

NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM THE WORLD OF STAGE AND SCREEN

CHAPLIN PICKS UNKNOWN LADY FOR  
LEAD IN HIS LATEST PHOTOPLAY

Lita Gray Played a Small Part as Angel in "The Kid."

(By Jack Jungmeyer.)

Hollywood, March 24.—To Lita Gray, an unknown in the picture world, goes the distinction of being Charlie Chaplin's new leading lady, one of the most coveted honors of the screen. Her selection from scores of applicants for his premier comedy for United Artists fulfills a promise made by Chaplin four years ago. At that time Miss Gray had a minor part in "The Kid." She was the angel who flirted with Charlie in the heaven sequence.

"While making 'The Kid,' said Chaplin, 'I realized that Miss Gray possessed rare dramatic expression. Being adept and responsive to my direction, I made a pledge to develop Lita's talent and make her my leading lady.'

"Time has passed quickly since then, as we say in subtitles, and although I have seen Lita and her mother at intervals as they visited the studio, I was agreeably surprised to see how the little girl bloomed. Into beautiful womanhood. After making a screen test, I decided that now was the time to fulfill my promise. I predict she'll be a great success."

Lita Gray, 19, is a descendant of the aristocratic old Navarro family of California. She has the vivid Spanish coloring; is tall, dark, reserved. Like all the women of her family, says the mother, Lita has been carefully chaperoned from childhood.

Schooling in the dance and the arts, supplemented by business college education and dramatic training has occupied the four-year interval following her only appearance on the screen in "The Kid."

"I have held firm to my ambition to go into pictures," says Miss Gray. "But I felt that I didn't want to work with anyone except Mr. Chaplin. Patience has its reward."

Her first interview at the Chaplin studio revealed the new leading lady as a peculiarly shy, reticent and far from loquacious girl. She seemed pliant. But a few minutes later, in the presence of Chaplin on the set where his girl underwent a remarkable transformation. She bloomed with animation. She became galvanic.

Observation indicated that Chaplin wields a powerful professional sway over his new protegee—that almost hypnotic influence which the more masterful movie directors exert upon sensitive players before the camera.

LOCAL MAN'S SONG  
HEARD ON RADIO

Bayard Currie Wrote Music  
For Words by Mary de Vere

J. Bayard Currie, the well known organist and composer of this city received a pleasant surprise when he was told last week that one of his songs had been heard over the radio from Springfield, Mass. The song was a setting by Mr. Currie to the words "God keep you dearer" by Mary de Vere. The singer was an old friend of Mr. Currie and his mother, Mrs. Helen Estey Winkler, a noted church singer in Springfield. The words of the song are full of beautiful expression, asking to keep a loved one at all times. It has a sentimental strain that is high in tone and lends beauty to the theme. Mr. Currie has followed this idea in his musical setting, with fidelity to form. The song is melodious and tuneful, with richness of harmony in the accompaniment, as shown when he played it by request for some of his friends yesterday. Another group of songs was "O Heart of Mine, We Shouldn't Worry So." Mr. Currie's song was published several years ago and had not thought so highly of it until his attention was drawn to the honor it had received in the United States.

FEARS CAMELS

"I'd walk a mile from a camel"—So writes Claire Windsor, loaned by Goldwyn to Edwin Carew for his production of "The Sons of the Sahara," being made in Algeria and points east and hotter.

Miss Windsor has been dallying around with real shells and their entourage, the latter containing many ships of the desert. She states the camels are nasty beasts. They have nice, kind faces, don't drink, and will carry you almost any place you want to go, but their olfactory influence is anything but inspiring.

Unknown Star  
In New Picture



LITA GRAY

RACING GAINING  
IN POPULARITY

English Breeding Review  
Sees Sport Becoming Stronger.

In most countries the turf would seem to be gaining in strength, according to the Bloodstock Breeders' Review, the twelfth annual volume of which has just been published in England. One exception is Spain, where many of the race meetings are sparsely attended and fixtures may be reduced in the future. That country, it seems, is badly off for race tracks. Even at San Sebastian, where some very big prizes have been put up in recent years, the dust flies in dense clouds when the weather is dry and the course is fetlock-deep in mud in rainy periods. "After a set-back some years ago," says the Review, "breeding in the United States now seems to be as widespread as ever it was, and the recent importations of Stefan the Great, Royal Canopy and Craigangower will go to strengthen the American stud. The champion sire of the year was McGee, who has succeeded in keeping alive a male line in America which has fallen on evil times in this country. Sired by an obscure horse called White Knight, he is the grandson of Sir Hugo, who saw a sad failure at the English stud. Strange that his descendant should have accomplished such notable things on the other side of the Atlantic."

"McGee is followed on the American list by Wreck, who at one time carried Lord Roseberry's colors with success both on the flat and over the hurdles. Thus the two leading sires in the United States were both bred in England."

Regarding racing and bloodstock breeding in Spain, Austria, Germany, France and the Commonwealth the Review makes some interesting statements. In Spain the active support of King Alfonso helps to keep the sport alive, and if his support were withdrawn the sport would probably decline rapidly. On the other hand, in Austria and in Hungary it is clear that racing is returning to its former popularity.

In Hungary the deteriorating effects of the war-time are slowly but surely disappearing, and the quality of the thoroughbreds shows pronounced improvement. A syndicate of Hungarian breeders has purchased Tamar, and Light Hand, another high-class horse, has also been secured from England, indicating that the breeders of Hungary, in spite of exchange difficulties, are determined further to improve their stock.

In Austria, too, efforts are being made to restore the position of bloodstock breeding, and during recent months Fred Butters has purchased twenty-two yearlings at the English sales on behalf of the Jockey Club of Vienna.

In Germany the most noteworthy deal in bloodstock during the past year was the purchase of Diadumenos from Lord O'Hermon. Dark Ronald, the Grand Prix winner, Nuage, are both holding their own against their younger rivals at the stud.

In Italy the feature last season was the great success achieved by Federico Tesio, who is well known as a buyer at the English bloodstock sales and

who owns a splendid breeding stud at Dornale, picturesquely situated not far from the southern end of Lake Maggiore.

The section of the Review which deals with racing in France states that the season of 1923 was marked by all-around prosperity. Entrance fees, the part-mutuel turnover, the total yearling sales, the number of engagements—all aggregates showed an increase over those of the preceding year.

From all parts of the Commonwealth reports tell of the satisfactory progress of racing. The champion sire of the year was Comedy King, which thus regained the position he occupied three seasons ago. St. Simon blood is splendidly represented in Australia, for Comedy King is the son of Persimmon, while St. Anton, which followed him on the winning list, is by St. Frusquin.

Racing in New Zealand, it is stated, is seriously handicapped by excessive taxation. There is now a prospect of a revision of these exactions which resulted last year in many of the racing clubs incurring a loss. In Canada, too, it is reported that taxation of race courses is so excessive that executives find it difficult to make financial ends meet.

MARY VISITS TORONTO;  
HER PICTURE TO FOLLOW.

Mary Pickford, probably the best known screen heroine in the world, comes to her native city today, the guest of the Canadian Club. It is understood that Miss Pickford's latest vehicle, "Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall," is to have its Toronto premiere at the Tivoli at 10 p.m.

For Coolidge



Marquette D'Alvarez, Peruvian contralto, sister of Marquis de Buena Vista of the Peruvian embassy in Washington, will sing at the White House for President and Mrs. Coolidge on March 24.

"ABE POTASH" IS  
DEAD IN NEW YORK

Barney Bernard, Originator of Noted Stage Role, was Famed Comedian.

New York, March 24.—Barney Bernard, famous as the originator of the role of Abe Potash in the "Potash and Perlmutter" series of Hebrew comedies, died last week at his home, 215 West Ninetieth street. Death was due to bronchial pneumonia. He is survived by his wife.

Bernard had endeared himself to thousands by his almost continuous impersonation of the lovable, blundering clothing merchant who muddled through to success in various side lines, such as the motion picture and automobile business.

Barney Bernard was regarded as the leading exponent of Hebrew comedy characters on the stage. He filled the niche so successfully held by David Warfield previous to his withdrawal from "The Aukleener" and similar roles. Off the stage his geniality made him one of the most popular players on Broadway. He was known in theatrical circles for his unceasing flow of anecdotes.

Like Warfield and other noted comedians, Barney Bernard was a graduate of burlesque. Born in Rochester, of Polish Jewish descent, he was intended at first by his mother for a career as a lawyer. His objections led to a compromise in the form of salesmanship in a clothing house in Cleveland, so that when later he came to portray Abe Potash, cloak and suit manufacturer, he knew the atmosphere of the trade. Meanwhile, he had been casting longing eyes on the stage, and encouraged by the success of his imitations at parties, he came to New York at the end of three years to join Fred Irwin's burlesque show.

Bernard was engaged by Hurlitz & Seamon on the strength of a photograph of himself made up as a Jewish comedian. After appearing at clubs he

obtained his first regular theatrical engagement at Miner's Bowery Theatre at \$25 a week. When he asked for an increase at the end of the first week he and the management parted company. His next berth in burlesque brought him \$45 a week.

During the Buffalo exposition Bernard played Warfield's role in "Fiddle-de-dee." Subsequently he went to San Francisco, where he claimed the distinction of introducing the Jewish comedian to the Pacific coast. For five years he played every role there from juveniles to Shylock. It was the recollection of the latter experience that prompted him during the last few years to express a desire to play Shylock on Broadway—an ambition that was never gratified.

Bernard's greatest recognition on Broadway came in the series of "Potash and Perlmutter" plays, drawn from the short stories by his friend, Montague Glass. These were successfully "Potash and Perlmutter," opening on August 16, 1913, at the Cohan Theatre; "Potash and Perlmutter in Wall Street," "Business Before Pleasure," "His Honor, Abe Potash"—the only one in which he appeared without "Partners Again." Bernard was co-starred with Alexander Carr, who had appeared with him in most of the preceding plays of the series. They had closed their tour in the final comedy, regarded as the best of the series, a few weeks before Bernard became fatally ill.

Bernard wrote one play in his career, which was a failure, and determined him to eschew playwrighting and stick to acting.

THE "UNKISSED STAR"

Elaine Hammerstein is the "unkissed star." Not once in any picture in which she has featured has there been a fade-out with Miss Hammerstein's lips glued to the hero's. Some day the "great unkissed" as she is known, promises to reveal the mystery contained in her un-kissing stand. It should be interesting.

A recent high wind in Hollywood blew down a tree in front of Carmel Myers' home. Her automobile, from which she had just alighted, was pinned under it. The story is true, as Carmel says no press agent could blow that hard.

Water's Fine!



Yes, bathing's great at Long Beach, Calif. But it's a pretty safe bet Evelyn Francisco, movie bathing girl, won't venture in. Might ruin her pretty costume, you know. It's the very latest in beach apparel.

HAITIAN YOUTHS  
TURN TO ATHLETICS

Will Send Squad to Paris Olympics—Soccer the National Sport.

The growing interest of Haitians in athletic sports during recent months has been remarkable. Naturally not athletic people, due largely to their tropical environment, their development is the more striking. Soccer, tennis, track and field sports and bicycling made great progress during 1923, while the rifle practice of the native gendarmes showed consistent improvement. This year, Haiti, for the first time, will be represented at the Olympics.

Baseball and boxing have never been popular among the Haitians, in marked contrast to their success in the Philippines, Cuba, Porto Rico, Santo Domingo and Nicaragua when American troops introduced those sports. The average Haitian has no ability whatever in either sport, and so far no Firpo or Luque shows promise of looming up.

Soccer is now the Haitian national game. Ten years ago, when there was a lull in the then "national sport" of revolutions, soccer was on the road to popularity. Then came a swift crop of revolutions and counter-revolutions and only since the intervention of the United States has soccer again been able to make headway. Its recent revival was striking, teams springing up all over the island, while the ragged Haitian urchins were busy kicking the ball on all occasions. The high-water mark of Haitian soccer was apparently reached last spring when the soccer team of the Union des Societes Sportives Haitiennes, more familiarly known as the U. S. S. H., met the soccer outfit of H. M. S. Wistaria on the former's field. The game resulted in a scoreless tie, the players, viewed by the greatest crowd that has ever gathered in Haiti for an athletic contest, was won by the Haitian team by the margin of a goal.

Fired by the success of this civilian club, which includes the flower of Haitian youth, the Gendarmerie d'Haiti tossed its campaign hat into the arena. The formation of the Gendarmerie soccer league gave still greater impetus to the spread of the game. At all points throughout the island the bronzed gendarmes, recruited from the peasant class, took it up in earnest and towns in the interior were scattered around the coast, once familiar to every pirate and buccaner. In the Spanish Main, resounded to the thud of the ball.

The Influence of Sport

The spread of soccer has registered a significant change in the Haitian way of life. Far-reaching effects in Haiti's social and economic progress. No where in the world is caste feeling stronger than in Haiti. White military officers playing side by side with their men on the same team, and with the U. S. S. H., a bulwark of Haitian loyalty, agreeing to play on the same team in any form of sport, the seemingly impossible has been accomplished.

Tennis is a close second to soccer. Tennis courts are now plentiful in Port-au-Prince and the smaller cities. The leading role in this sport has been taken by the U. S. S. H., whose treasurer is an American, William H. Williams, assistant director of the Banque Nationale, and also a member of its track soccer team. At a recent meeting, the Tennis Club of 150 members also elected Brigadier General John H. Russell, the American High Commissioner, himself a tennis player, who ranks well up in the first ten of the island, as an honorary member.

Prior to our intervention in 1915 a bicycle was as rare as an airplane in Haiti, for the roads were impassable to any wheeled vehicle. Today bicycling is forging to the front. In Port-au-Prince alone there are 250 bicyclists. Track athletics, in high favor with the brigade of marines, were taken up in recent years by the gendarmes as a recognized branch of their athletic instruction. It is now a familiar sight to see Haitian lads running relay races and practicing the jumps on the athletic field of the brigade.

Haiti's First Olympic Team

Encouraged by the spread of athletics Haiti, through private subscriptions, is going ahead with its plans of sending to the Paris Olympics a team that will comprise seven riflemen, two fencers, and a small squad of runners and jumpers. The Gendarmerie has already raised its quota of \$10,000 and will enter a team of five principals and two alternates in the 400, 600 and 800-metre rifle match. A similar sum is being subscribed for the fencers and track athletes, who will be drawn from the sons of Haiti's aristocracy.

The project of financing this team through Government funds was at first advanced, but was abandoned in favor of private subscriptions. While the team, by its past range performances, and with the benefit of coaching by old marine corps rifle team captains, will undoubtedly acquire itself with credit, the performances of the fencers and athletes have not engendered much ground for hope. They will, however, return with the benefit of experience and observation of the methods of the world's best athletes. This will mean much for Haitian athletics.

The rigorous and spirited athletes of the marine brigade has set the example for this development among Haitians. Where, in the old regime, the youth of Haiti found their outlet in politics, they are now turning to athletics, numbers to sport, absorbing not only skill but the spirit of fair play. Among the masses, the older generations are still firmly wedded to the old pastime of cock-fighting, but the youngsters are falling for the lure of the new sports.

COOGAN'S GONE WEST.

The Coogans, with Scott Dunlap, Jackie's new director, have gone to San Francisco to look for locations for the little star's next production. The entire Coogan family will follow soon, as the bulk of exterior in Jackie's forthcoming vehicle will be filmed in the Bay City.

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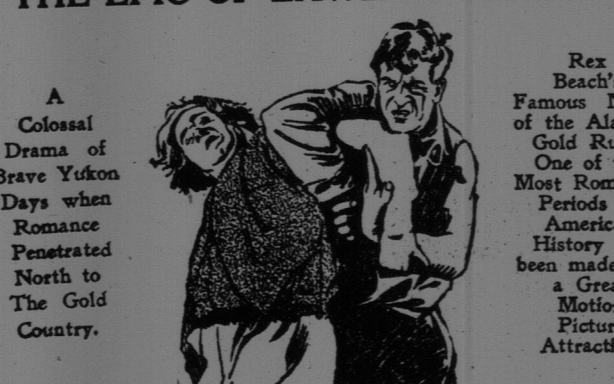
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