

New York East Side Is Lowly Cradle of Art

A new musical comedy now at the Casino called "Sally, Irene and Mary," portrays the fascinating tale, in bright lines, music and dances, of three little tenement girls who almost overnight became Broadway stars, their names selected to effulgence over theater portals; the ambitions of the lower East Side rewarded in the gold, glory and pleasure of the magic uptown. This is the plot of the piece.

"It could never happen in real life," today said a doubter from the west. But it has happened again and again. I do not know of any arena in the world that offers a more fertile field for observation of real life on the rapid climb than this same lower East Side, where the hardest of handicaps only serve as greatest incentive to effort.

Singers From East Side.

Alma Gluck, the sweet singer, is the daughter of an East Side alderman. Sophie Breslau, another opera singer, came from the East Broadway district. Grace George, the actress and wife of William Brady, is a child of the East Side. The father of the late Blanche Walsh was "Fatty" Walsh, Tammany politician and for a time keeper of the Tombs prison. Ethel Levy and Sophie Tucker, both came from down there, where people arise to prodigies of work.

The late Julia Opp's father kept a candy store on the Bowery, and Virginia Harned's dad was a Seventh street shoemaker. Effie Fay, who used to sing "The Belle of Avenue A," came from that very neighborhood. There are many other Broadway actresses of renown who played childhood games in the Bowery and rolled their hoops along Grand street.

New York's lower East Side takes rank with the East Side of London and Montmartre of Paris as a distinctive place with a peculiarity all its own. And the interesting side is that what has happened down there, is still taking place, new giants and personalities emerging every year from the dense mass of struggling millions.

Produced Political Leaders.

Throughout the history of New York the lower East Side has produced great political leaders, and the word "great" is used in the sense of power. Chief among these are William M. Tweed, who was born in 1833 in the Seventh ward. For many years he lived on Rutgers street and then in Henry street, and after amassing his ill-gotten wealth he moved to Fifth avenue, where disaster came upon him. Several of the national elections following the Civil war were decided by the vote of the East Side.

In later years in the East Side political field was devoted the power of John J. O'Brien on the Republican side; of Bernard (Barney) Rourke, at whose saloon on Forsyth street near Canal President Chester A. Arthur came in person to ask for support; of Judge Charles H. Murray, formerly police commissioner, and of the famous Charles S. Adler. On the Democratic side below Fourteenth street, were developed Richard Croker, Patrick Keenan, "Big Tim," "Little Tim," and "Florrie," of the clan Sullivan; the "silver-tongued" Tom Grady, Timothy J. Campbell and other names that bring to mind the political yesterday.

Home of Koenig and Murphy.

A remarkable fact in the present day is that the leadership of the two great parties of New York rests in the hands of two East Side men, the Republican party in Samuel S. Koenig, and the Democratic party in Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany hall, who has always lived just above the northerly end of the lower East Side in the "gas-house district." Alfred E. Smith, former governor of New York, and a candidate for that office again, is wholly an East Side product, having been born and reared in the Oliver street section. George B. Cortelyou, President McKinley's secretary, a mem-

ber of the Roosevelt cabinet and now a gas magnate, was born on the East Side and worked as a boy for a Grand street dry goods house.

Sam H. Harris and Al H. Woods, two of Broadway's leading theatrical managers are from the lower East Side. Likewise, Irving Berlin, the composer, and George White, the dancer, who are now musical show producers. A list of the hundred or more actors who started down town could be given. Songs that have come out of the East Side have gone to every corner of the world. Jacob Epstein, the sculptor, and William Auerbach Levy, the etcher, came respectively from Hester street and Forsyth street. Victor Brenner, who designed the Lincoln penny, and Ivan G. Ollinsky, the portrait painter, are East Siders.

Contrary to general knowledge, the Jews are among the earliest settlers of the East Side, even antedating their political playmates, the Irish of "Cherry hill" and other hardy Celtic districts. In 1657 was established the Jewish cemetery, at Chatham Square, still in existence and owned by the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue.

than any other music day since the custom was begun.

Music Day last year broke all previous records. On that occasion the subject of music was brought forcibly to the attention of the people of Dallas by continuous programs in every part of the city. Each of the city schools had musical programs for the occasion, organ recitals were given in several of the large downtown churches during the noon hour, the music stores kept "open house" during the entire day with suitable programs, the various music clubs visited the hospitals, charitable institutions and jails and entertained the inmates with programs, there was a special concert during the afternoon at the Majestic theater, and at night the Dallas Symphony orchestra played and the Dallas Music Teachers' association had a reception at Bush temple.

The celebration of music day this year on Sept. 30 will be along the same lines as last year, but on a more elaborate scale. The appropriation by the city of \$5,000 for the Municipal Music commission will be of great assistance in helping finance the event, and the stores of Dallas have already pledged their co-operation.

Definite plans for the event are being worked out by the Dallas Music Industries association, which resumed meetings at the Oriental hotel on Sept. 4 following a period of inactivity throughout the summer. A luncheon preceded the meeting.