

Fading In With Barnabetta

BY T. REID

It is strange that one nearly all phases of business as I have seen the inside of a studio. However, such so, when I received the note from Con-



Mr. Albert T. Reid, creator of the above sketches, is an artist and cartoonist of distinction. Mr. Reid has charge of the entire picture section for one of the major party National Committees. His cartoons are distributed each week to a reading public which reaches the stupendous total of more than fourteen million people. His cartoons have the "bite" and point that lift him entirely out of the commonplace. In his portrayal of pretty women and in the technical work of picture draughtsmanship, Mr. Reid has few equals. The sketches of Miss Binney were made from life.

by way disappoint- shered through the sizes of sets and Stat-oots, to that par- where they were re- sponse to a thrill that st experience on the pouts. in party gown, was behind a side screen, deli out a welcoming ed me, and added, "She led me over cam- and pieces of "library" where they ed filming a scene, ed property men were arrangement of the set be the finale in her "Sue". ed into the mysterie plays, and we talked of her work, and everybody in gen- eral, and she had nice al of them. A cat ice of spades came to brush lovingly "I" she introduced ure four more in ed the cunningest lit- an she informed me, superstitions (which black cats around a "best of luck." interrupted by the Roy Overbaugh, and rent to stand at her hat he might focus nother short delay, he arranged for me "in the house." This on a kitchen table ctor, Mr. John S. the camera, and not from her act. ise: I had seen of directors with e caps on back- riding breeches, and collars tou- throats that they their directions at the ho were herded much ut Mr Robertson sat and gave his direction only those to whom heard him. Never ord, and it seemed stral thing to do to "as- stance," he said, "a little to the side board." Then in- given to the serv- surreptitiously to

watch Barnabetta, which her play name, as she iron's a pair of dress trousers. "All right, Jer," Mr. Robertson called out to Jer Austin, "Start down the stairs." The servants hearing the footsteps on the stairway scamper to cover. Jer stops at the door, and contemplates Barnabetta, and an understanding light comes over his face. He starts to cross the room noiselessly—but here, I'm willing the story of the play, or giving the ending, which is not ethical. This rehearsal over, Mr. Robertson sends them all back to their places. "All ready," he says—"Fading in." I saw the camera was turning and then I realized I was the entire audience of the closing scene in

"Erstwhile Susan," which you and millions of others will see on the screen, and which you will like exceedingly, or I'm a very poor guesser. Some "close-ups," a few "stills," and then the entire scene was filmed again, for one negative is made for the United States and one for foreign countries. During the waits, Miss Binney occasionally sang very softly to herself. She came over to have a look at the scene through the camera; she took a few steps of a pretty little dance, (above all else she can dance!); and she talked about the next "call." When she came over to sit beside me she suddenly remembered she was not at a party, but was having her picture taken, and might wrinkle

her gown "all up." So she had to continue standing. Miss Binney is very much a girl, bright and vivacious and is all of five feet and three-quarter inches tall. She has been carefully reared and is the possessor of charming manners. She is a splendid conversationalist, well educated and read, and is devoid of "temperament." To me this "temperament" stuff spells simply a lack of poise, and my subject is poise to the final degree. She drove me back to New York, in her big car with Mr. Robertson, and our talk was as rambling as the New Jersey road we travelled. I heard her express an ambition to play a certain part, but I must ob- serve this as a confidence; for if it became known it might be hard for Mr. Kane, president of Realart Pic-

Did Davis Portray Himself In "Soldiers of Fortune"?

DOES an author always try to portray the people he knows personally in his books? Many folks have wondered where a prolific writer gets the material for all of his characters. Richard Harding Davis created his remarkable characters by making a study of people, good and bad; he knew countries, civilized and uncivilized. Many of his characters were taken from people he knew; some of them are compositions of many people. It is said that he was a very keen reader of human nature—that when he shook a man's hand he knew what sort of a fellow he was and how far he could be trusted. "He looked at you right between the eyes and seemed to read right through your head," a friend of his is fond of telling. Mrs. Richard Harding Davis, who is better known as Bessie McCoy Davis, says that she feels sure that Mr. Davis tried to portray his own character in that of Robert Clay, the principal figure in "Soldiers of For-

tune." He delineates the character as the kind of a man he would like to be, but truly, according to Mrs. Davis, it is the prototype of the man he really was. Robert Clay was a big, stalwart man who feared nothing. He was a man of the outdoors, with a deep love for nature and a frank respect for his fellow men. He judged men not by their position in life, but by their ability to do things. He was loved and honored by all who knew him. Robert Clay spoke in short, frank sentences. He never said any more than necessary, but always made it very plain what it was he wanted to "get over." He was a man's man, a woman's man, every- body's man. He had a vibrant, thrilling personality and by his mere presence made people feel his power. Just such a man was Richard Harding Davis, and he left a vivid picture of himself as Robert Clay in "Soldiers of Fortune," which will be shown at the Robert Sun theater for one week, starting Sunday.

Japanese Woman Will Discard Kimonos Soon For American Style

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 3.—Japanese women, famed for their kimono-style attire, are about to throw off "the tyranny of dress in the interest of efficiency," Miss Michi Kawai, general secretary of the Japanese National Y. W. C. A., told the southwestern field headquarters of the Y. W. C. A. here. "Organization is making demands on women in Japan these days and they must be free to respond," said Miss Kawai. "The majority of industrial workers in Japan are now women—there are 850,000 of them. "The result is women can no longer spend endless hours cleaning and remaking respective wardrobes of members of the family as is necessary with the present form of dress. "Women of ordinary circumstances in Japan have 50 or so dresses made of linen, cotton, silk or mixed materials, varying with the use to be made of them. In addition the Japanese women must have at least two kinds of coats, one cut with a square neck and one with an ordinary kimono neck. "These dresses are made by hand and must be ripped apart at least once a year, laundered or cleaned and put together again. Japanese women do not take kindly to the street cars, largely for the reason that their delicate kimonos are liable to be soiled. "This movement for the adoption of a simplified style of dress and American machine-made clothes which can be laundered intact began in the government and private schools for girls where a uniform,

Start Search for Best Tailored Man in America

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 3.—The best tailored man in America may be the guest of honor at the annual convention of the Merchant Tailor Designers' association, to be held here February 3 to 6, inclusive. Just who he is is not yet known. At the request of the local convention committee merchant tailors throughout the United States and Canada have started a nation-wide search for him. He is to be the living symbol of perfection in tailoring. The specifications provide he must be a man who has never worn any but tailor-made suits from the time he deserted knee breeches for long trousers and that he must be perfectly proportioned. The man who is finally picked will be asked on behalf of a movement for "a better dressed America" to accept the invitation to attend the convention. A Frenchman is the inventor of a flourless bread-making machine that converts whole wheat into dough.

Be a Good Reader as Well as Writer, Advises Ritchey

"I WONDER how many of the good people who write scenarios and send them in to long suffering and patient studio editors are well read people?" said Will M. Ritchey, Paramount's scenario expert, the other day. "Here, to my mind, is one of the necessary qualifications for a writer of photoplays, and for that matter, a writer of anything. "I do not only mean reading the short stories of today; we all do that. I advise every aspiring scribe to delve into really good literature; it not only improves the mind, but it breeds a desire for better style. "So many people write 'any old way,' and carelessness in style leads to undeveloped ideas. A well read man or woman has a tremendous advantage over those whose reading is confined to the current stories and up-to-date novels, no matter how good they may be. Read these too, but don't overlook the masterpieces of literature. "I also advise all those who have real writing ability to turn part of their time and talent to short story writing because it leads to a more careful analysis of character and demands originality of plot as well as a careful unfolding of a story. "Many short story writers earn an added income by selling the photoplay rights to their stories after they

Three Franco-American Holidays Are Planned

New York, Jan. 3.—That three days of the year—January 1, July 4 and November 11—be set aside as days when French and American women should "remember each other, their common labor and common suffering during the war," was the suggestion of Mme. Jules Siegfried, president of the National Council of French Women, at the final meeting of the Y. W. C. A. provisional council at Paris. It was announced by the war work council of the Y. W. C. A., which expects to start the movement here. The three days have been chosen by the French women because "on January 1 every one perceives an ideal of work; July 4, America's Independence day, is a French holiday, and November 11 is the anniversary of the armistice."

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