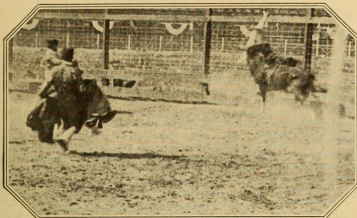


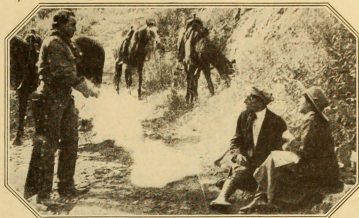
The Unexpected Happens

By Pat Dowling

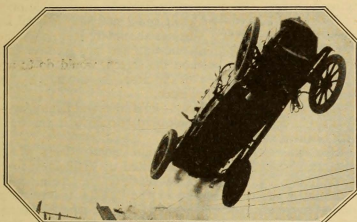
IN CECIL B. DEMILLE'S private compartment of the Lasky Studio vaults, there is a strip of film, now considerably over two reels in length. Whenever things are a bit dull, which isn't often, or there is an especially distinguished visitor to entertain, DeMille brings out this film. He calls it his Chamber of Horrors. Its origin:



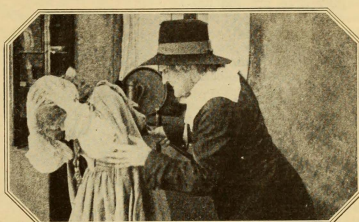
The matadors and toreadors and picadors were all assembled in the arena. These were real bull-fighters from Spain and they had fought in hundreds of more realistic fights than this. They didn't take a movie scene in "Carmen" very seriously. Perhaps they should have. The bull caught one of them on his horns and tossed him thirty feet after galloping around the arena. But it couldn't be a scene so the film went into Cecil B. deMille's private collection.



The hero cantered down a mountain road to join the leading woman and the other man. As he arrived, one of the virulent breed of California rattlesnakes popped its head up behind the leading woman and the other man. The hero—Dustin Farnum—shot the rattler before the actors and the cameraman knew what it was all about. This little episode found its way into the picture, showing how dramatic scenes are often made on the spur of the moment.



Now comes the death-defying-dive of an automobile. The heroine was scheduled to drive an automobile over a chasm left vacant by a fallen bridge. A dummy was to double for her. She practised running down the approach to the bridge and stopping just in front of the chasm. Once the car didn't stop and the girl and auto dashed off into space.



A harmless looking but desperate old Pilgrim father was supposed to beat the leading woman over the head with his heavy walking stick. As a matter of fact he intended to "fake" the blow. He didn't "have it in for" the leading woman. But he came just too close to realism—or his hand slipped. The girl was unconscious an hour.



The rider dashed into a glade with a cowboy swinging to the saddle. But he failed to swing. The rear left hoof of the rider's horse caught the cowboy in a rapid flank movement, and broke his leg. The rider dashed on but the cowboy was carried away to nurse his injured member. That wasn't in the script either.



Fannie Ward, about to trip across a rustic bridge for a film scene, caught the heel of her slipper between the logs. She reached for the side railing but it gave way and down went Fannie into the pool below. The tail end of the movie film shows Mr. deMille and the assistant director pulling the star out of the water.