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Portland, Oregon.

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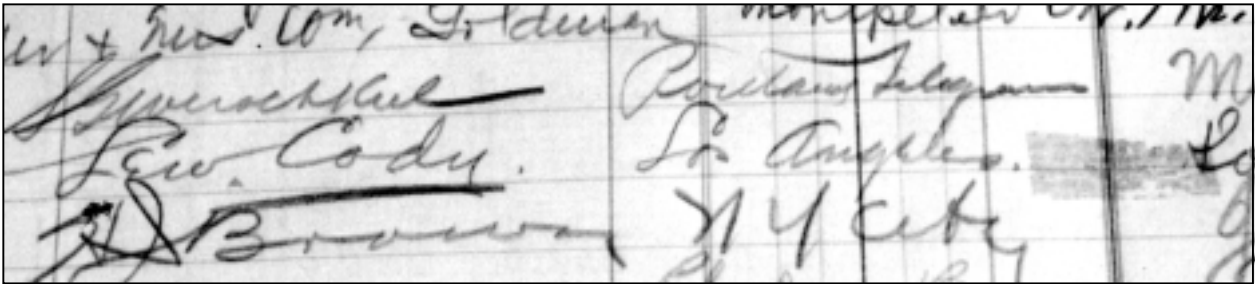
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# LEW CODY

H-474

Signed Guestbook: June 17, 1921



**Names evident above:** (This view repeated for H.J. Brown)  
 S. Gwerschkeel (sp?)..Portland Telegram  
**Lew Cody**.....Los Angeles  
 H. J. Brown.....NY City

**Lew Cody Vitae:**  
 Profession: Film actor, writer  
 Born: February 22, 1884/Berlin, New Hampshire  
 Died: May 31, 1934/Beverly Hills, Ca  
 (Age 50/heart disease)  
 Age at Chalet: 37 years



**DETAILED STUDY OF CODY ENTRY----->>>  
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**Goodbye medical school**

Lew Cody left medical school to go on stage and he turned to silent films in 1915. Much in demand as a leading man in the early 20's, he has been described as suave and debonair - often a seducer, sometimes a heel, always a charmer. Versatile, he could play a wicked male vamp or a smooth silk hat comedian. The Internet/99 credits him with acting in 97 films from 1915-1934. Cody was doing well in the talkies until his premature death in 1934. Interestingly, Cody and film director **H. J. Brown** do not seem to have worked in films together until the final years of Cody's life. (See details for Harry Joe Brown.) From 1931-1933 the Internet/99 records exactly six films produced or directed by Brown in which Cody played a role.

**Lew Cody and Mabel Normand**

A childhood friend of beautiful actress Mabel Normand, Cody appeared with her in *Mickey* (1918) and married her in 1926. Mabel Normand's name is easy to locate on the Internet as a result of her involvement in the widely publicized murder of Hollywood film director William Desmond Taylor in 1922. She was romantically linked to Taylor and was the last person known to have seen him alive. Some film buffs find this story endlessly fascinating and if you like a good mystery - in this case non-fiction - you will find all about it on the Internet under the heading of *Taylorology*.

The marriage of Lew Cody and Mabel Normand has been characterized as a union of two dying people: Mabel died of a combination of pneumonia and TB in 1930 and Lew died of a heart ailment in 1934. Mabel Normand was portrayed by Bernadette Peters in the 1974 Broadway musical *Mack and Mabel* - "Mack" referring to film producer/director Mack Sennett - a love interest before Cody.

**Link to Chalet Guests Charlie Chaplin and Douglas MacLean**

William Desmond Taylor lived in the exclusive Alvarado Court Apartments in Los Angeles. Other occupants of this 16 room complex included Charlie Chaplin's leading lady, Edna Purviance and Douglas MacLean and his wife Faith. On the night of the murder, the MacLeans had just finished dinner when a shot was heard directly across the corridor. Faith opened the front door to observe the shadowy figure of a man backing out of the door of Taylor's apartment. She thought that the "man" was dressed "funny", producing speculation that the figure might have actually been a woman. Mabel Normand?