

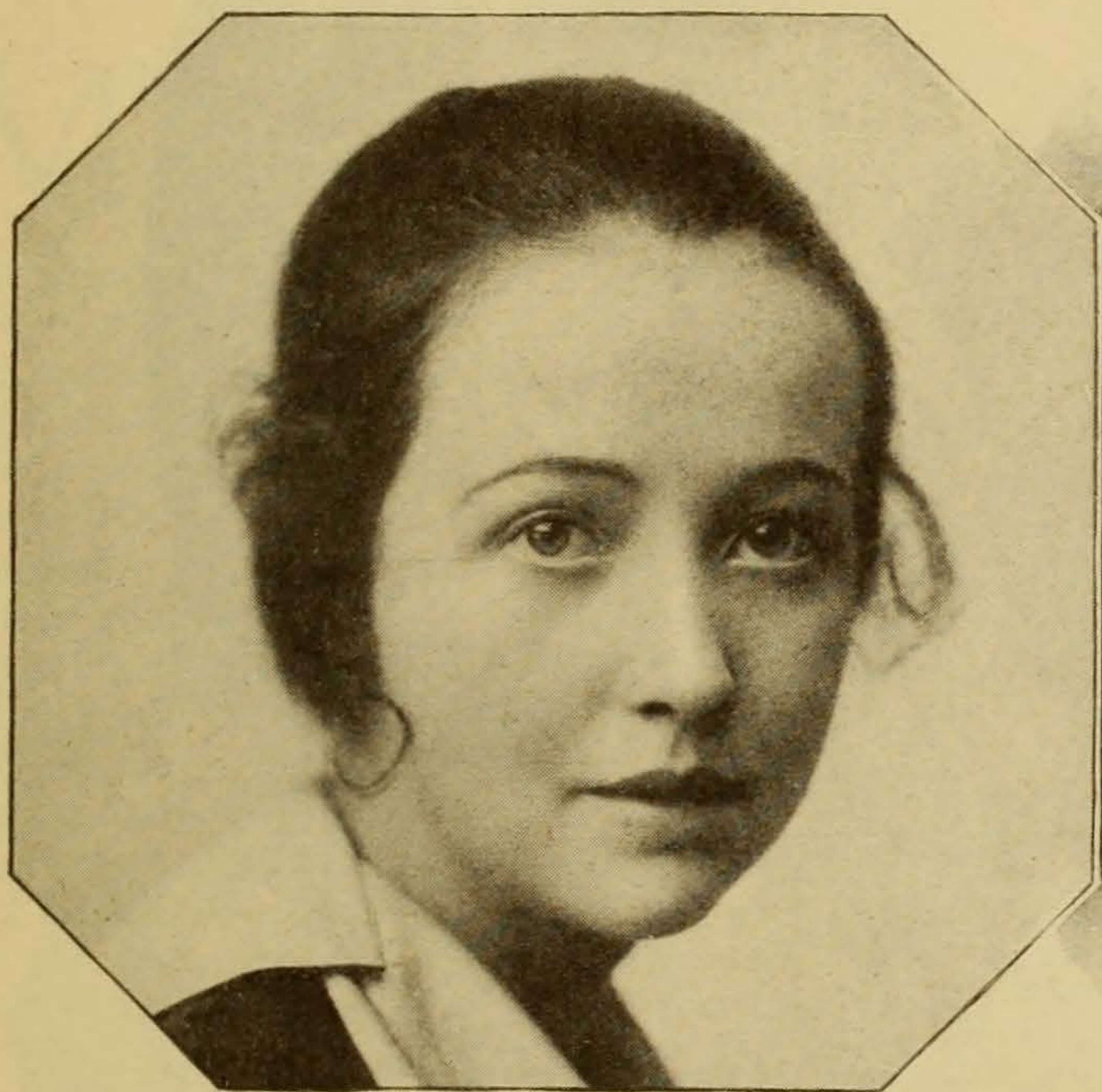
Helpful Helen

In which it is attested that elasticity, plus willingness, plus George Beban, can carry one to glory

By Kenneth McGaffey

Si

AS a scenario writer, Helen Jerome Eddy proved she is a clever actress. She hadn't thought about being an actress at all. She had pinned her hopes of immortality firmly upon the plan of writing scenarios, from the time she saw her first moving picture. But that just goes to show the kind of girl Helpful Helen is. She's elastic. Not like the Keystone ladies, after the manner of their kind, but speaking mentally. She's the kind of girl, for example, who, desiring a diamond sunburst for a birthday present and receiving only a pearl necklace, wouldn't ever be sniffy about it and hand back the pearls. Not Helen. Like the busy little bee, she flits from photoplay to photoplay, gathering what honors there be and finding many where others would scorn to look. Which is why she has become acknowledged as the clever-

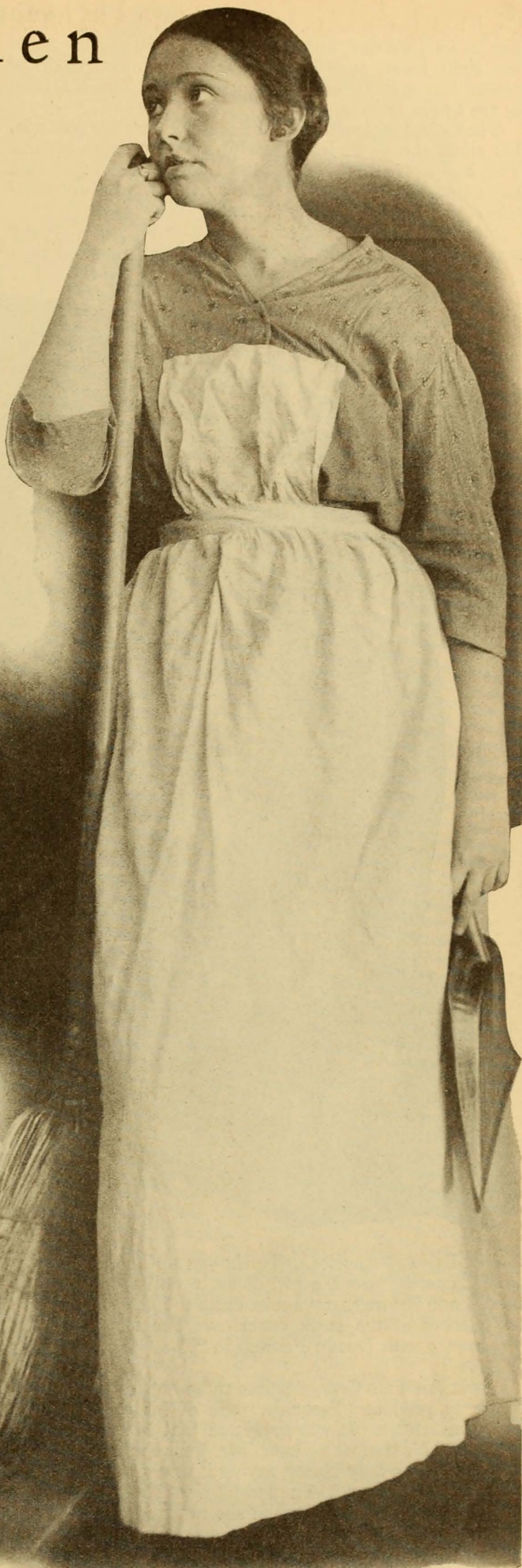


Photoplayers Studio

est young character playeress in the Morosco branch of the Paramount family.

When Helen was four years old, her parents lived in New York and evidently received a booklet from the Chamber of Commerce, or a souvenir postcard from Los Angeles, for they promptly packed up and moved to the "land of the orange, the citron and vine," and little Miss Helen was sent to school. She went to see moving pictures and decided that her place in life was as a writer of scenarios. She promptly took her little pen in her little hand and set about to be a big noise in the preparation of the silent drama—but, as fast as she would send scenarios to the different studios around Los Angeles, so fast would these scenarios come back. Finally, being in San Diego, she decided to beard the

Helpful Helen Jerome Eddy is versatile except as to whiskers. And she'd wear 'em if the 'script required it. She's that helpful.



lion in its very den, and with a scenario clasped firmly in her right hand, and with eighteen years of confidence behind her, Miss Helen called upon Captain Melville, head of the Lubin studios.

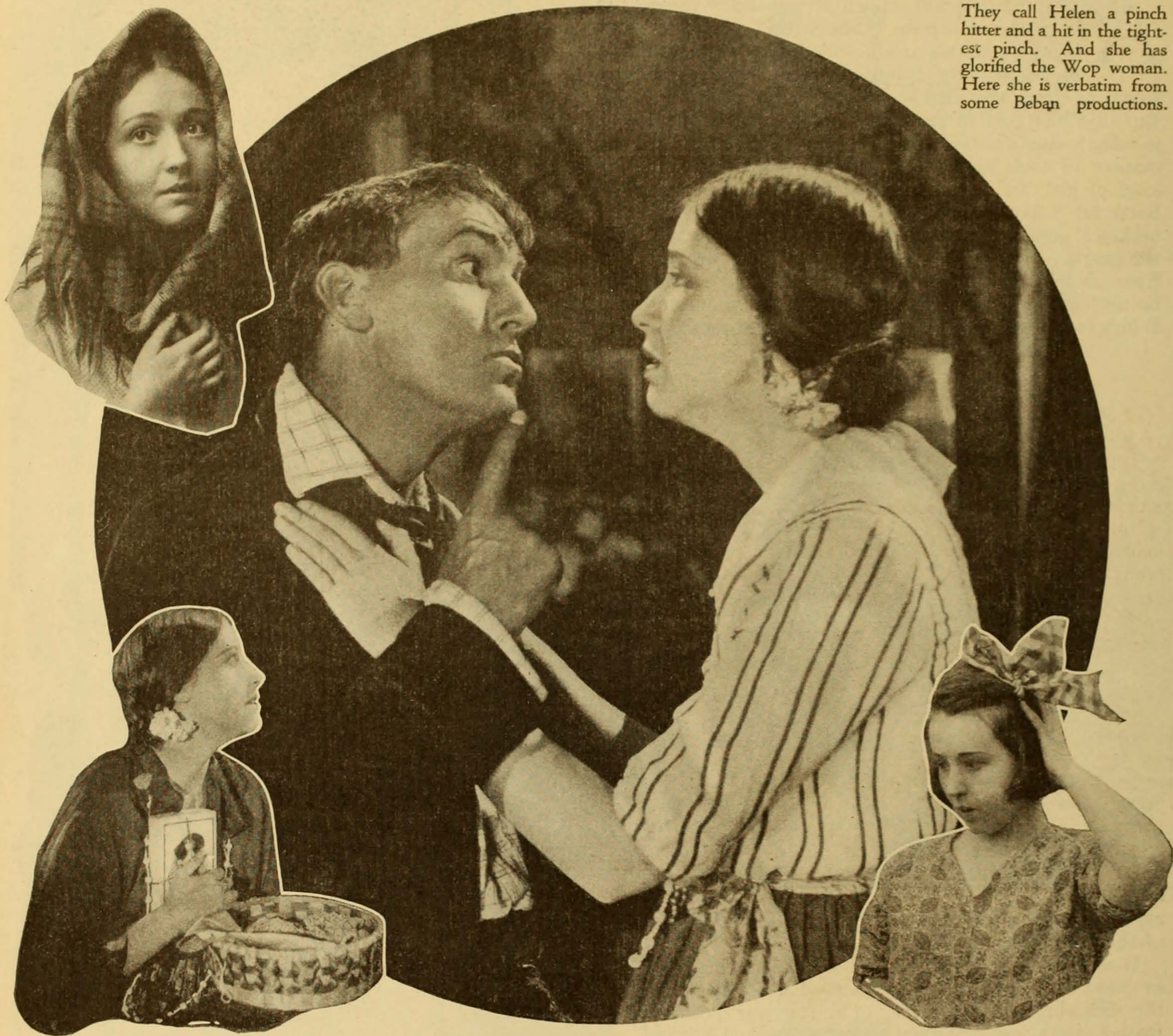
The Captain regretted that he could not use the scenario, but asked the writer if she wouldn't like to be an actress. This had never occurred to Miss Eddy, but she said that she would. So she was cast to play the twig in a production entitled, "As the Twig is Bent."

Miss Eddy liked herself so well as an ingenue that she stayed at the Lubin plant for nearly six months and then

Helen's tresses were black and long, hanging nearly to her waist, and could not be dressed in the true Italian manner. Did Helpful Helen hesitate? Not she. Art called and she obeyed. Without the knowledge of her parents, and with the assistance of a barber, she bobbed her hair in the interest of the photodrama and she has not been so popular around home ever since.

She appeared with George Beban in "His Sweetheart," "The Marcellini Millions," and "The Cook of Canyon Camp"—always as an Italian. In "The Wax Model," however, she had an opportunity to wash the brown paint

They call Helen a pinch hitter and a hit in the tightest pinch. And she has glorified the Wop woman. Here she is verbatim from some Beban productions.



returned to Los Angeles. She showed up at the Morosco studios one day when a girl of her type happened to be needed and before many weeks Helpful Helen was a regular member of the stock company. She made her first appearance with Dustin Farnum in "The Gentleman from Indiana."

About this time George Beban came out to the Morosco studio to produce "Pasquale," one of his clever Italian characterizations. It was suggested that Miss Eddy play the role of his leading woman. Mr. Beban promptly threw up his hands in holy horror, saying it would be impossible. Did Helpful Helen grieve and sigh? Not Helen. She went to her dressing room and when she returned as an Italian girl, Mr. Beban greeted her with shouts of approval. Since then, Miss Eddy has frequently been a Wop.

off her face, and appeared as a young American girl in love with an artist. She also had an opportunity to be a regular society girl in "As Men Love," but this was only when Beban was not using her in a picture, for now he swears by Helen and will have no other.

Miss Eddy is not yet well enough acquainted with the stage to be superstitious, consequently when everyone in the company, including Mr. Beban, refused to break a mirror in "The Cook of Canyon Camp," it was Helpful Helen who stepped forward and shattered it, thereby precipitating upon herself seven years of bad luck. She is still waiting for the bad luck to set in.

When George Beban was getting ready to do "One More American" Miss Eddy was tied up in another picture

(Continued on page 109)

“Annexing Bill”

(Continued)

informed him that she was a beggar to be had for the taking.

“Isn't it glorious?” she urged. “I haven't a cent in the world!”

Billy looked up at her with lack-lustre eyes. “Neither have I. George put every cent I had into Amalgamated Granite. I can't ask you to marry me—now.”

Enid drew back. There was a period of silence, then slowly the dismay left her face and her eyes blazed with determination. She spoke determinedly.

“See here, Mr. William Dow, Adam and Eve didn't have any money and they raised quite a large family. You're going to marry me *now*.”

The bell rang. A servant announced, “The Reverend William Denton.”

Enid gave an exclamation. Maude clapped her hands. “In the nick of time! We'll have the ceremony performed right away.”

Then came a voice from the hall, “Is Mr. Dow in?”

“That's George,” said Enid and Maude in one voice, as a woebegone figure entered the room.

“Have you heard the sad news?” it exclaimed tragically.

Maude went up to her husband and patted him on the shoulder. “It's all right, old dear. You did just what Enid wanted you to. But why did you speculate with Billy's money?”

“I didn't,” said George. “I didn't have time to cash his check.” Slowly he pulled a soiled slip of paper from his pocket.

Billy jumped to his feet. “I've still got my twenty thousand!” he exclaimed.

“Here it is.” George handed him the check.

“You angel!” exclaimed Maude.

And immediately it seemed to the shocked and bewildered Reverend Denton that his friends had taken leave of their senses; such rapturous and apparently promiscuous demonstrations of affection he had never seen. But presently they made him understand.

“Helpful Helen”

(Continued from page 66)

and George thought he could get along without Helpful Helen just this once, so another ingenue was engaged for the part. Beban and Director William deMille labored with her for several days and wasted miles of film. Finally the emergency call was sent out, and Helen was hauled away and hurled into the cast of “One More American.”

Then, there's another item that proves Helen's helpfulness. When funds in the treasury of the Hollywood Studio Club were low, Helpful Helen did a major part of the two-night presentation of John Masefield's “Tragedy of Nan.” Besides playing a leading role, Helen helped greatly in the executive affairs of it.

Miss Eddy is as versatile a character person as the wonderful Theodore Roberts—except that she can't grow whiskers. But whenever a pinch hitter is needed in character work, the call is sent out for Helpful Helen.

ORIENTAL BEAUTY SECRETS

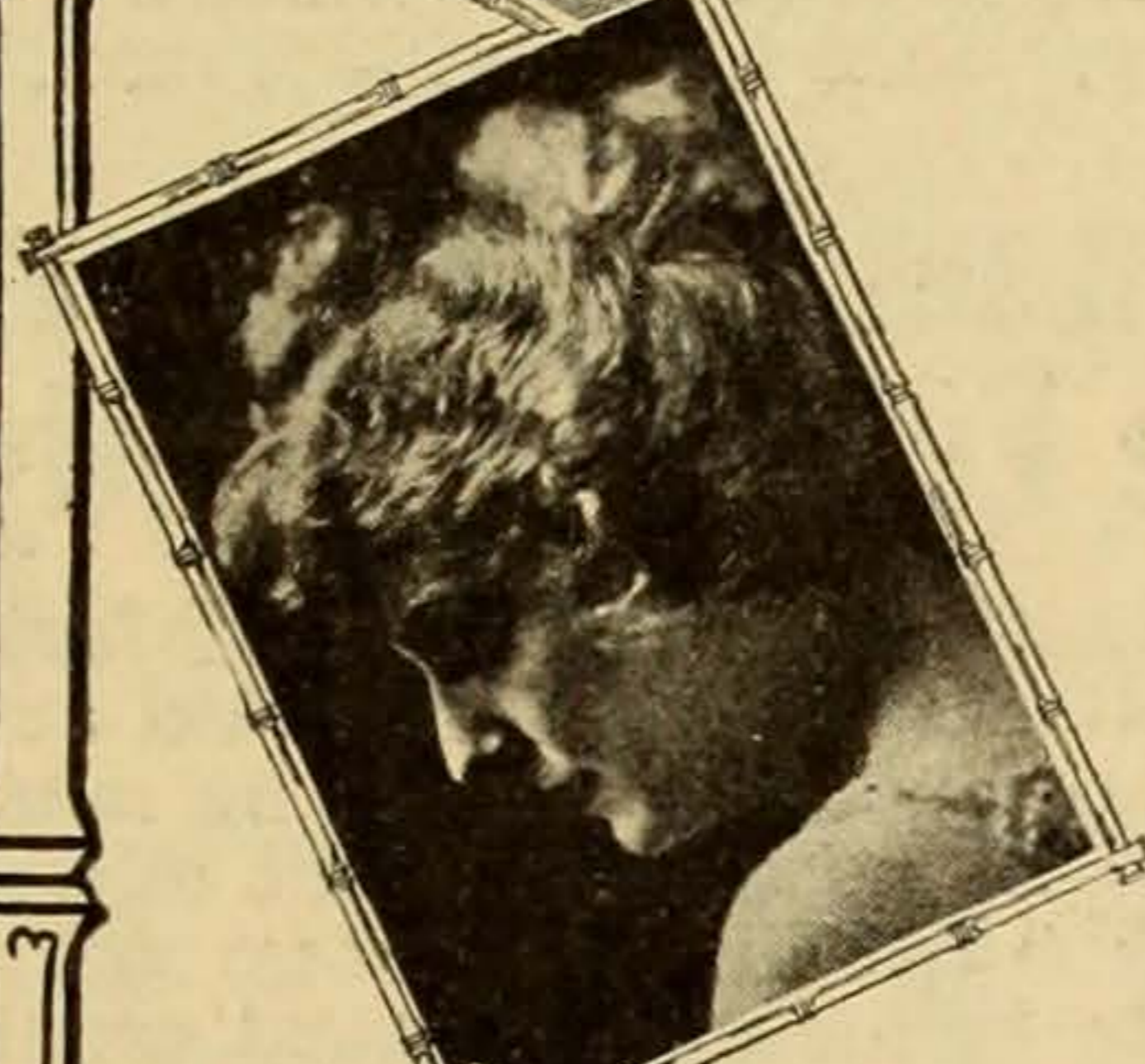
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