PHILADELPHIAN FIRST **CONCEIVED ZEPPELIN'S IDEA 31 YEARS AGO**

General Russell Thayer Presented Plan of Dirigible to Officers, but Was Not Supported by Congress

WAS VINDICATED BY TIME

Every time a bomb is dropped from me of those stant ships of the air named seppelins, after the man who is generally sives credit for having been responsible for their development, the memory of a white-haired Philadelphian goes back 31 wars to a day, long before his tocks took on their sliver tint, when he aroused an audience of American military mea to en-thusiasm by advancing to them his plan for a balloon that could be steared.

seldom talls people about it, how the sendom tons people about it. How even, and for that reason few persons hi this city know that General Russell Thayer, retired officer of the United Status Army and of the National Guard of Penn-sylvania. Is the father of the modern dirigibles that are so much in evidence in present war.

"Had Congress passed this appropria-tion," he said when discussing this matter with a reporter, "I believe the United States and not Germany would be the leader in this useful instrument of war-fare. Now we are dependent on the use reliable assoptane for whatever millithy advantage is derived from airships. Now Germany is virtually the only country in the world that operates the dirigible."

General Thayer, who was instructor of artillery at West Point and later commanof the Philadelphia regiments in the 2. P., said he believed that the dirigible oon would not be of very great value in case there should be war with Mexico, but pointed out that the dirigible was in-valuable for purposes of national defense.

"With a dozen balloons of the Zeppelin ppe on each coast we could be informed ong before their arrival of the approach f hostile ships," he said, "and a few ombs might hit some of the approaching ar versels. If they did the enemy would e very scriously crippled."

It was in 1885 that Russoll Thayer, a graduate of West Point and then but re-cently retired as first lleutenant in the United States Army, appeared at a meet-ing of the United Service Institution, an association of army officers, held on Gov-ernor's Island, N. Y., and presented what be believes was the first plan ever made for a balloon with a rigid body and which could be directed without dependence on atmospheric currents. atmospheric currents.

The plan met with general commenda-on and he took it to the ordnance departof the United States Army. There,

again, it was praised and Congress was asked to appropriate \$50,000 for experinentation purposes . Congress refused and Mr. Thayer dropped the matter because deopment of his plan would have been a atter beyond the resources of a private ndividual.

Individual. Hanging on the walls of General Thayer's office in the headquarters of the Weisbach Light Company, at 1924 Market atreet, is a sketch which appeared in Har-per's Magazine in 1885. It is a combina-tion of the diagram of the inventor and the imagination of the magazine artist. A dirigible much different in shape than the one we know today is seen dropping a bomb on a city in much the same manner bomb on a city in much the same manner as the Zeppelins on their many raids of England.

Of course, as is always the case, the Of course, as is always the case, the claims put forth for the invention were regarded by many skeptically, but the present generation is seeing frequent evi-dence in Europe that the invention was no wild dream, and the very incident de-picted in the illustration has been de-scribed more than once in the news dis-vationes patches

General Thayer built a small model of bie invention out in Fairmount Park and bad it patented. The model was only 30

bud it patented. The model was only 30 feet long, but he proposed at that time to build one 180 feet long, and would have done so had Congress furnished the neces-sary funds. Despite his deep interest in aviation ever since. General Thayer has nover made a flight in the air. The dirigible he planned was directed not by a propeller, as is the case with the Zeppelins, but by a high-speed com-pressed air generator, which pumped com-pressed air from the rear of the balloon, thus causing it to be driven in a forward direction. General Thayer believes it possible that the time may yet come when his method will be adopted in pref-erence to the propeller of the Zeppelins.

when his method will be adopted in pref-erence to the propeller of the Zeppelins. The great obstacle in his way while mak-ing his experiments 31 years ago was the high cost of aluminum. It's idea was to build the envelope or balloon part of the dirigible of this material, but at that time aluminum was quite expensive, and could not be obtained in large quanti-ties.

tion He has never ceased to regret the fail-ure of the United States to take up his project at the time. "The expenditure of \$60,000 then might

have put the United States ahead of the world in aeronautics today," he said. have

Fire Destroys 15 Resort Cottages ANNAPOLIS, Md., April 19 .- Fifteen of

the 21 cottages and the Wahoo Club hous at Arundel on the Ray, about six mile from this place, are in runs from fire. The loss is about \$40,000. Spark from Sparks



RICHARD TRAVERS The Essanay star, seen in many of this company's releases on the U. L. S. E. program.

OF STANDARD OIL COMPANY

fornia Fields

dditional suits to recover oil lands in Kern County, valued at more than \$800,-000, were filed here yesterday by the Govrnment against the Standard Oll Company and eight others, in its efforts to regain oll lands alleged to have been filed upon after the Taft withdrawal order of September 27, 1904, went into effect.

Smuggled Plumes to Be Destroyed LARTEDO, Tex. April 19 .-- A formal order for the destruction of 527 birds of nre. The loss is about \$40,000. Sparks from a bonfire a mile and a half away started the blaze. Among there whose property was destroyed are Mrs. W. I. Weller, Mrs. Annie Calliday, T. L. Town-gend. Dr. George Hernick and G. C. Graham, all of Washington.

WEST PHILADELPHIA

PEARL WHITE in

PEARL WHITE NEARLY **KILLED IN FILM WORK**

While Making Episode of "The Iron Claw," Actress Meets With Narrow Escape

By the Photoplay Editor

Pearl White, heroine of Pathe's "The Iron Claw," came very near to taking on chance too many on March 14. Sheldon Lawis, playing the Iron Claw, was to stand on the running board of an automotand on the running courd of an automo-bile going at high speed and without any let-up in speed soize Mins White as she stood in the road and throw her into the tonneau. Director Edward Jone planned to get some individual with boiler plate to get some individual with boiler plate ribs and cast-iron nerve to "double" for her, but she wouldn't stand for it. "The scenario specifies me for the stunt, doesn't it?" she said. "Well, it's going to be me!" The stunt was pulled off. The re-hearsal was perfect; so, sailsfied, Mr. Jose called "camera," and the car came tearing down the road.

Mr. Lewis was tired, however, from the

exertions of a day that would have taxed a dock walloper. He grabbed Miss White and tried to holes her into the car. His muscles cracked and the veins stood out missees cracked and the veins stood out on his forehead. Thich his strength gave way and the girl fell to the ground under the wheels of the car, which shot over her body. Cameranan Hen Struckman turned his head to avoid seeing the apparently inevitable tragedy, but kept on grinding his camera. Miss White's gown caught in one of the wheels of the car, and in no time was twisted around and around, dragging her for yards along and in no time was twisted around and around, dragging her for yards along the road. When the automobile was finally stopped and Miss White helped to her feet, it was found that she had miraculously escaped serious injury, but it took a doctor to fix up her cuts and screatenes.

and scratches. Viola Dana has been engaged by Metro to play leads. For several seasons Miss Dana has been one of the most attractive features of the I dison companies' produc-tions. The vehicle for her first appearance as a Metro star has not been decided upon as yet, but will be announced in the near

Francis N. Bushman returned from the South last week, where Director Jack No-ble took some of the scenes for the next

future.

Quality release on the Metro program. By the bye, Mr. Bushman's contract with the Metro expired on 'April 15.

When Clara Kimball Young starts When Clara Kimball Young starts working for her own company she will appear in film adaptations of the novels of Robert W. Chambers, Gouverneur Mor-ris, Hall Caine, Ref Beach, Charles Major, Edgar Allan Poe, Guy ds Maupassant, Maurice Maeterlinck and David Graham Phillips. It seems an if Miss Young will have plenty of big roles.

Theatrical Baedeker

HROAD - The Woring of See." with Laurette Taylor and Fhillip Medicale. A rometry by J. Hartley Muners, of an Anterhan Irr. who starts to untangle a household mix up of an English relative. Mr. Manners wrote "Pus o My Heart." LYRIC- "Alone at Leart." with Roy Atwoll. Harry Cone at Leart." with Roy Atwoll. Charles Thomas. At operatis. with the book starts to an Arrive Widner's should be Smith and Herrert. music by Franz Leaar. An ambilious Vienness im-portation of the "Merry Widne" school. GARRICK-"It Pays to Advertise." with Louise Drew, Grant Mitchell and Ben John-son A hour farce with much fun H. PHOTOPLAYS.

PHOTOPLAYS.

PHOTOPLAYS. STANLEY-Tuesday and Wednasday, 'Molly Make-Helleve,' with Marguerite Clark, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 'The Red Widow,' with John Barrymore, ARCADIA-Tuesday and Wednesday, 'To'Aria-guan,' with Ortin Johnson, Thursday, Fri-day and Saturday, 'The Stepping Stone,' with Frank Keenen and Mary Holand, PALACE-Tuesday and Wednesday, 'Audrey,' with Prank Keenen and Mary Holand, PALACE-Tuesday and Wednesday, 'Audrey,' with Pauline Frederick, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 'The Heart of Paula,' with Leonore Ulrich. VICTOPLA - Tassday, 'Walfa', with Inte

Grey and William Desmond. Wednesday and Thursday, "The Habit of Happiness," with Douglas Fairbanks Friday and Sat-

DIVIDENDS.

Kenefick Zinc Corporation

115 Brondway, New York City, Notice is beredy given that dividend No. f ten cents (8.10) per share has been this d selared by the Board of Directors on the co declared by the Board of Directors on the com-mon without nominal or par value capital stock of Kenetick Zine Corporation, payable April 2021, to holders of record April 2220 Transfer isoske close at 3 p. m. April 2220 and record at 10 a. m. May 1at. ARTHUR DAY, Tressurer. New York, April 18th, 1918.

THE GIRARD NATIONAL BANK

THE GIRARD VALUE April 18, 1916, Puladelphia, April 18, 1916, The Directory have this day declared dividend of eight here cent. (8%), free of a particle of the second second second second at the choice of business April 24, 1916, Checks will be mailed. CHARLES M. ASHTON, Cashier.

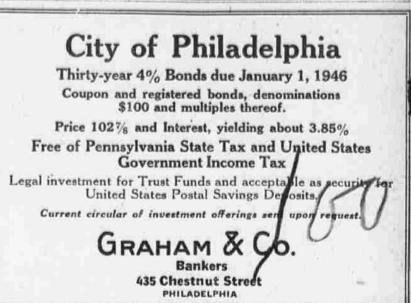
DIRECTORY OF ACCOUNTANTS

Certified Public Accountants LAWRENCE E. BROWN & CO. 1615 REAL ESTATE TRUST BUILDING. nrday, 'The Halt-a stillion-Dollar Bride,' with Hamilton Revola, Added attraction al week, Charles Chaplin in his purjesque or 'Carmen.' VAUDEVILLE.

CHESTER, Pa., April 19.—A spark from a locomotive set fire yesterday to waste oil in the meadows at the Sun Oil Company's Marcus Hook plant. The fire was spectacular and for helf an hour threatened the plant. Locomotives pulled a score of tank cars from the burning area. Conserved Party Shaw in "The Dieker Bird," Action of the state of the stat **VICTORIA THEATRE**

BURLESOUR. DUMONT'S Dumont's Minstreis, in satires on matters of current interest.

STOCK. KNICKERBOCKER-"The Brute." First Philadelphia presentation of Arnold Kum-more drama in three acts. A story of the trianable situation from a silehtly different attack. Emily Smiley and John Warner in the leading roles AMERICAN-"The House Next Door." The Arvine Flayers, with Virginia Heminings and George Arvine, in this modern play. STOCK.



Prairie Fire Menaces Oil Plant

MARKET STREET ABOVE NINTH ALL THIS WEEK 9 A. M. to 11:15 P. M.

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BROWN BROTHERS & CO.

THE REAL PROPERTY AND THE PROPERTY AND T

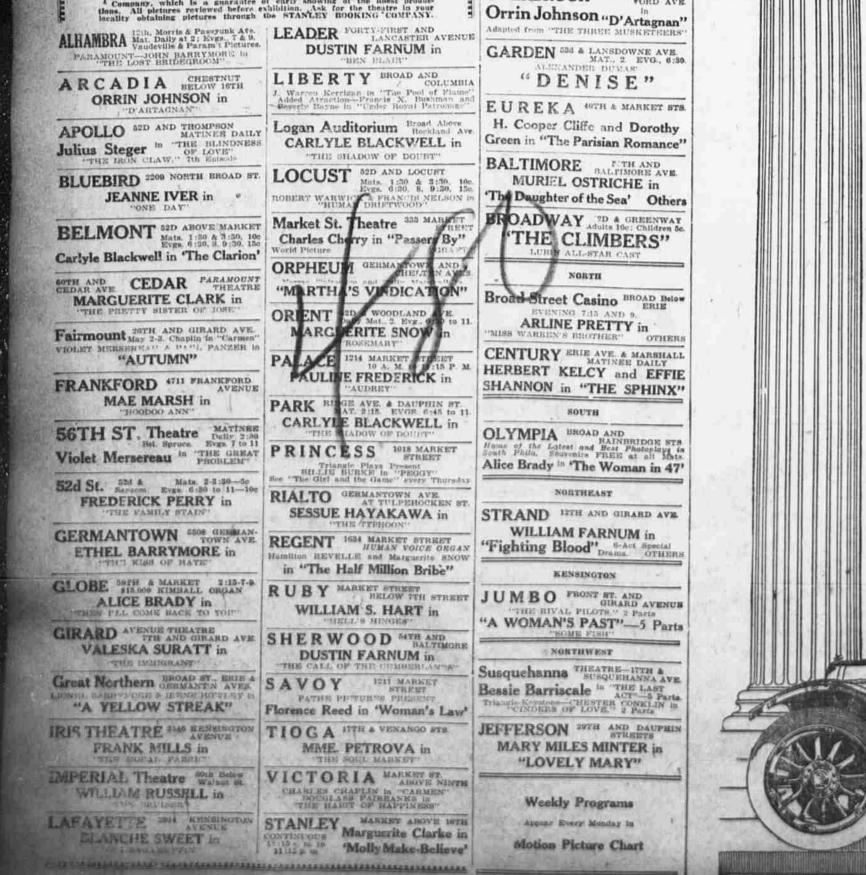
GRAND 52D and MARKET STS. MAT. DAILY, 2 P. M. Sc. Manley Booking Company "HAZEL KIRKE" 5 REELS HAND COLORED C fallowing theatres obtain their pictures through the STANLEY Booking memory, which is a guarantee of early showing of the Bast produc-All pictures reviewed before exhibition. Ask for the theatre in your y obtaining pictures through the STANLEY BOOKING COMPANY. OVERBROOK 63D & HAVER-



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Files Suits for More Property in Cali-

LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 19 .- Two



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