

# BEN WILSON WAS ONE OF PIONEERS

Iowa Boy Left the Stage for the Screen in the Early Days of Photoplay.

HE SAW THE FUTURE OF FILMS

It was a fascination for all things theatrical that led Ben Wilson, widely known to photoplay patrons, to leave Centerville, la., for a career on the stage. He first came into prominence in detective roles, and at the present time is directing his own company with the Universal

My interest in the photoplay dates several years, when the industry struggling for recognition," said Wilson. "As a boy in Centerville, Ia., I was fascinated by the theater. Whenever a circus would come to town some one of the family would invariably take me to see it, but I always counted that show a failure into which I did not crawl under the canvas. My interest sed to be different from the other boys, for I was continually wanting to find out liow it was done.

Sneaked Into Theater.

"Like all youngsters, I was given a small allowance, and when my playmates were spending theirs for candy was hoarding mine to go to the next show that came to town. When 'Hamlet' was billed, it happened I had spent my fortune for a base ball glove. I had to see it, so I sneaked into the theater while it was being swept, and spent what where the dust kept me in con-

shaft, where the dust kept me in constant fear of sneezing.

"As I grew older I studied hard, and finally got a place with a repertoire company, and later joined a stock company in Brooklyn. I then became manager of the Park theater, but a fire wiped out my dreams. Then I went back to the stage and got some valuable training in acting.

"About this time I saw the future of the films. I realised that on the screen I could make friends all over the world, while on the stage I was confined to a comparatively small sphere of action. When I announced my intention of joining in photoplay work my friends were horror-stricken and I received a storm of protests. I became an Edison player, believing the time would come when other actors would formake the stage other actors would forsake the stage for the screen. The appearance of some of the greatest actors of all time bears testimony to the accuracy of my proph-

I am proud to have been identified with the vast industry in its earlier days."

### SARAH BERNHARDT TODAY AT THE GARDEN THEATER EMPRESS IS OFFERING

The first and last time that Sarah Bernhardt will appear on a screen in Omaha will be today, when The Garden presents her in "Jeanne Dore." Jeanne Dore's husband is a sambler and eventask his uncle for assistance, but his wife sells her jewels. He loses this thoney also. Horror stricken, he commits sui-Jeanne has a son. The uncle takes for them. The son grows up, becomes involved in an intrigue with a married woman. She bleeds his pocketbook unto his mother and to the uncle. The Next Thursday the main offering will sele refuses and in a rage he murders In his cell he calls for "Louise," the married woman. She will not come and Jeanne, his mother, impersonates Louise and visits him so he may die happy. It is an exceptionally

#### HENRY WALTHALL ALMOST QUIT PHOTOPLAY ACTING

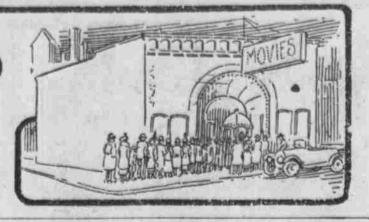
Henry Walthall, who is appearing in "The Strange Case of Mary Page," at the Empress, almost quit moving pictures in the early days of his career on the screen. Walthall was playing the part of an Italian laborer. He was supposed to be got down in the ditch and was digging away. The daughter didn't appear, "How ong do I keep this up?" asked Walthall of the director. "Only until you dig to that stone," replied the director. "We feet." Walthall nearly threw up the job. The third episode of the Mary Page series | was granted. starts at the Empress today.

### FARNAM THEATER PRESENTS MORAL QUESTION PHOTOPLAY

"The City," Clyde Pitch's masterple will be presented to patrons of the Fur-nam today. The question that arises out of this play is, did the city ruin this girl? "The City" is a whiripool—a mighty current—against the tremendous fascina-tion of which only the strong can live. The drama should appeal to everyone, exercishers, if only as a warning against everywhere, if only as a warning against compting fate by venturing into the swift. existing tide. The play is a terrific aras Firsh found it in New York.



·PHOTO · PLAYS · FOR · OMAHA · - DEVOTEES -



Bright Stars of the Photo Plays Who Will Appear On the Screens at Omaha Picture Theaters During the Week



Thurlow Bergen and Bessie Wharton - At the Farnam



MARY PAGE



Sarah Bernhardt



Ralph Hillard - Dorothy Green

## President Wilson Speaks at Banquet On Motion Pictures

was his utterances at that great hanquet that interested the country. In part, the president said:

"The motion picture is the dram the rich and the poor alike; it is the drams of the universe. It carries its nob and its laugh, its message and its lesson, speaks it in a universal language that is understood in every country on the face of the globe. It plays with a myriad fin-of gered hand, with hifinite harmony on

"If the past is any prologue of the future, what triumphs and glories may we expect? I was asked the other day what affect the motion picture had had on the drams and my answer was that the motion picture is the drama. The stage play will always be a power, but the screen play has power an hundredfold. As to censorship, the great American publie will censor them through the box office. Remember, ladies and gentlemen, that 'Old Homestead' and 'In Old Kentucky have been running for twenty to twenty-five years and are still making money. It is the public, the 50,000,000 peo-ple who go to motion picture plays every week, who are the real censors."

# SOME EXCELLENT TALENT

The talent at the Empress this week is excellent. Beginning today, "The Strange Case of Mary Page" (third spisode) will loses his money. He threatens to be shown. A large number of people are reading this story as it appears in The Bee and are then seeing it on the screen.
"The Roughneck," featuring Billy Anderson, gives this popular star a chance sterest and buys a newspaper shop to show his talents at a new angle. It carries a pleasing romance. It is an "underworld" story with a moral. "The Getaway" is a humorous film

be "The Black Crook." This is a screen production of the famous old extravaganza which was never out of hot water, so far as the public's censorship was

Another offering will be the original Rose Meiville in "Sis Hopkins."

### VALESKA SURRAT MUST NOT APPEAR IN ANOTHER FILM

The supreme court of New York, has decided that when an actress has jumped a contract under which she has promised to give her first services before the camera to one company she can be recome along with his dinner pall. A tramp was to appear and his daughter was to pany claimed a prior right to Miss Surbeg him to phare his dinner. Walthall rat's services. Before a suitable production could be aranged for Miss Surrat to appear in another company induced her to appear to one of their productions, called the "Soul of Broadway." As this play could be released before the are not making the picture now, but I Lasky company could present Miss Sur nised the contractor that if he let us rat as their star, an injunction was asked nes the ditch you would extend it three restraining the other company from showing their picture. The injunction



Fannie Ward **FANNIE WARD FEATURED** 

IN "TENNESSEE'S PARDNER"

Tennessee Pannie Ward Jack Hunter Jack Dean Roumaine Charles Clary Kate Kent, Tennessee's mother Resident Resid Hipp theater this week. The story. "Tennessee's Pardner," is a gripping drama dealing with the life of a baby called "Tennessee" by a party of "fortyniners" on their trip across the great plains to California.

Through the perfidy of her mother,

who runs away with Tom Roumaine, the man who finally kills her father, the little one is left alone. Jack Hunter takes her to a convent in California, where she is cared for. He writes to her frequently, only signing his letters "Your kind and loving father." When she is grown Jack has struck it rich and made her an helress. She determines to see her father and starts for the mining camp. The stage is held up Roumaine, who is attracted to her ways and just as he has succeeded in winning her love, Roumaine is discovplace is revealed. Roumaine is strung up and "Tennessee" is told who her mother is. She forgives everything and goes to her mother's arms

### CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG IN "THE YELLOW PASSPORT"

The World Film corporation's photoplay, "The Yellow Passport," will be roleased March 2, and will be shown at the Empress in Omaha on that date. A strong cast has been supporting Miss Young in making this ploture. play tells the story of the hardships of the Jews in Russia most vividly and it is thought will create considerable sympathy wherever shown. In addition to being an entertaining play it will also

### DID THE CITY 9 Cause This Girl's Ruin Her fight for love and honor is vividly portrayed in the Clyde Fitch Masterplece Decide for yourself. Is the

THEATER 1415 FARNAM ST.

destructive vampire?



Enid Markey At the Strand

HALE HAMILTON, OMAHA BOY. COMING TO ROHLFF

Patrons of the photoplays in Omaha will be interested in the announcement of the Rohlff theater, 2821 Leavenworth street, that Hale Hamilton will appear on the screen next Saturday in "Her Painted Here," Hale Hamilton has made a big success before the camera and is considered a star by the Triangle people. His role in Her Painted Hero," is said to fit him exceptionally well. Those who have been asking to see Will S. Hart in "The Disciple," will have the opportunity Wednesday. Today the offering by the Robiff is Ralph Kellard in "Her Mother's Secret," a Fox drama of unusual strength.

### SCORES ARE HURT IN A PHOTOPLAY RIOT

During the making of the riot scenes in "Destruction," a labor drama, two actors and bystanders were injured when three companies of state militia and a troop of cavalry charged the crowds. and learning she is an helress, decides to marry her. She is attracted by his ground, instead of awinging by the bat talion of cameras they swept straight ered and arrested. "Tennessee" escapes were "Banty" R. Tuttle, an actor, and with him, but Jack Hunter tells her J. Lud Houston and Feeley D. Royce. cameramen's assistants. Morse, a spectator, sustained a broker collarbone.

# Film Flashlights

Photoplay lawyers all look alike.

Not every photoplay is a picture of

What would a wild west photoplay mount to without leather leggins?

Why not exploit Henry Ford in photo-

Not only politics but protoplays make We like the long days-also the long

Theda Bara now wants to prove she is ot as bad as she is painted. Theda,

The Indians in photoplays ought to be

China sends \$30,000 worth of peanuts to the United States annually and the shells are distributed in the picture theaters.

Fumigation of Omaha picture theaters is costing the exhibitors a bunch of money these days, But they all believe

"unfoty first." The "death knell" has been rung for photoplay "death bed" scenes. We think

Many a "movie" finger ring looks like

### ROHLFF THEATER

Sunday—Ralph Kellard in "Her Mother's Secret"—(Fox).
Monday—Thurlow Bergen in "The City"—(World).
Tuesday—Gail Kane in "Her Great Match"—(Metro).
Wednesday—Will S. Hart in "The Disciple"—(Triangle).
Thursday—Edwin Arden in "Beloved Vagabond"—(Pathe).
Friday—"Martyrs of the Alamo," with a Fine Arts casts—(Triangle).

gle). Aurday Chester Conklin in "Saved by Wireless," and Ha'e Hamilton in "Her Painted Hero."

## HENSHAW CAFE Concert Dansant

EVERY EVENING FROM 10:30 P. M.

SPECIAL NIGHTS Monday, Friday and Saturday Augmented Orchestra Entertainers.

The Get Away

A One-reel Farce.

Selig Tribune Weely No. 10.

LAST HALF

The Black Crook

PHOTOPLAYS. WEEK STARTING SUNDAY, FFB. 6th.

FIRST HALF Third Episode The Strange Case of MARY PAGE

Edna Mayo & Henry B. Walthai

The Rough Neck

A Spectacular Picturization that will surpass the Fame of the Memorable Stage Production, in Five Recls. G. M. ANDERSON Selig Tribune Weekly No. 11.

10c-Admi sion--10c Reserved Seats 10c Extra.

COMING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17th-UNDINE.

# CANNOT FORETELL FUTURE OF FILMS

When it Was Considered Foolish Fad

POSSIBILITIES ARE UNLIMITED

If fourteen years in the photoplay business qualifies a man to speak then a word from Harry Harvey, the Balboa director, is not amiss. He served his apprenticeship with the first company that made pictures | Loved Her.' on cards which were turned through a machine to get the effect of mo-

"At that time," says Mr. Harvey, "we all thought that moving pictures were merely a fad that would be short-lived. But a few years later the strip photographic film was introduced. This made it possible to overcome many of the limitations of the card photography.

First Films Short.

"The first filmed pictures were of com paratively short lengths, such as showing a passing train, or running horse or anything portraying extreme action. Gradually little situations were enacted before the camera, and now we have them stretched out into continued stories that require a score or more of reels to tell. "In those early days the wildest im-

igination never conceived of cinematographic expression as we have it today. And in the same way I do not believe it possible to forsee what the future has in store for screen art.

Possibilities Unlimited.

"In a general way screen are is most plastic and almost unlimited as to its possibilities, but no one can prophesy the eventual outcome. Of one thing I am sure, and that is that in the years to come the creakiness will be eliminated from photoplays. More attention will be given to detail, and we will ultimately have film drama that approximates the expressiveness of the legitimate stage." The expressions of Mr. Harvey are reflected in the situation in Omaha. Already with a number of high-class theaters the word is out that several exhibitors are planning to erect new and elabgrate houses. Everything in theater com-

to complain. Yes, the photoplay industry means something in Omaha. Forty managers formed an association last week.

fort will be provided so that the most

critical patron can find nothing of which

#### THREE TRIANGLE FEATURES AND COMEDIES AT STRAND

the Strand announcement this week, the program consisting of three features and Says Man Who Was in Business three comedies from the Triangle studios. Sunday and Monday the offering swill be

Norma Talmage and Robert Harron in "The Missing Links," a throbbing play that does not let your attention falter as you watch with interest the troubles of a newly married husband, as he is wrongyour tenderest sympathies are aroused for the brave little wife as she fights for with authority on its development, the ultimate freedom of her husband, and when victory is finally won you cannot help but rejoice with her. The comedy portion is assigned to Sam Bernard in a Keystone hodge-podge, "Because He

> Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Henry Woodruff and Tsuru Aokl present "The Beckoning Flame," a story of Japan, while Joe Jackson, the tramp comedian, will be seen in a Keystone comedy, "A Modern Enoch Arden," but so wonderfully produced is this comedy that a tear steals to your eye before you really understand that it is only highclass burleaque.

Friday and Saturday the week is closed with Willard Mack in "Aloha Oe," a story of the South Sea Islands, and Raymond Hitchcock in "The Village Scandal," another Keystone comedy.

THE DIVINE

The Incomparable Tragedy

"JEANNE DORE" Will be shown in her first and

One Day Only-Today

GARDEN

Positively First Time in Omaha. This is your last and only chance to see SARAH 100 BERNHARDT for ....

15th and Harney Phone Douglas 8069 Continuous From 11 A. M. to 11 P. M. **Today Only** 

EQUITABLE FILM CO. Presents **MARIE EMPRESS** 

in "Behind Closed Doors"

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday JESSE L. LASKY Presents the leading character star of the screen,

THEODORE ROBERTS In a superb picturization of the American classic, Mark Twain's

"Pudd'nhead Wilson" With the consent and sanction of The Mark Twain Co.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday LASKY offers the photoplay favorite of two continents.

FANNIE WARD In an elaborate picturization of the widely read story, "Tennessee's Pardner"

Miss Ward in this production is a girl of the plains-marvelons scenery faithful representations of frontier life-exciting episode.

### THIS WEEK'S TRIANGLE TRIUMPHS Sunday and Monday, February 6th and 7th

Norma Talmage in The Missing Links Sam Bernard in the Keystone Scream Because He Loved Her

Tues., Wed. and Thurs., February 8, 9 and 10 Henry Woodruff in The Beckoning Flame Joe Jackson in a Keystone Laugh Maker A Modern Enoch Arden

Friday and Saturday, February 11th and 12th Willard Mack in Aloha Oe. Raymond Hitchcock in The Village Scandal

