

The "King Of Kokomo" Out To Break Broadway's Back

By MAXWELL HYDE
NEA Service Staff Writer

New York, May 17 — King Kennedy has come from Kokomo to break Broadway's back! He has undertaken the world's biggest job, a task that has shattered thousands before him.

Ever since Broadway has been Broadway the hundreds of cities and towns in this country have reluctantly given up many of their youth that the latter might come to the Gay White Way to make good.

They want to be actors, producers, writers, singers.

A few make good. The others are smashed, never to rise again.

And into this maelstrom of swirling lights and painted faces has come King Kennedy of Kokomo, a youth of 20. On his face is a smile of confidence. Whether the smile will be there on Dec. 1 next remains a question, for—

Young Kennedy gives himself but until that day to make good.

Success in the theatrical world must come quickly, or it may forever remain behind. On Dec. 1 he will be of age. He has promised the folk back home that he will entertain serious aspirations for the stage only until his 21st birthday. If it hasn't come then, he will go back and his dabbling in the theater will henceforth assume the form of a hobby.

King Kennedy does not have to make good on Broadway. He comes of a family in Kokomo that is extremely wealthy. It is one of the old and substantial families of the Indiana city. The Kennedy estate in Kokomo is a big one and it is to manage this estate that his mother and friends want him to return for good.

"It's all tommyrot, you're wanting to be a great actor," they told him.

"Just give me until Dec. 1," he pleaded. "If I haven't made good then, if I don't see success close by, I'll quit Broadway without a word and I'll come back willingly."

It isn't that he doesn't like Kokomo. It has always been that way. Back home when a boy he would build toy stages and act parts. Then, as he grew older, he would participate in school dramas. The ambition to succeed on the stage is burning more brightly now than ever.

"I have been told of the young people who came to Broadway before to make good," he says. "Some of them make good. And of these a few have been ruined by their good fortune. Mostly it was because they didn't know how to handle money—had never had it before."

"That would never happen to me. I've traveled extensively, been in practically every country in Europe. We've always had money in the family and the only reason I mention it is to show that the same thing that happened to the other young people who made good would not happen to me."

Kennedy has chosen an apartment in one of the expensive sections of New York. It overlooks



KING KENNEDY FROM KOKOMO. IN THE BACKGROUND YOU SEE HIM STROLLING DOWN BROADWAY WITH PEGGY SHANNON, STAGE BEAUTY WHO HAS ACHIEVED SOME MEASURE OF THE FAME KING SEEKS FOR HIMSELF.

Central Park. But one block away is Columbus Circle and Broadway. He can see the sign of the Century Theater from his window. Two blocks away is the famous New York Athletic Club. The Plaza Hotel is just down the street.

On every side of him is wealth and success. Probably if he surrounds himself with wealth he will so steel himself for the terrible grind, the grind of "breaking in," that lies before all who would make Broadway how before them. Most young people who come here, creep in through the back door, timid, afraid, unknown. And they leave the same way.

But King Kennedy is admired by Broadway because he comes in smiling through the front door. And Broadway is ever willing to extend a hand of welcome to the chap who isn't afraid of it. Theatrical man-

agers haven't formed a line before his door, but—

They are betting even money here King Kennedy makes good!

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For catalog and other information, write T. E. BROWNE, Director.



After all is said and done the trouble in Washington right now is more is being said than done.

Electricity travels 11,600,000 miles a minute, arriving just 59 seconds behind bad news.

Women want the last word in talking and in clothes.

The crazy stunts pulled in circus rings are not as funny as some of the stunts pulled in political rings.

In the annual spring drive of motorists against trains no train casualties have been reported so far.

It never has occurred to Germany that she could settle the reparation problems by paying.

Once they married in haste and repented at leisure; now they marry in spring and repent in summer.

A good rain helps to liquidate the farmer's debts.

Concrete facts and concrete heads don't always mix.

Up to now the war veterans awaiting a bonus from Congress have found every hour zero hour.

SUGAR DEMAND SLOW

New Orleans, May 17—(Special)—The demand for refined sugar is the poorest ever known here. The trade is unwilling to buy except for immediate needs on account of price cutting by Eastern refiners. Local refiners have cut prices a cent a pound in two weeks without stimulating business.

FIFTY YEAR OLD WAGON FACTORY CLOSES DOWN

Richmond, Va., May 17—(Special)—Doors of the Courad Cross carriage and wagon factory, which has been making vehicles since 1873, today are closed. Gottfried Gross, the 82 year old proprietor, stated that the automobiles has robbed him of his business.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

In the interest of the farmers of this entire section we are pleased to announce that we have been able to co-operate with the American Cotton Association in their effort to control the boll weevil menace and as explained in an article in today's issue of this newspaper, we have financed and arranged to have conducted a practical and scientific demonstration under expert supervision on the farm of W. A. Brock and C. O. Robinson near Elizabeth City. Mr. Lemuel Jennings is in charge of this farm.

Farmers of this entire section are invited and urged to consult us and to visit the farm and observe the methods employed and results obtained.

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