States. Operators, Parks, Amusement, write for price. Manufactured by the **GATTER NOVELTY CO.** 148 East 23d Street, NEW YORK.

SALES BOARDS

A new, heavy, wood-grain board. Write for new catalogue with new low prices. **NOVIX SPECIALTY CO.** 33 East 27th Street, NEW YORK.



BUDDHA! Papers,

Quills, Cigarettes, Pens, etc. Reduced prices. Send 1c stamps for full info. **S. BOWER** 450 W. 12th St., New York. IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

BALL-THROWING OUTFITS

Competition Tops, Hoods, 29 styles of Balls and Cans for Balls, Cut Hacks, 30th Street, Catalog Free. **TAYLOR'S GAME SHOP** Columbia City, Indiana

GUERRINI COMPANY

P. Guerrini and C. Frattoni, Proprietors. HIGH-GRADE ACCORDIONS. 607 North P. F. E. 277-125 Columbia Avenue, San Francisco.

Midway Confab

By DEBONAIR DAB
(Communications to 25-27 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS New Year to you!

Nineteen-twenty-six, everybody saluams thee!

The "old year" was sort of "tricky" (uncertain, inconspicuous).

Possibly the "youngster" (new year) will be more diplomatic in its "youth".

Now if "better industrial conditions" predictors really "see" what they predict?

Shows' receipts greatly depend on the amount of unemployment—that is, their "bad years".

J. George Loos is sure keeping his show working—it has but a few weeks "off" and right back to trouping again.

Sydney Landcraft having closed the season with Snapp Bros' Shows at Houston, Tex., is spending the winter at his home city, Quincy, Ill.

W. E. (DIB) Frank recently closed his indoor circus at LAGRANGE, Ind., and was up Detroit way "porting a new car"—suggesting a financial success of the affair.

"Natty Cruz—No 1. One way to "conserve space" and pull something new! Build a combination of all the rides on the midway into one big outfit—there sure would be some thrills!

Pedestrians in Augusta, Ga., are becoming exceptionally nimble in dodging autos since Fred Delvey arrived in town with the Helix Shows and his big gray touring car. So far Fred has avoided all collisions with the traffic court.

One of the boys at Tampa writes: "Seems that rooms here are let out by the front foot—16 bucks for an eight-foot front. Many of the boys are leaving for Knoxville—the weather is nice and warm, but one cannot eat climate."

Some of the most treacherously dangerous criminals in the country are from

A SHORT WHILE BEFORE "IT HAPPENED"



Above are shown 25 of the 36 members of the John T. Worthen Shows (the other 11 were "out of bed too early to be caught") shortly before they were initiated into the B. P. O. Elks at Brainerd, Mich., last summer. From the reader's left to right: Top Row—Frank Vail, Clarence Jones, Dave (Buck) Cohen, Alvo Pearson, F. J. Malloy, George Bloss, "Spiki" Waggoner, M. M. Buckley, Lloyd Brooks, G. C. (Frog) Bartholomew and J. C. Revell. Middle Row—A. E. Schepel, Monty Stephens, "Doc" Paulston, J. W. Pettigrew, Kenneth (Holly) Van Zandt, Alex Ferguson, Art Doggett, Eddie Clark, Jack Nelson and Raymond Balzer. Sitting on Steps Below—Harry Rose, F. W. (Toronto Red) McGary and C. P. Moody.

Didn't read that "Show Personages" (No. 1, boxed article) in last issue? Will publish these at intervals when space permits.

Word had it that Leo Friedman and the Mrs. were "thinking" of settling down in Florida—bear that they came to a negative decision.

L. C. Gates is slated to again pilot the Great Eastern Shows and G. C. Norton continues as assistant manager, advised an executive of that company.

General Manager J. P. Murphy went home to Piqua, O., but couldn't stand idly by and was back in harness in the Helix winter quarters 10 days after he left.

Doc Gardner passed thru Cincinnati early last week and left a news note: "We have a *Shuffle* Sam From Alderson" show jumping from Louisville to Springfield."

Bobby Sekels informed: "I am spending the 'summer' this winter in 'sunny Florida.' Incidentally Bob's son Thomas has been visiting his aunt, Alice Yontis, in Lancaster, Ky., during the holidays.

Jimmy McCann, refreshment-store operator last season with the Nat Reiss Shows, lives in Augusta, Ga., and has been a frequent visitor at the winter quarters of that organization, Deb. learns.

Hear that Frank Wrightman is back in Detroit making cigars. Some of the boys there figure Frank is specifically making "smokers" to be passed around for some reason—but time will tell.

so-called "good families". By the same token, some of the most duty respectable citizens on this land are of families of "poor" and unassuming caliber.

Word reached Deb, last week that Mack Davis and wife are spending the holidays with relatives and friends at Peoria, Ill., and that they will again the coming season have their show with the Great Eastern Shows.

Slim Thorgerson and Doc Larsen, two members of Frank Mosker's band, with the Nat Reiss Shows, left Augusta, Ga., winter quarters last Sunday for Florida, their first stop being Jacksonville. They drove thru in Thorgerson's new automobile.

With the No. 1 "Low and Outlaw" attraction of George W. Rollins exhibiting several weeks in one of the Tennessee cities during the Christmas season were Artie Wells, putting over an excellent lecture, and Andrew Taylor, of the Hubbs & Cherry Shows.

Nathan Miller, superintendent of concessions with the Nat Reiss Shows, is spending a few weeks in Florida with the Nat Austin Florida Sunshine Gilt Edge Attractions. He is being assisted in the spending by Joe Austin and Charley (Whitey) Johnson.

Don't know how it happened, but in some way Leon Washburn was given as having a very popular eating establishment at Tampa, Fla., in a recent installment of Confab. It shot'd have read Leon W. Marshall, the well-known minstrel show man.

Deb. would like a few lines from you,

BIG ELI NEWS

is our new name for the Ride Man's Magazine, formerly called "THE OPTIMIST".

The policy has not changed. This magazine is now in its eleventh year and is still boosting for clean amusements.

If you are not a regular reader ask for a sample copy of January issue, now ready for mailing.

ELI BRIDGE COMPANY, Publishers, 622 Wabash Street, JACKSONVILLE, ILL.



Portable Carousels

Two and Three-Store Abstract, 48 ft. diameter, 22-ft. Jockey Carousels, All seven money-makers, Spillman 4-Cylinder Power Plants, built for service.

SPILLMAN ENGINEERING CORP.

North Tonawanda, N. Y.



PORTABLE GARROUSELS

45-FT. THREE-ABREAST, 40-FT. TWO-ABREAST, 35-FT. "IDEAL" THREE-ABREAST, 32-FT. "LITTLE BEAUTY" TWO-ABREAST PARK MACHINES TO ORDER.

Catalog and Prices on request. **ALLAN HERSHELL CO., Inc.** North Tonawanda, N. Y., U. S. A.



MECHANICAL SEE-SAW

This is the old see-saw idea modernized. Sure-fire money getter. We manufacture 16 different Kinnie Devices. **PINTO BROS.** 2344 West 9th St., Casey Island, N. Y.

THE NEW CHAIRPLANE



The latest invention. The Most Sensational Ride Out for Parks, Fairs and Carnivals. Portable and sturdy. Write today and let us tell you all about it. **SMITH & SMITH,** Springfield, Erie Co., New York.

MELVIN LEWIS

Write location of your W. F. LEWIS 2828 Summit St., Oakland, California. Ask taking this method for quick results. Write. Varsity necessary.

George LaFosse! What about the big Electric Fountain for next season? (Remember the soft, large-fake snowfall during the performance in Frankfurt, N.J., fall of 1925? Wasn't that a wonderful "added" scenic effect?)

"Dad" Miller, banyan stock man with the Nat Reiss Shows the last seven years, is all "reviled up" Feb. hears, since a young lady reporter from The Augusta (Ga.) Herald called at the winter quarters in search of "copy" and spent an hour admiring the big beams.

Did you know that there were more than 5,000 names in the Letter List last year? These in addition to the multitude of names on which the Mail-Forwarding Department had addresses to forward the mail and were not published. Please send forwarding address for your mail as soon as you see your name in the list.

The State of Georgia is "facing a rabbit extermination," according to word reaching Deb. from the Augusta winter quarters of the Nat Reiss Shows. It seems that Frank Meeker, musical director of that organization, has been clearing the swamps of the "cottontails" ever since the arrival of the shows there.

David D. Rankin, the very versatile and veteran wood whittler, who closed the season with the Morris & Castle Shows, has been spending the holidays at the home of his daughter in Detroit, Mich. The "Vanderbilt Whittler" intones that he the first of the new year he would go south.

While at the meetings in Chicago a few weeks ago the writer before meeting Mike Clark asked D. G. Hoard and his opinion as to why Lake Conroy (St. Joseph, Mo.) was so named. Dennis replied that there might be another reason, but, anyway, it "lived up" to its handle "It went dry!"

Carleton Collins writes Deb. that he is enjoying himself very much loafing around the news rooms of the two newspapers at Augusta. Carleton is hibernating in Augusta with the Nat Reiss Shows, completing some publicity matter for the coming tour of that organization.

Among showfolks recently seen at Houston, Tex., were Mrs. H. W. Recco, who resides there; Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel, of Rocky Road to Dublin; Mr. and Mrs. Jess Short, of the Warham Shows; Joe Scholbo, at home, and many of the John Francis and the Snapp Bros. Shows.

At this time this scribe would like to make acknowledgments and express thanks to many old friends and inter-related acquaintances in showdom, but individual specific mention would not be in line with custom of the publication. Please allow this to suffice as an expression of sincere appreciation.

Harry Stout, clown (polhemont), and his trained dog have been working street advertising and in stores in the Cincinnati vicinity the past several weeks, including engagements in Covington and Newport, Ky. In the former city prior to Christmas. Last summer they worked independent dates thru Harry's home State, Indiana.

As per his annual custom in past years, Mike T. Clark, for the S. W. Brundage Shows, of which he has been the general agent since 1906, sent out to friends and acquaintances those dandy boxes of fish candy as Christmas tokens, they being issued from Madison, Ind. Mike's old home city.

Capt. David Latlip and family have been enjoying a restup at their home at Charleston, W. Va. However, not inactive, as Captain is breaking in a new free act for his organization next season, in which he and Mrs. Latlip and the whole family (except the little twins) will appear. The Latlip girls are again attending school.

A squib from Tampa: An "election" was held at Safety Harbor, Fla., the other day and the following ticket was victorious: For "mayor," Bert Davis; "city clerk," William Bozelle; "city commissioner," Col. Phil Ellsworth; "Honorable John" Murray; "Ally" Tom; "chief of police," Lew Morgan; "chief of fire department," Will Driver; "city attorney," E. H. Goshke; "commissioner of highways," Ed R. Salter.

H. G. Patterson, who has his Mysterious Toyland and Palace of Fun stored at Alliance, O., writes that he is living this winter with Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Milroy, who are affiliated with him in the show offerings on Grand street and on the old Gaskill homestead, where the late Frank Gaskill was reared. A feature of the midway attraction mentioned is that it has no pictorial banners and all acts controlled by "wires".

Folks on the Nat Reiss Shows get a lot of fun during the summer months watching Owner Harry Melville "feeding his monkeys in the speedway. Quite a bit of the choice fruit that came into the office wagon eventually found its way to the Speedway, Deb. hears. Deb. is also informed that Mr. Melville spends most of his spare time in winter quarters with "Happy", "Barney", Wild Bill and the



MUIR'S PILLOWS

ROUND AND SQUARE
For Carnivals and Bazaars

There is no article of Premium or Carnival Merchandise that shows the value and attractiveness for the money like these beautiful Pillows.

SALESBOARD OPERATORS CANDY JOBBERS

Our best-selling Pillow Salesboard Assortments and Deals by Candy will make you plenty of money this fall and winter.

Special Designs for AMERICAN LEGION, FRATERNAL ORDERS AND RESORTS

SEND FOR CIRCULAR AND LOW PRICES.
MUIR ART CO.
116-122 W. Illinois St., CHICAGO, ILL.

SILVER KING

VENDING MACHINES \$10 to \$20 Daily
INCREASE PROFITS

Have you one in your store doing this for you? If not, order one today. All amount of change removed. A standard 10 centage of collection removed with each coin played. Ninety days' free service guaranteed. Price, \$125.00. Give this machine for your trial and if not satisfied with the results we will refund purchase price less the handling cost and our regular rental fee. You keep all the money the machine takes in during trial period. Machine filled with candy ready to set up on your counter and collect the tickets. We can also supply other makes of machines—Jammies, Mills, etc. Have a few rebuilt, refurbished, re-wired machines—excellent running order. \$35.00 each. Write us or mail us \$25.00 and a machine will go forward the day order is received. Balance of the purchase price \$100.00. O. D. Can supply MINTS, standard 3c size packages, \$14.00 per Mail Case of 1,000 packages. Also special short lengths of 500 front machines same price; Full Case, 2,500 packages, \$25.00, if ordered with machine. See TRADIN CHECKS, \$5.50 per 100, \$15.00 per 1,000.

SILVER KING NOVELTY CO., 604 Williams Building, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

COOK HOUSE MEN

ATTENTION !!

We are the headquarters for Gasoline Stoves, Jumbo Burners, Swamp Pumps, Tanks, Pumps, Moline Wigs, Gasoline Lanterns, Little Wonder System Lamps, Flashlights, Torches, Walla, Wags, Coffee Cans, Griddles, Juice Jars, Juice Powder, Citrus Juices, Lemons, Soda, Special Preparation to order. Order from this ad, writing underneath desired, or write for complete catalogue. We make immediate shipments.

Use Burners like 1915, present only.
4 inch.....\$4.25
5 inch.....\$5.00

Moline Wire
per ft.....\$0.10
Conservation Burner on.....10c
Tees for Moline Wire.....25c
12x20 10-gauge Steel Griddle.....\$12.00

WAXHAM LIGHT & HEAT CO.
Dept. 15, 530 W. 42nd St. New York City

\$10,000 YEARLY DISTRIBUTING DEL-MAR-CO. MINTS

To Fairs, Carnivals, Food Shows, Industrial Plants, Street Men.
\$1,000 will equip you. Write today.

CHU-MOAR GUM COMPANY, Wilmington, Delaware.

RICE SELLS BEST FOR LESS

ALL CONCESSION MEN SEND FOR OUR 1925 CATALOG

Aluminum, Blankets, Floor Lamps, Dolls, Cedar Chests

A. N. RICE MFG. CO.
1827-41 MADISON STREET (Phone, Grand 1795). KANSAS CITY, MO.

LIPPA AMUSEMENT CO.

NO. 1 SHOW
WISHES EVERYBODY A HAPPY NEW YEAR

WANTED FOR SEASON 1926
Circus Side Show, Water, Tub, Minaret and Pit Shows, Side Shows, People and Coppel, Man for Concession, Man for Tug Shows, WILL DOON a few Mechanical Wheels and Girded Concessions. We carry kind of stock. We own our three Riders. CAN PLAYE Com Game, Girls Help and Electrical. Write LEO LIPPA, care Showmen's League of America, 177 N. Clark St., Chicago, Illinois.

others of the simian family in the animal house.
Several communications received by Deb. lately gave no way of telling what places they came from. One of these was mailed on a train and had no "date line" at the head of it, and another stated in part "am in one of the largest stores in this section"—with no possible way to deduce whether the "section" was east, west, north or south. The latter was forwarded by one of our branch offices. The town and date should be at the head of all news contributions.
A bunch of showfolks after the closing of the regular season of Rice Bros. Shows put out a store show, with Harry Burton as agent and promoter, the engagement the week ending December 19 being a bazaar at Greenwood, S. C., following an indoor date at Newberry. The roster includes Chief Lombard, Indian strong man; Prince a Wahana Hird, lecturer on reptiles, and Billy the Bear Boy. At Newberry the principals and chorus of the Dollie Dixie Girls Company visited the show.
"Ace" in his "Lobbying" column of The Kansas City Post of recent date, gave E's entire installment for the day to "Muggs" (an Irish-De), whose shaggy face has been seen in the best theaters—Irish, no farther than the lobby, waiting for his owners, his bleary eyes glued on the door that swallowed them up. Theatergoers stop to pat his old head and read his collar.
"There was a great deal other comment. It might interest showfolks to know that "Muggs" belongs to Jim Russell and is well known in outdoor show business.

"PICKUPS" FROM TAMPA
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Friedman are to leave in a few days for "good old New York City". Edward Steinel, one of their agents, is to go home to Baltimore.
Friedman has been visiting friends in this vicinity.
Doc Stern, oddities (on the front of the Boxleek Animal Show), is here and looking good. Says he will play his side show independent at fairs when he starts out for 1926. His big snake, "Jumbo", died at Memphis last summer.
Sam Billiger is seen occasionally on the downtown streets, saying very little about his plans, but he and "Coco" are hitting the dog races here each night.
Jack Sheppard and wife are here looking good.
Al Fisher, concessionaire, has been in the whitestone business in Your City; a so has a store of sparklers on Franklin street.
At this writing Leon W. Marshall is preparing to serve an honest-to-goodness Christmas feed to "oddities" at one of his restaurants here.

MIDWAY "THOUGHTS"
(By "Whitely" Quinn)
Get all season and never played a Bloomer-cockhouse.
Ask Smith Turner what amusements can be had in an undertaking parlor.
Who remembers the "kick" you used to get out of the old steam sawing when a kid? Want "Kick in the Day"?
Helen Osborne, Little Elsie, Mabel Smith, Jess Panjoe, the DeYoungs, where art thou?
Can a water show be run on schedule time? Yes, every hour!
Speaking of the future, next season is going to be "the best ever".
Did you ever share a statement with one whose clothes did not fit you? Very embarrassing at times!
Why don't some "hustling promoter" put on a water act and use feathers as a substitute for water? Bill Rice, please note.
It makes one rich, when one is poor. It makes you glad, when you are sore—Prosperity!
No use to ask where many are going. Just ask your "Somewhere in Florida".
Caterpillar wheels on front and baggage wagons would have made a big hit on some lots the past season.

For Sale or Lease

Two portable Fun Houses, complete with wares, fruits. Thoroughly reconditioned. Any carnival company without a satisfactory Fun House should get your attractive proposition on one of these, with the Car for transportation. Also has complete equipment of Cars, Wagons and Riding Devices for use or more indoor shows. Will make exceptionally good terms to reasonable parties. Write for particulars and prices on anything wanted in the line of Outdoor Attractions and Riding Devices.

THE C. W. PARKER AMUSEMENT CO.
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

SLOT MACHINES CHEAP

Operator Bells, Mint Venders, Target Practice Machines, Supplies of all kinds. Best prices. Write us what you need.

Continental Slot Machine Co.,
600 W. Lake St., Chicago, Illinois.

HOODWIN SALESBOARDS and SALESCARDS

ADVERTISE YOUR GOODS IN THIS SPACE

All sizes, Highest grade. Low prices. Immediate delivery. That's why they all use HOODWIN BOARD.

Write for price list.

J. W. Hoodwin Co.
2543 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill.

Law and Outlaw Show

11. Observe, the condition. A real hot for some one.
W. H. J. SHAW, Victoria, Missouri.

Out In The Open

By JACK F. MURRAY
(Communications to 1360 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

WE UNDERSTAND that a certain manufacturer of riding devices in Philadelphia is dickering to buy the cracked-leather concession in a well-known supper club in Chicago. He hopes to get a two-year contract and fully expects to be able to retire from the amusement business at the end of that time. This is just an echo of the park men's convention!

BILLY MARCUS, well-known general agent at one time but now out of the business and working on special advertising programs and books, passed thru New York this week on his way south to visit his mother and brother, Dick, who runs a rotary stock circuit in the Carolinas.

CLAY M. GREENE just arrived in town the other day. He announces he's general agent for M. J. Lapp Shows for 1926 and is now hard at work lining up a regular route for Mill. Lapp will have a 20-car show on the road next season, Clay tells us.

LOU BACKENSTOE'S trained chimpanzees, Joe Mendi, who played an engagement at the New York Hippodrome last week, went over big as usual. It's a great act and sure gathers the laughs wherever he plays.

EVERETT JOHNSON'S Chicago Cade's Band, which played for World Amusement Service Association at the fair last season, is now playing in vaudeville after playing many of the big picture houses. Johnson has a 4-piece unit and was at Johnson O'Sullivan's Jefferson Theater the last half of last week. Next summer will find the boys playing the fair again, Everett tells us.

CAPT. B. W. MILLS met May Wirth at the station with one of his prize-winning four-in-hands and drove her to her hotel when she arrived in England for her engagement at his Olympia, London. Captain Mills has quite a stable of horsec.

SIMON B. GREEN, who operated concessions at Dreamland Park, Newark, N. J., this past season, postcards from Paris that he's taking life easy over there for the winter. If we get many more postcards from concessionaires loafing in all parts of the world we'll be tempted to get behind a joint again ourselves. Why must they rub it in?

MAJOR CHAS. F. RHODES, Chief Two Sticks, is back on Broadway again. He's all thru with the Sesqui-centennial, we hear, having abandoned the idea of operating concessions there.

HARRY ILLIONS, who manages Hyla P. Maynes' rides on the road each season, arrived in town with Mrs. Illions to spend the holidays with his folks at Coney Island. Maynes still hasn't decided where he'll put his big rides next year, so Harry says.

CAPT. JOHN SHEPHERD—They tell us when the John Shepley Shows go out next year you may not be with the outfit personally. Is there anything to the story? Someone told us you were going to devote your time next year to your other business propositions.

SANTA CLAUS aboard a sleigh pulled by six reindeer has been running around Broadway the past week or so advertising Singer's Midgets. When not on the street Santa and his cortege can be found in Toytown in the Hippodrome.

MICKEY BLUE, clown with Bob Merton's Circus, paid us a nice visit recently. Says the opy's getting ready for its opening stand at Miami, Fla., starting January 1. It's booked pretty solid from then on.

DR. H. C. LAIRD surprised us by dropping in on us a few days ago. His daughter, Mildred, appeared in her dancing act at the Rialto Theater last week. "Doc" appears to be fit as a fiddle these days.

GROUND WAS BROKEN last week for the \$2,500,000 hotel being erected on the Boardwalk at that popular resort by the Coney Island Hotel Company and the Coney Island Chamber of Commerce. Quite a ceremony was arranged in honor of the event.

HARRY WILSON and his chimpanzee, Snooky, are in town. The act's been playing in Cincinnati for the past several weeks and expects to continue to work right thru the winter months.

ELMER I. BROWN, connected with Woodlawn Park, Trenton, N. J., this past

season, writes from somewhere in Kentucky that we forgot to let the folks know he was on hand in Chicago for the showmen's ball and the park convention. We apologize, Eimer.

CHAR. MILLARD writes from Coatesville, Pa., that he is working in the steel mills for the winter but expects a busy season next year doing his slide for life in flames. It's a good act.

GUS ARGER will have two cookhouses on the road next year. John Paragi will look after the one on the Brown & Dyer Shows and Gus himself, assisted by Harry Hask, will run one on the Boyd & Linderman Shows. Gus is well-known and well liked and operates a fine cookhouse.

BOBBIE KLINE was a recent visitor to New York. We understand that the Zeisler & Polko Shows will play the Reading (Pa.) Fair in 1926 as a result of Bobbie's trip east.

Who said circuses in vaudeville was a new idea? VICTOR LEE recently showed us a 50-year-old letterhead of Washington & Heywood's Black Art Minstrel "Comedy Vaudeville Circus", featuring the three original Washington Brothers, Jerry, Walter and Albert, with Aliee Washington, the business boy wonder for human snake. How many of you remember the outfit?

JACK H. HOYT, high diver and parachute jumper, writes that the season just passed was one of his most successful. Jack was one of the features of the Brockton (Mass.) Fair. He's been eating of late, but expects to open in vaudeville soon doing his high chair and hand-balancing act. Rochester, N. H.; Lancaster, N. H.; and Marshfield, Mass., are some of the other New England fairs Jack has appeared at with Prof. F. H. Floers, Prof. H. Scott Brown and Prof. H. E. Dickinson.

MARTHA, the Armless Wonder, enjoys

the distinction of being the first person to play a return date at Hubert's Museum. Marie Larrabee with her sword walking and illusions is now filling the platform the Lamberts were on. AJAX is doing Punch and Judy work this week. All hands have a kind word for Mrs. Hower Sibley, wife of the manager, who looks after them at meal time. The museum of late has been using an illusion in the lobby as a baitshoo. Business continues good.

FELIX ADLER, clown on the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, who has been working in a department store circus in town for the past six weeks, left the other night to spend a few days with the folks out in Iowa, stopping off on the way to appear at a Christmas party in Chicago.

LARRY BOYD—We'd like to know who it was called you a big butter and egg man down in Philadelphia recently. Come on now, 'less up!

DIAZ, of the Original Siegrist and Ribon Troupe, flying act with the 'Big Show' is wintering in New York. He's an occasional caller at this desk.

BERT PERKINS leaves soon for the West Coast. His departure has been moved up a couple weeks because developments on the Coast necessitate his being out there sooner than planned. Some people are born lucky, what?

FELIX MORALES and his troupe are working steadily these days keeping in trim for their opening on the Pantagon Circuit. They are over in New Jersey these days, but come into New York for a split week next week.

FRED G. WALKER arrived in town recently. This desk was one of his first stops. Frank & Maudrell's Legend of the Nile spectacle, that is, part of it, is due at the Hippodrome some time in January. Then they have some other Eastern bookings to fill.

GUY WEADICK returns to Calgary right after Christmas. He tells us the weather up in that country has been pretty warm for this time of year, according to letters he receives from there. Where is the old-fashioned winter we used to know years ago? Not that we regret that this winter has been pretty mild so far.

AL FLOSSO, lecturer and magician in Doy Oyle's Side Show on the 191 Ranch, keeps busy around New York and environs filling club dates, doing magic, so he told us during a recent call.

GEORGE HANNEFORD and his troupe appeared at the Albee Theater in Brooklyn all last week and went over great, according to reports reaching us.

Before ending these notes we want to thank all hands for their Christmas greetings and to express the hope that 1926 will be a real kick one for all of you!

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DOZEN LOTS, \$3.25

B. 26—Famous red barrel, black hand, self-opening, 4 1/2 in. Complete with gold-lined 12-K. Pen Point. Special Reduced Price. 2 DOZ. \$5.00; 1 DOZ. \$5.00
DOZEN, \$5.00; DOZEN, \$5.00
Sample, 70c.

B. 30—Famous red, unbreakable self-opening Pen with gold lined and gold-colored tip. Pen Point. In a 12-K. Case. 2 DOZ. \$5.00; DOZEN, \$5.00
Sample, 70c.

B. 31—Army & Navy No. 10 Book. Contains 100 variety of 5 pieces large eyed Needles, combined with an assortment of Sewing, Wood, Carpet, Button, Needle, etc. PER DOZEN \$4.25
500 PAIRS, \$20.00; 1000 PAIRS, \$35.00
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5-LIGHT BASKETS, 22 inches high...	3.25 Ea.	36.00 Dz.
6-LIGHT BASKETS, 23 inches high...	3.75 Ea.	42.00 Dz.

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WANT few more Shows. Good Freak Show, Snake Show, Monkey Drome. Over the Falls or any other good Show that can get real money at real fairs. Have all big dates to follow. CONCESSIONS OF ALL KINDS—No exclusives. Concessions can reserve their space now for Lakeland Fair by seeing T. A. Carlton, Supt. of Midway, at Orange Hotel. This week, Kissimmee, Fla. Second Annual Water Carnival and Auto Show, then Lakeland (Fla.) Fair. Address all wires or letters to

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GENERAL AGENT, CHAIRPLANE OR MIX-UP, will furnish complete outfit for money-making shows. WANT WILD WEST SHOW TO FEATURE, Freaks and Acts for Pittsburg, Denver, Houston, Merry-Go-Round and Bill West Circus, that understand can capture Talley and Ticket Sellers. Some Concessions open. All mail directed People with C. F. ZEIGER, Casino House, Kansas City, Mo.

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Outlet, Iron Machine, Knives, Cutlery, 3	20.00
Family Washers and Slicers, Cook's 4	22.00
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perators, Pressure Washers and Iron 4	22.00
Washers, Washboards, Dish Washers, 4	22.00
Washers, Washers, Coffee Urns, Sausage Makers, 4	22.00
Kettle Cook Poppers, Tasty Sandwich Machines, 4	22.00
Iron Mangles, Tubs, Crockery, Lights and dozens of other items. Anything special to order. Write for prices and descriptive literature on Anything You Want.	

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FOR SALE—70-FOOT BAGGAGE CAR

Good Draft Horses, Min. 10 passenger car. \$1,700 takes it. Can be seen in winter quarters Douglas World Fair Show, Wm. Trent, Address C. G. DOBSON, 511 Long Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Beaty & Dupree Shows

Change Winter-Quarters Location

Stuttgart, Ark., Dec. 26.—The Beaty & Dupree Shows have moved their place of winter quarters from 501 State street, Pease Bluff, Ark., to Stuttgart, in the buildings and on the grounds of the fairgrounds, and preparations are being made to overhaul and repaint all the trucks.

Among visitors at quarters have been Mr. and Mrs. H. Freeman, of Rawlins, Wyo., relatives of Mrs. O. J. Beaty; Boss Walker, of the September Morsk talk show, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Page, of Moon Bros.' Circus. After a short visit away from the show James Dupree is back in winter quarters attending to business matters.

ROBERT DRAIN (for the Show).

D. D. Murphy Shows

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 22.—The net results of the first week's work in winter quarters of the D. D. Murphy Shows was very satisfactory to the management. The former roofing of the sleepers has been removed and will be replaced by a standard one by the M. C. H. A. modification of this method will apply to covering all box wagons.

Five wagons have been torn down to their running gears and will be rebuilt as heavy duty wagons with solid axles. All of this work will be pushed forward as fast as weather permits. After the holidays an extra force will be added, the canvas will be overhauled under the direction of Bill Wilson, and painting and repairing of the equipment will go forward in earnest.

Tom Barnett and Tony McDonald, who left the show at the close of the Greenwood engagement, arrived in town Monday, reporting a very pleasant trip with their concessions in the South. They will remain in the South.

The "Outlaw Show" has added two figures to its collection and is still drawing well. The show was visited recently by Ed Nix, ex-United States Marshal, who reports the employees with stories of his experiences during his term of office.

The boys at quarters are planning a Christmas celebration and a big time is anticipated. Exchanging of Christmas cards is in the order of the day. Senior officers have received scores of beautiful remembrances, and thru the columns of The Billboard wish to express their appreciation to the readers for their well wishes.

W. K. MacCOLLIN (Press Representative).

Great Eastern Shows

Repair and construction men and painters will start work at the winter quarters of the Great Eastern Shows at Madisonville, Ky., January 5. Mr. McDavie, who has charge of quarters, will return from spending the holidays with his wife and friends at Peoria, Ill., January 4. Staff members who have been spending the holidays in Birmingham, Ala.; Atlanta, Ga., and in Florida will return to quarters soon after the close of the new year, although G. C. Norton will keep the Atlanta office open until about the first of April. The writer, general agent, has been meeting with success in his booking of dates for the show's next season. L. C. GATES (for the Show).

Among New York Office Callers

New York, Dec. 24.—Among recent callers at the New York office of The Billboard were Ben Williams, Felix Adler, Victor Lee, Wm. J. Hewitt, Louis G. King, Bert Ford, Buddy Ryan, Adie Castella, Joe Cramer, M. Zaslav, Mitt Morais, Ike and Melvin Freedman, Harry Wilson, Harry Blackstone, W. H. Middleton, Wm. Daughlin, George Hannaford, Herbert Robertson, Al Floss, Max Harry Brown, Victor I. Niles, E. A. Kennedy, R. C. Carlisle, George Traver, Stewart Chubb, Guy W. Adams, H. Kain, Jack Rosenblatt, Fred G. Walker, Marcelino Melville, Maude Vortec, Felix Morales and "Doc" Murray (Coe).

ST. LOUIS P. B. JOERLING

At the Theaters

St. Louis, Dec. 26.—The Rivets, with Mrs. Fluke, James T. Powers, Lotus Robb, Donn Cook, Fred Eric, Barlowe Borland, Thomas A. Wise, Brandon Tyan, Jean Ford, Marie Carroll, Gerald Rogers and Herbert Bolmore in the cast, has been the attraction at the American Theater all week. The Harem, with William Conroy, Virginia Cochran, Lenox Lewis and Virginia Hammond in the leading parts, will be the attraction there

SKATING RINK MUSIC. This style especially designed for medium-sized rinks. Up-to-the-minute Music Rolls. Popular music of the day. tunes the crowd whistles and hums—satisfies your customers and increases your business. Send for complete list of newly released Music Rolls. WRITE TODAY FOR CATALOG. The RUDOLPH WURLITZER MFG. CO. NORTH TONAWANDA, N. Y. WURLITZER BAND ORGANS WHY "CHICAGO" SKATES. They are the most popular and serviceable Skates on the market. Their upkeep is very small and they have proved to be good money earners. CHICAGO ROLLER SKATE CO. 4458 W. Lake Street, Chicago, Ill.

for a week commencing Sunday night, December 27. The Music Box Revue will be here for a week commencing January 3. The Greenwood Village Follies, with Moran and Mack, Fred Allen, Dorothy Neville, Rosalie Claire, Edward Tierney, Duval Sisters, Arnold Chuck, George Christie, James Naulty, Anna Ludmilla, James Donnelly, Florence Hedgas, Daniel Kingins, Lew Seymour, Jessie Howard, David J. Morris and Terrence Kennedy in the company, opened at the Shubert-Jefferson Theater last night for a 10 days' engagement.

The Woodward Players have been presenting The Mending Lady at the Empress Theater all week, with Stop, Thief, slated for next week.

At the St. Louis Theater this week, in addition to the feature photoplay, are Doc Baker, in his protean revue with Harriet Towne and a large cast; Berlin vs. Liest, with Alex Hyde; Kerr and Weston, with Dorothy Sierra; Billy Farrell and Company, and the Three Pasquale Brothers.

Added features at the leading movie houses this week include: Toy Town with Leona Twins and Little Souza, Renoff and Renova, at Lew's State; Paul Haskon and a "Kiddie Frolic" at the Grand Central; Gene Rodman's Orchestra, at the Missouri; Johnnie Holmes' Orchestra, at the Delmonte.

Pickups and Visitors

Among the many arrivals this week in St. Louis were Mr. and Mrs. F. W. McGuey (Toronto Red), who drove up from Louisiana for the holidays. They were accompanied by Louis Drilleck and "Senator" Russell E. Lewis. They reported that the shows now in Louisiana were enjoying good business. Mr. Lewis left almost immediately for Chicago on important business. His prime reason for going being to buy tops and paraphernalia for his string of concessions which he expects to have on one of the big shows next year.

A. C. (Duke) Pohl, popular manager of the Brevort Hotel here, left on Wednesday evening for Pine Bluff, Ark., where he will spend the holidays with relatives and friends.

Major M. J. Pickering, manager of the New Coliseum, returned Monday from New York City, where he had attended the auditorium managers' convention. He was elected as secretary of the association for the coming year.

The Kirtleys—Lloyd and Ethel—known to the vaudeville world as Alvin and Lloyd, has purchased an 18-apartment family hotel in the city and henceforth will be permanently located here, where they will be glad to welcome all trouper. They have been working with the Ed Williams Stock Company for the last 18 weeks.

Morris Gest, theatrical producer, arrived in the city Thursday morning to witness the opening performance of The Miracle at the New Coliseum the same evening.

Marcus Loew, president of the Loew's Enterprises, Inc., passed thru the city Thursday on his route from the West Coast to New York City. Ike Roek, of midget fame, advises that

he will open here January 2 for a week's engagement at the Missouri Theater.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcelita and Sid Shaw, well known in vaudeville and dramatic stock circles, paid the office a call Tuesday while en route to Kansas City.

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Corey left on Wednesday morning via auto for points in Oklahoma, Iowa and Nebraska to visit relatives and friends over the holidays. They expect to return in about three weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Block postured from New Orleans to the effect that they will remain there for the winter, month. Harry Webb, owner of the Cotton Box Amusement Company, writes that he is situated nicely in Hot Springs, Ark. for the winter, where Ed Harrigan and Oaty Greer, attaches of his show, likewise are enjoying themselves.

From London Town

(Continued from page 23)

as now he's featuring the Four Kings of Harmony at the Coliseum, and Reeves & Laumont report their biggest trouble is fixing in the weeks anxious vaudeville managers want to get them for.

Low Lake, who was such a favorite with his act, Jerry and Nobbyler, being a caricature of London "gamble" life, and who some years ago was thought to be the coming 10 per center, thru his friendship with Charles Guldiner, is back again in the grease-paint arena and working in his "Erik" Low's famous slogan is "No fun like work" and he is interested in Sacked Again and Les Rogge at Noires show, which is a wartime show by ex-service men, in fact a military concert party composed of the men who were with it in France. It's one of the best and strongest war products ever seen, with Hal Jones as the "Tommy".

Rinks and Skaters. (Communications to 25-27 Oper Place, Cincinnati, O.)

Johnny Dove, acrobatic roller skater, was an added attraction at Harmanus Broecker Hall, Albany, N. Y., December 13-15. His was the first skating act to play the hall, now a picture house, in a long time.

The Powers Brothers, who are operating a roller-skating rink at the 10th Infantry Army, Ft. C. M. Jeffries, at Fort Smead a standard skating act in vaudeville.

C. L. Smith, comedy and clown roller skater, has been working in and around Kansas City, Mo., lately. Mr. Smith clowned at the Edger Indoor Circus (colored) December 8 to 12, and at the Eagles' Indoor Circus December 17 to 20.

Glenn S. Mack, manager of Mack's Amusements, Portland, Ore., sends the following: The skating rink game looks very good at the New Imperial Rink, Portland. The staff: C. M. Jeffries, manager; Ralph Copeland, floor manager; Percy Fitzhugh, instructor; Mrs. Jeffries, cashier; Mr. Glenn, doorman, and Mr. Stewart, special officer. The Imperial is playing attractions, and has hand music every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday night. A carnival is planned for next year's midnight matinee. The Oaks Rink at Portland seems to be doing very well under the management of Louis Wilkins

and is doing a very good business, according to C. M. Jeffries.

"I had rheumatism so bad I couldn't get off street cars," Walter Laidlow, Washington, D. C., is quoted as saying in a Washington newspaper. "So I took up my old sport. Now I'm as spry as anyone." Altho Mr. Laidlow is 83 years old, he may be found most every afternoon at the Arcadia Roller Rink in that city showing the youngsters some tricks. Who can say roller skating is not healthful?

At LaPorte, Agrawan, Mass., announces that he recently opened a new roller rink at Thompsonville, Conn., utilizing a garage, with a skating surface 48x112 feet. Over the concrete floor he laid a clear maple floor. Recent visitors were The Nicholas Twins, fancy skaters, North Adams, Mass.; the Durwins, Frank and Dad, operating the Bridgeport, Conn., Roller Rink, and Mr. McKeevon, who operates the Hartford, Conn., Roller Rink. LaPorte will open a new rink at Holyoke, Mass., January 1.

The Hamilton (O.) Reds Polo Team was defeated by the Cincinnati Stars by a score of 15 to 3, Friday night, December 18, at the Reichrath Park Roller Rink, Wm. Sefferino, manager, Cincinnati. Contents between the Ladies' Inter-City Polo League, composed of five teams from Cincinnati, Hamilton, O., College Hill, O. and Newport, Ky., are regular features at this rink, a contest being staged each Friday night. Other evenings are taken up with various features, including racing. Recently pictures of the ladies' polo teams were printed in a Cincinnati daily paper, with an appropriate writup.

C. M. Lowe, of Low's Portable Rink Co., Kansas City, Mo., announces that he has moved his large portable rink to New Orleans for the winter season. He says he is operating to excellent business slightly and that his patrons are complimenting him upon his rink floor and decorations. He recently enjoyed a visit from Mack and Larue, professional skating team, who were playing at the Orpheum Theater. Mr. Lowe says he likes New Orleans very much.

A large ice skating rink has been flooded on the inside of the mile track at the State fairgrounds, Detroit, for the benefit of the public.

The Lakeside Park Skating Rink, Sherman Corner, manager, and H. W. Coese, assistant manager, Dayton, O., is an all-year-round rink. It was opened March 1, 1924, Monday. Tuesday and Thursday evenings are given over to basket ball, and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday to novelty race nights as features. Other features are provided from time to time.

The municipal skating rink in Lincoln Park, Albany, N. Y., is being enlarged for use by steel-blade enthusiasts this winter. Superintendent of Parks Wellington H. Clark has announced that ice carnivals will be conducted at the park this year.

Frankie Hess, Cincinnati professional skater, and Joe Laury, European champion, recently broke even in a series of match races at the Music Hall Roller Rink, Cincinnati. On December 12 Laury won the half-mile sprint from Hess and Schiacker. He then won the mile sprint, breaking the track record with a score of 3:01. The following night Hess won the quarter and two-mile events.

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DO YOU KNOW? We carry in stock portable skating rinks complete, ready to ship. Get one. Write for catalogue. FRANKLIN PORTABLE RINK COMPANY, 12th and Calfax, Kansas City, Mo. ROLLER RINK MANAGER AT LIGHTS. Years of experience. Can furnish best of references. HAROLD H. KEETLE, Astoria, O.

WASHINGTON
Truck-Manufacturers' Expo. of Southwest Wash. Week of Feb. 2, 3, J. Maxwell, secy.

CANADA
 World All-Star Winter Festival, Feb. 3-17, N. John, N. R. Ill., World's Outdoor Amateur Speed Skating Championships, Jan. 26-28.

POULTRY SHOWS

ILLINOIS
Kewanee-Poultry Show, Jan. 7-12.
IOWA
Cedar Rapids-State Poultry Show, Jan. 4-8.
 Dr. L. F. Grady, secy., Grand Hotel.
Cedar Rapids-Western Poultry & Pet Stock Show, Jan. 6-11. A. J. Smith, secy., 234 Grandy Bldg.

KANSAS
Topeka-State Poultry Show, Jan. 9, J. R. Lording, secy., 514 Jackson st.
MAINE
South Berwick-B. Berwick Poultry Assn., Dec. 29-Jan. 1.

MASSACHUSETTS
Dorset-Boston Poultry Assn., Dec. 29-Jan. 2. W. B. Atherton, secy., 165 Tremont st.
Worcester-Poultry Show, Jan. 5-7. William Pilton, secy., 70 State St.

MICHIGAN
Ann Arbor-Poultry Show, Jan. 10-23.
NEW YORK
New York-Poultry Show is Madison Sq. Garden. Week of Jan. 10-16.

NORTH DAKOTA
Grand Forks-N. W. Turkey Breeders' Assn., Feb. 1-6. Ed. L. Hayes, mgr., 710 W. 40th st. Minneapolis, Minn.

MIDDLEBURY DAKOTA
Middlebury-State Poultry Assn., Jan. 13-24. Wm. Seattle, secy., Box 17.

TEXAS
Dallas-Poultry Show, Jan. 8-9.
 Ft. Worth-South Poultry Assn., Jan. 10-13.
 Harry A. Stone, secy., 25 W. Washington st., Indianapolis, Ind.
Wabasha-Poultry Show, Dec. 31-Jan. 3. Harvey Biss, secy.

VIRGINIA
St. Albans-State Poultry Assn., Jan. 5-8. Leo Nevins, secy., 11 Edward st.

**WHY THEY MOVED
 THE FAIRGROUNDS**
 (Continued from page 71)

out dar a tryin' ter play fo fiddle. We wanta de best fiddle in de world at de Dallas Fair, and you'll give us fo' bits a hour ter fiddle for us.
 "My paw thought about it er while, den he say he'd cum, an' he did. He went out dar so he cummence ter play. He played *Ole Black Joe*, de Arkansas Travler, *Home, Sweet Home*, and a lot of chunes you wouln' understand. Den de president say, "You've got him ter play de *Polkato Rag*, on de fiddle."
 "Well, air, de people cum from ev'ry as Gran' Praxery an' Fote Wuth ter hear dat man play de *Polkato Rag*. Den dey see a crowd dat dey couldn' git closer to de fairgrounds dan where de Medical Arts Bldg' is now. Den dem'p'n happen. First about a dozen people cum runnin' in from de country. Den bout 500 of 'em. Den dey cummen' ter cum in by thousands an' dey crowd'ed 'roun' my row so dat he couldn' see de end o' dem. Den dem'p'n eise happen. One o' dem big ole polecats step on annoder polecat's toe. Den dey growl an' ssit at each odder, an' den dey git. Den de polecat's fric's an' tuck sides an' cummen' ter fight. Den my paw he stop playin' and dat's why dey moved de fairgrounds."

WISCONSIN FAIR MEN'S PROGRAM

Several well-known speakers, including that old timer, John C. Simpson, are included in the program of the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Association of Fairs to be held at the Hotel Blodgett, Marshfield, Wis., January 6 and 7. The program of the two days is as follows:

Wednesday, January 6
 Meeting called to order by President A. W. Pahn.
 Roll call and reading of minutes of last meeting.
 Annual address of the president.
 New State-aid Law and Its Application, J. D. Jones, Jr., commissioner of agriculture.
 Uniform Charges for Stall Rental, George, etc., J. D. Miller, Menomonie.
 Limitation of Prerequisites to County Exhibitors, E. A. Polley, Racine.

Thursday, January 7
 Budget system for Fairs, John C. Simpson, Chicago.
 Harness Horse Racing, R. J. White, Milwaukee.
 Horse-Padding Contests, Prof. E. R. Jones, Madison.
 Best Drawing Card on 1925 Program, W. F. Winsor, Mauston.
 Concessions, Chas. T. Taylor, Wautoma.
 Annual report of officers and election of directors.
 The annual banquet of the association will be held Thursday evening at 7 o'clock. The speaker will be G. R. Lewis, secretary National Association of County, District and Independent Fairs, Columbus, O.

West Virginia Fairs' Meeting

A wire from Bert H. Swartz, secretary of the West Virginia Association of

Fairs, states that the sixth annual meeting of the association has been called for January 21 and 22 at the Kanawha Hotel, Charleston, W. Va. This follows the meeting of the Virginia association at Richmond.

Western Canada Fairs' Meeting

H. Huxley, secretary of the Western Canada Fairs' Association (the Canadian fairs), advises that the annual meeting of the association will be held at Regina, Sask., February 3 and 4. "Midway and attraction representatives will be welcomed," says Mr. Huxley.

Musical Comedy Notes

(Continued from page 31)
 sold for five cents per plate on the Bowery last Friday.

Sigmund Romberg has completed the score for the grand opera which is to be sponsored by the Shuberts. Romberg has promised to conduct the orchestra for *Princess Flavia*, at the Century Theater, New York, for the New Year's Eve performance.

Mary Jane, the 16-year-old featured dancer in the Charles B. Dillingham musical comedy, *The City Chick*, which has been playing at the Liberty Theater, New York, did a series of specialty dances at the Ball de Noel given by the Yonkers Bohemian Arts and Letters Club, in Yonkers, last Saturday night.

Agnes O'Laughlin and Valera Valentine, two dancers from the Earl Carroll Follies, at the Carroll Theater, New York, made their debut in society last week when they appeared in several novelty dances at a home affair given by Mrs. Elias Walker, M. de Jarl, tenor, also of the Follies, sang at the same event.

Jennette Gilmore, recently signed under the management of Capt. George H. Malina, general representative for *George Ford's Dearest Enemy*, and reported to be about to enter the cast of that show, has been given a substantial part in the new edition of the *Vaudeville*. She is being loaned to Earl Carroll by Captain Malina.

The feminine chorus members of the *Captain Jacks* Company at the Martin Beck Theater, New York, had a Christmas tree and dance on the stage last Thursday afternoon. The only men present were Hale Byers and His Club Barney Orchestra, who provided the music for the occasion. Mrs. Isabel (Mother) Duncan, wardrobe mistress of the show, was in charge of the party.

Ruth Gillette, prima donna of *Gay Peace*, at the Shubert Theater, New York, has been assigned to appear after her regular performance at the newly opened Club Anatole, operated by Anatole Friedland, in West 54th street. Odette Myrtle, another musical comedy and vaudeville headliner, is the star attraction at the new night club, and Borrah Minorevich, who was in *Elsie Janis* at the end of 1925 and *Sammy*, also is on the program of entertainers.

Melody Mart Notes

(Continued from page 31)
Girl, Susannah's Speaking Shoes, *Carrie, Mission Blues*, and *Glaciere*. Three discs, with the numbers back-to-back, were made.

Joe Davis' successful *Honeymoon* Wreath has just been recorded by the Green Brothers' Marimba Orchestra for the Victor label. It is reported that the last record made by the artist sold over the 100,000 mark. Joe is, therefore, most optimistic.

Leo Wood, veteran songsmith, is back in the professional department of Leo Feist, Inc. Leo can tell enough stories about the old 34th street days in the music business to furnish any live book publisher with a zippy volume. Incidentally, the recent Feist announcement to the effect that royalties would in the future be paid on dance orchestrations has set other publishers thinking. Several are considering the advisability of following suit.

Al Hazzard's successful Orchestra Music Supply Corporation, at 1433 Broadway, is doing the biggest business of its career. The Hazzard staff reports that the three best selling orchestrations at this time are *Remember* and *Then 'Til He Rings*, both published by Irving Berlin, Inc., and *Snowed Out*, the Melrose Brothers Music Company hit. Another orchestration among the current sales leaders is that of *Follen Arches*, the new Phil Ponce tune.
 Two new Irving Berlin, Inc., "takings" are *Let's All Go Up to Mary's Home* and *The Wind Blew Them His Whiskers*, both authored by Con Conrad.

The first part of the January advance list of Vocalion records follows: *I Must Be Love* (Feist) and *I Was Blue* (Feist); *Who (T. B. Harms) and Sonny (T. B. Harms)*; *Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue* (Feist); and *Romance* (Feist); *I Never Knew (Berlin) and That Certain Party* (Berlin); *Sleep-Time Gal* (Feist) and *Whoopee* (Remick); *I'm Sitting on Top*

of the World (Feist) and *Military Mike* (Mills); *There Ain't No Fish on Annie* (Mills) and *Hokey Pokey* (Forster); *Frabble* (Shapiro-Bernstein) and *Who's the Way to Go Home* (T. B. Harms); *Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland* (Will Rouselet) and *It's Love to Live in Loveland With a Girl Like You* (Will Rouselet); *Camel Walk* (Broadway) and *Dave and Out Blues* (Curtis); *Song of the Vagabonds* (Waterman) and *I'll Be in My Arms* (T. B. Harms).

A London Letter

(Continued from page 27)
 for whom I have no time whatever. But there was some extraordinarily good work in this production, notably the Barkin of George Hayes, Hilka Sims, Hay Petrie and others contributed fine work and the Anna de Joanne de Casals not only demonstrated again this actress' well recognized histrionic gifts but showed her in a new light as a mistress of characterization and versatility. Theodore Komisarovsky produced the piece and his hands and players once more shows that in this Russian-registrar London stage has at hand the services of an artist of the very first class. Altogether it was a notable presentation of a notable play of which the Stage Society, which lately has been rather uncertain of itself, has every reason to be proud.

A Stable Theser

In St. John's Wood, the northwestern suburb of London, there is one of the most unique theaters this side. It is called the Garden Theater because it is situated in the garden of a house in Hamilton Terrace. As a matter of fact the theater is a transformed stable with dressing rooms in the loft above. Miss Morley Foster, who owns this tiny experimental playhouse, never gives a commercial performance there of small plays suitable for the distinctive stage, which has a good lighting system but where scenery is replaced entirely by curtains. George Kahn's poetic one-act play, *Junos*, and a Molnar *duologue* were in a recent bill presented there by and for the Garden Theater Society, of which G. K. Chesterton is president.

"Gloria"

Gwen John's chronicle play of the life and times of Elizabeth, presented by Israel Zangwill at the Little Theater this week, has been well received. Nancy Price, as of 400,000, has won considerable grades and Sam Livesey as Francis Drake shares the honors of the production with the leading lady, John Gleadow, a nephew of Ellen Terry; Ivor Bernard and Ben Webster get some more credit work. The piece in put up for a fortnight run but it remains to be seen that one expects Miss John specifically to be represented by other of her plays in the West End.

"Ardens of Freesham"

William Peel on Sunday produced on behalf of the Renaissance Theater the work Elizabethan melodrama *Ardens of Freesham*, a piece of debatable authorship which has been presented several times up to the first half of the 19th century in various London theaters. Miriam Lewes gave a fine rendering of the leading female role which admirably realized the menace and villainy of the unknown author's intention.

Ernest Milton gave a characteristic performance of the title part and Lewin Manning was notably criminal as Miss Lewes' partner in villainy. The founder of the Elizabethan Stage Society always produces these interesting documents of dramatic archaeology with fine scholarship and a vivid sense of the theater and Sunday's production was no exception to this rule.

I am inclined to think, however, that the existence of two societies, produced to the production of old English drama is one too many. The Phoenix Society was first in the field, does admirable work, but I doubt whether demand for this kind of drama is sufficient to justify an existence of two societies, much more to give them a chance for useful and necessary expansion. Certainly the standards of performance I have seen given by the Renaissance Theater does not equal that of the generality of Phoenix productions. It seems a pity that these potential specialized audiences should be divided in their loyalty, as they must be, of interest.

As I announced some time ago a scheme was afoot for the Phoenix to send a company over to the States with a repertory of their most successful productions and with a company of fine English players of 18th century or Elizabethan works. I should think that a move of this kind would meet with considerable artistic and financial success.

Reviews

James Elroy Flecker's play, *Don Juan*, is to be presented by the Three Hundred Club early in January. The author of *Hazzard* has been long in obtaining recognition for this his other play.
Road-Mate, had the best performance last week at Drury Lane and it is estimated that nearly 100,000 people have seen it.
 Thomas Hardy's *Tea of the D'Urbervilles* is to be withdrawn tomorrow night following a run at the Garrick more successful than was at first expected.
 Pantomime seems to be steadily losing its hold on the London public for this

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year there are to be only two in the West End, at the Lyceum and at the Palladium. But while this example of the decreasing hold of vaudeville (of which modern pantomime is principally made up) on the British public is noticeable, the drama continues to increase its sway. For many London theaters are putting on special Christmas shows for matinees in addition to their ordinary evening bill, and the number of plays peculiarly welcome to the drama public at Christmas time which are revived year by year is considerable.

Owing to the pantomime at the Lyceum, Seymour Hicks and his wife, Edaline Terris, are removing *The Man in Dress Clothes* to the Queen's on December 23. Matinee performances of *Broadway Bores* will also be given by Hicks at that theater.

The House of Goss began its provincial tour at the Royal Theater, Birmingham, on Monday, with Betty Ross Clarke and Edmund Willard in the cast.

Matheson Lang has decided at the conclusion of his present tour to go to the Mediterranean where the filming of *The Chinese Snuggler* will be carried out. The piece has proved very successful in the provinces.

The Monkey Talks is to be taken into the provinces by the Horsfield-Woodward management, which has arranged for D. Hay Petrie to undertake the monkey part, played in the West End by the French actor, Lenoir.

Gwen Davis' mystery play *Sis* will shortly be seen at the Comedy under the management of Archibald Nettleford and J. E. Watts Phillips. I gather that Sewell Collins, who also produces it, has adapted the piece for the London stage.

C. M. Lowe, who is confined to hospital with a broken ankle, will, I hear, not be able to return to his part in *The Yellow Sea* for some time to come.

Pipes for Pitchmen

By GASOLINE BILL BAKER
(Communications to 25-27 Opera Place, Cincinnati, O.)

New Year's Greetings!

Expectancy is again in order regarding the "new year".

Get your "excuses" ready (in case you need 'em)—your "resolvers".

Now that the "rush" is over, let's hear from demonstrators where they worked—those who don't mind telling it.

Mike Baxter is "still among the living", down at Jacksonville, Fla. What's the good word, Mike?

At Jacksonville, Fla., Dusty Rhodes and Doc Duff, from Birmingham. Dusty says he had six good weeks on paper at Jacksonville.

Wavy Vernell, with the Burton Show—Have you Eddie's address? The "Pipes" editor (one of Ed's old partners) has been trying to locate him the past several years.

Report has it that Sunshine Fairchild had the biggest pre-Christmas business of his six seasons at Mansfield, O., on 107A. He was to close there December 24, so the informant stated, and go home to Newark, N. J.

Johnny Ward wrote that he was spending the holidays with his father and mother at Alva, Ok. He worked the last week in November with Dr. R. A. Thomas, who, with Mrs. Thomas, has been visiting in Oklahoma City.

If there are personal "scores" that one side or the other (or both sides) would

like to "dig deeper", let the only one directly interested get together and scratch at each other to their heart's content—but don't give "dope" on the matter to be published in Pipes.

George Tackett piped: "Have been working thru Indiana and Illinois and found conditions fair. Tom Shetrone and I are planning a trip thru Ohio and Pennsylvania, on paper, after Christmas. Would like a pipe from C. E. Riley and Homer Johnson."

The personnel of the DeVore Manufacturing Company was greatly pleased when the following letter from Ross Dyer to that firm was put into effect—as Christmas remembrance: "Please give to each of the employees a pound box of chocolate, the same as you did last year, and send me the bill."

From Chicago—The poor kiddies of Chicago are never forgotten by Ed Hahn, especially around Christmas time. This year four large cases of toys and novelties were shipped over to the Good Fellows of The Chicago Tribune for distribution to Chicago's Poor Children's Christmas Eve.

Among the paper folks said to be in and out of Tulsa lately: Ray Gillis, N. H. McKee, Joe Fling and wife, Bob Riley, Slim Potter and wife, Frank Wesley, Jimmy Kelley, J. A. Kleege, Jimmy Fry, Doc Hathaway, Al Linder, J. A. Quick, J. Stepler and wife, Al Love, Al Sterling and wife, Frank Murphy, Matt George, A. H. Rayman, H. Ryan, Pete Sesworth, E. D. Reagan and E. Stevens.

John E. Ryan infers that he had decided to lay aside the pipe and keister, having another business (did not give details) that looked mighty good to him. He was down in Georgia. Among the boys he had met lately were Dan Rosenthal, Doc Davis, Chief Two Moons, and others. Ryan was banded for Augusta, where he intended to sell his "home on wheels", and then proceed by train to his objective destination.

From that oddtimer, Charley (Yiddle) Gansler: "A few lines to inform the boys that Harry Makers and myself have been running an auction store in Elmira, N. Y., the past six weeks. The town has been 'closed' the past 10 years for street work, also auction sales, but Makers, the 'little fellow with the big voice', made the grade to run auction and the results were very good. We have hooked a store in New Orleans, La., and we open there after the first of the new year."

George West (Old War Horse), one of the best known old-time entertainers still living and still in harness (since "way back yonder", arrived in Cincinnati early last week for a few days' stay and was a caller at Bill's desk, and talk about "ancient history" and interest-commanding reminiscences and names of managers and performers of the "great old days"—with there was space available to recount them—will do so later. And how that come "holds his years"? One would not guess him to be more than "about 40!"

Last June, a party (east of the Mississippi River) sent Bill some newsmotes and a picture, starting in the accompanying letter, "Kindly get the following and picture, in your Spring Special." As the next Spring Special doesn't come off the presses until late next March, Bill thought "everything 'jake'", but he, a few weeks ago, got a "hawling-out" letter from the sender for "not using it." This mention is more for fun than criticism as the party, doubtless didn't remember having stated "Spring Special"; possibly meant "Christmas Special".

On January 1 the charter membership of the N. P. & S. P. A., No. 2 Chicago, closes, after which the membership fee of \$5 is in effect. This information was

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given by one of the local executives for the benefit of some of the boys on the road who have become delinquent in paying their dues. Relative to the Loop in Chicago not being open this year preceding Christmas, the lodge boys worked hard to overcome this, but were not successful; however, they have not stopped their efforts and will try to open up the town for all representative pitchmen in 1926.

Jack Dalton, who has the past couple of years been working a Wild West roundup picture in movie houses, along with lectures on Western life in the "early days", also travels by his dandy motorized frameup, fitted with a self-playing air calliope, for advertising purposes, spent a couple of days in Cincinnati last week, and called at The Billboard. Of late years Jack has not worked much to a great degree. His 15-year-old son, Jack, Jr., who usually travels with him, during summers, is this winter in his second year in high school, in Pennsylvania—but will be back with "Dad" next summer.

The following appeared in one of the Cincinnati dailies December 31: "Scheduled in bankruptcy on behalf of the Saylor Medicine Company, Cincinnati, alleged bankrupt, were filed in United States District Court yesterday by Joseph A. Haase, Cincinnati, a receiver of the company. The late liabilities at \$12,979.92 and assets at \$21,354.63. The assets consist of stock in trade, estimated at \$5,000; machinery, equipment and office furniture, \$5,250; debts due on open accounts, \$9,622.32, and deposits in bank, \$482.36. Larger unsecured creditors include the Fourth and Central Trust Company, Cincinnati, \$4,375; Illinois Glass Company, Alton, Ill., \$500, and D. S. Mains, Indianapolis, Ind., \$400.

Harry Z. Austin writes that after 12 weeks, lately, of tab. shows and stock musical comedy, he is back in "the good old med. business", and is with Dr. Leo C. Williams, with whom he found his old friends, Campbell and Connors. He added: "I have been with many med. companies, and my own, but this company of mine people is the best I have ever tramped with, as all are regular med. performers, and Mr. and Mrs. Williams are fine people to work for. Business is very good. Will take my auto and work east in the spring. Let's have a pipe from my old 'pal', Pete DeVail. Was sorry to learn of the death of John Noon and Merry Fay."

John Woodward, sharpener and peeler worker, "shoots" that during his two weeks' travel thru Oklahoma he had met quite a number of road folks. Dr. Harry Kinchlow, at Mandam; Dwight Wilcox, working Eastern Oklahoma; Elmer Kane, working out of Lawton—had a new auto; E. J. Reagan and Matt George (paper man) around Elmer City—a "chick" on glasses as stimulator; Doc Long and Carrell, working belts; Jimmy Frye, paper, working out of Chickasha. Reagan and George had told him they were starting to Southeastern Missouri and Eastern Arkansas. A. J. Ellsworth and E. A. Ryan were working out of Joplin, Mo.

Robert Smith, veteran pitchman, was struck by an automobile and injured recently, in Cincinnati, so word was brought to Bill last week by a visitor to Smith, at the Columbia Hotel. Smith was one of the boys of the Cincinnati section who put down his "John Henry" toward the establishing of a pitchmen's local at Cincy, and by a coincidence, when his messenger called on Bill he had in his hand one of the handbills (with names on it) referred to in last issue, and at Bill's desk at the time stood Tommy Burns and George Stewart, two of the prime factors in the organization movement at the Queen City—and Burns and Stewart hustled right to the hotel to call on Robert (that's fraternalism!).

"Happy Jack" McCoy pipes that he is "tramping side-by-side" with Harry N. Burton, "on the frozen surface of Nature's garden, somewhere in Michigan." Also that it is a dandy company, congenially being the atmosphere among members, and without official request or orders—a natural inclination of all. The roster includes: Dr. Harry F. Burton, lecturer, magician, banjo player and knee

(Continued on page 22)

THE CLASSIEST FLASHY SALESBOARD and PREMIUM ITEM

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Advertise in The Billboard—You'll Be Satisfied With Results.

Pipes

(Continued from page 31)

figures: O. M. Cotton, musical director and publicity; Wavy Verneil, all-around athlete and character; Mr. and Mrs. A. Tooten, musical specialties; Eugene Sequin, ballade and "moon shooting", narrated by her "dedicated feet" in lead and soft-shoe dancing, and McCoy, comedian.

Of interest to some picture-taking man: M. E. Logsdon, 217 North 34th street, Louisville, Ky., writes that late in November there was a young man in Louisville with a goat and wagon taking pictures of children (making return trips to home with proofs for orders). Mr. Logsdon states the man was at his home and his two children posed for him. Mrs. Logsdon at that time did not feel financially able to order a dozen pictures. However, the little girl (very small) in the picture was burned to death December 2 and Mr. and Mrs. Logsdon are very anxious to get in touch with the man who "snapped" the pictures. Possibly the picture man is still in or near Louisville, or some friend of his may know of his being there and inform him of the above.

Doc Maxey pipes that he is in Florida. "Drove thru and saw nobody working until he reached Tampa. Doc Hankinson working that city, with Doc Kelly in charge. Heard of several others being in Florida, and lots more 'in case'. Nothing particularly booming in Florida, excepting high rents. Thousands out of work, due to shipping embargo. Tampa filled with working people from everywhere. Should be good for medicine show as soon as building, etc., reopens—everything tied up by the embargo. Closed my show in November after 49 weeks' straight run. Took the sweat of the brow and many dry shirts to get the dollars in some sections of South Carolina during the summer, but on the whole, best season of my experience as far. Doc Zimmerman, how 'bout that fishing trip? Wonder how Timmonsville, S. C., and the tobacco season treated Doc Lockboy (how 'bout it, o'd fellow?)"

"Ye gods and little fishes! Bill sure got a 'shock' last week! Yesir, there came a nice done up package from one of the boys who 'handed' himself as 'Kestler Klarens', on the top of the wrapped-up box being a note reading: 'Bill, please get the inclosed in the 'colum' next issue. This article'—Bill immediately sprung to the 'million mark' as he cautiously he opened it, during which operation there permeated atmosphere 'twixt his nose and the packet a perfume that would tend to make a person 'don't care if sun or moon shined, or not'. Becoming nervous, his senses revolted overcom. From his fragrance as wafted his teeth in determination, Bill did not 'give up the ship', but tugged manfully, bravely, on with the fastenings. Eventually, with a last, almost superhuman effort, raised the lid of the container, and what do you think met his bulging eyes? 'This article'—Five of absolutely the finest worked, yet 'strongest' real tobacco-smoking pipes this veteran among smokers has ever had the opportunity to take a smell of! Fact is, the writer had about decided to smoke a pipeful in each of them to test their 'metal', but suddenly decided this would not be consistent with good judgement—he wouldn't get more than a couple of whiffs from the first one encountered until his imagination would be developed to such a degree he might go out on the streets and try to sell the whole State of Florida to a newsboy for 10 cents. (LARRY 'Kestler Klarens', the humor of the joke was sincerely appreciated.)

Received a fun pipe from W. E. Casey, or corn med. note, and—well, it's a darn good readin', here 'is, from Jacksonville, Fla. (It was accompanied by an "honorary membership" card to the "Fish Club", on which it reads: "I thank you for the nickel. You are now a member of the Fish Club. Bite, you sucker, bite—but do not get mad! Pass word, 'Got a nickel? Let me have it!'"). "Dear 'William'—First beg leave to say no no good when it comes to shooting pipes, but will call this an S O G—of help. Yes, we, the missus and I, are sandwiched in here (Phoenix Park Cam) between Dr. George Bender and Dr. Sage, Bender with Corn Fly working thru Madden's Store and Sage and myself taking it easy fishing a little now and then. But to the point, what I want is a recipe for standing my hand with such hot pipe shooters as the ones mentioned. Yes, on rainy days (like today) these fellows can come over and eat up more grub, smoke up your tobacco, and then beat you lying—so what is a fellow going to do in a case like this? Yes, we are having a lot of fun. The weather has been very nice, only a few rainy days. There had been a bunch working here until last week, when the city shade held up on the permits on account of the holidays. Fido Kerr and Riley have been working the corner of Ray and Cedar streets and two wise workers on the next corner, all getting a little money. On Monday after Christmas Dr. Bender, his missus and my missus and I are pulling out for the jungles to fish for a week or two. We expect to go either to the 'Whitacoochee River swamps or the



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- FOR THIRST PLAN WORKERS. Perfume not on in 2-oz. trial box, 40c. Also in 30-oz. trial box, 10c. Three assorted colors and sizes. Perfume Sachet, large size, Put on 20 packets in Box. 35c. Plus Bibles in \$2.00.
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- etc. etc.
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- Big 1-oz. Fluffy Bottle Assorted Perfume, Gold Labeled, Gold Cap, \$1.00
- Box 20 Perfuming Cream or Cold Cream
- Big Jar Cold Cream
- 4-oz. Bottle Shampoo
- Box 20 Mouth Bracing Salts
- Big Tube Tooth Paste
- Big 4-oz. Gold-Plate Cap. Assort. Perfume, 60c; \$2.00
- Big 4-oz. Gold-Plate Cap. Assort. Perfume, 60c; \$2.00
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Chasnowitzka swamps, and in the letter she makes only average about...

few weeks later they had their own little med. show, and are now in Texas.

Greenwich Village Follies

(Continued from page 10)

SCENE 11--"GO SOUTH" Lyrics by Harry Ruskin; Music by Richard Myers

Song by... Jane Green, Grace Elbow, Dorothy Hathaway, Winifred Seldan and Marcella Donovan

SCENE 12--"THE LIFE OF THE PARTY" Lyrics by Harry Ruskin; Music by Richard Myers

Song by... Beale Sizoo SCENE 13--"GO AHEAD, SING" Violinist... Sam Heere

SCENE 14--"THE CURSE OF CINDERELLA" The Story Sung by Helma Marsh, Ida Sylvania, The Hennefret Singers and Ensemble

Scene (A)--The Kitchens Cinderella... Helma Marsh, Ida Sylvania, Marcella Donovan, Grace Elbow, Dorothy Hathaway, Winifred Seldan, Beale Sizoo

Scene (B)--The Palace Ballroom The Prince Charming... William Ladd, Lady Garrett... Mlle. Natacha Nattova, Lord Gavotte... Jean Myrie

INTERMISSION PART TWO

SCENE 15--"JUST A CARD" Song by... Ida Sylvania and Hennefret Singers

The Lady... Mlle. Natacha Nattova, The Flower Girl... Nina Lewis, The Flower Girl... Mlle. Natacha Nattova

Scene 16--A Happy Birthday Little Lord Fauntleroy... Edith Sheperd, His Grandmother... Olga Brostoff

Scene 17--My Valentine First Letter... Marcella Donovan, Second Letter... Winifred Seldan

Scene 18--Merry Christmas The Match Girl... Irene Delroy, The Snow Man... Kendall Capps

SCENE 19--"BEFORE THE CURTAINS" Florence Moore

SCENE 20--"FURNISHED ROOMS" By Joseph Graham

SCENE 21--"THE DANCING DOCTOR" Song and Danced by... Irene Delroy

SCENE 22--"THE CLOSET SCENE, 1927" By Norma Mitchell and Russell Medcraft

Hamlet... Frank McIntyre, Polonius... Sam Heere, Queen Mother... Florence Moore

SCENE 23--"LIFE IS LIKE A TOY BALLOON" Song by... Helma Marsh and The Four Hennefret Singers

SCENE 24--"BEFORE THE CURTAINS" Jane Green

SCENE 25--"EFFICIENCY" By A. Seymour Brown

SCENE 26--"THE MOON AND THE FLAME" The Moon... Mlle. Natacha Nattova, The Flame... Mlle. Natacha Nattova

SCENE 27--"I WANT A MAN BARD" BY "MY BLUES" Song by... Jane Green

SCENE 28--"HORROR-TORIA" (A Village Choir Rehearsal) (Written and Arranged by Jack Walter)

SCENE 29--"A FLORIDA STATE" Sketches... Joe Lyons, A Prospect... Tom Howard

SCENE 30--"BEER YOURSELVES IN THE MIRROR" Song by Hennefret Singers, Florence Moore and Edith Sheperd

THE END LADIES OF THE ENSEMBLE SHOW GIRLS--Nina Lewis, Yeddy Gull, Irma Schuberl, Franck Koga, Olga Brostoff, Catherine Janeway, Ardath Leonard, Gladys Glad and Lillian Novikova

MEDDLERS--Margaret Kollock, Helen Sheperd, Betty McLaughlin, Victoria Webster, Nina Lewis, Rita Deane, Marguerite Danne, Alice Harris, Bertha Monach, Vivian Wyndham, Edith Sheperd, Gretchen Reinhart, Kitty Banks, Elaine Arden, Carolyn Gerlach, Margie Hines, Mary Williams, Fran Williams, Betty Coward and Marie Hausman

Until the performance is worked up to a greater measure of efficiency, and until the connection backstage is tuned down enough to permit the audience to hear what is going on in front of the curtains, it will hardly be possible or fair to pass judgment on the new edition of the Greenwich Village Follies.

Whether the fault lies with the unwieldiness of the production, bad arrangement of the numbers, or inefficiency of the stage crew, it matters not. The fact remains that at the second performance the show was practically ruined by continual backstage disturbances and talk, flunking of scenes, missing of cues,

and general roughness in running off the bill.

As it stands now, this program is one of the worst ever credited to the Bobemians and to Harvard Short. The blending and continuity of numbers is bad, the comedy sketches lack a finishing punch, the very excellent "hit song" of the show is sold for only a fraction of its worth, and there are very few high spots in the entertainment.

Since the performers are more or less at the mercy of an unfortunate situation, a just estimate of their efforts is not possible at this time. But the majority of them show their ability despite the handicaps that surrounded them. The comedy work of Beale Sizoo goes over for big hands, Jane Green sings several numbers in her individual way and actually stops the show. Irene Delroy is very ingratiating in what amounts to the leading feminine role.

The White Cargo number in which Natacha Nattova and Jean Myrie are programmed to appear was bungled after considerable noise had been made in setting up the big scenic background, and the Moth and the Flame specialty assigned to this team later in the program also failed to come off at this performance.

Considering the prestige that it must live up to, as well as the high standards set by other elaborate revues, the latest Greenwich Village Follies will have to be put into much better shape before it can satisfy the public.

DON CARLE GILLETTE.

The Patsy

(Continued from page 10)

Undercurrent of genuine human appeal runs thru the whole story, everything is quite natural and believable, and both the idea and the acting always remain well within the bounds of credulity. Considering the ultimate film-ness of the plot, it is no exaggeration to say that the combined achievement of the author, director and actors is most remarkable.

The acting, of course, is largely responsible for the success of the affair. The part of the abused young actor who triumphs in the end is a real gem for Clabhorn Foster and she makes the gem sparkle with unusual brilliancy. It is hard to think of any other actress who could play this part as fascinatingly as Miss Foster plays it. Which is another way of saying that Miss Foster has few equals among the younger actresses of today. For proof of this one has only to pay close attention to her when she is listening to other members of the cast speak. "Listening" is a rare art in this restless and highly active age. Too many actors can act only when they have something to do or say, particularly when they have a lot to say. But not so with Miss Foster. She is more effective when quietly listening than many actors are when talking and acting for all they are worth. Miss Foster's performance may be studied with profit as well as enjoyed.

There are other excellent performances in addition to the one given by Miss Foster. Joseph Allen, as the plain and hard-working father who favors the young daughter, and Lucia Moore, as the socially aspiring and self-abused mother who takes up the cause of the elder sister, both do exceptionally fine work. Allen injects a lot of natural humor into his character, while Miss Moore's affectations and poses are immensely amusing. And it is worth recording that both of these skilful artists always make their points with the utmost grace and smoothness, and without the obviousness that generally ruins most light comedy work. It is this highly sensitive, delicate and unusually intelligent interpretation that

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SIGNS, BANNERS, CARDS Easily Painted with the aid of the new system of Letter Patterns...

brings out all the values contained in the fanciful play. Herbert Clark, as the unsuspecting hero, in a very likable juvenile, He reads his lines nicely, although there is a suggestion in his speaking tone that ought to be broken up by an occasional bit of shading, and he has a personable appearance.

ADDITIONAL OUTDOOR NEWS

John L. Fehr's Whole Right Side Paralyzed

Found Necessary To Send Showman to Hospital in Philadelphia—Needs Financial Assistance

Friends of John L. Fehr, widely known in the circus, carnival and indoor promotion fields, will regret to learn that on December 23 he suffered a stroke from which his whole right side has become paralyzed. He was at his home in Philadelphia, Pa., at 2923 Poplar street, at the time, and it was found necessary to have him removed to the Lacksman Hospital. This information was contained in a letter to *The Billboard* from J. A. Currier under date of December 24. Mr. Currier was connected with Mr. Fehr just before the latter took ill. In a couple of indoor bazaars which he says proved unsuccessful, and last year was special agent for A. P. Cronson of Binghamton, N. Y. His letter follows:

"Yesterday (December 23) Mr. Fehr wrote you a letter and about two hours later he had a very bad paralytic stroke, his whole right side becoming paralyzed. Because of this Mrs. Fehr was obliged to send him to the Lacksman Hospital.

"Mrs. Fehr wants you to tell the 'boys' that she knows full well that when any of them were in want and it came to the knowledge of Mr. Fehr he never failed to respond. She says that was his main fault—too much generosity. His hands were always in his pockets to help the 'boys'.

"Many of the 'boys' who were broke in Philly were glad to toast their shins all winter at her fire and eat the meals she is noted for cooking, and I for one will vouch for that.

"The doctors don't hold out much hope for Mr. Fehr's recovery, and Mrs. Fehr wants you to please make a strong appeal to the 'boys' so that she will be able to meet his hospital expenses."

The letter to which Mr. Currier refers as having been written to *The Billboard* by Mr. Fehr reads as follows:

"Your very kind letter with check for \$15 received, and for which please accept my thanks. Trust that I may be able to show my appreciation later. I am suffering great pain. I never expected it to come to this. I always helped others; never turned any cause down. I always gave as much as the proprietor of the show. Hundreds of the boys owe me for touches and my check-book or cash was always there to help the other fellow. Up to this time I have received only two letters, one from that prince of good fellows with a heart of gold, Jerry Mugivan, and the other from *The Billboard*. If some of those 'boys' who always gave me, why I would be able to pull thru. I have sent out 30 letters, but up to this time heard from only the two mentioned.

"Thanking *The Billboard* again."

John E. Wallace Shows

Miami, Fla., Dec. 25.—The John E. Wallace Shows are now in their 37th week during 1925, and General Agent William Marcus is working on dates to keep the show out all winter. The show opened in Pelham, N. Y., April 10, and has lost only one week, which was in making the jump from Gloucester, N. J., to Jacksonville, Fla.

This is the seventh week at Miami, on different lots and streets, but business has exceeded expectations. This week the shows are located at Allapattah road and 31st street, a new spot for shows in this vicinity. For next week they move to another city. Manager John E. Wallace has a new automobile, also William Marcus, and both do a great deal of driving about.

A Christmas dinner and party was given by Mr. and Mrs. Wallace to members of the show, and the affair was greatly enjoyed by the entire assemblage. Frank J. Murphy, of the shows bearing his name, is handling one of the concessions. There are four organizations now playing in Miami and suburbs. Ted Metz joined last week with his side show, and he has gone to New York to bring on several additional attractions for his attraction. Mrs. Marcus operates a cigarette concession, also is half owner in another concession being run by Joe Barton, formerly of burlesque.

THOMAS SMITH (for the Show).

Buttimer Injured in Automobile Accident

Harold A. Buttimer, who with Elma Patterson owns the Buttimer Dog and Pony Show, recently had a narrow escape from death in San Francisco. His auto was struck by an army officer's car, informs Miss Patterson. Both were driving very fast, it is said. Buttimer's sedan was turned over three times and then crashed thru a window. His left arm was broken and he received a two-inch cut back of the left ear. It was necessary to put two stitches in his lip. His arms have at least 50 little cuts from glass. He was treated at the Park Emergency Hospital and on December 22 gave orders to ship the show back to Susanville, Calif. In returning to quarters he will lose 10 stands which were billed. Quoting Miss Patterson: "Cod. H. Howard, whose auto struck that of Buttimer's, says the latter's breath smelled of whisky. I have been in partnership with Mr. Buttimer at different times for the last five years, and the three score of people he employs can vouch for him, as he is strictly against the use of drink. At the present time he is at his apartments in San Francisco under a special doctor and nurse. It is said that a settlement will be made out of court. I will put the show away, as he refuses to play any more dates until he is able to get around again. The show was an overland outfit, but it required six flats and three stock cars to move it back to quarters. Mr. Buttimer was a member of the Hope Wallace Stock Company in 1916; in the army in 1917 and 1918 as first sergeant; then managed LeRoy's Shows; was with 'Pop' McFarland on the John Robinson Circus, and was side-show manager of Howe's Great London Shows before taking out his own show."

Sues To Recover Bond

Haverhill, Mass., Dec. 26.—Mrs. Helen Swasey Wilson, who when she was a bareback rider with P. T. Barnum was known as Gert Swasey, recently filed suit against the U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Company here to recover a \$15,000 bond posted for Charles F. Goodwin, trustee of the estate of her father, Moses Swasey. Swasey was an executive of the Boston and Maine Railroad and later a large real estate owner. His private race track and home here were show places. His estate was left in trust for his wife and daughter, Goodwin, an attorney, acting as trustee. Mrs. Wilson has been janitress of the Boston and Maine Railroad station here for the past 15 years, being in straitened circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nelson In Business at St. Louis

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nelson are now in the grocery business in St. Louis, and if business continues at the rate it now is they will give up trouping. Mr. Nelson was equestrian director of the Walter L. Main Circus the past season, taking over the position after Mr. McCabe left the show. The Nelsons are spending the holidays at the home of Mr. Nelson's relatives in the Mount City.

Comments on Christmas Number of The Billboard

Following are some of the comments *The Billboard* has received on its Christmas Number:

Please accept my heartiest congratulations for the wonderful Christmas Number of the Old Reliable *Billboard*. May it live long and prosper. Wishing you jolly good luck and best wishes at all times, your old friend—M. B. GOLDEN.

The Christmas issue of *The Billboard* surpasses all past issues. Cannot express how much I enjoyed same. Accept my sincere congratulations for yourself and your entire staff.—LOUIS HEMMWAY.

Without taking the time to fully digest this great and wonderful number of *The Billboard* just off the press, may I be permitted to say it is my opinion the 1925 Christmas issue stands out as the supreme effort of that publication's entire staff. *The Billboard* Publishing Company is to be congratulated upon this work of magnificence, which will unquestionably remain the showman's encyclopedia. More power to *The Billboard*.—GEORGE L. DOBINS.

Congratulations on the Christmas *Billboard*. It's a gem of the printer's art and full of knowledge to interest the theatrical world.—HARRY OPEL.

Congratulations! Great was the Christmas Number of *The Billboard*. New and interesting indeed, more than one could expect.—WILLARD "B" COOK.

I think the Christmas Number was a dandy, but it always is, so what's the use to say any more?—J. DOUG MORGAN.

I read and reread the Christmas issue many times. Want to congratulate you on what I think is the best special issue you have ever made.—ED R. SALTER.

Best Christmas Number. Brilliant example of the co-ordination of brains and printer's ink.—WALTER B. FOX.

The Christmas Number was a "wow"—in fact, I don't think I remember reading a special number that was as full of meat for the profession of showdom as *The Billboard* Christmas Number of 1925.—WILLIAM J. HILLIAR.

Allow me to congratulate you on the Christmas Number. You have again done a fine piece of work. There is a neat and clean-cut appearance to its makeup which is especially commendable, and the articles covering all departments are informative and entertaining.—C. G. STURTEVANT.

Allow me to congratulate you on your Christmas Number. It was a knockout.—LEWIS H. AMASON.

The Christmas Number is another great edition for *Billboard* history.—BOBBY SICKLES.

Must compliment you on the Christmas Number and its variety of special subjects.—HARRY E. TUDOR.

Can truthfully say that the Christmas Number struck me as being a mighty fine number.—HARRY L. DIXSON.



Not Stranded, Says Jolly Irene
Washington, D. C., Dec. 24, 1925.
Editor *The Billboard*:

Sir—In the issue of December 26, on page 5, you have an article, *Money Freaks Are Stranded*. You say that Jolly Irene, the fat woman, was stranded. I never was with the Stone Indoor Show. I have been with Loew's Indoor Circus since October 12, 1925, and am contracted with it for the entire season playing one-week stands over the Loew Circuit.
(Signed) JOLLY IRENE.

Item Misleading, Says Writer
Newburg, N. Y., Dec. 19, 1925.
Editor *The Billboard*:

Sir—in regards to the item in a recent issue of *The Billboard* about the Charity Circus in Jamestown, N. Y., which stated that Mr. Joyce, promoter, left the city leaving the performers stranded without pay, we wish to state that the *Tidney Post* settled satisfactory with us, and to the best of our knowledge with the rest of the performers. All the correspondence, also the letter of agreement, were signed by Mr. Gunn, a local man of Jamestown, so our settlement was with them and not Mr. Joyce. Most of the acts were booked and opened the following Monday, and were not left stranded in Jamestown, as the item claimed. We whose names appear below went to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., with Newburg, N. Y., to follow, both indoor events.
(Signed) ERMA BARLOW AND CO., GREAT ZELDO, THE PARENTOS.

Joe Galler's Exposition Shows

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 26.—Among the recent callers at the winter quarters of Joe Galler's Exposition Shows here were Jack Dalton, Robert H. Kilne, Frank Amerson, Steve Smith, Ed Griffith, "Curly" Mock, Frank Mulford, Lee Stanley, Nick Costello, John Louis and Capt. David Lathip.

Manager Joe Galler is now giving his attention to engagements for the coming season, also toward having one of the best equipped five-car shows of the road. The lineup will consist of three modern rides, six shows, two free acts and a line of concessions.

Mr. Galler is leaving after New Year for Washington, D. C., where he will undergo a minor operation on his right ear and will be absent from winter quarters for about a month.
JOSEPHINE SCOTT (for the Show).

Barnett Still General Agent for the Gold Medal Shows

In last issue, on the first carnival page, mention was made that Harry S. Noyes, general agent, had called attention to an erroneous report to the effect that he had engaged with the Gold Medal Shows for the coming season. After last issue was off the press a telegram from Harry E. Billick, head of the Gold Medal Shows, carried the same corrective information, also advising that Hobson Barnett is still his general representative and already has five fairs contracted for 1926.

The Kehos Wintering at Corpus Christi, Tex.

Mission, Tex., Dec. 24.—W. J. Kehoe, assistant manager Dodson's World's Fair Shows, was here yesterday while en route to some point south to spend Christmas, having stopped off here to visit the J. George Loew Show, playing here this week. Mr. Kehoe informed that he and Mrs. Kehoe are spending this winter at Corpus Christi, Tex., to which city they went following the close of the season for the Dodson Shows.

Joe Hodgini Troupe To Begin Vaudeville Tour

Perru, Ind., Dec. 26.—The Joe Hodgini troupe of riders left their home here yesterday for New York, where they will begin a vaudeville tour which will extend over a period of 30 weeks. Baby Joels and his dog, Foxie, accompanied the troupe.

Miller's Midway Shows Want

For spring opening about January 20. Will furnish new top and front for PB Hawaiian Show and Side Show. Want Athletic Show People to take Athletic Show. Want Man and Wife for Snake Show. Also Performers and Musicians for Minaret Show. Concessions all open except Cook House. Will sell exclusive on Corn Game and Novelty. Write or wire. P. W. MILLER, 213 Bourbon St., New Orleans, La.

FOR SALE OR LEASE

Following equipment, as a whole or separate: Ten 65-61, steel umbrellas, flats, two regular Pullman Borch Cars, one extra Pullman Station Car, fully equipped, one Brock Car, thirty Stags, Flat and Box Wagon, One Wagon, Electrical Wagon, complete with Transformers; Steam Outfitter, three covered Wagon, Fronts, Five Boxes on wagon, complete; Large and Miniature Caps, one Panama, Lion, 4 Trains, Buzzard Hatter with Harness, Center Table, Side Table, Stoves, Blacksmith Equipment, Glass Length 7, Hatch Back Hires. The above property in a complete streetcar show and in first-class condition. Liberal cash terms in responsible parties, as want in retail form business. Quick action necessary. Address mail and wires to

GEO. W. JOHNSON, General Delivery, Tampa, Florida.

Advertise in *The Billboard*—You'll Be Satisfied With Results.

Greater Sheesley Shows

Mobile, Ala., Dec. 25.—Thoro overhauling of the 40-car railroad train, building of several new show fronts and rebuilding a number of others and painting and decorating all riding devices in the program for working crews now making their haul at winter quarters of the Greater Sheesley Shows. For Capt. John M. Sheesley will play a special date in February and has passed the word that he desires his road organization to be complete for an opening at that time.

One of the new hey-day rides will be in quarters next month. Two other new rides will augment the six riding devices now being put in readiness. The wood-working and blacksmith shops are in the Mobile electric park, where seven coaches are parked. The paint shops and flat cars are on the fairgrounds at Arlington, where the crews are quartered.

Mr. Sheesley has returned from a trip in the North and West, and states that he will have several important announcements to make soon regarding his route for 1926. Harry Moore has his flyer and J. William Cochran his areas at Pritchard, seven miles from here. They are playing lots to fair business.

Christmas was a gala day with the Sheesleyites. Mr. and Mrs. Sheesley and son, John D., hold open house in the private car, "Alabama", and numerous dinner parties were the vogue among the show colony.

Among the showfolk here are Mr. and Mrs. Sheesley and son, Mr. and Mrs. Ed C. Dart and son, John Edward; Mr. and Mrs. L. O. (Joe) Redding; Mr. and Mrs. Jay William Cochran; Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Moore; Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Curtis; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kaplan; Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Buss; Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Nixon; Mr. and Mrs. G. Cohan; Mr. and Mrs. Herman A. Willert; W. H. (Bill) Davis; Nick DeRosa; George Gestell; G. Lawrence MacDonnell; James Doncaster; W. P. (Tex) Maddox; Joe Ray; George P. (Huck) Washburn; Larry Kehoe and Adolph Watson.

Mr. and Mrs. Dart and son arrived this week from a motor tour in Florida, where Mr. Dart was affiliated with W. H. (Bill) Rice in payment promotions. General Representative Cravat spent Christmas at his home in Cincinnati, from where he reports the successful closing of a number of contracts for "still" dates and faira. CLAUDE R. HILLES (Press Rep.).

Large Estate of the Late Alf. T. Ringling Sold

New York, Dec. 26.—The 600-acre estate of the late Alf. T. Ringling in the Longwood Valley section of Morris County, near Newfoundland, N. J., has been sold by Richard T. Ringling, his son, to a group of Newark business men, who contemplate a development project which will involve millions. The buildings on the estate dominated by the massive home took seven years to build, and are said to have cost in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000. A \$100,000 organ was one of its furnishings. There is a lake on the property, also a small golf course, a large barn which once housed the Ringling string of thoroughbreds, a boathouse, and small buildings for servants' quarters. The place is less than 10 years old and was occupied by Alf. T. Ringling only a few years before his death.

H. J. Morrison Shows

Panama City, Fla., Dec. 25.—Winter quarters of the Harry J. Morrison Shows have been established here, and arrangements have been made to ship the paraphernalia at Grafton, W. Va., to this place. On arrival of the shipment the work of rebuilding and painting in preparation for the forthcoming season will be started. The management plans to open in Alabama April 3 for the tour northward and play through Alabama, Kentucky, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Morrison returned to quarters Thursday to spend Christmas and will leave Sunday on a business trip to Montgomery, Ala. The following people were at winter quarters for Christmas dinner: Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. John Binbo, George Cole, Tommy Anderson, Charles Williams and the Pinrock brothers. It was a sumptuous feast and was greatly enjoyed by all present. JOHN BINBO (Press Agent).

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Mathis Visitors

George W. Mathis, head of the outdoor amusement organization bearing his name, and Mrs. Mathis were callers at The Billboard last week. Mr. Mathis, who is making his headquarters at his

Key West, Florida FEBRUARY 15 TO 27 MONSTER FIREMEN'S CELEBRATION AND FESTIVAL

EIGHTY MILLION (\$80,000,000) DOLLAR Caseway now building between Miami and Key West. Thousands of workmen and tourists now at Key West. City in best shape in years. Wanted for this event and other Florida Celebrations Shows of all kinds with own outfits. Alpine Fat Girl Show, Naif Corey Lucky Boy Minstrel, writes. Wanted—Good-looking Girls for Musical Entertainment for Key West and Havana. Concessions of all kinds that are legitimate, will place you. No stores. Write or MORRIS MILLER, Miller Bros.' Shows, Miami, Fla.

Wanted--Concessions, Circus Acts

That Double for Military Indoor Circus and Merchants' Exposition, Wilmington, N. C., week commencing Monday, Jan. 11. WANTED—Limited number Show People, Circus Acts and other attractions. All parties. Circus Acts and Double Grand Acts. Acrobats, Castles and other acts preferred. Also A-1s. For more det. All address GEORGE S. MARR, Director, Capt. J. B. McComber Headquarters Battery, Orton Hotel, Wilmington, North Carolina.

home in Cincinnati had been decidedly under the weather for several weeks from stomach ailment, but had found a physician who was fast aiding his recovery. George stated that in consideration of the unusual amount of rainy weather, unemployment conditions, etc., encountered he experienced a satisfactory season, but he was looking forward to a "better year in 1926."

Scenic Artist Huntington Severely Injured

A press-day telegram (December 28) to The Billboard from V. J. Yearout, of the John Francis Shows, which are wintering at Houston, Tex., stated that W. H. Huntington, scenic artist, of late with the Francis organization, had been struck by an automobile at Houston and was in a local hospital unconscious and that it was thought his skull had been fractured. Anyone knowing where any relatives of Mr. Huntington are located would be doing a kindness by informing them of the above, also communicating the information to the John Francis Shows, Houston, Tex.

The Melvilles in St. Louis

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 23.—Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Melville, of the Nat Reiss Shows, were visitors in St. Louis yesterday and fraternized with many of their showfolk friends. They were on a combined pleasure and business trip from their winter-quarters city, Augusta, Ga., which will take them to numerous cities in the North. From here they were bound for Chicago and Cincinnati. They informed that everything was moving along nicely at their shows' quarters and that the organization is making extensive preparations for the forthcoming new season.

Ed Salter at Tampa

Tampa, Fla., Dec. 23.—Ed R. Salter, press representative of the Johnny J. Jones Exposition, is now in Tampa, living with his personal friend and physician, Dr. Oppenheimer. "The Hired Boy" has not been well since the season closed, following which he went to Safety Harbor to try the water there, but it was a little too strong for his constitution. Dr. Oppenheimer's treatment seems to be having good effect on Salter, who hopes to be all right soon, as he has about two weeks before he has to put the "harness" on again.

\$250,000 Resort Planned

Chicago, Dec. 23.—George Prasinios, owner of several North Side shoe-shining establishments, will build a \$250,000 amusement park at Lake Zurich, according to an announcement today. Mr. Prasinios said he would erect a \$125,000 hotel, a dance hall and a number of other amusements. He will call the resort Kiphsia, after a famous resort in his native land of Greece.

Zeidman & Pollie Shows Get Michigan State Fair

New York, Dec. 23.—Robert B. (Bob) Klina, general agent Zeidman & Pollie

Shows, arrived in New York today and announced that the Zeidman & Pollie Shows will play the Michigan State Fair at Detroit from September 2 to 9.

Holiday Greetings

(Continued from page 4)

Laemle, Earl Tom Long, Mrs. George B. Lowery, Arthur Looses, Bruce LaFerra, Henry W. Link, Lillian Lelutz, Sam Lupo, the Leavells, Paul Luck, Herbert Lloyd, H. C. Long, Tom H. Loftus, Claude (Kid) Long, Lewis Brothers, Three Littletons, Mr. and Mrs. J. George Loos, Warren E. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lorenzo, Jack V. Lyles, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Lawley, "Irish Jack" Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Lee, Chas. and Emma LaFord, Jas. Lewis, Wm. Lowmyer, "Suicide" Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Lane, Frank Lagney, N. L. Leale, Neal Leible, Will S. Loftin, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Lapp, Capt. O. (Cheekers) LeValley, Vern Lovett, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Lloyd, Jack Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Armond LeRosa.

Miller Bros' Shows, Mrs. Louise Moore, MurDee and June, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCormick, D. D. Murphy Shows, "Uncle Jimmy" Murray, Mikael and May, Robert F. McLendon, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Mugvan, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McMillan, G. Luke Maddox, George Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. George C. Moyer, Mott-Briegel, Lew Marcuse, P. Percy Morancy, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond D. Misamore, D. V. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Melville, Morris and Castle Shows, W. K. MacCollin, Minnesota State Fair, Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Morris, Gene R. Milton, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Downie McPhee, Frank J. Matthews, Missouri State Fair, John A. Miller, Roy Mack and Percy Brantley, Fred C. Murray, Frank McGuyre, Col. Jos. C. Miller, Jim Murray, J. Doug. Morgan Show, Frank C. Minster, Mullen's Musical Maids, Mought, Inc.; Mack Mahon, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. H. Mickey, Macon and Hogue, Maxine Miles, Merriam Family, Homer Mouchum, Charlie Mack and Associates, Mantell's Mankins, Joe and Kathryn Murray, Maxine Maxine, Dennis J. Moroney, Jay and Betty Mason, Ed. McDowell, Manberg and Walsh, Walter L. Main, Jim and Della Miller, Gordon McDowell, Della Mottie, Lucille McClendon, E. L. Manaso, Mrs. J. H. Murphy, the Millers, Chas. M. Mells, R. E. McCune, Billy Melbourne, Blackie Morgan, Wm. C. Murray, John A. Miller, George J. Mendelsohn, Blanch Morey, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Mahoney.

Lillian Newton, Earl M. Newberry, Homer H. Neer, Walter D. Nonland, Charles Naughton, Clinton Newton, Lee Norris, Mr. and Mrs. "Ted" North, Al Nuttle, Samuel N. Nevin, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Nigro, Mr. and Mrs. T. DeWitt Newland, Nessler & Wagoner Machine Company, National Pitchmen's and Salesmen's Protective Association, Locals Nos. 1 and 2; Cly C. Newton.

Harry R. Overton, Erin O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ogden, Four Orleans, Milton K. Oakes, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Opel, Mr. and Mrs. Christy Obrecht, Oswald Family, Mr. and Mrs. Sid Oilar, Obrecht Sisters and Johnnie Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. James O'Connell, Otis Lyle

Oliver, D. Otto and Dorothy Hillner, Dick O'Brien, Capt. Larry O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ogden, Owens and Laaley, Milton D. Owens.

Arthur Parkey, Richard Pitrot, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. (Doc) Palmer, Fred W. Pearce & Company, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Price, R. J. Pearce, Jake Pusey, Elsie Patterson, Lola E. Painter, Tom and Lena Plank, Little Pixfax, Frank H. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Payne, Henry H. Prather, Pete Patz, Parish and Peru, Joe V. Palmer, Harry Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Pounds, Harry C. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Paul, Irving J. Polack, Phaxy's Puppets, Progressive Circulation Company, Inc.

Ellery S. Reynolds, Ralph Richards, Robin & Cherry Shows, Tony Daniel F. Rows, Orion L. Roark, Frank S. Reed, Harry A. Ross, John Robinson Family, W. (Billie) Rolton, "Gill" Robinson, Thomas J. Richards, P. J. Ridge, H. F. (Doc) Randle, Charles B. Ralston, Mr. and Mrs. Rob Roy, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Richardson and Family, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harbour Russell, Benny Reeb and His Arcadians, Austin Reah, Ross-Russell Orchestra (Midge Reiff), Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Richmond and Lyle, Jr.; Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Rita and Dunn, John and Fern Rae, Marie Weiss Redfield, Clint and Beaulie Robbins, "Bammie" Redfield.

(Continued on page 85)

PEARLS AND OTHER SPECIALS

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Items include Pearl with Stone, Pearl with Diamonds, Pearl with Emeralds, Pearl with Ruby, Pearl with Sapphire, Pearl with Garnet, Pearl with Opal, Pearl with Amethyst, Pearl with Tourmaline, Pearl with Spinel, Pearl with Peridot, Pearl with Zircon, Pearl with Aquamarine, Pearl with Morganite, Pearl with Smoky Quartz, Pearl with Citrine, Pearl with Smoky Topaz, Pearl with Golden Beryl, Pearl with Green Beryl, Pearl with Blue Beryl, Pearl with Red Beryl, Pearl with Black Beryl, Pearl with Yellow Beryl, Pearl with White Beryl, Pearl with Pink Beryl, Pearl with Purple Beryl, Pearl with Orange Beryl, Pearl with Green Garnet, Pearl with Red Garnet, Pearl with Yellow Garnet, Pearl with Pink Garnet, Pearl with Purple Garnet, Pearl with Orange Garnet, Pearl with Green Sapphire, Pearl with Red Sapphire, Pearl with Yellow Sapphire, Pearl with Pink Sapphire, Pearl with Purple Sapphire, Pearl with Orange Sapphire, Pearl with Green Ruby, Pearl with Red Ruby, Pearl with Yellow Ruby, Pearl with Pink Ruby, Pearl with Purple Ruby, Pearl with Orange Ruby, Pearl with Green Emerald, Pearl with Red Emerald, Pearl with Yellow Emerald, Pearl with Pink Emerald, Pearl with Purple Emerald, Pearl with Orange Emerald, Pearl with Green Opal, Pearl with Red Opal, Pearl with Yellow Opal, Pearl with Pink Opal, Pearl with Purple Opal, Pearl with Orange Opal.

NEW SLUM AND GIVE-AWAY ITEMS

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Items include Pearl with Stone, Pearl with Diamonds, Pearl with Emeralds, Pearl with Ruby, Pearl with Sapphire, Pearl with Garnet, Pearl with Opal, Pearl with Amethyst, Pearl with Tourmaline, Pearl with Spinel, Pearl with Peridot, Pearl with Zircon, Pearl with Aquamarine, Pearl with Morganite, Pearl with Smoky Quartz, Pearl with Citrine, Pearl with Smoky Topaz, Pearl with Golden Beryl, Pearl with Green Beryl, Pearl with Blue Beryl, Pearl with Red Beryl, Pearl with Black Beryl, Pearl with Yellow Beryl, Pearl with White Beryl, Pearl with Pink Beryl, Pearl with Purple Beryl, Pearl with Orange Beryl, Pearl with Green Garnet, Pearl with Red Garnet, Pearl with Yellow Garnet, Pearl with Pink Garnet, Pearl with Purple Garnet, Pearl with Orange Garnet, Pearl with Green Sapphire, Pearl with Red Sapphire, Pearl with Yellow Sapphire, Pearl with Pink Sapphire, Pearl with Purple Sapphire, Pearl with Orange Sapphire, Pearl with Green Ruby, Pearl with Red Ruby, Pearl with Yellow Ruby, Pearl with Pink Ruby, Pearl with Purple Ruby, Pearl with Orange Ruby, Pearl with Green Emerald, Pearl with Red Emerald, Pearl with Yellow Emerald, Pearl with Pink Emerald, Pearl with Purple Emerald, Pearl with Orange Emerald, Pearl with Green Opal, Pearl with Red Opal, Pearl with Yellow Opal, Pearl with Pink Opal, Pearl with Purple Opal, Pearl with Orange Opal.

M. L. KAHN & CO., 711-713 Arch Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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A. H. MURPHY SHOWS WANT. Minimal Performers or complete Shows. Also Musicians for Colored Bands. Complete lists of Winter lists. Louisa, Ia., December 29 to January 1.

Holiday Greetings

(Continued from page 85)

Adolf E. Rein, Hal and Eva Ring, Vin and Mona Richmond, Lena Huborn, Royal Holland Bell Dingers, Nellie K. Rogers, S. Reed, Joe Riley, George Rich, J. H. Russell, Frank W. Robinson, Mae Ray, Raymond J. Reno, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Earl E. Riebs, Mrs. Jolly Ray, Nat Reiter Shows, Mr. and Mrs. Thad W. Rodecker, Cecil C. Rice, Charles M. Robey, Craddock Rule, Mr. and Mrs. Rajah Rabold.

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thurs Rhodes, in the role of the butler, follows his master thru the action and helps the comedy along considerably.

Sara Sothorn, as a friend of the cripple in real life and his heroine in the fantasy, is quite genuine and appealing, while Janet McLeary plays the part of wheel-chair invalid with credit.

Justine Hart and Asya Kass, who represent the spirits of Good and Evil, are not able to make much of their odd roles. Two incidental parts are capably acted by Donna Campbell and Harry R. Irving. DON CARLE GILLETTE.

One of the Family

(Continued from page 16)

very blunt Lothario for all that it deserves, and Edward Donnelly is excellent as a big business man and the father of the rouser.

Beulah Bondi, as a limping, hump-backed servant, is about the most naturally amusing member of the whole crew. She flings retorts, impertinences and all kinds of abuse at every member of the family, and their guests as well, without meeting with the least bit of opposition. The liberties are allowed her because of "the servant problem" and because "she has been with the family so long that she tries to run the whole house." Still it is inconceivable that such rudeness from a servant would be tolerated by any family, particularly a Boston family with Aunt Priscilla Adams at the head of it. But the antics have some comedy value in them, and the ordinary playwright always seems to think himself justified in sacrificing propriety and credibility altogether when it will bring a laugh or two. DON CARLE GILLETTE.

What N. Y. Critics Say

'Fool's Bells'

(Criterion Theater)

HERALD-TRIBUNE: "Finest allegory given to G'hilness at times."—Percy Hammond. TIMES: "None too skillfully put together, and come off in a makeshift, cloying performance."—J. Brooks Atkinson. WORLD: "Cloying and curiously snappy. . . I have seldom seen a more artificial, more tasteless charade."—Alexander Woolcott. POST: "A prattling infant among the plays."—John Anderson. AMERICAN: "There were times when the imaginative quality emerged quite silently, and other times when author's purpose seemed obscure and his aim too high."—Alan Dale.

'The Master of the Inn'

(Little Theater)

WORLD: "Dramatized rather unconvincingly." HERALD-TRIBUNE: "Not a very convincing tale to tell in language peculiarly unimproved."—C. B. D. AMERICAN: "Impressive to a degree."—J. M. TIMES: "A simple and not uninteresting love story." SUN: "So polyanthropic as to be rather insiduous."—Stephen Spurr. POST: "A rather pleasantly romantic affair."

'One of the Family'

(49th Street Theater)

WORLD: "A lumpy and generally colorless little farce, unusually performed."—Alexander Woolcott. TIMES: "Spares no expense for the purpose of wholesale entertainment."—J. Brooks Atkinson. HERALD-TRIBUNE: "Just another obnoxious little farce going its best to make life a bit brighter and gladder."—Percy Hammond. POST: "A dramatic fustle that has fallen, turning sappy instead of light."—John Anderson. SUN: "Fairly innocent and unattractive copy of a flock of other copies of 'The First Year.'"—Gilbert W. Gabriel. EVENING WORLD: "Sparkles a goodly portion of the time."—Hildy Doolley.

'The Patsy'

(Booth Theater)

HERALD-TRIBUNE: "A nice little play. . . Claborn Foster masterful."—W. M. TIMES: "Apt and highly amusing." WORLD: "Harry Conroy may be congratulated on a new and brisk technique."—A. B. POST: "Fulfilling efforts of Miss Foster's charm save play from an inglorious fate." TELEGRAM: "Sometimes it pleased largely, at other times it seemed straining for effect."—Frank Woodland.

'Greenwich Village Follies'

(49th Street Theater)

SUN: "Thumping and gorgeous and all that, and fearfully witless."—Gilbert W. Gabriel. TELEGRAM: "Moved somewhat feebly and ineffectually."—Frank Woodland. AMERICAN: "Pleasant and nourishing."—Alan Dale. TIMES: "Too much obvious and chrome stage art. La be humor." TRIBUNE: "Beautiful to a bit dumb."—Percy Hammond. WORLD: "Comic relief pretty fresh."—Alexander Woolcott.

Distribution of the Christmas Number of The Billboard

THRU the medium of the United States mails and the American Railway Express the Christmas Number of The Billboard was distributed throughout the United States in what we believe to be record time for a weekly publication the size and weight of the Christmas Billboard. Each copy of this issue weighed a little more than a pound. Ninety-five thousand copies were shipped out. The last form went to press Monday night, December 7. The first copies were put into the mails early Tuesday morning, December 8. The newsdealers in New York City were selling copies of this issue the following morning (Wednesday, December 9), and readers bought copies in Los Angeles and San Francisco on Friday, December 11. The following list shows the day on which the Christmas Number was on sale in various cities throughout the United States and Canada. This early delivery to our readers was made possible only thru exceptionally good service upon the part of the American Railway Express Company and the Railway Postal Service. We acknowledge our gratitude to both:

Table with 4 columns: Town, Day Rec'd, Town, Day Rec'd. Lists distribution dates for various cities like Akron, Albany, Albany, Pa., Ashby Park, N. J., Atlanta, Ga., Birmingham, Ala., Baltimore, Md., Bridgeport, Conn., Buffalo, N. Y., Boston, Mass., Columbus, O., Cleveland, O., Chicago, Ill., Des Moines, Ia., Denver, Col., Dayton, O., Detroit, Mich., Dallas, Tex., Erie, Pa., Evansville, Ind., El Paso, Tex., Fall River, Mass., Flint, Mich., Fort Wayne, Ind., Fort Worth, Tex., Grand Rapids, Mich., Hamilton, Ont., Can., Huntington, W. Va., Havana, Cuba, Hartford, Conn., Houston, Tex., Indianapolis, Ind., Jacksonville, Fla., Kansas City, Mo., Los Angeles, Calif., Louisville, Ky., Montreal, Que., Can., Memphis, Tenn., Minneapolis, Minn., Milwaukee, Wis., New York City, N. Y., New Haven, Conn., Nashville, Tenn., Newark, N. J., New Orleans, La., Norfolk, Va., Ottawa, Ont., Canada, Oklahoma City, Ok., Omaha, Neb., Philadelphia, Pa., Portland, Me., Portland, Ore., Paterson, N. J., Pittsburgh, Pa., Providence, R. I., Rochester, N. Y., San Francisco, Calif., Scranton, Pa., Seattle, Wash., Spokane, Wash., Springfield, Mass., St. Louis, Mo., Syracuse, N. Y., Salt Lake City, Utah, St. Paul, Minn., St. John, N. B., Can., Toronto, Ont., Can., Tulsa, Ok., Terre Haute, Ind., Toledo, O., Vancouver, B. C., Can., Winnipeg, Man., Can., Washington, D. C., Wichita, Kan., Worcester, Mass., Youngstown, O.

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Mrs. Maeon E. Willis, Willis Brothers, C. A. Wortham's World's Best Shows.

L. C. Zelleno.

Fool's Bells

(Continued from page 10)

themselves. Donald Meek's impersonation of an exceptionally humble and submissive corn-salve agent is a remarkable piece of work, nicely conceived, intelligently sustained and rich in humor. Another well wrought and consistently amusing performance is given by Beryl Mercer, as a rum-thrifty Irishwoman—apparently a landlady. Donald Galbraith succeeds in arousing a good deal of sympathy by his portrayal of the handsome and self-pitying young hunchback, but the characterization is worked out so much in the same key that it gradually becomes monotonous. A. G. Andrews, as the cripple's uncle, who wants to visit revenge upon the whole world because of his nephew's unhappiness, is excellent both in the fantasy and in the reality scenes, while Ar-

Deaths in the Profession

BINGHAM—Ralph, 59, widely known humorist and entertainer, who appeared in vaudeville for many years, died at his home in Philadelphia December 27. Deceased was a member of the Lamb's and Actors' clubs of New York, and the Pen and Pencil and Manufacturers' clubs of Philadelphia.

BOYER—George Arthur, 53, widely known theatrical man and formerly manager of the Empress Theater, Denver, Col., passed on suddenly December 18, at Los Angeles, Calif., from heart disease. For the past five years the deceased had been exploitation manager for Syd Grauman's Egyptian Theater in Los Angeles and prior to that he managed and acted as advance agent for various theatrical attractions throughout the country. Mr. Boyer entered the show business in his early 20s and during 20 years in the profession he had been a crier at Coney Island, New York; a black-face comedian with the old Haverly Minstrels, and had filled a number of other professional and executive positions in the theatrical business. More than 20 years ago, when Poo Youton, a musical comedy, was put on the road, Mr. Boyer was advance man. Later he was connected with the Sullivan & Considine Vaudeville Circuit and was made manager of the Empress at Denver when that playhouse was operated by the Sullivan & Considine Circuit. When Trizzie Priganz was at the height of her career, the deceased was her advance agent and later in his motion picture engagements he was advance agent for D. W. Griffith's *Way Down East*. He is survived by his widow who resides at 1824 Grace street, Hollywood, Calif.

BURGESS—R. Watson, 71, blind music teacher of 3312 W. 100th street, Cleveland, O., died suddenly in that city December 15 following a heart attack. Funeral services were conducted from the home of his daughter, Mrs. Joseph H. Beck, 2548 Somerton road, Cleveland Heights, Friday afternoon, December 18. Besides his daughter the deceased is survived by a sister.

CHANDLER—Richard, 52, formerly boss flyman at the Montank, Brooklyn, N. Y., and more recently flyman at Werba's Brooklyn Theater, died December 21 at his home in that city as the result of an automobile accident suffered a month ago.

CHARENTE—Thomas J., 48, for the past 15 years a prominent figure in the theatrical business in New Bedford, Mass., and the manager of the Capitol Theater in that city, died at his home, 124 Mt. Pleasant street, New Bedford, December 13, after an acute illness of only a few hours. His first venture into the theatrical business in New Bedford was the purchase of the Casino Theater. He later acquired the Royal and Orpheum theaters in that city, which, together with the Casino, he operated until the formation of the corporation of Allen, Charrette, Inc., in 1919, when the string of theaters owned by George W. Allen, Jr., and those of Mr. Charrette were merged. The corporation was formed for the purpose of erecting the Capitol Theater, work on which was started in September, 1919, and completed in November, 1920. In March, 1921, Mr. Charrette sold his interests to Mr. Allen in order to devote his full time to his business in Boston, Mass. Upon his return to New Bedford last spring, the deceased together with Simon Bezerovsky and Zool Hoy, purchased Mr. Allen's interests in seven theaters for approximately \$200,000 and formed a new corporation known as Charrette, Inc., of which the deceased was president at the time of his death. He leaves to mourn is his widow, four sons and three daughters.

FAGAN—Lawrence, father of "Noelies" Fagan, vaudeville artists of Los Angeles, died last week at his home in Iteona, Pa.

FERGUSON—Elizabeth Nora, 31, wife of Earl M. Ferguson, passed on December 15 at the West Suburban Hospital, Chicago, following an operation for an eight weeks' illness. The deceased, with her husband, had been in newspaper subscription business for many years. Besides her husband, she is survived by a son, Richard Manley Ferguson.

FRIEDRICH—Julius A. J., 75, dean of Western Michigan music house proprietors, passed on at Grand Rapids, Mich., Thursday night, December 24, following an illness of several months. Deceased had been in the music business in Grand Rapids for more than 50 years.

GRADY—Thomas, 63, eccentric comedian, who appeared with *The Gordis*, now playing in Philadelphia, died in the Jefferson Hospital in that city Saturday night, December 26, following an operation. Deceased was widely known in theatrical circles and was a close friend of Amy Lee, popular actress of a generation ago, who died Christmas Day.

GREGORY—Ben W., well-known musician, a member of the Pittsburgh (Pa.) local of the musicians' union, passed away recently at Clarkdale, Miss. The body was shipped to Parkersburg, W. Va., his home, where interment was made in the Cedar Grove Cemetery. Deceased is survived by his mother, who resides in Parkersburg.

HUMPHRIES—Howard, 45, passed away at Bluefield, W. Va., December 19. Deceased was a business partner and brother of Bert Humphries, well-known character comedian, who was with him until the end. Mr. Humphries had many talents in the profession who will mourn his passing.

ILES—E. F., 57, father of Tom Iles, of the Zeldman & Follie Shows, passed on at Shiprock, N. M., December 19. The body was shipped to Springfield, Ill., the home of the deceased, for burial.

LEE—Amy, 43, well-known actress of a generation ago, died Christmas Day in Frankford Hospital, Philadelphia, after a short illness. She was one of the last actresses to star as a "heavy soubrette" in old-time melodrama. She was known from Coast to Coast for her work in such plays as *Foggy Ferry* and *Paes Picket* No. 210. She retired from the stage 20 years ago because of ill health. Some years later she entered the Forest Home for Aged Actors and lived there until taken to the hospital a few days before her death.

LORIE—Sarah Beckman, 72, at one time an active musician of Kansas City, Mo., died there at the Lyndhurst Hotel December 3. She was a well-known soprano and pianist. She is survived by two sons.

NOON—John R., 70, died at the home of his life-long friend, Mons. LaPlace, 433 Park street, South Columbus, O., December 17, after a three days' illness of pneumonia. Mr. Noon was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, and came to this country when five years old. Deceased was in the show business for 55 years and was at one time a partner of the late Frank E. McNish and later of James B. Gentry. For a number of years he worked with his wife under the team name of Noon and Noon. In his early days Mr. Noon worked for Tony Pastor, Harry Miner, Hyde & Behman and the Amazon Bros., dramatic and vaudeville artists. For the past few seasons he and his wife had their own company. The funeral, which was attended by a number of veterans of the profession, was conducted December 21 from the private chapel of the Egan Undertaking Company. The pallbearers, all oldtimers, were Dode Pisk, Doc Allen, George Harmon, Doc Barnes and Ray Kendall. Burial was made in Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus. Deceased is survived by his widow.

MORTON—Ethel, 23, colored, an actress with the Burch-Williams Company, died at the Mercy Hospital, Hamilton, O., December 25, following a heart attack as she was about to board a bus to visit her parents at Glendale, O.

NUGENT—Rev. J. F., 82, for more than 43 years priest of the Visitation Parish, Dow Meiner, Ia., died at his home in that city Saturday afternoon, December 25, following a heart attack. Deceased was also a well-known chautauque lecturer. During his long lecture career he lectured at many of the larger universities of the country. Father Nugent was born in Michigan in 1843. Surviving him are two nieces. Members of the fourth degree assembly of the Knights of Columbus conducted services at the home Monday night, December 21.

OLLIE—May, known in private life as Mrs. C.M. Sheel, died at Memphis, Tenn., December 28, following an operation. Deceased was well known in circus circles, and formerly appeared with the Yankee Robinson, Harris Bros., and other circuses. She recently closed with the Walter L. Main Circus. Miss Ollie began her professional career in musical comedy and was also well known as a dancer and singer.

PHILLIPS—Mrs. Ethel Jones, formerly well known on the stage as Ethel von Waldron, died December 22 in her apartment in the St. Paul Hotel, New York City. She appeared in *The Arab*, *The Roadside* and other plays. She left the stage when she married Charles Phillips, a newspaper man, in 1913.

SIMPSON—George Edward, 63, for years prominently associated with motion picture and large real estate interests in Rochester, N. Y., died at his home there last week after a long illness. Mr. Simpson was one of the pioneers in the exhibition of motion pictures, not only in Rochester, but in this country. He saw the possibilities of the motion picture for popular entertainment when they were still in the stage of "store-show" curiosities. In 1907 he built and opened the Hippodrome Theater at Main street and East avenue, Rochester, then the most pretentious movie theater in that city. He conducted it successfully for a number of years, and then sold his interests, only to retake in the Regent Theater, which he opened in 1914. At the time of the founding of the Regent Mr. Simpson also founded the Regoron Corporation, which came to operate the Regent. Presently and the Gordon theaters in Rochester. Deceased was born in Linwood, N. Y., in 1862, and was a member of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce for many years. He leaves his widow, one son, one brother and a sister.

STANLEY—Harry, 73, well-known veteran showman and comedian, died Tuesday night, December 15, at Hollister, Calif., of heart trouble. Deceased was a violinist of ability and formerly appeared in vaudeville. He is survived by two stepsons who reside in Los Angeles.

STONE—Mabel Edna, former well-known contortionist and toe dancer, who appeared both in Europe and this country, died at the General Hospital, Denver, Col., December 21, after a 14 months' illness with cancer. Her husband, Harry Stone, who teamed with her, has been off the stage since his wife was stricken, and was at her bedside when she died. Due to his wife's illness and his long absence from the stage, Mr. Stone was without money, and the deceased was saved from a pauper's grave thru the generosity of George W. Olinner, a prominent Denver business man.

STRANG—Walter, 78, of Brewster, N. Y., for many years a trainer of horses with various circuses, including the Ringling Bros. and the Barnum & Bailey circuses, was found drowned December 12 in a canal at Croton Falls, N. Y. The deceased disappeared from his home about three weeks ago and all efforts to locate him were futile.

THURMAN—Mary, 35, movie actress, died Tuesday night, December 22, in the Flower Hospital, New York City, of pneumonia. Miss Thurman, who had been ill since she had completed work in a film in Florida last year, started her career with Mack Sennett, and later played in *The Fool* and *Wildfire*. The mother of the deceased, Mrs. May Christiansen, and Juanita Hansen, former motion picture star, accompanied the body from New York to Salt Lake City, Utah, the former home of Miss Thurman, where burial was conducted with the Mormon ritual.

TORRENCE—W. H., member of Pittsburgh (Pa.), Lodge No. 27, Theatrical Mutual Association, and a grand trustee of the association, died recently in Pittsburgh. He became a member of the T. M. A. about 32 years ago and had served as recording secretary of Pittsburgh lodge during the greater part of the time he was a member.

WILLIAMS—Mrs. Mae, wife of Dr. J. H. Williams, of the Herber of Leno Medicine Company, died at Springfield, Ill., December 17, from heart failure. Her body was shipped to Terre Haute, Ind., her former home, for burial. Deceased was loved by all who met her and she leaves many friends to mourn her loss.

WISE—Jake, 70, flyman at the Star Theater, Brooklyn, N. Y., dropped dead December 21, while at work. He had been connected with the same theater for the past 20 years.

COMING MARRIAGES

In the Profession

Y. E. Fogarty, into of the *De Chino* Company, and Margaret Grady, non-professional, of Fall River, Mass. will shortly be married. The date for the wedding has not yet been decided.

The engagement of Lansing Brown, photographer of Los Angeles, to Barbara Luddy, movie actress, at present engaged in playing the feminine lead in a series of comedies for the Fox Film Company, was announced December 13 at Los Angeles. No date for the wedding has been set.

Birdie Lato, private secretary to W. D. Lusk, manager of Adjustment and Claims Department of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees in New York, and Jacob Nabbeto, non-professional, are engaged to be married. It is announced. The marriage will take place after the first of the year, it is expected.

MARRIAGES

In the Profession

ARNOLD-CHAPMAN—Walter Arnold, of Astoria, N. Y., actor, associated with the Jane Hastings Players, and Mildred Chapman, of Ithaca, N. Y., were married December 19 on the stage of the Lyceum Theater, Ithaca, by Mayor Sawdon of that city.

FORSTALL-MARSHALL—Theo. Forstall and Erma (Foggy) Marshall, both of whom recently closed with the Lee Bros. Circus, were married Monday evening, December 21, at Key West, Fla. The groom was auditor with the Lee Bros. Circus the past season and the two previous seasons was treasurer of the Gentry Bros.-Patterson Circus. Miss Marshall was a featured performer with both of the above shows, working in both the big show and Wild West. The couple also worked together on the K. G. Barfoot Shows and Horton W. Campbell's United Shows.

FREY-RALSTON—George W. Frey, motion picture executive and Esther Ralston, film actress, were married at Riverside, Calif., Christmas Day.

JACOBI-RAMSEY—Leon John Jacobi, of Detroit, Mich., efficiency expert for the Hudson-Knox Motor Company in that city, was married Tuesday evening, December 22, at Shreveport, La., to Devencorn Ramsey, until recently piano donna of *Blossom Time*. The bride party was dressed in *Blossom Time* costumes and special selections from *Blossom Time* were played during the ceremony which was performed by the Rev. Claude L. Jones, pastor of the Christian Church, Houston, Tex., who made a special trip to Shreveport for the occasion.

KELLEY-HIGHT—Winton P. Kelley and Gladys Hight, well-known dancing teacher, were married at Chicago December 21. Mr. Kelley is associated with the radio business.

LONDON-IRGO—Richard M. London, vaudeville artist, was married to Teresa Irgo, of Newark, N. J., in the chapel of the Municipal Building, New York City, Monday morning, December 21.

MILLS-McKNIGHT—Duke Mills, well-known outdoor showman, the past two seasons manager of the side show for the John Robinson Circus, was married at Denver, Col., December 22 to Anne McKnight, sister-in-law of the late Jack McKnight, and for a number of years leading lady in dramatic productions. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Morris. Mr. Mills will join the John Robinson organization when the season opens.

NELSON-SHROYER—Billy Newman Nelson and Adela I. Shroyer, vaudeville artists, were married December 21 at the Municipal Building, New York City, by Deputy Clerk Joseph McCormick.

PATTURELLI-DIMORIA—Peter Patturelli, dancer and gymnast, and Mary Dimoria, singer, were married December 25 at Auburn, N. Y., where they were play-

the Jefferson Theater. Anthony Costagosa, Justice of the Peace, did the unit. The witnesses were Charles E. Douglas, vaudeville artist, and Mildred Kiefer, of Ashburn.

SILVERMAN-ADLER—Harry Silverman, concessionaire in a number of New York theaters, was married December 17 in that city to Miss M. Adler. The couple left December 19 for a honeymoon trip to the West Indies.

STRIBLING - KINNEY — W. L. (Young) Stribling, well-known boxer, and Clara Virginia Kinney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Kinney, were married at noon, December 26, at the home of the bride in Macon, Ga. The Rev. T. D. Davidson, of Reynolds, Ga., an uncle of the bride, performed the ceremony.

WISE-CARROLL—C. W. Wise, of Jacksonville, Fla., and Mrs. Eleanor Carroll were married at Colfax, La., December 19. They are at home at 1419 Fourth street, Alexandria, La.

BIRTHS

A son, Donald Phillip, was born December 29 at Detroit, Mich., to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Blandford. Mr. Blandford is ticket seller of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, and with his family is wintering in Detroit.

A 75-pound daughter, Gloria, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Noleer at their home in Cleveland, O., December 29. The Noleers are well known in minstrelsy, burlesque and musical comedy.

A son, weighing six and one-quarter pounds, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Readick in a private hospital in New York City November 25. The child has been named Robert. Mrs. Readick is professionally known as Dorothy Randall.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lang at Elizabeth, N. J., December 15. Mrs. Lang formerly was Gladys Kelton, of the Three Keltons, well known in vaudeville. She is a sister of Pert Kelton, now appearing in a featured part in *Songy*, at the New Amsterdam Theater, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. David R. Redman announce the arrival of a son, David, Jr., at their home in Dallas, Tex., recently. The parents are well known in Dallas theatrical circles.

Twins were born recently to Mr. and Mrs. James W. Clark at Dallas, Tex. Mr. Clark is the Metro representative in that city.

A son was born recently to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pickens at Arlington, Tex. The parents are well known in Texas theatrical circles.

A son was born last week at New York City to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beahan. Beahan is head of the Eastern story department of the Producers' Distributing Corporation.

On December 22, a seven-pound daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. "Doc" Stanton. The father is a well-known Bill wheel operator and is at present located at Bogalusa, La. Mother and daughter doing nicely.

DIVORCES

Priscilla Bonner, film actress, won her freedom from Alan Alexander at Los Angeles December 24. Miss Bonner charged her husband deserted her on their first wedding anniversary.

Felix Morales, who is appearing with his troupe on the Keith Circuit, writes that he was recently granted a divorce from Marguerite Barton. Mr. Morales and his troupe will open a tour over the Pantages Circuit January 6. Miss Barton is at present at her mother's home at Coatesville, Pa.

Henry B. Manville, business manager of the Detroit Institute of Musical Art, Detroit, Mich., was granted a divorce December 18 from Jewell B. Manville by Judge Alfred J. Murphy in the Circuit Court of that city. Mrs. Manville was granted the custody of their two children and \$150 a month alimony.

Joseph Schinderaut, well-known actor, was sued for divorce by Elsie Bartlett Porter, actress, at Philadelphia, Pa., last week. Miss Porter charged cruelty. The pair were married in Philadelphia April 7, 1922.

A divorce suit was filed at Boston, Mass., December 23 by Mary Clay Alberini against Alessandro Alberini, opera singer. Mrs. Alberini's suit follows one recently filed by her husband, charging her with cruel and abusive treatment. She seeks the custody of her daughter, Martha, and a sum sufficient to support them both.

Bert Clements Monument Fund

(Continued from page 11)
Durant, \$1; Walter Nugent, \$1; Jack Nugent, \$50; Jack Yorks, \$50; J. E. Lyons, \$50; Wilbur Claggett, \$1; collection taken up at meeting, \$15.50. This amount totaled \$49.25, and Mr. Parker added 75 cents to make it the even amount. The fund now totals \$134.20. Others wishing to contribute can do so by sending cash and checks to The Billboard Publishing Company, Cincinnati, and acknowledgment will be made thru these columns.

Miller Shows' Winter Season Exceeding Expectations

The winter show of Miller Bros.' Shows, billed as Miller Bros.' Sunshine Shows and under the management of Norman D. Brown, secretary and treasurer of the complete show, is reported as meeting with much more remunerative success than was thought by even the staff would result in the launching of the organization, which has been exhibiting at Miami, Fla. Executive members of the organization seem of the opinion that General Manager Morris Miller displayed good judgment in putting out the winter amusement company.

been playing the lots for the past few weeks.

Kettering Unfolds Plans of Ascher Bros.' Growing Vision

(Continued from page 5)
planned, will eventually become managers of the new Ascher houses.
Versatility in the Ascher plans is evidenced by the intention of the company to install two additional dramatic stock companies on the south and west sides, previously announced in this publication, but which intention has been greatly strengthened by the great success of the initial dramatic stock company in the Chateau Theater on the north side. Mr. Kettering is noncommittal on this particular phase of the subject, but it is an open secret among showmen—or they believe it is, anyway—that it was Mr. Kettering's influence that started the Aschers into dramatic stock. Mr. Kettering is one of the best stock managers in the entire country, as well as a playwright and producer. The Chateau Stock Company, inaugurated a few weeks ago, is such a big success that it looks very much like a big film firm has been delegated to bring stock back in Chicago on a big scale. The Aschers have the

have been moved from the first to the second floor, where the reception room, or lounge, will also be located. The meeting room remains on the third floor.

Ticket Brokers Organize To Wipe Out Sidewalk Spec.

(Continued from page 5)
for the organization. He told the brokers last week that one good use to which the licensed broker had been put was that of increasing the hospitality of the city, acting actually as a service bureau to theater patrons. He pointed out that it is the sidewalk broker who has caused the pretenses to fall about of the authorities, and promised that just an strenuous effort would be made by the organization to drive him out of business as is being made by the State and city authorities.

Officers for the new organization are as follows:

J. L. Marks, 1550 Broadway, president; Joe Gramsky, of the Arrow Theater Ticket Office, No. 1525 Broadway, treasurer, and Samuel Bloom, 1422 Broadway, secretary. The Board of Directors is composed of Edward Alexander, of the Alexander Agency, 200 West 42d street; Frederick E. Faber, of Faber & Sutton, 120 West 44th street; Mike Jacobs, of the Hotel Normandie; Ramon Mayer, of the Lois Cohen Ticket Company; Charles A. Levy, of the Broadway Ticket Office, 215 West 43d street; Thomas Morton and J. L. Marks.

H. of A. Showmen's Club Celebrates

(Continued from page 5)

ovation when the Dancing Goodwins "did their stuff", exhibiting best steps in every style of dancing. The Dancing Goodwins appeared thru the courtesy of Jolly Jones, manager of the Kansas City office of the Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, and the club gave him a big vote of thanks.

Before the vaudeville show the Heart of America Showmen's Club Clown Band won many friends by its promiscuous thru the lobby and over the main stairs of the hotel, serenading and cutting antics. The band was composed of the following well-known "clowns": A. H. Solick, Louis Shaw, F. W. Deem, Glen Loomis, A. N. Rice, George Engesser, Duke Mills, E. Z. Wilson, Joe Ramsey, Jake Brizendine and Chaw, McManon.

Immediately after the program the crowd surrounded the giant tree whose top reached the lofty ceiling of the lobby, standing 40 feet high and elaborately decorated. Here Santa Claus, as enacted by Housu Hook of the club, presented all the gifts and bags of candy, oranges, apples and nuts and toys to the children and, after they were all supplied, to all the grownups present, and then adjournment was taken to the ballroom, where dancing was enjoyed to the lively music of a 10-piece orchestra.

Several times during the evening E. Warren Appleton played selections on the New Tone callions, graciously loaned by E. H. Harrington of the New Tone factory of this city, and this added a circus and show atmosphere much relished and enjoyed by everyone.

"Tex" Clark, superintendent of the Swope Park Zoo, also contributed to the show atmosphere by lending some of his elephants and camels to be on exhibit in the lobby, and these not only pleased the "kids" but the grownups as well.

C. F. (Doc) Zieger, chairman of the entertainment committee of the club, arranged the program, etc., and to him and Mr. Hemmway goes a great deal of credit for the excellent entertainment, fun and able handling of the crowds and everything.

There was an estimated attendance of 500 or more, showmen and their wives and families, guests of the hotel and guests of members of the club. Telegrams of greeting were read from the Mississippi Valley Showmen's Club of St. Louis, J. Geo. Loos Shows, Morris & Castle Shows, George P. Dorman, Walter Driver of Chicago and others.

During intermission of the dances announcement of the annual New Year's Eve Banquet and Ball of the Showmen's Club was made, with an invitation given to all present to attend.

The 1925 Christmas Tree Celebration, Vaudeville Show and Dance will go down in the history of the Showmen's Club as one of the best, gayest and most thoroughly "showfolky" of any given by the club. There were many faces of former showmen and of allied industries there and they were all enjoying it as much as when they were of the life and not in commercial business as at present, but the writer, the Kansas City representative of *The Billboard*, is not going to attempt to name any of these for fear someone might be omitted.

RALPH BINGHAM

RALPH BINGHAM, nationally known humorist, raconteur and after-dinner speaker, died suddenly of heart disease Sunday night, December 27, at his home, 2411 North 19th street, Philadelphia, Pa. He suffered an acute attack of indigestion and death came before the arrival of a physician who was summoned by his wife, Mrs. Christine G. Bingham. He was 56.

The following day Mr. Bingham, following a custom of the last 10 years, was to have appeared as Santa Claus at the annual holiday show of the Pen and Pencil Club, 1026 Walnut street, Philadelphia. His death came as a shock to those gathered at the clubhouses, where his songs and witty sayings have resounded at various times ever since the organization was founded. Altho another Krisas Kringle was obtained, the sudden passing of "Ralph", as he was known by all at the club, threw a deep shadow over the proceedings.

Mr. Bingham was a radio announcer for a local station for a time, and became popular thru his humorous introductions. Of strikingly round appearance, and not more than five feet, seven inches tall, he frequently poked fun at his own figure during his speeches and described himself as being built more "east and west" than he was "north and south". In addition to being an accomplished musician, he was a character artist and a gifted story teller. No dialect was too difficult for him. He was an expert master of ceremonies and frequently thru his versatility and ability to size up a situation he kept many public functions from going on the rocks from an entertainment standpoint. His exceptional ability brought him to the notice of theatrical promoters, and about 25 years ago he was engaged temporarily in vaudeville. This phase of entertainment did not strike him favorably and later he embarked on the chautauqua circuit, where he became an outstanding star.

Mr. Bingham was born at Richmond, Va., August 2, 1870, son of Hamilton and Jane E. (McClintock) Bingham. He was educated in the public schools and completed several courses along lines intended to fit him for his career as a public entertainer. Mr. Bingham probably traveled the United States more thoroughly than any other platform favorite of his time, since he began to "swing around the circle" at the age of six years. For a decade or longer he was widely known as the "boy orator", and as such toured the United States and Canada under the management of his father. Bingham's parents saw that he was not spoiled by his juvenile successes. They encouraged him on going to Philadelphia to associate freely with children of his own age in the vicinity of their home near 11th street and Montgomery avenue.

In 1908 Mr. Bingham married Christine Giles, of New London, O., a professional singer.

He was the founder and president of the International Lyceum Association, and belonged to the Pen and Pencil Club, Lambs' Club of New York and the International Rotary Club.

Edward Versteeg Buys Horse for Carl Delaney

Edward Versteeg, superintendent of the electric department of the Al G. Barnes Circus, was in Cincinnati last week and purchased a beautiful pink-skin Arabian horse for Carl Delaney, who has a number of high-school horses in Australia. The horse will be shipped to California about the first of January. Mr. Delaney will have his act in vaudeville in the States some time next season.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Returning to Winter Quarters

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Francis, of the John Francis Shows, arrived in the city Saturday evening and left again Sunday night. They were en route to Houston, Tex., from Bloomington, Ill., where they had enjoyed Christmas dinner with relatives. This is an annual event for them. Mr. Francis advised that the show was scheduled to close Sunday night (December 27) and that their winter quarters were situated in the heart of Houston, Tex., where the show has

houses and where one looks like it will pay better as a dramatic stock house than a film palace it will be given a chance in the serious stuff. Mr. Kettering put in such a splendid company at the Chateaux, under the direction of Harry Minturn, that the project went over with a whoop and a bang. Showmen point out that he will give the other centers equally good organizations to bring stock back to his own in Chicago.

Showmen's League Election Feb. 15

(Continued from page 5)

C. R. Pfoher, C. W. Finney, F. J. Frink, Rubin Gruberger, Sherman G. Glover, Walter D. Hildreth, Charles H. Hall, Thomas P. Hanks, Louis Hoekner, W. C. Huggins, Louis Keller, G. S. John, E. J. Knaptrick, Harry McKay, Charles G. McCurren, J. C. McCaffery, H. G. Melville, Milton M. Morris, D. D. Murphy, Dan Odum, Col. Fred J. Owens, Frank Pearson, Henry J. Pottle, John M. Showley, J. Alex. Sloan, Fred Terry, Harry E. Thurston, Cliff Trimble, John L. Webber, A. J. Ziv.

The changes in the club rooms are now being made. The billiard and pool tables

Free, prompt and fastened, the Mail Forwarding Service of The Billboard stands alone as a safe and sure medium thru which professional people may have their mail addressed. Thousands of actors, artists and other workers now receive their mail thru this highly efficient department.

Mail is sometimes lost and stamps refuse because people do not write plainly, do not give correct address or forget to enclose an address of all when writing for advertised mail. Others send letters and write address and name so near postage stamp that they are obliterated by the post-office stamping machines. In such cases and where such letters bear no return address the letter can only be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office. Help the Billboard handle your mail by complying with the following:

Write for mail when it is FIRST advertised. The following is the key to the letter list:

- Chicago.....(No Stars)
New York.....One Star (*)
Los Angeles.....Two Stars (**)

If your name appears in the Letter List with stars before it write to the office adding the star, which you know from the method outlined above. Keep the Mail Forwarding Department supplied with your route and mail will be forwarded without the necessity of advertising in Postage as we are charged only for postage—letter service is absolutely free.

Mail is held for 30 days and cannot be recovered after it goes to the Dead Letter Office. Mail advertised in this issue was accepted for up to last Sunday noon. All requests for mail must be signed by the party to whom the mail is addressed.

There are numerous persons receiving mail thru The Billboard's Forwarding Service who have the same names or initials. When a letter is forwarded to a person for whom it is not intended please return it so that it may be advertised again until the person for whom it is intended receives it.

PARCEL POST

- Allen, Mrs. Louis
Allen, Mrs. Gray
Allen, Mrs. Jean
Allen, Mrs. Kate
Allen, Mrs. May
Allen, Mrs. Nellie
Allen, Mrs. Paul
Allen, Mrs. W. M.

- Allen, Mrs. Nellie
Allen, Mrs. Paul
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Letter List

- Allen, Mrs. Nellie
Allen, Mrs. Paul
Allen, Mrs. W. M.
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LETTER LIST

(Continued from page 93)

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Banner Year for Magic Shows

Shown by Billboard Survey

(Continued from page 6)

pesimistic views concerning magic should be routed!

To add further significance to the inferences that should be drawn from the fact that both Blackstone and Hoodlin find magic in the metropolis good enough for the case to extend his sojourn and the other to play a return engagement it need only be pointed out that so far as the show business is concerned these weeks around the holidays are reputed to be the worst of the year.

Nor is it only these two masters who are busy catering to New York's inordinate appetites for magic. Performers who play vaudeville, society, club, school and other dates also have been busy showing their wares before enthusiastic audiences. A list in part of such entertainers includes Dunninger, The Naucages, Hermann, Lester, Al Baker, Frank Ducrot, Ransom, Franee, Jean Irving, Elroy, Henri, Prof. Krieger, Paul and Abe, Charles Diestel, Al Plesso, Eugenio Palarko, Mme. Hudspeh, The Ros-leres, Charles DiMond and "Happy" Harry Hayden.

Further down the Eastern coast magic gives every indication of being as popular as it is in New York. In Washington, D. C. there was a situation comparable to that in Gotham and equally as significant. Blackstone and Hoodlin competed in New York and both did wonderfully well. An analogous situation obtained at the Capitol. Thurston found Blackstone a capable competitor, and despite the fact that the former had already played a week there both played to capacity the following week. Blackstone had to hold the curtain 20 minutes on his opening night to give the mob that stormed the theater a chance to get seated, according to The Washington Times.

Also presenting their acts in Washington during the Christmastide were Wallace and Amac. Amac, presenting his card illusion, scored heavily at Keith's, and Wallace gave a series of entertainments for schools and clubs.

The South, too, has welcomed magic. Reports from Texas, Florida and Virginia testify further evidence of the vogue the conjurer's art is enjoying thruout the country. McDonald Birch, with his magic and psychic show, under the direction of Campbell J. Duggan, is breaking many house records in the South. He reports that three towns had to dust off the old "H. O." sign. These three Texas towns were Childress, Memphis and Clarendon. So great is the demand for magic in towns down near the Rio Grande that Birch was called upon for entertainment at schools and churches and gave many such performances before his regular show went on.

Florida is also hospitable to magic. and Kara is doing about 10 weeks thruout the orange State, having opened a few weeks ago at Jacksonville, where lines in his family caused him to stop while. He is now playing to capacity audiences under the direction of Oels Silver. Professor C. E. Hudspeh is also doing nicely in Florida, presenting his long sight and thought transference act with great success.

That the reception accorded magic in Florida and Texas is pretty general thruout the South is further substantiated by reports from Virginia. Dante broke

all house records in point of attendance and receipts, reported Leon S. Taylor, manager of the Majestic Theater at Danville, Va., when that magician played there recently. The patrons there were eager to learn when Dante would play a return engagement. At Atlanta, Ga., too, Dante found an appreciative audience and expects to meet with as much success in that State as he did in Virginia.

It's quite a stretch from the gulf stream and from the Atlantic seaboard to the Golden Gate. But human nature is not much conditioned by geographical circumstances. And interest in magic seems to be as consistent thruout the country as is human nature.

A report from Lee J. Teiler only a few weeks ago indicated that magic is flourishing on the Pacific Coast. El Tab and Judson Marshall were playing in Richmond and Duell and Company were presenting their sword-box and phantom-house illusions to capacity audiences at the Union Square Theater, San Francisco. A few weeks previous Ricardo completed an engagement there and left for the Far East for a vacation. From Los Angeles came the news via Dr. Slocum that magic was booming.

While magic flourishes on the coasts, it is far from languishing inland. Charles H. Leubelm played to a packed house at Lebanon, O., recently. He has played Plana, Dayton, St. Paul and Lewisburg, all in Ohio, en route for Cincinnati, and reports that business was uniformly good at all houses. His motorized show is attracting attention and interest thruout the State and has been an important factor in stimulating and maintaining interest in magic. Harry Opel and Myrterious Smith also did interested crowds to watch them do their stuff.

From this brief resume, therefore, it is evident that the United States is more responsive to magic than ever and there is every reason to believe that 1926 will be a prosperous as well as a happy new year.

Morocco Holding Co. Officers in Court

(Continued from page 8)

ing stock owned by Morocco by interpreting its value in prospectuses sent thru the mails.

Under cross-examination by William J. Fallon, counsel for the defendants, Morocco explained the interest he had in the Morocco Production Company before it was taken over by the holding company. He said he did not know the value of the stock of the production company, but estimated that the picture rights alone to 26 plays over which he had control were worth \$2,500,000. Concerning the transfer of the holding company, he said it was at the suggestion of Benjamin Levin, one of the defendants, that he transferred his rights to the pictures, theatrical leases and contract with First National Pictures to the holding company which was formed to sell stock, capitalizing the name of Morocco.

He conceded that he had vainly tried to borrow money on his stock in the original company.

A number of letters exchanged between the producer and the several men who are defendants while Morocco was in California were introduced in evidence.

When the holding corporation was formed in the spring of 1921, Morocco received stock amounting to more than

\$1,500,000 which he placed in escrow with a national bank. Later a sales-promotion branch was incorporated in the holding company, and it was thru this means that the public bought stock for as much as \$150 a unit, an agreement providing that Morocco was to have been paid back at the rate of \$90 a unit. These units represented two shares of preferred stock and one of common. When Morocco went to California, the sales-promotion agency was given power of attorney to take out the stock on orders, and it is alleged that during his absence the promoters took out stock in great blocks which were sold to the public to the tune of about \$2,000,000.

Broadway Openings

(Continued from page 8)

Ernest Lawford, Katherine Grey, Ralph Forbes, Frederick Perry, Zola Tarna, Borden Harriman, Patricia Calvert, Beresford Lovett, Eoblin Gayer, Lois Ross, Julian Duncan and Lucille Huston.

Sam H. Harris Theater, The Monkey Talks, adapted by Gladys Unger from the French, presented by Arch Selwyn. Cast includes Jacques Lerner, who created the role of the monkey in Paris and London; Wilton Lackaye, Philip Merivale, Martha Bryan Allen, Harry Metcaver, Ethel Wilson, Mark Smith, Sadeola Corelli and Thomas Colton.

Earl Carroll Theater, the fourth edition of the Earl Carroll Follies, with Joe Cook, Frank Tinney, Julia Tannen, Dorothy Knapp, Madelyne Killeen, Vivian Hart, Jack Redmond, George Romanoff and others.

Liberty Theater, Tip-Toes, another musical comedy, by Guy Bolton, Fred Thompson, Ira Gershwin, George Gershwin, Sammy Lee and John Harwood, presented by Alex. A. Arons and Vinton Freedley, with a cast headed by Quentin Smith, Andrew Tomba, Allen Kearns, Harry Watson, Jr.; Jeannette MacDonald, Robert Halliday, Gertrude McDonald, Loney Lee, Amy Revere, Victor Arden and Phil Ohman.

Gaiety Theater, By the Way, the English revue, costarring Jack Hulbert and Cecily Courtneidge, presented by Paul Murray in association with A. L. Erlinger. Cast also includes Harold French, Celia Ghon, Dorothy Hurst, Ophé Arnold, Charles Courtneidge, Muriel Montrose and others.

Jolson's Theater, The Daughter of Madame Anot, the third offering of the repertory season by the Moscow Art Theater Musical Studio.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Charles Hopkins Theater, Emily Stevens in The Makropoulos Secret, by Karel Capek, presented by Me-man Gantvoort and Charles Hopkins. Others in the cast are Lester Vail, Ulrich Haupt, Donald Duff, Harry Davenport, William B. Mack, Joanna Ross, Fritz Williams, Erin O'Brien Moore, William Keighley and Grace Halsey Mills.

Party-Fourth Street Theater, Song of the Flame, Arthur Hammerstein's new operatic production, with a cast headed by Texas Costa, Guy Robertson, Greek Evans, Dorothy Mackaye, Hugh Cameron, Bernard Gorecy, Phela Brune, Ula Sharon, Allan Rogers, Leonard St. Leo, Blanche Collins and Paul Wilson.

Saturday, January 2, Triangle, Kathleen Kirkwood's production of The Green Cockade, by Arthur Schnitzler.

The only regular attraction scheduled to make its bow the coming week is the

Century Roof revue, A Night in Paris, which is announced for next Tuesday evening. Among the entertainers on this bill are Norma Terris, Jack Osterman, Jack Pearl, Vanessa, Barnett Parker, George Dobbs, Euanthea, Ralph Coram, Rhodes and Evans, Clive McClure, Richard Lee, William Davis, Vivienne Purcell, Harry O'Neal, Smoly Woolly, Frances Hart, Harry Shields, David Prolet, Joan Lee, Yvonne George, Kathryn Hay, Loulou Hogoborn, Marie Kleva and Carlos Conte.

Other than this the only new theatrical fare in sight is a series of Sunday night performances of an idyllic romance called Greca Fields, to be given in English by the Anglo-Jewish Playhouse at the 66 Fifth Avenue Theater beginning January 3, and a series of Monday, Tuesday and Friday matinee of a play entitled Dope, written and presented by Iffman Lieb at the 45th Street Theater beginning January 4.

A Night in Paris will spend the current week at the Shubert Majestic Theater in Brooklyn. The road company of last year's Artists and Models was originally booked to occupy the Majestic both last week and this week, but the latter half of the booking has been canceled.

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Additional Routes

(Received too late for classification)

CAMP, Billy, Co. (Bohlay Sq.) Boston 28-Jan. 2
Clark & Dyer Shows: Olla, La., 28-Jan. 2
Clark & Hillie, Broadway Shows: Kissimmee, Fla., 28-Jan. 2; Lakeland 1-10
Coffey, Pete, Shows: Crosscut Camp, Ark., 28-Jan. 2
Jacobs, Margie, Feltz, Dier, mgr.: Valosta, Ga., 31-Jan. 1; Waycross 2; Jacksonville, Fla., 3-5
DeSousa Ross (Correction): (Blair) Louisville, Ky., 31-Jan. 2; (Wyner Grand) Muscle, Ind., 3-6; (Ben Hill) Lexington, Ky., 7-9
Dynamis & Joyce Shows: Delray, Fla., 28-Jan. 2
Empire Greater Shows: Pavo, Ga., 28-Jan. 1
Florida Am. Co.: (Doral) Fla., 1-9
Hall, Billy, Miss. Com. Co.: (Herald, Conn., 28-Jan. 2
Holloway & Dempsey Attractions: Plunersville, Ark., 28-Jan. 2
Husted Killip, Paul Hamilton, mgr.: Dethan, Ala., 28-Jan. 2
Nick, Magician, & Miss. Mrs. Mentalist: Bayard, O., 28-Jan. 2
O'Leary, Clark, Co. & Harrington, H. A. Wilson, mgr.: Popow, Ga., 3; Orem 4-5; Sawnee 6-8
Rice Bros' Shows: (Belle) Ga., 28-Jan. 2; (Boblin, Clint & Bessie, Co.: Waterston, S. D., 28-Jan. 3; Brookings 4-6
Shannon's, Harry, Band (Keeney) Brooklyn 28-Jan. 2; (Doral) Fla., 1-9
Earl Tom's O'Leary (Stetson), Leon Washburn, mgr.: Green Bay, Wis., 30; Wausau 31; Marshfield Jan. 1; Cullpeper Falls 2; St. Paul, Minn., 3-9
Wise, David A., Shows: Tarpon Springs, Fla., 28-Jan. 2; St. Petersburg 4-10

Tom Atkinson Circus

The Tom Atkinson Circus is playing the copper towns of Arizona, two and three-day stands, in the vicinity of Ajo. The outfit will remain on tour all winter and from Arizona will go to California. In the spring the show will play one-day engagements. Chis Harwood has joined, having charge of all construction work. He has replaced O. E. Buck, who has put on his stores for the winter. The writer's (Prince Elmer) side show will soon have some added attractions, including midgets to play instruments. Raymond Barton has arrived from California and will play drums.

Mexican Theater Conditions Reported To Be in Bad State

(Continued from page 5)

lights and three borders, with white lamps only, two 1,000-watt spots, six floods and two or three strips, were all we had to work with. Luckily we brought some American equipment with us, but even this gave us trouble as the house was wired with 125 volts and we had nothing to hang our loads on except their 1x2 battens.

"The personnel of the theater consisted of four property boys, four carpenters, one chief carpenter, four electricians and two flymen. It would seem with a crew like that, it would be easy to make simple changes, but all lines were tied securely to a bar without plus. There was no signal light on the fly floor. Cues were given by blowing shrill police whistles. This we objected to, so they shouted instructions, but so loudly that it was plainly heard out front. When a change had to be made, the crew lowered the new scenery first, instead of clearing the 'dead' set. Then the fun began! The ropes were not marked. Often the 'dead' and 'alive' became mixed and many minutes were spent in untying them. The crew on the stage floor were quick about rushing on for the props but always started an argument about who was to carry this and who that. Apparently age had something to do with it. This one was younger and therefore it was that one's duty to handle a certain piece. If we tried to rush them or employ any semblance of system, they invariably answered with a smile: 'One minute, Signor', in the most polite Mexican tone, but their smiles, often lasted as long as five or six of ours. It was quite impossible to have the furniture and props in a definite position. We would chalk-mark them on the floor, but the scrub-women insisted on washing them off each morning. The electricians were like wild men. They invariably gave us the wrong color at the wrong time and were forever pulling switches.

There were no floor screws, jacks or stage braces. In building sets they were using short pieces of 1x2 strips, nailing one piece on top of another and never getting a clean, strong job like we are used to in the States. When I showed them how to use corner blocks and key-stones, they were so delighted with them that they used about six where one was sufficient. I took a trunkful down with me and they used every one. In working with flats, they nailed everything to the floor and braced with sticks also nailed to floor. Once, while our prima donna



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was singing her feature number, four carpenters started to hammer for all they were worth on the next scene and I had to rush around and make signs until they understood that they must stop. Again, during an act which included the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet, our Romeo jumped on the garden bench and reached for the railing of the balcony. The piece gave way and he fell back with the rail in his hand. Two of the crew rushed on, snatched the stick from him and nailed it back into place, in full view of the audience. They were surprised and hurt when I reprimanded them.

"Whenever our barefoot dancers were on, the crew stood glued to the wings and as soon as the girls had finished, the 'crips' rushed to them holding out their slippers. The next scene was forgotten. And the musicians! They never were in tune, never in time, never paying the slightest attention to their conductor. They talked among themselves continuously and kept crawling out of the pit, which was entirely under the stage, to raise themselves above the footlights and watch the show when they did not have to play for a bar or so.

"The dressing rooms and other facilities are pretty bad, but not much worse than our own road theaters afford. Living and traveling expenses are fairly reasonable and the country itself is very beautiful and very interesting. We found the patronage of our show most satisfactory after the public finally realized we were playing. The local management provides practically no advertising and we found we had to go out and ballyhoo the town in circus style. An engagement in Mexico can be profitable, but it is hardly worth all the red tape and trouble. An artistic success there, measured in our own terms at least, is an impossibility. A visiting show has to accept the conditions of the local theater and must put up with the ways of the local management and its stage crew. A 'modern' theater in Mexico City is—well, it is not. I much prefer the playhouses on Broadway."

Elizabethan of the English Countryside

(Continued from page 9)

lage Hall and the play was afterwards revived in the summer in the grounds of Dunstal Priory, the local residence of Lord Dunarney, the well-known dramatist, who is president of the Players, and at Somerhill, Lieut. Col. d'Avigdor Goldsmit's seat near Tonbridge.

Shakespeare is, of course, on the beaten track of amateur actors, but this enterprising society has now launched a revival of a piece which has not been given a public performance since the 11th Century.

The Shoemaker's Holiday is a robust comedy by Thomas Dekker, good bird and poet, a contemporary of Shakespeare. Old London lives again in this merry account of the devil-may-care doings of the prattling shoemakers and their master, Simon Eyre. The mad shoemaker of Tower street, Eyre, according to the play, was the reputed builder of the Leadenhall, the famous market of Old London.

"We'll have it called the Leadenhall, because in building it you found the lead which covereth the same," says King Henry V in the last act of the play.

There are many other interesting side-lights on the life of the Londoners of bygone days, and the piece strikes notes of heroism and pathos in connection with the French wars, to which one of the shoemakers is pressed and from which he returns maimed—notes which have a familiar ring to our own generation.

The Players are recruited from all ranks of the village community, the cast including a most varied list of occupations. King Henry V, for example, is a butcher in private life, he runs the 400-year-old butcher shop, the oldest in England. Master Hammon is the village innkeeper. Three builders' laborers are included, and one of them, Enos MacLeining, who makes his first stage appearance in this show, is the juvenile lead of the company, playing the part of

Colonel Lacy. The village schoolmaster, Capt. Vincent Steane, contributes Elizabethan music, and the cookery teacher is the leading lady. There are several agricultural workers, gardeners and the like engaged in the production, besides a papermaker from the local mill and a tailor.

The part of Mad Sim Eyre falls to Harold Copping, the well-known artist, who illustrated the famous Copping Bible and who designed the costumes. The leading comedian of the company, whose amusing assumption of Quince in the Players' former production is only excelled by his remarkable performance as Pirk in the current play, is perhaps the most remarkable among the discoveries of histrionic talent in this tiny Kentish village. Mr. Dowdy carries the audience along with him in a manner which might well be envied by professional mirthmakers, yet he never attempted anything of this kind until he joined the Players. But despite the encomiums of the onlookers, Mr. Dowdy has no ambition to leave his coal yard to don the buskin.

The movement was initiated by a few local residents and I was asked to produce these two first shows. A company and staff were soon forthcoming. The Players are exclusively recruited from the village population, which numbers some 500 or 600 residents, and they co-operated to make everything required for the play. The schoolboys manufactured the "apron" stage which has been built so as to permit of the employment of the Elizabethan three-fold stage convention. But picturesque effects are obtained by the use of various scenic devices on the inner stage. Thus continuous playing, so necessary in the revival of Elizabethan drama, is made possible.

All the scenery and costumes have been designed and made in the village. The whole production is made for portability for the Players hope to tour Kent with this unique play after they have finished their Shereham run. Afterwards the Players contemplate turning their attention to the production of a unique entertainment re-embodiment some interesting examples of the folk art of the district, a kind of rustic revue which will also include one-act plays.

Concert and Opera Notes

(Continued from page 32)

ing the best in organ and piano literature.

The Chorus of the University of Wyoming, directed by George Edwin Knapp, presented The Messiah December 26, assisted by the University Orchestra, Roger C. Friddle, conductor, and the following soloists: Agnes Clark Gishler, soprano; Melissa Segret Knapp, contralto; Elwin Smith, tenor, and Samuel E. West, bass.

A song recital by Hulda Lashanska, soprano, assisted by Frank LaForge, composer-pianist, will be given in Carnegie Hall, New York, January 2, as the fifth in the subscription series of Sunday concerts by the Wolfson Bureau.

After conducting six concerts of the New York Symphony Eugene Goossens will act as guest conductor of the Boston Symphony in three performances. The remainder of the season he will devote to the Rochester Orchestra.

Leo Podesky, pianist, who recently arrived in New York, will accompany Mme. Elizabeth Day when she makes her debut in America on January 6 in Aeolian Hall, New York.

Mary Allen, contralto, will give her first New York recital of the season in Town Hall, Tuesday afternoon, January 5. Included on her program will be compositions by Schubert, Bach, Brahms, Franck, Grieg and others. Edward Rechin will accompany, Miss Allen.

The next concert in the Philharmonic Orchestra of Rochester is announced for January 14, with Willem Mengelberg conducting.

Emilio de Gogorza, baritone, will appear as soloist with the St. Cecilia Society in New York January 26, and with the New York Symphony February 13 and 14, prior to his first semester in the voice faculty of the Curtis Institute.

On January 25 Paul Kochanski will be heard as soloist with the Portland Symphony, preceding a series of recitals on the Pacific Coast.

The first in the series of three New

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York recitals announced by Samuel Dushkin, violinist, will take place in Aeolian Hall January 17. A program will be presented by the Hartmann Quartet in Brooklyn January 3, with Alfredo Casella as guest artist. Faust in modern costume was given during the Christmas holidays by the Birmingham (England) Grand Opera Society, which has an active membership of 500.

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James Dutton's Circus

Palestine, Tex., Dec. 22.—A cold wave hit this town in the midst of the Elks' Charity Show with the James Dutton Circus the feature. That settled business. The opening was darty—the finish not so good. Still Mr. Dutton came out a slight winner.

Great sight was the matinee Saturday when the poor—their children, the orphans and the crippled—were guests of Mr. Dutton and the Elks. A Mrs. William Lyons looks after this. She is the wife of "Billy" Lyons, popular railroad engineer, who has pulled many circus trains. Most all showfolk know him. He and his are to be in on the annual Christmas tree the Duttons have for their troupe every year.

After the farewell performance Saturday night a "surprise," double in its significance, was sprung in the O'Neill Hotel suite occupied by the Duttons on Myrtle Compton, bareback equestrienne, celebrating her birthday that falls on Christmas, and on those of the troupe who will spend the holidays at their respective homes. It was a great event and frontpaged in the papers.

Norman, the human pipe organ, finally arrived last week. He did hit bad pipes and the ditch several times. All his instruments were saved. Sunday, with Prof. Merle Baker, the two provided the music for the Men's Bible Class of the Christian Church that meets in the Opera House. The writer Sunday, with the Mayor, Mark Hamilton, who publishes the brilliant, snappy *Daily Herald*, and Capt. W. H. McElroy, aide to the Admiral and State Director Confederate Veterans' Research Work, addressed the Men's Bible Class of the Baptist Church, and your humble servant occupied the pulpit of the Baptist Church Sunday night. Both the Rotarians and Lions entertained the Duttons and their people.

The "canvas city" is down and loaded for movement to South Texas. The next stand is Yoakum, Tex., week of December 28. V. P. Kelsely, general representative, who booked all towns so far, is not a well man. His wife joined him, coming from their Barborton, O., home, and they are spending the yuletide season with the wife's mother at Galveston, this State.

During his illness W. McK. Bauman, Harry Bentum finishing it, is out ahead of the trick.

The Chesworth Midgets have gone to El Paso for "big dolings" thru the holidays. Boech Bentum, high and fancy diver, is attracting attention and winning the plaudits of folk.

The splendid reputation being won by Mr. Dutton and his show along the way outdances any other similar amusement enterprise, in the writer's opinion.

Jack LaBarge, ex chairman of the Elks' committee at Palestine, Tex., distinguished himself. He sure had the place billed, bannered and "pennantingly" decorated. Every main thoroughfare flashed the county fair's decorations that are beauties.
 DOC WADDELL

Seen and Heard

(Continued from page 24)

piny shows, post cards from his present address, American Express Company, Paris, France, that he has completed a tour of Portugal and Naples.

Fred Clark, franchise-operating producing manager of Let's Go, on the Columbia Circuit, has been negotiating with Terry Turner of the Loew office for the engagement of the vaudeville unit of 161 Ranch, managed by Jimmie Heron, as a special added attraction for Let's Go.

FOR SALE

As offering my two-story, three-decked, Man-colo make, also my 60-ft. Boonace Out, at a reasonable figure. Will consider some Florida real estate as part payment if located right. Must bring and see ahead at Sarasota, Fla. If interested, write me. EDW. H. KOCH, Box 132, Lake Worth, Florida.

This Wonderful Cream Color Lamp
 With Fanny Silk Shade, 10 1/2 in. High. Complete with Cord & Plug. Wonderful Big seller. Two in box. No loss sold.
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 25% with order, balance C. O. D. Catalog No. 25 sent out. Send for copy.
 HECKT, COHEN & CO.,
 221-223 Madison Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

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These Flabby Assortments have a wonderful appeal. They show big value and cost but a small part of their apparent value.
 We have a large variety of these assortments, making possible a large number of Sales Board Propositions for all size boards.
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Circus Wagon Builder, Elephant Trainer, Steward, Boss Hauler, Wild and Domestic Animal Trainers, Boss Porters, Girls to learn to Ride Horses in Acts. State salary. Woodworkers and Trainers start work immediately. Write HARRY G. JOHNSON, Beaumont, Tex.

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 12 Gold-Plated Olivette Safety Razor Sets, mounted on a vibrant display board, and comes with a 1,000-hole De Sales Board. Takes in \$30.00.
\$9.50, SPECIAL SAMPLE PRICE
 ORDER TODAY.
 This low price we may not feature again. 25% with order, balance C. O. D., P. O. R. Chicago.
 SEND FOR OUR NEW BINDER'S BARGAIN SHEET.
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 AGENTS WANTED

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WORLD'S TRADE EXPOSITION
 Gives Merchandise Awards as Prizes.
 JUST OUT A GOLD MINE FOR SALES BOARD OPERATORS, JOBBERS AND AGENTS.
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100 Mills or Jennings Machines. Operator's Bells, \$42.00. Mint Venders, \$15.00, easily worth \$45.00. Quarter Bells, \$70.00. Nickel Checks, \$12.00 per M. Quarter Checks, \$18.00 per M. We rent, buy, sell or exchange all kinds Slot Machines. Disconnecting the operating business. Machines thoroughly re-built inside and out. First come first served.
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SALESBOARD OPERATORS
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Billposters, Bannermen and Lithographers. Prefer all-around men. Best of working conditions and good treatment. Long season. MAX FLETCHER, Car Manager, Hayes Hotel, 64th and University Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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Circus Folks

Have a Merry Time Christmas Day at Beaumont, Tex.

Beaumont, Tex., Dec. 25.—There was no lack of the Christmas good cheer in Beaumont today, the members of both the Christy and Lee Bros' shows holding celebrations and feasting on the good things of the season. At the quarters of the Christy Show a special dinner of roast turkey and all the fixings was served to the employees of both the Christy and Lee Bros' shows. All of the men were remembered with gifts and they were given a generous supply of tobacco. There were about 80 circus folks around the table. Mr. and Mrs. Christy entertained friends in their private car and a special lunch was served. They were the recipients of many beautiful presents. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman Robinson kept open house at their apartments, and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rindges entertained friends at their home here. There was a merry time at the apartments of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Larrow with a spread and a Christmas tree for Con T. and little Miss Mary. There were a lot of presents and dancing in the evening with music by the Larrow boys' orchestra. Harry Delvine served his friends with a roast goose Christmas dinner and entertained as his guests Hazel Logan, Harry P. Kutz and the writer, Fletcher Smith. It was one of the big events of the day. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Chaso entertained at the Hotel Beaumont friends with their show, and Prof. and Mrs. Everett James had a Christmas dinner with their guests, their daughter Fay and her husband, Jon Stokes. Ray Morrison kept open house at the Plaza Hotel, and Bill Moore made his friends feel at home at the Woodrow. He had as his guests J. C. Ryan and Gordon Calvert and a bunch of the showfolks.

Look thru the Hotel Directory in this issue. Just the kind of a hotel you want may be listed.

NUMBERED BALL GUM

Set of 1,200 Balls, \$6.50.

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294 Washington Avenue, ST. LOUIS.

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- 24-inch Pearls \$1.00 per Dozen
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SHELL-RIM SPEC-TACLES, all sizes. Per Dozen, \$3.75.

\$5.00 RED JUMBO UNBREAKABLE PENS \$58.00 Per Dz.



Low Self-Filler, Patented Pen Point.

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A RELIABLE HOUSE TO DEAL WITH.

Slot Machine Operators "OVER-THE-TOP"

Is a game of skill. The greatest operator's proposition in the market today. Ten thousand sold in the United States since January 1, 1925. Legal in every State in the Union.

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Write for literature and jobbers' quotations.

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Very Best Profits Obtained thru the

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1925 Model MINT VEND-ERS AND OPERATORS BELL MACHINES.

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New Improved 1-25 Model. Write for list.

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WONDER GIRL NOVELTY CANDY PACKAGE. Candy High-Grade Assorted Chocolates. Packed 100 to carton. This package contains all balls. Each and every package has a wonderful gift. Send \$12.00 per carton \$120.00 per 1000

FASHION DAINTIES. Candy Nut Chocolate Caramels. Wonderful eating candy which is guaranteed. 20 Wonderful Bitties to each carton. Send \$9.00 for sample carton. \$45.00 per 1000

25% Deposit. Balance C. O. D. Immediate Shipments.

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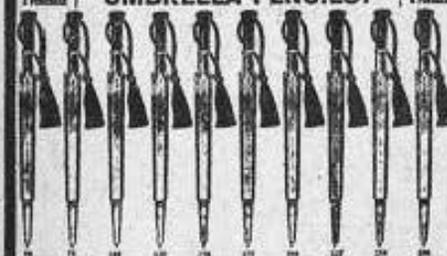


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THE NEW REAL CANDY
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The Greatest Combination for Profit You Ever Had
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Alice Dee, 25c

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\$40.00 per 500
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Deposit of \$20.00 required on each thousand.

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A new and complete line of high grade Candy Assortments.

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For Quick Action wire Money with Order, this same Day Order Received. SPECIAL PULL CARD WITH LEATHER PILLOW. 50 Pulls Brings **WESTERN ART LEATHER CO.,** \$2.50 for \$2.00. P. O. Box 484 - DENVER, COLO. 25% Deposit, Bal. C. O. D.

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800 Holes, 8 Pillows... \$ 8.00
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1,000 Holes, 18 Pillows... 15.00
1,500 Holes, 21 Pillows, 20 Pillows, 18 Pennants, 24 Delta, Leather Pillows for Last Sale \$20.00
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We extend to you our sincerest:

"Season's Greetings"

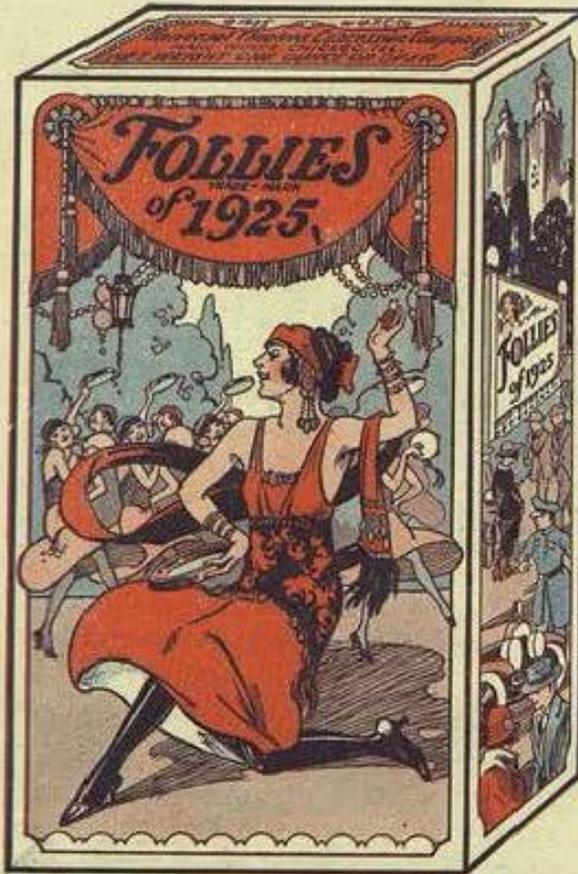
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