

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1923

News Notes Gathered From the World of Stage and Screen

MOVIE PRODUCERS SHUN MAKE-UP FOR REALITY WHENEVER POSSIBLE

J. J. Smith Tells Why He Jealously Guards Chin Decoration.

(By Jack Jungmeyer.)

Hollywood. — Old folks who, had they lived a generation ago, would have toddled sally over the hill to the poorhouse, today march over the hills of Hollywood to the movie studios to earn a livelihood as extras and character bit players.

In the "Grandpa" of the picture "Hollywood" you saw the serio-comic film illustration of what, to lesser degree, happens to hundreds of aged men and women drawn into movie environment.

Some, aping the fashions of a younger day, seek to disguise their gray hair and wrinkles, shave the beard or both the sparse locks. These, foolishly seeking to conjure a semblance of departed prime, shear themselves of the very distinction which might make them desirable as picture material, namely, frank old age.

Others, more canny, keep their beards and let the wrinkles show. They get closer to the core of movie making, achieving sometimes even a belated career.

Not the least among the latter is J. J. Smith, technically known as "beaver" because of his bristly adornment. Facetious youth may "spot" him as a "beaver," but Smith's beard spots him among directors as a desirable character man.

Smith will surrender his whiskers when art demands, but between these rare occasions he guards them jealously. No map in the barber's chair for him: eternal vigilance is the price of position in his rank of the profession.

"Old folks," says Smith, "is inclined to act selfish when they slick themselves up, especially old men who shave off the beard of a lifetime. And such a feeling would never do in my special line of drama and comedy stuff. I do five different things, most of the time—a miner, a rube, a prospector, a beggar, and, on a long shot, I can do a lumberjack."

"The pride of the artist, of the artist worthy of his hire, radiated from his grizzled visage. He stalked his facial ambush gravely.

"Now I've been in movies 10 years or more, and with my special acting you gotta feel the stuff. I been in so many important pictures I can't even remember 'em all. 'Hollywood,' 'The Cheat,' 'Dr. Jack,' 'Scaramouche,' 'The Pilgrims,' 'Human Hearts'—that's a few of 'em."

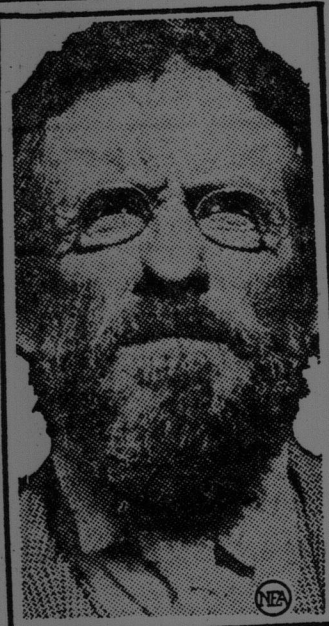
"In the thirteenth episode of the 'Perils of the Yukon' I had a swell part, give bread to the starving widow and children without they had money. I stood at the counter kinda scornful like, and when the widow says, 'I ain't got no money,' I says, real hard, 'Then gimme that bread back!'

"Now in that part I had to get the feeling that I just hated all women and children. I had to feel it inside me that I just couldn't stand 'em. I know that part went over big because I sat in the audience and heard a woman says to another, 'Don't you just hate that horrid old storekeeper?'

"Sure they hated me. What I wanted 'em to do! But suppose I'd been all slicked up and tryin' to look purty—how could I have felt mean toward widows and how could they have reciprocated in kind? That's where a beard comes in handy, for actin' them kinda parts, as the directors knows."

"If the public doesn't give 'Greed' the enthusiastic support I expect, I will never make another picture," says Reich von Stroheim. "I would simply mean that I cannot gauge what the public wants."

His Whiskers Are His Fortune



J. J. SMITH

Cissie Loftus Quits Keith Vaudeville

Noted Imitator to Go on Concert Tour of U. S. Cities.

New York, Dec. 20.—Cecilia (Cissie) Loftus, regarded as one of the greatest imitators on the stage, is out of vaudeville. She has severed her connection with the B. F. Keith management and will undertake a concert tour of the United States.

She left the two day after having performed for less than two weeks. Mystery has been thrown over her departure from the Keith circuit said that her booking was dropped for a difference over salary, while a representative of Miss Loftus said she was going into concert work because it would be less of a strain on her voice.

The Keith spokesman said that his circuit booked Miss Loftus originally at a salary of \$1,000 a week.

When she arrived here, he said, Edward Darling, chief booker, advised her not to give too much time to her various impersonations, as the strain on her voice would be too severe. The actress, however, was eager to make a favorable impression and gave lengthy imitations of noted players.

Her voice weakened, she caught a cold and on Friday of her first week at the Palace she had to cancel her engagement.

After two weeks rest she returned and played another week at the same house. Last week she was to have played at the Orpheum in Brooklyn, but did not appear. At the Keith offices it was said that when she was offered a contract for \$1,000 a week, after having received a bonus of \$300 for her Palace engagement she asked for \$2,000 and the booking was cancelled.

Miss Loftus said that her concert tour will be under the management of J. B. Pond, and that at her first performance various noted artists will appear with her, for that afternoon only. These will include Ethel Barrymore in "The Twelve Pound Look," she said.

JACKIE BEGINS TO DOUBT SANTA'S EXISTENCE

(By Nea Service) Toy Land, North Pole, Dec. 20.—Belief in a personal Santa Claus is slipping from the world's most famous boy.

From Jackie Coogan who, in so much as the Old Fellow shows partiality, has been a great favorite of the gift-bearing masquerader.

With Jackie about the Christmas tree this year stands that myriad of other boys and girls—along about the age of 8 to 10—that annually faces disillusionment of earth's sweetest fable; profoundly or mildly shocked little folk who have penetrated the disguise of frosted whiskers and the padded tummy that shakes like a bowl full of jelly.

For the parents of these, able to comprehend the perplexities of tiny, virgin souls, it is a tender problem to substitute Santa Claus, the symbol, for Santa the person.

Hard for Parents The problem, indeed, includes retention of the children's faith in father and mother, to greater or less degree, for is it not they who have reiterated Christmas after Christmas that there was a Santa Claus?

And here he is—nothing but an empty old suit, nothing but an old wig, nothing but an old hat! Or, if he is something else, what is he? And if father and mother have "lied" about Santa Claus, what else will they "lie" about? Father and mother, who always make such a fuss about kids being truthful!

Sensitive parents understand that sensitive children null these speculations as they gaze upon a tree suddenly turned to tree branches and tinsel by the dark magic of a thoughtless word or juvenile skepticism.

Sensitive parents will know many a child, pretending a joy in presents suddenly shorn of the Santa Claus glamour, remains silent under this disillusionment only because of pride shamed at having been "duped."

Coogan's Way Sensitive parents usually know how to meet the situation.

For those not so ingenious, there may be a hint in the way Jackie Coogan's elders have attempted to deal with the problem in tiding their 9-year-old from the personal Santa Claus to the symbolic—the accompanying letter, smothered with foreign-looking stamps and postmarked "en route," was received by Jackie a few days before Christmas.

In due time, when precarious young faith shall have become stronger, the Coogans plan to tell Jackie how and why the letter was sent.

Santa's Letter. Read the letter—and Merry Christmas!

It has been brought to my attention by one of my many operatives working in and around the North Pole (though I do not believe it), that you have been persuaded against me—that you no longer believe in me; that, indeed, you have even made fun of me.

Wise men, my dear Jackie, no matter how wise they be nor how old they grow, NEVER make fun of Santa Claus. Long after many men lose faith in most things, they hold to faith in Santa Claus.

I refuse to erase the present to erase the name of JACKIE COOGAN from my list. Only when you tell me that you no longer believe in me will I consent to erase that dear name—and how you have even made fun of me.

Henry Miller—who has offered her the use of his theatre—together with Blanche Bates and the rest of his company in a scene from "The Change-lings," Nora Bayes and others.

Following this Miss Loftus, who will sing and give imitations, will hold five to six matinees in New York, possibly at another house. Then she will start a tour of the larger cities, including Boston, Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia and Cleveland. Later Miss Loftus, who appeared in Shakespearean and other full length dramas with William Faversham and other stars before her retirement, plans to return to the legitimate stage. Negotiations to this effect are now going on, she said.

GLADYS HULETTE SCORES MEN WHO SCORN WOMEN Some men, once deceived by a woman, denounce all womankind. Gladys Hulette, who appeared opposite Richard Barthelmess in "Tolable David" and who has the lead in "Hoodlum Blind," hasn't much sympathy with this type of manhood.

"Jack Yeuette, in the play, is the young husband who thinks he has been deceived," Miss Hulette explained. "Immediately thereafter, he rushes madly away to voice his low opinion of all women. There just aren't any good ones, because Nance went wrong—because he thought she went wrong. And he's all wrong. All men who think that way are all wrong."

"And there are plenty of them. In fact, most of the cynical men I've heard express opinions of that sort were men who had an unfortunate experience with a woman. I'll wager that a careful investigation of their own pasts would reveal numerous affairs in which they weren't so blooming faithful themselves," she added with vehemence.

"If a woman believed no man was any good because she had one who was not, what any good in him, what a terrible thing it would be for the men," she concluded.

HOLLYWOOD NEWS Mahlon Hamilton, the handsome hero of many a screen romance, has gone to Algiers, Africa, to play one of the leading roles in "A Son of Sahara" with Bert Lytell and Claire Windsor, but he has left his charming wife at home, which means according to Filmland gossip, that the Hamiltons have separated, although neither has yet begun suit for divorce.

With the breaking of this romance comes the news of the beginning of another, that of the popular Monte Blue and the blonde Miss Dupont, who are both parking their makeup boxes at the Warner studios these days.

ROSSLEY KIDDIES BETTER THAN EVER

New Show at Imperial Is Bright, Clever and Richly Staged.

Viola Dana, the tiny, irresponsible comedienne appeared last night at the Imperial Theatre in her newest Metro picture appropriately enough titled "Roughed Lips."

This picture, taken from Rita Weiman's short story which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post under the name of "Upstages" forms Miss Dana's most delectable vehicle among the many which she has graced with her remarkable vivacious proposals.

"Roughed Lips" is a roughish comedy of the stage. The supporting cast is led by Tom Moore, one of the most sought-after leading men in pictures. Others, all able players, include Nola Luxford, Arline Petrel, Sidney de Grey, Francis Powers, George Woodthorpe and Burwell Hamrick.

A charming scene is presented when the devil's chorus of "thirty under twenty" is flashed on the screen. A full stage is in view with an ensemble of beautiful girls led by inimitable dancing by Viola Dana herself.

Along with this fine pictorial attraction the Imperial is town talk because of the Rossley Kiddies in their truly wonderful performance, which is called "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp."

The theatre is being packed both afternoon and evening, which is extraordinary in these pre-Christmas times. Ordinarily the show business is flat as the proverbial pancake the two weeks previous to the great holiday, due to shopping and other pre-occupations of mind and hand.

The Rossley Kiddies are better than ever. This Oriental offering lends itself to ingratiating jingles, lavish and colorful decorations and exquisite costuming. Strangers of the winter port variety, transportation workers from the big city of Montreal and other outsiders sit amazed at the precociousness of the youngsters. The same show is presented every afternoon and evening this week.

Santa Claus is truly having his hands full in the Imperial lobbies these afternoons from 2 to 4 o'clock. He is the usual hit with the little ones.



can you tell me that you don't believe in me? If you say even so much as that to me, I'll know that you DO believe, for nobody would be so silly as to say something to somebody that isn't!

Santa Claus is the being that stands for loving-kindness, for giving, for faith and for love such as your mother and your father bear for you. Surely you believe in THAT!

I shall know, dear Jackie, whether you do believe in me, and I shall govern myself accordingly. It will be a saddest Christmas if you shut your heart against my love and your chimney against my visit. Please believe in me.

Yours truly, (Signed) SANTA CLAUS.

Motion Pictures Are Displayed In Darkened Court Room As Evidence

Portland, Me., Dec. 20.—For the first time in Maine courts, motion pictures were used as exhibits during the trial of the claim of five Ellsworth men for salvage money because of their rescue of three yachts which were swept away in the flood of the Union river, May 2.

The pictures were taken at the time for news purposes by Daniel Marr and he identified them after being introduced as a witness for the claimants, Winfield S. Treavor, Albert N. Gushman, Walker K. Carter, T. Stanley Smith and Percy E. York. The movies were shown in the darkened hearing room of the United States district court. They were slowed up when any special scenes interested attorneys.

The yachts rescued were the Narmada, owned by F. B. Richards of Cleveland; the Kalmia, owned by Frederick W. Vanderbilt of New York, and the Duchess, owned by Warner M. Leeds of New York. They were in bathhouses at the time of the flood and the claimants, who bring libels against all for salvage, assert that there is no basis for salvage claims of the extent asked for as the yachts were sent adrift in calm weather.

IMPERIAL

Viola Dana—The Peppiest Little Star in Pictures!

"ROUGHED LIPS"

Unique, Whimsical, Fascinating A Pretty Heart-Story of Stage Life

THE ROSSLEY KIDDIES In Their Undeniable Very Best "ALADDIN AND HIS LAMP" The Whole Town's Talking About Them!

At 3:30 and 8:15—Be Early!

SANTA CLAUS in the Main Lobbies 2 to 4 p. m.

Let the Little Ones Bring Their Letters



MARILYN MILLER QUILTS ZIEGFELD

Star of "Sally" Says She Has Broken With Flo for Good.

New York, Dec. 20.—Marilyn Miller, star in "Sally," is all through working for Florenz Ziegfeld, no matter what new vehicle he may offer to star her in, and has cancelled her contracts with him, so her attorneys have announced.

The news came as a climax to rumors that have persisted for some time to the effect that all was not well between the producer of the famed Follies and the star, whose marriage to Jack Pickford was termed by Ziegfeld as "the greatest mistake of your life."

Started in Boston. The controversy between Miss Miller and Ziegfeld commenced at the Colonial Theatre in Boston, when the star of "Sally" and the brother of Mary Pickford kept things humming with a rapid fire courtship which ended in the stinging slur from Ziegfeld when they finally announced their engagement.

That rift in the relations of the producer and the star was healed, but those who know them best say that Miss Miller always held a bit of resentment against her famed employer. And now she has broken with him for good.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR POLA. Demetri Buchowetzki, Polish director, has arrived in Los Angeles to direct Pola Negri's fifth Paramount production, which is yet untitled.

Mr. Buchowetzki directed several of the early Negri films which were made in Germany.

MAE MURRAY'S NEXT. "Circus," an original story written especially for Mae Murray, will be the next production of this film star. Part of the picture will be filmed in southern France.

Let the Little Ones Bring Their Letters

Flo Ziegfeld Spends Fortune on Telegrams

New York, Dec. 20.—When Flo Ziegfeld leaves New York and goes on a route with one of his road companies he constantly bombards his home office with telegrams. Last week he was with "Kid Boots," in which Eddie Cantor is the star, and it is said that his daily telegraphic bill to and fro averaged \$150.

Geat also has the telegram habit. David Belasco is another. Frequently he will send a star a telegram, always addressing it "My dear So-and-so," and ending it with "Affectionately, David." He thinks nothing of sending a 500-word message of a personal nature to his employees.

Yours truly, (Signed) SANTA CLAUS.

ARENA Season Skating Tickets Now on Sale at Phonograph Salon, Ltd., King Square and at Toyland, next to Imperial Theatre. EVERYBODY LIKES THE ARENA. WHY? It is one of the best built rinks in Canada. It is large, well lighted, clean and central. It is noted for good ice and good music. It develops good skaters and fast skaters. Buy your ticket for the ARENA. Your friends will be there. NOTICE: New Band—New Music—New Improvements. All Kinds of Skates Allowed.

UNIQUE FOR THE WEEK-END A Vivid Combination of Thrills and Laughs. HOOT GIBSON "BLINKY" A picture that rushes over sandy deserts and rocky mountains, a thundering cavalry troop, a girl worth fighting for, alternating with scenes of hilarious comedy! TIMBER QUEEN Chapter 9. MOVIE-CHAT Something Different.

Queen Square Last Showing Today

William Farnum IN "Brass Commandments" The film sizzles with action, containing dazzling riding, clever shooting, and a whirlwind fight that furnishes a strong dramatic climax.

"UP IN THE AIR" 2 Reel Comedy. SCENIC.

Friday WILLIAM RUSSELL, in "Alias The Night Wind."

OPERA HOUSE THIS WEEK THE F. JAMES CARROLL PLAYERS INTERPRETERS OF CLASSIC & MODERN DRAMA

A Great Drama of England, Ireland and Wales AS A MAN SOWS

By Henry Hamilton MISS PRESTON As the Revengeful Mother MR. COOTS As the Loving Son 4-BIG SCENES-4

No Performance Monday Starting Xmas Mat. at 3 p. m. The Farce Comedy Hit—It's a Scream

Her Temporary Husband Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Dec. 26-27-28

MATINEE ONLY "Little Lord Fauntleroy"

Empress Theatre West St. John

TONIGHT The Well Known CONCERT PARTY From R. M. S. "Montrose" Under the direction of JOHN P. ROSS

Also SPECIAL PICTURES Admission 26c and 11c

Xmas Sweets MARY ANN'S Huntley & Palmer's English Biscuits, 17 varieties, each Engines and Motor Cars filled with Biscuits. Tom Smith's English Crackers or Cassiques in great variety, 70c to \$2.90 a dozen. Home Made Cake, fresh daily. Xmas Fruit Cake. English Plum Puddings. New Figs, 29c lb. Jonathan Apples, 33c to 39c dozen. English Fruit Jubes, 80c lb. Fancy Figures, 2 for 5c. Candy and Art Boxes of Candy. Chocolate Spray. Old Time Bitter Sweet Chocolates, 49c lb. Remember the Small Shop 79 King Street

The Christmas Gift that always pleases The logical gift for a man is a pipe—a Kola Briar. His very first pipeful will smoke fragrant and cool in a Kola—the pipe that needs no "breaking in." It's the Kola process that does it. Put up in an attractive gift box for Christmas. Over 200 different shapes and sizes to choose from. Price Plain or Crusted ONE DOLLAR