

The GRIDLEY WAVE

CONTACTING THE WORLDS OF EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

THE - FIRST - MOVIE - TARZAN

Little is known about the first movie Tarzan, Stellan Windrow, who can still be seen swinging through the trees in *Tarzan of the Apes* (released in January, 1918, ninety years ago this month) because his replacement actor, Elmo Lincoln, was afraid of heights and did all his filming closer to the ground. Windrow's parents were Swedish physicians, and while his father Sven Vindruvva (the Swedish version of "Windrow") remained in Sweden, his mother moved to Chicago where



Stellan Windrow was born on September 2, 1893. His parents divorced, so mother and son stayed in Chicago where the boy grew up and earned a degree in Philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1915. He also excelled in athletics, winning events in swimming, track & field, and medals in discus and shotput. Not surprising when we find him at six feet-four inches tall, and weighing 200 pounds. He also excelled in photography which was useful to him in later life. He had become friends with several Hollywood celebrities like Wallace Beery and was immediately signed by producer Bill Parsons for *Tarzan of the Apes* in 1917. The company relocated to Morgan City, Louisiana to shoot the film. (The Morgan City location was later destroyed due to off-shore oil drilling.) But after only five weeks on location, the Swedish Navy drafted him as an ensign, and off he went to serve his country in WWI. Enter Elmo.

After the war, Stellan Windrow settled in London where he married Marjorie Desborough, and the couple moved to the USA when the first of their two daughters was born in 1920. He worked at Paramount Pictures, playing bit parts in many movies before moving to Paris in 1923 where his two daughters were educated. By the end of the 1930s he returned to the USA as a freelance photographer for the American Red Cross, both during and after the war. Both Gabe Essoe and Jerry Schneider refer to him in their respective books on Tarzan films as "Winslow Wilson," but there is no indication that he used this name in his acting career. His fellow cast members in *Tarzan of the Apes* called him "Steamboat" because "S.S. Windrow" sounded like a steamboat name. Windrow died on November 25, 1958 in New York City.

For more information on him, visit Ed Stephan's extensive website at <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~stephan/Tarzan/stellan/> ... "Ye Editor"

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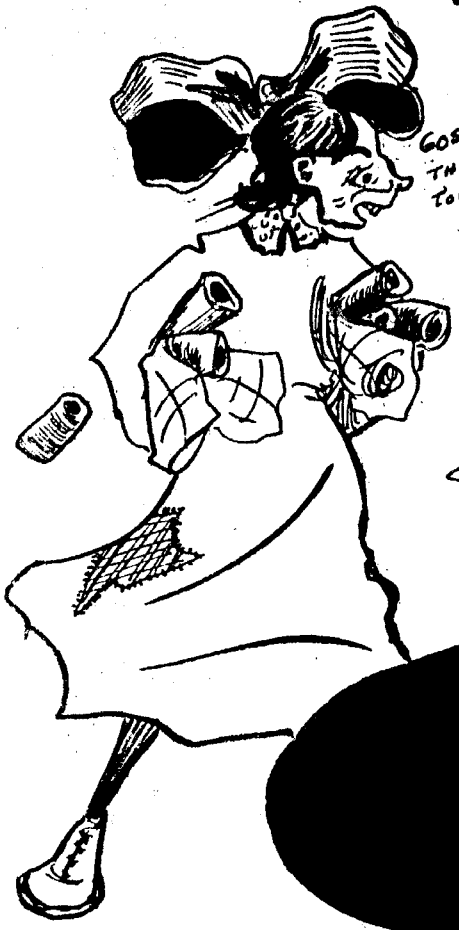
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TRUSTING THAT YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE REASON YOU
 GOT A TOUPEE INSTEAD OF A PIANO WAS SOLELY THE FAULT
 OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY WE ARE CUT THAT OUT
 TRANSCRIBER GIMMIE A CHEW BUD LETTER NO. 29 USE
 SHORT LETTER HEAD TWO CARBONS MARI JANE

Burroughs was a great doodler, so when he was working at Sears Roebuck in 1907 he drew cartoons of what he imagined his fellow workers were thinking just before quitting time at the office. The four figures were all drawn on a single sheet of paper.



I'LL BET THE SOX
 GET THOID PLACE
 DETROIT HAIN'T GOT
 A CHANCT WIT DE CUBS
 CRIPES I WIST IT WA
 4 45



GOSH I HOPE PERCY'S AT
 THE ROLLER SKATIN' RINK
 TONIGHT. HE'S A PERFECT GENT



I BET THEM GREEN FEATHERS I SEEN
 WILL MAKE MY HAT SWALLER THAN
 ANYTHIN OF THE OTHER GIRLS LEB
 I WISH IT WAS 5:30

Burroughs '07

Happy New Year 2008!