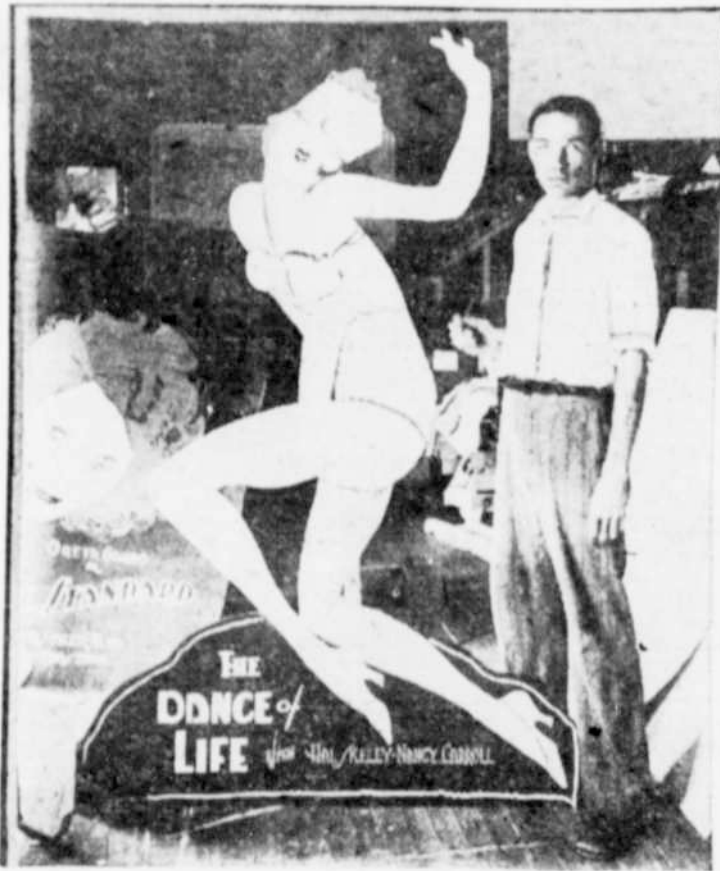


4th Grade JIM WATSON Turns Hard WORK Into SUCCESS

AMOS HOKUM—A Watsonesque Character He Created



Here's Jim Watson with one of his theatrical posters drawn for the Paramount-Publix Theatre in Pottsville, Pa.

By Sam H. READING
Only a very foolish person would dare say school education is not valuable or desirable. But it would also be a foolish person who would contend that school education is absolutely necessary to success. If a person were to tell me that, I'd point to James (Jim) Watson and shut him up for all time.
Jim Watson refused to go to school beyond Fourth A. Being rather large for his age, he succeeded in evading the suspicion of cops and truant officers by walking very erect and looking like fourteen years of age. How well he succeeded is proved by the fact that Jim went to school only three nights after "graduating" from the Fourth A.
But Jim was determined to succeed. He did every kind of work, from making himself a professional musician to becoming a mule driver in a coal mine.

Then he tried photography as a side line and went to Baltimore where he became artist for the Afro-American. There his political cartoons were a riot, and Amos Hokum blossomed forth. As good as Amos was, Watson found no money in syndicateing it and so he went back to his brushes.

Meets His "Fate"
At St. Clair, Pennsylvania, early one summer morning, Jim was aroused from his slumber in a box car by having a bundle of burrap bags bounced on his head by practical jokers. Jim rushed to the door of the car in profane pursuit of his tormentors and found himself staring into the eyes of "the girl" who was to share his future. She had been standing innocently while the jokers were enjoying themselves at Jim's expense.

The friendship which grew out of this meeting blossomed and ripened only to be interrupted by the World War in which Mr. Watson volunteered to fight for a democracy which, up to this, had failed to provide him a living.

Battles — Blood — Peace
Back from the war came a new James Watson, headed straight for the girl of his pre-war choice. He found her, wooed her, and won her and then the real struggle started.

Jim struggled harder than ever, even though they told him that two could live as cheaply as one. Sometimes up and sometimes down, doing his very best, but always something failed to "click." Jim tackled everything legitimate but never made a show of success.

Drew Fairly Well
Jim had always been able to draw fairly well although it must have come by instinct because not much

drawing is taught in the fourth grade. However, he decided to become a sign painter. The only obstacle was that Jim didn't know how to paint signs and was too busy feathering a nest for the now three Watsons to go to school and learn.
He went to a large department store in Pottsville, Pa., and offered to make the signs and show cards and price tags for the store if they would give him the job as porter and supply materials for his sign painting. The store manager was probably Scotch and readily accepted his proposition.
Jim set to work as porter, and just how much material he spoiled in learning his chosen art of sign painting will never be known, unless the sewers of Pottsville tell tales out of school. There is reason to believe,

Pottsville, Pa., Boy Couldn't be Made to stay in School after he Finished the 4th Grade. He tried Music, Cartooning, Mining, Soldiering and Marrying, before he made good as a Creator of Theatre Posters.

however, that there was plenty of spoilage. But Jim worked determinedly on and finally gave up the position to start a little sign shop of his own. This promptly failed and Jim was once more faced with the task of making a living for the now five Wat-

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