

THEATERS - SPORTS - SOCIETY & WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

HOW BLACK COMEDY COMEDY GOT IT'S START IN AMERICA

HOW BLACK-FACE COMEDY GOT ITS START IN U. S.

New York, Dec. —One hundred years ago at the opening performance at the Old Bowery Theatre here, Tom Rice, a comedian, set a new style in theatrical entertainment when he introduced a black face stunt and sang a song. At the end of each verse he gave a peculiar step, "rockin' de reel". . . . and these were the words of his refrain: "Wheel about, turn about, do jis so' eberty time I wheel about I jump Jim Crow."

It is related that: "the orchestra pit and the four circling balconies rocked and cheered, forgot the tragedy that hid behind the program, forgot that another play was to come, forgot even to munch peanuts and throw the shells about in the accepted manner of those times. A song sung in the intermission by a tall, thin blackface comedian had set the patrons wild with delight. Six times they brought back the singer to repeat his song before they would let him go."

The song was "Jump Jim Crow", the singer, Thomas Dartmouth Rice. Before that time the humble name of Jim Crow had had no special significance. That evening it took root in the English language, where it is now as firmly fixed as Uncle Sam or John Bull.

Rice was a New Yorker, born in 1808, in the old Seventh Ward, where the Manhattan Bridge now casts its shadow. Apprenticed in youth to a carver, he drifted to the stage. The Louisville Courier Journal editorially claims that: "The origin of Jim Crow can be traced directly to Louisville. Tom Rice was playing at one time at the old Louisville Theatre, which stood

at Fourth and Green (now Liberty), and behind the theatre there was a livery stable where an amusing old Negro worked. His name was Jim Crow, and Rice and the other actors had taken to watching him as he went about his work in the stable yard. Laurence Hutton in his 'Curiosities' quotes a description of Jim Crow written by one who has seen him:

"He was very much deformed, the right shoulder was drawn up high, and the left leg was stiff and crooked at the knee, which gave him a painful, but at the same time ludicrous limp. He was in the habit of crooning a queer old tune, to which he had applied words of his own. At the end of each verse he gave a peculiar step, 'rockin' de heel' . . . and these were the words of his refrain: "Wheel about I jump Jim Crow."

"Rice watched the unconscious comedy of this performance, and determined to imitate it. One night he persuaded Crow to come and sit in the wings and to lend him his clothes. When Rice appeared on the stage in rags and tatters, crooning the Negro's tune and doing his jerky little step. The audience was delighted. The actor, however, had made his performance sure-fire by inventing numerous verses to the Jim Crow melody which dealt with local celebrities and affairs of the day in Louisville, and these little jingles brought down the house.

"The next morning the song of Jim Crow swept over Louisville, and the whole town flocked to the theatre to see Tom Rice do his wonderful act. Soon other cities had a chance to laugh at the antics of the comic Negro, and Rice's fame spread like wild fire. New York greeted him with wild enthusiasm, and thus it was that black-face comedy and Negro minstrelsy got their start."

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SOCIAL NEWS

(By Mrs. Rosalie Holmes)

Mrs. Eugene P. Carr, of 1458 E. Flanders street observed her 71st birthday anniversary Sunday, Nov. 27th amid the comforts of her modernistic home with only the members of her immediate family present. Mrs. Carr's friends wish her many happy returns of the day.

Professor A. and Dr. Jeanette Matilsky were hosts at a post-Thanksgiving dinner on last Saturday night honoring Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Franklin. The menu consisted of a combination of American, Russian and Jewish dishes. Later in the evening other guests who were invited in were Mr. and Mrs. H. Goldstein, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peransi and Mr. and Mrs. Shernski. Bridge was enjoyed to a late hour.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Pickett were hosts at breakfast on Sunday morning November 27th for the pleasure of Mrs. Louis Bird and daughter of Seattle, Washington.

Mr. William Gilmer was host at dinner on Monday night, Nov. 28th for the pleasure of Mrs. Freda Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Pickett, Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Maney. A delicious turkey dinner prepared by Mrs. Maney and Mrs. Hicks at the former's home was served at a beautifully appointed table.

Mrs. Grace Binford of Tillamook street was hostess at a lovely four-course dinner Thanksgiving evening for the pleasure of six friends.

The engagement of Miss Madelyn Duncan to Mr. Roy Holmes was told at an elaborate dinner party on Monday evening, November 28th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George B. Hardin when Mr. Steven Wright, their son acted as host. The dinner table was exquisite in green and crystal appointments. Large crystal bowls of pink rose-buds were set at each end of the table with pale pink tapers set in crystal candelabras. The table was covered with a gorgeous lace cloth. Tiny individual candles placed in novelty holders marked each place. After dinner the guests repaired to the living room where they played bridge. Prizes for high score were awarded to Mrs. V. Gaakin and Mr. Guy Holmes. Each guest was presented a Yo-Yo as a souvenir of the occasion.

Mrs. Louis Bird, of Seattle, Washington and daughter were the house guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. Flowers over the Thanksgiving holidays. Mr. Bird motored down to accompany them back home.

The Misses Helena and Grace Searle, the charming daughters of Rev. and Mrs. Robert Searle were hostesses at a delicious dinner Thanksgiving at the home of their parents in Brentwood. The table was laid for fifteen guests and was pretty indeed, with its centre-piece of pink and white asters, carnations and marigolds with white and blue linen cloth. Games and music were the diversions. Noted among the guests were Mrs. Madelyn Wafer and son and Messrs. R. Daniels and Lloyd Fitch. Every one enjoyed the delightful affair.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morgan were hosts at the regular meeting of the Sunday Night Supper Club on November 27th at their residence, 404 Buffalo street.

The dining table was resplendent in its snowy linen cloth set with exquisite china and silver ware. Ivory tapers blended beautifully with the pale yellow chrysanthemums that formed the attractive centre-piece. Yellow handpainted place cards made interesting "noise-makers" between each of the delicious four-courses.

Mrs. Triplett, Mrs. Morgan's mother, assisted her in serving the guests. Later in the evening, the repeat enjoyed games and music. At the table sat Mrs. Morgan in a grey and black attire; Mrs. Frank Adams in red crepe back satta, lace trimmed; Mrs. Willis Reed in flowered black silk and Mrs. Jerome Franklin in white flat crepe with which she wore a lace jacket. Their husbands wore tuxedos.

The young people are welcoming back home Mr. Robert Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. George B. Hardin who has been in Seattle for the past year. "Bob" as he is intimately called by friends, looks fine and says he's glad to be back home again.

Mrs. Laura Lapsley, of Victoria, B. C., arrived in Portland last Saturday from Seattle where she stopped over the Thanksgiving holidays with Mrs. Helen Leftridge. Mrs. Lapsley who has considerable property holdings in Portland is combining business with pleasure. She will remain indefinitely at the home of her cousin, Mrs. Ruby White at 65 E. 19th street.

Invitations have been issued to members of the younger set, requesting their presence at a formal dance to be given by the Trianon Girl Reserves at the gym of the Williams Ave. "Y", on Friday evening, Dec. 16, from 8 to 12. Great preparations have been made to make the dance a gala event.

Seattle News

(By "Duck" Jordan, 318 - 23rd Av. N.)

ADVOCATE ON SALE AT BROWN'S BARBERSHOP, cor. 23rd & Madison

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. McCullough celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary at the Tennis Club on November 28th.

Joe Stanton's "Jug Band" have been entertaining at several white functions recently. They have many engagements dated for the month of December. The band consists of the following: "Chink" Winslow, "Duck" Jordan, Gene Holmes, Wm. Brownling, Julian Henson and Joe Stanton.

Mr. Alvester Warfield returned to Seattle after a month's trip to cities in Montana, Oregon and eastern Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brooks (nee Frances Chatters) and family spent the Thanksgiving holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Chatters.

Mrs. Burton James, directress of the Repertory Theatre, University of Washington, gave a most gripping address on the "Influence of the Negro in Modern Art", Sunday night Nov. 20th at the First A. M. E. Church. She was most ably supported by Seattle's famous A. M. E. choir under the direction of Prof. L. L. McGruder. The choir crowned themselves with glory. The church was crowded to capacity. The second of this series will be given at midnight on Christmas evening.

Miss Odessa Smith celebrated her birthday anniversary at the home of her aunt on Sunday night. Miss Luella Anderson is confined to her bed with a cold. Mr. Danny Allen and Homer Harris popular football stars were chosen on the All-City first team. Brennan King also a popular football star, was chosen for the all-City third team.

Mr. Ted Jones of Portland, Oregon will leave for his home tomorrow after a month's visit in Seattle.

The A. B. C. Girls Club met at the Presbyterian church at 22nd and Cherry streets. Tea and cake were served. Their president, Miss Alice Lewis was speaker of the evening.

Mrs. J. S. Jackson who has been suffering with a sprained ankle is able to be out again to the delight of her friends.

Miss Luella Anderson gave a skating party at Crystal Pool on Friday evening. Quite a number were out and enjoyed the evening's fun.

Mr. Roy Holmes left Sunday night for Portland where he will spend a few days with his fiancée.

Friends were surprised to learn of the marriage of Miss Arline J. Stewart of Salt Lake City, Utah, to Mr. Letcher Yarbough of Seattle. The happy couple are residing in the Al-dolph Apartments.

Rites were held at the First Methodist Church for the late Senator Wesley Jones. Prominent colored citizens who attended the funeral were: Messrs. John Gayton, Sr., Willard Hood, Horace Gayton and Prof. L. L. McGruder.

Miss Vivian Jones, of Vancouver, B. C., who has been visiting Seattle will return to her home on Monday.

Miss Viola Ownsby entertained the following at her home on Wednesday evening: Dorothea Young, Gallord Brown, Gene Holmes, Yvonne Chatters, and Harold Benning. A delightful time was spent by all.

Mr. and Mrs. William Chandler were hosts at dinner Thanksgiving Day for the pleasure of their immediate family.

Among out of town guests at the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary reception given by Mr. and Mrs. C. L. McCullough at the Tennis Club last Monday night were Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin and Mr. W. L. Reese, of Portland. Over a hundred guests called and left many exquisite gifts for the popular couple.

Hi-Ways to Health by ADA R. MAYNE OREGON DAIRY COUNCIL

MILK - THE FOUNDATION OF THE DIET

There is a universal agreement among food authorities that the nutritional needs of people are best served when adequate amounts of milk are included in the diet. By an adequate amount of milk is meant the standard, not long established after much research and study, of a quart daily for children through the period of growth and a pint daily for adults. Milk is conceded to be the most important single article of food for the maintenance of health of both child and adult. A question frequently asked at this time is: Does the fact, that the food fund is reduced, alter the rule of one quart of milk daily for children and one pint for adults? Good authorities are again agreed that when the food fund is reduced to a minimum, milk still should be regarded as a necessity and should continue to be included as a staple article of the diet. Dr. H. C. Sherman, noted scientist, says that in case where the food fund is reduced to a minimum, the dietary should be built around bread and milk. "The lower the level of expenditure", he says, supplementing a little of some inexpensive fruit or vegetable. In making suggestions for the low cost diet the U. S. Department of Agriculture stipulates one quart of milk daily for the child and one pint or more daily for the adult as being essential.

Locals

A CORRECTION

It was reported that Robert Saint Clair, Half Dollar Bill, as he is best remembered by the old timers in Portland where he and his father, the late "Dollar Bill" lived for many years ago by a Filipino who ran amuck in that city. However we learn that Half Dollar Bill was one of those wounded by the crazed man and not killed as was first reported.

George Anderson, a young man who hails from Seattle, is here and is a guest at the Park hotel on Glisan St.

Jess Ence, formerly a captain in the Portland hotel dining room, is now the manager of the Oregon hotel on Broadway.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Reese and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Martin motored to Seattle to attend the twenty fifth wedding anniversary on Monday, the 28th, of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. McCullough.

Theaters

ALDER - Sun, Mon, Nov. 27 28 Edmund Lowe, Claudette Colbert and Stuart Erwin in "Misleading Lady". Nov. 29-30-Dec. 1. Adolph Menjou, Lily Damita and Eric Von Stroheim in "Friends and Lovers", an RKO picture plus Zasu Pitts and Thelma Todd comedy; Fri. Sat., Dec. 2-3 James Cagney, Loretta Young in "Taxi" a Warner picture plus Metrotrone News and other shorts. Any seat 15 Cents any time.

MUSIC BOX - Sun, Mon, Tues, Nov. 27-28-29, Paul Muni, Ann Dvorak in "SCARFACE", a United Artist picture. A picture sensation that stirred the country. Wed., Thurs., Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Joe E. Brown, Evelyn Knapp in "FIREMAN, SAVE MY CHILD", a First National Picture plus: Eddie Quillan, "The Big Shot", Fri. Sat., Dec. 2-3, Regis Toomey, Sue Carroll in "GRAFT", a Universal picture plus "STREET O WOMEN".

MUSIC BOX - Sun, Mon, Tues, Dec. 4, 5, 6, Slim Sumnerville, Zasu Pitts in "THE UNEXPECTED FATHER", a Universal picture. Wed., Thurs., Dec. 7, 8, Barbara Stanwyck in "SO BIG", a First National Picture - one of the year's truly worth while pictures. Fri., Sat., Dec. 9, 10, Boris Karloff, May Clark in "RANKENSTEIN", a Universal Picture.

BLUE MOUSE - Sun, Mon, Nov. 27, 28, Betty Compson, Ivan Lebedeff and Anita Louise in "GAY DIPOLO MAT", an RKO Pathe Feature; also Mack Sennett comedy and other shorts. Tu., Wed., Th., Nov. 29, 30, Dec. 1, Zasu Pitts, Wm. Collier, Jr., and Una Merkel in "THE SECRET

NEW FUNERAL HOME OPENS DOORS

Benninghoff And Gaddie, Sponsors For City's Latest Modern Mortuary

(By The Editor) We had the pleasure of being piloted through the newly established mortuary, Benninghoff & Gaddie at 335 Sixth street on the corner of Market, one day this week. The building itself is one of Portland's old aristocratic residences which has been completely renovated and redecored, making it quite suitable for the purpose. The outside has been painted a pale yellow - almost as pale as ivory while inside, the woodwork has been newly retinted in dark oak and the new arrivals of Senatos, a sort of broad-caded silk in a soft tea rose shade. The Chapel gives a grey-rose impression with its individual grey chairs and rose shade silk couch and draperies. The mourner's room is neatly furnished and comfortable; it is conveniently and secludedly located with a private lavatory connected. The dis-

play room has murals in blue with pale rose flowered border. It is completely filled with attractive caskets priced variously, while the "preparation" room is well stocked and equipped for instantaneous service.

Messrs. H. L. Benninghoff, a Portland young man and Mr. Paul E. Gaddie, his associate and partner are the splendid young proprietors.

A sweet-faced elderly woman, Mr. Benninghoff's grandmother, Mrs. Howard and also his brother, greeted us. When interviewed at their place of business, they stated that the firm of Benninghoff & Gaddie were equipped to handle an yfuneral from the lowest to the highest and the best service at a minimum cost was their pledge.

Announcement of the opening of the Funeral Home appears elsewhere in this issue and every one is welcome to inspect the plant.

Facts About the Telephone

Northern Ireland has one telephone for each forty-seven of its population.

Long distance telephone service has been inaugurated between Canton and Hong Kong, China.

There are more than 790,000 American Telephone and Telegraph Company stockholders, and no one person owns as much as one per cent of the stock.

The commercial telephone service recently inaugurated between Great Britain and Soviet Russia is available to all parts of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, but is restricted to Moscow for the present.

The widespread investment interest in the Bell System is indicated by the fact that more than 250,000, or about 46%, of the stockholders of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the parent company of the Bell System, own five shares or less each.

PATRONIZE

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No matter what distance between To REACH for the telephone and hold direct conversation with persons in other cities-nothing, except a visit in person, so vividly brings personalities together. The inter-city telephone is the greatest time and travel-saver known to business. THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY Business Office, 352 Oak Street Telephone: ATwater 6261