

New Comedy To Open T & C Season

Four years ago Paul Ford signed to open a new, unheralded comedy at Pennsylvania's famed Bucks County Playhouse. The show was "Never Too Late," the family-situation comedy that went on to become a smash hit on Broadway and in the movies.

This summer Ford is trying again with Henry Denker's new comedy, "What Did We Do Wrong?", opening July 3 at Town & Country Playhouse in East Rochester.

Prospects are strong for a repeat on the hit pattern. Besides Ford's well-known comic talents—familiar to television fans from his years as Col. Hall in "Sergeant Bilko"—the show is said to boast a crisp, fast-moving plot based on the college protest movement.

Ford plays a manufacturer of TV antennas whose own problems are compounded by the arrest of his bearded son during a demonstration. The situations that develop are as unexpected as they are hilarious.

If the interest of professional theater people in the new show is any indication, preview audiences should find the tryout an exciting glimpse into the evolution of a hit. The Rochester premiere is in Denver.

From Rochester the company gage follows a world pre-moves on to play some of the most famous summer theaters in the East, including Connecticut's Westport Playhouse.

Tickets for "What Did We Do Wrong?" and the later shows on this summer's all-comedy schedule are now on sale at the theater box office (381-1001) from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Producer is Barry Tuttle.

New Films Reviewed

Movies recently reviewed by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures are listed below:

Class A, Section I
(Morally unobjectionable for general patronage)
Palaces of a Queen

Class A, Section II
Hellbenders, The
Jack o' Diamonds

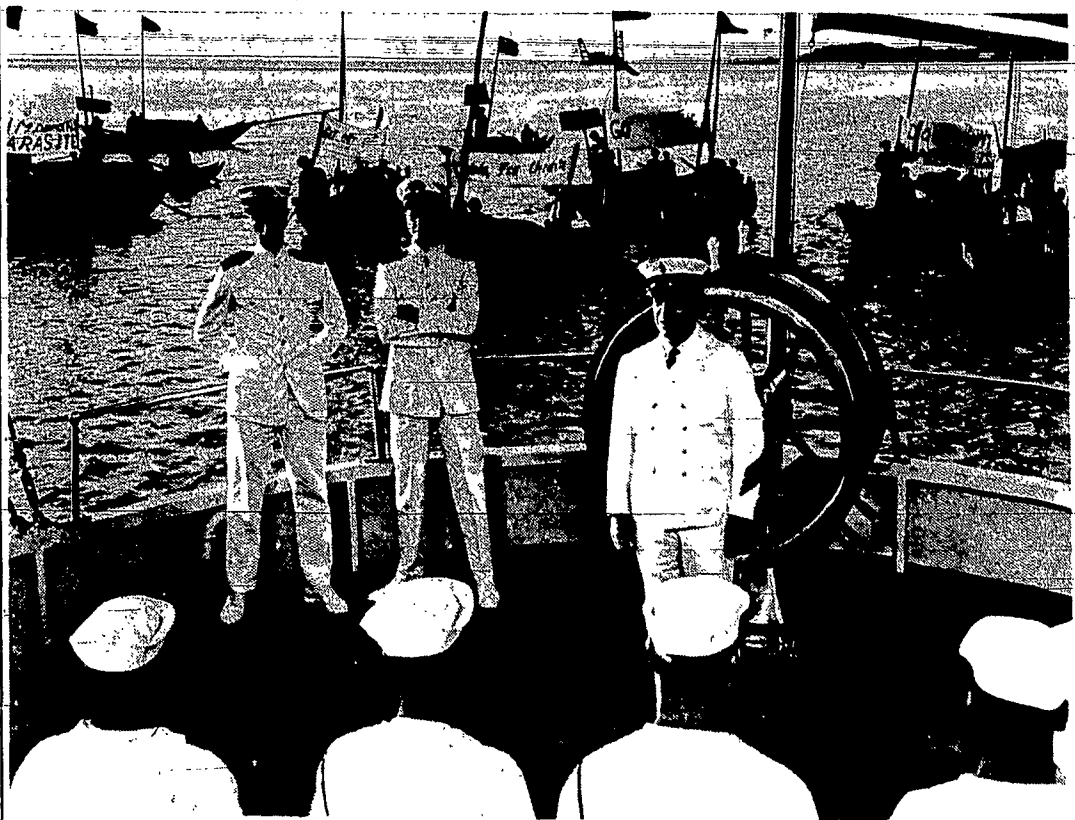
Class A, Section III
Upper Hand, The
(Morally unobjectionable for adults)

The Bo-Bo
The Hills Run Red
St. Valentine's Day Massacre
* Note: This classification is applicable only to prints shown in U.S.A.

Class A, Section IV
(Morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations)
Privilege

(Observation: This film is a pseudo-documentary, with satirical elements, on the very real problem of the manipulation and control of public opinion by propaganda forces within society's power structure. Although it effectively indicts some existing abuses, the filmmaker appears to have yielded to the temptation of unfocused indignation with the result that he has not only blunted criticism but ultimately left his audience without a constructive point of view.)

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On the deck of an American gunboat in Chinese waters — a scene from "The Sand Pebbles."

Film of U.S. Intervention In Asia, Forty Years Ago

New York—"The Sand Pebbles," a film about American intervention in 1926 China, has been cited for its contemporary relevance by both the Catholic and Protestant national film offices.

The Protestant office—the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches—recently gave it one of its 1966 film awards, while the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures singled it out for special commentary in its official newsletter.

Directed by Robert Wise, right after he had made the light and happy "Sound of Music," "The Sand Pebbles" is a grim picture about a U.S. gunboat stationed in Chinese waters to protect American interests while tensions mount between the Nationalists and the warlords. Although committed to neutrality, the officers and crew of the U.S.S. San Pablo—the Chinese slur over the name of the vessel and refer to her men as the "Sand Pebbles"—become involved in a bloody escapade.

In its award citation, the Protestant film office said the film "portrays the grandeur and misery of the human family in a world torn by war. With realism and artistry, the film poses the ambiguity of our situation and compels us to come to terms with the overriding problem of our time—the establishment of a human community under the authority of love and justice."

The Protestant award citation stressed that the film was being recommended "only to mature audiences."

NCOMP's commentary, longer and in more detail than the Protestant citation, was suggested to adults as "a film

Family Rosary Radio Leaders

Friday, June 30—Hugh McDonald of St. Boniface parish.

Saturday, July 1—(Mass will be celebrated)—Joseph Mercier, Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish.

Sunday, July 2—Fred Imo, Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Monday, July 3—James Liot, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Tuesday, July 4—Representative of Knights of Equity Court 10.

Thursday, July 6—Francis Ross Attinasi, Our Lady of Mercy.

worth seeing," despite its three-hour and fifteen-minute length. (There were some reports that it is being shortened.)

"The film attempts to be more than an interesting recreation of the conditions, the political conflicts, the events and the attitudes of the peoples confined to the time and place," NCOMP said of the film's era and locale.

"Pounding heavily on the motivation of all factions and raising some of the principal characters to the symbolic level, the film attacks the question, if not actually the fact, of foreign intervention per se, through the construct of a fairly successful allegory that gives food for thought today."

Some of the "symbolic" characters referred to by NCOMP are the gunboat captain, played by Richard Crenna, who mouths clichés that have an air of over-patriotism and who—to save face after a near mutiny—commits the San Pablo to an unnecessary "rescue" of American Protestant missionaries;

Also, a Chinese coolie, played by a Japanese actor named Mako, who is patiently trained by the sailor in charge of the ship's engine room to care for the vessel's intricate machinery. The relation between the two—especially in one long scene in which the language barrier is overcome—is seen by NCOMP as an example of how supposedly "backward" peoples can be reached, taught and respected—through patience and love;

Finally, the film's central character—the engine-room sailor—played by Steve McQueen. Named "Holman"—which NCOMP sees as meaning that he represents "the whole man"—he is "a dispassionate, simple young man of innate decency and growing human proportions, against whom the shortcomings and excesses of others stand out."

It is he who urges the ship's captain and his fellow crewmen to look upon the Chinese as fully human and to understand their resentment at the gunboat's presence in their waters. But he is unwillingly involved in the captain's desire to "save face" and is killed in the mission compound—symbolically, between some crated generators.

High Schoolers At Fisher

A six-week preview-of college classroom work began at St. John Fisher this past Monday for 16 students who will be seniors in their respective high schools in September. They come from 11 public and private secondary schools in the Rochester area.

The ten girls and six boys are participating in a tuition-free Biology Summer Workshop being conducted by Dr. Edward Gassner, chairman of the Fisher Biology Department and his staff. The group meets on Mondays and Fridays for six hours of lectures and experiments.

According to Dr. Gassner, the course is designed to provide a general introduction to biology laboratory research techniques and is intended to encourage gifted young scholars to develop their interest and talents as early as possible in their academic careers. In addition to formal class work, each of the students will be involved in individual and group research projects.

RCAC Outing

The Rochester Catholic Adult Club will hold a holiday outing at Sylvan Beach on Tuesday, July 4. Those needing rides may call Tom Mastrorandona at 323-6556.

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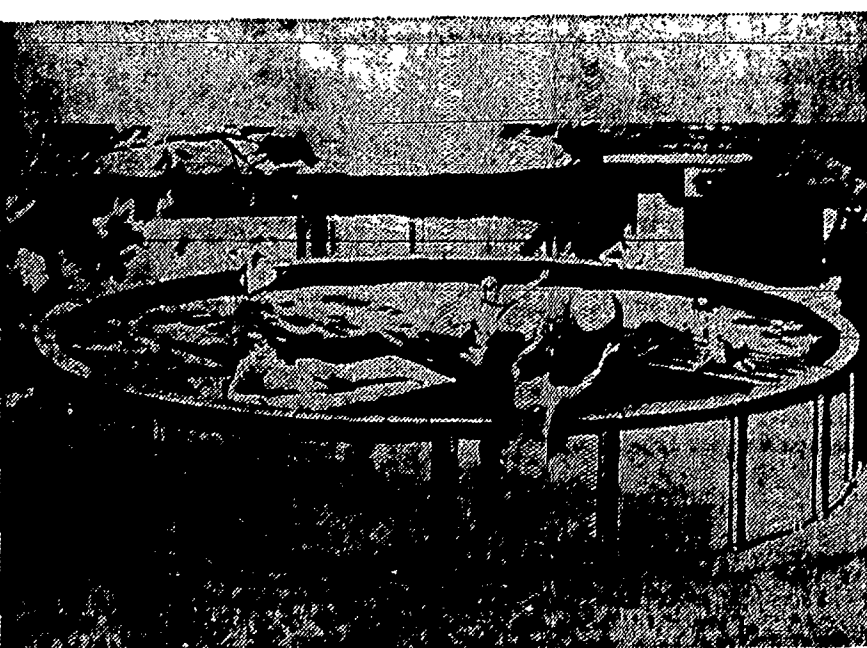
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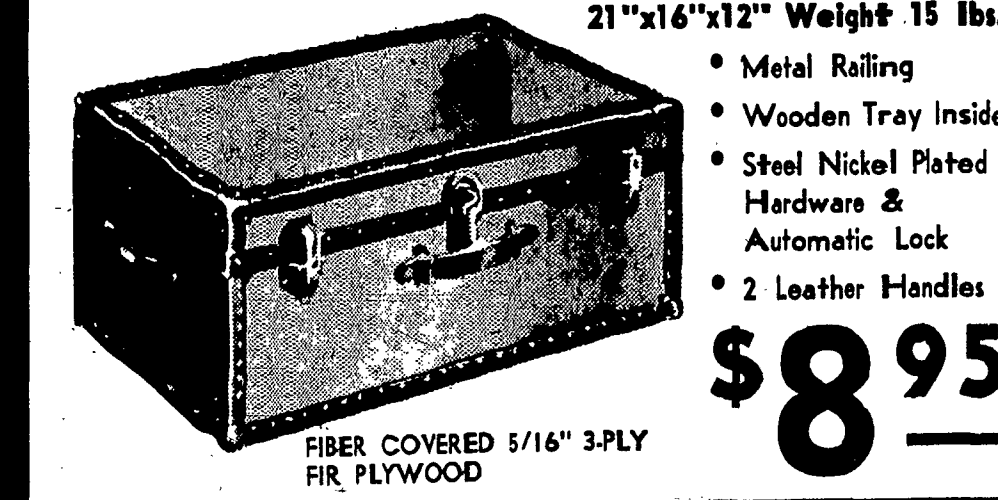
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