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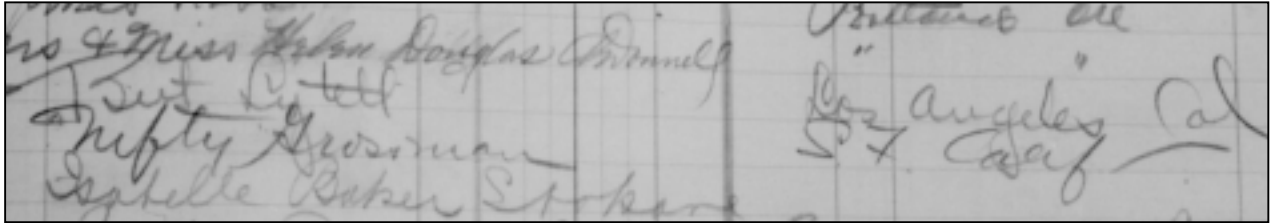
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# BERT LYTELL

H21-535

Signed guestbook: August 2, 1921



**Names evident above:** (Party size not clear)

Mrs. and Miss Helen Douglas O'Donnell (sp?).....Portland, Ore.

**Bert Lytell**.....Los Angeles Cal

Nifty Grossman.....S. F. Calif

Isabelle Baker.....Spokane

**Bert Lytell Vitae:** Profession: Silent film actor

Born: February 24, 1885 / New York City

Died: September 28, 1954 / New York City  
(Age 69)

Age at Chalet: 35 years



**DETAILED STUDY OF LYTELL ENTRY**----->>

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### **The Lone Wolf and Boston Blackie**

Bert Lytell has been described as one of the most popular leading men of the American silent screen. The Internet/2001 credits him with acting in 55 films from 1917-1943. All are silent films until 1929 when he made a few talkies. Generally his leading roles fell into the category of romantic melodrama, light adventure, or action pictures.

Bert Lytell should be credited with introducing two fictional adventure heroes to the screen: "The Lone Wolf" (Michael Lanyard) and "Boston Blackie". The first "Lone Wolf" film, of what was to become an extended series, was titled appropriately: *Lone Wolf* (1917) Lytell played the role of Michael Lanyard. He did four other films of the "Wolf" genre: *The Lone Wolf Returns* (1926), *Alias the Lone Wolf* (1927), *The Lone Wolf's Daughter* (1929) and *The Last of the Lone Wolf* (1930). In total the Internet/2001 records 5 films from 1917-1949 that include "The Lone Wolf" character. Ten different actors played the "Wolf" roles through the years. Bert Lytell was the first of the string.

Bert Lytell should also be credited with the first film dealing with the fictional hero, "Boston Blackie". He made *Blackie's Little Pal* (1918) followed by *Blackie's Redemption* (1919). This genre of dramatic film took hold and the Internet/2001 records a total of 24 films made from 1918 to 1949 that contained a role for a Boston Blackie character. A total of ten actors played the Blackie role through the years, the most dominant being Chester Morris from 1941-1948. Actually Lytell appeared in only two of the "Blackie" films, but he has the distinction of appearing in the first one!

Lytell's last film was *Stage Door Canteen* (1943) where he played a cameo role with a long list of Hollywood personalities. In 1948 he hosted the "Philco Television Playhouse" for one season, and in 1949 he appeared in the TV series "*One Man's Family*". He was the original host for the TV series, *The Orchid Award*, beginning in 1953. Ronald Reagan followed him (1953-54) This series originally began as a biography for musical star Rosemary Clooney and then became a straight variety show.

### **Other**

- Lytell's films connected him with at least two other Chalet Guests: He was in *Rupert of Hentzau* (1923) with **Lew Cody**, who played the title role. In *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1925), both Bert Lytell and **Ronald Coleman** had leading roles.
- Lytell was briefly married to actress Claire Windsor (1925-27), a blond and blue-eyed star of Hollywood's silents of the 20's. Chalet guest **Charlie Chaplin** dated her frequently. She also appeared in the film *Rupert of Hentzau* (1923) mentioned above, before she married Lytell. It is difficult not to mention that the given name for the attractive Claire Windsor is Viola Cronk.
- Bert Lytell had a younger brother by the name of Wilfred Lytell, who also became a movie actor. Wilfred was born seven years after Bert in 1892 and he died in 1954 at an estimated age of 62 years. The Internet/2001 lists 22 films for Wilfred from 1916-32.