

Happy good citizen news
LEONARD LYONS

2-25-61

Fame for Nita, Then Dreams

NEW YORK — Nita Naldi, who died last week, was discovered by John Barrymore in a Winter Garden chorus line. She became Rudolph Valentino's co-star and rivaled Theda Bara and Pola Negri as a high-salaried Hollywood vamp. She pretended she was of Latin-Oriental origin, and often spoke wistfully of a sister living in Spain. There was no such sister.

Her family name was Doolley. The other day a brother appeared at the funeral parlor and paid the bills, sparing the Actor's Fund of America from this final obligation.

Miss Naldi moved in a dream world, as do all those who've come down from the heights, positive that something will happen to restore them. That's why she permitted no one to come and see the Times Square hotel room where she lived, and why her body was not found for 48 hours. One of her hopes was to collect the \$5,000 bequeathed to her by Diana Barrymore. But Diana's estate was not settled until the day before Miss Naldi died.