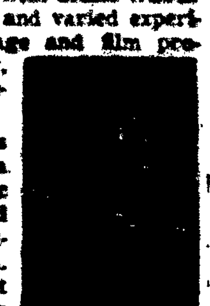
Hollywood In Focus

By WILLIAM H. MOORING

Simplicity Advised For 'Miracle In Portugal'

I had a talk with Crane Wilbur who has long and varied experience as a stage and film producer, writer, director and actor.


W. MOORING

He describes himself as "a non-Catholic Christian" and is a calm, quietly spoken man. He doesn't have to work any more but lately has been preparing the Fatima story which he tells me Warners will begin filming in color within a few weeks.

Several scripts have been written; one by Catholic writer James O'Hanlon. Parts of this will be used in the final version now nearly finished by Crane Wilbur.

"I stayed with this story because I like it," Mr. Wilbur told me, "also I believe it. Nobody who didn't could possibly hope to make anything of it."

Great pains have been taken to get every available detail about the apparition. Research took many months.

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NOW THE MAIN problem is to select suitable children to portray little Lucia Abobora and Francisco and Jacinta Marto, the little people to whom Our Lady revealed herself on the 13th of each month from May to October of 1917.

"Actually," says Mr. Wilbur, "they didn't see her on the 13th of August because a brutal local administrator had locked them up. She had promised to appear so we may assume she was there.

"We intend to do the story as it happened. We are not going to attempt realistic presentation of the apparitions, however."

That sounded like good news to me. Thinking back to "The Song of Bernadette" I recall how Linda Darnell posed somewhat like a tinselled doll on a Christmas tree. It wasn't Linda's fault. It just couldn't be done, that's all.

Several well known Catholic stars have begged to be allowed to appear in the film. Irene Dunne was one of them, but it seems there is not a suitable part for her.

Besides Warners are anxious to avoid starring well known people who might tend to obscure the children in the picture. It is their story.

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THE WARNER BROTHERS know they have taken on a difficult task. Officially the Church has not yet put its seal upon the Fatima events, although it is indicated that the Holy See views with interest many claims that miracles have been wrought there.

Lucia, now a Carmelite nun in Coimbra is the only survivor, but first hand information she had already supplied has been made available to those now preparing the film.

Whether it is made on the same ambitious scale as "Bernadette" or more modestly, as seems likely, it will be awaited with widespread interest everywhere.

Spiritual bouquets in large numbers have arriving at the studio.

It is something new to the Hollywood movie people to start work on a film story for the success of which people are praying.

"It gives us and added sense of responsibility," Crane Wilbur says, "and we are putting our best into it."

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IN THE FATIMA story, which they are calling "Miracle in Portugal," even more than in "Bernadette," some simple impressionistic method seems advisable, don't you think?

Anyway Mr. Wilbur tells me they will probably show the faint outline of Our Lady as she appeared to the children near the azinheira tree where the great Basilica now stands.

Although the screenplay will deal mostly with the children up to the time of the final apparition when the "miracle of the revolving sun" was seen by crowds of people, the historical backgrounds will point up the significance of the message which Our Lady of Fatima gave us.

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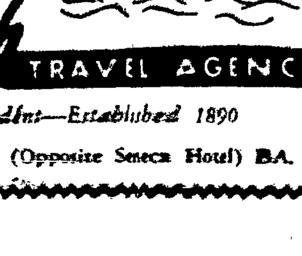
You will be in Barcelona for the Congress after a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Immaculate heart of Mary at Fatima. Included in the itinerary are such historic places as Toledo, Madrid, the Shrine at Lourdes, Nice, Paris and Rome. There will be an audience with the Holy Father in Rome.

For complete information, write, visit or phone Kalbfleisch, the officially designated travel agency for the pilgrimage.



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Nurses' Aides Sing For Patients

THESE NURSES' AIDES brought cheer to patients in Mercy Hospital, Auburn, by singing Christmas Carols at the institution. They made their rounds, each carrying a lighted candle as she sang. In photo (from left) Marian Guido, Janette Charney, Helen Clancy, Marian Greer, Lee Zamble; second row (from left) Lila Logan, Rose Ricola, Jeanne Walker, Ellen Spano; third row, Eloise Markley, Delores Cleffi, Eva Mae, Violet DeBlasio, Gloria Wilsonske; fourth row, (front left) Kadie Copley, Pattie Stapleton, Mary Fennessy, Nancy Patrick; in rear, Joyce Schillawski and Mary Crowley.

Ohio Judge Rules Charity Bingo Illegal

Columbus, O. — (RNS) — Charity bingo is a lottery and illegal under Ohio's constitution, Common Pleas Judge Cecil J. Randall held in a decision of state-wide importance.

His findings set aside a previous temporary order restraining police from interfering with charity bingo games of eight organizations, including church groups, American Legion posts and hospital guilds.

JUDGE RANDALL based his decision on a section of the Ohio constitution which stipulates: "Lotteries and the sale of lottery tickets for any purpose whatsoever shall be prohibited in this state."

While this constitution does not provide a penalty, the jurist declared, "in our opinion, the prohibitive is still effective to declare all lotteries, irrespective of whether carried on with a profit to the one who operates the same, to be illegal and against public policy."

THE DECISION was directly opposite to that of Common Pleas Judge Dana F. Reynolds who in another case last May ruled that bingo not operated for the profit of the promoter or operator is legal.

Judge Reynold's ruling was in the case of Alice Leonard, president of the Central Ohio Charitable Aid Society, who was granted a temporary order restraining police from interfering with her games. Charity bingo had operated since then.

Safety Director Donald D. Cook said police will act against charity bingo as soon as the jurist's decision is entered on the court journal.

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Los Angeles Priest On 'Church Of Air'

The Very Rev. Anthony J. Brouwers, director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Los Angeles, Calif., will make the address on "The World Was Made Flesh," on the second half of CBS Radio's "Church of the Air" Sunday, Dec. 30 (CBS Radio, 10:30-11:00 a. m., EST, from Hollywood).

Directed by George Cormier, the Men's Choir of the Immaculate Conception Church of Los Angeles will sing a program of holiday music.

Panama Catholics Launch New Radio Station HOLY

Panama City, Panama — (RNS) — Radio Station HOLY, owned and operated by the Panama Roman Catholic diocese, went on the air here on a trial basis. On November 25, the station will be officially dedicated by President Alcibiades Arosemena of Panama.

Because all radio stations in Panama have call letters commencing with HO, the new station has been able to get a singularly appropriate call letter.

THE STATION was founded by Archbishop Francis Beckman of Panama. Its director is Father John Savage, a Vincentian priest from Brooklyn, N. Y., who formerly taught at Naigara University. He is assisted by a priest who has charge of the English-language programs and another who supervises programs in Spanish.

Although the station is owned by the Panama diocese and its religious material will be exclusively Roman Catholic, HOLY will seek to become self-supporting through commercials.

THE STATION is operating on a curtailed basis at present, but it plans a 16-hour schedule when commercial sponsors are signed up. In addition to its religious programs, it plans to offer news, music, educational and cultural features.

Panama also has a Protestant broadcasts from the Balboa radio station, HOXO, over which Heights (Canal Zone) Baptist church have been aired for the past three years. The station sponsors educational, cultural, musical and general interest as well as religious programs. It carries no commercials and all expenses are met by a private group of Protestants in Panama City.

Film Industry In Ireland Urged

Dublin — (NC) — If Ireland wants to present the truth of her own culture, she should have her own film industry, according to W. J. Igoe, film critic of the Catholic Herald, London weekly.

Speaking here under the auspices of the National Film Institute, he said: "If you make Irish and Catholic films in Ireland, they will be in a measure pioneer works and should prove in time of great value to honest nations and to the Church."

ROCHESTER

Movie Guide

ROCHESTER
RKO PALACE
Double Dynamite, A-2
Reunion in Reno, A-2
PARAMOUNT
Distant Drums, A-2
Sky High, A-1
LOEW'S ROCHESTER
Pandora and the Flying Dutchman, B
Purple Heart Diary, A-1
CINEMA
The River, A-2
LITTLE
The Red Shoes, B

Legion of Decency Listings

CLASS A-1 — Unobjectionable for General Patronage

Angels in the Outfield; Arizona Manhunt; Barefoot Mailman; Basketball Fix; Bitter Springs; Christmas Carol; Desert of Lost Men; Elephant Stampede; Emperor's Nightingale; Fixed Bayonets; Here Come the Nelsons; Hong Kong; It's Big Country; Jungle Manhunt; Lawless Cowboys; Lone Star; Lost Continent; Murder in the Cathedral; My Brother the Outlaw; Navajo; Northwest Territory; Pale of the Golden West; Pecos River; Pistol Harvest; Quo Vadis; Sailor Beware; Silver City Bonanza; Sky High; Superman and the Molemen; Tanks Are Coming; Thunder in God's Country; Valley of Fire; Varieties of Parade; Weekend With Father; Wonder Boy; Yes Sir, Mr. Bones

CLASS A-2 — Unobjectionable for Adults

An American in Paris; Angels; Alms of the Indies; Blue Veil, The; Bride of the Gorilla; Bushwackers, The; Callaway Went Thataway; Calling Bulldog; Capri; Chinese Corsair; Crazy Over Horses; Death of A Salesman; Dark Passage; Detective Story; Diamond City; Double Confession; Double Dynamite; Elopement; F.B.I. Girl; For Men Only; Fort Defiance; Golden Horde; Gold Raiders; Goldie Is My Shadow; Here Comes The Groom; Iron Man; I Want You; Japanese War Bride; Journey Into Light; Lisbon Story; Man in the Saddle; Meet Danny Wilson; Miracle of Milan; My Favorite Spy; On Dangerous Ground; Oh, Susanna; On The Loose; O Sole Mio; Passion for Life; Picture—An Adventure in Art; Place in the Sky; Rachel, The; Red Mountain; Reunion in Reno; Rhubarb; River, The; Roadblock; Sea Hornet; Shadow in the Sky; Sing With Me; St. Benny the Dip; Tales of Hoffman; Ten Commandments; Texas Carnival; Thing, The; Three Steps North; Thunder on the Hill; Two Dollar Bettor; Two Tickets to Broadway; Tomorrow Is Another Day; Two Gals and A Guy; U.S.S. Teakettle; Westward The Women; When Worlds Collide; Young Scarface

CLASS B — Objectionable in Part

Adventures of Captain Fabian; Aladdin and His Lamp; Bridge, The; Cimarron Kid, The; Cloudburst; Chain of Circumstance; Come Fill the Cup; David and Bathsheba; Family Secret, The; Film Without a Name; Lady Says No; Light Touch; Lili Marlene; Man With the Cloak; Mansion on Wheels; Magic Face; Millionaire For Christy; Meet Me After The Show; Model and the Marriage Broker; Native Son; Obsessed; On the Rivers; People Will Talk; Storm Over Tibet; Pickup; Under the Olive Tree; Unknown Man; Wild North, The; White Hell of Pitz-Palu

CLASS C — Condemned

Blue Angel, The; Flesh Will Surrender; It's Forever Springtime; Illusion; La Ronde; Maria du Port; Oh Amelia; Paris Waltz; Scarred; She Shoulda Said No; Ways of Love; Wench, The

Priest-Playwright Warns Of 'False Glory and Glitter'

[illegible]

HE WARNED others not to follow his example in leaving the priesthood. "Men, those who are blinded by the false glory of a name or by the false glitter of money know that these have been for me the source of pain, remorse, and tears," he said.

"I do not believe that I have in any way attacked Church dogma or Christian morals in my works," Father Martin Lopez declared. "However, having written for a frivolous public and in a mundane environment, not befitting priestly dignity and decorum, I hereby retract anything in my writings which might be against Christian principles."

Priest Enacts Part Of Martyred Bishop

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"The works of apostolate must reach all spheres, even though they may seem, in order to be truly effective," Father Marcos said. He appeared in the film with the permission of his superiors.

"I accepted the offer with the desire of giving life to a personality filled with mysticism—that of the Bishop," he added.

Although Bishop Polanco had an opportunity to escape death, he preferred to remain at his see, alongside his parishioners, in the hour of persecution during the civil war.

It is believed to be the first time a priest has acted the leading role in a full-length Spanish film with a dramatic subject.

San Diego College Opens Women's Unit

San Diego, Calif.—(NC)—The San Diego College for Women, first unit of the University of San Diego, will open February 11, it has been announced here by Bishop Charles F. Buddy of San Diego, founder of the university.

Registration of students will take place February 8. The college will be conducted by the Religious of the Sacred Heart.

Italian Film Hit By Decency Legion

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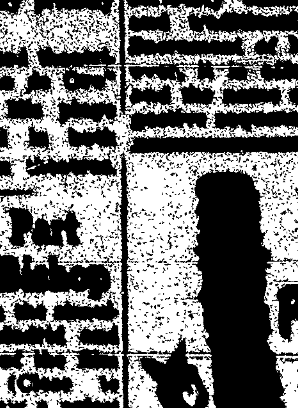

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Cash	$ 70,150,027.30
U. S. Government Bonds	122,558,611.98
Other Stocks and Bonds	6,816,187.57
Loans	70,875,[illegible].30
Mortgages	29,181,854.96
Real Estate and Banking Houses	4,628,616.64
Other Real Estate	15,748.13
Accrued Interest Receivable	820,351.87
Other Assets	388,645.06
Letters of Credit and Acceptances (per contra)	40,759.48
	$306,421,301.24

LIABILITIES

Deposits		$284,918,475.80
Reserve for Interest and General Expense		562,023.26
Reserve for Federal Income and other Taxes		957,022.39
Reserve for Unearned Discount		978,020.31
Letters of Credit and Acceptances (per contra)		40,759.48
Dividends Declared and Payable February 1st		165,000.00
Capital Funds		18,800,000.00
Common Stock	$ 6,600,000.00	
Surplus	10,000,000.00	
Undivided Profits	2,200,000.00	
	$18,800,000.00	
		$306,421,301.24

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