

The Courier Covers THE NEW MOVIES

By John Springer

"Talk of the Town"—A-2

You have seen plenty of pictures which have the basic theme of "Talk of the Town"—the metamorphosis of some stuffy and conventional character into a human, sympathetic person. You have seldom seen such a title plot more intelligently handled than it is in "Talk of the Town." The intelligence exists in the production and direction of George Stevens, in the screenwriting and in the acting of every member of the cast.

It all goes to make brisk, provocative comedy fare, several cuts above the so-called "Kecaplet" comedy we have been receiving recently. "Talk of the Town" is not slapstick nor is it farce. Its comedy springs from believable and plausible situations. Its characters are unusual but real.

Principally, it has to do with three people—Leopold Dlig, the town trouble-maker and rambler, who is accused of burgling a factory in which the foreman was killed; Nora Shelley, a high-school teacher who believes in his innocence and hides him in the attic of her house; and Michael Lightcap, a law school dean who arrives twenty-four hours before he is expected to take over the girl's house which he has rented for the summer. Nora explains Dlig as the gardener and Lightcap becomes attached to him after several discussions over their relative theories of law. But Lightcap's attachment does not prevent him from reverting to type when he learns who the "gardener" is.

All of this is developed at a steady pace by Director Stevens, who never lets it lag despite the frequent passages of conversation and makes it funny without letting it become silly or juvenile. And Stevens is fortunate in the cast.

Cary Grant has played so many mannered sophisticates that it is a little difficult to accept him as the rebellious Leopold Dlig but he makes the role believable. Joan Arthur, too, never caricatures the fluttery teacher, although one feels a little sorry for the more serious-minded students in her high school classes if her behavior is any indication of her capacity as a teacher.

Most congenially cast of the three stars is Ronald Colman as the credible, slightly smug law purist who becomes "thawed out" by the Grant-Arthur duo. Colman gives a beautifully shaded characterization, playing with the finesse that has marked his best work in the past but which has been absent from such recent trivia as "Lucky Partners" and "My Life With Caroline" in which he seemed ill at ease. Colman's restraint—almost amounting to understatement—sometimes puts his co-stars at a disadvantage. There are times when they seem to be overdoing things just a little in contrast, but this is a minor point—and I suppose it is carping to mention it at all. Three particularly good pieces of work—by Edgar Buchanan, Glenda Farrell and Rex Ingram—stand out in the supporting cast.

"Wings for the Eagle"—A-1

The story of the workers at Lockheed, "Wings for the Eagle" is one of the few pictures that has dealt with factory work and with the men on the production line. It is highly interesting in this respect, anything but interesting when it goes into one of the most tiresome and juvenile triangle plots on record.

The triangle consists of Ann Sheridan attractive and able enough but still awaiting that big

follow-up part to her superb success in "Kings Row"; Donald Morgan, always a pleasing leading man; and Jack Carson, who can be counted on for an honest piece of work any time he gets a chance.

But although the picture is principally occupied with these three, they are small potatoes compared with George Tobias, who dominates the picture with a human, sympathetic performance in the role of Jake Hanson, the factory foreman. (That makes it unanimous. Amy Cressington and George David Tobias has a manufactured role, designed to wave the flag and jerk the levers. Tobias does both but not so obviously as all that. He makes Hanson believable—not just a "type." Russell Aronson has work as his son and Fay Helm has good moments as a sympathetic secretary.

For Tobias' performance in the subplot and the new and timely movie background of the factory, "Wings for the Eagle" rates better than average. It's too bad it had to have a main plot.

Other Pictures

If you haven't much of anything else to do and if you're in the mood to relax, you should find "Moonlight Masquerade," (A-2), a passable way of spending the time. Likable Dennis O'Keefe and Betty-Fieldah Jane Franze have the leads, but Eddie Foy, Jr. does the most for it as a Brooklyn fortune hunter with a monodic and British accent.

The nastiest Japanese of them all are to be found in "Submarine Raiders," (A-1). Somehow, though, you haven't the slightest doubt that the brave boys headed by John Howard and including Marguerite Chapman will do away with them in due time. They do, too. End of suspense. And as the waves break over the sinking flag of the Rising Sun, the hero proposes a toast to the Jap navy. "Bottoms up!" says he, never realizing that it may be a noble sentiment, but it's a pretty whalerud wheeze to use as a tag-line for any picture, even one so pulpy as "Submarine Raiders."

Stars Over America

September 14 is Rochester's day for "Stars Over America" with a group of Hollywood stars to be present in town for high-powered bond selling. This is part of the film industry's September drive for Billions-in-Bonds, local chairman of which is Mort Nussbaum, of Station WEAU, heading a committee which also includes Jay Golden, of the RKO-Radio Theaters, Lester Pollock, of Loew's, and other representatives.

Although all of September will be devoted to intensive campaigning, the star rally should be the highlight of the month. Seven groups of stars will cover seven routes, appearing in 200 cities and towns. At this writing, it is not yet known which stars will be touring on the route that includes Rochester but Variety reports that the following stars are scheduled to tour, with more to be added, so that Rochester will undoubtedly see at least five of the following: Walter Abel, Edward Arnold, Lynn Bari, Robert Baschley, Joan Bennett, James Cagney, Claudette Colbert, Leo Carille, Ronald Colman, Laird Creger, Betty Davis, Laraine Day, Andy Devine, Irene Dunne, Alice Faye, Henry Fonda, Greer Garson, Janet Gaynor, Paulette Goddard, Hugh Herbert, Miriam Hopkins, Dorothy Lamour, Charles Laughton, Joan Leslie, Herbert Marshall, Dennis Morgan, Thomas Mitchell, Norma Shearer, Alexis Smith, Mar-

German Film Banned By Swiss Authorities

LONDON — A radio broadcast from Vatican City heard here calls attention to the fact that Swiss Federal authorities have condemned the German film "Ich Kluge An," which seeks to persuade the world that to put an end to the lives of "incubators" is justifiable. The showing of the film has been forbidden in Switzerland. After reviewing the legal case made for the order banning the film, the Vatican radio speaker said: "The teaching of the Church, we may add, affirming and defining that of natural law itself, is that God alone is the Master of life, that, save in the case of necessary self-defense against an aggressor, no individual may of his own authority take the life of another, not even if that other agrees, for his life is not his own to dispose of."

No longer will we accept any of Argentina's best—or biggest.

garret Sullivan, Gene Tierney, Franchot Tom, Jane Wyman, Robert Young and Vera Zorina.

(John Springer reminisces about the great movie, "Grapes of Wrath," which starred Henry Fonda, as Your Movie Memory over WEAU, Monday evening at 10.)

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Movie Guide

NEW FILMS REVIEWED	PALACE
Call of the Canyon, A-1	Pardon My Sarong, A-2
Seven Sweethearts, A-1	Three Different Eyes, A-2
Samboro Kid, A-1	
Wake Island, A-1*	LOEW'S ROCHESTER
Berlin Correspondent, A-2	Talk of the Town, A-2
Big Street, A-2	Submarine Raider, A-1
Journey Into Fear, A-2	CENTURY
Mexican Spitzire's Elephant, A-2	Big Shot, A-2
Night for Crime, A-2	Joan of the Ozarks, A-1
Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon, A-2	TEMPLE
Tomorrow We Live, A-2	Tombstone, A-1
Jungle Siren, A-2	REGENT
New Voyager, A-2	Wings for the Eagle, A-1
AT THE THEATRES	Melody Lane (Not classified)
LITTLE	
Great McGinty (Not classified)	