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The Courier Covers THE NEW MOVIES

By John Springer

(Editor's Note: Listed as Class B, objectionable in part, by the National Legion of Decency, this week, are the following: "Three Hearts"; objection, "Divorce and remarriage in plot solution," and "Where Is My Husband Tonight?" objection, "Some suggestive lines."

Pay no attention to the Nazis. They're just a bunch of low comedians and a movie hero can thwart them any time and make them look pretty stupid in the bargain. That's the gospel the moviemakers have been preaching in recent weeks when every second motion picture deals with the ridiculous ease with which a movie hero polishes off the silly old Gestapo. Three more such pictures, on the heels of last week's "To Be or Not To Be" and "Paris Calling," spread the message. Of these, the most logical and effective is

"Joe Smith, American"—A-1 Joe Smith, an aircraft worker, is selected for special work on a bomb sight. Later he is kidnaped and tortured for hours in an effort to force him to disclose the secret information he has gained. The memories of how much his life as an American has meant to him enable him to withstand the beating and, ingeniously, he manages to turn the tables on the saboteurs who tortured him. That's the simple, straightforward story of "Joe Smith, American," adapted from a Paul Gallico short story, and turned into a believable and frequently punchy movie. Robert Young is a forthright and likable Joe Smith and Marsha Hunt is a charming wife. The picture is flag-waving, but never maudlin.

"Dangerously They Live"—A-1 Second of the Nazi movies of the week. "Dangerously They Live" has its trick twists and its active moments, but on the whole, it's pretty routine movie fare, despite the agreeable presence of John Garfield, always a good actor even in such a weak role; Raymond Massey, suavely villainous as you've guessed it—a Nazi spy; and Nancy Coleman, who looks like Nancy Kelly and shows promise as an actress. There are brief glimpses of two personable and competent actors, Roland Drew and John Ridgely, who are worth more than the roles they have been getting.

"The Lady Has Plans"—B Number Three and Out! In "The Lady Has Plans," Paulette Goddard plays an American girl who is mistaken for a Nazi spy, who has some important plans written in invisible ink on her back. Well, you can just see Hollywood leer as it polishes off that situation. On her back, eh? Therefore only about two-thirds of the picture is the regulation Nazi spy story. The other third is bedroom farce of a particularly low order with Heroine Goddard virtuously misinterpreting the anxiety of various gentlemen to get a look at her back. Ray Milland, Roland Young and Albert Dekker are around, and they seem as confused as Miss Goddard and her audience. They do outwit the Nazis though. Wouldn't it be nice if life were more like the movies? All you'd have to do would be to send Messrs. Milland, Garfield, Leslie Howard, Jack Benny, Randolph Scott and a few assorted other movie heroes over to Germany. The war would be over in no time.

"We Were Dancing"—A-2 After you have lusted through a couple of reels of "We Were Dancing," you begin to long for a nice

Nazi spy anything to break the monotony of the deadly chit-chat which, we presume, is supposed to be scintillating dialogue. Based, according to the credit line, "in part on Noel Coward's 'Tonight at 8:30,' but actually utilizing only a minute percentage of Coward material, "We Were Dancing" is a trivial and dated movie about unpleasant and unbelievable people. Norma Shearer, in an unbecoming blonde wig, is artificial and strained as one of the glamorous set, while Melvyn Douglas spends most of his time in pajamas. Lee Bowman and Gail Patrick are much more easy to take, although their conventional roles don't help them a great deal.

"Mr. Bug Goes To Town"—A-1 There is no point in attempting to compare the film cartoon work of any one with that of Walt Disney. So we'll skip odious comparisons in the case of "Mr. Bug Goes to Town," a Max Fleischer creation, and point out merely that it's a very good picture of its type—and don't forget that we don't include the Disneyesque pictures of "Mr. Bug's" type. This one has an amusingly fantastic story, developed by slapstick rather than imagination, entertaining but without human interest, well, but not strikingly drawn. Adults should find it pleasant diversion, and kids, of course, will have a lot of fun.

"Wild Bill Hickok Rides"—A-1 "Wild Bill Hickok Rides"—and rides through some very familiar territory in this stereotyped Western. It seems that there are some bad men who are running a Western town. They can't get away with that as anybody could tell them. Wild Bill Hickok is just the boy to stop them and to bring law and order back to Tombstone or whatever the name of the place is this time. Constance Bennett wanders about as a dance hall girl, in front of whom the bad men are indiscreet enough to gabble about their nefarious plans, even though they know perfectly well that she has fallen for the rough comeliness of Wild Bill. Actresses like Miriam Hopkins, Marlene Dietrich and Frances Farmer have somewhat broken the ice for the elegant Miss Bennett, but even with their example, she still looks as if she's lonesome for her luxurious drawing rooms.

(John Springer will present the charming screen star, Betty Furness, now appearing on the stage in the popular comedy, "My Sister Eileen," as his guest star over WSAY at 10 o'clock, Monday morning. Miss Furness will appear in the feminine lead of an original radio play, "Happy Is the Bride.")

Record Pamphlet Sales Made In Australia

CANBERRA—Australia Despite war conditions a record sale of Australian Catholic Truth Society pamphlets was made during the last year. A total of 482,620 pamphlets were sold, an increase of nearly 50,000 over the preceding year. In three years 1,286,070 pamphlets have been sold.

The best sellers for the year were: "The Prayer Book," "A Slave of Mary," "Religion and the Nation," "What Is He Doing at the Altar?" "Short Life of Our Lord" and "Your Mass, Your Life."

Europe slaves and slaves for Hitler. You may save and save far U. S. Defense Bonds and Stamps.

Movie Guide

NEW FILMS REVIEWED

- Always in My Heart, A-1
- Canal Zone, A-1
- Down Express, A-1
- Fingers at the Window, A-1
- Heart of the Rio Grande, A-1
- Home of Errors, A-1
- Lawless Phobias, A-1
- Scattergood Rides Again, A-1
- Stage Coach Express, A-1
- Swamp Fox, A-1
- Drums of the Congo, A-2
- The Kennel Murder Case, A-2
- Streets of L.A., A-1
- Who Is Hope Sawyer? A-1

AT THE THEATERS
PALACE
The Mad Animal, A-2
Smash of Tubb, A-1

- LOEW'S ROCHESTER
- The Lady Is Willing, B
- The Vanishing Virgin, A-1

CENTURY
Valley of the Sun, A-1
The Night Before the Divorce, B

REGENT
Song of the Islands, A-1
The Devil Pays Off (Not classified)

TEMPLE
Wild Bill Hickok Rides, A-1
Dangerously They Live, A-1

LITTLE
Ruggles of Red Gap, A-2

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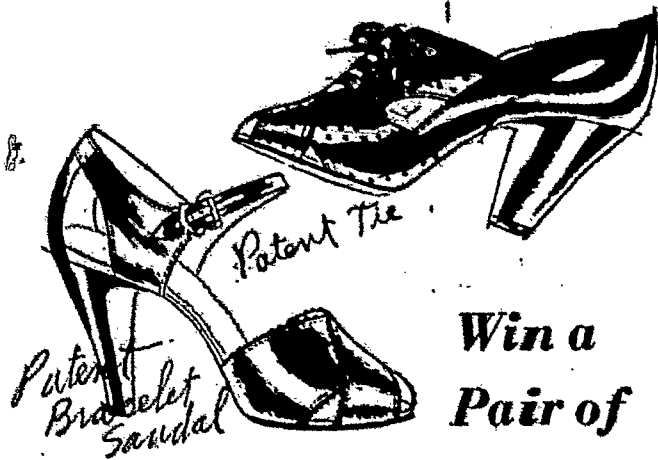
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