HOME PLANNING SERVICE TELLS HOW TO 'BUY, BUILD OR MODERNIZE'

The COURIER'S COMMENTS on the CURRENT CINEMA

By JOHN SPRINGER

It's an unusual situation—the selection of the best pictures of the first quarter of 1940 producing a list of films that is equal in quality to the final selection of best pictures of almost any other complete year. How long the moviemakers can keep up th pace is problematical, but there seem to be no signs of a letup in quality for the coming months. The pictures released in this quarter have showed a new maturity—they have tackled unusual and controversial subjects with conspicuous success, and have presented screen adaptations of the best books with faithful adherence to them. In some cases, the screen version excelled the book.

Here, then, in order of excellence—or as nearly so as possible—are this column's selections for the best pictures of the first quarter of 1940: "Grapes of Wrath" is first, "Of Mice and Men" second and then come "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," "Rebecca," "Shop Around the Corner," "Northwest Passage," "His Girl Friday" and "The Earl of Chicago." Nor have we forgotten "Pinocchio." That, of course, must be ranked by itself ("Gone With the Wind" and "Port of Shadows" were outstanding theatrically but are classed as "B" by the Legion of Decency.)

In line with the excellence of the films is the group of extraordinary performances of this period. Particularly impressive are the number of supporting players who have done much striking pieces of work that they have on occasion overshadowed the stars. The general excellence of the film fare seems to have inspired screen actors. Certainly, it is seldom that there have been such consistently extraordinary performances by a group of players. Some of the best of these are listed below, as nearly as possible in order of excellence, under their group heading. Even at that, there are many other notable performances that are neglected here, because of lack of space which would be necessary were all excellent performances to be included.

Best Masculine Performances of the First Quarter: Henry Fonda in "Grapes of Wrath," Edward G Robinson in "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," Burgess Meredith in "Of Mice and Men," Spencer Tracy in "Northwest Passage." Laurence Oliver in "Rebecca," Robert Montgomery in "Earl of Chicago" Cary Grant in "His Girl Friday."

Best Feminine Performances: Jane Darwell in "Grapes of Wrath," Joan Fontaine in "Rebecca," Betty Field in "Of Mice and Men," Rosalind Russell in "His Girl Friday," Margaret Lindsay in "House of Seven Gables," Margaret Sullavan in "Shop Around the Corner," Fay Bainter in "Our Neighbors — the Carters," Ruth Robonson in "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet."

Best Masculine Support: Albert Basserman in "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," Roman Bohnen in "Of Mice and Men," Frank Morgan in "Shop Around the Corner," Felix Bressart in "Shop Around the Corner," John Carradine in "Grapes of Wrath," Burgess Meredith in "Castle on the Hudson," John Qualen in "His Girl Friday," Leigh Whipper in "Of Mice and Men," George Sanders in "Rebecca."

Best Feminine Support: Judith Anderson in "Rebecca," Florence Bates in "Rebecca," Anne Shirley in "Vigil in the Night," Helen Mack in "His Girl Friday," Beulah Bondi in "Remember the Night," Norma Nelson in "Seventeen."

And there is your review of the first quarter of the movie year, 1940. The corresponding quarter in 1939 produced only seven pictures which finished the year in positions among the first twenty-five and only three of these ("Pygmalion," "Stagecoach," "Lady Vanishes") made the final best ten of the year. So, keep it up, movie makers—you're doing splendidly

Because of holdovers of "Pinocchio" and "Rebecca," there was only one new picture of any consequence. It was "Virginia City" (A-2), a typical Western melodrama of the old school. In "Virginia City," Errol Flynn and Randolph Scott are noble upstanding heroes; Humphrey Bogart is a nasty, sneering villain and Miriam Hopkins is the woman—one of those early Western glamour girls Given these characters and the benefit of past experience at Western films, any audience ought to be able to call every twist and turn the pilot will take—even to the inevitable last minute rescue.

Flynn and Scott concentrate on looking handsome and dashing, while Bogart delivers villainous speeches in an accent which he occasionally forgets to remember Miss Hopkins is, of course, up to the requirements of her role which makes her sort of a Mata Hari of the honky-tonks. That may sound interesting but it's demands on her are merely that she be able to look at Flynn with repressed adoration, at Scott with sisterly affection and at Bogart with righteous scorn. It's rather a waste of time for an actress of her ability but she makes the best of a bad bargain. And the picture is lively action-filled and well photographed, entertaining, even if it is the same old stuff.

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Rochester, with memories of Tallulah Bankhead's superb performance in Lillian Hellman's outstanding drama, "The Little Foxes," still fresh, can look forward to two more outstanding events in the legitimate theater this next week. There will be Katharine Cornell, the Theater's "First Lady," in her production of "No Time for Comedy" and the Blackfriar's production of Sutton Vane's "Outwrd Bound." "Outward Bound," which was an outstanding stage success both in its original production and in its recent revival, was also one of the best of the early talkies. You may remember it in films with Leslie Howard and that grand actress, the late Beryl Mercer, in the leads and with such players as Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Helen Chandler and Allison Skipworth rounding out the cast. It is to be remade as a film sometime within the nert year. The Blackfriars have chosen a strong and unusual, even though difficult play — but they have proved themselves capable enough in the past to be able to handle it with distinction.

'40 Favorable Building Year

Many Factors Bolster Claim

Each year since 1934 residential building volume has not only gained a bit but the conditions under which a new home can be acquired have become progressively liberalized. This is especially true of the monthly purchase payments. This is startlingly illustrated by the fact that it costs about one-half as much in monthly payments to acquire a new home in 1940 as it did during the last building boom period in the middle 20s

The elimination of the first and second mortgages in favor of the single, long-term amortized mortgage, has been the most important factor in reducing the cost of acquiring a new home

In fact, the home building situation in 1940 is such that we can hardly expect further liberalization of loan terms. In view of the fact that building costs are still only about 85 per cent of 1926, the year is a highly favorable one for home building. 1940 combines a unique collection of favorable building factors Some of them are

(1) It brings into every-day application all the facilities originated and established for the liberalization of the terms of home ownership during an eight-year period by the United States Government

(2) It marks the end of a period of transition during which housing and home building have reached a state of settled maturity as opposed to speculative boom cycles

(3) It combines an abundance of ultra-liberal credit at the lowest interest rates in American history with moderate building costs.

(4) A house that cost $8 000 in 1920 can be built for $6 400 today, but because of the inflationary effects of the European War building costs are bound to go up The monthly payments on a home in 1940 will be as low as they ever will be

(5) Small house architecture has reached the most practical stage of a 250-year career. Reduction in family income from 1928 to 1933 sharpened designing wits and concentrated attention on styles, shapes and construction methods which produce more-house-per-dollar.

(6) The cost of not building will rise. Renting which is satisfactory in a buyer's market, is anything but satisfactory in a seller's market, which factors indicate is next on our economic calendar A few years of extra-high rent in an inflationary period will cost a great deal more in non-recoverable expense than the down payment on new homes costing $6,000 or less

New Water Heater Fits Into Cabinet

Designed for homes and apartments with limited space a kitchen-cabinet model automatic storage water heater was recently placed on the market The heater will easily fit in an under-sink compartment, but it can be located equally well in any other section of the kitchen

Weekly Movie Guide

NEW FILMS REVIEWED

Buck Benny Rides Again, A-1
Blazing Six Shooters, A-1
Courageous Dr. Christian, A-1
Stage Coach War, A-1
Rancho Grande, A-1
Black Friday, A-2
Over the Moon, A-2
Rebecca, A-2
The Human Monster, B
Strange Cargo, C

AT THE THEATERS

PALACE

Road to Singapore (Not classified)
Little Orvie, A-1

LOEW'S ROCHESTER

Strange Cargo, C
The Ghost Comes Home, A-1

CENTURY

Virginia City, A-2
Half a Sinner, A-1

TEMPLE

Isle of Destiny, A-1
Forgotten Girls (Not classified)

REGENT

Pinocchio, A-1
Millionaire Play Boy (Not classified)

LITTLE

Lost Horizon, A-2

RIVIERA and DIXIE

Northwest Passage, A-1
Laugh It Off, A-1

LIBERTY and STATE

His Girl Friday, A-2
Brother Rat and a Baby, A-1

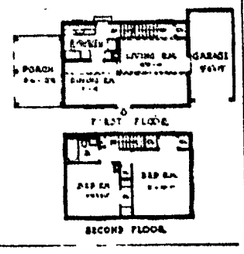
MADISON and MONROE

Hunchback of Notre Dame, A-2
Charlie McCarthy, Detective, A-1

HOME FOR THE GROWING INCOME

HERE is a good, balanced house . . . garage on one side . . . porch on the other. Thousands of houses are built in this general style every year for the obvious reasons of: lowest cost, greatest convenience, and best appearance for the money.

The plan has great flexibility and provides two bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. If you have a sixty foot lot, and place your main house directly in the center, you can add the garage one year and the porch the next.



Plans Near Completion For Home Show, April 13

Plans are rapidly nearing completion for the second annual Rochester Home Show which will be staged at Edgerton Park, April 13 through April 20, except Sunday April 14, under the auspices of the Real Estate Board of Rochester.

The Home Show will cover every major phase of home planning construction and financing, with educational demonstrations aimed at giving practical information to the prospective home owner

One of these will be the complete Cape Cod Cottage style model home planned and erected at the Home Show by The Brighton Group, Incorporated A beautiful landscaping plan has been drawn up calling for actually-blooming plants, shrubs and flowers Interior decoration will be done by Mechanics Institute students

Another Home Show feature of unusual interest will be an elaborate Television Display the first ever offered to the general public in this territory The Real Estate Board of Rochester has made arrangements with the Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Manufacturing Company for a complete setup of the very latest televising equipment

To add further to the entertainment at the Home Show, an up-to-the-minute Fashion Revue will be staged at the Show, on opening day April 13, by Sibley, Lindsay and Curr Company, in which more than a dozen living models will take part, will lay especial emphasis upon women's clothing for the Spring and Summer seasons.

Still another attraction will be a "perfect garden," planned by William Lauweret, landscape contractor This planting, 60 feet wide by 150 feet deep, will contain a cutting garden, a play yard, and beautiful border plantings.

Also included in the Home Show will be some 150 exhibition booths containing all types of building materials, roofing supplies, plumbing fixtures etc

Repair Loans Improve Homes

As modernization-loan insurance proceeds at the rate of approximately 1 500 cases every business day, with a minimum of two or three men being put to work directly on each project, the contributions to employment being made by the Federal Housing Administration's Modernization Credit Plan are enormous, it has been pointed out by Administrator Stewart McDonald

More than 2 300 000 American families and small businessmen have been enabled to modernize and improve their properties with loans insured by the FHA under Title I of the National Housing Act. The number of these loans crossed the two million mark in the early part of last Summer and has continued its increase The loans represent advances by qualified private lending institutions for modernizing, repairing, altering, or otherwise improving properties.

Look To Your Cellar Stairs

Cellar stairs deserve more consideration than they have been receiving Despite the fact that cellar stairs bear more heavy loads than other stairs in the house they are frequently constructed in a careless manner

While cellar stairs need not be finished as well as the main stairs, they should be given as much consideration as far as safety and use are concerned A railing and adequate head room are the two main factors to remember

Location Choice Serious Problem

A neighborhood or location in which to build a home should be selected in a businesslike manner.

As far as possible, the prospective builder should eliminate from his mind all preconceived notions and prejudices. He should start from scratch and work through the problem, taking into consideration every possible factor which could have a bearing.

First, the prospective home builder should decide whether he is going to build a house in one of the more centrally located residential districts or whether he wishes to move into one of the more suburban sections If the family is composed of adults who are employed and who have little leisure time, the home builder will possibly wish to live in one of the more populous residential districts. If, however, he has small children or if he is fortunate enough to have considerable leisure time, he may feel that the spaciousness of suburban areas will compensate for the longer distances which must be traveled to reach places of employment.

The physical character of a location should be seriously considered by the home builder as to the services offered and the protections given by restrictions and zoning The neighborhood should be judged in relation to the needs of the family—its social life, its welfare and health, and its general economic well-being.

Fix Cold Floors

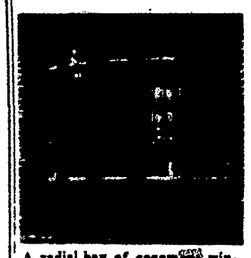
Cold floors are an indication of excessive heat leakage in the basement If the home owner is sure that the windows fit well and are closed steps should be taken to locate the source of leakage.

Some effective insulation may be applied to the bottom of or between the joists of the first floor, thereby reducing the heat loss there

Use Simmer Burner

The simmer burner of your gas range measures off just enough heat to cook food gently. You need not watch it!

Modern Trend To More Windows Puts Stress On Quality



A radial bay of casements windows so popular today.

An angle bay popular for breakfast rooms.

A multiple bank of double hung windows, often used at the end of the living room.

Windows and More Windows Is Trend in New Homes Today

No matter how you look at window you're going to see more and more of them in new homes. Light, airy rooms mean just one thing—more windows—and that is definitely the trend in home construction today.

And the more windows you have in your new home, the more you've got to watch quality construction in the windows you buy. Windows can add much to the enjoyment of your new home if they're good windows, and if they're poor ones, they'll add plenty of headaches.

Window "Pains" Gone

Rattling, sticking, leaking windows are a thing of the past with the complete factory fitted window units as manufactured today. Maybe that is why architects and contractors the country over are favoring more windows because, at last, the "pain" has been taken out of them.

New Features

Such features as inside double glazing, screens that are removed from the inside, condensation controls, and hinges that allow both sides of the glass to be washed from the inside are part of modern casement windows today. Similar improvements have been made in the popular double hung windows. Double action weatherstrip, noiseless pulleys, and flat weights that allow for narrow modern lines are a few of the outstanding innovations.

Spring Brings Repair Urge

Brightening Up Thoughts Active

Spring is not so far away that householders cannot begin thinking about giving their home "a new lease on life."

It is time to begin planning the annual quota of household improvements and the installation of modern conveniences that make for more comfortable living

The exterior of the house usually is the first item considered when the family begins to discuss remodeling and modernization. Many houses are poorly designed as to exterior, and no matter how well the interior is handled there is no indication of it in the outside appearance.

Color Treatment

Architectural deficiencies are sometimes overcome by proper color treatment and expert landscaping. Two-color paint combinations may aid in making attractive an otherwise dull-looking exterior. More important even than the value of added beauty is the value of added protection which paint gives to wood, metal, and plaster surfaces.

Careful technical inspection often reveals small defects, so small that the home owner does not notice them, such as loose bricks or sidings, loose shingles or flashing, faulty chimneys, and weak porch support.

The embarrassment of showing guests an out-of-date bathroom may be overcome The spotless walls and floors, bright fixtures, gleaming tiles, and modern appliances which good taste decrees today are easily installed.

Repair Walls

Many home owners are inclined to put off much-needed plastering jobs, and the interior appearance of the house suffers at the evidence of unsightly walls, cracked and stained.

In many homes "the most popular room in the house," the kitchen, is old-fashioned and awkwardly planned. In other homes it is far "behind the times." Modern step-saving kitchens, with all the latest appliances and finished off properly with gay touches of color, will be appreciated by all members of the family, but probably the most grateful person will be the housewife whose arduous cooking tasks will be lightened.

Improvements Necessary

Conscientious home owners realize that there are always ways to improve their homes. For example, the upstairs porch, closed in, will make a charming extra bedroom. Another room in the attic, put in at small expense, will add a great deal of livability and provide a much-needed playroom for growing children. Conversion of the cellar into a small comfortable room is a simple matter.

Spring is an ideal time to remodel, redecorate, or repair the Improving, modernizing, or repairing a home is actually investing in the home and increasing its value. There is more to owning a home than just living in it.

MOTHPROOF CLOSETS WITH CEDAR LINING

Converting large closets into cedar clothes closets can be done easily and at not too great a cost.

The entire surface of the closet, including the inside of the door, should be covered with three-eighths of an inch of aromatic cedar lining. It is preferable to line the floor with thirteen-sixteenths-inch material, but three-eighths can be used. The door should be tight fitting and close against felt gaskets. The lining may be placed directly over plaster if care is exercised to nail it to the studding Face nailing is suggested, but blind nailing may be used if desired. The corners should be fitted with quarter-round cedar molding Cedar shelving may also be used with added effect.

ENCOURAGE WRITING URGE IN NURSERY

Proper equipment and decoration in the nursery will often pay abundant dividends by concentrating the attention of the youngsters in this room, thus leaving other parts of the house unmolested.

The urge to write on walls may be overcome by installing in the nursery a blackboard built into the wall, where young kindergarten students may write and draw as much as they care to. When installing the blackboard it would be well to provide also a ledge under the board to hold erasers and pieces of chalk. This feature will tend to prevent those articles from being scattered over the room.

EXPANSION JOINTS

Severe variations in temperature sometimes cause concrete work to expand and contract to the point of cracking. To prevent this breakage, expansion joints can be used in all concrete work of the home.

Two of the several types available are those which consist of two layers of felt between which is interposed an asphaltic composition, and those which are of resilient sponge rubber.

PAINTING PLASTERED WALLS

Application of a coat of sizing on a plastered wall surface before painting is a wise procedure. A good preparation for sizing may be purchased from any paint dealer or may be made up of varnish thinned with turpentine and colored with a little of the wall paint. Walls may be sized and painted with funds obtained from qualified lending institutions under the Modernization Credit Plan of the Federal Housing Administration.

IN ONE EAR

By ART KELLY

Here's news of another new show coming on WHAM tonight (Friday, April 5th), the National Broadcasting Company and Station WHAM will present the initial performance of Don Ameche's newest program at 10 o'clock. Co-starred with Don will be lovely Claire Trevor.

Ameche, returning to the air after a three-month vacation, will be master-of-ceremonies as well as dramatic star of the series. With Miss Trevor he will appear each week in a dramatic sketch adapted from an original story by Mark Hellinger, well known columnist, short story writer and film scenarist. Others to appear regularly will be Pat Friday, soloist; Victor Young and his orchestra, and the Six Hits and a Miss, swing group.

Remember the day — Friday, and the time—10 o'clock. It will be the "Old Gold Don Ameche Show."

Will Radio Turn Back To History?

The next trend in radio entertainment seems to lie in the direction of history told in contemporary terms. Two new programs, using historical material in widely different patterns, bolster this prophecy.

On the humorous side, there is Rudy Vallee, whose Thursday night WHAM programs are satirical playlets built around the lives of historical characters.

On the more serious side, there is the new WHAM program, "Light of the World," broadcast daily Mondays through Fridays, at 2:00 P. M. Breaking new ground in the field of radio presentation, this program dramatizes the Old Testament, presenting each day, a fifteen minute episode built around the stories in the Scriptures.

To make sure of authenticity, the creators of this broadcast have enlisted the aid of leading Biblical scholars and authorities from the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths. These religious authorities check on the programs. The sequences follow no arbitrary time limitation, but tell the Bible story in modern prose in the same order as is used in the Book itself.

Msgr. Sheen Made History On Easter Day Via Television

On Easter Sunday, thousands of viewers in and about New York City, and a small group of men snowbound high in the Adirondacks, went to church by television for the first time in history

Two Easter services, one a Protestant observance, and the other a Roman Catholic celebration, were transmitted by the National Broadcasting Company from studios at Radio City. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, officiated at the Catholic service.

"This," said Msgr. Sheen, "is the first religious television in the history of the world. Let therefore its first message be a tribute of thanks to God for giving to the minds of our day the inspiration to unravel the secrets of the universe."

About 2550 miles distant, a small group of men at a weather observation point atop Whiteface Mountain, third highest peak in the Adirondacks, relaxed from their tussle with the problems of what makes weather and gathered around a television receiver to witness television's first religious service.

To quote a man long dead and forgotten, "What hath God wrought."

No News Is Good News? Maybe So!!

Someone once said, "No news is good news." That may be true. If you don't hear stories of what is going on about you, you certainly will not have anything to worry about. On the other hand why deprive yourself of hearing about the good things that are happening? Take for example the weekly newscasts of the CATHOLIC COURIER. These informal chats about what's going on in the Catholic world are just full of interesting items about your church, your neighbors, the priests you know, school events and even news of Catholic events outside the diocese of Rochester.

Tom O'Connor, News Editor of the CATHOLIC COURIER, writes the scripts from the wealth of material he has available from local correspondents as well as from agencies of the Catholic Press Association of the United States.

If you would know what is going on about you in the Catholic world, listen to WHAM tomorrow morning (Saturday) at 10:45, The CATHOLIC COURIER Program.

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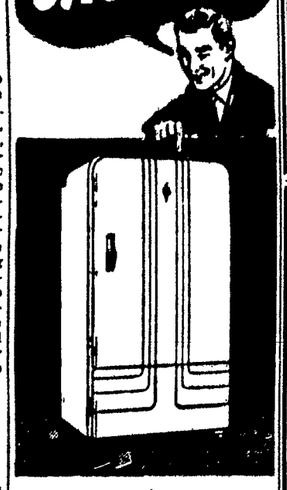

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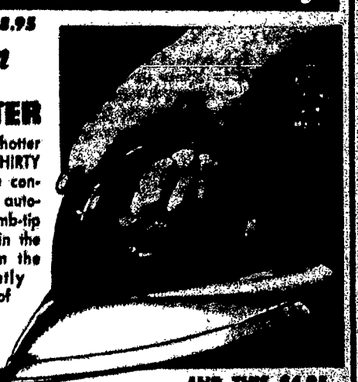

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