



SPOTLIGHT

BY
H. W. CORLEY

NFA
FICTION
NEA SERVICE, INC.

CHAPTER ONE
MOST stories of chorus girls begin at the dressing room mirror. Alas for Sheila Shayne! Sheila hadn't been inside a dressing room for weeks. Grease paint was a memory for her. Waiting for a cue was just a phrase.

She hadn't worked last week, nor the week before. Nor for four weeks before that? No longer did Sheila call this forced leisure being "at liberty" or "resting." She called it the very worst kind of luck.

Sheila wasn't expecting sympathy, however. So many others seemed to be having the same experience.

Sheila really wasn't a chorus girl, though she would have been glad indeed for a place in the chorus just then. Born in a dressing room eighteen years ago, she had lived in the theater almost all of her short life. She had been born in a dressing room and cradled in a trunk tray because Dolly Desmond, her mother, just couldn't stay behind at the hotel while Johnny went on with the act.

Afterward the parents firmly declined the suggestion of Johnny's mother (Dolly was an orphan) that the baby should stay behind in Ottumwa, Ia., while they finished the season.

So from the first Sheila was a stage baby—educated in day coaches during jumps, carried on in her first part at 3 months, toddling on in her second part at 2 years. Then the Gerry Society started interfering.

Thereafter Sheila's knowledge of the stage was confined to the wings, where she watched father and mother go through the act. Sheila knew the lines as well as her parents.

At 14 she played her first real role. It was none too soon, for presently her father and mother, known as "The Dancing Desmonds," died in a train wreck. It happened during the summer when Sheila had been left behind with a friend who had a cottage at Rye, N. Y.

Johnny and Dolly took their last bow hand in hand. Their daughter was left to make the grade alone.

And at 15 Sheila was known for what Johnny and Dolly's friends had guessed about—she was to be a dancer. Note the "holler" at dancer. A bit of the "thudown," a subsonic with little fizz, fluttering, stamping, clicking, weaving in perfect time. A flower in the wind.

Many a poet or composer, pen in hand, could have done worse than put Sheila's dancing to music.

Old troupers looked strangely grave when they saw the child, face flushed and rapt, whirling and twirling to the tuneless old boardwing house piano, while some second-rate vaudeville musician supplied the accompaniment.

From some remote ancestor Sheila had inherited a loveliness that far exceeded good-hearted little Dolly's attractiveness. Tall, well-built, slim as a sickle moon, with delicately curved, slender throat, dark hair sleek as satin, creamy gardenia skin. That was Sheila. She herself had selected the name, Shayne.

Watching her dance, one thought of blackberries and cream, marble and ebony. Sheila's eyes were set in with the proverbial sooty finger. She had up-curving lashes and a proud fling of the head that Ma Lowell, proprietress of the theatrical boarding house, said would take her before royalty.

WHICH was all very well, but Sheila had no job, very little money, and scarcely anything in the way of encouraging prospects. Today rent was due. Of course Ma Lowell would not be inconstant, but Ma, like every one else these days, needed her money.

The Flying Fosters were "out." So were Sally and Joe. The Melody Trio was "resting." Timmy in the back room went to Joe Paris' place daily to pick up what he could as an accompanist. And Myrt—well, Myrt hadn't worked for weeks. As Ma put it, it was time for Myrt to be getting out of the profession and into some sort of a shop.

Ma herself had sold lingerie while her daughter, Flossie, briefly graced the "Follies." Mrs. Lowell's rooming house would have been far more profitable if she had been less sympathetic and her memory of what it is like to be down on one's luck less strong.

Yes, Sheila certainly wanted to pay her room rent.

Her clothes were becoming shabby, even though they had been well cut, good clothes in their time. However her blouse was frothy and as white as careful laundering could make.

Her gloves were worn, too, but her feet were not trim. Sheila's feet always were neat and trim. They were her forte.

"Come on, Myrt, I'll blow you to breakfast. I'm lonesome."

Myrt's door opened creakily. One eye peered out and the crack widened to admit Sheila.

"Oh, it's you," Myrt said rather unnecessarily. Within, the room was dark, close, disordered. As Sheila dropped into a chair, quickly unbuckled for her use, her hostess raised the shade, clutching a

(Turn to Page 12)

The Indianapolis Times

Increasing cloudiness and warmer tonight with lowest temperature somewhat above freezing; Wednesday rain and colder, below freezing at night.

IDENTIFY BODY FOUND OCT. 6; HOLD HUSBAND

Freeman Baldwin, Fortville
Man, Is Arrested as
Slayer Suspect.

TRACED BY HER TEETH

Dentists Give Evidence That
Helps in Solution of
Death Mystery.

By Times Special

GREENFIELD, Ind., Jan. 3.—Suspected of slaying his wife, Freeman Baldwin, 54, Fortville, is held today in the Hancock county jail.

The unclothed body of his wife, Margaret, 32, wrapped in a cheap, new tent, was found Oct. 6, at the intersection of Road 40 and the Ft. Wayne road, near Lewistown.

Identification was established late Monday by three Fortville dentists, each of whom had filled a tooth for Mrs. Baldwin.

Baldwin was granted a divorce here Dec. 18, and on Dec. 20 remarried. The divorce was granted on a non-resident publication notice.

Hancock county officials refuse to disclose information in their possession which led to Baldwin's arrest.

Today Sheriff Frank Stottemeyer made a trip to Monticello, the purpose of which he would not reveal, other than that it had some connection with the death.

The body of Mrs. Baldwin, in a badly decomposed condition, was found by Jesse Conrad, 72, and his son, Eli, 32. There were two wounds on the head, which officials believed were inflicted with a hammer or the butt of a revolver.

Arrest of Baldwin followed a long investigation by three state police officers, Lieutenant Bert A. Davis, and patrolmen Russell Coons and Joseph E. Rudd, assisted by John Dent, Hancock county, deputy sheriff.

PHIL ZOERCHER NEW TAX BOARD CHAIRMAN

Veteran Member Becomes First
Democratic Head of Commission.

Philip Zoercher, veteran member of the state board of tax commissioners, became its chairman today as Democrats began taking over the reins of state government.

He is the first Democrat to be chairman since the board became a full time body in 1919. He became a member in 1916. James E. Showalter, Republican, resigned as chairman to aid Zoercher.

Those at the conference included James E. Deery, city attorney; Edward H. Knight, corporation counsel; A. B. Cronk and Harry K. Cuthbertson, attorneys representing two apartment operating firms, and Walter C. Rothermel, representing civic groups.

LAWYERS MAP WATER BATTLE

City Attorneys Meet to De-
cide Plans for Fight on
High Rates.

City attorneys and associated council, with the common objective of obtaining lower water rates, met today at city hall to map plans to oppose the Indianapolis Water Company's federal court action which seeks still higher rates than the \$1.25 minimum scale recently set by the public service commission.

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Jack Pickford, Star of
Films, Is Dead in Paris

Entered Hospital Oct. 14 for Treatment for Nervous Breakdown; Star in Many Pictures.

(Picture of Pickford on Page 5)

By United Press

PARIS, Jan. 3.—Jack Pickford, screen star and brother of Mary Pickford, died at the American hospital today.

Although inactive on the screen recently, he starred in many pictures since beginning his film career in 1919. He was born in Toronto in 1896.

Pickford entered the hospital Oct. 14 for treatment for a nervous breakdown.

Pickford died from a combination of diseases affecting the nervous centers.

Physicians said he showed unwillingness to live, often saying, "I have lived more than most men and I am tired."

He had planned to leave for the Riviera in the spring.

Pickford was married three times, each time choosing his bride from actresses or dancers in Ziegfeld's Follies.

His first wife, Clive Thomas, he married in 1921. She died while they were on their honeymoon in Paris. The death was ascribed to an overdose of sedative.

In 1922, Pickford married Marilyn Miller, another Follies headliner, who divorced him five years later, charging incompatibility.

In 1930, Pickford married the beautiful Mary Mulhern, who was 22, and ten years his junior. Less than two years later the couple had separated. The rumors were confirmed in February, 1932, when Miss Mulhern filed a divorce suit at Los Angeles, charging him with constant nagging and criticism of her theatrical career.

The Malygin was one of the most famous of Soviet ships engaged in exploration in the Arctic. It took many scientific expeditions into the north.

The Malygin reported the collision by radio Monday night. The signals ceased suddenly this morning.

'FLASH' IT IS FAST

Small Plane Designed in Illinois
Speeds 150 Miles an Hour.

By United Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Jan. 3.—Two local aviation enthusiasts have designed one of the smallest planes in the United States.

It is known as the "Flash," and was built by Owen Tilbury and Cecil Fundy. It has a wing span of only fourteen feet, is eleven and a half feet high.

A speed of 150 miles an hour on straight-away flights is claimed for it.

Thirty Face Gang Firing Squad Peril

Holdup Victims Lined Up,
Shotguns Discharged;
Three Wounded.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—Seven bandits subjected thirty men patrons of a club to a firing squad ordeal today, raking them with shotgun fire, after stripping them of money and jewelry.

The victims were lined up against a wall while they were searched. Then the leader of the gang stepped back with four others, all armed with shotguns.

He gave the command, "Let them have it."

Five charges of shot were discharged into the line of men. Three fell wounded.

The wanton cruelty of the bandits aroused the unwounded men to a frenzy, and they attacked the bandits with their fists.

Two were clubbed down by bandits, using the stocks of their shotguns.

As the melee became fiercer, the bandits retreated. They finally ran out of the club to a waiting automobile.

The wounded men were Samuel Cirocasi, 24; James Adams, 24, and Stanley Tableski, 36, all of Brooklyn.

Loot was estimated at about \$400 cash and jewelry, police said.

JAPANESE HURLED BACK IN BATTLE AT CHINA GATEWAY

UNCLE SAM'S ANNUAL 'SAD NEWS' IS MAILED 78,000 INCOME TAXPAYERS



The annual "sad" news of the federal government to 78,000 residents of Indiana who pay income taxes was issued from the local headquarters of the income tax division this afternoon.

Blanks were sent to the prospective payers, and now it will be their job to subtract the exemptions and various percentages before return of the blanks March 15, deadline for the 1933 payment.

In the photo attaches of the department are shown with the mass of blanks mailed early.

Left to Right—Miss Helen Kuhn, 542 East Maple road; M. F. De Jarnett, federal income tax division chief, and Miss Jean Hancock, 1504 North Pennsylvania street.

STATE'S FLOOD WATERS DROP

Only Seven Roads Closed, Is
Report of Highway
Commission.

Crest of high water had passed at several points in Indiana today, according to the weather bureau, and the state highway commission reported only seven roads closed.

Rain is forecast for Wednesday, but the fall will not be heavy enough to greatly effect flood conditions.

Roads closed today are 50 at Madora; 450 between Bedford and Shoals; 62 west of Mt. Vernon; 67 north of Spencer; 65 northeast of Princeton; 145 south of French Lick, and 58 west of Bedford.

Water is over parts of three other roads, but highway commission trucks are pulling automobiles through. These road are 31, near Seymour, and 67, between Freedom and Spencer.

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By RAYMOND CLAPPER
United Press Staff Correspondent
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Reduction of government costs commanded attention today as a prime object of the incoming Roosevelt administration.

House and senate Democratic leaders, who are preparing to confer with the President-Elect in

the White House, are known to be considering some of the ways in which the new administration can save money.

After giving a general picture of the world's largest business in action, these dispatches will report objectively some of the ways in which this money is being spent.

Specific items will be described because of their general interest, and without regard to whether they might be considered meritorious or otherwise.

New York Thursday, are