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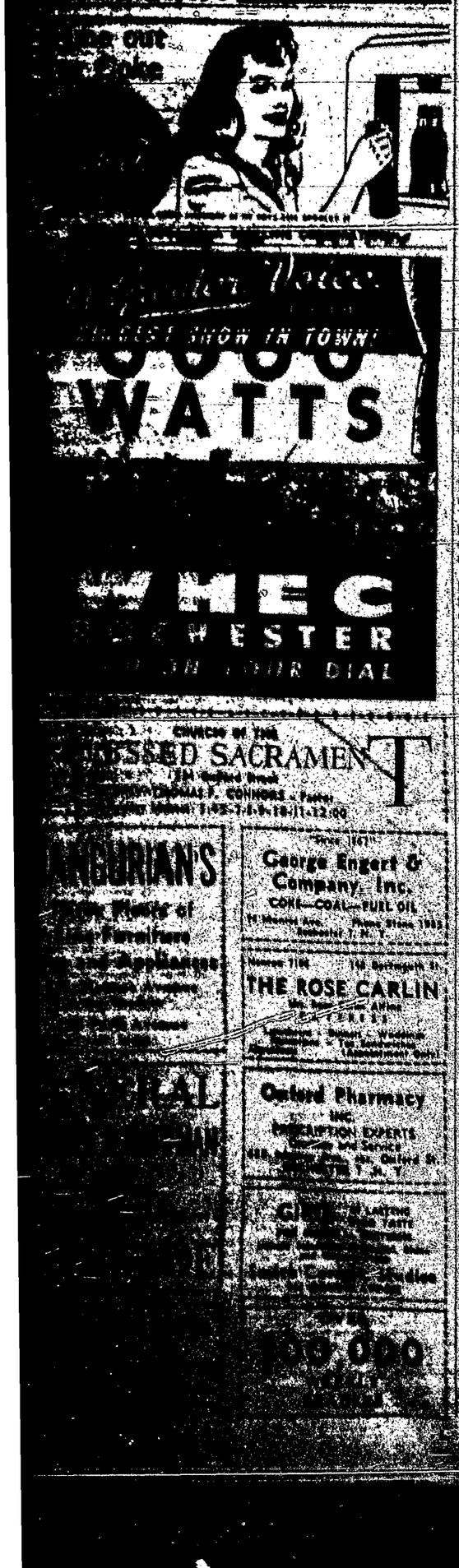


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# Hollywood In Focus

—By W. H. Mooring—

My drooping respect for "Mr. Oscar of Hollywood" has been revived under a powerful shot of vitamin "A."

"A" stands for Academy and also for academics. The list of nominations for this year's Oscars suggests that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences does, after all, stand for academic rather than commercial advancement of motion pictures.

Of recent years this has been much in doubt.

It is greatly to the credit of the Academy membership and of the film industry as a whole, that "Duel in the Sun," despite all the struggling that went on behind the scenes, is excluded from the list of five noteworthy films which the best of the year will, by March 13, be chosen by ballot.

The additional fact that Henry V—a foreign film in connection with which there was neither ...publicity — is included among ...

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...the fire, will restore confidence throughout the world in the academic value of the annual awards system.

"There is nothing punitive about this omission of 'Duel in the Sun.'"

It was ignored because Hollywood recognizes that a bad film does not become a good one simply because it cost over five million dollars and is produced by a man who sometimes has produced good ones. It is recognized too, that a screenplay that is intrinsically immoral does not become worthy to be considered "the best motion picture of the year" simply because it is spectacularly presented. To be considered "the best" it must be in every respect good.

...[illegible] against Duel in the Sun, while voiced in the first place by The Tidings, official Catholic newspaper serving the film capital, were and are widely shared.

Catholic action, in this case, served admirably to render articulate, an effective protest on the part of the motion picture industry, against Duel in the Sun," as a blot on the prestige of the Hollywood film business.

As to which of the five films nominated will carry off the "Oscar" your guess is as good as mine, but I will venture my annual forecasts, stressing those I believe will win, rather than those I personally consider most deserving.

Of the films named — The Best Years of Our Lives, Henry the Fifth, It's a Wonderful Life, The Razor's Edge and The Yearling — I think The Best Years of Our Lives will be the winner. Henry the Fifth would be my choice and had it not been nominated (I did not think it would be) my vote would have gone to It's a Wonderful Life.

All the films nominated appeared in my December list of the "Ten Best" except "The Best Years of Our Lives." This I omitted because of its pragmatism, cynicism and condonement of divorce and remarriage.

Among the best actors—Fredric March ("The Best Years of Our Lives"), Laurence Olivier ("Henry the Fifth"), Larry Parks (The Jolson Story"), Gregory Peck ("The Yearling"), and James Stewart ("It's a Wonderful Life") — I expect Gregory Peck to win. James Stewart is his chief contender but he has already received an Oscar, while Peck, although previously nominated, has not. My own vote would go to Olivier, but Shakespearean histrionics are unlikely to woo enough votes in Hollywood.

Olivia de Havilland ("To Each His Own"), Celia Johnson ("Brief Encounter"), Jennifer Jones ("Duel in the Sun"), Rosalind Russell ("Sister Kenny") and Jane Wyman ("The Yearling") in my "best actress" class, promise some close balloting.

Olivia de Havilland is generally regarded as overdue for Academy honors and I expect to see her carry off the Oscar.

Personally I would give it to Rosalind Russell or Jane Wyman and, indeed, Miss Wyman stands a fairly good chance, while even Jennifer Jones may gather extra votes from those anxious to show that they do not hold "Duel in the Sun" personally against her.

Among the directors, also, voting will be close. William Wyler ("The Best Years of Our Lives"), David Lean ("Brief Encounter"), Frank Capra ("It's a Wonderful Life"), Robert Siodmak ("The Killers") and Clarence Brown ("The Yearling") are nominated.

Siodmak has been accumulating a strong following and has never, like Capra and Wyler, received an Oscar. I would give my vote to Siodmak or Capra, but I believe Wyler will get the award.

Among the best supporting actors, Charles Coburn ("The Green Years"), William Demarest ("The Jolson Story"), Claude Rains ("Notorious"), Clifton Webb ("The Razor's Edge") and ex-paratrooper Harold Russell ("The Best Years of Our Lives") there will be terrific competition. Coburn would be my impassioned choice but he got an award several years ago, while Demarest has a record of many an unrewarded achievement. This usually counts.

Then, again, Harold Russell, who lost both hands in the war, did splendidly in the Goldwyn picture and that fact, plus natural sentiment, will I think land him the Oscar.

Among the supporting actresses — Ethel Barrymore ("The Spiral Staircase"), Ann Baxter ("The Razor's Edge"), Lillian Gish ("Duel in the Sun"), Flora Robson ("Saratoga Trunk") and Gale Sondergaard ("Anna and the King of Siam") — I believe Ann Baxter has the edge over Gale Sondergaard, although Lillian Gish for old times sake, may score by them both. Ann deserves it.

## German People Visit Medieval Shrine

London — (NC) — Sixty German prisoners of war went on pilgrimage, on one of the worst days of Britain's severe winter, to the medieval national shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, Norfolk, on the east coast "bulge."

The last pilgrimage of prisoners to Walsingham is believed to have been in 1332 when among other French captives Queen Isabella of France and her retinue went there on pilgrimage.

## NCCS to Meet

Delegates to the national congress of the National Federation of Catholic College Students will convene at Toledo, April 18 to 20, according to the president, Patrick O'Meara (above), of the University of Notre Dame. Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, Episcopal Moderator, will preside. Founded in 1937, the N.C.C.S. represents 187 colleges and universities. (NC Photos)

## 'DUEL IN SUN' GETS 40 CUTS

New York — (NC) — A revised version of the controversial David O. Selznick film, "Duel in the Sun," has been shown to Legion of Decency review at the Legion's national headquarters here. It was the first opportunity the Legion has been given to see the film. Announcement of a rating is not expected until written reports of the reviewers have been analyzed.

The original film, which has been shown publicly in Los Angeles but has not been released nationally, was condemned by The Tidings, Los Angeles archdiocesan weekly, and in other Catholic and non-Catholic quarters, as immoral and irreverent.

In revising the film, 40 cuts have been made. They were worked out in consultation between Mr. Selznick and Martin Quigley, Catholic layman of New York and publisher of the weekly Motion picture Herald.

The usual procedure of submitting a film to the Legion for review before public showing was not followed in the case of "Duel in the Sun." In explanation of this, it is understood that the film was hastily put on public exhibition on December 31 in a Los Angeles theater to make it eligible to be nominated for Academy Awards. At the time only one print was available.

## National Eye Bank Planned by Nuns

Chicago — (RNS) — The Sisters of Mercy here announced they will establish a $100,000 eye bank, making corneas available for transplanting on the sightless eyes of patients all over the country. The bank will be part of the new Mercy Hospital here.

## Catholics On the Radio

Catholic radio programs broadcast in the Rochester Diocese areas are the following:

Sunday — WHMC (Auburn)—Father Justin's Rosary Hour—3 p. m.

Sunday — WHEC (Rochester)—Catholic Corner, 10 a. m.

Sunday — WHCU (Ithaca)—Ave Maria Hour—8:30 a. m.

Sunday — WBEN (Buffalo—NBC Catholic Hour, 5 p. m.

Sunday — WSYR (Syracuse)—Catholic Hour, 4:30 p. m.

Thursday — WHMC (Auburn)—Faith In Our Time, 10:15 a. m.

Thursday — WENY (Elmira)—Faith In Our Time, 10:15 a. m.

Saturday—WSAY (Rochester) Sacred Heart Program, 11:15 a. m.


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PHIL REGAN
FRANK CARLE
And His Orchestra in
Sweetheart of Sigma Chi


# Picture Parade

*The following reviews give William H. Mooring's estimate of the entertainment value of new motion pictures classified as A-1 or A-2 by the Legion of Decency. **** indicates an Outstanding picture. *** Excellent. ** Good. *Fair. x Weak.*

### "The Brasher Doubloon" —Adults—

Who stole "the Brasher Doubloon? Sluspe... and dead bodies are numerous, blackmail is in the offing, but Phil Marlowe, the detective (George Montgomery) and Merle Davis (Nancy Guild) the terrified but beautiful secretary, still find time to solve the mystery and the inevitable romance. Florence Bates, as Mrs. Murdock, the numismatist widow, does a good job of being eccentric and generous.

A product of 20th Century-Fox. It is a conventional whodunit of the detective - murder type, directed by John Braham from a novel "The High Window" by Raymond Chandler.

The Brasher Doubloon! Why it is a rare gold coin, a collector's item in fact, and as Detective Marlowe says: "Murder is everybody's business."

### "Smash Up" —Adults—

A morbid story of the degradation of a young wife through drink, this picture, produced by Walter Wanger is called "the story of a woman." She is not quite worthy of the name, and the sympathy which screen writer John Howard Lawson attempts to build for her, is patently misplaced.

Susan Hayward is seen as the young wife of a struggling song writer - crooner (Lee Bowman) who suddenly makes a hit on the radio. Immediately they behave like so many Hollywood climbers, placing all their hopes in what money can buy. The wife feels neglected and turns to drink, eventually almost burning down the house and killing her baby while in a drunken stupor.

Eddie Albert as her husband's friend and Marsha Hunt, as the "other woman" who has designs on the groomer, occasionally offer a little sane comment, but even they fail to hit the nail on the head.

The characters are confused, misguided, even moronic, and people of stable emotions and sound judgment will ask themselves why these didn't do a little useful work, forget themselves now and then, and thus find happiness.

Directed by Stuart Heisler and based on an original story idea by Dorothy Parker and Frank Cavett, the film is long, tedious and depressing.

### "San Quentin" —Adults—

The miseries of prison life are exploited by RKO as a vehicle for Lawrence Tierney, first boosted to stardom in the controversial "Dillinger" picture and since widely publicized by reason of his public and private conduct.

Movie patrons who do not select their programs by the names and reputations of the stars appearing in them, will doubtless find this screenplay, produced by Martin Mooney, ex-crime reporter, an exciting oven though somewhat over-colored tale of human degradation in when the spirit of reform stirs but slightly.

There are some robust performances notably by the supporting players who include Barton MacLane, Joe Devlin and Harry Shannon.

It is tough and at times unbelievable stuff. It is widely billed as revealing "sensational prison secrets." In fact it merely reveals as many a "big house" film has done before it, the fact that some people who manage to keep out of prison should take a few lessons from those who find themselves inside.

### "California" —Adults—

If you like good, robust, open air stuff, with a strong story, plenty of action and sound underlying philosophy, see this one. A John Farrow Production for Paramount release, it is neither quite a western-de-luxe, nor a musical although there is about it the swing of the one and the breeziness of the other. Opening with some grand panoramas of American beauty spots, it moves quickly, and to spirited singing, into the tale of pioneers going by wagon trail towards California.

Led by an adventurer (Ray Milland) and sustained by the philosophies of an old Irish croney (Barry Fitzgerald), the pioneers are idealistic until they hear that gold has been found in California. Some of them discard their cherished belongings in a mad rush for Sacramento. Others, like the Fitzgerald fellow, resist the lure. They want only to find sunshine in the West, to raise crops from the earth. Eventually in California there is a struggle between a political opportunist (George Coulouris) and the old Irishman (Fitzgerald) to determine whether California shall be declared a new state, or fall under the politician's personal domination. The screenplay by Frank Butler and Theodore Strauss is witty yet to co-starred with Milland, and does well as the hillbilly showgirl whose main job is to fire a somewhat conventional romantic interest which director Gavin Muir, Barbara Stanwyck, Frank Faylen and

## Movie Guide

### At the Theatres

**RKO Palace**
The Wicked Lady, B
Sweetheart of Sigma Chi, A-1

**Temple**
Sinbad the Sailor, A-1
The Pilgrim Lady, A-1

**Century**
The Shocking Miss Pilgrim, A-1
South of Monterrey, A-1

**Regent**
Ladies' Man, A-1
Lighthouse (not classified)

**Capitol**
The Man I Love, B
Out California Way, A-1

**Little**
The Lost Weekend, A-1

**(Elmira)**

**Colonial**
The Shocking Miss Pilgrim, A-1

**Capitol**
My Darling Clementine (not classified)
Meet Me On Broadway, A-2
The Lost Weekend, A-2
Secrets of a Sorority Girl (not classified)

**Keeney**
Nora Prentiss, B
Two Years Before the Mast, A-1

**Regent**
Gallant Bess, A-1
Dangerous Money, A-1

**Strand**
The Verdict, B
Undercurrent, A-2
Bachelor's Daughters, A-2
Stella Dallas, A-2
Blonde Menace, (not classified)
Three Wise Fools, A-1
Unexpected Guests, (not classified)


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South of Monterrey

REGENT
MAIN 7141
1st Rochester Showing
Eddie Bracken, Cass Daley
Virginia Welles
SPIKE JONES AND HIS CITY SLICKERS
LADIES' MAN
Plus
John Litel, June Lang
Lighthouse

CAPITOL
THE MAN I LOVE
OUT CALIFORNIA WAY


## National Legion of Decency List

FEBRUARY 20, 1947

### CLASS A-1—Unobjectionable for General Patronage

REVIEWED THIS WEEK

Angel and the Badman — Calendar Girl — Death Valley — My Dog Shep
Raiders of the South — Riding the California Trail
South of the Chisholm Trail — Trail Street — Vacation Days
Valley of Fear — Vigilantes of Dodge City

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED

Affairs of Geraldine
Beauty and the Bandit
Beginning or the End, The
Black Beauty
Blondie's Big Moment
Blondie Knows Best
Born to Speed
Bowery Buckaroos
Bowery Bombshell
Brasher Doubloon, The
Brief Encounter
Bruce the Conqueror
California
Centennial Summer
Chase, The
Child of Divorce
Cigarette Girl
Cloak and Dagger
Criminal Court
Dakota
Dark Angel
Dark Corner, The
Dark Mirror, The
Dead Reckoning
Deception
Decoy
Dick Tracy versus Cueball
Drifting Along
Earl Carroll Sketchbook
Easy Come Easy Go
Fabulous Suzanne, The
Fighting Frontiersman, The
Fool's Gold
Gallant Bess
Gallant Journey
Gas House Kids
Gay Blades
Gay Cavalier, The
Gentleman Joe Palooka
Ginger
Gorman's Code
Heading West
Home in Oklahoma
Home Sweet Homicide
The Inner Circle
I'll Be Yours
If You Knew Susie
I Love Trouble
I'll Get to be Yours
Inside Story, The
Jealous Husbands
Jungle Flight
Landrush
Live a Little, Love a Little
Lone Star Moonlight
Lovers Lanes
Hard
Magic Bow, The
Make Mine Music
Margie
Mighty McGurk, The
Mr. Hex
My Brother Talks to Horses
North Canadian Swan
No Love, No Love
Out California Way
Outlaw of the Plains
Unusual Risks
Overlanders, The
Personality Kid
Pilgrim Lady, The
Prairie Raiders
Rainbow Over the Rockies
Red River Renegades
Rio Grande Raiders
Rolling Home
Roll on Texas Moon
Rustler's Roundup
Santa Fe Uprising
Schramsels
Shadow Over Chinatown
Shocking Miss Pilgrim, The
Silver Range
Sinbad the Sailor
Singing on the Trail
Singin' in the Corn
Stop, Look and Love
Strange Journey
Strangler, The
Strange Triangle
Strange Woman, The
Susie Steps Out
Swell Guy
Tales of Their Lives, The
Time the Place the Girl, The
Truth About Murder, The
Undercurrent
Vacation in Reno
Water Trick
Wanted For Murder
White Tie and Tails
Wife Wanted
Years Between, The
Young Widow

### CLASS B—Objectionable in Part

REVIEWED THIS WEEK

Abandoned (in Grand Hotel (Objection: Suggestive situations and dialogue)
Private Affairs of Bel Ami (Objection: Rejects the acceptability of divorce plus solution by duel)
13 Rue Madeleine (Objection: Suicide is presented as justifiable)

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED

Abie's Irish Rose
Adventure in Baltimore
Adversary, The
Appointment for Murder
Humoresque
Big Sleep, The
Blue Skies
Cross My Heart
Desirable Lady
Diary of a Chambermaid
Frontier Gal
Gentleman Misbehaves, The
G. I. War Brides
Best Years of Our Lives
Jungle Captive
Los Amores de un Torero
Man I Love, The
Man or Gun, The
Nora Prentiss
Pillow of Death
Postman Always Rings Twice, The
Open City
Queen of Burlesque
Saratoga Trunk
Searching Wind, The
Seventh Veil, The
Song
Lady Luck
Love on the Dole
Never Say Goodbye
Notorious Gentleman
Shadow of a Woman
Stairway for a Star
Temptation
That Night with You
They Were Sisters
Thrill of Brazil
Traffic in Crime
Tonight and Every Night
Verdict, The
Wellington's Daughter, The
Whistle Stop
Wicked Lady, The

### CLASS C—Condemned

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED

Carmen
Confession of a Vice Baron's Child Bride
Carnival in Flanders
Dark as Day
Ecstasy
No Greater Sin
Outlaw, The
Passion Island
Pepe le Moko
Reefer Madness
Soul's to Pawn
Stolen Paradise
Testaccio (Spanish)


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Two Years Before the Mast
Wally Brown, Anne Jeffreys
GENIUS AT WORK

LIBERTY
Ruth Warrick, Bobby Driscoll
SONG OF THE SOUTH
Tom Conway, Madge Meredith
FALCON'S ADVENTURE

CAMEO
Jeanne Crain, Glenn Langan
MARGIE
Sidney Toler, Sidney Moreland
DARK ALIBI

WEST END
THRILL OF BRAZIL
Keenan Wynn, Evelyn Keyes
ANGEL ON MY SHOULDER
Paul Muni, Anne Baxter

DIXIE
Olivia deHavilland, Lew Ayres
DARK MIRROR
Leon Ames, Elyse Knox
Gentlemen Joe Palooka

LAKE
Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell
My Darling Clementine
Richard Arlen, Jean Rutherford
MADONNA'S SECRET

RIALTO
Ruth Warrick, Bobby Driscoll
SONG OF THE SOUTH
William Elliott, Vera Ralston
Plainsman and the Lady

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Time, the Place and the Girl
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