

The Courier Covers

THE NEW MOVIES

By John Springer

**EDITORS NOTE** — Listed as "Separately Classified" by the National Legion of Decency, this week is "The Forgotten Village". Observations: "This documentary film contains several short scenes deemed improper for the entertainment screen. The film conveys to a confusion of spiritual and temporal values. It tends to leave false impressions regarding religion in the lives of the Mexican people. The juxtaposition of religion and superstition in the film's treatment inclines to create the wrong notion of the similarity and identity of religion and superstition. The film with its materialistic emphasis is susceptible of contributing to the erroneous conclusions that religion is as futile as superstition and retards progress. That science and superstition are necessarily enemies is of course thoroughly accepted by the Church. In fact, religion is as much the enemy of superstition as is science."

The National Legion of Decency released a report on the moral condition of 521 motion pictures released from November 1, 1940 through October 31, 1941, a week or so ago. Of the 521 pictures reviewed, 267 were found unobjectionable for general patronage, and 197 were unobjectionable for adults. Fifty films, 9% of the pictures reviewed, were objectionable in part and seven pictures were entirely condemned.

Seven out of 521 seems like a small percentage. Only one of these was released by a major studio and it was promptly returned to Hollywood where changes were made and it was reclassified. But the fifty pictures which were classified as "objectionable in part" represented an increase over the number of such pictures released in the preceding year. And since the publication of the summary, another major studio feature, "Two-Faced Woman" has been condemned by the Legion, banned in certain localities, and scored by various members of the clergy, including Rochester's Bishop Kearney. It is surprising that the film ever passed the Hays office.

On the other hand, there is something of real value and merit, to which screen audiences can look forward. It is the Match of Time's production of "The Story of the Vatican" which opens at the Little Theater on Saturday, under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus. "The Story of the Vatican" has been heralded not only by Catholics, but by Protestants, Jews and the secular press, as an entertaining and informative movie of infinite worth. "Story of the Vatican" and "Two-Faced Woman" — extremes in movie-making.

Of the other new movies, the outstanding film of the week was "Suspicion".

"Suspicion"—A-2

"Suspicion" starts out so well. A psychological melodrama, it builds beautifully through situations that pile on increasing suspense. Then when interest has been built to a high pitch the picture ends abruptly and unsatisfactorily. The original novel from which the picture was taken, "Before the Fact," by Francis Iles is a classic of detective literature. Dealing with a girl who meets and marries a charming stranger and then finds herself tortured with doubts about him, doubts that eventually become conviction that he is going to kill her — the story moved steadily

towards its tragic and logical conclusion. The picture follows suit right until the last two or three minutes. Then comes the distressing manufactured twist ending and the picture seems to fall to pieces. It leaves up to that point it has been a first class melodrama directed by Alfred Hitchcock with the same technique he used for "Rebecca."

"Suspicion" is developed in exactly the same manner and what makes the resemblance all the more pronounced is the presence of Joan Fontaine once more playing the miserable young wife. Miss Fontaine is a fine and sensitive young actress and she makes the mental torture of her girl very real but it is to be hoped that sometime in the future she gets a chance to play some other type of role just to prove that she can incidentally, her resemblance to Frida Inesout in the current picture is astonishing.

Cary Grant has developed an acting maturity since his early days as a romantic leading man. Even after he found success as a light comedian, he was unsure inclined to be stiff in drama. But in "Suspicion," he uncovers new depths as the charming scoundrel shows that he is ready at last to join the unencumbered ranks of first-class actors, who are equally at home in comedy or drama. Nigel Bruce's delightful portrayal is a high spot and so is the work of the late Aurore Lee. Such people as Dame May Whitty, Heather Angel and Sir Cedric Hardwicke form an impressive supporting cast although their roles are very brief. It seems hardly necessary to mention that, as with all Hitchcock pictures, it would be absurd to go in expecting at the beginning.

"Unexpected Uncle"—A-2

A very short little Cinderella piece, "Unexpected Uncle" ambles along its unexciting course for a few reels and ends without having aroused any more interest or excitement than it possessed before it started. Charles Coburn does a good job, of course, and Anne Shirley is always nice to take James Craig, who started out promisingly in "Kitty Foyle" is stiff and unnatural in this.

Briefly Noted

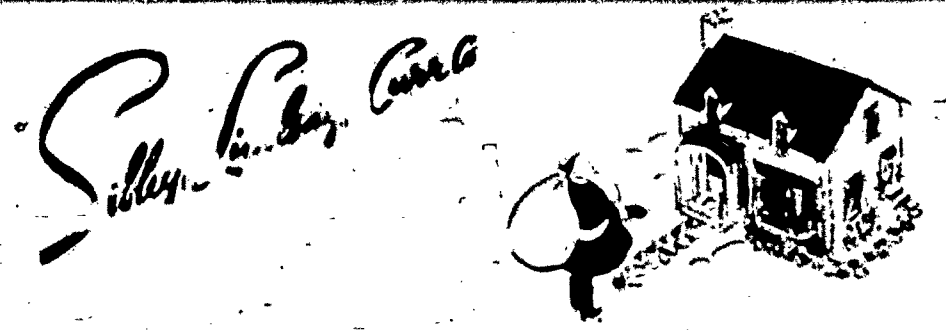
The New York Times last week carried the information that "Hot Spot" has gone back to its original title "I Wake Up Screaming." At the time it was released this column mentioned that the commonplace "Hot Spot" title gave the impression that the picture was just a night club yarn, which it isn't. Now if they would only do something about a few other poor jobs of titling — "You Belong to Me" is one of them. The delightful Henry Fonda-Barbara Stanwyck comedy has been passed up by many people who noted the inappropriate title and decided it was just another love yarn. Other recent titles which were anything but suitable are "It Started with Eve," "Our Wife," "This Woman is Mine," "Angels with Broken Wings" and "One Night in Lisbon."

The Film Daily, the newspaper of filmdom, is currently conducting its 1941 poll of critics over the country with an eye to selecting the ten best pictures of 1941 films released between Nov. 1, 1940, and Oct. 31, 1941, as well as best performers, direction etc. This column voted

(Continued on Page 24)

Movie Guide

<p><b>NEW FILMS REVIEWED</b></p> <p>Fighting Bill Fargo, A-1 Marry the Boss's Daughter, A-1 Secrets of the Lone Wolf, A-1 Stage Coach Buckaroo, A-1 Underground Rustlers, A-1 Double Trouble, A-2 H. M. Pulham, Esq., A-2 Keep 'Em Flying, A-2 Miss Folly, A-2 The Perfect Snob, A-2 Rise and Shine, A-2</p> <p><b>AT THE THEATRES</b></p> <p><b>PALACE</b> Keep 'Em Flying, A-1 Marry the Boss's Daughter, A-1</p> <p><b>LOEWS ROCHESTER</b> Sundown, A-1 Niagara Falls (Not classified)</p> <p><b>CENTURY</b> Sergeant York, A-1</p>	<p><b>REGENT</b> Suspicion, A-2 Unexpected Uncle, A-2</p> <p><b>TEMPLE</b> Fighting Anzacs (Not classified) 40,000 Horsemen (Not classified)</p> <p><b>LITTLE</b> The Story of the Vatican, A-1</p> <p><b>RIVIERA</b> Unfinished Business, A-2 Texas, A-2</p> <p><b>DIXIE</b> Hanky Tom, B Nine Lives Are Not Enough, A-1</p> <p><b>STATE and LIBERTY</b> Smilin' Through, A-1 Down in San Diego, A-1</p> <p><b>MADISON and MONROE</b> Smilin' Through, A-1 Parachute Battalion, A-1</p>
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GIFT HOUSEWARES

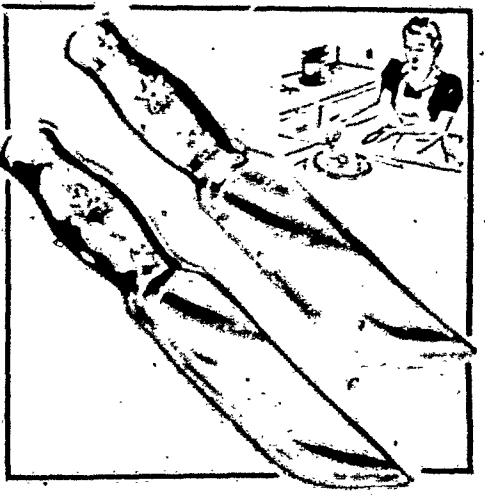
For Santas with a Practical Side



Silex Coffee Maker

\$2.45

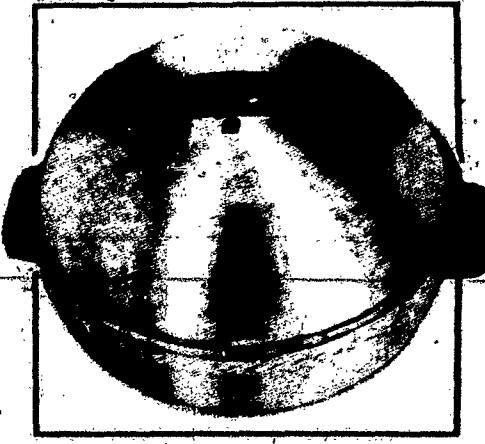
New "Victory" model, designed like old sandwich glass. All-glass, with a talent for delicious coffee!



GLASS KNIVES

59c, 2 for \$1

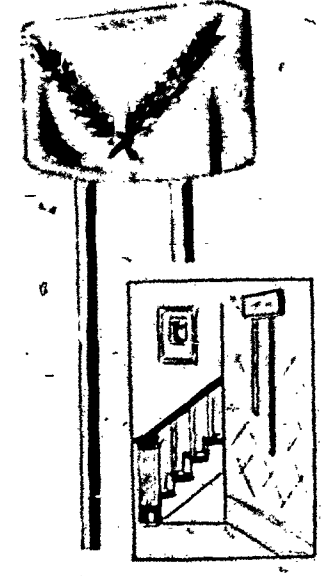
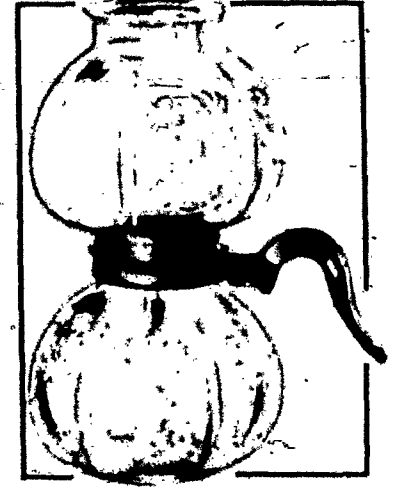
Razor-sharp, stainless, sanitary! Wonderful for slicing citrus fruit, cake or pie. Choice of colors.



Sunbeam Mixmaster

\$28.75

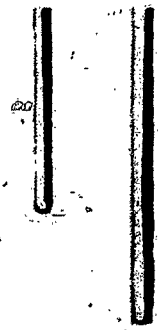
Does the work of ten! Saves tire-some arm work and time, and gets cooking results she'll be proud of.



DOOR CHIMES

\$7.95

The famous Rittenhouse electric chimes—royal gift for your home! 2 notes for back door; 1 for front.



SERVING OVEN

\$1.95

Heats rolls efficiently on the stove, and carries them smartly to the table. Spun aluminum with basket.

HOUSEWARES, NEW FOURTH FLOOR