

LOCAL THEATERS PRESENT EXCELLENT OFFERINGS THIS WEEK

BEHIND THE SILVER SCREEN

Making movies abroad sounds pretty, but Oh, Boy, it's expensive. The big fellows are about cured. More than two millions in real money has been shot into thin air in Italy in an attempt to make "Ben Hur" there and now they must come home and finish it. "Romola," also made in Italy cost over a million and wasn't worth half that. Gloria Swanson has spent over a million making "Madame Sans Gene" in Paris and the company has been ordered home.

It was silly in the first place to go abroad to do these things, but they do many silly things in making movies. After going to Italy to make "Ben Hur" they not only had to build all the big sets needed, but they also had to build studios. The political row has forced them out of the country. "Ben Hur" could have been made in Hollywood twice as effectively for half the expense. Here the studios and technical facilities were already at hand and a "set" is a "set" whether it is built in Italy or in Hollywood.

The salaries paid to stars, directors and writers in the movies seem like fairy tales. In the theatrical world a few hundred dollars a week was always figured as a good salary. It must be remembered though that only one audience can see a play on the speaking stage and when a producer engages a group of players for a movie he uses them only from three to six weeks. When the movie is completed he is through paying salaries. He can send out 150 copies of his movie or, in fact, as many copies as he desires. Each copy costs about \$200.

There is where you get the difference. The movie can play in 150 or more cities every night for years to come, without added salary expense. The speaking stage manager who has a success must continue to pay salaries for every additional "company" which he sends out on the road. Eventually the salary list of a successful speaking play is always much higher than the salary list of a movie.

The movie folks are not overpaid. They simply benefit by the invention that makes it possible for them to be many places at once, on the screen.

Something should be done about the terrible main titles selected by the movie bosses. Many fine films suffers from terrible titles. I can't figure why they ever decided on "Smouldering Fires" as a title or an excellent Universal film made recently, Polly Frederick and Laura La Plante, Tully Marshall and Malcolm McGregor are in it. Clarence Brown, who made "The Acquittal," "The Signal Tower" and "Butterfly," directed it. I think it's a darn good movie. I don't know yet why Universal called it by such a weird name. It's too hard to remember when you want to recommend the thing to a friend.

I'm disappointed with Bill De Mille. You see, Bill is C. B.'s brother and we who sit on the in-and-in here in Hollywood, have figured that Bill was the real directorial guy of the DeMille family. Bill's latest, "Locked Doors," is just awful. It's the most ordinary kind of a movie and the titles were sure geared for that fictitious "nine-year-old mentality" public that we hear so much about. One of the captions read "The husband is an architect." Now, I ask you, is that elemental, first reader stuff?

You shouldn't quarrel very much if you ever catch an actor walking out of a room with a rose in his right hand, only to appear in the garden outside with the rose in his left hand. Such errors formerly were very common. Today it takes a young army of assistants and checking helpers to avoid such mistakes.

You see the scene in the room may be made here in Hollywood at the studio, while the scene in the garden is photographed six weeks later in Monterey, 500 miles from the studio. Movie scenes are not made in the order in which they appear in the story. All the scenes in any one room, or in any one outside "location" are photographed together. The scenes are assembled in order after all the action has been photographed.

Sometimes the cutter or editor who assembles the scenes has literally miles of the celluloid ribbons on spoils to handle. Each

scene has been photographed several times to get the action perfected and then the best of these "takes" are selected and glued together.

"Peter Pan" is an excellent movie, but I think they were all wrong to slip in the title at the end where Peter objects to going to school. It's hard enough these days to get Young America to want to go to school without having such a great kid movie as "Peter Pan" plant the thought that boys should play hooky.

The actual celluloid-ribbon on which a movie is printed is easily scratched, torn or mutilated. The producers are supposed to check all prints carefully at their shipping offices before forwarding them to theaters, but often the inspection is faulty. Your theater owner is a busy man. He may not see a scratched or torn place in a film or he may not notice that apparently some scene is missing. When you notice such things you will really be helping the theater owner as well as yourself and other fans if you will report the bad print at the box office so that the theater owner may in turn report the matter to the producer of the movie.

I have already told you that most of our movie executives are "accidents." We have entirely too many "relations" and friends of the boss holding down important jobs too big for them.

I got a big kick out of some of the discussions that develop on the studio lots. Here is a prize "boner," in my opinion. A dramatic director was engaged to do the Weber and Fields movie, "Friendly Enemies." I wanted to know why a comedy director had not been selected. I was informed that the story was 60 per cent drama. I questioned that statement and then insisted that in any event the fans would expect to see Weber and Fields in a comedy. Now here is the "wow." The executive informed me that "Friendly Enemies," the play, was better known than Weber and Fields. Well, I just about flopped. I thought he was kidding me. Not so. That guy was seriously convinced that movie fans knew more about a show that had some success some years ago in a few cities than they did about two comedians whose names are like Ivory Soap. Now what are you to expect from such. Fortunately my sense of humor saves me in my daily contact with the important accidents who make our movie mistakes. I haven't committed murder—yet.

They do strange things in Texas. Besides electing a woman governor they arrested an oil stock salesman.

OPERA TO BE HERE NEXT WEEK



THEO PENNINGTON

Salem is billed for a short festival of light and comic operas. The Brandon Opera company, already prime favorites with local music lovers, having established themselves in no country and the royal prince as The American Light Opera Company. The cast of principals is practically the same including Theo Pennington, prima donna soprano; Carl Bundschu, baritone; Harry Pfell, tenor; Ed Andrews, comedian; Jessie Evans, contralto; George Olson, comedian; Jeanne Rae, soprano, and Delos Jewkes, basso, with a remarkably good singing chorus under the able direction of Chas. D. Hazelrigg.

The company comes to the Grand theater starting next Sunday, Feb. 15th for an engagement of three nights and have selected a very interesting repertoire. On Sunday, the opening night the offering will be "Robin Hood," undoubtedly the most popular and best loved of all American comic operas. "Robin Hood" will be interesting as long as music and scenic art are utilized to perpetuate beauty, and as long as stage folk that can sing and act are ready to sing its lovely songs and enact the vicissitudes of its twelfth century characters. Sweet memories of it's ever changing, always beautiful harmonies, of it's Sherwood forest in autumnal tints and shadows, of the tipsy tinkers and dimpled fairy maids. Of it's "Brown October Ale," "Oh Promise Me" and "The Armorer's Song" which will live perpetually.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

A little wit—
But everything will come out in the wash.
Southern California is doing a lot of bragging about the fine rains she is having. By the same sign, the Salem district ought to be more than proud of herself.
It is safer to keep your cross words to yourself.
A Salem carpenter says about the only place you can't see signs of prosperity now is in your pocketbook.
Same man says the trouble with most dumbbells is that they are not dumb.
Says a Salem garage man, one thing you can say for the fiver; it rattles before it strikes.
France protests that she has no idea of repudiating her debt to the United States, her intention being merely to ignore its existence.
You never can tell. The good opinion of many a man costs more than it is worth.

140 KIND OF TREES AND SHRUBS THERE

And All of Them on the State House Grounds Came Thru Late Freeze

Spring is not very far away, and the pussy willows are in bloom. It will soon be time to pack up the old lunch kit and then off to the woods. But speaking of woods, you do not have to leave town to find plenty of them. Did you know that on the state house grounds there are 140 different varieties of trees and shrubs? Of these, some come from Europe, some from South America, and many from eastern and southern states.

Some of them
First there is the Smoke tree, a southern tree, and then the Red Bud, which hails from the swamps of Missouri; fine weather for that tree we are having. The Red Bud is the tree that blossoms before the leaves come. And then there is the beautiful Silver Leaf maple, and the Golden Leaf maple, and the Camperdown tree. The Camperdown is the umbrella-shaped tree that is generally spoken of by the name umbrella tree. This tree is a graft of Camperdown branches on an elm trunk. And then there is the American Bamboo, and the Southern Sycamore, and the Hickory which grows abundantly in the eastern United States, and the famous Port Orford cedar, and the European Linden. The Linden is a beautiful shade tree. And then there is the Japanese Maple, and the Horse Chestnut, on through the list until you have named all 140 different varieties.

Came Through Freeze
All of the trees and shrubs on the state house grounds came through the freeze without harm except the roses, and the Japanese Maple and Horse Chestnut trees. The roses were frozen to the ground and will have to be clipped close to the ground. They will break out from the roots, however, and in a year will be full grown again. The Japanese maple and the Horse Chestnut trees cracked during the freeze, but they were not seriously harmed. They must be made of different stuff than the hot water tanks used in most of Salem's homes. The reason for these trees cracking as they did is very simple; says Mr. Lute, the caretaker of the grounds. It is because the cold weather caught them before the sap had gone down into the roots. After the sap enters the roots in the fall and the tree has become dormant there is little danger of freezing. Roses and other shrubs freeze for the same reason. Strangely say, none of the bulbs, such as the narcissus and daffodils were harmed during the freeze.

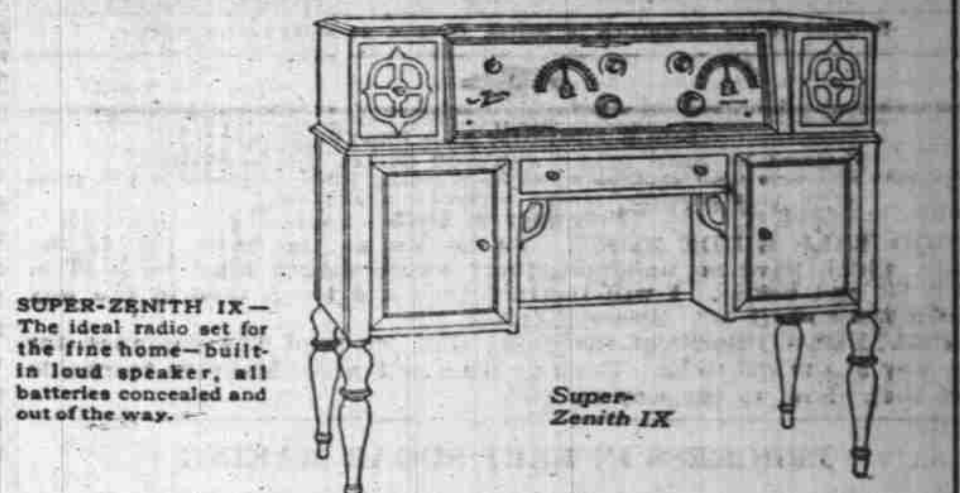
The Cunning Squirrels
There are some other things of interest to be found in the state house grounds, too, besides trees and shrubs, and among these other things are the squirrels, which came all this way from Pennsylvania just to live in Salem, and incidentally grace the state house laws with their presence. Three years ago Governor Olcott had two pine squirrels shipped from Pennsylvania, and now there are six or seven of them dodging in and out of shrubs and up and down the tree trunks about the grounds. The squirrels are very tame and will eat out of your hand and run up and down your arm with apparently no fear whatever.

Wheat Relief Financing Is Arranged By T. B. Kay
Arrangements have been made with Portland banks by State Treasurer Kay for a straight loan of \$1,250,000 to the state for one year at 4% percent interest to finance the wheat relief bill passed as an emergency measure for the aid of eastern Oregon farmers. The legislature gave the board of

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control authority to loan not in excess of \$1,500,000 for this purpose.
Treasurer Kay had \$250,000 in cash on hand and needed the additional \$1,250,000. Under the terms of the negotiations with the Portland banks, the latter institutions agreed to purchase \$1,250,000 of the bonds held in the soldiers' bonus sinking fund and receive on them interest at 4% per cent. It is a condition of the contract that the state retains the option of repurchase the same bonds in January, 1926, at the same price paid for them by the banks now. This, in effect, gives the state a straight loan for one year.

Lovers of Animals Unite To Abolish Cruel Traps
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 — A three-year campaign before state legislatures, with the backing of prominent humanitarians and humane workers, is about to be launched for the suppression of the steel trap and other non-killing devices for capture of fur-bearing animals.

LIBERTY Theatre
SUN. MON. TUES.
THE STORY WITHOUT A NAME
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Also Comedy Now and Mrs. Holt at the Organ
Arthur Stringer's Great Prize Story, a Fast-Moving, Up-to-Date Melodrama with Radio as Its Center Punch!

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35c "Danderine" does Wonders for Any Girl's Hair



Girls! Try this! When combing and dressing your hair, just moisten your hair brush with a little "Danderine" and brush it through your hair. The effect is startling! You can do your hair up immediately and it will appear twice as thick and heavy—a mass of gleamy hair, sparkling with life and possessing that incomparable softness, freshness and luxuriance. While beautifying the hair "Danderine" is also toning and stimulating each single hair to grow thick, long and strong. Hair stops falling out and dandruff disappears. Get a bottle of delightful, refreshing "Danderine" at any drug or toilet counter and just see how healthy and youthful your hair becomes—Adv.

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EVERYTHING POSITIVELY NEW THIS SEASON
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"Something Different"
JOE DEVLIN
"Musical Moments"
'HER REPUTATION'
Feature
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BLIGH
You never can tell. The good opinion of many a man costs more than it is worth.

Ackerman and Harris
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EVERY SUNDAY
5 feature Acts
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Al Sweet and His Singing Band
Four Other Big Acts
BLIGH THEATRE