

Legion of Decency Listings

CLASS A-1—Unobjectionable for General Patronage

REVIEWED THIS WEEK
Citizen Jones, King of the Mountains, Range Beyond the Hills, etc.

CLASS A-2—Unobjectionable for Adults

REVIEWED THIS WEEK
Adventure, The, The Atlas, Twilight, Back to Back, etc.

CLASS B—Objectionable in Part

REVIEWED THIS WEEK
Carnival in Costa Rica, Fall Guy—Presentation of illicit drug traffic, etc.

CLASS C—Condemned

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED
Confession of a Vice, Baron, Child Bride, etc.

Hollywood in Focus

By W. H. Messing

Official announcement that the National Legion of Decency has classified the production as 'objectionable in part'.

As released in Los Angeles only, 'Duel in the Sun' quite obviously was

W. H. Messing is a member of the National Legion of Decency and producer David O. Selznick has, without hesitation, considered specific objections.

More than fifty cuts, many of them extensive, were made. After this, in order to ensure an unprejudiced and objective judgment of the revised version.

Some of these viewers were of the opinion that 'Duel in the Sun' as they saw it, could not reasonably escape total condemnation.

That the beautiful word 'love' should occur in place of that other word 'sex' so often made up provides further evidence that the National Legion of Decency, responding to Mr. Selznick's conciliatory attitude.

As it stands, millions of Catholics who strictly observe their Annual Legion of Decency Pledge will not patronize the film.

The play of the whole thing, as I see it, is that maximum precautions before the film was made might have obviated all this trouble and resulted in a picture which everyone could have patronized without question.

That because of some violations it should not have been approved is now tacitly admitted and the big query remaining in many minds is why the Production Code authority pass this film?

In justice to everyone concerned, to producer Selznick, to the personnel engaged in evaluating screenplays and finished motion pictures under the Production Code and to the puzzled public, it seems to me that someone should point out that assaying movies is not as simple a process as analyzing chemicals or measuring off lengths of figured calico.

The fabric of a motion picture is interwoven with intangibles having to do with ideas. Evaluation must always be reached via the winding road of human opinion.

Overwhelming opinion decided that 'Duel in the Sun' as it first reached the screen in Los Angeles, was 'morally offensive and spiritually depressing.' This surprised Mr. Selznick and, at first, it surprised also some of the men who help administer the Production Code.

It seems beyond all doubt, however, that when Mr. Selznick began making this film and at various times during its production, he must have realized that his story was 'sailing near the wind.'

He might have secured valuable help and advice that time from the National Legion of Decency, through its West Coast Secretary, the Reverend John J. Devlin, or from Legion headquarters in New York. He did not seek it.

MARKS 25 YEARS ON RADIO

By W. H. Messing

A contemporary of broadcasting was checked on March 31 by radio station WYB in New Orleans, which began as a Loyola University physics workshop.

The fact cannot be too strongly emphasized that it is easier, and much more economical financially, for film producers to cut out objectionable matter while a screenplay still is in the malleable form of the written word.

The Legion of Decency has stated that Mr. Selznick by his cooperative response to critical reaction 'displayed an awareness of responsibility for the moral and social integrity of motion pictures.'

This confirms my opinion, expressed earlier, that he did not set out deliberately to produce a morally bad film.

I believe that few producers in Hollywood have any desire to make other than morally decent screen entertainment such as they understand pledged to do under their voluntary Production Code.

'Duel in the Sun' — and Mr. Selznick's attitude to widespread and influential criticism — offer a lead to every film producer who may at anytime contemplate the filming of borderline stories.

They should make sure before hand that all references is not being thrown out of the window in a confused scramble to catch realism.

What Do You Know? (Answers on Page 12) (If you answer all five questions, you're perfect; three or four, you're good; but only one or two, not so good.)

1. Except for Marsacs for the dead, how many times in the year are black vestments worn?

2. The celebrant of the Mass receives Holy Communion under the form of both bread and wine, except on one occasion can you name it?

3. Of the sacraments, which ones (a) are received only once, (b) may be received more than once, (c) should be received many times by most people?

4. Who was Peter Paul Rubens?

5. Two Catholics have been Chief Justices of the United States Supreme Court. What were their names?

Uncle Dave's Chat

By W. H. Messing

Did you ever wonder why the robin has a red breast? There is a very lovely legend explaining this, and they would be an appropriate time to recall it.

There was a little bird, the story goes, which one Christ had had a red breast with.

He had a very lovely wife and a little boy who had been kind to him, and then discovered that this boy, now a man full grown, was bringing on the cross his father's sin.

The boy died, the legend says, did his heart to draw out the cruel thorns with his bill, and that is why his breast is red.

It is also said that the faithful little robin never left the Holy Sepulchre during the three days that Christ lay buried there, and that he was the first to sing gloriously on the Day of the Resurrection.

The Uncle Remus stories, you know, are much older than Hollywood — and older than Uncle Remus, too!

Larry and the Lacewing
'What a lovely little boy, would it be Larry to have a lacewing?'

Movie Guide
At the Theatres
RKO Palace
Angel and the Badman, A1

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

Sunday — WHAM (Rochester) — Catholic Hour, 12:15 p. m. Sunday — WJNO (Albany) — Father Justin's Rosary Hour, 9 p. m.

Sunday — WKRC (Rochester) — Catholic Corner, 10 a. m. Sunday — WHUC (Albany) — Ave Maria Hour, 8:30 a. m.

Sunday — WREN (Buffalo) — NBC Catholic Hour, 8 p. m. Sunday — WBYE (Syracuse) — Catholic Hour, 4:30 p. m.

Thursday — WJMO (Albany) — Faith in Our Time, 12:15 a. m. Thursday — WENY (Rivers) — Faith in Our Time, 12:15 a. m.

Thursday — Family Theater, 10 p. m. Thursday — WHAY (Rochester) — Family Theater, 10 p. m.

Friday — WYAT (Rochester) — Safeguards for America, 9 p. m. Saturday — WENY (Rivers) — Safeguards for America, 12:15 p. m.

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

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