Rosary Leaders Set On Auburn's WMBO

Rosary leaders for the coming Rosary for World Peace, broadcast nightly over Station WMBO, Auburn, at 6:45 p.m. are:

Saturday, Jan. 10 — Wilson Long, St. Aloysius;

Sunday, Jan. 11 — Paul McQueeney, Holy Family;

Monday, Jan. 12 — Thomas Mack, St. Hyacinth;

Tuesday, Jan. 13—Paul Malnic, SS. Peter and Paul;

Wednesday, Jan. 14 — Leonis Jasmur, St. Mary;

Thursday, Jan. 15 — Anthony Catalfano, St. Francis of Assisi;

Friday, Jan. 16 — Alfred Patrick, Holy Family.

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Stage Heritage Traced by Bassetts To Relative, Jessie Bonstelle

This generation may not remember Jessie Bonstelle. They may only know that off Ridge Road West there is a Jessie Street and another called Bonesteel. Or perhaps parents or grandparents have told them of "Rochester's Sweetheart" of the turn of the century.

Jessie Bonstelle was one of the first if not the greatest actress to come from this area and was born to an age when the stock company meant theatre.

JOSEPH BASSETT

JESSIE BONSTELLE

IDA BASSETT

Born in the town of Greece, the late Miss Bonstelle was raised in Webster in the family homestead, which later became known as the Bonstelle tract. As a child, her talent for recitation was first encouraged by her mother and later by the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught her at Nazareth Academy.

AS THE YEARS passed, her aptitude for the stage brought Miss Bonstelle into stock work until by 1896 she was a well-known leading lady.

Through the suggestion of J. J. Shubert she founded her own company and began the tours which made her as well beloved in Buffalo and Providence as she was in her own Rochester.

Those were the days of repertory and there was no end to the number and diversity of roles required of the leading actress. Miss Bonstelle played them all —from "The Two Orphans" to "Camille." We are told that her "Trilby" was one of the great stage experiences of the time, as Miss Bonstelle enacted the title role opposite her husband, Alexander H. Stewart as Svengali.

She negotiated for eight years with the Alcott estate in order to have the famous novel "Little Women" dramatized and Miss Bonstelle was the first "Jo."

UNTIL 1910, the name of Jessie Bonstelle held the place of honor on the marquees of the old Baker Theater, the Cooke Opera House and the Lyceum. Finally she moved to Detroit where she bought the Garrick Theatre and opened the Bonstelle School of the Drama.

It was from the Shrine of the Little Flower that each year Rochesterians heard her over the radio again portray the Magdalen. It was in Detroit that she became known as the "Maker of Stars."

Many of her students gained great renown on the stage: Ben Lyon, Ann Harding, Jessie Royce Landis and today's "first lady," Katharine Cornell.

Jessie Bonstelle died in 1933 at the age of 61. She left great memories to those who had known her, seen her, or had been her pupils. She left a great heritage to at least [illegible] youngsters in Rochester, her cousins, Joseph and Ida Bassett.

THE FIRST theatrical venture of the Bassetts, who were raised in St. Augustine's Parish, was "The Harlequinades." The brother and sister founded a company of young and energetic actors and performed at St. Francis Xavier Hall, through the kindness of their moderator, the late Rev. Francis X. Kunz.

Ida Bassett became one of the foremost actresses with the Blackfriar Guild when a chapter was opened in Rochester and will be remembered in performances of "Stage Door," "Diplomacy" and many others.

Her portrayal in "The Kingdom of God," directed by Amy Hutchison, was a memorable one which brought great tribute from the critics.

Joseph Bassett, meanwhile, had gone on to New York with his good friend, John Lund. After a stint at the World's Fair, he did some movie work doubling for Gary Cooper and Henry Fonda. He then appeared with Victor Mature in the film, "Kiss of Death."

THE WAR TOOK Ida Bassett to Washington and Joseph into service for over four years, during which time he was wounded in Normandy.

Returning to this country, Joseph made a series of training films for the government at Walter Reed Hospital. Then came a period of summer stock at Fiskhill and Beacon with Walter Folmer and Alex Nicole.

Joseph has appeared many times in TV on "Studio One" and the "Philco Playhouse." He married the lovely Carol Hill, a young actress who has become a TV star.

Now in Hollywood with his wife, both active in films and television work, Joseph is nearer his sister Ida than his native Rochester. Because of ill health, Ida now resides in Arizona where she is an active member of the Phoenix Little Theatre.

IT IS A BIG step from "The Harlequinades" to Hollywood and the late Jessie Bonstelle would be justly proud of her young cousins, as are Mr. and Mrs. George Bassett, parents of Joseph and Ida.

The Bassetts, both very active members of St. Augustine's, live on Sherwood Avenue and, although separated by many miles from their children, are their most eager fans.

—SMETT

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NEW And NOW

By ROBERT SMETT

This is the time in the year that every columnist seems to feel it a bounden duty to list the 10 best movies. The practice of late has broadened out to include the 10 worst, the 10 most inoffensive, and even the 10 most mediocre.

IN A CURRENT roundup in CUE magazine, Jesse Zunser lists his opinion on "bests and worsts" and closes with this paragraph.

"And so, turning from the past to the future for a moment, I see a picture in which Joan Crawford and/or Bette Davis will suffer (together with their audiences), in which Rita Hayworth will play a headhunter ("Salome"), in which bandits will be glorified, thugs will be called misunderstood lads who were always kind to their mothers, and gunmolls will be praised as pure of heart, if dumb of brain.

"A talking jackass named Francis, having gone to West Point (courtesy of Universal Pictures), becomes an officer, in time a general, and then — who knows? . . . The White House? Can this be progress?"

• • •

On a recent visit to New York, I saw the French film, "Forbidden Games," which gets my vote for the "Best Foreign Film of 1952."

AS HAVE MOST European imports during the past year, the French films have been rather sub-standard. But just as the year was running out, along came this extraordinary film directed with expert skill by Rene Clement.

"Forbidden Games" is certainly one of the most touching motion pictures ever made. The performances which Clement manages to get from tiny Brigitte Fossey as Paulette and Georges Poujouly as Michel are tremendous.

You ask yourself how much of this is really acting and how much of it must Clement have caught through artful trickery and minute direction. But however he accomplished this is not the point, he has captured on film two utterly beautiful performances from a pair of gifted youngsters.

NOW PLAYING at the Little Carnegie Theatre in New York, "Forbidden Games" will soon be seen in principal cities throughout the country.

—o—

Rosary Leaders

The Radio Rosary is broadcast every night at 7 p.m. over Station WSAY, Rochester.

Leaders for the coming week include:

Saturday, Jan. 10 — Gerald E. Harradine, SS. Peter and Paul, accompanied by the Legion of Mary;

Sunday, Jan. 11 — Raye H. Conrad, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport;

Monday, Jan. 12 — Patsy Cascino, St. Francis Xavier;

Tuesday, Jan. 13 — Robert DiLaura, St. Lucy;

Wednesday, Jan. 14 — Lewis F. Miller, St. Boniface;

Thursday, Jan. 15 — Dennis Andrew Merritt, St. Andrew, accompanied by H.N.S. of St. Andrew;

Friday, Jan. 16 — Joseph W. Skelly, St. Anne, accompanied by H.N.S. of St. Anne.

Priests Set On WHAM-TV

On the "Thought for the Day" program of WHAM-TV appearing on WHAM-TV from Monday through Friday at 10:25 a.m., priests of the diocese are scheduled each Tuesday and Friday.

Listed for next week are: Tuesday, Jan. 13, Rev. John Morgan and Friday, Jan. 16, Rev. Robert Nolan.

Starting in December, the following have appeared on the program: Dec. 23, Rev. E. Charles Bauer; Dec. 26, Rev. John Kleintjes; Dec. 30, Rev. Robert Kress.

Jan. 2, Rev. Bernard V. Kuchman; Jan. 6, Rev. John W. LeVeque; Jan. 9, Rev. Raymond F. Moore.

The program on other days than Tuesday and Friday presents Ministers and Rabbis.

T-V Group

Muenster, Germany — (NC) — On the occasion of the launching of the first television program of the Northwest German Radio Network, the Muenster diocesan agency, "Film-Radio-TV," announced plans for the establishment of an advisory group for television presentations.

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Battles of Chief Pontiac
Because You're Mine
Bells on Their Toes
Breaking Through the Sound Barrier
Cattle Town
California Conquest
Crimson Pirate
Dead Man's Trail
Fargo
Gold Fever
Hans Christian Andersen
Hiawatha
Ivanhoe
Lady in The Iron Mask
Last of the Comanches
Lure of the Wilderness
Medal of Honor
Meet Me at The Fair
Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima
On Top of Old Smoky
Pathfinder, The
Pony Soldier
Port Sinister
Prisoner of Zenda, The
Rainbow Round My Shoulder
Rogue's March
Singing Angels
Stooge, The
Tax
Thunderbirds
Thundering Caravan
Torpedo Alley
Washington Story
Wherever She Goes
Winning of the West
World in His Arms
Yankee Buccaneer

CLASS A-2 — Unobjectionable for Adults

Above and Beyond
Against All Flags
Babes in Baghdad
Beautiful but Dangerous
Big Sky
Brandy for the Parson
Capri
Cairo Road
Captain Blackjack
Cry The Beloved Country
Devil Takes Three
Diplomatic Courier
Eight Iron Men
Fighter, The
Four Feather
Gobs and Gals
Gods of Rain
Hangman's Knot
Jack McCall, Desperado
Just For You
Lawless Breed, The
Man Bait
Member of The Wedding, The
Merry Widow
My Cousin Rachel
My Man and I
No Holds Barred
Not Time For Flowers
O. Henry's Full House
Outpost in Malaya
Plymouth Adventure
Quiet Man
Redhead from Wyoming
Ring, The
Road to Bali
Skipper Next to God
Somebody Loves Me
Son of Ali Baba
Stop, You're Killing Me
Stormbound
Stranger in Between
Sudden Fear
Sword of Venus
Tale of Five Women
Target Hong Kong
Thief of Venice
Tomorrow is Too Late
Train of Events
Valley of the Eagles
Untamed Frontier
Wall of Danger
Wait Till the Sun
What Price Glory?
Without Warning
Voice of Love

CLASS B — Objectionable in Part

Anna
Affair in Trinidad
Androcles and The Lion
Angel Face
April in Paris
Bad and the Beautiful, The
Blackbeard the Pirate
Clown, The
Come Back Little Sheba
Desperate Search, The
Don't Bother To Knock
Face to Face
Hurricane Smith
I Don't Care Girl, The
Mess of Lost Women
Mississippi Gambler
Monsoon
Montana Belle
Mr. Pal Gus
Mr. Wu's Best Friend
Never Wave at A WAC
Ruby Gentry
San Francisco Story
Sky Is Red
Son of Paleface
Thief of Damascus
Two Cents Worth of Hope

CLASS C — Condemned

Behind Closed Shutters
It's Forever Springtime
La Ronde
Maria du Port
Miss Julie
Paris Nights
Paris Waltz
Scarred
Strollers, The
Thrill that Kills
Ways of Love
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