

# PLOT MORE TO MOVIE PUBLIC

### Show Patrons Are Less Concerned Now With Stars, Indicated

Hollywood. (UP)—The story seems to be gaining more and more in importance in the business of making movies and accordingly the face of the star seems to be losing ground.

The lingering close-ups are finding the cutting room floor in greater quantity and, incidentally this trend emphasizes the importance of the cutter, technically known as the film editor.

Stars have been made and broken in cutting rooms, and many ambitious screen players, after laboring for days before the camera, have been eliminated entirely from a picture by the cutter's scissors.

Many "sick" pictures—those pronounced failures—have been salvaged by the deft art of the cutter. And others have been ruined by a few untimely snips of the shears.

Frank Lawrence, one of Hollywood's foremost cutters, now employed by the Caddo company in the editing of "Hell's Angels," has an interesting slant on the development.

"In the old days a producer could capitalize upon the beauty and reputation of his stars by flashing them on the screen in a series of never ending close-ups. If the personalities were beautiful, the picture would 'click' regardless of the merits of the plot.

"Today it is the story that counts. The film editors no longer strive to please the performers by emphasizing the close-ups. The films must be cut to fit the 'audience mind' and screen patrons have become educated to the appreciation of story values.

"The film editor, therefore, is using his shears with reckless disregard of the feeling of the performers. Having in mind his audience, he edits the picture to make a connected, plausible, smooth-running comedy or drama.

"It's tough on the stars but it's a worthwhile development."

## CHEWING GUM AND RAISINS BECOMING POPULAR IN JAPAN

Tokio, (UP)—Chicago chewing gum and California raisins have gained a firm foothold in Japan.

A United Press correspondent who walked around the Izu peninsula was surprised to see chewing gum of the same variety supposed to be favored by all American telephone operators and stenographers, and boxed California raisins, in practically every remote village. Gay packages of the American products were displayed in practically every remote fishing village, even in the tiny hamlets far off the railways and motor roads.

Japanese, as a whole, have not taken up the chewing gum habit but seem increasingly inclined to do so in line with the general tendency to adopt American customs. Raisins this year proved a popular New Year confection.

American toilet products such as tooth paste, talcum powder and soaps were much less in evidence in the small towns this New Year, probably because of the increasing number of satisfactory Japanese brands on the market. Practically all manufactured products particularly in the notions and variety lines were Japanese made, although imported articles might be obtained in larger shops in the small cities.

The whole of the Izu peninsula—famous for its hot springs resorts—has undergone a great development during the last year and many new bridges and motor roads have been opened. Foreign style hotels are operating in a number of the resort towns, with especially good accommodations in Atami and Funabara.

### Kansas Bans Billboards.

From the New York Times. Slowly, but cumulatively, evidence piles up that the nation is determined to rid its highways of obnoxious billboards. The latest indication comes from Kansas, where the supreme court has upheld the constitutionality of a law prohibiting signs other than road markers on the rights of way of highways.

Elsewhere throughout the country the fight against the billboards is being steadily waged. Each season sees an increase in the number of persons determined that the roads shall be kept free from unsightly obstructions. Women's clubs, garden clubs, civic organizations of all sorts, are quietly proceeding with the work of public education. The outcome is inevitable, as every motorist in time becomes an opponent of billboards. The advertisers cannot continue to profit from the use of a medium which is obnoxious to the very people to whom it is designed to appeal.

Every decision such as that handed down in Kansas strengthens the cause of those who wish to see this defacement of the landscape ended. In view of the short time that has elapsed since the campaign against billboards was opened the progress has been so great as to make it clear that the movement has the support of the people of all sections.

### Slacker.

From the Los Angeles Times. George Bernard Shaw was taking pot shots at modern society. "Old age has only itself to blame if it has found that the young people do not treat it with respect. Actions that are natural for infants, forgivable in youth, become unpardonably silly in old age.

"A curate was admonishing a sweet young thing for lack of respect to her grandmother, when the girl impatiently interrupted him. "I know that grandma is old and feeble," she admitted, "but that is no reason why she shouldn't sweep up her own cigarette stubs."

## Out Our Way



MAKING A LONG STORY SHORT.

By Williams

### Blackmer in Exile.

From the Boston Transcript. Henry M. Blackmer is in exile in Paris because of his refusal to heed the summons of the Senate and the courts and come to this country to testify in the oil investigation. In the days before the public knew anything about Teapot Dome, Blackmer had a home in Denver. He was prominent in the world of oil. It had enriched him, and enabled him to live in luxury. Then came the Senate investigation, the exposures which have publicity; to the dealings of Fall, Sinclair and Doheny, and the subsequent legal proceedings. Blackmer found it expedient to go abroad. When his presence here was demanded he defied the government of his country. He is still defiant. He refuses to come home and tell what he knows. So doing he will be subjected to a heavy money penalty unless the law passed to meet the situation he created is overturned in the courts. But it is probably not the prospect of losing the money that is chiefly troubling Henry M. Blackmer.

News comes from Denver that his daughter who is on her way to visit the exile has had moving pictures taken of her children at play in the grounds of the Blackmer home in Denver. He doubtless has in his command the means to buy luxurious living in the French capital. He may then from time to time see old friends from the United States. His relatives may visit him. But during the five years he has been away from Denver he has missed much that adds to the joy of life for those no longer young. He has not heard the voices of the children playing in his yard or sitting by his fireside. Now he is to get a glimpse of them, thanks to modern invention, but a picture, after all, is nothing but a picture. It is a poor substitute for the meeting and grandparents and grandchildren which, in many a humble home, gives joy and pleasure to old and young.

Blackmer has the satisfaction, if it is a satisfaction, of knowing that he has successfully defied the power of his government. It sought his presence in Washington and could not compel it. But in his defiance he made himself a man without a country. For him the taste of victory is probably that of dust and ashes. When in his Paris apartment he sees the pictures of the little children at play in Denver, he may well ask whether the game he has been playing has been worth the candle.

### City Congestion.

Col. W. A. Starrett, in Saturday Evening Post. The assault on the skyscraper in recent years has been on practical rather than esthetic grounds. Led by Henry H. Curran, its enemies charge it with creating outrageous traffic congestion, unsettling land values and putting a disproportionate burden on the municipality for fire protection, water supply and sewage disposal.

According to Mr. Curran, the skyscraper is the villain of traffic congestion. According to Harvey Wiley Corbett, a distinguished architect writing in the Saturday Evening Post, it is almost wholly innocent. Both are wrong, in my judgment. Certainly a building housing 10,000 workers aggravates the traffic problem for blocks around. But the high building is only one factor in a condition practically inescapable in modern urban life. The motor car is a worse offender than the skyscraper, as is demonstrated every day in such cities of relatively low skyline as Los Angeles. As well as pack-trail, London and Paris both have rigidly limited sky lines and relatively few motor cars, yet their traffic problem is similar.

We tolerate traffic tangles because we cannot help ourselves. Better traffic congestion than no traffic. The basic difficulty lies even beyond the fact that our

### West Wants Barges.

From the Kansas City Star. Action on vitally important legislation is of more consequence than a hasty adjournment of congress 10 days or two weeks before opening of the first of the national party conventions. There is the barge line extension bill, for example, which the middle west would be glad to see finally approved without a delay until next winter. The House has passed the bill, and it seems only reasonable to expect the senate will find time for similar action, leaving the measure substantially unchanged from its present form and

## LATEST MODES FROM CHIC PAREE



Lili Damita, French flicker favorite, is on her way to Hollywood. She stopped in New York to show her latest Parisian creations. At the left she is shown wearing a crepe de chine and embroidered georgette dress and at the right she is wearing—oh, well—er, anyway, she used twelve trunks to bring her clothes to this country (International Newsreel)

### LIFE.

By Addison. Though we seem grieved at the shortness of life in general, we are wishing every period of it at an end. The minor longs to be at age; then to be a man of business; then to make up an estate; then to arrive at honors; then to retire.

streets were designed for slow-paced, moderate, horse drawn traffic. We forgot that pedestrians died daily under horses' hoofs in the traffic of the '80s; that horse cars were slow, cold, smelly, infrequent and abominably crowded in the rush hours; that workers toiled up as many as six floors to their desks; that medieval and ancient cities were swarming warrens.

In other words, cities always have been crowded and uncomfortable. Crowds make cities, cities make crowds, crowds make discomfort.

Modern life and industry are organized on a basis of centralization. Machinery, of which the skyscraper is part, made this centralization possible, and New York and similar cities are its consequences, essential to its scheme.

Either we must accept the city pretty much as it is for the present or we must decentralize modern life, return to 1850—which is preposterous. Individuals here and there may revert to the simple life, the commuter may compromise with it, but society cannot.

thereby certain to receive the president's signature.

The bill carries a needed appropriation for increases of barge line equipment, in addition to a grant of authority for extension of lines to the Missouri and other rivers as channels are made ready. It has been shown that several times the traffic that now can be carried is available for the Mississippi river lines.

The only way to make waterway transportation a genuine success is to put it on a thoroughly business-like basis. The service offered ought to be adequate to meet the demands of shippers. If it isn't,

### Road Through Everglades.

From Minnesota Highway News. Official dedication of the Tamiami Trail, which extends from Tampa on the west coast of Florida to Miami on the east coast, was observed last week. The road is 307 miles long and cost \$14,657,000. One section, from Miami to Everglade, 89 miles long, cost \$3,036,000, or \$66,000 per mile. To give a solid foundation through the Everglade section, it was necessary to excavate from one to 10 feet of black muck and fill with solid material.

The building of this and other cross-state highways has made accessible large tracts of land of great agricultural possibilities. Much of the central part of Florida was an impenetrable wilderness until the state began its program of highway building a few years ago.

Although Florida's population is only about half as great as Minnesota's, and its automobile registration about three-fifths as great, it has a trunk highway fund approximately as large as ours. Gas taxes alone yielded nearly \$11,000,000 in 1927, the tax being 5 cents per gallon. Florida, like Minnesota, is visited by many tourists every year, and through the gas tax Florida gets a substantial contribution from them for building more roads. Instead of keeping tourists away, a high gas tax seem to attract them. They know that the states with high gas taxes have good roads.

there is certain to arise a feeling of dissatisfaction and a belief the service is not dependable. The very purpose for which it is designed may therefore be defeated.

Again, it is desirable to have the authority for extension of the lines, although it would not actually be used before the next session of congress. The fact that the question definitely had been settled would afford encouragement to cities along the Missouri and other streams to go ahead with plans for navigation.

The human skin contains 3,500 pores to every square inch.

## How Much Water Should Baby Get?

A Famous Authority's Rule

By Ruth Brittain



Baby specialists agree nowadays, that during the first six months, babies must have three ounces of fluid per pound of body weight daily. An eight-pound baby, for instance, needs twenty-four ounces of fluid. Later on the rule is two ounces of fluid per pound of body weight. The amount of fluid absorbed by a breast-fed baby is best determined by weighing him before and after feeding for the whole day; and it is easily calculated for the bottle-fed one. Then make up any deficiency with water.

Giving baby sufficient water often relieves his feverish, crying, upset and restless spells. If it doesn't, give him a few drops of Fletcher's Castoria. For these and other ills of babies and children such as colic, cholera, diarrhea, gas on stomach and bowels, constipation, sour stomach, loss of sleep, underweight, etc., leading physicians say there's nothing so effective. It is purely vegetable—the recipe is on the wrapper—and millions of mothers have depended on it in over thirty years of ever increasing use. It regulates baby's bowels, makes him sleep and eat right, enables him to get full nourishment from his food, so he increases in weight as he should. With each package you get a book on Motherhood worth its weight in gold. Just a word of caution. Look for the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher on the package so you'll be sure to get the genuine. The forty-cent bottles contain thirty-five doses.

### Never Too Late

Cortlandt Bleeker nodded from a window of the Knickerbocker club towards a painted old lady with a golden bob who swaggered down Fifth avenue in very high-heeled slippers of snakeskin, flesh-colored silk stockings and a skirt that ended an inch or two above her knees.

"It is never too late to pretend," he said.

Pedantry consists in the use of words unsuitable to the time, place and country.—Coleridge.



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### Misjudged

President Pratt of the Standard Oil company of New York was talking about certain oil men's difficulties in Mexico.

"These men have been misjudged," he said. "It reminds me of a story. A generous-hearted stranger attended a New York church one Sunday morning and was so moved by the pastor's eloquence that he decided to put a \$50 bill in the collection plate.

"He was as modest a man as he was generous, and when the collector approached he relined the bill up and concealed it in his fist; but as he was about to make his splendid contribution the collector frowned down at that tightly clenched fist and jerked the plate back and whispered softly: "No. Give it to me, sir. One has just come off my coat."

### Crusoe's Isle Tunes In

The island of Juan Fernandez, off the western coast of Chile, which was made famous by "Robinson Crusoe," is no longer isolated from the world. The island now boasts of a Red Cross dispensary and wireless communication with Valparaiso.

### It's Just a Habit

Tramp—Mum, I'm desperate. I haven't eaten for three days. Lady (who has been on a diet)—Nonsense! I felt that way myself at first.—Life.

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