

The Courier Covers THE NEW MOVIES

By John Springer

(Editor's Note—Two more films are classified as R—Objectionable in part, by the National Legion of Decency, this week. They are: "Kluge,"—Objection: "A suggestive scene"; and "Man Who Came to Dinner,"—Objection: "A few suggestive hues.")

Presenting a series of past-week events concerning the screen: Sunday (A. M.) Rochester Catholics join national members of the Legion of Decency in renewing their pledge to stay away from indecent and immoral pictures and to avoid indecent literature Sunday (P. M.) Business at the Little Theatre, showing "The Story of the Vatican," picked up and many who attended the film more or less as a "duty" discovered that they had seen a film that was entertaining and interesting as well as worth-while Tuesday Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios recalled all prints of the ponderous film "Two-Faced Woman," not to be released until extensive revisions have been made.

No further comment is necessary. As for the film that reached Rochester screens this week far and away the best and one of the finest films of the year is "The Maltese Falcon."

"The Maltese Falcon"—A-2 Cynical compelling striking is "The Maltese Falcon," which takes its place with "Time Without Pity" the first "Thin Man" and a few other as one of the most intriguing and mysterious melodramas that has ever been screened. The story by Dashiell Hammett, creator of "The Thin Man" has been lifted twice before. The first version which featured Ricardo Cortez and Bob Daniels was just a fair picture the second released under the title "Satan Met a Lady" with Bette Davis and Warren William had the doubtful distinction of being one of the all-time worst films ever produced. But two pictures like "Satan Met a Lady" and the current "Maltese Falcon" could have come from the same source is almost unbelievable.

However it more strongly highlights the credit that must be due to John Huston who has been a well-known screenwriter and playwright for years. "The Maltese Falcon" is his first directorial assignment; he also wrote the screen play and he now proves that he is a keen and able director. He has retained the colorful individuality of Hammett's characters and turned them all into so many types.

And he has been very fortunate in his cast. Even the most brief roles are important as played by Ward Bond, Jerome Cowan, Gladys George, Lee Patrick and Barton MacLane. There are vivid characterizations by Elisha Cook Jr. and Peter Lorre. Sydney Greenstreet, distinguished member of the Alfred Lunt-Lynn Fontanne company of the theater, is superb as the amiable spy but poisonous and sinister Maurice Mary Astor in a difficult role again demonstrates that she is fully equal to heavy demands.

But the picture is dominated throughout by Humphrey Bogart whose arresting portrayal of Sam Spade should convince, if "Dead End," "Petriified Forest" and other

pictures have not already that he is far and away the finest character actor of his type on the screen. The reminder that such a picture as "The Maltese Falcon" should be seen only from the beginning may be superfluous but we make it again. It's an unusual and entertaining film charged with suspense.

Neither unusual nor entertaining is "Ellery Queen and the Murder King." A-1, the routine type of murder yarn of which "The Maltese Falcon" is the exact antithesis. Ralph Bellamy and Margaret Lindsay still do their best for their thankless roles, and that fine actress Blanche Yurka manages to be as interesting as possible until she is killed off early in the picture.

"The Men in Her Life"—A-2

Opera singers and actresses and such have a pretty miserable life, according to the movie-makers. It's all work work work until you're ready to drop and when you go out with the handsome young man of the moment you are committing the unforgivable sin. In "The Men in Her Life" Loretta Young is the lady in search of a career a ballerina this time and according to screen custom, she marries her stern teacher although some of her heart stubbornly remains with the handsome young man with whom she couldn't go out.

"The Men in Her Life" is pretty old stuff and it is a tribute to the charming Miss Young that the audience manages to care as much as it does about what happens to her. The picture gets pretty mawkish before the end despite all that Miss Young can do to save it. Conrad Veidt is a properly stern teacher John Shepperd the young man who is always handy about the stage door and Jean Jagger, a good actor as a rule, gives a stolid performance which doesn't make his stiff role any more sympathetic. However Eugene Leontovich makes much of her few moments. Otto Kruger has a good bit and Ann Todd is a delightful young star. But the picture is pretty dreary going.

Coming Up

Christmas week should have special appeal to admirers of the Princeton Triangle Club, whose novel and entertaining musical comedies are becoming an annual institution in Rochester. The new Triangle show which comes here on December 26, is titled "Ask Me Another" and is said to be a clever takeoff on the question and answer programs, the Gallop Poll and topics of the day. Screen fans may be interested in knowing that James Stewart, Phillips Holmes, Dick Foran, Myron McCormack, Jose Ferrer and John Beal are all alumni of Triangle Shows. So is Rochester's Ben Duffy, who was featured in last year's production.

The Year's Worst

Within the next couple of weeks all the critics will be picking their lists of best pictures and performances of the year. Do you mind if this department starts it off with its list of "worsts." The following may not be the ten worst but they are ten of the worst in the opinion of this department. The obvious

(Continued on Page 20)

Fraternity Honors Niagara U. President

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, N. Y. Recognizing twenty-five years of work as priest, professor and president, Sigma Alpha Sigma, honor fraternity at Niagara University, dedicated its fourth annual Christmas assembly on Dec. 14 to the Very Rev. Joseph M. Noonan, C.M., S.T.D., LL.D., president of the institution. Gathered to pay tribute to Niagara's president were the entire collegiate body and professors and instructors of the faculty.

Charles L. Leonard of Rochester reviewed Father Noonan's career since his ordination 25 years ago in an address "Professor and President," while the Rev. Michael F. Nagle, C.M., Ph.D., moderator of Sigma, discussed Father Noonan's ecclesiastical life in a speech "A Priest."

After gratefully acknowledging the honor paid him, Niagara's president urged the collegians to eliminate, at least for the season of the Nativity, the grave thoughts over the international crisis and to dwell on the joy and gladness which should abound at the birth of Christ.

Entertainment during the program was provided by the Cappella choir from Our Lady of Angels Seminary, the university Glee Club and the university ROTC band.

EMPLOYERS' CONFERENCE AUGMENTS LABOR COLLEGE

MILWAUKEE. A series of industrial employers' conferences will be opened at Marquette University Friday night, to augment the university's labor college which was introduced this fall as a feature of the new Marquette Institute of Industrial Relations.

One hundred and fifty employers and personnel managers of the Milwaukee area are being invited to participate in the conference which will be held for the purpose of discussing problems pertaining to the labor and industrial fields.

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Movie Guide

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| NEW FILMS REVIEWED | CENTURY |
| The Blonde Comet, A-1 | The Night of Jan. 16, A-2 |
| Melody Lane, A-1 | Glamour Boy, A-1 |
| Midnight Angel, A-1 | LITTLE |
| Mr. Bug Goes to Town, A-1 | Saturday & Sunday only |
| Road Agent, A-1 | Story of the Vatican, A-1 |
| Sing for Your Supper, A-1 | REGENT |
| Steel Against the Sky, A-1 | The Maltese Falcon, A-2 |
| Thundering Hoofs, A-1 | Swing It, Soldier, A-2 |
| Dr. Kibbore's Victory, A-2 | TEMPLE |
| Honolulu Lu, A-2 | Public Enemies, A-2 |
| Paris Calling, A-2 | Top Sergeant Mulligan, A-1 |
| Kings Row, A-2 | RIVIERA |
| Kluge, B | Weekend in Havana, A-2 |
| Separate Notation, B | Small Town Deb, A-1 |
| Man Who Came to Dinner, B | DIXIE |
| AT THE THEATRES | Soilin' Through, A-1 |
| PALACE | Under Fiesta Stars, A-1 |
| Navy Blues, B | STATE and LIBERTY |
| Henry Aldrich for President A-1 | Unholy Partners, B |
| LOEW'S ROCHESTER | The Feminine Touch, A-2 |
| Design for Scandal, A-2 | MADISON and MONROE |
| Sing for Your Supper, A-1 | Finished Business, A-2 |
| | Texas, A-2 |



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