

# STARTED in "CRIME"

a lover of Shakespeare and England. All these the fascinating personality of that attractive little star—Miriam Seegar

by JOHN CARSTAIRS

"Well, if you keep this up much longer you, too, will be in the big money," I ventured.

"We'll let the wisecrack pass and I'll order tea, you are an Englishman and we will have tea, whether you like the tea or not. We will have it on the beach."

We did. Miriam called Anna, and a very happy, if rotund, cook grinned at us from the house, a conversation took place in German—another side of this versatile movie star!

The tea arrived and I managed to get this intelligent little lady to tell me of her life.

"I was born at Green Town, in Indiana, living the usual life of a kid in a small town and longing to get out. Finally at thirteen I managed to get in the chorus in one of the big Chautauqua organisations.

"These are a circuit of quite high-class entertainers who go round all the small towns as a sort of education-cum-amusement organisation, sometimes with professors, teachers, and players.

"Often the latest plays from Broadway were enacted, quartets and musical comedies, too. It was in the latter show that I got a chance to get in the chorus. Of course, I had to lie about my age; I said I was sixteen, in fact," said Miss Seegar, "I have been that age ever since!"

"I had three summers of this and went back to the school in the winter, then the next year I was allowed to be an understudy.

"Finally, I decided that New York should benefit by my unusual talent, I

went there all set to be 'snapped up' but no one seemed interested that the one and only Miriam Seegar had arrived!

"Well, after some heartbreaking times I finally got a call—so had five hundred other blondes—the only difference between me and the other five hundred was that I was very careful to sit next to the producer's door; the result was that I got the job; my first real job on Broadway.

"It was the ingénue rôle in *The Squall*, and I played for about half the season. About this time I came to the notice of America's greatest show producer, Mr. Al Woods.

"I had heard a lot about a play called *Crime* which he had put on, and although I never saw the show I was told that there was a grand part in it that would suit me.

"I also heard that there was to be another company sent out, and I was dying to go to London in it.

She looked at me with those great eyes of hers and smiled again. "You know, I just knew that I had that part, it was sent just for me! I saw Mr. Woods, and he mentioned Chicago.

"The next day he said—London; London, my dream city! I signed the contract, grabbed my mother and sister and before they were fully aware of the fact, they were on the high seas all set for Southampton.

"As you know, I played the part in London, and then made three pictures there. I have always known that I would make pictures, ever since I was born, it was just 'one of those things.'

"I made *The Price of Divorce* and *The Valley of Ghosts*, and then played opposite Nelson Keys in *When Knights Were Bold*.

"After this I was at the Criterion Theatre with Ernest Truex in a show called *Out Goes She*—at the conclusion of the show I went out—to Hollywood!

"Well, there is nothing to tell, I just got my break and started in with picture work out here. I hope, like everyone else, to be a great star, I hope too, to be a great actress when I get older; I am like so many others that there is nothing really individual about me!"

This time I smiled, oh no, there was nothing individual about a very beautiful, intelligent little lady who had in so short a time played in two shows in London, three pictures there, shows on Broadway, and now seven feature rôles in a year in Hollywood.

She certainly got a chance—but it did not look like all luck to me.

Still, one cannot argue with so diminutive and attractive a person as Miriam Seegar; I gravely assented and left her to herself and Mr. William.

On the street car back to the Boulevard at the Hollywood Kinema I notice a sign in electric lights flashing on and off:—Reginald Denny in *What a Man*, with Miriam Seegar . . . and she says she has just had a lot of luck. . . *Oh, Yeah*, as they say over here!



It is not often that Miriam takes a rest, but when she does she still manages to look charming.



A studio portrait, which emphasises her attractive and regular features.