

# THIS IS FIRST NATIONAL WEEK

## Screen Plays and Players

By KENNEDICK

Betty Blythe is going to New York. She has denied that she signed with William Fox for two pictures to be made abroad under the direction of J. Gordon Edwards. It is possible that she and Mr. Fox may arrive at an agreement on her arrival in the east.

Larry Semon has bought a home in the Hollywood foothills at a cost of \$35,000.

William Duncan, the Vitagraph star, has married Edith Crawford, his leading woman, who is professionally known as Edith Johnson. The wedding took place several months ago, but has been kept secret.

Jack Mulhall is playing the lead opposite Mabel Normand in the Mack Sennett production, "Molly O'." Eddie Gribbon, Albert Hackett and Ann Hernandez are also in the cast.

Vivian Rich has purchased a four and a half acre ranch in Laurel Canyon and is building a home there.

Marion Fairfax has started work on the first of the productions which are to bear her name at the Hollywood studios. It is entitled "The Lying Truth," an original which she has written. Associated with her in the direction of the picture is High McClung. In the cast are Marjorie Dow, Pat O'Malley, Tully Marshall, Noah Berry, George Dramgold, Claire McDowell, Charles Mailes and Robert Brower.

Years ago in Paris, Mary Garden, the opera star, saw a Bill Hart film and declared she had found her affinity. Last week while singing in Los Angeles Miss Garden met her hero for the first time. Hart gave her the sombrero he wore in many of his films.

Plans are completed by Louis B. Mayer for filming "The Wandering Jew." It is an interesting coincidence that the stage version of the famous classic is to be put on in the fall by David Belasco.

"The Lifted Veil," an original story for the screen by Henry Arthur Jones, is the new picture Ethel Clayton is making under the direction of William D. Taylor.

Wallace Reid, back in Hollywood from a triumphal tour to British Columbia, has begun work on "The Timber." Dr. James A. B. Scherer's first original screen story, under the direction of Frank Urson.

"Doris Kean is Tom Meighan's leading woman in his current picture, "The Conquest of Canaan," a Booth Tarkington story.

Gareth Hughes, that talented young Welsh actor who has had the small sum of 22 birthdays, has an astonishing repertoire of old man roles in stage productions to his credit, enacted since he was in his early teens. In the John S. Robertson production of "Sentimental Tommy," in which he plays the title role, he adds a 90-year-old man to his list—his first old man role on the screen. It is in a vision scene showing Tommy old and withered in a rose garden thinking of an old sweetheart. His stage impersonations of old men began when he was 14, when he played Cadwalader Jones, an 85-year-old fisherman, in "The Joneses," at the Strand theater, London. He did Lord Mount Severn in "East Lynne" at 16; Brabantio in "Othello" at 16, and Shylock at 17.

Booth Tarkington—it has been a name to conjure with for a long time. And yet, the creator of Edgar, of Penrod and of Clarence, may well think all these disparaging things which are said of fame. Because—a few days ago one of the executives of the Goldwyn company for whom Tarkington is writing a series of feature pictures in addition to the two-reel "Edgar Comedies," called up the Princeton Club to ask if Mr. Tarkington could be reached there. The name was carefully spelled out and then the voice at the club end of the wire said, "Oh, he is the Salvation Army man, isn't he?" This from his Alma Mater for one of its most distinguished graduates!

## Youth and Personality Win Success for Him



The youngest film exchange manager in Omaha, Harry Weinberg, has built up the First National office in Omaha to one of the largest in the middle west.

His name is linked with thorough success in the film world. Less than 3 years old, the First National exchange in Omaha operated by the A. H. Blank Enterprises has built up a film business that exceeds \$750,000 a year. Mr. Weinberg has the responsible duties of meeting, corresponding, with and satisfying motion picture theater managers in practically every town and city in Nebraska and Iowa. Though young in years, Mr. Weinberg is a pioneer in the film game and is personally known to hundreds of exhibitors.

## Norma Talmadge Plays Role of Senorita For Whom Men Fight on Shores of Spain



A sparkle from Spain. How she loves! How she laughs! How she smiles! How she kisses! For the smile of this senorita, for the bliss of her kisses, grandees fought on the shores of Spain. As the smiling senorita, in "The Passion Flower," chief cinema attraction at the Strand theater this week. Norma Talmadge wins honors for her versatility.

**Stahl Finishes Another**  
John M. Stahl this week completed "The Child Thou Gavest Me," his first independent unit achievement. It will be released through Associated First National, and will be known as a John M. Stahl production.

Without drawing on either the spectacular or the sex element, Mr. Stahl has in this picture given the screen a subject that promises to exceed even the high dramatic standard set by "Sowing the Wind," his latest attraction, which occupies a prominent place among the "Big Five."

**Farnum Abroad**  
Bill Farnum has gone to Europe for a rest. According to a telegram received in Los Angeles from New York, the Fox star was ordered abroad by physicians. His trip will include tours of France, England, Switzerland and possibly Italy. While journeying he will seek a suitable location for a story which the Fox organization is planning to produce with him in the leading role. Mrs. Farnum is traveling with him.

**Morosco a Director**  
Oliver Morosco, who in his 22 years as a theatrical producer has given the stage more than 200 plays, including some of its biggest successes, is bringing to pictures the ideals and methods that have carried him to the top of the dramatic world.

Now the Morosco picture corporation is in full activity, with its first picture, "The Half Breed," ready for release. Prominent in the cast are Wheeler Oakman, Joseph Dowling, Mary Anderson and Doris Deane. "The Half Breed" will be followed by "Slippy McGee," and Mr. Morosco announces that he has more than 20 plays that have been successful on the speaking stage, including "The Bird of Paradise."

## There's Plenty of Room for Better Plays, Says Star

Lionel Barrymore, who is playing the title role in "Boomerang Bill," which is now in production, under the direction of Tom Terriss, believes that the story is the thing in motion picture production. Mr. Barrymore is well satisfied with the story of "Boomerang Bill," which is adapted for the screen by Doty Hobart by Jack Boyle, author of the famous "Boston Blackie" stories.

"Motion picture producers," says Mr. Barrymore, "have reached the point where they resemble capablanca and Lasker, who were playing draw games of chess in Cuba against each other for more than a month. They both play chess so well that neither can beat the other. Technically, motion picture producers are in exactly the same position. The way out is by means of the story. Technically, there is nothing more to be desired from motion pictures, but where there is plenty of room for competition and betterment is in the stories.

"At present motion picture productions are beautifully produced, with fine photography and some excellent acting, but the story is often so thin as to be unworthy of all the trouble and expense of the production. It is just like dressing up some ugly spinster in the latest gowns from Paris. Then, there are some stories which should never be screened. Because a story makes a wonderful novel is no reason why it will make a good motion picture. There are some paintings that require color, and to produce some stories on the screen is just like setting an ether to work on a picture of three cardinals with their colorful robes."

**Farnum Comes in Big Emotional Photoplay**  
Dramatic art as exemplified on the screen by William Farnum has been a joy to motion picture followers.

"His Greatest Sacrifice," in which Farnum stars at the Moon theater this week, gives the star an opportunity to lay all of his great screen powers at the feet of the photodramatic public.

**ALHAMBRA**  
24TH AND PARKER  
SUNDAY—  
"The Life Line"

**ARMORY THEATER**  
CLARINDA, IOWA  
FIRST NATIONAL WEEK  
FIRST HALF  
CONSTANCE TALMADGE  
in "GOOD REFERENCES"

LAST HALF  
"MAN, WOMAN, MARRIAGE"  
Special Presentation of Allan Holubar's Drama Eternal

## Anita Stewart's Hobby Is a Dainty Dress Room



The theatrical green room of old, with its appealing cordiality, jovial air and impromptu teas, is gradually finding restoration in the motion picture studios through the medium of the dressing room bungalow.

Anita Stewart is one of the first and very few stars who have complete little bungalows fitted up for their comfort while at work. Miss Stewart's is a green-roofed, fresh-looking building of concrete at the Louis B. Mayer studio. It comprises a drawing room, dressing room, kitchenette, wardrobe room, shower bath and library nook.

The drawing room is done in Chinese design with a blue Chinese rug, oriental draperies, Chinese flowers and prints and high teakwood tables, chairs and divans of Chinese workmanship.

The dressing room is in rose taffeta and Dresden flowers, the walls of French gray. Soft French gray rugs with rose borders, French ivory dressing table, chairs and chaise-longue further carry out the scheme of interior decorations.

As interior decorating is one of Anita Stewart's hobbies, she took charge of this work herself, personally selecting the furniture, draperies, rugs, etc., and overseeing their arrangement in the room.

Walter McGrail has been engaged as Anita Stewart's leading man in "The Prince of Happiness." He played opposite Mildred Harris in "Habit."

## First National Offers Public Brilliant Plays

An idea of the excellence of pictures under the direction of such notables as Marshall Neilan, David W. Griffith, James Oliver Curwood and R. A. Walsh may be gathered from the category of film productions offered by First National during this week, known in movie circles as First National week.

In the presentation of First National pictures to the public is emphasized the strength of the organization, the number and brilliance of its stars, and the magnitude of its plans to entertain the world.

During this week, practically every first class playhouse from the largest metropolitan screen palace to the humblest photoplay house of remote location will present entirely or in part First National releases.

As an illustration of what First National will offer during this week in the hundreds of theaters that are enthusiastically open to its releases, a few of the attractions are here-with listed:

**Red Oak, Iowa**  
**BEARDSLEY THEATER**  
First National Pictures

Look for their picture program for May 2-3-4-5-6-7 in Express or Sun.

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## First National Week

AT THE

# SUN

## North Platte NEBRASKA

May 1 and 2—Anita Stewart in "Sowing the Wind."  
May 3 and 4—"The Branded Woman."  
May 5 and 6—"The Great Adventure."  
May 7—"Old Dad," with Mildred Harris.

## Fremont, Neb. Empress Theater

Featuring  
First National Pictures

May 23—"In the Heart of a Fool"  
May 4—"Mamma's Affair"  
May 6-7—"My Lady's Latchkey"

# RIALTO

Direction of A. H. Blank



She didn't love him for his hand-springs, but—  
---his music charms another savage beast!

**CHARLES RAY**  
IN THE  
**"OLD SWIMMIN' HOLE"**

BY REQUEST  
One More Week  
**ALLA AXIOM** The Man to Whom Nothing Is Secret

Appearing Today at 3:15, 5:15, 8:00, 9:30

Rialto Symphony Players  
HARRY BRADER, Director.  
OVERTURE,  
"ILKA," by Doppler.

PATHE NEWS  
CHESTER COMEDY  
"READY TO SERVE"

JULIUS K. JOHNSON,  
Premier Organist.  
Playing Nesting Time.

Frank Buhta's Prize-Winning Ad in Advertising Selling League Contest

Today and All Week

# Strand

DIRECTION OF A. H. BLANK

Shows start today and Saturday at 11, 1, 3, 5, 6:30, 8, 9:30 and other days at 11, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.

Her First New Picture in Nine Months

# NORMA TALMADGE

Harrison Ford, Courtenay Foote, Natalie Talmadge in the photo version of the big stage success of Nance O'Neill.

## "The Passion Flower"

A unique and thrilling story—a story of love, jealousy and hatred that turns into love again. A picture you will long remember because of its tense emotional character.

A FIRST NATIONAL ATTRACTION

Pathe News — Comedy  
SILVERMAN'S STRAND ORCHESTRA