

Moving Images of Poughkeepsie February 1913

FEB 2020 — We know from newspaper articles at the time that Edwin S. Canman, manager of the United Educational and Industrial Film Company of New York City, was in Poughkeepsie filming between February 6 and February 27, 1913. The "movie" (the word was often used in quotation marks, the word moving picture being more common) was shown to a small audience of the Mayor and local businessmen on Sunday, March 9 at the Collingwood Theater, It ran for the general public for four days, from Monday, March 10 through Thursday, March 14. And it ran in some form or part the following week.

The film company seems to have done a number of such films in various cities, under the banner "Civic America." The name of the Film Company sometimes varies when discussed in other cities, including being referred to as the "Educational Film Syndicate." Canman shows an address of 501 5th Avenue, New York City in some directories at the time.

It appears that this is one reel of what would have been a total of three or four reels.

Also shown, for "the first time outside of New York City" were "Talking Pictures" or "Synchronophone" which involved the playing of the silent movie timed precisely with a traditional record playing of the individuals on screen singing and speaking.

The man playing the part of the criminal captured by the police was the manager of a woman playing a Vaudeville Act at the time, coincidentally. The manager of Eva Allen was a Mr. Bergeron.

Scenes mentioned in the other reels that remain lost include a fire on North Clinton Street, a Poughkeepsie Chamber of Commerce dinner at the Nelson House. People shown exiting the Collingwood Theater had just seen "The Old Homestead" and this was filmed at 4:30 on February 8.

Assistant District Attorney William A., Mulvey is shown, he spoke at the Chamber of Commerce dinner.

NOTES ON FILE AT DCHS FROM 1970s, new information reflects some inaccuracies In the notes such as the year of filming.

In a Pawling, N.Y. barn for over half a century, dust was collecting on a hand made tin container which held a flammable nitrate moving picture film of Poughkeepsie in 1912. Six-hundred feet, or 22 minutes, of human, animal and horseless carriage action that happened before the Kaiser started out to conquer the world.

A few years ago, the late James Ruberg of Pawling found this film and gave it to William J. Schrauth, perhaps because he knew the film contained some pictures of Williams's grandfather and his father, a former mayor of Poughkeepsie. William Schrauth and Hubert (Bud) Spross made inquiries to find out how this old, brittle film could again be projected. Finally, they contacted Jerome Deyo, the audio-visual archivist of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park and Mr. Deyo took the film to the National Archives in Washington where they copied it and reduced it from 35 mm. to 16 mm.

The original film is on display at the National Archives.

Like the releasing of the genie from Alladin's lamp, this coiled, unusable antique now can bring to view its nostalgic treasures of yesteryear. Forty-seven locations are shown including the Collingwood Opera House, Dutchess Play House, Smith Brothers' Restaurant, The Nelson House, VonderLinden's, Schrauth's Ice Cream Parlor, Franks' Brewery, Poughkeepsie High School on Washington Street and two Grade Schools.

Prominent people are identified, among them, W.W. Smith, the "Trade" of cough drop fame; William Schicklye, President of the Fallkill Bank; Jacob Schrauth; William Mulvey and Harry Matteson. Hundreds of school children walk by and salute the camera. These students would now be over 70 years old.

The origin of the film is still a mystery. Why was it made? Who made it? Was there more film? Another reel?

JAN 24, 1913

Kingston, and Mrs. ... lyn.

JAN 24, 1913

POUGHKEEPSIE IN MOVING PICTURES

EDWIN S. CANMAN IS HERE TO ARRANGE FOR BEST MOVING PICTURES EVER TAKEN OF THE TOWN.

ENTHUSES OVER THE CITY

Edwin S. Canman, vice-president and general manager of the United Educational and Industrial Film Corporation arrived in Poughkeepsie Tuesday night to confer with Mayor Frank relative to putting Poughkeepsie in moving pictures.

"We do not do this thing half-way," said Mr. Canman to an Eagle representative, "We take these pictures and then reproduce them for a week in your city. We charge the city nothing and further than that we donate a portion of the receipts to some local charity which the city may designate. We show the Mayor and his cabinet, the city officers, fire department, police department, all in action, pick out your big industries and places of interest, street scenes, crowds on the streets, etc., etc., making in all three thousand feet of pictures, or three reels, as the people have come to know them."

Mr. Canman has been especially successful in the west where he has operated in other cities and all over it has been a pronounced success.

"I was surprised at your city when I reached here," he said in his talk. "I have been through most of the busy cities of the West and have seen towns all over the country but Poughkeepsie has struck me as one of the prettiest and busiest towns I have visited. I like it so well I am coming back and am sure I will enjoy it during our two weeks stay here making the pictures."

FEB 6, 1913

FEB 6, 1913

PAGE FIVE

THE "MOVIES" MAN TO START TODAY

CAMERA MAN WILL TAKE WEEK TO "GET" POUGHKEEPSIE IN MOVING PICTURES TO SHOW HERE LATER

HIS PROGRAMME

The United Educational and Industrial Film Corporation will start today to "get" Poughkeepsie, its big industries, colleges, fire and police departments, officials, prominent citizens, etc., etc., in moving pictures which will later be exhibited here.

Manager Canman has completed arrangements for enough work to keep him busy a week or more. This afternoon he will take moving pictures of the Daily Eagle in all the departments, the news-gathers, editors, press in operation, etc., in fact the getting out of a newspaper. Eastman College and public buildings will also be taken and a panoramic view of the city from the top of the Cleveland building.

On Friday Mr. Canman will get moving pictures of all the public officials, prominent citizens, activities in the police department, the Bertillon system, etc.

On Saturday the afternoon will be a busy one for the camera man. He will begin by taking pictures of the fire department answering an alarm of fire on Main Street, probably running down the street to a supposed fire at the City Hall. After the run of the fire department will come a picture of the fourteen hundred members of the Y. M. C. A. grouped in front of the building and at half-past four o'clock he will take the crowd coming from the matinee of "The Old Homestead" at the Collingwood Theatre.

Sunday, during the day views will be taken of the different churches with the people going and coming, views in the residential sections and pictures of various societies.

Next Tuesday Mr. Canman will get "movies" of the regular dinner of the Chamber of Commerce Business Men's Luncheon Club.

OPEN SPEEDWAY TODAY.

FEB 8, 1913

FEB 8, 1913

CROWDS WILL GET IN MOVIES TODAY

CAMERA MAN TO BE AT MORGAN HOUSE CORNER AT TWO O'CLOCK TO GET FIREMEN AND ALL THE PEOPLE.

HAD BUSY DAY FRIDAY

Everybody will be out this afternoon to get in the "Movies" of Poughkeepsie which General Manager Canman is taking for the Industrial Film Corporation. This afternoon at two o'clock sharp he will "get" the fire department.

An alarm of fire will be sent in from box 45 and the moving picture machine will be stationed at the Morgan House corner. All the apparatus of the city will come to that corner and caught "on the fly" by the camera man. Then Mr. Canman will take the Wallace Company store and then proceed to the Y. M. C. A. where he will take every member of the association in a group in front of the building on Market Street.

At half-past four o'clock he will get moving pictures of the crowd coming from the matinee of "The Old Homestead" at the Collingwood Theatre.

The camera men had a busy time Friday. They got a good picture of Mayor Frank coming out of the City Hall and caught the Mayor with one of his genial smiles and bows.

Perhaps the most active picture Mr. Canman has yet taken was at Riverview Academy where Physical Director Roberts had the students going through all sorts of athletics and the pictures will be most interesting. Eastman Business College with its crowd of students was also taken on Friday.

The camera men will be busy all day Sunday, Monday and Tuesday when it is thought he will have finished the work and will be prepared in about a week to reproduce the entire "show" on the screen at the Collingwood Theatre.

FEB 7, 1913

THE WALLACE CO. S. & H. Stamps with All Purchases. THE WALLACE CO.

See Yourself As Others See You!

Get in the "Movies" Saturday at The Wallace Co. Store

BE ON HAND AT 2:30 P. M.—JUST AFTER THE FIRE RUN. PARTAKE IN THE GREATEST NATURAL REPRODUCTION OF Poughkeepsie's ACTIVE BUSINESS LIFE. BRING ALONG THE LITTLE ONES. EVERYBODY WILL BE IN IT. DON'T MISS THIS PRIMAL OPPORTUNITY TO SEE YOURSELF AND FRIENDS REPRODUCED AS YOU REALLY ARE. THIS PICTURE WILL BE SHOWN IN ALL THE LEADING MOVING-PICTURE HOUSES IN THE COUNTRY. KEEP YOURSELF ALWAYS BEFORE THE PEOPLE. SHOW THE COUNTRY AT LARGE THAT YOU ARE A RESIDENT OF THIS CITY. BE PROUD OF IT. GET IN THE PICTURE HERE SATURDAY.

When the matter of having the doings of this city photographed for moving pictures came to our attention, we readily saw and understood the exceptional advantages offered this city to make itself world-famed through this country's play-houses. Consequently we lost no time in getting in touch with the representative of the United Educational and Industrial Film Corporation, and under great expense, we have arranged to have our department store photographed in its liveliness. We have the exclusive department store right in this undertaking and will be the only such store represented in Poughkeepsie's business section.

In conjunction with this great furore we have arranged a series of the greatest merchandise events ever recorded in our history. Every department will be alive and on the jump with a score of new, attractive, money-saving opportunities that have been assembled for this occasion, making this store the real live center-head of Poughkeepsie's Progressive, Busy and Quality seeking shoppers. Be on hand Saturday afternoon, between 2:30 and 3:00. You will want to be in this picture. We want you to be.

THE WALLACE COMPANY

FEB 8, 1913

COLLINGWOOD OPERA HOUSE

4 DAYS STARTING MONDAY
Afternoons and Evenings
at 2:30 and 7 and 9 p. m.

Poughkeepsie MOVING PICTURES

Come and See Yourself in the "Movies!"

Extra Attraction

Talking Pictures

First Time in Any City Outside of New York.

Matinees—5c, 10c, and 15c.
Evenings—10c, 15c, and 25c.

FEB 12, 1913

TUESDAY'S LUNCHEON

FEB 12 1913

Address Made by Assistant District Attorney Mulvey at Morgan House.

Assistant District Attorney William A. Mulvey was the speaker Tuesday at the luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Club in the Pompelian Room of the Morgan House. Mr. Mulvey spoke in the absence of former District Attorney Mack, who was scheduled to speak. His talk was very interesting and he gave a number of reminiscences of his experiences in the legal profession.

Owing to the large number present an overflow table had to be placed in the regular dining room. P. C. Doherty presided at the luncheon and announced that at the next meeting Rev. Irvine Goddard, rector of St. Paul's Church would be the speaker.

Moving pictures were taken of the members of the club as they sat at luncheon and a flashlight photograph was also taken. The moving picture man again snapped the guests as they left the hotel.

FEB 27, 1913

FEB 27, 1913

More "Movies" Today

The "Movies" will have their last day in this city today and Edwin S. Canman, the manager for the United Educational and Industrial Film Corporation, says that in a week or two he will be ready to show the films to the public. The pictures of the school children will probably be taken today. The pictures of the business houses have all been taken and developed. Mr. Canman states that at the same time he shows the pictures of the city he will also have a sychrophone or talking machine apparatus that will be used in connection with the pictures.

THE POUGHKEEPSIE MOVIES MAKE A HIT

RUN OFF FOR MAYOR AND OFFICIALS AT THE COLLINGWOOD — TALKING PICTURES ARE A WONDER.

OPEN TO PUBLIC TODAY

The famous English talking pictures and the moving pictures of Poughkeepsie were yesterday submitted to Mayor Frank and officials and the newspaper men at the Collingwood and caused much favorable comment. They will be shown at the Collingwood four days, commencing this afternoon and ought to pack the big theatre at every performance.

The talking pictures consisted of scenes from the opera Faust and introduced scenes between Mephistopheles, Faust and Marguerite. The singing and pictures synchronized perfectly and the phonographic reproduction of the voices, although not loud and harsh, was excellent. Eighteen different changes of talking pictures will be shown during the four days.

The pictures of Poughkeepsie came out in first class shape and are full of features that will make everybody want to see them. There are four long reels of these pictures, probably four thousand feet in all. They open with a striking likeness of Mayor William H. Frank who appears on the scene and smiles and bows to the audience. Then come Chief of Police McCabe and the city officials and other well known Poughkeepsians including Hon. William W. Smith and Cashier William Shickle of the Fallkill Bank.

The fire department scenes are all good and it thus happened that the camera man was on hand when the fire occurred on North Clinton Street. This picture is exceptionally clear and bright and shows all the firemen at work, the smoke pouring from the house and men and women carrying out the furniture. An excellent picture of Chief Nagengast at work is shown with this picture.

The police department, all the officers, the making of an arrest and placing the prisoner in the auto after a terrific struggle is shown. Then the prisoner is put through the Bertillon system and a glimpse of Chief McCabe going through the Rogues' Gallery is also shown. All the newspaper offices are shown, well known newspaper men and scenes in Poughkeepsie streets appear on the screen and excellent pictures of prominent churches.

The pictures of Riverview Academy with the athletes at work is a big feature and the photography excellent. The Eastman College students and faculty, all the city schools with the school children, Prof. Shear, Principal Mider and others add to the interesting exhibit.

A large number of the city's industries is shown and the working of the machinery, etc., etc. It would take columns to tell about all the features and one will have to see the pictures to appreciate them. About everybody in town appears on the screen and it is safe to say about everybody in town will be on hand.

IMMENSE CROWDS AT THE "MOVIES"

THE POUGHKEEPSIE PICTURES AND "TALKIES" ARE THE ONE TALK OF THE TOWN—THE COLLINGWOOD PACKED.

EVERYBODY'S SEEING THEM

The Collingwood Theatre was crowded Monday night with people eager to see the Poughkeepsie moving pictures and it was as entertaining to listen to the comments of the people in the audience as it was to witness the novel "talkies" and "movies." That the Poughkeepsie "movies" are popular would be putting it mildly. They are a great, big and pronounced hit and it is doubtful if the Collingwood will be able to accommodate the crowds in but four afternoons and evenings.

Moving pictures are popular in Poughkeepsie but the ordinary "movies" of dramas and comedies, no matter how good or by what company they are made are very mild and dull alongside the Poughkeepsie pictures. And that's why the big theatre is packed to the doors at every performance.

From the very minute Mayor Frank appears on the screen with his genial smile and how to the audience the people are all sitting up and taking notice. All the features were applauded time and again Monday night and one would have thought some big musical comedy was being staged. The pictures of the fire department seem to be the favorite and especially the picture of the firemen fighting that real fire on North Clinton Street. The audience howls when they see Chief Nagengast in his rubber coat and cap get caught under a stream of water. But he goes on directing the work of the firemen as if nothing had happened. The women folks are seen rushing in and out of the house, carrying out furniture and bedding, the firemen on the roof and the crowds of spectators standing near by. It is a genuine fire scene that takes well.

The police department film and the arresting of Mr. Gergernon, the manager of Eva Allen who was in town at the time, makes a great comedy scene and Bergernon acted his part to perfection. Chief McCabe's picture always receives applause and the pictures of other well known citizens are greeted with the usual hand clapping.

Every feature takes well and the talking pictures are a wonderful hit. The whole entertainment should be seen by everybody in Poughkeepsie and judging from the crowds that is just what everybody is going to do.

Today's Matinee at 3:30.

In order that the school children might have a chance to see the pictures, the matinee this afternoon will not start until half-past three o'clock.

PICTURES DRAWING CROWDS.

School Children Enjoy the Poughkeepsie Pictures at the Collingwood.

The pupils of the public schools greatly enjoyed the Poughkeepsie moving pictures at the Collingwood Theatre Tuesday afternoon. Prof. Shear, Prof. Mider, principals and teachers of the schools enjoyed the pictures with the children and when the pupils saw their own pictures on the screen there was a general shout of approval throughout the big theatre.

In the evening the usual big crowd was on hand, every seat being sold early in the evening. The different subjects took immensely with the crowd and the city officials came in for their share of the applause. The Clinton Street fire scene continues to be one of the most popular features of the whole four reels but the pictures of the Riverview boys in the gymnasium is also a popular one. The pictures will be continued today and tomorrow with the usual changes of other pictures.

MARCH 7, 1913

COLLINGWOOD THEATRE NEXT WEEK Poughkeepsie Moving Pictures

COME AND SEE YOURSELF IN THE "MOVIES"

Thousands of Poughkeepsians in these Pictures—Are You?

(Taken by the Educational and Industrial Film Corporation of New York City)

MONDAY—TUESDAY—WEDNESDAY—THURSDAY

AT 3:30 P. M. AND 7 AND 9 P. M.

A FRACTIONAL PART OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FREE WILEY SYSTEM.

— EXTRA ATTRACTION! —

The Famous Talking Pictures!

THE WHOLE TOWN IS TALKING ABOUT THE MOVIES OF POUGHKEEPSIE. DON'T FORGET THE PLACE—DON'T FORGET THE DATE—DON'T FORGET THE TIME. THE PUGHKEEPSIE—30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30.