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# Watching The Screen

## 9th Cavalry

By RAY SMITH  
Another tale of the old west, set in Arizona Territory after the Civil War, is told by master-director John Ford at the Palace Theatre this week under the name of "SERGEANT RUTLEDGE," which will be seen by our "ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS."

The sergeant of the 9th United States Cavalry, a Negro unit, is accused of violating and strangling a white girl and of murdering her father, his commanding officer. Sure that there is enough circumstantial evidence to hang him, and doubtful of a fair trial, he deserts. His two days of freedom are short-lived, and he is brought back to face a court-martial.

AS WITNESSES take the stand at the trial, the story is revealed bit by bit in flashbacks that generate strong suspense and drama. As my friends will tell you, I fear did like a movie told in any part by flashback. I think it takes something away from the continuity of the story. On well, who cares about me? do. Back at the ranch we find Woody Strode playing the sergeant with great feeling and dignity, stressing his responsibility to his regiment and to his race.

Jeffrey Hunter, as the impetuous young lieutenant who acts as his defense counsel, wins audience sympathy as he fights for the life of a splendid man. As usual, Director Ford lightens the film with a token romance, some comedy here, a belabored courtroom situation—between Billie Burke, and her husband, Willis Boucye, the presiding judge.

This is 113 movie, humble folk, has a good song, "Captain But-

falo." Keep your ear close to your crystal set as it may become a popular novelty tune. One thing you have to hand to Ford. He is still unsurpassed in the staging of an Indian raid. Likewise, he can still make any cinematographer photograph Monument Valley, on the Arizona-Utah border, in ways that seem novel.

So, for an absorbing story which seems to be the best offering at our downtown theatres for the next few days, march to the Palace Theatre to see "Sergeant Rutledge."

Looking down Clinton Avenue to the Paramount Theatre, we see that a circus has pulled in there, but not the kind of circus we are used to. It is the "Circus of Horrors" which may be enjoyed by those who are in the habit of eating ground.

This is an example of feeding to film something for the screen and just taking junk. At this point, the movie's heart is in the head, not in the neck. "The Fugitive Kind" N.G. which is translated as real NO GOOD.

**HORNELL**—For those who aren't planning a picnic for Monday at one of our beautiful parks, like Happy Acres, you will want to go to the Majestic Theatre to see "WAKE ME WHEN IT'S OVER," a good comedy for ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS.

**ELMIRA**—The Colonial Theatre books the light comedy for ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS in "BABETTE GOES TO WAR" starring an actress who usually doesn't "act" in such nice films.

# Talk It Over

## Sir Raleigh

By ANNE CULKIN

Dear Miss Culklin:  
Why is it that boys are always being accused of not having manners when it is really the girls who don't have them? For instance, to mention one point specifically: A boy is supposed to open a door for a girl, isn't he? Then why don't girls wait for boys to do it?

A few nights ago, I went to a dance with a girl who is supposed to be very proper, but every time we got to a door, she put her hand out first to open it. Finally I gave up in disgust and let her open all the doors for me.

I'm not writing you to ask what boys should do about this kind of thing because most boys do exactly what I did—let the girl take over. I'm writing you to let you know why boys aren't gentlemen. They are not gentlemen because girls won't allow them to be.

Dear Sir Raleigh:  
I read your letter not once but many times. It is printed with the hope that all women readers will do the same. Thank you for writing me. I've learned!

Dear Miss Culklin:  
Is it true that if you are a Godmother or a Godfather for a child you cannot be his sponsor for Confirmation? A Godmother.

Dear Godmother:  
Yes, it is true. This is the ruling of the church.

Dear Miss Culklin:  
I know there are plenty of fellows who find themselves in the same spot that I do every time I take a girl to a movie. Naturally, I know how much the movie is going to cost, so I have enough money to buy the tickets, but I never know how much money I should have for something to eat afterwards.

If you could be sure the girl would order a hamburger, you would have nothing to worry about, but supposing she orders a club sandwich or something else expensive, what do you do? You can't tell her you haven't the money, can you? So, again, what do you do?

A Movie Lover

Dear Miss Culklin:  
Our graduation dance in June is to be strictly formal. The girls are to wear gowns and the boys, white coats. My boyfriend, who is in the Army will be home after the dance, but he does not have a summer formal. Do you and Pierre a Notre Dame (from the movie "The Great Escape") I. Bore an ordinary suit to the dance?

The concert closing of the Blessed Sacrament with the Rev. Michael L. Reagan is celebrant. He was assisted by the Rev. William J. O'Brien, pastor of St. Patrick's and the Rev. Valentin Jankowski, pastor of St. Margaret-Mary Parish, Appleton, Wis.

Dear Gladys:  
No, an ordinary suit would not be in good taste, but a summer dress Army uniform would be. Encourage him to wear it if he owns one; otherwise he can rent one.

Gladys H.

Dear Miss Culklin:  
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## Play At Orchestra Festival

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST school orchestra, shown above, was one of several to play in the Sisters of Mercy second annual orchestra festival at St. Salome School last Saturday.

# Museum Closes

## For Holiday

Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences will be closed on Sunday, May 29 and on Memorial Day, May 30, it is announced by W. Stephen Thomas, museum director.

The Museum will be closed on Sundays during June, July and August. Summer visiting hours at the Museum are daily, Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free at all times.

# Theatre News

## Bye Bye Birdie

By EUPHEMIA WYATT

**BYE BYE BIRDIE**—When the Mayor of Sweet Apple Pie, Dick Van Dyke, is elected to the City, one girl swoons at the mere mention of his name. When Birdie began to sing—and to swing—the steps of the City Hall were strewn with wilted flowers while as for the Lady Mayors, they became disintegrated at even his Honor gave up singing to stabilize her.

As you may guess this musical is a satire on rock 'n' rollers and swooners with Dick Van Dyke as the Mayor Birdie and Chita Rivera as the love-lorn secretary who has spent eight years trying to separate her boss from all "birdies." The teenagers are the high pitched, grating background but Peter Gardi has his moment as the father of the teenager chosen by lot to kiss Birdie goodbye before he joins the Army.

This explosive event will take place on the Ed Sullivan Show. Leading his family in a solemn chorale of thanksgiving, Mr. Lynde then demonstrates to much applause how he tries to take over the show for himself. Dick Van Dyke has the makings of a good comedian but mumbles his words.

He and Susan Watson, the winning teen-ager, have a memorable dance together in the Penn Station and Kay Medford has made a great part for herself as Dick Van Dyke's self-sacrificing mother who wants her son all to herself.

Chita Rivera is brisly vivacious and chic; she has one dance with handbags for partners and another opposite, behind, over and under a long table of Shriner in red fox which is the major masterpiece of Gower Champion turned choreographer. **BYE BYE BIRDIE** is quick and contemporary. It is listed as a hit. At the Martin Beck.

**OH, KAY!** was also a hit in its day which was 1926. Its all about run-runners, revenue agents and hi-jackers but it doesn't seem as obsolete as we can hope that **BYE BYE BIRDIE** will be in another thirty-four years. George Gershwin's songs are nice, proof and two young people who have won a claim on Broadway, David Daniels and Mari Stevens, have both good voices and good looks.

"Do, do do," "Clap Yo Hands," "Some One to Watch Over Me," have all their old appeal and "Little Jazz Bird" held up the show with four encores. The six-East Hampton girls can dance and sing even if they win no beauty prize; the comedians know their business and if the sets are all too true to the period, the comedy scenes hold their own, especially the famous lunch which Gertrude Lawrence and Julie Sandeman served—disguised as waitresses. **OH, KAY!** is still alive. East 74th Street.

A COUNTRY SCANDAL—

It might just as well be named **CHEKOV'S FIRST PLAY** as that is how it will always be remembered. Written by Chekov when he was twenty-one, rejected by a leading actress in 1861, it lay interred in a trunk till Chekov died. Under the title of **PLATONOV**, it was published in Moscow in 1923 and was translated into English in 1930 and 1932 as **THAT WORTHLESS BELLOW PLATONOV** and **DO NOT JUDGE A MAN BY HIS APPEARANCE**.

Originally four times too long, an abbreviated version was adapted successfully in Paris, Milan and Vienna and the present adaptor has combined all these into a Russian farce which seems the precursor of Shaw's **MAN AND SUPERMAN** for it is not Platynov so much who pursues the ladies of his village as the ladies who pursue Platynov.

Poor Platynov is the village school teacher; he really prefers his wife but finds it impossible to be deaf to the voice of the sirens. A charmingly rapacious widow, a bored wife, a precocious young student besiege the accommodating Platynov while Ousp, a gigantic peasant, is hired first by one and then another to murder him. Platynov does hold a pistol to his own head but, of course, can't pull the trigger.

Ousp experiments with garrote and pistol and then whistles heartily with a knife because he also admires the widow and when Mrs. Platynov rushes in just in time to save her husband from a hot throat, Platynov complains, "The careless brute cut my finger." But when the long suffering Mrs. Platynov makes a brew of sulphur matches, Platynov collapses with grief. He revives to find himself finked about by the three relentless women and expires.

Perhaps in Chekov's later plays more emphasis should be placed on the satire. Both the author and director are from the Yale Drama School and have very difficult names—Stogyl and Kabaichnik. The play is staged with taste and imagination with Mark Lenard outstanding as Platynov, Carol Teljel as his wife and Ronald Weyand as Ousp. Platynov is a thoroughly Russian character; indecisive, illogical, vacillating, affectionate. At the Greenwich News.

## Roseland Adds Roller Coaster

The first new roller coaster to be erected in New York State in more than 35 years is now running at Roseland Park, Canandaigua. Named the "Skyliner," the roller coaster has been built in an area just east of the main group of buildings. Constructed of timbers specially imported from Oregon, the "Skyliner" will support 2400 feet of curving tracks.

# Theatre Guide

Ben-Hur (Unobjectionable) A-1  
Observation—The Legion of Decency recommends Ben-Hur as wholesome entertainment on an unusually high level of achievement for the whole family.

A Dog of Flanders (Unobjectionable) A-1  
Sergeant Rutledge (Unobjectionable for adults and adolescents) A-2  
Breakout (Not listed)

Black Orpheus (Unobjectionable for adults) A-3  
Little (Unobjectionable) A-3  
Once More With Feeling (A-3)

The Fugitive Kind (Unobjectionable) B  
The Fugitive Kind (Unobjectionable) B  
Circus of Horrors

'First Prize Story' Wins First Prize  
"The First Prize Story," 20-minute motion picture "documentary" produced by storm Advertising Co., Inc., for Tobin Packing Co., Inc., has been awarded first prize at the 1960 American Film Festival, held in New York City last month. This annual event is America's largest and most important non-theatrical film exhibition-competition.

"The First Prize Story" was selected for showing at this year's American Film Festival from several hundred entries, and won its first prize over some 210 competing productions.

## OUR APOLOGIES

In the announcement of the dedication of the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Mary's Hospital, Sunday, May 22, we incorrectly listed one of the suppliers and failed to list another. Our apologies to both.

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COURIER-JOURNAL  
Friday, May 27, 1960 11

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