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JOE AND JUDY By WALSH

HOLLYWOOD IN FOCUS

By W. H. Mooring

When, last January, this column touched off the fuse under "Duel in the Sun," David O. Selznick protested in both hemispheres that the motion picture editor of The Tidings had declared a "one man war" against his over-boosted five and a half million dollar movie. Personal vituperation invited nothing but silent contempt. Our vindication, however, invites fair comment that the Catholic stand against "Duel in the Sun," far from being an attack upon Mr. Selznick or his film, represented an open declaration of war against all attempts to glamorize immorality and crime upon the screen.

W. H. Mooring

In the "New York Times" of May 11, Bosley Crowther, one of the most constructive Manhattan drama critics confirms our stand. He writes, "for a business which makes so much pretense of being explicitly moral . the motion picture business has been pulling some mockeries of late."

Spreads Coarseness

After referring to several sordid films of recent origin, Crowther points out that "Duel in the Sun," which "might have been a penetrating drama, far above the cut of average Western films," became instead, "a big, sprawling, slobbering film about the wildly eccentric romancing of a half-breed Indian girl with two rival brothers, one of them noble and the other a skunk." Crowther adds that Selznick, at tremendous productive expenses "has turned out a film designed plainly to spread coarseness over the screen without getting any real meaning or edification out of it" and that "furthermore, he is selling the picture at advanced prices and with great theatrical display, as though it were a truly meritorious accomplishment of the film industry."

It is not fair to blame the film industry for what David O. Selznick does, but it is both fair and forthright to ask the movie industry, as Bosley Crowther does, whether it regards David O. Selznick's policy in filming "Duel in the Sun" as fair and responsible."

"Does this technique . and the picture . meet the test of public good?" asks Crowther. He explains his question by adding that the fiber of some of the people in films has shown signs of disintegration under the pressure of making sales.' He then draws attention to a recent film advertisement which promised "Tawdry Love and Vicious Murder!" "The kind that sells millions of newspapers and millions of box office tickets.'"

Crowther hits the nail on the head when he says — as this column has done so often - that to excuse as some movie producers do "their admittedly coarse wares by protesting that they are only giving the public what it wants" and that (under the Production Code) "the transgressing characters are always seen to be punished in the end," is both "absurd and hypocritical."

Mocks The Code

Of course it is. This superficial exposition of what passes for "moral compensation" makes a mockery of the Production Code. It puts out a rude Hollywood tongue at the picture-going public, whose "taste for films," as Crowther argues, "is at least as high as the imaginations and talents of film makers are able to reach."

Ross Shepherd, dramatic editor of "The People," British family paper catering to 4,500,000 takes up the same cry.

"Lets face it," he writes, "American films are getting drab and dirty. Booze and blasphemy are becoming the merchandise of the more eminent movie moguls."

Shepherd mentions Mr. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" not yet seen in England because it's principal star, Jennifer Jones, "made her name in 'The Song of Bernadette' and now becomes a sort of traveling tart in a so-called epic of the plains."

Sounding the purely rational note - these men are not reviewing motion pictures for the Catholic press - Shepherd, who I know and respect as a calm judge of motion pictures, urges Hollywood "not to hide the Jane Russels, Jennifer Jones' and Linda Darnells in red flannel petticoats, nor exploit them as dirty characters either."

"Don't throw overboard good film stories for religious tracts," he pleads, "but we don't want sex over-stressed."

This column's "one-man war" against movie dirt may have sounded the first toot for moral re-mobilization, but even Mr. Selznick should be able read from the signs that millions of decent people all over the world - Catholics and Protestants, Jews and gentiles - are weary of enduring insults to mind and morals, even at regular box-office prices. To be asked to pay extra in order that producers like Selznick may wrap up these insults in fancy trimmings, truly is the pay-off.

Movie Guide

RKO PALACE
The Egg and I, A-2
Dick Tracy's Dilemma, A-2
TEMPLE
The Farmer's Daughter, A-1
Devil Thumbs A Ride, A-2
CENTURY
The Homestretch, B (Reflects acceptability of divorce; suggestive scenes and situations.)
REGENT
Smash-up, A-2
CAPITOL
Song of Scheherazade, A-1
That Way with Women, A-1
LITTLE
Come and Get It, A-2
DRIVE IN
Return of Frank James, A-2
Hitchhike to Happiness, A-1
RIVIERA & STATE
Pursued, A-2
It's A Joke, Son, A-1
MADISON & MONROE
It Happened in Brooklyn, A-1
Backlash, A-2
LIBERTY
Johnny O'Clock, A-2
The Westerner, A-1
DIXIE
13 Rue Madeleine, B (Suicide presented as justifiable)
Cross My Heart, B
CAMEO
California, A-2
Murder in the Music Hall, A-2
WEST END
Red House, A-2
Cross My Heart, B
LAKE
Red House, A-2
Sweetheart of Sigma Chi, A-1

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"The Egg and I"

Starring Claudette Colbert and Fred MacMurray

plus

"Dick Tracy's Dilemma"

with Ralph Byrd and Lyle Latell

TEMPLE

NOW PLAYING

Loretta Young, Joseph Cotton and Ethel Barrymore

"The Farmer's Daughter"

Plus

Lawrence Tierney in "The Devil Thumbs a Ride"

Larry the Leprechaun

LARRY AND THE LADYBIRD BEETLE

"You certainly do look comfortable there," said Larry to the shiny little red beetle. "As snug as a bug in a rug—except that you haven't a rug."

"It's a moth you want if you have a rug to dispose of," said the beetle. "I can't think of anything so dull as eating rugs."

Larry laughed. "I was only quoting. But you do look very comfortable there on that tiny branch."

"I ought to be—I just had my dinner," said the beetle.

"Bugs!" asked Larry with a smile.

"Of course not," said the beetle. "Aphids. Much nicer. You should try them sometime."

"I'd just as soon let you have them," said Larry. "But I was just thinking—that should make you a very good friend of the farmer. At least, I hear them scolding about aphids and plant lice and other tiny things that destroy their crops. They must be very happy to have you on the job."

"Yes, they are," said the beetle. "In fact, in some parts of the country we have been gathered up by the sacks full to send to places where we were needed. We have saved more than one industry a great deal of money, not to mention the food crops that we kept from being destroyed."

"That's a big job for such a tiny beetle," said Larry. "They call you 'Ladybird Beetle'—why?"

"It's a very old name," said the beetle. "I'm told that hundreds of years ago children called us 'Little Bird of Our Lady,' and that name was shortened to 'Ladybird' after many years."

"You are still the children's friend," said Larry. "I've often heard them repeating the verse, Ladybug, ladybug fly away home; your house is on fire and your children alone!"

"I don't have a house, and I don't worry about fire," said the beetle. "But it is nice to know that the children like me, and are not afraid of me. It is so foolish for them to be afraid of most of us beetles."

"At least, of you," said Larry. "Well, I'll be going along, and let you take a peaceful little nap. You need it after all that hard work."

Peninsula Named

Chicago – (NC) The Canadian Government has named a large peninsula in the province of Quebec for the Rev. Jean Delanglez, S.J., associate professor of history in research at Loyola University.

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CENTURY

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Song of Scheherazade

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ON THE AIR

With Bill Smith

Red Time. The Communist Party in the United States is going to start trying to buy radio time in its campaign to "combat attacks leveled at the party." We understand that a quarter of a million dollars has already been raised for this purpose, and to buy newspaper space.

Daylight Time in Allen's Alley.

I suppose hardly a man is now alive, to say nothing of women and children, who doesn't remember how Fred Allen was cut off the air on April 30. NBC was mad at him for refusing to omit certain lines from his script. Said lines had to do with a crack at vice-presidents of NBC who objected to his ribbing radio.

Bill Smith

The boys in the knew felt that this cause celebre would shoot up Allen's Hooperating something terrific the following Sunday, everybody wanting to keep up with the fight. (The Hooper system of surveying the popularity of programs has been described as "the way they take radio's blood pressure.")

The show is on the other foot, however, for Fred's Hooper dropped the following Sunday—almost three points, too.

Then the research experts got their heads together and figured out that the reason for the drop was because that Sunday (April 27) was the day Daylight Saving Time went into effect, and that always plays havoc with programs. You know yourself how it is—you get all balled up between Daylight Time and Standard Time and before you know it, you've missed the show you want to hear.

So, I guess honors are even between Allen's Alley and Radio City.

Prayer is Where You Find It

I got this story from a convict in a mid-western penitentiary who used to be in radio and who writes a slick radio column in the prison newspaper. The man who tipped me off about the writer is the Rev. Paul G. Corbett, O.P., former prison chaplain, now a Dominican missionary and speaker on the Hour of Faith (ABC Network, 11:30 a. m., Eastern Time, Sundays).

I'm going to let this prisoner tell the story as he wrote it to me.

"Russell Koons, 21, white. Veteran, dishonorable discharge from the Navy. Saw battle action, however, in South Pacific. It is my hope that from my own broken personality some thing may be salvaged.

"Killed his mother by hitchhiking. Was executed in April, this year.

"Before going to chair, he requested his priest to turn rosary beads. Beads were removed from auxiliary chair death and presented to Columbus Medical Center, New York City, where medical investigators were permitted less than 15 hours later.

"Under the thunderbolt [illegible] strongly enough, since he was in very bright mood. Doctor tells me that 'strong heart are the hardest to get,' etc. 'I'm no joke. My dreams large enough [illegible] of thousands, in your mail and suggestions; contain a letter [illegible], somehow.'

"As per custom, he ate a hearty last meal in the company of two female guests of his choosing, about two hours before going.

"Dennis Day's program was on at time of announced death, eight-ten. We were standing at the window, looking over the wall (our quarters are outside the compound) and could just see the corner of the little red-brick death house. The house was hooked up to the door. It was a bleak, windy night.

"As the body was carried out someone said, 'Turn off that [illegible]-blank radio. But my didn't.' For Day's final song was 'The Lord's Prayer,' a rendition more moving than any I have ever heard.

"It was all quite impressive, and deserving, somehow. For no matter what his crimes, it seemed to me that by and [illegible] was [illegible] considering that two men were able to look today upon the world he wronged yesterday.

"The whole will be used again day after tomorrow, and again [illegible] down to atoms. But I doubt if atoms will continue [illegible] as they have for the last [illegible] a moment."

Addendum note. Gary Moore says this is his favorite story. It's about Jimmy Durante. One

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Billy Gilbert, Bobby Blake
CROSS MY HEART

DIXIE

Jas. Cagney, Annabella
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Betty Hutton, Bonnie Tuttle
CROSS MY HART

LAKE

E. Robinson, L. McAllister
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