

PhotoPlays

THROUGH a change in policy, the Star will begin today to exhibit nothing but blended bills, instead of a feature the first of the week and short plays the last half. Change in bills will be made on Sunday and Wednesday. Today's program is topped by "Changed Lives," a problem play with Anna Little and Herbert Rawlinson.

The Peoples will now be the only house showing the Paramount releases. The attraction for today is Blanche Sweet, making her first appearance as a Lark star in "The Warrens of Virginia."

Blanche Sweet is also the featured member in the Majestic's offering, "The Escape," which was produced by Griffith. It is a drama of eugenic science, and shows many phases of life. One critic has said that it is a more eloquent lesson than the spoken drama has ever been on a subject that a thousand sermons.

The Vitagraph's big feature production of Hall Caine's famous novel, "The Two Admirals," is the attraction at the Columbia for the entire week. Edith Elvey will be seen in the part of Gloria Quayle, while Earl Williams appears as John Grey. Two scenes that are said to be especially wonderful are those of the great London dance halls and the mob that threatens Storm's church.

Evelyn Nesbit Thaw will play a return celluloid engagement for today only at the National in the five part feature, "Threads of Destiny." Her young son, Russell, also appears in the story. The picture program will be completed with a Sydney Drew comedy, "The Combination." The Nashville Students announced a special attraction extraordinary. Eight negroes compose the company that opens with a plantation minstrel number. All of the music and dancing will be strictly of the south.

"Mr. Silent Haskins," a splendid drama of the big outdoors in two acts, featuring William S. Hart and Ethel Mitchell, shares honor with "Saints and Sinners," a photoplay with a strong moral lesson, on today's new bill at the Sunset. There will also be "The Happier Man," a comedy drama, another comedy and the Mutual Weekly, "The Man at the Key" is the Wednesday feature.

"Fatty and Mable's Simple Life," "Colonel Heeza Loo," "Ghost Breaker," and Charles Chaplin in "Laughing Gas" make up the Circle's bill for today. The Monday feature is "The 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," with George K. Arthur and the Tuesday feature is "The Old Fisherman's Story."

It is significant that motion pictures have found their way into the Woman's Home Companion under a department head of "The Movement for Better Films." The Companion lays emphasis on the point that its campaign is not one of criticism, even though it recognized that there are unquestionably bad films. The key note is "On the point that the better films are a better educated public demand." Each month several hundred films will be submitted to the Companion in advance of the regular issue. The editors will select from 40 to 75 and run their title as indication of specially commendable production. The regular issue presents pictures in an interesting light, when it says:

"Suppose in your city a group of wealthy men should open a series of private schools to be free for the children of the community. And suppose that the children of their own choice were to begin leaving the regular schools and attending the new schools until the attendance at the new out-numbered the old. And suppose again that during the progress of this revolutionary movement the parents of the city should show so little interest in the matter that not half of them ever took the trouble even to visit the new schools or to inquire into the conditions. An invitation was offered to their children then."

"Absurd suppositions, you say, utterly impossible to carry out in a few years there have sprung up in your community branches of a new institution which draws to itself the most money young people that are in the churches on Sunday, more young people than are in the schools on week days; an institution whose influence on our young people is the judgment of educators, is second only to the influence of the family, the church and the schools, the institution of the most potent and permanent, potent factor in our lives."

DO not waste your time sending scenarios to any of the motion picture companies, for they are not in the market. All-star corporation, Albuquerque Film Manufacturing company, William A. Brady Features, Incorporated, Colorado Motion Picture company, Kinemacolor, George Kleine, Klaw and Erlanger, Jesse L. Lasky company, Pathe, Princess, Picture Palace Film company, Ramo, Solis, Shubert Features, Thanouner, Union Features, Warner Features and Wharton, Inc.

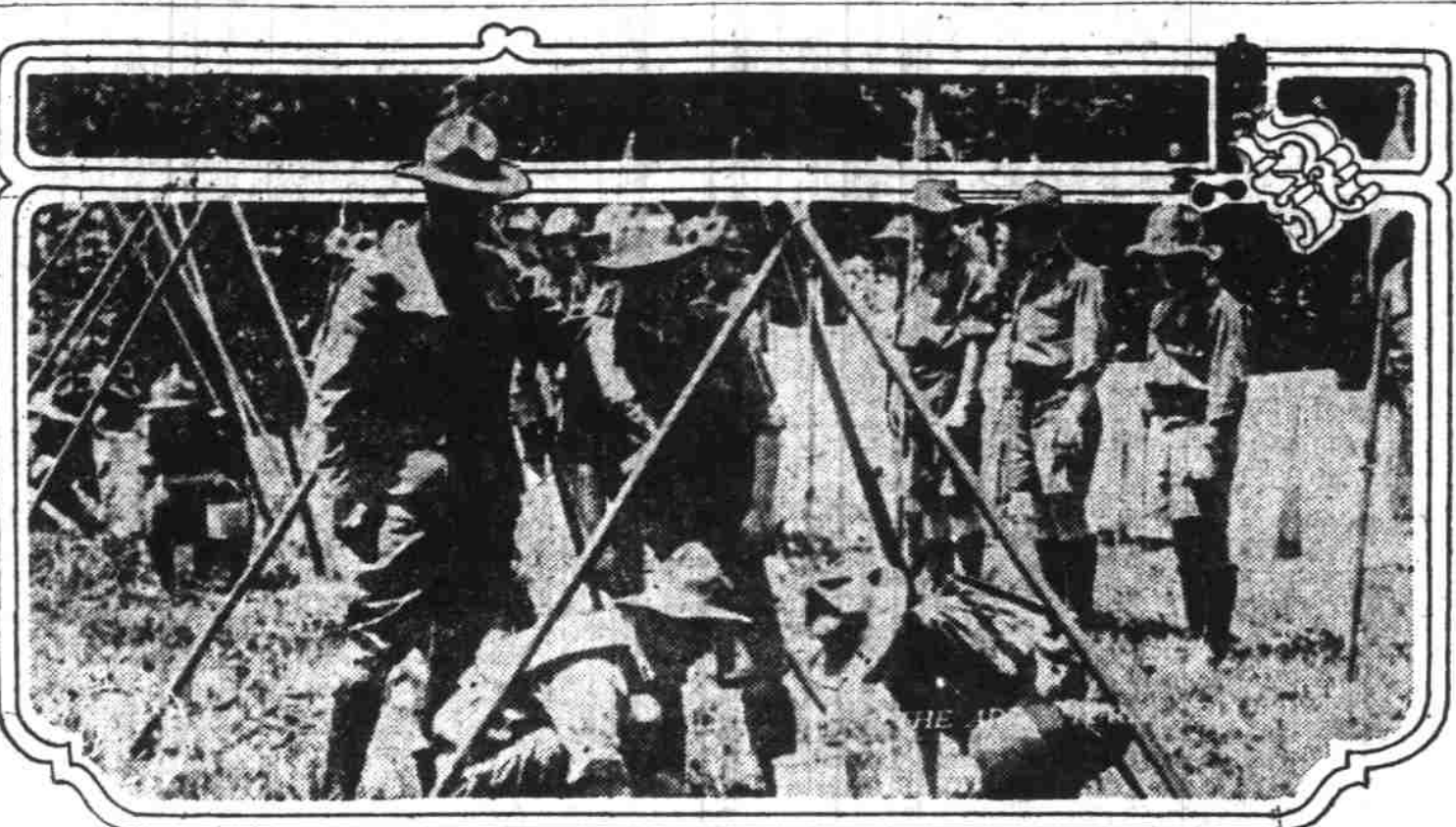
"WHEN the Mountain Calls," the picture of the climb of Mt. Adams, the wonderful ride down a timber flume and a score of other interesting Oregon scenic industrial subjects, shown some months ago at the Columbia, has begun an engagement of seven weeks on Broadway in New York. The picture was one of exceptional beauty. It was the work of the Hill Picture company of Portland, and was one of the "Top of the World" Rankin series made for R. C. Bruce of White Salmon.

PHILIPS SMALLEY and Lois Weber have severed the connections with the Bosworth company, and are resting at their pretty Hollywood home in California. After a motor trip to the exhibitions at San Diego and San Francisco they will resume their picture work, but with another organization. Judging from New York comments, "Hypocrites," which they did with the Bosworth company is of the really great pictures that will live.

HAROLD LOCKWOOD, the matinee idol of the Famous Players company, has left that organization to work under the mutual banner with the American comedy star, La Barbara. His first release with the Flying A people will be Harold McGrath's "The Love of the Masses," produced in four parts by Thomas Rice. Gladie Jane Wilson will play opposite Mr. Lockwood.

TYRONE POWER, who is now doing specials with the Selig company, predicts that the motion picture will be an essential adjunct to every theatre in America and that millions will illustrate all of their discourses with motion pictures in a few years.

BOY SCOUT TRAINING AND ITS EFFECT DEPICTED BY FEATURE FILM



Boy Scouts making camp.

"The Adventures of a Boy Scout" is the title of a feature that has been prepared under the direction of the National Council of Boy Scouts and that is being presented as a benefit for the Boy Scouts of America. In every theatre where it is shown 25 per cent of the proceeds go to the Scouts. The story has been written by Campbell McDougall as an exposition of the Boy Scout movement, how it trains the boy and the effect of this training.

President Wilson appears in the film while reviewing a parade of the Boy Scouts at the national capital. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt says of the film, "I regard it as one of the most important forces tending for the betterment of American citizenship in the future. I am extremely pleased that this picture drama is to appear."

Judge Ben B. Lindsey, the noted juvenile court authority, has voiced his approval of the film in the following words: "It is positively one of the greatest feature films yet produced in this country. It is not only a fine piece of work as a motion picture, but it is also a great production as a real contribution to the cause of childhood in this country."

As a beautiful story, wonderfully well acted, and as a powerful lesson, not only as to what the Boy Scout movement had done, but is capable of doing, it cannot be too highly recommended.

The picture shall probably be given a Portland showing at some future date.

Stage salaries have always been more or less an interesting subject of speculation with exaggeration generally well to the fore in many of the tales of sums received. The same condition prevails in the picture world where actors' recompense has grown in proportion to the tremendous development of the industry. From recent figures that are declared to be accurate it is easy to account for the influx of dramatic stars in pictures.

Sarah Bernhardt tops the list with the \$30,000 paid her by the Famous Players company for about six weeks' work. But that was the price for the opening wedge, for Madame Bernhardt was the first great dramatic star to appear in pictures. Mary Pickford, with her \$3000 a week is in a class by herself on the salary question.

Five Thousand Dollars Sum Paid. Five thousand dollars is the usual paid a dramatic star of established reputation for a film requiring five or six weeks' time. Some of the stars have been known to accept \$4000, and even \$3000, in times were especially lean for them. Mrs. Piske and Ethel Barrymore each received \$2,500 for single pictures, and Lillian Russell received something under \$10,000 and percentage of the profits of "Wildfire."

A number of the stars receive, in addition to a stated salary, a percentage of the profits on the film above a certain number of feet issued which greatly increases their net earnings. Some of the legitimate actors also have interests in the films. May Irwin contracted for \$7000 for appearing in "Mrs. Black Is Back," together with royalty. Marie Dressler was to receive \$10,000 and percentage for two pictures with the Kevstone company. "Tillie's Punctured Romance" was the only one made. Annette Kellerman was paid \$500 a week while she played in "Neptune's Daughter." But she also had an interest in the picture which she later sold for \$12,000.

The highest salary paid a foreign dramatic actress to come here to play in pictures is the \$1000 a week that goes to Betty Nansen. Gaby received \$15,000 for "Her Triumph" with the Famous Players.

Received \$2000 a Week. Pauline Frederick received \$2000 a week and expenses for playing "The Eternal City" in Rome. Nearly a month was consumed in making the picture, and it required 10 days' crossing each way, so her compensation was great. John Bunny was paid \$500 a week and royalties, which brought his income up to about \$700. An actor of the recognized standard of George Fawcett received \$2400 to go to California to make one picture, while such people as Jane Cowell, William and Dustin Farnum, John Barrymore, Macklyn Arbuckle, William Courtleigh, and many others receive less than \$4000 a feature.

Such film favorites as Mary Fuller, Clara Kimball Young, Florence Lawrence, Ruth Stonehouse, Blanche Sweet, Norma Phillips and Ann Stewart are paid from \$200 to \$500 a week. J. Warren Kerrigan, Carlyle Blackwell, Francis X. Bushman, King Baggot, Arthur Johnson, Maurice Costello and film actors of equal popularity have salaries that range from \$100 to \$400. Another method of payment is used with legitimate stars of less magnitude who are paid by the day, with expenses. Marguerite Leslie, for instance, was paid \$50 a day.

At the present time the tendency is toward out in motion picture salaries, and for a second picture a legitimate star is paid less than for the initial appearance on the screen.

Admission to Big Film Production \$2

The Birth of a Nation is Subject of Play; More Than Eighteen Thousand Persons Are Employed in Making.

An American subject, "The Birth of a Nation," by an American producer, David Wark Griffith, is the first motion picture product, for which an admission to scenic spots in the arrangement just completed between Mr. Griffith and Klaw & Erlanger. Mr. Griffith will take over the Liberty theatre on West Forty-second street, New York, the last of this month at the close of Otis Skinner's engagement, and begin his picture engagement.

"The Birth of a Nation" is the complete working out of all the contributory themes in American history upon which Thomas Dixon founded his famous novel, "The Clansman." More than 18,000 persons are employed in the making of the spectacle, which its producers claim is the most stupendous production in the kind in the picture world. A specially written score that elaborates the various themes of the story will be played by a symphony orchestra of 40 pieces.

Students Offered Film Plot Prizes

Production of a Two Reel Play is the Aim of Superintendent Warner of The Dalles.

Gradually picture making is coming closer home, as evidenced by two new activities in The Dalles. Superintendent Warner is to give a prize to the student of the high school, who submits the best plot. The plot will be written in scenic form and a cast selected from the school, will play the story before the camera. It is planned to make it a two reel production.

April is designated as the time when the Washington Film company of Seattle will begin production at its \$30,000 plant at Kirkland, now under construction. J. L. Adams is president of the company, which has for its director C. W. Peterson. A company of 30, with some Seattle talent, will begin with parlor comedies, and later do outdoor dramas, as well as scenic and educational.

A Spanish syndicate is considering building a railroad across northern Africa 1864 miles long.

CIRCLE THEATRE

Now 5c. The House of Single Reel Features. Hear the \$10,000 orchestra every afternoon and evening.

Majestic THEATRE

ALL THIS WEEK Paul Armstrong's Great Play

THE ESCAPE

OR "Life as It Is" Produced by D. W. Griffith

CAST: Blanche Sweet, Mae Marsh, Robert Harron, Donald Crisp, Owen Moore. Endorsed by Press and Pulpit. The whole marvelous picture thrills with one Vital Question to Parents: Who is the Man Your Daughter is Going to Marry?

"Do you judge him by his money, his earning capacity, or his character and fitness to be your daughter's husband?"

Unanimously Passed by the Portland Board of Censors

Shows Start 10 A. M. Come Early. Admission 10c

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA BARREN REGION SAYS RETURNED TRAVELER

Vast Section of Interior of Island Continent is Desert Land; Water Rare Element VERY RICH IN MINERALS

Opal Gathering Is Pursuit Followed by Daring Traders Who Have Hardihood to Visit This Section.

By Fred Lockley. L. Staffan has recently returned to Portland from a trip to the Gibson Desert, in Central Australia. Some years ago Mr. Staffan was in the automobile business in Portland, and put in operation one of the first heavy trucks to be operated on Portland's streets.

He brought back with him from Australia a most unique and valuable collection of opals, consisting of more than 6000 stones. They are Australian opals, and their values are from \$1.50 to \$25 per carat, though they will probably average around \$5 per carat. Before the breaking out of the European war practically all of these stones were marketed in Germany, but the German market has shut down completely. The opals are in the market and are unpolished. When Mr. Staffan poured out several quarts of uncut opals on a cloth on the table it looked as though he had found the end of the rainbow. Wonderful greens, dark blues, glints of amber and flashes of fire radiated from the rough shaped opals. "Before I went into the opal mining," said Mr. Staffan, "I worked for the Australian government in securing population for Australia. Australia is about the same size as the United States, yet its population is less than that of New York City. The government paid the steamship company the difference between the regular fare and the special rate enabling the steamship company to make a rate from Portland to Melbourne, Australia, first class at \$65.75 in place of the regular rate of \$150, while the steerage rate was reduced to \$38. As it takes 31 days to get to Melbourne, you can see the expense was approximately \$1 a day for a ride of many thousands of miles, with board and lodging on the way. On the breaking out of the war last August this rate was abolished, and the steamship company advanced the rate \$25 over the old rate, on account of the extra risk.

In Australian Desert. The central portion of Australia is a desert. Here and there explorers have found artesian water, but it has a brackish taste and is warm and salty. It is about 2400 miles from Port Darwin on the north to Port Darwin on the south, and from each of these ports the settlement extends inward about 700 miles. It is estimated that the interior it takes about 85 acres to support one sheep. In applying to the government for a land grant you do not apply for a large tract, but for so many hundred square miles.

Australia is a remarkable country in that it produces diamonds, rubies, pearls and opals. It also has diamonds and gold and other valuable minerals. Wool ranks first, mining products next, and wheat third in the products of Australia. The annual mining output is valued at \$12,000,000. From Warrens the opal hunters go out with their native bush boys and prospect for opals. They cannot go far on account of not being able to carry much water. The Australian opal is 92 per cent silica. It is the result of extreme heat and pressure. The government extends its supervision over the opal fields and will not allow the fields where opals are not sufficiently hard to be worked. The opals must have 92 per cent of silica or over. As you start out prospecting your first indication of the opal is a white substance, like chalk, that is called pilk. It is sometimes like the talc found in the opal mines here. The miner who has found bits of float goes down the

SUNSET THEATRE Washington and Broadway

Starting Today—Three Days Only

Mr. Silent Haskins

A Delightful Two-Act Comedy-Drama of Picturesque Arizona. Featuring the Distinguished Actor W. S. HART with RHEA MITCHELL, the Portland Girl.

Saints and Sinners

In Which the Country Town Black Sheep is Not So Black as He's Painted

The Happier Man

He had to choose between gold and a girl. Mutual Weekly. Showing how the great San Francisco Fair looks today, and all the latest news.

Also a Screamingly Funny Comedy of the usual high Sunset standard.

10c—11 A. M. TO 11 P. M. DAILY—10c

COLUMBIA THEATRE

6th & Washington

The "Christian"

Mammoth Film Production of

HALL CAINE'S

Great SOCIETY Drama, Featuring EDITH STOREY as Glory Quayle and EARLE WILLIAMS as John Storm

A Play Depicting the Conflict of Love

A Battle Between Good and Evil for the Soul of a Beautiful Woman

ANY SEAT 10c

water course and begins digging a trench, and if within a foot or two he strikes what is called cachalona, an opal-like substance, he knows he will strike opals by going a few feet deeper. Going deeper he strikes opals of a light blue, which become darker and richer as he goes deeper. When the prospect hole is 12 or 15 feet deep, he begins running into blazing reds and rich greens. Sometimes the prospector strikes a bed of valuable opals with the first trench, and again he may dig a score of trenches, or spend all season at prospecting and not find valuable opals. The way I found my opals was that I had inside information, or I would not have made the trip into the interior.

President Wilson Waited for Sister

New York, Feb. 20.—Mrs. George Howe, sister of President Wilson, has caused many a chuckle among her friends by an account of an incident that occurred at the White House during a recent visit. Mrs. Howe was a little late for dinner one evening. The pompous old darky butler, who thinks the sun is regulated by White House rules, knocked at her door and said: "Madam, the president waits." "Tell him I'll be there in a moment," replied Mrs. Howe. A few seconds passed, and again there was a knock on the door. "Madam, the president waits." "Go right down and tell him that I have cooked his dinner many times and he has often kept me waiting." "The butler left, and Mrs. Howe and the president laughed over the incident.

NATIONAL THEATRE PARK, WEST PARK, WASH. D.C. FREE PHONES. See Evelyn Nesbit Thaw in "Threads of Destiny"—and Nashville Students in Great Colored Minstrel Feature Today. TODAY: EVELYN NESBIT THAW AND BOB HUBBELL in return of great feature drama. "THE HEADS OF DESTINY." Has caused more comment than any play of recent years. This will be shown TODAY ONLY. NASHVILLE STUDENTS—Eight Southern Darkies in most spectacular specialty ever seen on "movy" stage. Secure at great expense. Opens with old time Plantation Minstrel, Singing, Dancing, Instrumental selections, full Orchestra. MR. CARMY AND MR. INGRAM—Special selections on National Play Organ, 3 to 3:30. SYDNEY DREW—in "THE COMBINATION"—1-act comedy of delightful variety. SEE MONDAY PAPERS FOR MONDAY ANNOUNCEMENT. MELVING WILSON STOCK.

STAR Theater WASHINGTON AT WEST PARK

Four Days—Beginning Today—11 A. M. to 11 P. M.

GREAT BLENDED BILL Changed Lives

Featuring handsome Herbert Rawlinson and lovely Anna Little. An absorbing story of a slavey who, through a strange trick of fate, dars the path of an heiress to millions. With scenes taken during the bombardment of Antwerp. A three-act feature.

Phantom Warning Son of His Father. A startling picture of a vision which changed an industrial policy. Hobart Henley in one of the finest short plays he has ever played.

BILLIE RITCHIE ALMOST A SCANDAL

One of the greatest comedies this man, who makes the whole world laugh, has appeared in.

A Variety Show in Pictures—The Star

PEOPLES THEATRE

Leading Photo-Play Theatre—West Park and Alder

Seven Days Only, Beginning Today

10c PARAMOUNT PICTURES 11:30 A. M. to 11:30 P. M.

BLANCHE SWEET WARRENS OF VIRGINIA

Produced by David Belasco With All-Star Cast

"The Warrens of Virginia" is the Greatest Civil War Drama Ever Written.

PATHE WEEKLY, IN NOTED EVENTS OF THE DAY