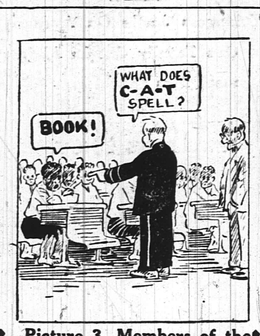
# Peonage, Dirt, Ignorance And Rags At Cheltenham Reform School

Picture 1. The Baltimore City grand jury unexpectedly visited the Maryland House of Reformation for Colored Boys, at Cheltenham, recently.

Picture 2. They found the boys barefooted despite the cold weather, ragged and hair uncombed. Some had been sent there for trivial offenses.




Picture 3. Members of the Grand Jury heard a poorly trained teacher attempt ineffectually to show that some of the boys knew how to read and spell.

Picture 4. Despite the dirty and laborious work these boys have to do, bathing facilities are provided only once a week.

Picture 5. Virtual slavery, peonage and a chain gang exist at the institution where boys are hired out by this free state to work on plantations, and then come back Saturday.

# AROUND NEW YORK

By EVA A. JESSYE

**Lyon In Recital**

Leviticus Lyon, graduate of Kansas University and winner of a Julliard fellowship, appeared in recital Friday evening at Steinway Guild Hall. Songs included were from Mozart, Lalo, Schumann, Bemberg and Strauss, also some old English ballads and Negro spirituals. The New York Sun, in comment said "Mr. Lyon has a voice of good quality, with rough borders that somewhat limit his range, and he has not yet learned to co-ordinate his breathing with his phrasing. His singing of the French and English songs was marked by notable clearness of articulation and lack of pseudo-artistic affectation."

**Burleigh In Connecticut**

Harry T. Burleigh, noted Baritone and composer, appeared in recital in Greenwich, April 29th. His program consisted entirely of his own arrangements of Spirituals with the exception of 'March Down to Jordon' arranged by Eva Jessye.

**Paul Robeson**

Paul Robeson has announced that he will stick to the concert field next season, deserting the drama altogether.

**Simons Entertains**

Augustus Simons of the Dixie Jubilee Singers, Swanee Crooners, and also second tenor of the Major Triad, entertained at tea Sunday evening. Guests included many celebrities and artists, among them Augusta Savage, Mr. Radowsky, Leila Walker, Morris Caver, G. Willard McLean, Eva A. Jessye, Hall Johnson, Edward S. Jones, Mr. John W. Garrett.

**Baritone Sings Spirituals**

On a very pretentious program of classics and opera given Sunday evening at the Ambassador Theatre, Richard Hale, baritone, included two Negro Spirituals, "Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Chile", arranged by L. Brown and "I Got A Home In Dat Rock", arranged by Harry Burleigh. The Spirituals were sung admirably and with true interpretation, sincerity as is rarely the case when sung by other than the Negro himself. So effectively did Mr. Hale present the Spirituals that cries of "More, more," rang from the audience. His encore was the convict song, "Water Boy". Marguerite Namara, late of the Chicago Opera Company and the Opera Comique, Paris, also Rosalinde Fuller, Diseuse, were other artists on the program.

**Swanee Crooners In Benefit**

The Swanee Crooners appeared Monday on a midnight radio benefit program broadcast from Station WABC, in behalf of the Mississippi flood sufferers. The aggregation is featured weekly by the Station on Friday evenings at 8:45.

**Major Triad**

The Major Triad will be heard over Station WLWL, Thursday evening, May 12th, at 8:45.

**Smith & Troy Active**

Chris Smith and Henry Troy are hard at work on a musical comedy scheduled for early production. Of course, the two melodists will be responsible for the music of said venture, and fifteen songs of feature calibre are being rehearsed by a company of 30.

**"In Abraham's Bosom" Revived**

"In Abraham's Bosom", drama of Negro life, by Paul Green, will be revived Sunday evening at the Provincetown Playhouse in McDougal street. The same cast which presented it at the Garrick Theatre will be seen. The play was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for 1926. Monday, by the School of Journalism of Columbia University.

**Krigwa Players**

The Krigwa Players Little Theater presented "The Fool's Errand", by Eulalie Spence, Monday evening. Parts were taken by Ethel Bennett, Marian King, William Jackson, Ira Reid, Doralyne Spencer, Malcom Dodson, William Holly, Ardelle Dabney, Minnie Brown, Inez Bennett, Louise Robinson, George Lee, Samuel Carthan, Levi Alexander. The play was typical of Negro church gossip and suspicion and was well acted, especially by Mr. Reid, Mr. Dodson, Mr. Holly and Miss Spencer.

## Seed Of Opera

L. Ellsworth Toomey, who has taught classic dancing, deportment and music to Baltimore youth for a quarter century, told the patrons of the Forum of Music, Sunday, that he believed the young Forum musicians possessed the seed of a Negro opera.

The statement may carry more import than mere fancy. The present youthful school will hardly be content with some good choirs, glee clubs and plantation singers. While they are developing their talents you might profitably cultivate a higher appreciation of your present artists.

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# THEATRICAL LETTERS

**TUCKER ACCUSES EDWARDS**

Dear Friend:

Travis Tucker, manager of Dixie Ramblers, now playing its third successful week at Newport News, Va., wishes to announce that the parodies on "I'll Be Drinking Corn Always" was composed by him and not by Eddie H. Edward. "Bye Bye Policeman" was written in January and 'I'll Be Drinking Corn Always" was written by me in August of 1925, featured by Tucker and Bartlett over the time with Billy Cumby's "Harlem Scandals."

Eddie H. Edwards stole the parodies, had them re-copied in ballads to sell in Norfolk, Va. There is no copywright for these parodies, but the profession knows that this is Tucker's material. Trots of luck.

Your friend,
TRAVIS TUCKER

**NEEDS MUSICIANS**

Dear Sir:

I have worked for musicians and entertainers of all types. I am now in need of saxaphone and cornet players. Please correspond at once.

Leonard A. Johnson (C. H. S. '27)
Dreamland Nite Club
So. Carolina and Baltic
Atlantic City

GAINES BROS.

Dear Friend:

Just a line or two this time as we are real busy, but as I promised to send a route I must get it off to you. This leaves us both well, and hope you and staff are enjoying good health. We are sending a couple of the latest photos that have just been delivered at Loew's office. I hope you will like them. Best regards to all.

Your pals,
GAINES BROS.
New York City

Dear Scribe:

Just a line to let you hear from us. We are going along fine. We are now located in Philly where we will remain for some time. We are playing a few dates in and out of town. For the first half we are at the Fox Theatre, Riverside, N. J. The last half we are playing the Auditorium Theatre, Burlington, N. J. The week of the 9th the Gayety for one week, in Philly. We both send best wishes to all our friends in and out of the profession.

Yours truly,
SPEEDY WILSON and JESSIE

# McCOLLUM'S WEEKLY STAGE REVIEW

By OBIE McCOLLUM

## Only One Collection

Those of you who witnessed the African jungle drama, "Kosoo", at the Palace or other Columbia houses, bought food for thought along with the excellent comedy (most of the comedy was intended for whites). The patrons who sat "downstairs" saw a morbid picture of the land of sun and sorrow.

You, who had the choice of buying tickets for "upstairs" or remaining away, saw more than the lighter hued theatre-goers. You saw your heart squeezed dry and thrown into the deadly swamps to harden or to die. You saw European dominated Africa.

Yet, who would linger upon that? The scenes were art, and for art's sake and one admission price. Producers, unlike church stewards, take only one collection.

## The Stage's Mission

David Belasco, grand old man of producers, told the press last week that he had lost a quarter million in presenting his four last plays. Mr. Belasco places the blame upon cleanliness and declares that he is willing to spend more in preserving the standard. He also says:

"But there must variety if the stage is to be kept healthy.

"Without sin or crime and with all men and women pure and holy, what a monotonous world this would be. Sometimes, I think God means that some of us should be sinners, so that the saints may stand out more strongly by comparison.

"So with the stage. With dirt for dirt's sake, or filth for money, I have no patience. But the proving of the stage is to mirror life, and in the reflection reveal a moral when possible, but to remember always to offer truth."

## Not Luck With Eddie

Eddie Hunter, acclaimed by white critics as the successor to Bert Williams, is said to have struck a lucky number by having the opportunity to lead "4-11-44". He does not see it that way. Despite a very limited education and knowledge of no trade, he had a dream.

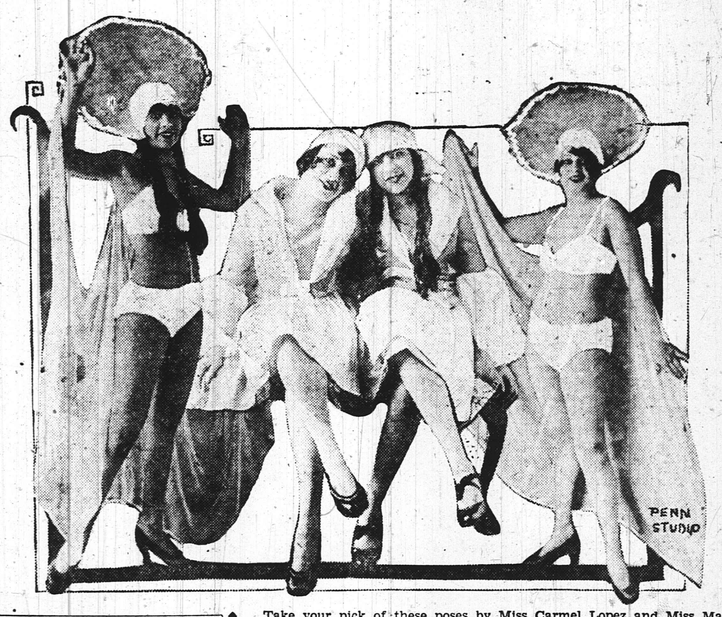
Eddie tells of the hours of study and planning he did while an elevator operator in New York. One day the famed late Enrico Caruso stopped to examine some of his work at an apartment hotel where Hunter was working. He encouraged the young striver and told him that he would make the grade.

Later, when Hunter opened on Broadway with "How Come?" the great tenor was in one of the front boxes, along with other celebrities. Eddie says that it was the result of work, and luck counted only one-half of one per cent.

## Old Partners

James Riley, who began trouping with the acclaimed Johnnie Hudgins, now with the "Blackbirds," died last week, after fighting vainly for months against gastritis. There is no doubt that Hudgins will be touched with sympathy for his deceased partner. Men's minds naturally go back to the long, lean days when their sole possessions were hard work and the death of a pal who was cut down in his prime will accelerate the reverie.

## Beauty As You Like It




Take your pick of these poses by Miss Carmel Lopez and Miss Mary Saunders, both of the Kentucky Club Revue. The center picture shows them garbed in the bandanna and skirts of the dixie maid, while the poses on the extreme ends are those of undraped figure, which caused Mr. Harper, the producer so much trouble in New York. Penn Studio.

# REVIEWS

## ROYAL

**"Sons Of Rest"**

Sidney Easton and Joe Simms have taken a pleasant little plot, some lyrics and original tunes and fashioned them into the musical comedy which they are offering at the Royal this week. The offering is not one that is likely to create a great sensation, but it is a pleasing result and is refreshing and welcome after the long season of revues.

The show is in seven scenes, with numerous tuneful ditties which are the creations of Robert Warfield and Sidney Easton, and the plot is not the hackneyed one of the Southern boy who became rich when his oil well came in and went to spend the money in the North. The scenes are laid in Oklahoma in a little town, Shiloh, that has been promised a railroad and other modern improvements. The population consists of several settlers, the "Sons of Rest" and a tribe of Indians a short distance away.

The spiritualist, Madame Loco, is acted by Angelene Lawson, lately of "Shuffle Along". Miss Lawson wins approval with her song numbers in the last scenes. The Indian Chieftain is impersonated by "Billy" Moore. Nearly all the laughter is provoked by the old funmakers, Easton and Simms. Easton is still playing his midget organ and has not forgot his "blues" tunes. Simms is especially to be commended for his work that wins one of the first places on the bill in spite of a heavy cold that has almost taken his voice.

The dance specialties are presented by Taff Rice and Robert Warfield. The are assisted by Charles Taylor and Henry Lawson. Sam Davis is at the piano and assisted by the Royal Theatre orchestra. Judged as a whole, "Sons Of Rest In Shiloh" is a fairly pleasant, and exceedingly clean musical comedy.

The chorus maids are Mildred Lee, Josephine Noble, Viola Gray, Joyce Browne, Agnes Talbot, Ethel Smiley, Virginia Roundtree, Bobbie Anderson, Dolores Andrews and Lena Williams.

The town is troubled by a spiritualist who has been cheated out of her lands, and a government agent is sent to clear up the trouble. In straightening out the land tangle the comic situations and some novelty skits are offered.

Colev Grant plays the old man character in an acceptable manner. Harriet Williams, as his daughter, heads the song bill. Her voice has a wide range and is mellowy. She has not yet swung into the fullness of her role in this new show, and is a bit deficient in posture and carriage.

The juvenile roles are well portrayed by the charming Miss Louise Williams, of the late "Shuffle Along" cast, and arthur Noble. The pair does excellent work in its duets, solos and dance numbers. Paul C. Floyd, who recently closed with the revived "Shuffle Along", carried the heavy role of government agent. Addison Carey, who staged the show, contributes his bit as the hick town sheriff.

## REGENT

**Four Acts Vaudeville**

The Regent bill is opened this week with a spicy dance and song act by Nanton and White, a neat appearing mixed team. Nanton is clever with his few songs and presents a fair routine of dance work, but his lone joke does not take any hold upon the audience. That joke is stale and was out of order before it was ever spoken. Miss White gives an excellent interpretation of Russian dancing as her specialty.

Elvira Johnson, formerly "blues" singer with "7-11", is appearing in a twelve minute presentation of songs. Miss Johnson is a hard worker, and her greatest handicap is the bunch of disrespectful school children who create disturbances in the Regent.

Dressed in full dress suits, white spats, glasses, silk hats, red roses, gold chains and other trimmings, including canes, White and Sherman, duo sports across the stage for eighteen minutes. These boys have ability, good appearance and wardrobe, but their act is a poor one. Much of their time is spent in old-time witty sayings that have lost their edges. With a rebuit act they would go over in an entertaining manner. The comedians are assisted by Perry, a juvenile partner.

One of the most spectacular acts of the season is being offered by a mixed trio, the Arigosy. The two men and woman, white, hail from the kingdom of Monaco on the rock of Gibraltar. Their languages are limited to French and Spanish, but their talent in acrobatic flying or leaping is astounding. This group easily takes first place on the Regent bill.

The Regent is leaving its pictures and vaudeville policy next week, and will present the popular Mamie Smith and her company of 25. The show carries a number of specialty artists and the "Black Diamond" chorus.

## Women On Jury Recommend Mercy

WASHINGTON—Inez Matthews, 23 was found guilty in Criminal Court part 1 Tuesday on a charge of larceny of $15 from the pockets of Henry Monroe while they slept together. After an hour deliberation by a jury consisting of two women the jury recommended mercy.

## SOUTH SEA MAID

Miss Josephine Nobel, appearing in "Sons of Rest" at the Royal this week.

# IN D. C. THEATRES THIS WEEK

WASHINGTON.— Leonard Harper and his "Club Kentucky Revue", the nifty New York production that was carried in the headlines of the papers throughout the country following an alleged raid by the metropolis police department at the Lafayette Theatre a fortnight ago is packing them in this week at the Tea street theatre. Since Earl Carroll's bathtub scandals and the vanking of a quartet of obsecne and salacious dramas and musical comedies off of Broadway the New York censor almost threw a scare in the big hits now opening in that city.

There is nothing in Harper's show now that would shock the modesty of an old maid, but the original New York ensemble was a "wow" they say. Blanche Thompson, wistful and charming, handles the feminine musical lead while Hunter and Ledman keep the audience in a mirthful state of convulsions with their comedy.

**Republic**

"Slide Kelly Slide", is the feature cinema production on the bill at this house beginning Sunday. "Ankles Preferred", one of the first runs from New York pushed the box office receipts up over the previous week. The "Saturday Nighters" scored as usual.

**Lincoln Theatre**

Laura Bowman and Sidney Kirkpatrick, scions of the legitimate, are going over the top at this house, presenting a scene from "Three Weeks", one of the best plays from the pen of Elinor Glyn. Their acting is superb and brings down the house with applause, in a stirring climax of that final scene. Beginning Sunday, "Hotel Imperial" will be shown.

# WINS GOLD MEDAL IN MUSIC CONTEST

CHICAGO, ILL., (ANP.)—Spencer Odom, 13, 519 East 36th street, Chicago, is one of the gold medal prize winners in the Annual Greater Chicago Children's Piano-Playing Tournament. Spencer is one of the five in his district, in the elimination contest, and is now eligible to enter the finals, when prizes aggregating $1,500 will be distributed.

The contestants were required to play two selections, one, the prize selection, used by all, and one of his own choosing. The prize selection was the third "Two Part Inventions" by Bach; and the other "Scherzo", by Leibling.

Miss Alice Thompson, who has been a little Baltimore school girl, and star of "Shuffle Along", is a business woman as well as a professional. She counts over 300 local people among her customers in her clothing sales service.

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# IN MUSICAL REALMS

**Forum Of Music Ends Season**

The first season of The Forum Of Music, one of Baltimore's premier serious attempts to encourage and promote the local youthful talent, closed Sunday after seven fairly successful months. The Forum has been held at Odd Fellow's Hall under the direction of E. Ellsworth Toomey and A. Johnson Holsey.

They have presented scores of the younger pupils of their own and other classes each week. The Forum is now working upon plans for presenting Roland Hayes and Hazel Harrison in private recitals next season.

After the musical numbers Sunday, Mr. Toomey was given testimonials by Mrs. Eulalia Fortune, one of his first pupils and the Rev. A. J. Mitchell.

**Aeolians In Concert**

Prof. A. J. Thomas, director of Aeolian Music Conservatory and head of the music department of Morgan College, presented his Aeolian Choral Club in concert at Perkins Square Baptist Church Wednesday, April 20.

The Choral Club has a membership of 75 voices and they rendered a notable performance of spirituals and standard numbers.

**Students Sing Mendessohn's Oratorio**

The Choral Society of Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute sang Felix Mendelssohn's "Elijah" as a part of the school's Eastertide program. The audience was mixed and appeared highly appreciative of the student artists.

**Concert Party Begins Tour**

Archie Harrod, tenor, and Matilda A. Walton, contralto, passed through Baltimore Monday enroute to Aberdeen, South Dakota, where they begin a chautaqua tour. Their itinerary is expected to end at Edmondton, Canada, Australia, the West Indies and Hawaii.

**Locals In Recital**

The choir of Perkins Square Baptist is presenting Miss Georgia Lawrence, Baltimore contralto, in recital May 5. James Young, violinist and leader of Union Symphony Orchestra is the assisting artist.

**Seven Orchestras In Jazz Revue**

Seven of the recognized Baltimore orchestras vied with each other in providing syncopation to patrons of the third jazz revue at Albert Auditorium Tuesday night.

The musicians were from Johnnie Jones Tent Arabia Orchestra, Percy Glascoe's Band, Universal Jazz Band, Baltimore Melody Boys, "Doc" Powell's Serenaders, The International Jazz Band, and Haughton Brothers.

The affair was under the auspices of local Union No. 543. Isaac Thompson is president.

# ROUTINGS

WEEK OF MAY 2ND

Miss Gonzell White's "Jamboree" Company, Bijou, Nashville, Tenn.; John Dancy's "Golden Brown Peaches of 1927" Gem, Hot Springs, Ark.; Walker and Brown's "Bright Spots" Revue, Ella B. Moore, Theatre, Dallas, Texas; Whitman Sisters and "Gang" Lyric, New Orleans, La.; Wm. Benbow's "Get Happy" Company, Frolic, Birmingham, Ala.

"Sons of Rest" Royal, Baltimore; "4-11-44" Gayety, Washington; "4-11-44" Lafayette, New York ;"Kentucky Club" Howard, Washington; Delotch and Edmundson, Mid-city, Kenneth, "Imp of Satan," Foraker; Charles Anderson's "Dixie Follies" Blue Mouse, Sammie Lewis Company, Rosalie all of Washington; Baker and Baker Co., Star, Baltimore.

"Dad" James and company, Lincoln, Newport News, Va.; "Our Gang" Company, Dudley, Petersburg, Va.; "Billie and Willie Mae", Raglan and Reynolds, Morton and Robinson, Lincoln, Baltimore; Easton and Simms' "Sons of Rest" Royal, Baltimore; Gaines Bros., split week, American and Orpheum, New York; Moss and Frye, Keith Bushwhick, Brooklyn; Bill Robinson, Albee, Brooklyn.

WEEK OF MAY 9TH

Wm. Benbow's "Get Happy" Company, Bijou Theatre, Nashville, Tenn.; Gonzell White's "Jamboree" Company, Palace Theatre, Memphis, Tenn.; Bustterr Lee's "Pomp Art Slaves" Ella B. Moore Theatre, Dallas, Texas; John Dancy's "Golden Brown Peaches of 1927" Lyric Theatre, New Orleans, La.; John Churchill "Flames of Paris 1927" Frolic Theatre, Birmingham, Ala.; Wm. Chase's "Golden Brown Revue" Frolic, Theatre, Bessemer, Ala.

The following line of vaudeville to appear at the Eighty-One Theatre, Atlanta, Ga., also as follows: Williams and Brown, Kid Skeet, George Williams, Jr., Mitchell and Mitchell, Dan Wiley, Russell and Chick, also "Daybreak" Nelson to appear at the Douglass Theatre, Macon, Ga.; Madam (Ma) Rainey and her "Jazz Hounds" Rex Theatre, Charlotte, N. C. Lonnie Fishkin "Fun Festivals" Eagle Theatre, Asheville, N. C. Melba and Ross' "Breaking Along" Company, Brooklyn Theatre, Wilmington, N. C. Charles Anderson's "Dixie Follies" Rosalie Washington; "Kentucky Club" Savoy, Atlantic City; Gaines Bros., Gales and Boulevard, 1st and second half, New York; "Sons of Rest" Howard, Washington; "4-11-44" Standard, Philadelphia; Mamie Smith and Company, Regent, Baltimore.

# HERE AND THERE

**Pan-American Closes**

The Pan-American Quartet, one of the most popular groups of road singers, closed its season in Philadelphia last week.

The singers are Joe Loomis, Walter Hilliard, Charles Downvo and John Turner. They will begin their next season in the mid-summer.

**Viola McCoy At Club**

Viola McCoy, formerly leading lady with "Shake, Rattle and Roll" Company, is now heading the entertainers at Jack's Grill, a well known night club on 135th street, New York.

**"7-11" Off Columbia**

Jack Goldberg's "7-11" Company closed the Columbia season Saturday, and is now playing at the Lafayette, New York.

**"Lucky Sambo" Gets Berth**

NEW YORK.—Hurtig and Seamon have changed the house policy of their Yorkville Theatre, and booked "Lucky Sambo" for an indefinite engagement. The company has been playing over the Columbia circuit.

**Dandies At Raleigh**

RALEIGH, N. C.—The" Chocolate Dandies" will show at the Royal Theatre, May 5-6-7.

The show is composed of the very best local talent in town, headed by "Kid" Cole and Cleo Pooler, the celebrated black-face comedians, assisted by a real bronze chorus of girls. Plenty of fun, good music, and dancing.

There will be a Mid-Nite Ramble, Saturday night, May 7, along with

# National Elks Oratorical Contest To Be Held At Lincoln Theatre

**Sectional Contest To Be Staged In Baltimore This Month**

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—An enthusiastic crowd gathered in the auditorium of the Lincoln High School Friday to listen to the sectional oratorical contest sponsored by the Elks.

The object of the contest is to promote the knowledge of the constitution in relation to the rights of the American Negroes.

Similar contests are being held throughout the country. The final contest is to be held in Washington, June 6th, at the Lincoln Theatre. The grand lodge of the Elks has provided cash prizes in the sum of One Thousand dollars to be distributed among the winners who participate in the final contest, and the winner of each sectional contest will be given a two hundred and fifty dollar scholarship in some college to be selected by the winner.

The contestants in this sectional contest, known as section number one came from three states, namely, Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa. T. B. Watkins of Kansas City, was the presiding officer.

The contest was won by Miss Florence Lane a student from Sumner High School, Kansas City, who spoke on the "Negro and the Constitution."

Other sectional contests are to be held in Baltimore, Maryland; Gary, Indiana, Portsmouth, Virginia, Birmingham, Alabama, Atlanta, Georgia, and Boston, Massachusetts.

"I envy that fat woman when she laughs."

"Why?"

"There seems to be so much of her that is having a good time."

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"CHILDREN OF FATE"
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Shinzie Howard Harry Anderson
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Lawrence Chenault
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Greatest of Them All Two Days Only
COME TO THE MATINEES AND AVOID THE RUSH AT NIGHT
MONDAY—WESTERN—
"HAUNTED HOMESTEADS"
TUESDAY—COMEDY—
"JANE'S TROUBLES"
WEDNESDAY—
DOUBLE FEATURE DAY
FEATURE NO. 1—SPECIAL CAST in—
"THE WHOLE TOWN'S TALKING"
FEATURE NO. 2—ALL STAR CAST in—
"SHADOWS OF CHINA TOWN"
Comedy—"SO GOOD"
THURSDAY—FRED HUMES in—
"THE STOLEN RANCH"
ALL WESTERN—FAST, HARD ACTION AND THEN SOME
"Bill Grimes' Progress"—No. 5
"MYSTERY PILOT"—No. 7
ALSO A GOOD PATHE COMEDY
FRIDAY—MARIE PREVOST in—
"ALMOST A LADY"
"ON GUARD"—No. 6
ALSO A GOOD PATHE COMEDY
SATURDAY—HOOT GIBSON in—
"THE DENVER DUDE"
HE NEEDS NO BOOSTING—ALL READY! LET'S GO!
"SILENT FLYER"—No. 10
Comedy—"THE REPORTER"