NEWS and FEATURES

A FOUNDER'S LIFE
THE NEW MOVIES

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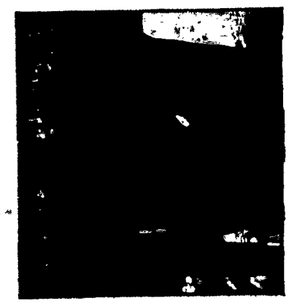

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COURIER'S CURRENT CINEMA COMMENTS

By JOHN SPRINGER

You can really get around via the movies. For example, this week, you could go to pre-World War Vienna or pre-present war France. You could go to the England of Queen Victoria — with a sidetrip to the Crimea. You could go to pre-Revolutionary war Virginia. And if you wanted to stay in America during the present, you could take a trip to Hollywood or else accompany some Okies on a gold rush. As varied as their locales were the pictures of the week. They ranged from drama to comedy to action melodrama.

The Lady in Question—A-2

The best picture of the week—even though it is probably the least pretentious is "The Lady in Question." The story is extremely simple—the tale of a middle-aged, middle-class Frenchman who feels sorry for a girl that he has helped acquit of murder and takes her into his house. Then things begin to happen in the little family. But even though the story is slim, it is so well directed by Charles Vidor so well acted by Rita Hayworth, Irene Rich, Curt Bois, Glenn Ford and, particularly, by Brian Aherne in the most unusual role he has ever played that the picture provides surprisingly good entertainment.

The Howards of Virginia—A-1

Much, much bigger—produced on a spectacular scale by Frank Lloyd—is "The Howards of Virginia," but it isn't nearly as satisfying a film as the lesser "Lady in Question." It's a long film—too long—and its coverage extends from Indian wars through the War of the Revolution. It is questionable whether or not such a film is particularly well timed, even though it ends on a flagwaving note. But this doesn't seem like the right time for a picture on England's war with America. The story is jerky, episodic, lacks continuity — although many sequences are excellently done. Cary Grant, however, seems miscast. He is much too suave for the rough and ready backwoodsman he plays here and is not in his element in the dramatic sequences. Martha Scott, late of "Our Town," gives a sensitive and luminous portrayal, which recalls Irene Dunne's similar job in "Cimarron". Richard Carlson, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Alan Marshall and others complete the cast. It's a good picture—but doesn't come up to expectations.

Spring Parade—A-1

Deanna Durbin has really grown up. No longer is she the cute little kid trying to fix up somebody's romance or getting a schoolgirl crush on an older man. "Spring Parade" lets her have a love story of her own. She's an ingenue now, rather than a juvenile, but she's still sweet and bright and shining eyed. Her new picture is a pleasant confection done in the Continental manner of early French and German musical movies, and while it lacks some of the sparkle that characterized earlier Durbin movies, it is still very entertaining. The story deals with a little peasant who goes to Vienna and proceeds to make her fortune, received from a gypsy, come true. It's a mere creampuff but it's an adequate showcase for the Durbin talents. Robert Cummings is her leading man, S. Z. Sakall contributes a grand performance, and Henry Stephenson, Mischa Auer and Butch and Buddy are strong in support. But the best news about "Spring Parade" is that Deanna—grown up or not—is still the same Deanna you've always loved.

"Queen of Destiny"—A-1

As a companion picture to "Victoria the Great," "Queen of Destiny" further explores the intimate life of the beloved little queen. The result is a finely-made but overlong film, handled with such reverence and dignity that on occasion it almost stands still. Nevertheless, it is a notable companion to the earlier film with Anna Neagle once more giving a distinguished characterization. Even though her Victoria lacks the spontaneity that characterized Helen Hayes' stage portrayal, even though Miss Neagle is more studied in her affects, she is still completely impressive. Anton Walbrook, C. Aubrey Smith, Derek DeMarney and others are prominent in the cast and the picture is photographed in Technicolor.

Gold Rush Maisie—A-1

It was a lucky day for Ann Sothern when the character of Maisie, the good-hearted, wisecracking little Pollyanna of the honky-tonks, was created. It gave Miss Sothern her first chance to show that she was more than the most innocuous of dizzy blondes. Her third Maisie picture, "Gold Rush Maisie" brings in a ghost town, a "Grapes of Wrath" angle about Okies, a "back-to-the-farm" idea and various other angles, but you don't mind the implausibilities of the story when you have Ann Sothern as Maisie. Mary Nash gives a splendid portrayal of an Okie woman and Virginia Weidler scores—but, as always, it's all Maisie—and you wouldn't want it any other way.

"I'm Still Alive" explores still another side of the Hollywood scene. It deals with stunt men and the dangers of their profession but the situations are stereotyped, the dialogue juvenile and the acting generally wooden. Handsome Kent Taylor and Linda Hayes, whose slight resemblance to Katherine Hepburn is emphasized here, share the leads.

Making Perfect

Judging by his smile, practice doesn't come as hard for Chinese youths as it does for some boys in the United States. This youth is a chorboy of Loyang, Honan Province, China. He is practicing for ceremonies in his local church. (N.C.W.C.-Fides.)

Primer For Patriots

(In times of national stress it is well to remind ourselves from time to time of things inimical to a true democracy)

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliance with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements.

I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy. I repeat it, therefore, let these engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But in my opinion, it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.

Taking care always to keep ourselves by suitable establishments on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

(From the Farewell Address of George Washington, issued Sept. 19, 1796, just before his retirement to private life after eight years as president.)

College Rector

Loretto, Pa. — The appointment of the Very Rev. John P. Sullivan, T.O.R., as President of St. Francis College here was made known today by the Very Rev. Benedict J. Determann, T.O.R., provincial of the Sacred Heart Province of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis of Penance.

St. Joseph's Parish

SINGLE LADIES' COMMUNION

The Arch Confraternity of the Holy Family for single women of St. Joseph's Church will receive Holy Communion in a body at the 7:30 Mass on Sunday, Oct. 6. Breakfast will be served immediately after in the school hall by the following committee: The Misses Louise Brown, Clara Freatman, Magdalene Lill, Lucille Wisler.

This is the first conference of the season and all members are requested to be present.

St. Monica's Parish

MISSION OPENS

By MARY CAUFIELD

The Dominican Fathers will conduct a two-weeks' Mission at St. Monica's Church, beginning on Sunday, Oct. 6. The first week will be for the women of the parish and the time of the Masses and evening services will be announced at a later date.

The High School Study Club held its first meeting of the current season on Wednesday evening, Oct. 2. A large group of young people were present at this initial meeting and it is hoped that those high school students who were unable to attend will make every effort to be at all future meetings.

Choir Practice was held in the school annex last Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock, and Sister Anna Louise, who is in charge of the group, again asks that any Sodalist interested in this work attend the next rehearsal.

The regular monthly meeting of St. Monica's Rosary Society will be held in the parish hall on Friday evening, immediately following the First Friday devotions. Mrs. S. Duffy, president of the organization, will conduct the meeting.

Movie Guide

NEW FILMS REVIEWED

Sky Murder, A-1
Spring Parade, A-1
City of Conquest, A-2
Diamond Frontier, A-2
The Great Profile, B

AT THE THEATERS

PALACE

Rhythm on the River, A-1
Laddies (Not classified)

LOEW'S ROCHESTER

Strike Up the Band, A-1
The Secret Seven, A-1

CENTURY

The Great Profile, B
Public Deb No. 1, A-2

TEMPLE

The Gay Caballero (Not classified)
Wildcat Bus, A-1

REGENT

Spring Parade, A-1
I'm Still Alive (Not classified)

LITTLE

The Great Waltz, A-2

RIVIERA and DIXIE

Return of Frank James, A-2
I Can't Give You Anything But Love, A-2

LIBERTY and STATE

I Love You Again, A-2
Girl from Avenue A, A-1

MADISON and MONROE

Maryland, A-1
Saps at Sea, A-1

Prince of Moral Theologians

BY REV. MICHAEL J. CURLEY, C. SS. R., PH. D.

(Editor's note. The Redemptorist Fathers are commemorating the centenary of the canonization of their Founder St. Alphonsus. It is their desire to reiterate for the Catholic public in a series of three articles the salient characteristics of their distinguished Founder.)

It was an ill-starred day for the worldly plans of Don Giuseppe Liguori, a captain of the Neapolitan Galleys, when his eldest son, Alfonso, lost a celebrated lawsuit, late in May, 1723.

The young man was Don Giuseppe's pride and joy. After giving him the best of educational opportunities, the captain of the Galleys took a full measure of fatherly pride in the son who had won the doctor's cap when he was but sixteen years of age, so young that the doctor's gown was too big for his youthful body. Now placed under the famous advocate of the time, Peronni, and then under Jovent, equally renowned for his skill in jurisprudence, the young lawyer took every opportunity to visit the courts and learn the fine points of his profession. Informal discussions, similar to those of the modern seminar, saw him matching his wits with his fellow lawyers and gaining that sharpness of mind that comes from practice in debate.

For eight years, from 1715 to 1723, the practice of law engrossed him. An acute, penetrating mind, an ability to analyze the facts of a case, a talent for organizing the data, for synthesizing related items and a crowning gift of presenting his arguments in lucid, persuasive language marked him as a man who would make his place in the legal world. The twenty-seven-year-old jurist, with a record of never having lost a lawsuit for his clients, was rapidly forging to the front in his profession, that summer day when he entered the courtroom to defend the interest of Duke di Gravina against the claims of the Grand Duke of Tuscany.

It was an important case, involving two and a half million lire, or half a million dollars in American money.

The best of Naples' legal minds came to hear the outcome of the suit. Point after point for his client's cause was proven in brilliant fashion by young Alfonso. The suit seemed won. Alfonso's plea seemed unshakable and his fortune made. Suddenly the whole world crashed about him. The opposing lawyer pointed out that the document on which Alfonso had based the whole structure of his argument had been mis-read by the young barrister. It was a stunning upset. Pale and speechless, he confessed, "I have made a mistake. This clause gives you the case."

A Greater Career

Deep, overwhelming dismay rose up in the soul of the defeated lawyer. People would think, he imagined, that he had tried to win his case by bluff, by trickery. Consoling words of friends could not lift from his heavy heart the galling bitterness of this unexpected setback. In deepest shame, he left the courtroom, saying, "World, I know you now! Courts, you will never see me again!" He was through with the practice of law. It was a definite turning point in his life, for, from that hour on, he moved toward another career, the priesthood. Neither the tears of his mother, nor the bitter reproaches of his exasperated father, nor the insistent pleas of his best friends could bring him to revoke his decision. Casual observers saw in this decisive action only the blasting of a career. Little they knew that it was merely the end of a first phase of preparation for a greater career, that of moral theologian, an interpreter of God's law. For the young, discomforted lawyer became Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Doctor of the Church and Prince of Moral Theologians.

Died in 1787

When Alfonso died in 1787, he had written the standard work on moral theology, a series of volumes, numbering four thousand pages. From his day to ours, his work as a theologian has won wide acclaim. Great scholars have glorified in following him, and every sovereign pontiff from Pius VI to Pius XII has given great praise to his masterpiece. He is by every standard of appraisal a Prince of Moral Theologians.

A striking defect in the chorus of praise, oftentimes overlooked by those who applaud Saint Alphonsus most as a master theologian, is the failure to emphasize the peculiar qualities of nature and of grace that made this particular saint so well fitted to write on moral theology. It was not only his diligence in searching out the opinions of others, not merely his amassing of citations of authors that made him a classic authority in his chosen field, but a great and unusual combination of natural and supernatural qualities and traits.

To begin with, young Alfonso had inherited the strongheaded steadfastness of his father, the old Galley Captain, and the exact conscientiousness of his mother, giving his character a rare blend of opposite qualities, hard strength and pliability, like Damascus steel. This strength and steadfastness gave him a bent to go after a question and search it down to its depths, through all its ramifications. Yet it was not a stubborn firmness. He was flexible enough to take into consideration the opinions of others and the reasons advanced by them, and to adjust his views in the light of their opinions.

His legal training had a marked influence on the processes of his mind. The study of civil and of canon, or Church, law brought into his methods the all-important quality of diligent, painstaking and exact research. He was not satisfied with his own first views on moral matters, but he dug down deeply into the writings of all who had gone before him, and of those who treated of them in his own day, until he had collected the full data of the question under consideration. Once the data was amassed, he had keen ability in sifting it, in shaking loose the pertinent parts of the argument, and of putting it up in brief, concrete form. Mere gathering of citations and listing of authorities, he well knew, never make a theologian. Evaluating the data, the action of a well-balanced judgment in weighing its contents, was much more necessary. Alfonso de Liguori had the faculty of evaluating to an eminent degree.

Preached Missions for 30 Years

Experience in treating with consciences, the practical work of hearing confessions of every class in society, was an added preparation. For the greater part of twenty years, he had preached missions and retreats, to young and old, to ignorant goat herders back in the hills, to learned priests, to unworldly nuns, to roustabout soldiers of the garrisons and to practical business men, before he undertook to write his first edition of his Moral Theology. That experience, and the mellow judgment it fostered, was of untold aid in enabling him to bring to his study of moral theology those practical insights that make his work so valuable. He had more than academic learning. He had learned in the best of training schools, experience, of those circumstances that bring a new twist to moral questions. Not merely the application of a law to an act, but sure knowledge of attendant circumstances, aided him mightily in his final decisions on moral conduct.

Over and beyond that he was a very holy man. There was no dogmatic self reliance about him. No partisan considerations could sway him. The opinion of others, and especially the weight of reasoning behind those opinions, was always welcome. He was so constituted that he readily changed his opinions, once he was convinced of the strength of evidence against his view. The objective truth, or the viewpoint that approached closest to what the human mind could know of truth, was his goal.

Open-minded

In his second edition of his Moral Theology he retracted ninety-nine opinions that he had formerly held when writing his first.

(Continued on Page 9)

Immaculate Conception

NOVENA OF TUESDAYS

A Novena of nine Tuesdays in preparation for the feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Nov. 27, began in this Church on Oct. 1. The Novena will close on the eve of the feast.

Girl Scouts will hold a "Court of Honor" Oct. 8 at which a number of merit badges will be awarded. A program of entertainment will follow.

A Board of Review for Boy Scouts of Troop 12 will be held next Thursday night. Paul Scottebo, chairman of the troop committee, will be in charge.

Members of the Immaculate Conception Parish Guild are invited to attend a Spirella demonstration on Monday evening, October 7, at 8 P. M. in the school hall. Mrs. Vincent Collins will be hostess for the evening.

Divers Tongues

Can a man go forth in the evening
When all the air is still
And the world is tense with beauty—
Yet feel no Artist's Will?

And shall a man know the sunset,
All the splendor and the hush—
Yet walk with shoon unloosened,
Blind to the Burning Bush?

And shall a man feel the cool dew
Fall to the sun-split sod,
Nor know, in a flash, that tenderness
Is the heart of the Heart of God?

And shall a man see the mountains
Against an evening sky—
The luminous calm of the mountains—
And be afraid to die?

And then shall he see appearing
The first far evening star,
Nor feel in his soul the tingling peace
That sends God's saints to war?

—Patrick O'Connor,
in The Far East

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