Mardi Gras, French Name, Alludes to Old Ceremony

Mardi gras (pronounced mardee grah) is French and literally means fat Tuesday. It is Shrove Tuesday, the day before the beginning of Lent. Shrove is the past tense of shrive, meaning confess, and Shrove Tuesday is the day on which confession of shrift was made preparatory to the 40 days of Lent.

The French name mardi gras or fat Tuesday alludes to an old ceremony in which a fat ox, symbolizing the passing of meat, was paraded through the streets of Paris and other French cities on Shrove Tuesday. Lent being a period of fasting, mardi gras naturally became a day of carnival and revelry.

In England the day was formerly observed by eating pancakes, and it is still often referred to as pancake Tuesday, although eating pancakes on this day survives only as a social custom. Pancakes seem to have become particularly associated with Shrove Tuesday because the people desired to use up what grease, lard and similar forbidden foods they had on hand before Lent. Carnivals and pageants still characterize mardi gras in many cities in Europe. Several cities in the United States also observe the day in like fashion, and in two or three states mardi gras is a legal holiday. The pageant on mardi gras at New Orleans was introduced by the French population. Although pageants were given as early as 1827, it was not until 30 years later that the distinctive ceremonies now associated with the day in that city were introduced.

Some Superstitions Our People Like to Mention

That it is bad luck for a black cat to cross in front of one is based on the medieval belief that Satan often assumed the form of a black tom cat when he went out among the people to stir up mischief. In some parts of Europe it was believed that black cats lived only seven years, when they were transformed into evil spirits.

That June is the lucky month for marriage is based on the Roman belief that June was named in honor of Juno, the wife of Jupiter, who was the patroness of happy marriages.

That opals are unlucky is said to date back to the Fourteenth century when they were unfavorably associated with the plague known as the black death. It was said that in Italy, particularly in Venice, such gems worn by persons stricken with the plague suddenly turned brilliant and then lost their luster when their owners died.

Friday the thirteenth long has been regarded as an evil omen, the idea being about 2,000 years old. Jesus was crucified on Friday. At the Last Supper there were 13 at the table, and Judas, the thirteenth disciple, was the one who betrayed his Lord.

That it is unlucky to accept a third light from a match is said to originate from war times. When a soldier lit a match it revealed his whereabouts to the enemy.

Terrier Family Made Up of Interesting Variety

The terrier family is comprised of Airedales, Bedlingtons, Borders, Bull terriers, Cairns, Dandie Dinmonts, smooth foxterriers, wire foxterriers, Irish terriers, Kerry Blues, Lakelands, Lhassas, Manchesters, miniature and standard sized Schnauzers, Scotties, Sealyhams, Skyes, Welsh terriers, West Highland Whites and Staffordshires.

In this collection, according to a writer in the Philadelphia Inquirer, there are two sizes of terriers. Some are low to the ground, while others are high from the shoulders to their foot pads. The little tykes of underslung conformation, include, Scotties, Sealyhams, Dandies, West Highlands, Cairns, Lhassas, and Skyes.

After all, the latter group confirms with the original terrier, which derived its name from the Latin, "terra." All of the low terriers were originally used by hunters for "going to earth" in quest of fox and badger.

The "high boys" among the terriers are the Airedale, wire and smooth fox terrier, Welsh, Irish, Bullterrier, standard Schnauzer, Kerry Blue, Staffordshire and Manchester. However, it is noticed that miniature Schnauzers and Welsh are "vest pocket sizes" of the standard Schnauzer and Airdale, respectively.

Border and Lakeland terriers are a trifle higher in body than the Scottie and his squat cousins. The Airedale is the largest in the terrier group.

Lakes of Soap, Fertile Loam, Pitch and Soda

In the Island of Flores exists a strange phenomenon; two lakes separated only by a thin barrier of rock. Both are opaque and look like huge lakes of paint, for one is ruby-red and the other turquoise-blue.

Nature has made other queer lakes in different parts of the world, relates a writer in Tit-Bits Magazine. In Trinidad there is the pitch lake, from which millions of tons of pure pitch have been extracted, yet the level remains as high as ever. East Africa has a wonderful lake of pure soda in crystalline form—sixteen miles long and eight wide. It is fed by waters carrying the soda in solution, and the sun causes the water to evaporate as fast as it is brought down.

Even queerer is the lake of soap, in Grant county, Washington. In windy weather the surface is covered with thick soapsuds, and dark-haired people hesitate to swim there, for they come out blondes.

But the oddest lake of all is Cerknica in Jugoslavia. It is ten square miles, and sixty feet deep. Every spring it empties and the bed, which is full of fertile loam, is used for raising crops.

On The Movie Screen



Gertrude Niesen, exotic star of the Ziegfeld Follies, "Blames It on the Rhumba" in the New Universal's "Top of the Town"

"WAIKIKI WEDDING" . . . .

"Waikiki Wedding," a comedy of love and music in the South Seas, brings Bing Crosby, Bob Burns and Martha Raye to the New Lyceum Theatre on Monday and Tuesday, May 10 and 11, in another fit of buffoonery of the type that made "Rhythm on the Range" one of the outstanding comedies of last year.

This time Bing is a press agent—for a pineapple cannery in Hawaii—and in the furtherance of his campaign to keep Waikiki sold as the glamour spot of the universe it becomes necessary for him to fall in love with Miss Ross who is about to walk out on a well laid publicity scheme of his concoction.

When Crosby discovers that he really is in love with the blonde beauty and that he must choose between losing her or see his scheme go boom, the climax is reached. In the meantime Burns, Bing's assistant, and Miss Ray ., Miss Ross' secretary, have been making hey-hey while the tropic sun shines, leading to further complications.

One of the big moments in "Waikiki Wedding" is promised in the performance of the famous "drum dance," once practiced by native Polynesians before making a human sacrifice. The dance is performed by Miri Rei, noted Tahitian dancer who took Broadway by storm in one of the recent Ziegfeld Follies productions.

The cast includes George Barbier, Leif Erikson and some two hundred and fifty native dancers, musicians and performers. The picture was directed by Frank Tuttle, director of "College Holiday."

"TOP OF THE TOWN" . . . .

The newest thing in screen musicals, Universal's "Top of the Town," has been booked for an engagement at the New Lyceum Theatre on Wednesday and Thursday, May 12 and 13. The offering hits a high note, stressing swing music, varied types of comedy developed by ten different comedians and a dancing, singing chorus that captures the eye and ear. Doris Nolan, new screen find who scored on the stage in "Night of January 16th," plays the feminine lead. George Murphy, successful in the New York stage plays, "Of Thee I Sing" and "Roberta," as well as several screen offerings, has the leading male role.

Gertrude Niesen, exotic star of the Ziegfeld Follies, nationally known because of her radio singing, is prominently cast and sings some new appealing lyrics. Ella Logan, popular radio singer of tunes that "go to town," sends notes hurdling over music bars with gay abandon.

Each of the ten comedians in "Top of the Town" has a brand of humor all his own. The comics include Hugh Herbert, Gregory Ratoff, Henry Armetta, Mischa Auer, the Three Sailors who answer to the names of Jason, Robson and Blue; Ray Mayer, Richard Carle, famous for his stage comedy; Jack Smart, known for his radio work. "Top of the Town" is directed by Ralph Murphy. The seven song hits are composed by Jimmy McHugh and Harold Adamson. Lou Brock is the associate producer and Charles R. Rogers is the executive producer in charge of production.

"WAY OUT WEST" . . . .

When Laurel and Hardy sing a duet with variations, preceded by a swing dance of the gay 90's vintage, in the Hal Roach-M-G-M feature-length comedy, "Way Out West," which comes on Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15, to the New Lyceum Theatre, it represents the most hilariously-funny and brilliant entertainment this stellar team of comic have presented during the more than ten years they have been together on the screen.

Sad-faced Stan and pompous-jolly Ollie are a riot of fun from the time they enter the picture across a desert stream with their trick donkey until their fade-out crossing the stream on the way back. It's their first Western and the boys whoop it up as a pair of "tenderheel" prospectors trying to do a good deed in delivering a gold mine deed, only to end up in a series of misdeeds.

"Way Out West" has been given an excellent physical mounting of the color and glamour of the wild and woolly west, and the characterizations by Sharon Lynne, James Finlayson, Rosina Lawrence, The Avalon Four and Stanley Fields are out-

Under the direction of the veteran James W. Horne, bright new gags are well-spotted and are spontaneous in bringing out the laughs. Charles Rogers, Jimmy Parrott, Jack Jevne and Felix Adler were the staff of writers and gagmen. You have to hear Laurel and Hardy sing and see them do the light fantastic to appreciate the most merry round of mirth they have ever started.

"YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT" . . . .

Just as the Marines got their name "Devil Dogs" from their late foemen, so the G-Men were christened by the underworld. Machine-Gun Kelly, now in Alcatraz, named them. As the Federal sleuths captured Kelly for his part in the Urschel kidnapping, the frightened gunman begged, "G-Men! Don't shoot!"

By G-Men, Kelly meant Government men and the picturesque name flashed in headlines across the nation overnight. The G-Men, led by J. Edgar Hoover, show every phase of their crime hunting activity in the Universal two reeler, "You Can't Get Away With It," which comes to the New Lyceum Theatre on Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15, on the same program with the feature production "Way Out West."



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