

Local Picture Concern Plans Wide Activity

MATERIALS and equipment are being assembled, characterization work has been started and frequent location expeditions are being made, preparatory to filming the first big motion picture production of the Klier Studios, Inc., recently organized in Portland to produce moving pictures with Oregon scenery as the setting.

The company is an all-Oregon concern. Instead of staging scenes in studios with artificial scenery, it will go into the timber and the mountains of Oregon, utilizing settings which nature has provided. The cliffs, waterfalls and streams of the Columbia river gorge, the slopes of Mt. Hood and other Oregon peaks, the myriads of mountain lakes and meadows of the Cascades, the rough and rugged seashore of the Oregon coast and the plains of Central and Eastern Oregon will be utilized. Whenever it is possible, the real names of the mountains, lakes, streams and other scenic places will be given to the film, thus providing a tremendous advertising medium through which tourist travel may be diverted to this state.

It is definitely announced by F. H. Klier, president of the company, that the first production will be filmed in the Columbia river gorge and its environs. The title of the production has not yet been announced, but it is said that the play will be a real drama of the West, for which the wild scenery of the Columbia will provide a splendid setting.

George Natanson will be director; Richard J. Grace, civil engineer and out-of-door enthusiast, will supervise the technical features of the production; F. H. Klier, noted for his photography, will direct the photography of the film, and Shannon Monroe, novelist and writer, will write stories for some of the film productions. They have been making excursions into the country during the past two weeks, making selections for locations for scenes. They have been studying light and shadow effects and mapping out trails and campsites to be utilized by the company when the actual work of filming the first production starts.

Artificial Quake Is Big Stunt in 'Fire Cat' Filming

Earthquake shocks and volcanic action, such as caused the death of more than 400 persons in the Mendocino districts of the Andes mountains last December, were duplicated recently for moving pictures by skilful combination of hydraulics, pyrotechnics and demolition engineering.

The engineering feat was accomplished by Norman Dawn, at Universal City, Cal., for scenic effects in a South American picture, "The Fire Cat," which is due in Portland soon.

To produce the earthquake civil engineers cut a jagged slice in the earth a quarter of a mile long and 10 feet deep. Under 10 equally divided sections of one side of the slice were placed sliding platforms. At this stage of the excavation the result might be visualized as folding doors, placed flat on the ground with 10 feet of earth piled on each door. The 10 platforms were skilfully connected by cables, each attached to one sliding platform by just enough cable to be out of camera range. With motors running the trucks waited for the word from Dawn.

As the camera clicked the trucks leaped forward, pulling the crack in the earth apart with an effect exactly like an earthquake fissure. At that moment a mountain top in the background roared and the sky was bombarded with rock which fell on the scene in genuinely dangerous barrage.

The volcanic eruption was produced by dynamite. The peak of a high hill was drilled in 20 places and packed with dynamite. To give the effect of lava concealed sets of fire hose pumped scalding muddy water from the far side of the peak to roll in torrents down the side toward the camera. The dynamite was detonated by electricity. As the explosion hurled tons of rock and sand high into the air, the fire hose belched the dirty steaming water from its concealment.

Film Show Managers Take Exceptions to Grenfell Statement

Exception has been taken by local film men to a statement attributed to Edward Grenfell, Portland fire marshal, that "men ushers are safer."

Marshall Grenfell is quoted as saying that 85 per cent of the fire marshall throughout the country think women ushers in theatres lack judgment in times of emergency, and consequently are not conducive to public safety.

"These men are totally ignorant of real conditions," declared A. C. Raleigh, manager of the Columbia theatre. "In the first place, I can't see the occasion for their remarks, as there have been fewer fires in theatres in the last 20 years than in any other kind of public gathering place. I firmly believe this has not just happened, it is the direct result of judgment of the very women condemned. It must be admitted, however, that modern theatre construction lacks no item of fire-prevention. Men usually do not know the meaning of the word service and make no effort toward courtesy. Girl ushers, I found, gave 100 per cent better attention to the public. They obey rules, they recognize the personality and standard of the house and seek to do everything possible to advance its interests."

C. S. Jensen, who directs the operation of Portland first-run theatres, objected to the fire marshal's announcement from the standpoint of the girls employed.

"Girls have proved to be efficient in this work," he said. "Many of the Portland ushers have been with us for years, and we know something of their family life. Emergencies are constantly arising in crowds and someone falling ill. Other similar unexpected occurrences are frequent. Yet I find that girl ushers have never failed to handle them in the simplest, most judicious manner possible."

High School Chooses 'Nothing but Truth'

Kelso, Wash., March 11.—The senior class of Kelso high school has chosen "Nothing But the Truth" as the annual play, which will be presented at the city auditorium early in April. Re-

Who's Who on Broadway---And Off

H. C. STEVENS, native son, who was Portland's pioneer film exchange man and who has been graduated from the film to dramatic stock, where he carries important rank and title, wears silk shirts and pulls tobacco smoke through an ancient black holder.



WE HAVE with us today that well known native son, H. C. Stevens, pioneer of Oregon City and who has been graduated from the film to dramatic stock, where he carries important rank and title, wears silk shirts and pulls tobacco smoke through an ancient black holder.

But now look at him. Tall, slim and handsome—one of the few men who still sport silk shirts (left over, he says) that relic of wartime affluence.

Stevens is president, if you please, of the Pacific Coast Amusement company, owners of the Baker theatre and the Baker Stock company. He's not an old man, either, but it's been all of 27 years since he left the village near Williams falls and went into the cold cruel world to turn the darn thing over a couple of times.

Fifteen years ago, completely fed up on California's palm, etc., he came back to Oregon—but went right through Oregon City on the Shasta, and landed in Portland. He had learned in California of the wonders of the newly discovered motion picture business and he was in the fettle to open in Portland the first film exchange in the city.

That business he conducted for three years—the degree of profit must be determined by his present rank and title in the amusement world—until it joined forces with a newcomer and became the amalgamated film exchange. Stevens was manager of the new enterprise when it was taken over by the old General Film company, a pioneer in nationwide distribution. He was named manager of the general branch here and served it so for three more years.

He organized the Portland Amusement company, which came to control the Casino, Burnside and American theatres. When that enterprise was sold Stevens was put to it again to find something to do besides fishing at Oregon City within view of the parental roof atop the town bluff.

hearsals have been started under the direction of Mrs. M. J. Gore. The cast of characters consists of Horace Overton, Neal Olson, Arvid Parson, John Libby, Noble Chowning, Elva Beck, Norma Lettinger, Edna Gray, Mae Elliott and Alice Baxter.

Theodore Roberts Attached to Scene Of Earliest Effort

Six or seven years ago, when Theodore Roberts entered motion pictures and when there was plenty of ground space he purchased a portable house for a dressing room and it was set up in one portion of the studio lot.

As the studio grew, the portable house was moved from one location to another and finally came to rest between stages two and three, where it has stood for a couple of years.

Recently, owing to the increased production activity, more electrical equip-

TODAY AND TOMORROW COME! BIG DOUBLE ATTRACTION

WILLIAM S. HART in "The Testing Block" A Paramount Picture

A romance of life on the redwood slopes, in the days of bandits and gold. Seething with thrills and the struggle of strong men. Tender with love and home and childhood.

The greatest heart picture Hart ever made!

Also Larry Semon in His Greatest Comedy Success The Sportman

ADMISSION 25c to This BIG DOUBLE SHOW

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED INDEPENDENTLY OPERATED

Decorative Scheme Creates Beautiful Rest Room Effects

An entirely inviting atmosphere has been given to the elaborate rest rooms of the Liberty theatre within the last few days under the artistic direction of Manager Paul E. Noble, who has revised the decorative scheme and has installed some highly unusual color effects for the special use of women patrons.

In the little alcoves at the side of the rest rooms, where the great mirrors are installed, Manager Noble has had colorful creton hangings placed and over the glasses have been draped beautiful artificial sprays in a blaze of many colors.

Fanciful shadings in artificial foliage carry out the intricate color scheme that is affected by a series of colored electric lamps and, in fact, the furnishings of the entire room, clusters of pressed flowers are set here and there and in each alcove is a canary bird.

Hood River Showmen Preparing to Build A Modern Playhouse

Hood River, March 12.—With the Columbia Gorge hotel now rapidly progressing towards completion, Hood River is to be the site of another building for the entertainment of visitors to this section. Art Kolstad, owner of the Liberty theatre here, together with J. H. Ferguson and another prominent resident of the valley, have completed an agreement to invest about \$45,000 in a new theatre, to be located on the corner of Oak and Fourth streets, in the heart of the business section.

The theatre will have a capacity of nearly 1000, and will be provided with a stage large enough to accommodate first class road shows. While the new theatre will be fully equipped with projectors and movie shows will be the main features, provision is to be made as that the theatre may be used for other public events. Bids for the building are to be called for immediately.

It is rumored that Mildred Harris will be one of the members of the next Cecil De Mille production. Dorothy Dalton is to play the lead.

G LORIA SWANSON, screen star, and Elinor Glyn, noted novelist, now writing screen plays, have a chat at the studio, where Miss Swanson will enact the leading roles in some of the newer efforts of the author of "Three Weeks."



Cannibals Prove to Be Harmless Chaps In Unusual 'Locale'

Bill Foster, cameraman, once made educational pictures in the South Sea islands. While working he became acquainted with two companions. For two days he lived on coconuts and bananas, fearful at any moment that he might run into a band of head hunters.

On the third day he saw a wrisp of smoke rising from a clump of bushes. He crawled carefully up in order to study the type of savage about the fire. Just as he reached the clump he heard a voice say:

"Why in hell did you play that card?" Foster fell to his knees and, devoutly raising his hands, cried:

"Thank God, they are Christians!"

Dot Posty Is New Soubrette; Lyric Changes

REORGANIZATION of the Lyric theatre cast has interested many patrons of the Keating & Flood house, who will today see for the first time Miss Dot Posty, the new soubrette, who has replaced Gay DuVall. Miss DuVall is joining a road company.

Miss Posty recently appeared here in the cast of the "Scandals of 1920" at the Heilig theatre and she is a performer of much experience. She is especially interested in coming to Portland because of the fact that her parents live in Washington state.

Ben Dillon's place as director of the company is being taken next week by Ted Howland, who brings a complete new line of shows—productions never seen in Portland. Dillon's character parts in the cast will be played by Ned Doyle, a popular eccentric comedian. Dillon, who has been with the Lyric company for more than five years, is going to rest on his California ranch.

Producers Make Own Beds When It Comes To Threatened Laws

According to T. Hayes Hunter, "American producers breed blue laws themselves, then howl when somebody makes a move to pass them. Only this week the film trade press carry ads of 'sensitive pictures'—or at least they have hot sounding names—and yet the producer kicks. The pictures mentioned are 'The Grand Passion,' 'The Supreme Passion,' 'The Passionate Pilgrim' and 'The Passion Flower'."

But of blue laws, he says: "The spirit of freedom is waning here when any body of men tries to interfere with the independence of American citizens—sons of the Revolution and the World war! We have enough regulation as it is without prohibition, censorship and other things. As there is no new world to free to, there will be a revolution if these blue laws are permitted to go over."

THIS WEEK From the POWERFUL STAGE PLAY by Francis Powers

RESCUE HAYAKAWA

THE FIRST BORN

There is Dramatic Intensity in "The First Born" Such as has Never Been Approached in Any Other Picture

A TRIUMPH OF THRILLS AND EMOTIONAL DRAMA

JOE MARTIN Famous Monkey Comedian

IN "NO MONKEY BUSINESS"

MUTT AND JEFF In "PAPPOOSE"

FOX NEWS

Now Playing!



Rivoli Augmented Orchestra

Salvatore Santella, Conductor and Pianist

Special Sunday Concert

12:30 Noon, Today

OVERTURE, "TANNHAUSER".....R. Wagner

YESTER LOVE.....Gaston Borch

SELECTION FROM "FLORA DORA".....L. Stuart

LA PALOMA.....C. de Yradier

(Request)

WALTZ, "LOVE'S DREAM".....A. Calabala

MARCH OF BACCHUS.....LEO DELIBES

FROM THE BALLET "SYLVIA".....LEO DELIBES

(Request)

Concert Number During This Week

AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS

SELECTION, "FLORA DORA".....L. Stuart

SELECTION, "FLORA DORA".....L. Stuart

SELECTION, "FLORA DORA".....L. Stuart

MISS DOT POSTY, new soubrette at the Lyric theatre, whose advent is the first step in a reorganization of the company of players.

