

## A Weekly Letter from Billy Maine

With News of Tours, Autos, Sports and Movies on the Pacific Coast

Hollywood, Calif.

"Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." This promise, uttered by Herbert Grimwood, portraying the character of Jesus of Nazareth, closed the initial performance of the Pilgrimage play, "Life of Christ," at the Pilgrimage Theatre in Hollywood, last Monday night. Never before has the initial performance of this play awakened such varied emotions, probably, on both sides of the curtain, or excited such general suspense and expectations as it did on the occasion of its opening of the fourth consecutive season. The lighting effects and various scenes are superb, and words really fail to describe the soul-inspiring scene of the Ascension, when it seemed as though the Hollywood Hills were actually afire. The Pilgrimage Theatre itself is built on a hill, in a narrow canyon, where one can see the myriad lights of Los Angeles flickering in the distance. In the rear of the stage, rising almost perpendicular to a great height is a mountain on which the greater part of the play is enacted. Near the very top, outlined against the sky, are the three crosses. That the Pilgrimage play is gaining in favor each season is evidenced by the huge crowd at the opening performance among which were many prominent motion picture people of Hollywood. The production this year is stronger and more in keeping with the original idea, and no tourist should miss going to this unique theatre to see this California offering.

Dangerous crossings must go. Death-trap grade crossings have been revealed by the Auto Club of Southern California and figures compiled to tell the awful toll of accidents. Experts on the engineering staff of the club state that danger could be eliminated at a small cost. One crossing in particular on the Long Beach highway, just outside of Los Angeles, has 500 electric trains passing daily, and approximately 16,000 motor vehicles cross during the same time. It is estimated that the motor vehicles carry about 35,000 people and the trains 27,000. This vast amount of human freight that passes at this intersection makes this grade crossing extremely hazardous, and steps are being taken to remedy it. Actual opposition will be taken by the club to further granting of any more grade crossing permits on important highways in California. The club does not say that every highway crossing will be opposed, but officials point out that they will oppose the granting of right of ways at grade crossing levels where later on, dangerous conditions will develop.

Again all records went smash when a stock Reo left Los An-

geles for Salt Lake City breaking all previous records and bettering the time made by the fastest express train. From Salt Lake the same car continued on to San Francisco, lowering the record from Salt Lake to San Francisco by eight minutes. The machine covered 1718½ miles of gruelling mountain and desert travel, part of the time in a desert gale and rain storm, in the remarkable time of 54 hours and 17 minutes. The car was strictly stock, excepting Hartford absorbers, Alemite spring covers, and Goodrich Silvertown Cords. Pennzoil was the lubricant used. Not only does the Reo hold all the records between these points, but has bettered all previous marks which Reo itself had made.

A stock Chandler with the Pike's Peak motor, last Thursday was driven up the Mt. Wilson toll road in high gear. Two passengers made the trip, a nine and one half mile ascent in 32

minutes. The Mt. Wilson toll road is steeper and narrower than most of the hills conquered by Chandler throughout the country, and grades as steep as 19 per cent were negotiated without difficulty.

On July 25th Thomas Meighan will start the production "All Must Marry." The picture is from the story by George Ade, and Alfred Green will direct. Studio sets will take place in Hollywood.

Edwin Carewe and company are on the Mohave Desert, near Victorville, filming scenes for "The Bad Man." Holbrook Blinn, who takes the lead, is not on location because all his scenes have been taken and he has left for the East.

Friday last, suit was brought in Superior Court by Jackie Saunders, pretty motion picture actress for a divorce from E. B. Horkheimer. Miss Saunders was married on May 10, 1916 in San Diego.

Ben Alexander, twelve-year-old star of "Penrod and Sam," was signed yesterday by Maurice Tourneur to play "Bud," in "Two Little Vagrants." The entire cast is not yet assembled.

The world's premier of "The Call of the Wild," opened at The California Theatre today. A new dog hero has risen in the film world for "Buck," the mighty Saint Bernard, is wonderful in this famous tale of the early days of the mad rush for gold in the Yukon. A picture worth going to see.

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