©CLL 17271c THE ALARM DEC -5 1921

Photoplay in two reels

Story and scenario by George Morgan and George H. Plympton

Directed by Robert Hill

Author of the photoplay (Under Sec. 62)
Universal Film Mfg. Co. Inc. of the U. S.

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"The Alarm"

Two-reel Western

CACTUS and Mesquite are rival villages. The Cactus school teacher is expected on the evening stage.

Tom Collins rescues a girl who is being dragged by a runaway horse. The woman is the school teacher. The stage comes in and a professor-looking individual, wearing spectacles and with a butterfly net, gets off. The punchers are expecting to see a pretty girl. Tom gets an idea and motions to them that this is the teacher.

The next morning when school opens, Tom is the only pupil. Later, the punchers find that Tom has put one over on them. Joe Thompson, a shady character, beats it to the schoolhouse. He looks in the window and sees Tom and the teacher. The others also arrive and all file in, to Tom's disgust.

Joe's jealousy takes a sinister turn. He snatches a paper Tom is writing and reads aloud a love poem which Tom has written to the teacher. Joe is getting the worst of the ensuing fight when the teacher returns and stops it.

Mesquite is having a fire drill and to get even with Tom, Joe steals a horse and rides with it to the schoolma'am's house where Tom is. He changes Tom's saddle to the stolen horse, and drives Tom's horse away. The professor sees the proceeding from the bushes.

The theft of the horse is discovered and the trail leads to Cactus. Tom has left the teacher's house and in a dream mounted the horse without noticing the difference and is met by the Mesquite posse who question him. The owner of the horse thatw as stolen recognizes him and accuses Tom of the theft. He is taken to jail in Mesquite.

His Cactus friends determine to rescue him. They give the fire alarm and during the excitement they rescue Tom. Meanwhile Joe is making love to the teacher. She repulses him. He becomes threatening. She is alarmed, but Joe tells her every one is over to Mesquite to see her horse thief lover. He lights his cigarette and throws the match into a waste paper basket which catches fire.

The punchers are returning with Tom. The punchers see the schoolhouse on fire. Joe throws the teacher across his saddle, mounts and makes off with her, pursued by Tom.

Tom climbs to the roof of a shack where Joe has hidden the teacher and lets himself down the chimney. The others come up and break in the door as Tom knocks Joe out. The Mesquites again claim Tom for their prisoner when they are interrupted by the old professor, who tells them he is a Secret Service man and wants Joe who is the thief. Tom is exonerated and every one looks for Tom's further education at the teacher's hands, but on a more intimate basis.

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