

## FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By F. O. Alexander



## Molly's Bit of Real Life

By WILLIAM MARSH

MOLLY LANG had been usher at the Empire Moving Picture Palace for almost three years, and she was thinking of changing her occupation.

"Believe me, Charlie," she confided to the ticket taker in a slack moment toward the close of the evening's performance, "at first I thought it was great. Gee! I thought I'd never get tired of a chance to see all the movies I wanted. Now I'm sick of it."

"If you're thinking of changing jobs," retorted Charlie, "I got a dandy—making a home for you!"

"It's a marrying you're talking about—going home," cried Molly, stilling a boiling look in her eyes. "Get on to that couple going out. Isn't he a peach—and hasn't she got the eyes! Say, Charlie, they come here as regular as clockwork two nights a week. Been doing it two years now and I expect any time to see her with a wedding ring and a 'I've got him now' look in her eyes."

Molly watched for the pair on Monday and Thursday evenings and when they did not appear on the Monday night following she went to the Monday night following to see if she had pointed them out to Charlie, she was worried. Then she decided that she had not happened to see them come in. But the following week they did not appear, nor the next.

Then the following week as Molly leaned with folded arms against the back wall of the little theater, she nearly gasped. There was the girl, looking as beautiful as ever, but accompanied by a perfectly strange young man!

Sometimes the girl came in alone—sometimes the man. Sometimes she was accompanied, sometimes he brought another girl—and all this after two years of always coming together.

Then one evening Molly saw the girl slip in at the very beginning of the picture. She wondered if she had been drawn by the title, "Love Recollection." As she ushered her down into a seat at exactly the right distance from the front, Molly was reflecting cynically on the ease with which lovers and their loves can be brought together in screen land.

A moment later, she started. There at the door, handing his ticket to the altogether unexcited Charlie, was the man. Molly's brain acted with surprising quickness. She tiptoed swiftly down the aisle. How unfortunate—there was no vacant seat beside the girl. She turned back, disappointed. No doubt the man was already seated—but he was standing against the partition which separated the seats from the hall, watching the picture.

Molly flew to Charlie. "Look here, Charlie, do something for me! There's nobody coming in now. If they do, I'll tend the door. That girl's in the eleventh row, next to the end. You tell the man on the end there's a better seat down front—and see that you find one and show him to it. Don't wait to talk about it!" Before he knew it, Charlie was obeying Molly's commands.

Molly herself sauntered over to the man. "Let me show you a seat, sir," she said sedately. "Got just one good one left down front."

"All right, lead me to it," he replied, half smiling. "I wasn't sure I was going to stay."

And presently Molly showed him to the seat beside the girl, and for her reward she had the look of startled surprise with which the girl greeted him. Molly would have liked to linger, but she did not.

"They're together for the first time in months—and oh, Charlie, it's such a wonderful scene here. Don't you remember how she says to him, 'Whatever our mistakes, dear one, aren't we happier together than we should ever be apart?' And he says, 'Forgive me, dear, as I forgive you!'"

"It seems to me," said the unimpressible Charlie, "that anybody who could take so much interest in other people's love affairs could take a little interest in her own."

But Molly held up a warning finger. "Sh!" she said. "There it begins now. Doesn't she look just wonderful in that ermine dressing gown?"

Together they leaned over the partition and watched, and certainly to at least two pairs of eyes in the theater that scene got over as the producer intended it should, helped out by the rippling accompaniment of a Nevin love song on the player piano.

When it was over and a magical pencil had traced "The End," Molly turned to Charlie with softened eyes. "Charlie, I won't make fun of you any more for making love to me. I—I'm sure I love you, too!"

There was only time for a whispered "Wait for me after the show is over" from Charlie and then more people were coming in and a whole stream flowing out.

Molly had almost forgotten the man and the girl, as she thought over her capitulation to Charlie and wondered how long it would be before he could marry her.

Then somebody touched her on the arm. She looked up into two sparkling, happy brown eyes belonging to the girl, who was holding tight to the arm of the man.

"Thank you," said the girl gently, then was swept on with the crowd. Molly looked after them. Then she drew a deep sigh. "The movies are great," she said, "but give me Real Life!"

A "flu" epidemic defies science, and impudently asserts itself in opposition to modern improvements. Efficiency can bring the human element into proper co-operation. But the germ element has not yet been conquered.

Statisticians are on safest ground when dealing in futures. Britisher who figures the world will come to the end of its capacity to support its population in 2128 knows he will never be confronted in person with evidence of inaccuracy.

Along with the actor who spends his afternoon off at the matinee is the detective who reads detective novels in his leisure, for a laugh.

Paris fashions ordain that skirts are to be 40 centimeters from the ground this year. How old-fashioned, pokey and prudish they are over there.

Styles in the shape and cut of furs for women change at intervals, but in the original package, on the animal, they remain the same year after year.

Safeblowers, so we read, got away with \$2,000 and twelve hams. Our advice to the police is to watch for a big egg robbery, and the game will be up.

Another thing we always wonder about, a little, is who used those quaint maps of the New World dated 1500 or thereabouts, and how he got along.

A Cleveland writer, answering an inquirer, says "tryst" is pronounced to rhyme with "kissed." In fact, it is practically never rhymed with anything else.

Science should confer with psychoanalysts to determine just how much of a so-called "flu" epidemic is due to an eternal human tendency toward hypochondria.

Mars still fails to respond to our messages. Perhaps the English language isn't being taught in the Martian public schools.

A new manner of finance is in evidence, which assumes that a cash register does not need to sign a check or even an I. O. U. if he has equipped himself with a gun.

It is estimated the world's population will double in sixty years, which is good news or bad in accordance with what we think about human nature as a whole.

The mere tradition that it is a free country hardly explains the kind of author who has himself photographed with a hat on and a topcoat turned up around the neck.

In further reference to the Harvard man who has put together a machine exerting a pressure of 600,000 pounds to the inch, we wonder who lives in the apartment below.

It is said that the best imported canary birds are trained in voice culture by means of an automatic organ. A canary would probably refuse to be a party to a duet with a saxophone.

## Oregon State News

As the basis of future land settlement, horticultural development and increased rural population, The Dalles-Wasco County chamber of commerce will devote a large part of its spring program toward the development of underground water resources.

The town of Vale, the Malheur county seat city, has started work on their 11th annual Fourth of July celebration, that has grown from a picnic attended by a few hundred people to a great three-day celebration, enjoyed last year by some 20,000 persons.

Gertrude Hynes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hynes of Hazel Green, near Seaside, was trampled to death by a horse when she strayed in the barnyard of the Hynes home. The child disappeared while the mother was working in a nearby garden.

Traffic on Roosevelt highway between Astoria and Seaside is being routed through Warrenton while temporary bridge is being constructed across Skipanon river to handle traffic during replacement of the old bridge with new concrete structure.

As there is little snow in the Sand creek section of Crater national park, east of the Crater national park boundary, forest pine beetle pest control got under way recently when a crew of 30 workers left Medford for the scene, where they will work for 30 days.

P. O. Crawford, vice-president and general manager of the California-Oregon Power company, announced that another reduction in electric rates in southern Oregon was effective as of May 15. It is estimated that customers will save under the new rates about \$12,500 a year.

Reported raids on nests of ducks and geese in Klamath by decoy hunters have been reported to District Warden Barnes. "So-called sportsmen," Barnes said, "capture fledgelings and raise them for decoys next fall. This is against the law and arrests will be made."

Residents of the Beaver Homes and Shiloh basin communities, adjacent to Gobble, incorporated a company recently for \$4000 for the purpose of conducting a cheese factory, to be located midway between the two communities. The enterprise will be known as the Beaver Homes Cheese Factory, Inc.

Bears and chipmunks are coming out of hibernation in Crater Lake park, according to Alfred Stone, caretaker of the lodge. Snow is nine feet deep at the rim, and at Government Camp, a mile below, it is five feet. Half a mile from the Klamath and east entrances the highway is open to travel.

More than \$25,000 has been subscribed by Eugene people for the pioneer pageant to be held here July 25, 26 and 27, it was announced by Hugh Rosson, director of the pageant. This figure is \$5000 more than the goal set by the committee. The pageant will set forth the history and development of that part of Oregon.

Prison doors of McNeil federal penitentiary changed shut behind Emory Olmstead and J. E. Wheeler, prominent Portland business men, who recently started serving sentences of five and three years, respectively, as a result of their conviction for "killing" checks in connection with huge timber operations in Portland.

Bids will be opened June 4 on the Harper and Little Valley lateral systems, consisting of about 45 miles of canals which will carry water to the 4000 acres of land scheduled to have water for 1930 crops. A settlement campaign has begun already and 1000 acres have been sold. Bids will be opened the same date for the Chicken creek syphon, some 400 feet long.

Carnival companies no longer will invade The Dalles on their annual itineraries, as a result of an ordinance passed recently at a special meeting of the city council banning all future performances of that nature. Also included in the ban are dog and pony shows, tent shows and other outdoor entertainment devices, with the exception of circuses, which were declared by councilmen to be of an educational nature.

When commencement time comes during the third week of June at the Southern Oregon Normal school at Ashland over 140 students will be graduated, the largest class since the school was established three years ago.

The deposit liabilities of the Mosier Valley bank were taken over recently by the First National bank of Hood River, according to A. A. Schramm, state superintendent of banks, who supervised the deal resulting in the merger.

## FEAR DISASTROUS ERA OF TORNADOES

Weather Bureau Officials See Trouble Ahead.

Washington—The tornado record for the first quarter of 1929 as shown by information gathered by the United States weather bureau here promises another unusual year for these disastrous storms.

Last year more tornadoes occurred in the United States than during any previous year for which the government meteorologists have gathered data. The record for 1928 nearly doubled the annual number of 90 to 100 a year. But the loss of life due to tornadoes in 1928 was exceedingly small and the property loss was far below that of the worst years.

In the first two months of this year ten tornadoes caused 32 deaths compared with only four tornadoes and no deaths in January and February of 1928. March kept up the unfavorable condition, with some half dozen whirlers and a dozen or so deaths. And the Arkansas tornado toll gives April the beginnings of a bad showing.

As May and June are the months that usually show the largest damage from tornadoes, meteorologists feel that more storms and suffering must be expected.

The Southern states experience their tornado storms most frequently in late winter and early spring. Then the whirler season invades the Northern states. Contrary to popular opinion there is no "tornado belt." Statistics show that over half of the extremely destructive tornadoes have occurred east of the Mississippi.

The tornado is born of currents of air above the ground that differ in direction and come in contact. A condition of warm, moist air near the ground overlaid with cold air sets up violent heat transfer and overturning of the atmosphere. A great whirl or vortex results, releasing the pent-up energy of the air. Not always does the funnel-shaped cloud reach the ground, but when it does the low pressure of its center explodes houses and the wind about the vortex prostrates all that it encounters.

Usually a tornado moves east or northeastward at the rate of 25 to 50 miles per hour. If you see one coming at you, run toward the northwest, as due to the small path, a few feet may mean the difference between death and safety.

Although his automobile was wrecked, J. D. Manning of Klamath Falls escaped injury when his car crashed into a large blacktail deer on the Green Springs highway near Hayden mountain.

Eighth grade pupils from all over Jackson county will gather in Ashland May 29 to hold their commencement at the armory. It is expected that at least 1000 persons will attend from out of town.

A survey of fruit conditions in the Rogue river valley indicates that while the pear crop will exceed that of last year, apple, peach, apricot and cherry orchards will yield less than half a normal crop.

Actual construction of the addition to the Salem postoffice will be under way within the next two weeks, according to announcement made recently by G. L. Hannaman, representing the contractors.

Construction of an Episcopal church in Bend, replacing the parish house used by the congregation for a number of years, was started recently. It is to be ready for occupancy by September 10 of this year.

A new edition of the Chamber of Commerce booklet, "Portland and the Wonderful State of Oregon," has just been published by the advertising and promotion department of the chamber. It is eight pages larger than its predecessors and contains six full-page color plates, as well as numerous photographs of scenic, industrial and recreational attractions of the city and state.

G. I. Mowery, manager of the Peoples' West Coast Hydro-Electric Corporation at Stevenson, Wash., has announced that the company will extend a line from Cascade Locks to Multnomah Falls to supply current to patrons there.

J. F. Harris has trapped 18,339 moles and gophers within the past four years, according to records of the county clerk. He has operated in Marion county exclusively. More than 700 gophers were trapped on seven acres of land.

Air Route Time Clipped, Sale Lake City.—What was declared to be a new record for airplanes between Cheyenne and Salt Lake City was set recently by Pilot H. A. Collins of the Boeing Air Transport when he flew the 417 miles in two hours and 59 minutes.

U. of O. Degrees to Be Awarded 540. Eugene, Or.—Two hundred Portland students are candidates for undergraduate degrees at the University of Oregon this spring out of a total of 540. This is by far the largest number ever presented with degrees from this institution.

## Oregon State News

Actual construction of the first unit of the Fine Arts building at the University of Oregon will be under way early in June, according to Mrs. Irene Gerlinger, regent and vice president of the alumni holding committee.

The Willows County Marketing association, formed by farmers last fall, has shipped one car of livestock each week for several months. This venture has proved highly satisfactory to the greater part of those who have taken part, it is said.

The Swope-Rice Construction company of Portland were the successful bidders for construction of the new union high school at Cloverdale. The contract price was \$38,900.

The Arlington city council will in the near future let a contract for the erection of a grandstand at the ball park to replace the one washed away during a recent cloudburst.

Only the infantry, field artillery and engineer and brigade troops will train in Clatsop county this year, as the coast artillery will go to Puget Sound for the annual training period.

Reports from Eden in Willows county state that bald eagles on the banks of the Grande Ronde river are swooping down on young lambs and carrying them off in great numbers.

The 1929 session laws have been printed and are ready for distribution, according to announcement made by the secretary of state. The book contains 595 pages, as against 520 in 1927.

More than 2550 tons of Wasco county cherry production have been contracted for by local marketing agencies, at prices regarded unusually favorable, it was announced at The Dalles.

With the addition of an extra 150 men to take care of a night shift which started a few days ago, the payroll of the Owen-Oregon company at Medford now bears the names of 600 men.

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