ST. MONICA'S PARISH

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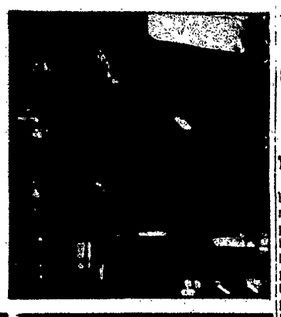

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Rev. Bernard Cleary
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NEWS and FEATURES

COURIER'S CURRENT CINEMA COMMENTS

By JOHN SPRINGER

The Return of Frank James—A-2

Sequels and successors to popular hits—book, stage or movie—are notoriously almost always disappointing in comparison to the original. The successor always lacks the novelty of the first, and if any particular length of time lapsed between first and second films, it is pretty certain that a wave of imitations of the original will have caused further lack of freshness.

Despite all this, there have been few pictures which have been so eagerly awaited as "Return of Frank James." To begin with, the best thing about the first picture, "Jesse James," was the performance of Henry Fonda as the cool, laconic Frank. And in the sequel Fonda repeats that role. Also most of the original cast—even to Tyrone Power who as Jesse, is killed off again—are back for the return picture. Clever Jackie Cooper and pretty Gene Tierney are newcomers, but capable newcomers. The picture is in gorgeous Technicolor and marks the first film made by the directorial genius, Fritz Lang, for two years.

Yes, anybody would think that "Return of Frank James" could break the jinx of sequels, prove the exception to the rule. But it doesn't come up to expectations. "Jesse James" romanticized the careers of its dime-novel bandits, was theater rather than history—but good theater. "Return of Frank James" sacrifices much of its action for moralising. Fritz Lang lacks the material that would give him another directorial triumph to compare with his "Fury," "M," or "You Only Live Once."

But all this is not to say that "Return of Frank James" is a poor picture. It's a very good one—generally fast moving, excellently acted and well worth seeing. Again Henry Fonda scores strongly as the tobacco-chewing, unexcitable Frank. Jackie Cooper does a good job and Henry Hull rants and tears in great style as the peppery little editor. Others are good in more subordinated roles. "Return of Frank James" may not be quite the picture you had hoped for. But it's still a darn good show.

* * *

He Stayed For Breakfast—B

Although there are a couple of sequences when it seems as if Director Alexander Hall had desired to make "He Stayed for Breakfast" no more than another bedroom farce, which takes Communism for a quick and scorching ride over the coals. A more farcical treatment of its subject than was "Ninotchka," it lacks the polish of the latter picture—but then Director Hall is no Lubitsch. Hall's direction is inclined to concentrate on certain click situations and to let other spots get along as well as they can, but on the whole, the picture is entertaining in spots.

Melvyn Douglas becomes a more finished comedian with every picture and he is at his best here as the Communist, who hides out in the apartment of the lovely Loretta Young, after he has taken a pot-shot at her estranged husband, because when the husband drank tea he curled his little finger. Miss Young has ample comedy ability, too, and the supporting cast is excellent. Una O'Connor, in particular, does a grand supporting job. The picture is light and frothy.

* * *

Untamed—Not Yet Classified

You know what would happen when a handsome young doctor goes to the Northwest to rehabilitate himself and meets the pretty wife of an uncouth but good hearted guide. You should know—the theme has been the subject of more movies than there are hairs in Grover Whalen's mustache. The same thing happens again in "Untamed," which is the screen version of a lesser Sinclair Lewis book, "Mantrap." It happens just the way it always does—without a surprise and with the husband conveniently killed for the romantic fadeout. He's frozen this time.

A good cast, which includes Patricia Morison, Ray Milland, Akim Tamiroff and Jane Darwell, can't do much although they really don't try very hard. Perhaps, realizing how hackneyed is their story, they don't consider it worth the bother. The picture is handsomely photographed in Technicolor, although that didn't help much the day we saw it. The back door of the theater was open most of the time and there is nothing like sunlight for washing out color from the screen. During the moment that the door was shut, Miss Morison's eyes proved to be very blue, her lips very red and herself very pretty in color. But only that and a delicious sequence in which the town gossips gather for a ladies' meeting, proceed to rip the absent Miss Morison up the back, and then close the meeting by singing "Shake Hands With Your Neighbor Every Day," give the picture any merit.

* * *

Other Pictures

Only the title of the original remain in the screen version of the magazine story, "Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot" (A-2). It's a misnomer. There is some sing, some dance, but nothing about the picture is plenty hot—or even lukewarm. What is laughingly referred to as the acting could be bettered in any country high school play. The dialogue is straight from Joe Miller's masterpiece—first edition. Total assets of the picture—"Tequila," an effective rumba number, and a song by a child named Judy Lee.

Once again, a dumb little weakling unconsciously foils the bad men. This time, it happens in a silly little film called "Golden Fleecing" (A-1), which has one or two mildly amusing sequences. The Joecbrownish principal character is played of all things—by that most serious of the aging juveniles, Lew Ayres. They have remade that old timer, "The Brat," with Jane Withers and handsome Kent Taylor heading a rather good cast. "The Girl from Avenue A" (A-1), which is the title of the remake, is strictly for the Withers fans. The islands of the Caribbeans are covered, in regard to their importance in world affairs today, in the latest edition of the March of Time. Thorough and absorbing, of course.

* * *

Red Stars

When John Leech, former Communist Party member, named important Hollywood personalities like Fredric March, James Cagney, Francis Lederer, Joan Muir, Gregory LaCava, Humphrey Bogart, Franchot Tone and many others as Communists or fellow-travelers, it made a one-or-two-day sensation. Not nearly as much was made of the fact that Leech's reliability was known to be questionable or that many of the stars—at this writing—have been definitely and finally cleared of all of the charges. The whole thing smacks strongly of publicity—and not publicity for the accused stars. It seems that there is a certain city election coming up—and it also seems that most of the players named have done some campaigning in the past against the particular candidate, responsible for the accusations and the wide publicity given to them.

On Social Crisis

Rev. John F. Cronin, S. S., professor of Economics at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, who will give three addresses on the Catholic Hour program, over the NBC red network, Sundays, September 1, 8 and 15, at 6:00 P. M. Eastern Daylight Saving Time. He will speak on "The Social Crisis and Christian Patriotism." The program is produced by the National Council of Catholic Men.

Crisis Spurs Citizenship Crusade Of Catholic U.

By Robert H. Connery, Ph. D.,
Director, Commission on American Citizenship.
(WRITTEN FOR N. C. W. C. SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT).

With recent events in the world crisis exerting increasing pressure upon the democracies, the civic education program sponsored by the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. through its Commission on American Citizenship, has taken an added impetus. Liberties submerged abroad must be bulwarked here at home, and in this important work the Church now plays an active part.

The late Pope Pius XI, in September, 1938, decried "any civic philosophy which would degrade man to the position of a soulless pawn in the sordid game of power and prestige." Looking back from the vantage point of two years later, the Pope's words seem a prophetic vision. Continuing his letter to the American Bishops, the Pope urged that Catholics here consider the formulation of a "constructive program of social action, fitted in detail to local needs which will command the admiration and acceptance of all right-thinking men."

To this appeal, the Bishops responded with instructions to the Catholic University, the National Pontifical University in America, for the preparation of a civic education program based on ethical principles, which alone, the Bishops said, "would make men respect their own rights and the rights of their fellow citizens." Time has proved their insight.

Two-fold Aims Told

The aims of the Commission on American Citizenship, which has directed the program since early in 1939, have been two-fold: to outline the moral basis of good citizenship, and to develop a consciousness of the part which Catholics have assumed in the evolution of the American nation's life and thought. More specifically, the Commission has as its purpose the broadening and deepening of a genuinely democratic American citizenship among the more than 2,000,000 Catholic school children of our country.

The Catholic schools have been traditionally built upon religious principles. Because of this fact they enjoy a unique opportunity to make effective their citizenship program founded upon ethical ideals.

Problems of organization and mechanism have now been worked out and through the media of the student, the teacher, the parent and the home the Commission's program has begun to find its way into the minds of Catholics in America.

The organization, now virtually completed, numbers several groups. The Commission itself, composed of more than one hundred outstanding Americans under the presidency of the Most Rev. Joseph M. Corrigan, Rector of the Catholic University, holds no meetings as a body; its purpose is to arouse and maintain in the public a lively and sympathetic interest in the attainment of the program's aims. An Executive Committee of three includes the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Haas, the Rev. Dr. George Johnson and Dr. Robert H. Connery, as head of the staff. Ten distinguished scholars and a number of co-operating groups act in advisory capacities.

Materials Being Prepared

The materials already in preparation are, in brief:

1. A statement of the philosophical principles underlying a sound civic education program. In this same sphere, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, through its 30,000 study clubs, will discuss at length the good citizenship drive and means of bringing its influence to bear upon the children of the nation, particularly in the home.

2. A curriculum for Catholic elementary schools designed to outline the social sciences, with particular stress upon the development of the qualities and the attitude of the good citizen.

3. A comprehensive series of textbooks for all grades of the elementary schools, again with emphasis upon good citizenship.

4. Biographical materials of Catholics prominent in American history, written for high school students.

5. A college students' outline series in Elementary Economics, American History, American Government and Social Problems.

During the past year, articles and stories have been appearing regularly in the Catholic Messenger magazines reaching more than 700,000 elementary school children. These will be continued, and will be supplemented with accompanying pamphlets, teacher's guides and discussion material.

Attitude of Responsibility

The work of the Commission has been well-started; it has ripened in several fields to the stage where it is already showing fruit. Some material has permeated through the Catholic school system; much more will be ready for publication at intervals during the present year.

The materials prepared by the Commission are integrated throughout with the purpose of developing in the students an attitude of responsibility, created through the perception of principles as well as facts. The "character-building" derived from this training in the ethical background of the social sciences should strengthen the backbone of democracy in our own country.

One prominent public school educator has characterized the program as the most important educational undertaking in this country in the last twenty-five years. Its importance, nevertheless, will be determined by its success. Catholic school authorities, teachers and students are now co-operating with the Commission. Their concerted efforts should leave no doubt of its outcome.

Jerry

Aware and awake was Jerry
A lad, not yet a teen,
As immature as a child, in fun,
With the heart of a man,—and clean.

Compared to him all other boys
Seemed sleepers, dreamers, slow,
But his open eyes and open heart
Had never met a foe.

A tremendous will had Jerry,
It showed in his face, he'd plod
Through failure's disappointments
To success, but that's not odd.

'Twas his motive made him differ,
As sparrows do from doves,
"It's heart that finally counts," said he,
And his was a heart God loves.

His trivial acts a feeling left
Of God in the world of man;
"I want to be a priest," he said,
"And I know it! I WILL, I can."

And watching him, a teacher must
See God's eternal plan,
And praise Him, if she would be just,
For Jerry, boy and man.

Sr. M. Vincentia, S.S.J.

Getting On In The World

Young people anxious to get on in life should guard themselves with the utmost care from loose companions, from places of questionable character, and from improper reading. I know how extremely difficult it is to observe these precautions: yet I make them advisedly, and they must be observed, if one wishes to establish and preserve an unblemished character and to avoid entanglements and pitfalls that would most probably ruin him.

A young person may perhaps say to himself: "I am quite capable of taking care of myself. I can go a certain distance, read certain books, join certain companions, notwithstanding, free from excess."

No doubt he is quite honest in saying so, because he has unlimited confidence in his untried strength. He is scarcely prudent, however, in rejecting the uniform experience of his elders and rushing into the dangers against which they warn him.

Suppose he rushes into them, nevertheless. What are the consequences? He becomes, after a very little, indifferent to his work and to the good opinion of others. He drops little by little every noble aspiration of his youth as an idle day dream. He grows listless and abstracted, without energy, without enthusiasm, without a particle of the healthy, buoyant spirit that formerly characterized him. He gets into a groove that leads only one way and the gravity of habit will take him to an ignoble finish.

Noted Abbot Is 65

Prague.—The Abbot of the Benedictine Cloister of Braunau, the Rt. Rev. Dominikus Prokop, has just celebrated his fiftieth birthday. A series of important liturgical works for the laity have come from his pen.

Jesuit Author's Jubilee

Chicago.—The Rev. Gilbert J. Garraghan, S. J., Research Professor of History at Loyola University here, will observe the fiftieth anniversary of his entry into the Society of Jesus with Solemn Mass in St. Ignatius Church September 1.

St. Monica's Parish

KINDERGARTEN TO OPEN

By MARY CAUFIELD

St. Monica's Parochial School will reopen on Tuesday, September 3 at 9 o'clock. Parents whose children are registered for the first grade are asked to send these boys and girls on Wednesday, September 4, and the kindergarten pupils do not start until Monday, September 9. Students of all other grades, however, are expected to be present on Tuesday morning.

Members of St. Monica Senior Sodality held a picnic last Monday at Genesee Valley Park. Supper was served at 6:30 was followed by a most enjoyable program of sports. Approximately thirty-five members were present, and "a good time was had by all."

Funeral services for Mrs. Dina Stoffel, who died Sunday, August 18 at 113 Scottsville Road, at the age of 93, were conducted in St. Monica's Church on Wednesday, August 21, at 10 o'clock.

Solemn Requiem High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Edward Goulet of Utica and the Rev. Alfred Goulet of Syracuse was deacon. Both are grandnephews of Mrs. Goulet. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wm. F. Bergan, pastor of St. Monica's was subdeacon.

Bearers, all grandsons of the deceased, were Dr. Paul Lalonde, Leo Lalonde, Elsworth Stoffel, Elmer Lalonde, Melvin Stoffel and Robert Stoffel.

Mrs. Stoffel was born at Three Rivers, Quebec of French parents, and has lived in Rochester since her eleventh birthday. She is survived by four sons, John and Martin of Rochester; Louis of Syracuse; and Joseph of Buffalo; one daughter, Mrs. Marie Lalonde; fourteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Final blessing at the grave was given by Rev. Alfred Goulet, assisted by the Rev. Edward Goulet. Burial was made in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Movie Guide

NEW FILMS REVIEWED

Dreaming Out Loud, A-1
Earl of Puddlestone, A-1
Law and Order, A-1
Orphans of the North, A-1
Rangers of Fortune, A-1
Wildcat Bus, A-1
The Young People, A-1
Foreign Correspondent, A-2
Captain Caution, A-2
The Mummy's Hand, A-2
He Stayed for Breakfast, B

AT THE THEATERS

PALACE

Lucky Partners (Not classified)
Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum (Not classified)

LOEW'S ROCHESTER

Foreign Correspondent, A-2
Girls of the Road, A-2

CENTURY

Young People, A-1
Girl from God's Country, B

TEMPLE

Pier 13, A-1
Babies for Sale, A-2

REGENT

Return of Frank James, A-2
Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot, A-2

RIVIERA and DIXIE

All This and Heaven Too, B

LIBERTY and STATE

Andy Hardy Meets Debutante, A-1

MADISON and MONROE

Torrid Zone, B
Susan and God, A-2

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Immaculate Conception

SCOUTS AT CAMP MADONNA

Girl Scouts of Troops 142 and 142 of the Immaculate Conception Church are enjoying a week's outing on Lake Canandaigua. Under the leadership of Mrs. Roy Curtis, Troop Leader of No. 142 and Honourine Pearson, Leader of Troop No. 142, Mrs. Walter Jamieson, First Aid expert, and Rita Scott, the girls are enjoying a most eventful week.

The spacious grounds of Camp Madonna are a most pleasant location for their summer's outing.

The girls registered at the Girl Scout camp during the week are: Katherine Shea, Patricia Curtis, Beatrice Otto, Ruth Hyde, Gloria Galvin, Geraldine McMahon, Gertrude Malloy, Jane Resch, Betty Resch, Phyllis Sullivan, Marie Burnett, Margaret Kraft, Eileen Mary Ann Riordan, Jane Heidkamp, Jamieson, Rita Tirpaeck, Shirley Tirpaeck, Winifred Loftus, Marion Heffer, Audrey Scottebo, Florence Luke, Elizabeth Dude, HelenMacDonald, Marie Stewart, Jane Smith, Dorothy Kastner and Joan Lewis.