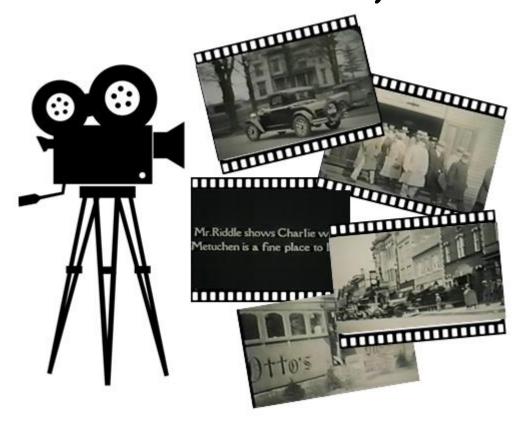
# Metuchen Movie, 1929



Music and additional subtitles have been added by the Borough Improvement League with assistance from the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.

The movie was produced by Supreme Productions Company out of Red Bank, New Jersey, under the direction of D.B. Dorn, as a promotional film to show the advantages of living and doing business in Metuchen. It shows schools, businesses, homes, and organizations all within a plot line involving "Charlie," who comes to Metuchen and meets "Jean," falls in love and rescues her from a fire. They soon wed and move into a home, but will the romance last?!?

The Metuchen Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and Borough were all involved in its making, with filming taking place in early January 1929. It was shown at The Forum Theatre, which had been constructed a few months earlier. Much of the original movie is sadly lost, but these 30 minutes give a good idea of what was included.

00:29   Crowd Scene, outdoors, possibly Main Street 00:31 "We respectfully request that you trade with the following merchants - for they are making this film of your own home town possible" 00:44 "In 1778 a wilderness." 00:46   Pond. teepee, characters 00:52 " and today the town in which you live and love." 00:57   Cars on Main Street, going backwards, then frontwards 1   01:05 "Traffic in 1950." 01:08   Cars driving down residential, tree lined street 01:12 "Only to return and realize his dream at home." 01:44   Man with suitcase approaches police kiosk at Main Street, Danfords and Main Street in background, knocks and speaks to officer 01:21 "Will you direct me to the President of the Rotary?" then continuing shot of police kiosk 01:31 "Here he is now!" and Mr. Riddle walks up to kiosk, policeman, and Charlie. They shake hands and walk off. 01:43 "Mr. Riddle shows Charlie why Metuchen is a fine place to live." 01:55 "this is my niece" 2   02:01 "I am going to like this place!" Car in Front Of Station Place 02:16   'It was love at first sight." Car in Front Of Station Place, then pulling away 02:22 "OF COURSE HE CALLED" woman playing piano, man watching 02:33 "Our Parks and Playgrounds" 02:38   Memorial Park, snowball throwing 02:45 "The Pleasure Filled Days passed swiftly" then more Memorial Park and snowball throwing 03:06   Metuchen Borough Hall 03:12 "Our school system is the best in the state." then panned shots of students, more teachers, more students 03:18   Shot of three men, likely the administrators. 03:26   Six women in coats and three men (likely teachers) in front of Franklin School 04:21   Pans again from left to right with another crowd of children in front of Franklin School (4:24   More panning left to right of children at Washington School 04:25   More panning left to right of children at Washington School 04:26   Panned shot of Edgar School (it was built 1917) 05:06   Panned shot of Edgar School (it was built 1917)	Minute	Exact	Topic/Scene
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Minute	Exact	Topic/Scene
	05:16	More students, presumably at Edgar School
	05:32	"Girl Scouts." Then panned shots of girls
	05:48	"Boy Scouts." Boys marching down a street
	05:55	"The Catholic School" and shows the current St. Francis School, which
		was built in 1929.
6	06:00	"Police Department and our Chief" then shot of six officers, then single man (Chief?)
	06:14	Busy street with two motorcycles approaching – they are MPD
	06:18	"The Post Office." Then men and boys outside a building with "Metuchen Post Office" on the window – this was where the bank next to Boyt Drug is now.
	06:24	"Metuchen Horsemen" followed by horse riding and stunts someplace outside of town in an open field near a farm.
7	07:22	"Not The Prince Just Harry Powell, taking a tumble." Then a man falls off a horse
	07:33	Front page of the Metuchen Recorder
-	07:44	Printing press running and men, then man in suit picks a paper up from the stack to read it – Prickitt?
8	08:00	"Mayor Hillpot and Council" then men sitting around a table
-	08:43	African American man speaking
-	08:48	"He joined the best fire department in the state" then firemen lined up on vehicles in front of Station Place
9	09:04	Teletape machine
	09:08	"FIRE! FIRE!" more tele tape
-	09:13	"A sound of dread" then men running into to Eagle Hook, more tele tape, shot of smoking window
	09:30	Men running into Washington Hose
-	09:35	Firetruck coming out of Eagle Hook & Ladder and turning south onto Main Street
	09:44	"Down the street!" then another fire truck coming down a street
-	09:53	"Here comes out smoke eaters" then fire truck coming south under the RR bridge over Main Street and turning onto Woodbridge
10	10:03	Smoky window, then fire truck coming out of Washington Hose (Borough Garage), then more smoky window, fire truck racing down a street
	10:21	"Hooking up!" getting off a truck, smoky window, hooking up house, and spraying window.
	10:34	Woman appears in window, and "Help!:;" "Help!:;"
	10:44	Firemen and ladder
	10:48	"It's sure death to go in there!" Charlie argues with the firemen
	10:52	"I must have her, I love her!" and breaks away from the fireman
	10:58	"Help!:;" and she collapses in the window, Charlie races up the ladder to her rescue.
11	11:05	"Well I will be dd—"

Minute	Exact	Topic/Scene
	11:10	Charlie brings Jean down the ladder
	11:19	"A Heros' Reward" and they embrace.
	11:26	"My Hero." Then a kiss!
	11:32	"And so, one Autumn night" then the couple walking, then through a
		stone arch identified as being near the former Bruno Property on the east
		side of South Main Street, near the intersection with Route 1.
	11:47	"The Proposal" and shot of couple
	11:51	"Will you marry me, dear?" and the couple
	11:56	"And then "Wedding Bells".
	11:58	Cover of a book that reads "Metuchen Real Estate by" then it opens to
		sketch of a house
12	12:06	"Mr. Raymond Leis, a 100 percent Metuchen Realtor, whose
		experience in the building and remodeling field makes possible to you a
	12.10	service which is uniqueat a nominal cost"  "Mr. Leis will attend to all details relative to the construction of
	12:18	residential or business buildings, including the plans, supervision, and
		financing."
	12:31	Presumably Mr. Leis at a table in an office with a woman taking notes. A
		man comes in with plans
	12:55	"A few of the buildings constructed by Mr. Leis."
	12:59	One story brick building "paints glass electrical supplies, tools, toys"
		then "National." This seems to be 203 Main and its adjacent building –
10	10.00	now Awesomeyo's Bakery at the northwest corner of High and Main Street.
13	13:20	Yourstone's Butcher at 170 Main Street, now location of Salon G.
	13:29	Panned view of one-story brick building which is now Sub Place Better/166
	12.40	Main Street, as well as possibly a liquor store and a "South End Radio"  "So naturally, Mr. Leis sold them their love nest." Then Mr. Leis with
	13:40	the couple looking at photos
	13:56	The couple gets out of a car in the snow, goes into the Metuchen Inn.
14	14:06	Men streaming out of a building – looks like possibly Whalen Hall formerly
14	14.00	on New Street (and had been the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Franklin School), which was at the
	14:32	location of the current New Pearl Cleaners.
	14:35	"The annual dinner of the Legion Post 65 at the Metuchen Inn. 'Ex-
	14.33	servicemen, you belong here!!" then panning views of men in suits, many
		smoking, and seated at a table – interior of Metuchen Inn.
15	15:27	"Rotary Dinner at the Metuchen Inn." Then more seated smoking men in
	10.27	suits
16	16:16	Metuchen Model bakery truck, with "Geo. Hanemann, Metuchen, NJ" on
		the door. Directories say it was located at 395 Main Street, now Metuchen
		Dance Center.
	16:22	The couple walks into a storefront with "bakery" and "lunch room"
	16:25	"Metuchen Model Bakery – Cakes, pies, "Kleen Made" bread with a
	1 < 22	delicious crispy butter crust."
	16:32	Couple, bakery shelves, and workers, then man in white coat (proprietor?)

Minute	Exact	Topic/Scene
	16:46	"Only pure wheat flour used in our products, basked in the most
		modern of ovens gas fumes cannot penetrate the oven."
	16:56	Large bin mixing dough, then man kneading it and weighing it out,
		stacking, and baking, racks of baked bread
17	17:40	Big pot in front of brick wall – making donuts? – then cake decorating
	17:55	"South Metuchen Branch of this excellent bakery." Then shot of
		Metuchen Model Bakery and woman coming out of it – 207 Main Street
18	18:07	"Mr. Lawless announces the greatest little car of the age The 'ESSEX
		CHALLENGER" then shot of car driving down Christol Street, with house
		in the distance, then other buildings. Directories indicate that Lawless'
-	10.10	office was at 435 Main Street, where The Pink Orchid is now.
	18:13	Driving and quick view of the house at 6 Plainfield Avenue, the northwest
-	10.20	corner of Main and Christol/Plainfield now.  Car driving south on Main Street from Christol Street, RR overpass in
	18:20	background, then continuing down street.
-	18:35	"The darling of all cars for lady ownership."
-		Lady getting into car parked on Main Street (about where Café Paris is
	18:40	now), with the Centenary Church visible in the background, then car
		driving down a street
-	18:56	"24 more horse power – top speed 70 MPH – 76 new improvements – 4
	10.50	hydraulic shock absorbers – more miles per gallon- 4 wheel weather
		proof brakes – Drive it sixty all day." then view of an engine.
19	19:15	Men looking at the car and engine, house in background, then rear view of
		car
	19:29	"Girard C. Menziano, the genial proprietor of The Metuchen Taxicab
		Co. maintains a policy of courtesy and service." Then shot of a man likely
-		to be Girard C. Menziano in front of his taxi stand.
	19:44	Woman on the phone, calendar on the wall – January, date unseen. Two
		men in driver hats behind her. She dispatches each of them. On the
		calendar, the 1 <sup>st</sup> appears to be on a Tuesday. In 1929, January 1 was on a
20	20.00	Tuesday  Shot of ear with taxi sign warman walks up and a driver opens the door for
20	20:00	Shot of car, with taxi sign, woman walks up and a driver opens the door for her.
-	20:07	"His fleet of new, comfortable cars." Then shot of the car, license 04098T
	20.07	as it backs up then the one next to it backs up, then a third.
-	20:20	"An ever increasing business necessitates plans for expanding." Then
	20.20	another car and driver letting a woman out.
	20:29	"If your wife can't cook, don't scold her, keep her for a pet and eat at
		OTTO'S Diner."
	20:36	Shots of crowd within Otto's
	20:52	"Naturally, they lunched at Otto's, where ladies receive the same
		courtesy as at any high-priced restaurant."
21	21:01	The couple walks towards Otto's Diner, enters and sits at a booth, eating
		soup then served more. Appears to show Middlesex Avenue, immediately
		next to gas station, with Borough Hall and police kiosk in the distance.
	21:29	"What excellent food, Jean!" then the couple sitting and eating again

Minute	Exact	Topic/Scene
	21:35	"And so clean and wholesome too, dear!" then more of the couple sitting
		and eating again
	21:45	"SOUTH END RADIO AND BATTERY SHOP The best in Radio
-	21.55	'STEINITE' – Tone quality, distance, volume."
	21:55	Shot of man inside an industrial building with equipment – the radio place?
22	22:00	"Slow, even charging rate, so necessary to good battery charging." Then
	22.10	more of the man in the building.
	22:10	"'Wilbert's Famous Coal' is conscientiously screened – graded – and delivered to you." Then panned shots of railroad cars, trucks being filled.
	22:33	"The Man Behind 'Wilbert's Famous Coal'" then a shot of two men, Mr.
	22.33	Wilbert is likely one of them, coming out of a building with a sign that says
		'Metuchen Coal Co. and "Wilbert Coal Co."
	22:44	"Established 17 years ago, H.A. Rumler has ganed an enviable place in
	,	Metuchen as a plumbing constractor and heating expert."
	22:52	Shows shop at 472 Main Street with HA Rumler on the windows, and pair of
		people coming out
23	23:01	"Often called 'father of the theatre" and shows him then shot of him
	23:11	"Some of the houses in which he has installed 'Vaccuum Vapor Heat'"
	23:16	"The Jones Home" then shot of the house at 31 Oak Avenue (currently the
		yellow house next to St. Luke's Church).
	23:25	"The Wright Home" then shot of 62 Oak Avenue.
	23:33	"The Litterst Home" then shot of either 30 or 36 Middlesex Avenue, no
		longer extant.
	23:40	"The home of H.A. Rumler" Directories list his house at 423 Grove
-	22.51	Avenue, but it may not longer be extant.
	23:51	"The source of the 'last word' in Heat – Vaccum Vapor'." Then view of a boiler of some sort
94	24.00	v
24	24:00	"The Metuchen Contracting and Trucking Co., the only company specializing in: State, County and Municipal contracts." Then Cranes,
		trucks, construction site, a large house in the background. Directories list
		them at 287 Main Street – just north of the Greenway
	24:27	"Lincoln Boulevard, one of the recent road building contracts." Then a
		shot progressing down this road.
	24:44	"Some of the equipment of this progressive concern." Then additional
		construction equipment and men operating a large crane
25	25:06	"Mr. Daniel A. Marinaro, Pres. and Gen. Manager, consults with Mr.
		Steven Eosso, the Treasurer and Gen. Supt. On one of their larger
	25.16	contracts near Metuchen."
	25:16	Men and large crane operating, men with plans
	25:35	Man, looks like Marinaro, with woman in office.
	25:45	"From a small beginning in 1922 – "
	25:45	Storefront – can be identified as 214 Main Street – with man standing in
	• • • •	front.
26	26:00	"- and TODAY one of the largest and most modernly equipped
		Hardware Stores in the State – The Leis Hardware Store"

Minute	Exact	Topic/Scene
	26:00	Interior of Leis Hardware, first one view of tables and cabinets and flag on
	-	the wall, the second view is similar with two men, then spans left
	26:14	"Paint, leading them all, and longer lasting is – "MONARCH""
	26:46	Two men looking at paints
	26:47	"A full line of General Hardware" then men looking at s drill or something
	26:59	"A few of the departments – and its courteous sales force.", then more drill viewing
27	27:09	""Aluminex" cooking utensils department." Then man showing woman a pot
	27:23	"Why paint so often? – Just Use MONARCH PAINTS"
	27.29	Three bay 2 ½ story foursquare with hipped roof, wraparound porch, and dormers on at least two sides.
	27:35	"The Riddle Home – Painted May 1926 and looks as good as new."  Then foursquare with hipped roof, dormers, front porch along front. LE Riddle lived at 112 Lake Avenue, and LE Riddle, Jr. lived at 67 Spring.  This seems to be 112 Lake, which is still there, and immediately next to the YMCA.
	27:43	"A year passed swiftly – what's this, not quarrelling?" then shot of Charlie and the niece sitting on a sofa, he's reading a paper
	27:53	"Leave me alone!" more of the sofa
	27:57	"You are so cruel!" more of the sofa, niece in tears slaps away his newspaper
28	28:04	"I am going back to mother!"
	28:12	THE END

Annotations compiled by Tyreen A. Reuter; and any errors and omissions are hers.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATISM MERITS PRAISE

# Metuchen Recorder

WHETHER

Vol. XXXVI.-No. 51.

# LOCAL CAST IN

## Hundreds of Local People To Appear on the Screen

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## DANIELS HILL IS REJECTED AS SITE FOR NEW SCHOOL

FORM SCHOOL BURGET

AND TELL GRAND FOR IT LINES FOR THE LI

# Invited to Meeting

### SALARY INCREASE Commends Recorder Clyen TO SEVERAL LOCAL OFFICIALS Trolley

### POLES AND WIRES ON MAIN STREET TO BE REMOVED WITHIN SIX MONTHS

Musical Exchange, Participated in By Three Clubs Greatly Enjoyed by Local and Visiting Women

## JERSEY 5-10-25 CENT STORES Main Street agement of Miss Edith Campbell and William Kingman Announced at Bridge Party Saturday

nember of the Beta Theta Pi frater-ity there and captain of the 1924 (not-sall team. He is associated with the Other Clays Company. No immediate plans have been an-ounced for the wedding.

Leis Hardware Co. Metachen's Largest and Most Majornly Equipped Hardware Store COR MAIN and HIGH STS.

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