

FEATURES

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRESS CHILDREN'S STORY

LIBRARY NOTES CINEMA COMMENTS

The COURIER'S COMMENTS on the CURRENT CINEMA

By JOHN SPRINGER

The theatrical events of the week were, of course, Maurice Evans magnificent "Hamlet" and Ethel Waters intensely dramatic "Mama's Daughters" but local screen offered a well-varied assortment of films, as well.

For example there was "His Girl Friday," "A-1" which is a remake of that rowdy newspaper comedy of a decade ago, "The Front Page," Charles MacArthur and Ben Hecht's co-authors, could hardly be blamed if the news that in the remake the sex of the leading character of the play the Fabulous Hildy Johnson, was to be changed to conform to that of Rosalind Russell proved disturbing. But they can relax now because the new version is as racy and funny as the original.

Although the characters and incidents of "The Front Page" have been sutured a bit the flavor of the remake is as pungent as was that of the Hecht-MacArthur play. The dialogue is crackling, the action builds up to a fever pitch.

And if you had any misgivings about a woman Hildy Johnson prepare to lose them. For the woman is Rosalind Russell and the Russell is one of the best comedienne on the screen better with every picture. Cary Grant's performance is at the same high level and so are those of Gene Lockhart, Porter Hall, Regis Toomey, Ralph Bellamy, Clarence Kolb and the rest. Particularly good dramatic work is done by John Quinn as the terrified criminal and by Helen Mack as the pitiful little street girl who feels sorry for him. "His Girl Friday" never relaxes in tempo. It is one of the fastest and funnest pictures of the year.

Neither fast nor funny is "The Swiss Family Robinson," "A-1," but it is a good picture. It is good largely because the air of the venerable old classic permeates it. Wisely the producers have not seen fit to transplant the story to a modern day if they had it would have been just another family picture.

As it is "The Swiss Family Robinson" is interesting rather than absorbing or exciting. You follow the timeworn story of the Robinsons on their island with attention even though you are never particularly moved or thrilled by them.

Thomas Mitchell is the Swiss clockmaker who sees his family growing into an insufferable group as could be imagined and resists to do something about it. Enroute to America, where he hopes they will change, there is a storm which washes the little boat and destroys the captain and crew. The Robinsons are the only survivors and they take refuge on an island building a new world for themselves.

This is probably Mitchell's longest screen role but it is far from his greatest. At times Father Robinson is a little bit of a bore but you really can't blame him when you consider that fact. His occasional bitterness is played by Edna Best and not a hair of Miss Best's fluffy becomes disarranged through all the rough times. The child on the island is Tim Holt as the concocted soldier son Freddie Bartholomew, as the foppish little dandy Terry Kilburn the pigskin bookworm and Baby Bobby Quiljan.

Fine acting and production get the most out of "Vigil in the Night," "A-2," which the lady headed me persistently calling "Vigil in the Night." The story is slow, somber, drab, unrelieved by humor and keyed at a low pitch dramatically but it is serious and at times engrossing dealing as it does with the lives of nurses who look and act like nurses and not like chorus girls. "Vigil in the Night" is adapted from a novel by A. J. Cronin but does not have the dramatic strength of "Criminals' Circle." However, they have not lost a false melodramatic where they do not belong and the picture is better for that.

Carmel Lombard and Brian Aherne are satisfactory, as always, but Anne Shirley takes the dramatic honors. Ethel Griffies has a memorable bit as the hospital matron and good work is done by Julien Mitchell, Doris Lloyd, Brenda Forbes, in fact, the entire cast.

When I entered the theater "Escape to Paradise," "A-1," was already half over. Since there is no law which compels anyone to sit through a Bobby Breen picture I didn't have to stay to see the other half. The lady behind me thought Bobby was darling, she told her friend. She also thought that Kent Taylor doesn't look nearly as handsome without his mousethe I agree with her there and he'd better do something about it. He needs all of his pulchritude for though Mr. Taylor is one of Hollywood's handsomest men, he is a long way from being an actor.

The new March of Time which deals with the Vatican City is a "must see" for Catholics, of course, but it is intensely interesting and very worthwhile for every adult, no matter what his creed. Even the lady behind me was impressed, although as she confessed to her friend, she doesn't usually go for these newsreel things too much.

If you don't know what happens when a girl is sent to prison for a crime she didn't commit, if you just haven't been seeing many shows, "Convicted Women" (A-2) has few deviations from the regulation "women in prison" plot. Rochelle Hudson is the innocent one this time and Lois Lane, June Lang and Iris Meredith are a few of the girls. Esther Dale once more plays a mean matron. In fact, it's hard to remember any of her pictures when she hasn't been a mean matron. Or, at least, mean. There is a Glenn Ford playing the hero. I never saw Mr. Ford before and I'm not in any hurry to see him again.

Catholic U. Professor Commends Social Security Work In State



MRS. ANNA ROSENBERG—MSGR. JOHN O'GRADY

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John O'Grady of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., after visiting several field offices of the Social Security Board in New York, commended Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, New York Regional Director of the Social Security Board, for the work being done in this State by the 32 field offices of the Social Security Board.

Msgr. O'Grady said he was very much impressed with the personnel and their courteous treatment of applicants.

"I am particularly interested in the new part of the Social Security program which brings benefits to widows, dependent children and dependent parents," Msgr. O'Grady said. "This part of the program is not so generally known. These benefits come to people as a matter of right and should be fully aware of these benefits."

Mrs. Rosenberg informed her visitor that survivors monthly benefit pay to widows of deceased wage earners under the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance program

WILD WISDOM

Try the Right Rev. Msgr. Peter A. H. Winkhoven
Editor-in-Chief, Catholic Action of the South

Cash Versus Character

Junior came running into the house crying to break his little heart. Mother hastened to see what had happened. "That guy what sleeps here on Sundays struck me," the little one wailed. The excitement was caused by the busy businessman who daily left home before the children arose and returned at night when they were put to bed. The only time he was home was on the Lord's Day, and that he slept most of it. This morning, one of his blood had arisen

earlier than usual and the father, on his way out, had caught him in the garden doing some mischief whereupon he took time out to give Sonny Boy a spanking. Hence the conversation and tears.

Although this fairly venerable story is funny it calls at the same time for some sad reflection. American parents idolize their offspring. They dream grandiose dreams

about them. They have and sacrifice continuously with one object in mind. To see their children one day great famous and successful. They daily strive to leave them wealth and early possessions. I want my child to have the opportunities that I lacked when I was young. With this partly laudable ambition uppermost in mind parents are entirely overlook and neglect a child's greatest inheritance character. A good mind and a good heart constitute greater assets in anyone's life and are worth more than all the wealth and early education that the world can offer.

A SMALL FORTUNE

I recently inherited over a half-million dollars for Hope Haven, a school and home for dependent children. I was overjoyed and happy, and I shall never forget until my dying day the good, generous Protestant lady who left this "small" fortune to God's poor.

But what did this wonderful bequest mean to me personally, what effect did it have on my character, my soul? Did it make me a more worthy man? No, it only stimulated my feeling of gratitude. For the rest, this legacy had no effect on me. The lady's fine traits had never influenced me because I was not sufficiently acquainted with her. What preoccupies my mind now is, how to spend the money most beneficially.

NEED FATHERS' CARE

Fathers, especially who are too much concerned and engrossed in their business or work, who do not give any type or personal, individual thought to their children, do deny them something very precious and essential. If the father's working program is such that the children very seldom see him, because he leaves early in the morning and comes home late at night, a grave injustice is done to his offspring. Boys, in particular, need a father's association, his interest in their problems, his encouragement in their doings, that is, of course, if the father be a worthy parent, an exemplary man. Leaving children only money and worldly opportunities will be of little value to their real happiness.

Statistics prove that only a percent of rich people's offspring make good. Most of them turn out to be wastrels whose only objective in life is a quest for keener and coarser pleasure and an ideal of making hay for the devil while the financial sun shines. Not a few of them eventually land in the penitentiary or are found dead in the gutter.

What a far better and happier policy it would have been, if the parents had worried less about leaving their children cash and had devoted more time and attention to bequeathing them character. An educational and spiritual inheritance that makes young men and

Weekly Movie Guide

NEW FILMS REVIEWED

Five Little Peppers at Home, A-1

The Cheyenne Kid, A-1

Little Orphan Annie, A-1

Rhythm of the Rio Grande, A-1

Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet, A-2

Women Without Names, A-2

The Face Behind the Rear, B

My Little Chickadee, B

Secrets of a Model, B

AT THE THEATERS

PALACE
Grapes of Wrath (not classified)

LOEW'S ROCHESTER
Northwest Passage, A-1
Music in My Heart, A-1

CENTURY
Sidewalks of London, A-1
Reveries, A-1

TEMPLE
Kentucky, A-1
Dodge City, A-1

REGENT
Vigil in the Night, A-2
Swiss Family Robinson, A-1

LITTLE
The Mad Empress, A-1

CAPITOL
Four Wives, A-2
Invisible Man Returns, A-2

RIVIERA and DIXIE
Destry Rides Again, A-2
Secret of Dr. Kildare, A-2

LIBERTY and STATE
Swanee River, A-1
High School, A-1

MADISON and MONROE
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex, A-2
Dancing Co-ed, A-2

Faith Stories For Little Ones

When St. Francis of Sales was a little boy not quite seven years old, he was one day playing in a room at his father's castle, when he noticed lying on the floor the waistcoat of a workman who was employed about the place. Attached to it was a silk ribbon of different colors which immediately attracted the child's attention.

No sooner did he see it than he longed to have it, and, looking around and seeing no one near, he took and hid it.

After a short time the workman came back for his waistcoat and perceived at once that some one had stolen the ribbon. He made inquiries among the servants, but to no purpose, for they all denied that they had touched it.

At length the matter came to the ears of the Count of Sales, the father of Francis, who sent for his child and asked him whether he knew anything of the workman's ribbon.

The truthful boy acknowledged at once that he had taken it, and, falling on his knees, expressed his sorrow with many tears, and begged his father's pardon. All who beheld him were touched alike by the child's candour and his sincere sorrow, and joined in entreating his father to forgive him on his first offense, but the latter, knowing well that petty thefts, when left uncorrected, lead to greater ones, and judging like a wise and prudent parent, that it was his duty, even at the expense of his own feelings, to do all in his power to inspire his son with a horror of so serious a fault, sent for a rod and chastised him on the spot.

From that time so far was Francis from falling into a like sin, that he grew up a model of innocence and virtue. LIFE OF ST. FRANCIS OF SALES.

The Holy Ghost Prayer Book. By Rev. Frederick Hoeger, (A.B.).

It is with glee and gratitude that we greet this book of prayers addressed to the Third Person of the Divine Trinity. Keen are our happiness and our thanks because God, the Holy Ghost, is so often not only neglected but ignored by many of us. Practically many are in the position of the disciples whom St. Paul found at Ephesus. They had not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. (Acts 19: 2) It is true that we have heard of Him over and over again, but what we have heard has not been appropriated. We are like Jacob at Haran. God the Holy Ghost is in this place every place where we may be and we know it not. (Gen 28: 16) And yet this may and must be said next to the Incarnation of the Son of God, the greatest gift that God ever gave to the world is the giving to us the Holy Ghost and possibly this is the consummation and perfection of the other. There are real difficulties to be faced in the consideration of our subject. The very word Spirit seems to people a hard one to deal with. There is something elusive and subtle in it. But there is no gain in assuming an ostentatious attitude in the face of difficulties. The world is thinking and is looking to Christians for direction of its thinking before its demands can be satisfied we must be sure of our own soundness in the Faith as it concerns the Holy Spirit of God.

In the present delightful volume which is a manual of devotion and thereby of doctrine will be found all that we must know concerning the Third Person of Him who is True and One. I recommend it to all Christians.

Popular priced \$1.50 postpaid Gold edges Imitation leather binding. Can be purchased from your Church or Dealer or Catholic Book Publishing Co., New York.

—By Father J. M. Lalen, Ph.D.

PLAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CBS 'CHURCH OF AIR'

NEW YORK A comprehensive radio campaign to stimulate nationwide interest in spiritual matters was mapped out at a meeting of religious leaders here Feb. 18 to mark the tenth anniversary of the Columbia Broadcasting System's "Church of the Air" program.

Among those attending the meeting was the Rev. Fr. Joseph A. Daly of St. Gregory's Church, this City.

LIBRARY NOTES

Hidden Strength

The irksome task of yesterday is still today a stern duty. Unless we've learned to search and find its hidden strength and beauty, Gliding every action With prayer and love of God. Remembering this very earth He, too, has also trod.

Some climb the ladder rung by rung To meet success or fame, While their brothers struggle along And no one knows their name. Let not success or fame pride, Lift naughty heads too high. For passing near in humble mien, Perhaps God's Saints go by.

Mary E. Ponzessy

women acceptable to God and man will bring far greater satisfaction and happiness to fathers and mothers, and infinitely more blessing and success to youngsters themselves, than all the fame and gratification that money, worldly opportunity and society's adulation can afford. Irrespective of whether any parent may plan, it still remains a fact that all of us are born for eternity.

New Fashions!... for SPRING

as presented by Rochester's leading retail institutions in preparation for an early and fashionable Easter



Distinctive evening dress in beautiful, contrasting colors. The soft, flowing lines give it a graceful, feminine appeal. The color is the classic red and white. The soft lining will fit snugly.

R. NORMAN CO.

GLIMPSES

into the immediate future of Springtime Fashions in Rochester ... thrilling glimpses of a new and colorful season ... exciting promises of the fashion-right and price-right costumes to make Easter as stylish as it is early.



A strictly tailored patch-pocket suit in a shimmering blue-tinted wool fabric, here modified with a blended bolero sweater, and a small alligator bag. The post-neckline adds a chic note.

NATIONAL CLOTHING CO.



The casual note in daytime dressing. A brocade woolen suit in "roomy" features are the highlight. The four tucked pockets and the soft fullness in the skirt.

SILLY, LINDAY & CURR CO.



A very smart 2 piece suit in blend Tweed with brass buttons—exclusive in Rochester at Projanek's—30 East Avenue. An unusual color for tweed with contrasting quilted and Russian style scarf completes the costume.

PROJANEK



Unusual "hot pink" knitted blouse and black and white checked shawl, skin skirt combination, set off with a black patent leather bag with red lacing red gloves and a matching felt hat.

E. W. EDWARDS & SON



The hint of military inspiration. This black for "anti-drape" blouse, with a contrasting collar and a white pocket, is a smart, modern look.

McPherson & Co.

A Presentation of the Catholic Courier THE NEWSPAPER SERVING THE CATHOLIC HOME