The Daily Movie Magazine

FOR THE FILM FAN'S SCRAPBOOK

WANDA HAWLEY

We will be glad to publish the pictures of such screen players as are suggested by the fans

THE MOVIE FAN'S LETTERBOX

By HENRY M. NEELY

"Wanna Lou" writes: "For the first time! And though I happen to be a girl, I'm not going to rave over Mr. Valentino. (My favorite he-actor is Snooky, anyway.)

"You seem to take great delight in printing all the letters containing unfavorable criticism of Miss Mae Murray. Now if you really want to play the game fairly, as I think you do, you'll print this 'for the defense' document.

"That letter from 'Cleo, the Stranger' made me feel not exactly angry, but just plain 'mad.' She's French, I suppose. Well, I'm Irish, and can stage a scrap for my movie favorites any old time at all, so I just naturally can't let Cleo walk up and hand out a slam like that without sassing back.

"She says she can't 'tolerate' Mae Murray. Well, who's asking her to? And right here I rise to remark that Mae can dance, in addition to having unusual beauty and charm. She's naturally graceful and a clever little stepper. Why all this bluff about her 'folly' and 'frivolity'? I get the impression that Cleo is a member of the Crepe Hangers' Union, one of whom I am not, for which, thank heaven! The world is serious and gloomy enough. It needs a spice of wholesome 'frivolity.' And then Cleo says 'I am crazy about Nazimova.' She must be.

"I also notice that 'Do-Tell' remembers Mae Murray on the stage 'fifteen or sixteen years ago.' That isn't saying much for her memory, as Miss Murray appeared as the Nell Brinkley girl in the Ziegfeld Follies in 1915, only seven years ago. So Mae will remain in the 'chicken' class (blue ribbon winners' section, too) for some years to come.

"Now I'm going to agree with one of your remarks, by way of variety. You say Mary Hay is 'very cute and winsome.' I think so, too—and then some. Why, that ducky little person was the brightest thing in 'Way Down East.' Can you tell me if she is considering a return to the screen? It's not likely, I suppose, since she is making such a big hit in New York in musical comedy.

"But, honestly, don't you think the movies are in need of just such a clever and original little actress? There seems to be an oversupply of simp ingenues, each imitating some one else. And if Mary is so refreshingly new a type and so pleasingly 'different' that, under the proper direction, she would undoubtedly become one of our most popular comediennes.

"I surely do enjoy the Letter Box. I like to read the fans' opinions and your own witty comments. Just one wee slam: Why crib a slice of Herbert Howe's stuff in your 'Lady Who Goes to the Movies With Me' idea? Surely you have enough individuality to make up an original title for her. But I certainly do like your clear, sane manner of viewing movie problems and other tangled questions.

"Good luck to you."

(Scuse me, but I didn't crib that title from Mr. Howe. Matter of fact, though I know of the gentleman, of course, I haven't time to read the fan magazines and so didn't know he used it. But if he does, he cribbed it from the same place I did—the dedication to one of Channing Pollock's theatrical books, published some years ago. I like it so much that I hope you'll permit me to continue to use it. And, in return, I'll permit you to continue to admire Mae Murray—I almost do myself since "Fascination"—and I'll add that if you can see any grace in her dancing, you've got most wonderful eyesight—and I envy you. There; isn't that nice of me to pay you such a compliment?)

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"Movieite" writes: "I can't see why you 'roast' so very much 'Foolish Wives.' It probably wasn't the best of pictures, but it was good. The technical part of the picture was perfect. It was real and was convincing, except the part played by Von Stroheim's relatives. That wasn't real, to my mind. I don't think ordinary people get away with playing parts like princesses or 'ladies' in real life.

"The fire wasn't a likely happening—well, I guess when I start to analyze there was a lot of it that wasn't likely.

"But Von Stroheim was not the most detestable person. You said he was the very worst, and that people like him are so rare that there was no excuse for it on the screen. Because 'Foolish Wives' was to your mind an undesirable picture, is that a just reason for refusing to publish Von Stroheim's picture? You admit he is a good actor. You admit the technical parts of the picture are good and you know the man was just 'acting,' so I think you are not likely. I suppose, since she is making such a big hit in New York in musical comedy.

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is it rare for a man to borrow money from a woman? I haven't had any such experience, but I do read the papers.

"Is it not of sufficient importance to warn the women through such pictures as 'Foolish Wives'? He at least 'roasts' the 'European' and says that the best thing for an American woman is an American husband. Don't you think lots of women succumb to the lure of foreign men—particularly any one in uniform?

"Aren't many American 'society' women hoodwinked by cheap European aristocracy and by cheap titled and near-titled foreign men? So why the terrible objection to such a picture as 'Foolish Wives'? Is it just because a man will not admit that some of his sex are very gentlemanly cads and curs? Or are you loath to admit that there are foolish wives? Do you feel that you can only admit that there are deceitful men when the deceit is performed by a man who is by all appearances a low-down, common 'crook'? Do you hate to admit that there do exist a certain number of 'gentlemen' (?) who are cultured and gentle and kind who prey upon women by making them love them to borrow money from them?

"Of course, I do grant that the picture was impossible (the happenings in it—that is, seemingly impossible—but it did point a moral and it pointed it very strongly, and it showed wickedness punished.

"But, of course, it's nice of any man to try to keep one's faith in men intact—there are so many things to shake one's faith anyhow. Well, hope you'll read this and tell 'Lee Winthrop' that he isn't the only one who thought 'Foolish Wives' not so terribly depraved and unnecessary.

"I liked 'Behold My Wife,' and thought Milton Sills good in it. Did you? I also liked 'Daaddy-Long-Legs,' and saw it twice. Did you like that? I like Nazimova, too, in a way. Do you? I like her best of all the actresses because she is unusual, but I don't approve of everything she does.

"How about 'Grand Larceny'? Did you like that? Didn't it point a fine moral—for a wife to take no chances and for a husband to take care of his own wife—I don't mean 'watch' her, I mean pay attention to her himself. Though I didn't like the picture so very much, there was something in it not convincing, somehow.

"I don't like Charles Chaplin at all, but I do always love to go to see 'Doug.' Of course, no one satisfies our every desire. They'd have a great time if they tried to—to satisfy every one's every desire. But Valentino—nix. He looked all right as a 'Sheik.' Wallace Reid's entertaining, but—well he was fine in 'Peter Ibbetson.' Did you like 'Something to Think About'? Wasn't Elliott Dexter very good in that? Didn't he act very well—very realistically?

"Do you like Connie? Isn't she entertaining? And don't you think Dorothy Gish quite the really funniest? I do!

"Well, so long, and I wish I were the Lady Who Goes to the Movies With You' for just one 'movie' visit."

(Why only one visit? Think you'd tire that soon?

It's mighty good of you to hand me that slam about my attitude toward "Foolish Wives." I was afraid I was not going to get slammed today, and I've got so used to it that I can't get along without it. No; I won't print a picture of ———, etc.

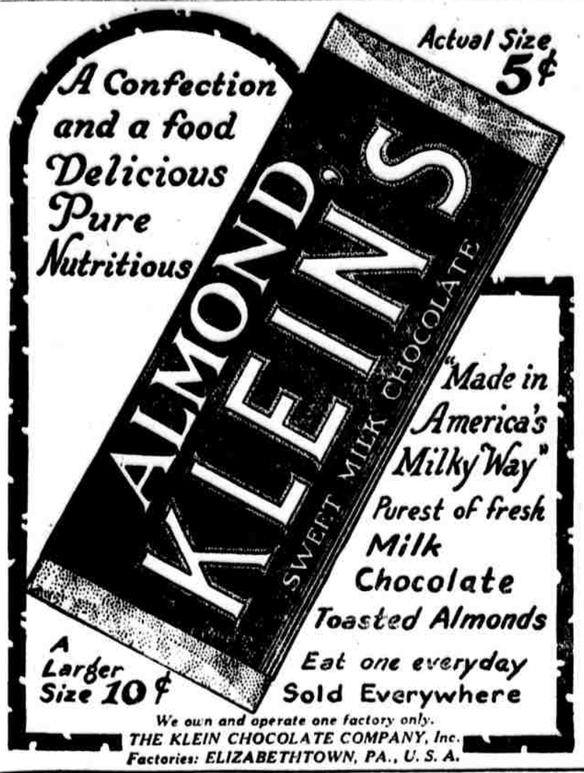
Yes; I liked "Behold My Wife" and "Daddy-Long-Legs." And you and I agree on one thing about Nazimova—we don't approve of everything she does. No; not everything.

"Grand Larceny" was a pretty fair picture, I thought, and I very decidedly did like "Something to Think About." It showed what Cecil De Mille can do in his sane moments—when he has 'em. Elliott Dexter is always good. I have no doubt that Connie is entertaining, but she isn't entertaining me. And I think Dorothy Gish is very cute and charming.)

Mrs. E. L. I had a letter from Hugo Ballin saying he is attending to that matter of the scenario. You'll hear from him soon.

WHAT AMERICA NEEDS MOST

Albert J. Beveridge, candidate for the United States Senate, says it is "Restoration of prosperity to all the people permanently." "Business," says Beveridge, "is the only issue." Be sure to read this important interview to appear in the Magazine Section of next Sunday's PUBLIC LEDGER. "Make it a habit."—*Adv.*



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FAIRMOUNT 26th & Girard Ave. MATINEE DAILY
GARETH HUGHES
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ELAINE HAMMERSTEIN
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GREAT NORTHERN Broad St. at Erie 2:30, 7 & 9 P. M.
JACKIE COOGAN
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ORIENT Woodland Ave. at 62d St. MATINEE DAILY
AGNES AYRES AND JACK HOLT in
"BOUGHT AND PAID FOR"

OVERBROOK 63D & HAVERFORD AVENUE
ALL-STAR CAST in
"OLD FOLKS AT HOME"

PALACE 1214 MARKET STREET 10 A. M. to 11:15 P. M.
VERA GORDON in FANNIE HURST'S
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D. W. GRIFFITH'S PRODUCTION
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333 MARKET STREET THEATRE 9 A. M. to 11:15 P. M.
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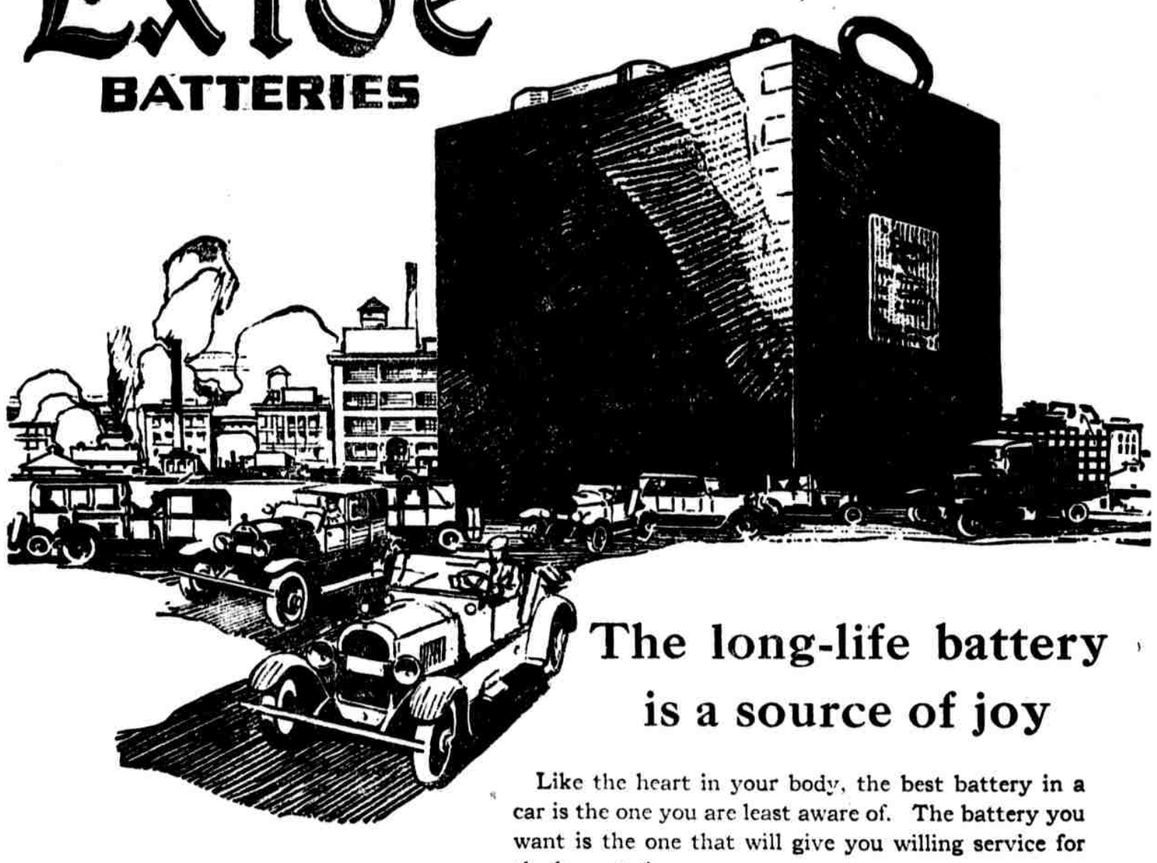

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