

Roosevelt Responsible For Use of Animals In Movies

LOS ANGELES, (AP)—Though it is hard to believe, Theodore Roosevelt was the first to use animals in motion pictures. He developed the idea of the animal picture, which is now one of the most popular forms of film entertainment.

W. N. Selig, who began making motion pictures on a commercial scale in Chicago in 1896 and was one of the leading producers when Roosevelt was president, tells the story, a hitherto unpublished side-light on the statesman's career.

When Selig learned the president wanted to go to Africa on a big game hunt immediately after the expiration of his term in 1909, he began negotiations to bring Roosevelt to Chicago for a picture. Selig's plan was to have him photograph the hunt as a camera man, under contract to Selig.

Negotiations lagged, however, and the best Selig was able to do was a personal interview with the president shortly before Christmas to obtain his promise that if Selig did not take a Selig cameraman with him he would not take another. Matters stood here when the excitement faded, Selig had overlooked, however, the Smithsonian Institution's connection with the Roosevelt hunt. The Institution had nothing of his conversation with the retiring president, and when the expedition entered the game country an English motion picture cameraman was along. This was bitter news to Selig, who thought Roosevelt had broken a promise, and so, when word of the former president's first lion hunt was flashed to the United States, he resolved to take the hunt to film.

Up to this time animals and birds had no part in motion pictures, but for the occasional incidental appearance of a cat, dog, horse or other domestic animal, and if Selig had to film an African hunt he had to have African animals.

After some difficulty he found a cat-harasser, owner of a small garage in Milwaukee who was

only too glad to rent any or all his African specimens to sacrifice his decrepit lion for slaughter in the Roosevelt film.

There was in Chicago at the time a vaudeville actor who was staging a clever impersonation of the famous statesman. He was named, and the filming of "Big Game Hunting in Africa" began.

The climax of the picture was enacted in a big cage, about 100 feet long and 10 feet wide, containing an African "cat" containing enough venom and in which a stout iron grill separated the section in which "Roosevelt" aimed his rifle from the section in which the lion roared. Negroes gathered off the streets of Chicago made up the "native train" of the big game hunter.

At the critical moment a puff of white smoke issued from the counter-terrest ex-president's rifle, and the menagerie lion fell mortally wounded. To avoid disappointment and a possible rotake of the scene, "Roosevelt" was given only blank cartridges to shoot; the actual killing was done by a sharp-shooter posted on the sidelines and using smokeless powder.

Although the name of Roosevelt was not mentioned anywhere in the film, the public generally accepted it as a picture of the Roosevelt hunt, photographed in Africa, and it was a tremendous hit. It was popular even abroad, and Roosevelt—the real Roosevelt—arrived in Berlin on his homeward journey from Africa just in time to see the fake film featured in the theatres.

He was furious, of course; and when he next met Selig, in the Republican club at New York, he spoke his words. But his wrath vanished and, the famous Roosevelt smile gleamed again when the film producer said:

"If only you had taken an American cameraman, Colonel, I wouldn't have done it. But you took an Englishman."

Villain Finds No Sympathy From Arabian Movie Fans

TELEMECN, Algeria, (AP)—The natives of Telemecn are great movie fans, but they make such a noise that the orchestra and the white audience have to sit upstales.

As few of the Arabs can read, the title of the film when flashed on the screen is received in silence, but as soon as the first picture is shown there is a yell. All the Arabs in the audience talk at once and keep up a continuous comment of what they see.

The antics of Europeans in the comic films meet with a hilarious success unheard elsewhere. In the tragic films, the villain is reviled with loud imprecations, and when at the end virtue is suitably rewarded, yells of delight mark the appreciation of the Arab audience.

Convicts Join in Uplift Campaign

HAVANA, (AP)—Declaring themselves fully in accord with the uplift campaign of the government, Havana jail convicts have informed a committee to judge upon the House and Senate the passage of a new amnesty law in their favor.

The prisoners hold that the past should be forgotten, but the future, should they ere, justice should be dealt.

All this Mitchell talk about war is disquieting. We might get the same top sergeant next time.

Sympathy is great stuff, unless it makes you want more of it.

Serious



Al Johnson, famous comedian, was serious for once, as the picture shows, when he took the witness stand in Leonard Rhineclander's marriage annulment suit at White Plains, N. Y., to deny he ever flirted with Alice Jones Rhineclander, Kip's dusky bride. Alice's love letters to Kip had mentioned Al. "Never saw her in my life," said Johnson.

Kip, Then 'Birds'



Lee Parsons Davis, attorney for Mrs. Alice Jones Rhineclander, got such embarrassing questions at Leonard Kip Rhineclander that Kip's lawyers called for a week-end adjournment of his marriage annulment suit. Then Davis and his daughter, Jean Jordan Davis, spent Sunday at an Eschmont (N. Y.) Yacht club shooting clay pigeons.

SOMEONE'S GOING TO HAVE A PUZZLING TIME



Old French Quarter Will Be Preserved

NEW ORLEANS, (AP)—Vieux Carre, French quarter of Old New Orleans, where memories of yesterday abound on every side, will be protected from modernism.

A commission of seven members has been created to act in an advisory capacity with city council to see that no buildings or repairs "out of character" crowd into the historic section now 200 years old.

Here stand the Cabildo, where transfer of the Louisiana Purchase took place; St. Louis Cathedral,

built in 1794; the French market, dating from 1734; Napoleon House, built by Girod for the Emperor's residence when Lafayette's men should bring him from St. Helena; the shop of Lafitte, the pirate himself, and the Old Absinthe House, no longer selling absinthe, but still hale and hearty after a hundred years.

The Pontalba buildings, facing Jackson Square on either side,

have known such residents and guests as William Makepeace Thackeray, Jenny Lind and Lafayette.

Preservation of the quarter means that Jackson square will continue to look out on scenes little changed from 1856, when the monument to "Old Hickory" was erected. Here General Jackson was crowned hero of Chalmette by the Creole girls of Louisiana and

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It was in this same place D'Arinos that Don Antonio Ulloa received the keys to the city and took possession of it in the name of the king of Spain.

Air Mail to Bring Texas Cities Closer to New York DALLAS, (AP)—Air mail is to bring Texas cities from 20 to 25 "mail hours" closer to New York and 15 closer to Chicago.

It now requires from 45 to 50 hours to send mail from here to New York and about 24 to reach Chicago. When the airmail becomes effective sometime this winter, the time to New York by way of Chicago will be 24 hours and that to Chicago about 11 hours. The city has leased Love Field.

A war-time training camp of 31 acres, five miles north of the city, from this landing place the mail will be brought to Dallas by trucks—about 17 minutes after landing.

The Dallas Chamber of Commerce has guaranteed 100 pounds of mail a day for six months. The airmail rate to Chicago will be about 25 cents a ounce of which the National Air Transport company, the successful bidder, will receive three fourths.



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