

# Plays and Players

Fort Armstrong—George Behan in person in "The Sign of the Rose." Spencer Square—Gloria Swanson in "Her Gilded Cage." Majestic—Constance Talmadge in "Sauce for the Goose." Grand—Grand Players in "My Lady Friends." Capitol—Vera Gordon in "Your Best Friend" and Syncopeation vaudeville.

## BEBAN BRINGS TEARS IN PLAY

BY FERN HAWKS.

One of the sweetest, most pathetic of stories of life is told in the play now being shown at the Fort Armstrong, George Behan's famous production, "The Sign of the Rose." Not only is the story being shown on the film, but Mr. Behan and his cast are appearing in person in the fourth act of the play. This is the first time that the silent play and the spoken drama have been blended. So skillfully does the shadow picture fade away and the real flesh and blood performers take its place that one is scarcely aware that the change has occurred.

Many theatrical followers have been disappointed when a favorite actor or actress has changed from the spoken to the silent play and vice versa. Mr. Behan does not disappoint one here. His acting is just as wonderful on the screen as when he appears before you in person and lets you suffer with him the loss of the dearest thing in his world.

Mr. Behan portrays Pietro Balli, an Italian. He lives alone with his motherless daughter, Rosina. (The child actress who played this character deserves more than ordinary praise.)

The story opens with Christmas time in two homes, one that of Pietro, the other of a millionaire manufacturer. Despite the difference in the homes, the spirit of Christmas is the same. In each lives a little girl, the sunshine of the household. In a desperate attempt to gain a sum of money a brother of the millionaire kidnaps his child. Pietro, who has delivered a Christmas tree to the manufacturer's home, is blamed. Desperate with futile attempts to find his daughter, the millionaire drives madly through the streets, seeking the Italian who he believes has stolen his child. In the tenement

district where he goes in his search Rosina has come down to the streets to play. The music of the organ grinder has become too much and Pietro has given her permission to play while he goes out to fill the long list of gifts she has requested of Santa Claus. Blindfolded in a game of blind man's buff, Rosina does not see the car bearing down upon her. She is struck and the little life passes out. The most pitiful part of the story is the scene of the father's arrival home with gifts for his baby, accompanied by a crippled boy who is to play Santa. If there was anyone in the audience who did not shed a tear then theirs must have been a hardened heart. Or again in the House of the Flowers, where Pietro has gone to buy just one rose for his dead child. This act is given by Mr. Behan and cast in person. Here, too, has come the mother of the stolen child, provided with money to pay the ransom which she thinks Pietro has demanded. Unaware that she is the wife of the man who killed his child, Pietro tells her the sad story. The heart of the mother is touched, but that of the detective engaged to apprehend the kidnaper remains cold and he prepares to take Pietro to the chief of police. Mr. Behan's acting here is wonderful. With him you go into the depths of despair and sorrow. You are with him when he tells of the trip to America, when in a wreck at sea his wife is lost, and he saves his baby daughter. You are with him when he fights to go back to the body of his child. The remainder of the story is again told on the screen. Pietro has lost his child, and life seems to hold nothing for him. He prepares to return to Italy. At the end of the picture something happens which helps to relieve the lump in your throat, for Pietro finds something that brings the sunshine back again. A feature of the program which it is sure everyone in the audience appreciated was the music. With the gay parts of the picture, the holiday scenes and the playing children, came light laughing tunes. When sorrow and grief were portrayed the music played fitted perfectly into the mood of the character. Not only did Mr. Behan charm his huge audiences with his acting, but he delighted with curtain talks. "When I left New York to come here," said Mr. Behan, "I was told that Rock Island gave one of the coldest audiences in the circuit. If the audiences that I have played to today are cold, then I'd like to take one back to New York." There is a comedy and the regular Pathé News, but it is doubtful if anyone in the audience remembered what either was after viewing "The Sign of the Rose."

## GLORIA GRAND IN GILDED CAGE

BY MALCOLM EDDY.

All of the conquests which charming Gloria Swanson has not made among Rock Island film fans will come into her fold when they see her in "Her Gilded Cage" the first part of the week at the Spencer Square. The play went big before three large audiences yesterday. Appearing in the most fascinating role of her career, Miss Swanson plays exceptionally well the part of a woman true at heart who necessarily forced to accept engagements as a professional dancer, and who gained the good of approbation and the evil of attraction for the wrong kind of men in fulfilling her duties. Though the story makes its direct appeal for the interest of the plot, there is attraction for the student of human nature in it. Revealing the heroine in her public life—the life of her career—and in her private life—that of her nature—the play gives Miss Swanson a difficult task to master, and she displays high talent or at least excellent directing in her handling of the part. Her costumes are gorgeous, as befits the premiere danseuse of gay Paris, and she uses many of them in the course of the play. Settings, too, are grand affairs. Mere mention of the names of Miss Swanson's support will mean much to movie enthusiasts. It is a galaxy—Harrison Ford, David

Powell, Walter Hiers and Ann Cornwall lead the list, and their work adds much to the picture. All in all, "Her Gilded Cage" presents a variety of attractiveness not to be found in the ordinary variety of picture plays. A Hy Mayer vaudeville, the latest pictorial news and one of those comic Aesop's Film Fables cartoon pictures help make the first half bill attractive at the Spencer Square.

Revue at Capitol.

Without question the best revue the Capitol has presented since its opening is showing at the Davenport theatre this week, with Ed Lowry in the leading comedy role. In spite of the bad weather of Sunday, there was a good attendance at the theatre and the audience was loud in its applause for the Syncopeation Revue. Manager Lowredge in bringing the organization together grouped a number of high class vaudeville acts, a company of 25, and the entertainment provided was greeted with a warm welcome. Mr. Lowry works something after the fashion of Eddie Cantor, announcing his acts and keeping his audience in a mirthful mood throughout the presentation of the show. The Gibson sisters, dancers of quite a reputation in the theatrical world, having been with the "Follies" last year and "The Passing Show" the year before, have a terpsichorean act of the better class. Farrman and Furman are singers who were repeatedly endorsed. Juanita Means, who was with Raymond Hitchcock's "Hitchy-Koo" and who is to return to the 1923 version of that revue, was also high up on the bill as an entertainer. The company has an orchestra of 10 artists which keeps the performers stepping fast. The revue precedes an excep-

tionally strong motion picture bill. The comedy is fast and farious, presenting Larry Semon in "Golf." Vera Gordon appears in the feature picture in "Your Best Friend." The Capitol Symphony orchestra plays the overture and there is an organ number by Walt Stealy.

Barry at the Garden.  
Wesley Barry scores again in "Rags to Riches," which is being shown at the Garden theatre, in

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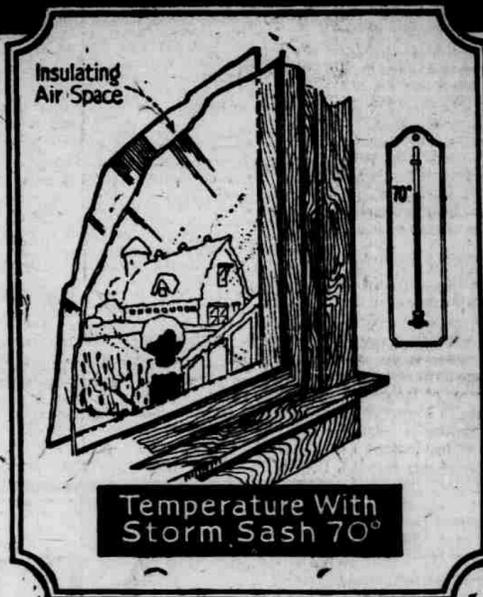
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## FOOTBALL MEN ROBBED WHILE BATTLING FOE

Football team at Augustana Gym robbed as Game Progresses on Ericsson Field.

Thieves entered the dressing room of the Augustana college football players Saturday afternoon while the men were down on Ericsson field fighting for the honor of the state. They took every thing of value upon which they could lay their hands. The total loss was placed at \$250. The broken lock made entrance into the dressing room easy for those who committed one of the most unscrupulous pieces of thievery ever taking place at Augustana. Coach Svedberg's key, for some unaccountable reason would not throw the latch and it was necessary to break the lock of the door for the players to dress for the football contest with Monmouth. A tired and rather disheartened bunch of players returned to the dressing room after Saturday's contest, tired from the physical exertion which they put forth in trying to stop the attack of the opposing team, and disheartened because of the fact that they lost the contest before a large homecoming crowd, and to add to their ill feeling they were confronted with the fact that they were the victims of such a low piece of work.

Authorities of the college and police of the tri-cities were notified at once as were authorities of Monmouth. No evidence as to who committed the theft has been found.



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"Kerosene can be bought anywhere."

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