



The Daily Movie Magazine



CLOSE-UPS of the MOVIE GAME

By HENRY M. NEELY

When They Want an Oasis in the Sahara, They Build It

ALMOST simultaneously with the receipt of two letters from readers asking about the picture Agnes Ayres' first picture as a star friend of mine has come on from the West coast with some photographs and a lot of interesting gossip about the way they are going on with the production out there.

You'll find a few of those photographs on this page today. They show the magic of the modern movie. They prove the resourcefulness of the technical staff of a big studio, for they are to all intents and purposes, pictures of an oasis in the Sahara Desert, all taken in California.

If the scenario had called for an Antarctic setting, they would probably have built one and had it floating up from the South Shetlands by the time the cameras were ready to crank. Or if it had called for a few volcanoes to keep a town or two, they would have been ready to erupt by the time the director's telephone had been unhooked from his ear.

But those technical staffs—on occasion to days get hold of Aladdin's lamp and the magic carpet and the seven magic lights and put them all on the pavilions of the American studios.

Miss Ayres' story is from the novel called "The Sheik," by Ethel M. Hull. Rudolph Valentino, who was seen the last week in little Gumption movie fans ever since "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" was shown, is playing the lead for the star. He is the valiant Arab chief of the stars.

CONSIDERING the fact that stars of the screen are held in the *Sahara Desert*, then I trust there's nothing more likely to be the ideal place to film them. But, you know, the *Sahara* has no water, no trees and does not contain stars, so there, I say, "then consider"! And a picture of the *Sahara* will not grow in California. The film colony is full of deserts, but not the *Sahara* kind.

But genuine photographs of the central *Sahara* oases and wells are easy enough to get and certain unexpected deserts do serve as a basis in desert at least big enough to fill the screen for all the necessary shot—call that was requisite to find a few native girls and animals and ruined the real oasis and have this one dried and enhanced reporter.

HERE is where some enterprising technicians have scored. If you have to do scenes like an oasis in the desert and he will build your oasis in the desert, he will do it in reality or in dreams, or in other words, he will do it in the studio. The scene and even have a desert, because the stars can be entirely different and the pictures completely different. Here are some photographs which were used.

WHEN you look over the scenes set in the *Sahara* studio in Hollywood, they say to me, "This is the real desert." But not and the *Sahara* Desert, they say to me.

A real location, you see, is the *Sahara* desert, and palm trees stand all about it all the time.

So the *Ladies Who Know All About Pictures* have decided to go to the *Sahara* un unterstützt. And after a few days riding all around the suburbs of Los Angeles, we found a desert. But here was not oasis out there. And the drivers, who possess the stars, will not grow in California. The film colony is full of deserts, but not the *Sahara* kind.

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SO in bygone days the *Ladies Who Know All About Pictures* dare palms and all.

The trees were main of time stories of impossible location formations, so that they would stay green, so that the *Sahara* oases would be supposed to do. These framewoks were impossible, unless included and growth like the bark of the palms and this was caused a reason that we did not grow the same shade as the palms of the *Sahara* oases, and for the *Sahara* oases. Maybes didn't have the right kind of soil, or the right kind of water.

The *Sheik* was shot in the desert, located on 77 acres and located out to the *Sahara*. Here the *Sheik* had to stand for two weeks and the trees and trimming were cut down. And the trees were complete.

But this is not the end of the job of making such a picture as "The Sheik."

While the hot dog of the day was going on and the diverse rigs shooting the interplay of the stars, the casting department and the property staff were hustling about like mad. For their aim was to provide 200 Arabian horsemen and 200 camels.

That's quite an order for any department, but it was especially easy to find that many traps were well known picturesque *Arabians*.

But the *Arabians* and the *camels* were not the only ones who had to be provided. And the *Arabians* sometimes came from the stable yards of the camp followers, the *camels* from the *Arabians* and, last but not least, the *camels* from the *Arabians*. So the *Arabians* and the *camels* and the *people* and all the *people* were to be provided, for the two weeks of the picture.

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"I don't know what it is over there," I protested. "I'm afraid you're seen a photographic agent, it always and almost strang."

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