

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Babes' Drama Debut

The previous installment in the story of Lizzie Bingham, an early day actress of California, told of the arrival of her theatrical troupe in the Mother Lode, and the discovery of her twin daughters in two champagne baskets astride the pack saddle of a mule.

The cavalcade which had met the actress and her troupe and assisted them in fording the swollen stream, moved on into town, stepping to the inspiring strains of a popular song. The population of the entire village received the players. The news of the arrival of the popular actress and her twin daughters, Lilly and Rose, spread up and down the north and south fork of the Yuba, and the shanty especially assigned to the mother was for days besieged by anxious person desiring to see the twins.

The opening night of the theatrical production finally arrived. Never was Lizzie more alive and at ease, or more thoroughly happy. The principal play was "The Wife." Followed by a farce, Mr. and Mrs. White," When the father brought on, as usual in all theaters, a rag doll to simulate a baby, the miners demanded with vociferous earnestness that one of Lizzie's babies appear and take the part. This suggestion was promptly acceded to. Then rose a babble of shouts that both babies must appear; the delight audience now reach a climax of hilarious enthusiasm. For three consecutive weeks the theatrical each night concluded with "Mr. and Mrs. White."

When the season finally closed, the miners agreed to give the younglings a complimentary benefit. The "babes in the woods" on occasion behaved splendidly. They laughed and crowed, and kept their rude but good-hearted friends in a state of innocent enjoyment. The tiny presents in gold made to the beneficiaries filled a large goblet. However great may be the influence of a newly arrived baby in a refined household, it was nonetheless humanizing among the rudest miners of California.

After many years of the roughest life Lizzie at last reached Marysville, she wandered into a thriving village. Here she indulged the hope that now a peaceful life awaited her, and that she could have a settled home in

which to raise her promising daughters. But this was not to be.

(To be concluded)