Book Club Selection

New York—(NC)—"The Letters of Pope Celestine VI to All Mankind," by Giovanni Papini, is the current selection of the Catholic Book Club.

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ON THE AIR

With Bill Smith

More Campus Radio

Some time ago I told you good people about a campus radio station at Georgetown University in Washington. Now here is a story about another one recently opened on the campus of Villanova College just outside of Philadelphia.

Bill Smith

The call letters are WVIL, and it goes on the air Mondays through Fridays from 7 to 11 P. M. Like all these campus stations, it can only be heard in that immediate area and is designed to bring music (swing and classical), college and world news, forums and religious programs to the students' rooms.

Father Edwin T. Grimes, O.S.A., the college chaplain, is my informant about this new station. He tells me that John Kane, Tom Sullivan and Matt Kearney dreamed up the idea and built the transmitter, and that the President of the College, Father Francis X. N. McGuire, O.S.A., gave the idea the green signal. So the station has been rolling for the past five weeks.

Among other programs on this station are dramatic shows written, produced and directed by the students.

I like to hear stories about this sort of radio work being done in our Catholic colleges. It not only gives the students a fine form of campus activity, but it is breaking them in to the radio business.

LUNCH WITH MAX. Max Jordan, formerly then of religious broadcasts for NBC and presently NBC's European correspondent, recently came back to the states. In honor of his return, La Salle College in Philadelphia held a luncheon and presented him with the Signum Fidei medal—a special award for outstanding work in some field by a Catholic.

Max richly deserved the honor, for he has done a wonderful job in Europe. Perhaps too, you read his stories in this newspaper from time to time, for he is also a foreign correspondent for the NCWC News Service.

I have known him for a good many years. He is a great friend and an all-round distinguished man.

The gentlemen at La Salle certainly chose wisely when they gave him the medal.

LADIES OF RADIO. Last Saturday I saw more ladies in one place than I think I have ever seen in my life. The occasion? Meeting of the Association of Women Broadcasters. They came from all over the country, had tea with Mrs. Truman in the White House, and took a good look at the problems and challenges that face them as molders of public opinion.

On Saturday they threw a mob affair luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington and had a line-up of distinguished guests.

Incidentally, the lunch was good too, and the girls had the New Look about them—in fact, glamor was radiated all over the place. The talks and entertainment were televised. So it all added up to a big affair.

COMMENT FROM South Africa. Kerkbode, official magazine of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, recently carried an article criticizing the practice of broadcasting religious services from the studio rather than from a church.

The writer of the article is worried lest the "thousands who wish to live without the church services will increase" if the broadcasts continue to come from the studio.

I can only remark that such doesn't seem to be the case here in the United States. So far as I know, there hasn't been any falling off in church attendance because religious programs come from the studios. In fact, I should say that, if anything, religious broadcasts stimulate church attendance.

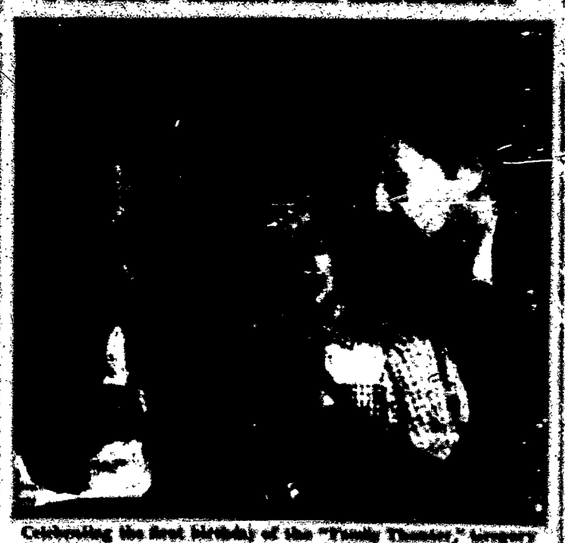
The writer in Kerkbode also says that studio broadcast may sacrifice their religious character and natural charm to a mechanical atmosphere where everything might be painfully correct but spiritualy dull.

This again, I have to take issue with. How many broadcasts there are from churches where the pick-up is poor, or the church has bad acoustics, plus the distractions of coughing, moving chairs and kneeling benches, and so on.

I think the writer need not fear for all these things, provided the program he sets up is interesting and effective. The trouble is not with the studio or the church, it is a question of programming.

Now, having taken issue with my South African friend, I shall see you all next week.

FAMILY THEATER BIRTHDAY



Celebrating the first birthday of the "Family Theater," Gregory Peck, Susan Peters and Robert Mitchum appear in a rehearsal of Fr. Timothy Mulvey's play "God and a Bad Hunter," over the Mutual Broadcasting System network. The Parent Teachers Association of California recently voted the "Family Theater" the outstanding 1947 family program. (NC Photos)

Pilgrims Pray in Room Where Mother Cabrini Died

Chicago — (NC) — The tiny room at Columbus Hospital here, in which Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini—Chicago's "Little Nun"—died 30 years ago is becoming one of the leading national Catholic shrines.

Since the recent dedication of her statue at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, daily pilgrimages to the shrine have increased. The pilgrims come by bus, by street car, and even by train.

Vigil lights flicker on the altar in the tiny room, revealing a golden reliquary with a bone, hair and part of the saint's vestment. Before it the faithful kneel and pray for the saint's intercession.

They speak to her as to their own, as she is the first American citizen to be canonized by the Church.

THE CENTER of attraction in the room is a small rocking chair, in which Mother Cabrini died. On it are placed petitions by the thousands, imploring her to intercede for health and happiness of the faithful.

A little girl, who came by bus with her classmate from St. Jan-

latin's parochial school, scribbled a note and placed it on the rocking chair. She asked for her mother's recovery from a sickness.

Among the written petitions was one from a man asking for the restoration of her eyesight. She was brought to the shrine by her companion.

To pray in this room also came noted church dignitaries, among whom are His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster. He said: "This is perhaps one of the most sacred spots in the U. S., for here died the first American who became a saint."

Among those who have made pilgrimages to the shrine is His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago.

Courier-Journal On WHAM Sunday at 12:10

Listen to the SUNDAY EDITION OF THE COURIER-JOURNAL, the weekly Catholic editorial point of view on current events, over Station WHAM at 12:10 each Sunday.

* * *

Every weekday during LENT—at 12 noon on WSAY—Sacred Heart Program.

* * *

Thursday at 10 a. m. on WVET—THE FAMILY THEATER.

Saturday at 1:23 p. m. on WRNY—"Moments with the Marianists"—the story of a Catholic family — produced by Mercy High students.

Sunday at 8:05 a. m. on WRNY — Catholic Church of the Air.

Sunday at 10:30 on WREC—"The Catholic Corner."

Sunday at 11:30 a. m. on WARC—"The Catholic Hour of Faith." The Rev. Hugh Calkins discussing "Practical Ideals for Families."

Sunday at 12:30 p. m. on WGVA, Geneva—Priests of St. Stephen's and St. Francis de Sales.

Sunday at 1 p. m. on WHMI—Auburn. "The Catholic Viewpoint" by K. of C. Men

Sunday at 6:30 p. m. on WSAY—St. Francis Hour.

Sunday at 6:30 p. m. on WARC — "The Greatest Story Ever Told,"—Bible stories in modern drama form.

Sunday at 8:30 p. m. on WSAY—"The Story of Fatima"—Rev. Joseph Christione.

Sunday at 11:45 p. m. on WVET — Sacred Heart Program.

Movie Guide

PALACE
If You Know Susie, A-1
Violence (Not classified).

TEMPLE
Night Song, A-1.
Fighting Mad (Not classified).

CENTURY
Call Northside 777, B.

REGENT
Treasure of Sierra Madre, A-2.

CAPITOL
I Walk Alone, A-2.
Gashouse Kids in Hollywood, A-2.

LITTLE
Great Expectations, A-1.

RIVIERA & STATE
Road to Rio, A-1.
Keeper of the Bees, B.

MADISON & MONROE
Killer McCoy, A-2.
Smart Politics, A-1.

LIBERTY
Always Together, B.
Northwest Outpost, A-2.

DIXIE
That Hagen Girl, A-2.
The Gangster, B.

CAMEO
Her Husband's Affairs, A-1.
The Exile, A-1.

WEST END
Golden Earrings, B.
Bowery Buckaroos, A-1.

LAKE
Where There's Life, A-2.
The Pretender (Not classified).

RIALTO
Good News, A-1.
Arnelo Affair, A-2.

TEMPLE
Swordsman, A-1.
Blondie's Anniversary, A-1.

GRAND
Green Dolphin Street, A-1.
News Hounds, A-2.

PALACE
Now Playing
Eddie Cantor and John Davis in
"IF YOU KNEW SUSIE"
Plus
"VIOLENCE"
with Michael O'Shea and Nancy Coleman

TEMPLE
Now Playing
"NIGHT SONG"
with Dana Andrews and Merle Oberon
PLUS
Joe Palooka
"Fighting Mad"
with Leon Errol

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CENTURY
NOW SHOWING
"CALL NORTHSIDE 777"
starring James Stewart, Helen Walker, Richard Conte, plus
Technicolor Musical Parade
Jingle, Jangle, Jingle

REGENT
"TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE"
Also
Walt Disney Cartoon
"A Knight in Shining Armor"

CAPITOL
Now Showing
"I WALK ALONE"
Also
"Gashouse Kids in Hollywood"

Hollywood Film Truth About Russia

By W. E. Meeting

A protest from the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., that Paramount's film version of Eugenia Gurdin's novel "The Iron Curtain" was "a series of fabrications by someone who has never been behind the Iron Curtain" has drawn a pointed reply from Eric Johnston, president of the film industry's trade association.

Johnston, in behalf of the film moguls, points the finger at the Rev. Mr. William Melish, chairman of American-Soviet Friendship, that his organization is both a product of pro-communist propaganda and a front for Soviet spies.

The movie spokesman adds that "in 1944 the House Committee on Un-American Activities listed American-Soviet Friendship, Inc. as a Communist front organization that is no less than the present government model of the friends of Soviet Russia."

"NAT YOUR" organization protested the production in Russia of the play called "The Russian Question" which makes a sweeping, lying attack on the United States and its people" Johnston asks the Rev. Mr. Melish.

Apart from the jarring fact that Mr. Johnston quotes the Un-American Activities Committee, which he so recently disputed as an authority on subversive activities in the Hollywood movie business, his line of argument, although developed fails to hit the biggest nail squarely on the head.

Into Mr. Johnston's defense creeps an implication that as long as Soviet Russia is free to lie about the United States, Hollywood can claim the right to lie about Soviet Russia. That is not good.

He reiterated his previous statements that "the screen is free in America."

IT MAY BE safe to assume that he means well. The fact is, however, that the screen is not, nor can it ever be morally free to introduce, via motion pictures, propaganda in which opinions—those of a few men who control the screen medium—are permitted to color facts. The movie producers enjoy only the right to distort facts.

No one, not even Stalin himself, is entitled to object to "The Iron Curtain" as long as it sticks to facts.

20th Century-Fox have insisted that this screenplay about Soviet espionage and fifth-column activities in the United States and Canada is to be based upon State documents.

This should mean that the film story reflects honest fact and nothing more, concerning what Russia has done, or is attempting to do to further the aims that now being waged all over the world in an effort to win men's minds to the cause of atheistic Communism.

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and Robert Ryan in "NORTHWEST OUTPOST"
CAMEO
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and Dana Andrews in "THE EXILE"
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R. Michael & M. Trevor in "GOLDEN EARRINGS"
and J. Dunne & R. Hall in "BOWERY BUCKAROOS"
DIXIE
B. Turner & W. Bendix in "THAT HAGEN GIRL"
and Burt Kennedy in "THE GANGSTER"
LAKE
B. Hope & B. Hutton in "WHERE THERE'S LIFE"
and Albert Dekker in "THE PRETENDER"
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Larry Parks in "SWORDSMAN"
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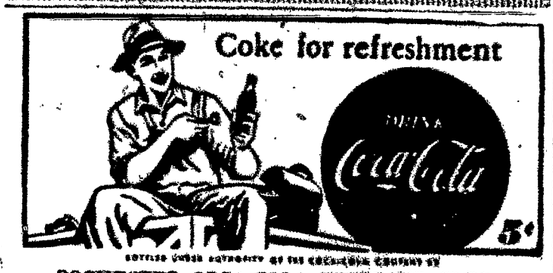

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