

COMEDY FILM AT VALLEJO

ELKS TO GIVE XMAS SHOW

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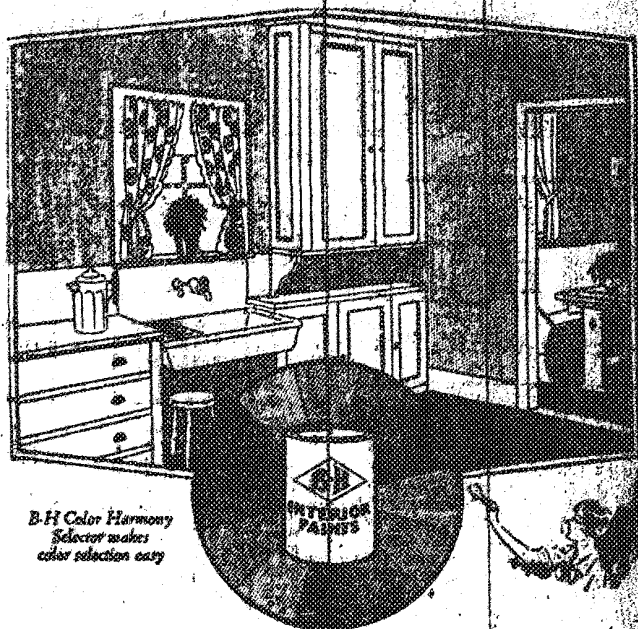
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"Laughter is always more popular than tears," says Raymond Cannon, Fox Films director, and for that reason I look to see taking pictures score their greatest successes in comedies and farces, particularly with musical backgrounds.

Cannon, whose silent technique in "Red Wine" and "Joy Street" established him as one of the most promising megaphonists, recently completed his initial talkie, the first musical farce of the speaking screen "Imagine My Embarrassment," an all-singing, dancing adaptation of one of the stage's biggest hits, "Cradle Snatchers," which opens today at the Vallejo theater.

"Before the advent of dialog films we had to depend almost entirely on situations for laughs. Sometimes these situations needed explanation, which then had to be made by subtitles—a method that unavoidably delayed action.

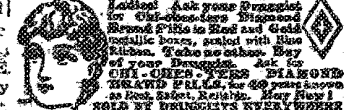
"Today we handle laughs simultaneously with conversation, which increases effects instead of diminishing them. Moreover, there is all the wide field of brilliant dialog and repartee to employ for additional comic emphasis.

"Everyone likes to laugh. The old slapstick methods, crude as they were, nevertheless achieved enormous popularity solely because they allowed the spectators to give free rein to their mirth. Nowadays we can employ the voice in connection with a more dignified humor to secure films of far higher 'laugh power.'

"The popular and ever-growing demand for catchy music, as evidenced by the steady increase in the sales of sheet music and phonograph records, is another development for which the talking pictures are ideally suited; millions of persons hear a new tune within a week of its release, through the speaking screen, and the meteoric success of the songs in the recent 'Fox Movietone Follies of 1929' proves the readiness with which the public accepts new melodies.

A brilliant cast, a fast-moving and hilarious story, and snappy song numbers by Conrad Mitchell and Gottler, who wrote the hits of the 'Movietone Follies,' are all rolled into one tuneless laugh riot in this offering, which is doing capacity business.

CHICHESTERS PILLS



Vallejo Lodge of Elks has set November 21 and 22 as the dates for the annual Christmas Charity Show to be held in the high school auditorium.

Preparations for the event were started last night at a get-together meeting, and the committee in charge of arrangements promises a production which will surpass former productions.

"The Pioneer Minstrels and Extravaganza" is the title given to the performance, which promises new and novel numbers, arranged to please the eye and ear. Special scenery and lighting effects will be used throughout and the entire production will be directed and operated by experts engaged for their proven ability in each department of the work.

Fred Carlyle, formerly director of dramatics at the University of California, will act as stage director and has called the first rehearsal for Wednesday of next week, at which time talent for the various and diversified features will be selected.

In keeping with the title, the first part will present a scene in a "Palace of Amusement" in the days of the pioneers during the current engagement of "The Mastodon Minstrels." This gigantic troupe of blackface artists will offer their unique imitations of the music and humor of the Dixie dardies to an appreciative audience, among which will be Buffalo Bill, Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, Calamity Jane, General Fremont, Sutter, Modoc Jack, Black Bart and other old-timers, together with the usual groups of hunters, trappers, miners, gamblers, prospectors and early settlers.

Following the first part will be a series of snappy surprises, each one giving solid enjoyment during every minute of the two hours or more required to present.

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