

OPEN-AIR PAGEANTS and PLAYS



THE American people, ever keen for something new, have during the past year or two been indulging their fancy to an ever-increasing extent for a new form of amusement,—that is it is new to the United States although it has had great vogue from time out of mind, in all the leading European countries. The open-air pageant or play is the object of this new fad,—if it may be called,—and the new style out-door entertainments are by no means confined as some people might suppose to the summer months. Indeed the spring is a favorite time for this form of "return to nature" whereas many such spectacles are held in the autumn and finally we are coming to find such productions provided as among the leading mid-winter attractions of such favored regions as Florida and Southern California.

The people who do catering of amusements as a business were sort of caught unawares by this sudden popularity of the open-air pageant or play. It spread suddenly and of its own accord so to speak and thus we see an explanation of the fact that nearly all of these big spectacles are promoted by artistic or public-spirited private citizens who have no thought of gain in the matter. Similarly almost all the parts in such open-air dramas are enacted by amateurs rather than by professional actors and dancers. And finally the proceeds of almost every one of these undertakings have been devoted to some worthy cause.



SCENE IN A GREEK OPEN-AIR PLAY



A CHILD ACTRESS IN AN OPEN-AIR PLAY



SCENE IN AN OPEN-AIR PAGEANT



A PARTICIPANT IN AN OPEN-AIR PLAY



MRS. ALBERT CLIFFORD BARNEY IN GREEK PLAY

—If not to charity at least to some philanthropic purpose or to some form of municipal betterment for the community in which this latest style of moving picture is presented.

As has been said, open-air plays and pageants that tell a story have been annual events in Europe from time out of mind. The best-known of these, of course, is the world-famous Passion Play which is held once every ten years and which thousands upon thousands of Americans witnessed during the last past presentation. There are many Americans, however, who claim that the idea of the distinctively American pageant as developed during the past few years in this country has not been transplanted bodily from the Old World as many persons suppose. Certain it is that New World influences have had a part in the evolution of this novel class of drama.

For instance, the Indians conducted in their palmy days some of the most wonderful spectacles the world has ever known and a remnant of those picturesque rites may yet be witnessed among the Pueblo Indians of the Southwest. Consequently, if the original Americans handed down to us some of the ideas for our modern open-air

our cities,—as for instance, the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, the frontier fetes held annually in many western cities, the Veiled Prophet parades and the midwinter Carnivals of Roses in Southern California. Yet another factor that has undoubtedly helped to bring this whole broad subject to public attention is the penchant which many of our schools and colleges have shown for this form of entertainment. Particularly has the open-air spectacle entrenched itself at the colleges for wo-

men and the big preparatory schools for girls and there is scarce one of these institutions throughout the length and breadth of the land that does not now boast at least one elaborate play or pageant on the campus each year.

Companies of amateurs and organizations of professionals have presented Shakespeare's plays in sylvan surroundings in various parts of the country,—as for instance has annual event of this kind on the White House lawn at Washington,—but for the most part these events introduce original productions and in most instances not only is the dialogue original but the music has been specially composed and the dances specially arranged for that particular event. At the most notable pageant of 1910,—that held at the home of the late Edward MacDowell in New Hampshire,—the musical masterpieces of America's most famous composer were specially arranged to form a musical setting for the open-air drama.

Many of the spectacles which have been presented by local talent in various American communities are historical in theme, being designed to recount the events of the most stirring periods in the history of the respective regions where they are presented. However, the latest leaning seems to be toward Greek plays, original or otherwise. Undoubtedly the flowing costumes of the Grecian mode lend themselves to graceful posing and the current popularity of classical dancing has helped some. Among the women prominent in the production of Greek spectacles,—and almost all the projects for open-air theatricals are in the hands of women,—is Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney of Cincinnati and Washington, D. C., who has great wealth to allow the indulgence of her penchant for the artistic and the dramatic in new guise.

WHO'S WHO AND WHY

TO RULE A YOUNG REPUBLIC



From a hungry newsboy on the streets of Washington to the presidency of the youngest republic in the world is the remarkable record of Dick Ferris of Los Angeles. Coincidentally with the revolution in Mexico headed by Madero there broke out a revolt against Mexican authority in Lower California and one of those who encouraged it and helped to finance it was Ferris. A filibustering expedition fitted out by Ferris left San Francisco for Lower California and without much of a struggle the weakened authority of Mexico was overthrown and the republic of Lower California created. Of this new republic Ferris has been elected president.

Ferris was a "newsy" on the streets of Washington twenty years ago and found the battle of life a hard one. One cold night after he had sold a paper or two on a street car he was injured while stepping off and one of his arms was broken. One of those who took an interest in the lad was the late Frank Hutton, a passenger on the car and then the publisher of a Washington paper. He had the boy removed to a hospital and later took such an interest in him that he provided means for his education. Ferris was a quick and ambitious youth and turned out a credit to his benefactor.

After leaving school he turned his attention to the stage. He formed a stock company in Minneapolis which proved the foundation of his fortune. Later he went to Los Angeles, where his theatrical ventures proved successful. He then turned his attention to other ventures, investing heavily in oil and fruit orchards, and rapidly accumulated wealth.

Last fall he entered the arena of politics and was a candidate for lieutenant governor on an independent ticket. Now he finds himself the president of a full-fledged republic, which may not prove ephemeral.

COOKE DECLARED NOT GUILTY

Edgar S. Cooke, who was found not guilty of embezzling \$24,000 from the Big Four railway, was formerly local treasurer of the road in Cincinnati and was well known in railroad circles. The belief is that the judge's charge helped to free Cooke, Judge Hunt declaring the testimony of Mrs. Ford and of Warriner only made them equally guilty if Cooke were guilty.

Cooke was the last of those indicted in connection with the \$643,000 shortage of Charles L. Warriner, Cincinnati treasurer of the road, to be tried. First Warriner, indicted on numerous charges, pleaded guilty to one charging the embezzlement of \$5,000. He was sentenced to six years in prison.

Then Mrs. Jeannette Stewart-Ford, accused of blackmailing Warriner, was tried in February, 1910. The jury in her case disagreed. Finally, after many delays, Cooke succeeded in having his case brought into court and the most sensational trial of the series ensued. Cooke sat impassive as the formal verdict was read, but Mrs. Cooke, who had been at his side for days, buried her face in her hands and then approached the jurors and shook each one by the hand. Later Cooke's face brightened and, with tears of joy in his eyes, he clasped the hand of his attorney.



GOULD OUT AS ROAD'S HEAD



The recent abdication of George Gould from the presidency of the Missouri Pacific the keynote of the family's great system of roads, was a confession that the fight of nineteen years with himself on one side and Harriman, the New York Central, Pennsylvania, Baltimore & Ohio and other big railroads on the other, has ended in defeat. In the language of Wall street, "they've got" George Gould.

The fight against George Gould was waged ever since his father died in December, 1892, with intermission. His first heavy battle was when he met Edward H. Harriman and Edwin Hawley in a fight for control of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company in 1902. Without much difficulty he wrested them, but that fight was to have great influence on his future career, for it was then that he began the feud with Harriman that with rare intervals of truce lasted until the latter's death and even afterward, through the survival of the Harriman joint.

The next time Gould and Harriman joined battle was in 1903. Gould planned, as his father had planned, to be the owner of the first transcontinental system and in 1903 he made the boast that within 18 months he would have his system from ocean to ocean complete. But the interests opposed to him were too powerful and his moves were checkmated. The panic of 1907 sent four of his roads into the hands of receivers—the Western Maryland, the Wabash-Pittsburg Terminal, the Wheeling & Lake Erie and the International & Great Northern. Still he did not give up. But after this the fight on his side was a losing one and for more than a year it was the belief in Wall street that the end of his control of the Missouri Pacific was in sight.

PROMINENT WESTERN SENATOR

It is said that the Pacific Coast Democrats may offer Francis G. Newlands, United States from Nevada, as a candidate for the presidential nomination. Mr. Newlands, who is now serving his second term in the senate, is a Mississippian and was born in the old city of Natchez in the summer of 1848. He entered Yale college in 1863, during the civil war, and remained until the middle of his junior year in 1866; later he studied law at what is now the George Washington university, was admitted to the bar in Washington and went to San Francisco to practice. He removed his office to Reno, Nevada, in 1888, and since has been recognized as one of the ablest and most influential leaders in his state.



He served ten years in the house of representatives and was a member of the Democratic minority of the committees on irrigation, foreign affairs, banking and currency and ways and means, where he was able to participate actively in the most important legislation of the period and did his share in framing two tariff laws and a currency law, and was the author of the existing reclamation act.

Manoeuvres of the Humorists

HAD NO FEARS.

At the height of Washington's fame there were those who carped and criticized to some extent, warning him that being a celebrity was a precarious thing and that he should be most careful, lest he do or say something that would turn the tide of popular favor against him. To these admonitions Washington merely smiled.

"There is just one thing that might be done," he said, "and that is something that will not be done until long after I am dead. By that time my fame will be so solidified that nothing can make it. If we were sufficiently advanced in commerce for this one thing to happen, then, indeed, I should be careful."

"What is that one thing?" inquired the others. "Put you in a historical novel!"

"No; name a five-cent cigar for me." WILBUR D. NESBITT.

Trials of Life in a Small Town.
"I suppose you find it a little difficult to become accustomed to life in a small town, after having lived so long in a large city."

"Oh, dear, yes; it is very hard. I fear I never shall be able to feel at home here. When my little boy caught the whooping cough every woman living in our block knew about it and recommended something."

The Opportunist.

"Geewhillskins, Skillington," said Blabworth, meeting his Chicago friend in the corridor of a New York hotel, "you must be prosperous! I see you and Mrs. Skillington out motoring in the park every blessed morning and afternoon. What does it cost you?"

"Nothing at all, Blab," said Skillington. "The madam and I are enjoying a few demonstrations, that's all. With sixty first-class cars on the market one can motor around New York twice a day for a whole month at the cost of a blue veil and a pair of goggles."—Harper's Weekly.

Playing the Game.

After having a good dinner at a cookshop Tim was leaving, when the landlord called for payment; but Tim was penniless.

The landlord, after thinking for a few minutes, promised to let him off on condition that he did the same at a rival's, opposite.

"Sorry," said Tim. "I went there yesterday and they let me off if I came over here today."—Ideas.

A False Charge.

"I hear, Miss Anna, that your young friend from college uses quite a sesquipedalian language."

"That ain't true! He talks like a perfect gentleman!"

The Seven Wonders.

I wonder if my wife will stand for that "night-work-at-the-office" gag again?

I wonder who I can touch for a loan?

I wonder if he will come again to-night.

I wonder whether he's holding a good hand or only bluffing.

I wonder how she keeps from showing her age?

I wonder if that's her last year's hat made over?

I wonder how they keep up appearances on his salary?—Puck.

She Saw Too Much.

She (after marriage)—You told me that I was your first love, but I have found a whole trunkful of letters from all sorts of girls, just bursting with tenderness."

He—I said you were the first I ever loved. I didn't say you were the only one who ever loved me. See?

Cause and Effect.

"See that man over there? Ever hear of the romance in his life?"

"No. Who is he and what was it?"

"He is Winner Loose, and he won his wife by a game of cards."

"What does he do?"

"Lectures on the 'Evils of Gambling.'"

WILBUR D. NESBITT.

ADVANCED INSURANCE POLICY.

"No," says the man who is being solicited to take out a policy. "I guess I've got about all the insurance I can carry. Looks like a waste of money anyhow to keep sinking it into this game, and have to wait so long for even an endowment policy to mature."

"But we have a new form now," argues the agent.

"What is that?"

"By paying four years' premiums at once you become entitled to an invitation to our fancy dress dinners. Pre-paying the whole term of premiums gives you a season ticket for the speakers' table, also."

WILBUR D. NESBITT.

Crowded.

The microbe conductor clung desperately to a thread on the trailing skirt of the street dress.

To the angry germs who waited for a ride, he shouted:

"Can't hold any more! Take the next train!"

WILBUR D. NESBITT.

A Splendid Part.

"What sort of a part has your daughter in the new play?"

"Splendid. She doesn't have much to say, but she wears six different gowns."