

"Movie relatives", said a certain Motion Picture executive, "are like our skin. They stick to us."

~~Everyxstudioxist~~

Probably fifty percent of the employes on a Motion picture studio lot ~~is~~ a relative of some executive or official in power. The other fifty percent ~~oncludes~~ among them the friends and friends of friends. It is in fact a rare achievement to obtain a position in a studio without the necessary "pull" or relationship.

To start from the top. The producers themselves seem to be possessed of an inexhaustible horde of relations far and near. It is but human nature to take care of ones own first, and the Movie producer is certainly certainly believes in the old adage that "Charity begins at home". With a large and free hand he doles out charity in the shape of sine-cure jobs and otherwise to his relatives.

At Universal, it is said of the Laemmle relatives that they are like Heinz Pickles. There are fifty seven (and more) varieties, all of them edible.

Carl Jr. or Junior as he called by everyone naturally tops the list. ~~Hexisxaxgoodxlookingxyoungsterxofxnineteenxx~~
~~xtwenty~~ He is also known as the Crown Prince, and the Man who smiles.

~~Juniorisxsmilexinxfact~~ ~~Hexisxnicexlookingxyoungstar~~

He is a slight, delicate boy of nineteen or twenty, undersized, nervous, excitable. ~~Onxhisxslenderxshouldersxx~~ ~~xxHexneverx~~

He does everything on the run. Junior does not know what it means to mark time. He is always hurrying--whether at work or at play.

~~ConsideringxthefactxthatxnearlyxeveryxonexonxthexUnx~~

~~Onxhearsxpaebs~~ One must take with a pinch of salt all the extravagant paens of praise showered upon this youngster. No grown man could

"Movie relatives" are like our di

accomplish so much it be so talented as the Publicity department of Universal would have the world believe young Junior is. To do him justice he is not to blame for all this ridiculous adulation and servile flattery, ~~and although~~ Everyone kowtowing and scraping and smooching. His presence on a set creates a stir of excitement. Young men and girls turn pale at his approach, get heart failure at a ~~word~~ if they offend him, are raised to the Seventh heaven by a word of praise or a smile from Junior. ~~This and that~~

As a matter of fact Junior ~~has an average brain~~ is ~~an~~ extraordinary ~~man~~ could not ~~be~~

He has a good brain---restless, imaginative, even creative, shrewd. Considering the attention paid him ever since he was a boy, he is far less arrogant than might be expected in a youth of his age. In fact it is doubtful whether his head is turned by all this flattery. He is just keen enough to weigh it at its face value. In fine he is the son of old Carl, a rare and unique soul in every sense of the word. It is not astonishing that Junior has the restless urge to do many things of a creative sort. He wants to write. He has a secret hankering to act. He plays at supervising; he is going to direct. He balks a bit at taking on the General managership of Universal City, but he has no hesitation in telling the various general managers where they get off at. ~~He has one of the keenest~~ He has a surefire box office sense of the motion picture values of a story. He can write a bit. If his mind were not so diverted by the thousand and one distractions of the Universal lot, ~~it~~ this talent might be developed into something quite worth while. But Junior is playing the dill-tante. He's a little afraid of himself. He writes the idea of a story down---a torrent of praise issues from all sides. He knows that that praise is not altogether sincere. He'd give anything for

an honest sizing up of his writing. On the other hand he is aware that many who praise him have their tongues in their cheeks, and that others are running around with tales that this and that story that Junior is credited with writing was written for him by such and such a person. ~~xxxxxxx~~ His Collegian stories for instance. The idea actually emanated from Junior, and I myself read his first five stories. They were briefly sketched out, but the stuff was in them. Later, other writers worked on his scripts, but he has to be credited with originating the idea and writing at least the outline of the stories. So much for his writing. He is popular as a supervisor.

Why not? Any picture under the supervision of Junior means ~~thatxxxx~~ the director may go as far as he likes, so far as expense is concerned. Moreover, every aid is given. A picture supervised by Laemmle junior simply has got to be boosted on all sides.

~~Junior~~ He really likes to work. At first it was thought he would just play around at Univerdal. Not so. The kid rolled up his sleeves and got literally down to work. Not but what he ~~hasx~~ quite agrees with the old adage that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Junior does 'nt intend to be dull. Therefore he plays when he feels like it. He is a poker fiend. He likes the ladies. He has his ~~spreesxxxx~~ favorite friends and is off on spreess with them, and taken all in all he's a regular and human sort of a kid. Not at all the phenomenal genius they tell him he is; but a likeable, goodlooking, fun loving youngster, whose greatest handicap and greatest asset is that he is the son of Carl Laemmle.

I remember a few years ago---three--- en route to the coast with Mr. Laemmle, that he expressed some concern as to his boy's future. He said that for several years both of his children,

Rosabelle and Junior had been brought up to know every angle of the Motion Picture business.

"Every night" said Karl Laemmle, "I take home with me, all the letters, memos &c. and my children read and go over them with me. I don't know what I'd do without their advice".

At that time Junior was about sixteen and Rosabelle a few years older. It has been said that Rosabelle has one of the sanest most level heads of any girls in Hollywood. She discounts all the adulation and fame and attention showered upon her; ~~take~~ ~~people~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~ix~~ has a disconcerting gift of fixing people up, and comes to the keenest shrewdest conclusions. which she passes along to her famous father. Remaining in the background, seemingly content with the social life, a charming chatelaine of their magnificent home ---a domain of the Spanish sort--- Rosabelle ~~knows~~ is the silent but very significant partner of the Universal. Carl Laemmle has hundreds of advisers and important people in executive positions but he values most and goes by the advice of the pretty, quiet, almost diffident little personage who so efficiently runs his home-- and his business.

There is something almost pathetic and touching in his reliance upon his daughter's judgment. Many stories are told in regard to Carl Laemmle's reference to Rosabelle's opinion. ~~From~~ Once when a story by a famous author was recommended, it was rejected by Mr. Laemmle as "Out. Can't be much. Rosabelle never heard of it". After that the story department always (in whispers) would say: "So you suppose Rosabelle ever heard of it?"

Laemmle's nephews are reputed to be legion. That's a myth however. He only has three or four. There is Eddie, the Eddie Laemmle, son of his oldest brother, who has had to fight every .

inch of the way up to his present secure position as one of the ablest directors of Universal. No sinecure job was handed Eddie. ~~xxxx~~ Uncle gave him a place at Universal, it is true, but smaller pay than any other man doing the same work. On and on he plodded, working against serious odds, and presently the trade became aware that pictures directed by Eddie Laemmle were always sellers. Eddie had hit the box office. ~~xxxx~~ They who had laughed at him laughed with him. They who had doubted and scouted him, now began to regard with respect the little plucky nephew of Uncle Carl.

~~another~~

Then there are ~~Ernst~~ the brothers Ernst and Walter Laemmle, sons of another brother of Carl Laemmle. They have ~~xxx~~ the thick accent of the homeland, and quite old world manner. Heels clicking together, as they bow from the waist down. Well educated, clean-cut nice boys, with considerable talent. Of Walter little can be said, as he was ~~only~~ such a short while in this country. Ernst was beginning to make a real place for himself. ~~xxxx~~ A protegee and ~~pupil~~ disciple of Lubitsch, Ernst was forging ahead on his own account, being entrusted with the directing of some of the best of the Universal pictures. ~~xxxx~~ Then one day Ernst was in a bad automobile accident. For months he was confined to the hospital, his hand amputated and injured in other parts. A few months ago Ernst returned to his native

There are Willie and Bob Wyler. Nephews once or twice removed. Willie is a director and a good one. Bob is a supervisor. If there's a touch of genius and madness in any member of the family, it comes out in Bob. From the time when he delivered the baccalaureate sermon in his graduating year at the Sorbonne in Paris, Bob has been leaping up at the stars.

~~Hexisxx~~

Still in his early twenties, he has done some outstanding work as a supervisor, but his brain seethes with plots ~~and~~ for stories. He will tramp up and down like some driven thing, his hands gesticulating, as story after story pours from him. The ~~scrying~~ cruel part is his inability to set down in writing what is in his head. Or rather not inability, but fear. He is afraid of his own power. He can tell a story, so he says, but he cannot write it. Some day, he will take pen in hand and write with letters of fire. He is like a highbred colt straining at his leash.

Paul Kohner is generally reputed to be a relative, but Paul is merely a very good friend of the family. Mr. Laemmle brought this young executive to Universal from his home in Kohner acquired an extraordinary influence over Mr. Laemmle from the first, and has been held in the highest esteem by him. Kohner has been advanced from one position to another, till at the present time he is in charge of all Universal's affairs in Europe. He is engaged to be married to Universal's lovely young star, Mary Philbin.

The head of the casting office is a Laemmle relative. He is Victor Nordlinger.

One must not forget the Stern brothers, or the Gold Dust Twins as they have been nicknamed. They are brothers-in-law to Mr. Laemmle, and large stockholders in the Universal. They are never ~~at~~ far from the old General, and their sister Mrs. Fleckles has long been chaperon and favorite aunt of Rosabelle, the motherless girl and has given her a mother's care.

Beth Laemle might be called the Cinderella of the family. Beth is the daughter of Carl Laemmle's oldest brother. She lives with her Irish mother and Jewish father in a tiny little very humble bungalow adjoining the Universal lot. Beth is pretty and blonde, with a little snub nose and bluebell eyes. ~~They~~ ~~She is a dancer by profession but~~ ~~although~~ Although a "Premiere danseuse" by profession, she lives the life of a little retiring nun, and is very much under the ~~shad~~ patriarchal shadow of the Laemmle millions, in which neither she nor her parents share. ~~Of course~~

The family have always dependents upon the bounty of Uncle Carl. ~~Perhaps Uncle~~ The Laemmle relatives are disposed to look somewhat askance at this branch. Beth is the queer little unwanted duckling that somehow hatched out under the Laemmle wing. ~~She~~ Her mother, a quiet, retiring sort of woman keeps in the silent background. Her father has for a number of years been blind. Beth presents a rather extraordinary contrast to the ~~more affluent~~ Rosabelle Beth in her humble little cottage and her made over dresses presents an odd contrast to Rosabelle in the gorgeous manor house in Benedicti Canyon. Rosabelle, with her dozens of servants, the score of young men, with one eye on papa Laemmle, and one on Rosabelle, dancing in attendance. Rosabelle with her ~~luxury~~ sport roadsters and limousines, her chauffeurs and maids and her girl friends whose father's millions match those of Uncle Carl's. Beth, on the other hand, cooks and keeps house for her parents, between the periods when she can get a ~~bit~~ an engagement as a dancer or is fifteen a "bit" to do in a Universal picture.

The Laemmle family

If Beth had not been born a Laemmle it is quite possible that she might have gone far in her chosen profession. Not only is quaintly pretty, but she is a charming dancer. Someone seeing her dance, exclaimed: "The trouble with that girl lies in the fact that she doesn't let herself go. She's repressing the best in herself. She seems to be afraid of herself. She ought to kick loose". Maybe someday Uncle Carl's little Jewish Irish rose of a niece will "kick loose". 'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished. Incidentally, Beth is a half sister of Eddie Laemmle, but there's no Irish in Eddie. ~~It's rather shamefaced way Eddie~~ In point of fact Eddie doesn't know whether to be ashamed or proud of his Irish relatives.

~~On the~~ Metro Goldwyn lot

At Metro Goldwyn, where Louis B. Mayer rules the roost, the Mayer relatives are not very much in evidence. ~~It is true that several~~ A couple of nieces, a nephew or two, a brother and maybe a distant cousin or so hold their positions not so much by grace of Louis B. Mayer, but because of the merit of their work. True no doubt, to start with the jobs were made for them. Why not? With Uncle Louis B. at the head of the big producing company, why should he not give employment to his "poor relatives" as well as to strangers? However, no sinecure places were made for Mayer relatives. ~~It is true that~~ ~~With~~ No partiality; no favoritism. In fact it is well known fact that a Mayer relative is expected to work harder for less pay than a stranger would receive.

~~if Mr Mayer~~

Almost grudgingly Mr Mayer has given his relatives employment. He would prefer to keep the family off the lot. ~~His~~ His generosity toward his relatives away from the studio lot is well known. ~~Only~~ Mr. Mayer He and his wife and daughters are always devising ways and means of making his relatives more comfortable, and of showering favors and gifts upon them. But as for jobs on the Metro lot. That's another matter---one that makes Louis B. shake his head. ~~Mayer~~ Mayer is old fashioned in his ideas for his family. As head ~~and~~ of the family, he governs all of the relatives with an almost military patriarchy. As chieftain of the clan he has a say in everything they do. ~~That's~~ He would prefer the women of his family to remain at home. Why should they go out work? What need of a career? He is able and willing to give them generous allowances. And as for marriage---Louis B. will have something to say in the choice of their husbands. His displeasure is not something any of the family care to cultivate. When Ruth Cummings, his niece, eloped with a good looking youngster, she returned to face not the wrath but the cold and frozen ignoring of her by her uncle. Ruth was one member of the family who believed she could gang her ain gait. A girl of exceptional talent, ~~mere~~ mere social life did not appeal to her, and she grew restive under the too governing eye of her uncle.

If Ruth has made a reputation as one of the best title writers in the industry, it is not because of any boost or hoist she has had as the niece of Louis B. Mayer, but in spite of that relationship. Her sister indeed---Mitzi Cummings--

has found the relationship almost a handicap. Mitzi is as pretty and peppy as a little gypsy, and she is wild to for a career on the stage or in pictures. Easy---with her uncle President at Metro? Not by a long shot. Mitzi, though she has played in a score of pictures has never been allowed to get out of the extra rank. Smarting under what she imagined to be discrimination against her by supervisors and directors, Mitzi sought other studios, applying for work over another name. Here she fared better, was even making a bit of headway, when--as always-- it would be discovered she was Louis B's niece. Then the word would go out:

"If she's any good, why doesn't Metro give her a break".

Once at Universal, when she applied for a certain part, she was met with this flat query from Henry Hennigson:

"We'll give you work if Metro will take on Beth Laemmle

In other words Universal were willing to swap a Laemmle for a Mayer.

Finally dejected and disappointed, Mitzi gave over the unequal struggle. She was too restless a sprite however to remain at home. The studio had a fascination she could not resist. ~~Her uncle's face~~ Her uncle's face was set against her continuing to work as an extra. Inducements were offered Mitzi---a tempting allowance, a trip abroad--what would you? Mitzi replied with tears, and a passionate insistence that they were trying to freeze her out. ~~Their~~ A compromise resulted, with Mitzi given a secretarial position on the lot. ~~But~~ Louis B released a sigh of relief. He hoped Mitzi would now be satis-

fied. ~~In this the kid~~ Mitzi who is something of a magnet so far as boys are concerned, would no doubt soon be married. Louis B. had her promise that she would not elope as her sister had done, and though he did'nt relish her working at Metro, still what could you do with a girl-creature who was three parts elf? ~~Mitzi is satisfied and happy~~ ~~Not so~~

~~you could notice it~~ ~~She is the~~ The solution is not wholly a satisfactory one. It is quite possible that Louis B. did not take into consideration the reluctance of directors or scenario writers or executives to have as a secretary the niece of the President ~~Mitzi~~

"It makes me hot under the collar" says Mitzi, "to see them lower their voices when I pass, or look at me askance. They think I'm a sort of spy. That I'll run and tittle tattle this or that to my uncle."

The angry tears sparkled in the girl's bright eyes. "Oh well said she, whistling to cover her feelings" "I should worry. Its all in the day's work".

Jack Cummings, brother of Ruth and Mitzi and nephew of Louis B. possesses more than the average amount of the family brains. Jack is in charge of one of the unites on the Metro lot. It has not been all easy sliding for Jack. He has had to watch his step, and guard his tongue. Someone once remarked that if Jack made any false mistakes, tried to Ritz anyone on the lot, Louis B. would be the first to have his head off. He is a well liked. sunny natured young fellow. with a wide sense of humor and an ability to take punishment.

~~The Cummings family~~

The mother of these up and coming young Cummings is the only sister of Louis B. Mayer. His fondness for her, his generosity and kindness has made him more or less of an idol to Mrs. Cummings. She has no hesitation in expatiating upon all he has done for her.

"My brother gave me this beautiful house--- everything we have. ~~His wife xxxxxxxx Mayer~~ My brother's wife is the noblest and sweetest woman in the world. She can't do enough for me. My brother's daughters---have you met them? Ah! isn't Edith a beauty? And Irene---did you know she is to sing ~~xxxx~~ at the Metropolitan in New York. Such a marvelous voice. You must hear her. And such ~~sweet~~ darling girls--so unspoiled and human and real. Let me ~~tell you what Irene~~ show you what Irene brought over this morning? ~~Ixxxx~~ I simply remarked how pretty that costume was she was wearing. She went right out and had it duplicated for me? There never was a lovelier family. "

Get Mrs. Cummings started on her brother and her brother's family and there is no stopping her. Even her own children must take second place.

Finally there is Louis B. Mayer, sr. That is to say, the father of Louis B. and Mrs. Cummings. An old Hebrew scholar, ~~mild~~ an infinitely wise, infinitely kind old man of culture, who ~~is a philosopher~~ has the broadest sort of philosophy and religion by which to govern his declining years. "Life" says old Mr. Mayer, "is like a great wheel, slowly turning. Always remember, when you are under the wheel, that sooner or later it must turn, and you will come up

with the turn of the wheel".

~~They were beginning~~

Little more than a year ago, they used to refer to the Warner brother with a laugh, and some joking query as to that theatre that would arise in another decade. The Warner boys were butt of every foolish joke on the loose tongues of smart alecks in the colony. I remember well two Universal banquets where the Warners were pilloried, both in wise cracks in speeches, and in little plays and motion pictures, and a I was at another Laemmle banquet, where Jack Warner gave one of the most biting speeches in retort, impaling his tormentors with his wit and sarcasm.

~~Now~~

Now when they allude to the Warners in Hollywood it is with the most profound respect. They are called "The Amazing Warners". They have set everyone by the ear. They have caused almost a revolution in the industry. It is the Warners who knocked tradition into a cocked hat, and overnight caused an upheaval by coming with the First Talkies.

The Warner relatives are many, and they stand shoulder to shoulder. Jack and Harry and Sam and Abe and Izzy and Moe and the rest, whatever one does is O.K. to the other. Then there is one shining star among them. True she is but a Warner by blood, but the family take a special pride in Lina Basquette, widow of their brother Sam.

If Louis B. Mayer is reluctant to have members of his family working on the Metro lot, Irving Thalberg does not share his sentiments. Not that there are many Thalbergs on the lot, but such as are there are sitting pretty. Sylvia Thalberg for instance, whose name is planted upon many a screen play as the scenarist, regardless sometimes of ~~whathex~~ who wrote the script or not. We will grant Sylvia's ambition as a scenarist, but it is not good sportsmanship on her part to take the credit for another's work, and this charge has been laid too often at her door.

Recently Sylvia was married to one at that time holding a minor position at Metro, and since elevated to the important post of supervisor. Now various members of the Weingarten clan are holding down positions of more or less importance.

Another team of brothers are the Seiznicks. Myron and Davy. Dave is a supervisor on the Facus Players lot and Myron conducts an agency for players and writers. An ideal arrangement exists between the brothers, and which appears to be entirely satisfactory to the Paramount organization. ~~Thexexexex~~ great rush among the Myron's clients are always sure of a berth at Paramount.

"Every second man or woman at Tiffany Stahl is related to Mr. Hoffman or Mr. Stahl" said someone with utmost solemnity.

One of the best examples of what relationship will do is what happened to John when he married Coleen Moore. John was a publicity man at that time, and Coleen

was a star. John's rise after that marriage was simply phenomenal. He went up in leaps and bounds, till presently he sat in the autocratic chair of General Manager of First National.

DeMille does not go in for "relatives" so much as "friends". Jeanie MacPherson owes her start to De Mille. For years their friendship has been a matter of the sort of Belasco and Leslie Carter. Some folks say deMille believes in harems &c b