



George C. Scott as "The Flim-Flam Man" gives protege Michael Sarrazin some pointers on the art of cheating greedy people.

Film Office

'Flim-Flammed' by Film

It may be a new one for the "situation ethics" book, but the hero of the just-released film insists that it's perfectly all right — and maybe even praiseworthy—to swindle greedy people.

The unusual code of ethics is bluntly offered to viewers in "The Flim-Flam Man," a comedy about an "outrageously resourceful old bunco artist." What may be just as outrageous to some people is the fact that the national Catholic film office not only has approved the film for adults and adolescents but also has given it a warm recommendation.

"The Flim-Flam Man" is portrayed by George C. Scott (right after playing Abraham in "The Bible") as a lovable old con man who has scratched out a living of sorts by fleecing "avaricious" people via card tricks, double-dealing and such classic flim-flams as the one in which the victim comes upon a supposedly lost wallet full of money at the same time the flim-flammer does and agrees to put up "good faith" money prior to splitting the wallet's contents.

In an unusual scene for a comedy film, the character played by Scott attempts to justify his way of life during a serious conversation with a young man (Michael Sarrazin) whom he is trying to train.

"Ours is an avaricious society," he tells his protege, insisting that everyone is greedy to some extent. "Just a matter of degree. Every thermometer registers something.

"I was as idealistic as they

come, even more'n most. Didn't take me long to realize what makes things go round, though, and contrary to what most people think, it doesn't spin on love. . . . Then it occurred to me, that if folks are determined to be greedy, to being ignorant, then they deserve to be flim-flammed. In a way I feel I'm doing them a service. By knowing me, they won't be so glibly next time."

In fact, the film might benefit would-be victims of con artists (in the past two months, 11 Long Island, N.Y., women have been bilked of \$20,000 by a flim-flam identical to the "lost wallet" dodge shown in the film), but the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures was taken up—although some critics might say taken in—with the film's humorous method of getting across the flim-flam man's message.

Charles Oxtan, a reviewer for a number of Catholic newspapers, wrote that "apart from the dubious morality of the plot, the danger here is that, likable as the principal character is, he may convince unwary movie audiences that crime is not so bad if one perpetuates it with an engaging personality."

In a "Catholic Film News" review, NCOMP nevertheles observed:

"You can't cheat an honest man" was the phrase W. C. Fields immortalized, and (director) Irvin Kershner uses it as a point of departure for his latest movie, a refresher course on flim-flamming to delight those who like their larceny well-mixed with laughter."

NCOMP described some of the

film's slapstick comedy as being "in the best tradition of visual comedy. Its hilarious chase sequence with cars eluding one another stands on equal footing with the best of the silent masters."

"Throwaway lines in the first-rate dialogue," the review added, "are as good as many of the main gags in other films."

Citing an "excellent performance" by Harry Morgan as a long-suffering sheriff and the acting of newcomer Sarrazin ("one looks forward to seeing more of him"), NCOMP especially praised Scott, even though he is creating sympathy for a dishonest character—something the old film office would never tolerate.

"George C. Scott, who often plays the heavy, here fashions the character of the irascible old coddler with shades of W. C. Fields, Twain, and many nuances of his own," the NCOMP review commented. "Scott alternates carefree flamboyance with glimpses of the pathos that is part of a drifter's loneliness. The serio-comic ironies derive mostly from the way in which (he) bilks those whose greed leads them to think that it is they who are taking advantage of him."

"If one were to draw a lesson from 'The Flim-Flam Man's' shenanigans," NCOMP concluded, "it might be that while cheating greedy people is easy, being a fugitive is a hard way to live. But then, no system of free enterprise is perfect." (Catholic Press Features)

Thru The Looking Glass

Functional Fashions



By LOUISE WILSON

Louise Wilson, Women's Editor of Station WHAM, is heard eleven times weekly: 9:10 and 9:25 a.m., Monday through Friday; 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Fashion, like love, is a many-splendored thing. Fashion can do more than enhance the human figure. It does more than protect it from the elements. Certain fashions perform specific services for their wearers. Fashion often is beautiful but more often it should be functional as well. People with arthritis, paraplegia, multiple sclerosis and the like are often hard put to maintain their independence in moving about, even dressing themselves. Men and women, boys and girls who wear leg braces, use wheelchairs and can have their own special problems in this area too.

Thanks to the Clothing Research and Development Foundation, self-help functional fashions are available to the large number of people who need them. Fine designers such as Rosalie Zumpano, Dorothy Cox, and for youngsters, Merry Mites, are contributing their talents to this end. For instance, zippers were applied where they can be manipulated by the wearer. Rosalie Zumpano has designed a dress as stunning as any other, in stripes of brown, white and black jersey. It keeps its secret well with a concealed diagonal front zipper.

Dorothy Cox for Tanner of North Carolina accomplishes

What's New in the Parishes

PRECIOUS BLOOD—Feast of "Madonna dei Miracoli," August 27 at 11 a.m. The Italian Parish will be delivered by Father Sebastian.

Rosary, Benediction at 5 p.m. followed by picnic, band concert and fireworks on church grounds.

ST. JOSEPH, from 9:00 a.m.—Bus Driver needed to transport school children mornings 7-9 a.m., and afternoons 2:45-4:30 p.m. Bus driving license needed. Call Rectory for information, 467-8457.

Men volunteers needed to paint convent.

September 6, Wednesday, opening day for parochial school. Half day sessions the first week. No bus or cafeteria service the first and second weeks. Parents are requested to call the Convent 268-1540, for all school information.

the same charm and ease for the wearer with a sleeveless blouse and long graceful skirt in a bold, pretty all-wool-challis print. The skirt fastens with an easy-to-manage hook-and-bar. The sleeveless blouse buttons down the front. Merry Mites design approved by the Clothing Research and Development Foundation offers a high-bib navy overall with matching shirt. It adjusts with shoulder buttoning as needed. These are but a few of the important, necessary and functional fashions that are available for Fall and Winter '67.

The men are not left out, either. Specially designed trousers that look exactly like regular trousers—trim, well tailored and of fine fabric—but that have a special construction that eases dressing and undressing. These functional fashions trousers have been designed by Helen Cookman, Executive Director of the Clothing Research and Development Foundation. What makes these trousers so easy to get into—and so comfortable—are completely concealed side-seam zippers with two sliders that allow the trouser legs to be opened all the way from the bottom up, or all the way from the top down, or half the distance each way.

The zippers definitely do not show even when the wearer is seated. Additionally, there is an ingenious inside half-belt of the trouser material which may be buttoned either inside the front or inside the back that keeps the trousers from dropping to the floor. Considerable helpful designing thought goes further, into such careful details as front pockets at just the right angle to reach when one is seated. Front pleats for sitting comfort. Enough material in the seam for waist alterations. And front lining to protect trouser legs from wear caused by knee locks of braces.

The style can be ordered with or without cuffs, in charcoal, brown and gray from Better Trousers, Inc., 418 Broome Street, New York City, 10013. A leaflet giving more complete information including samples of materials can be had from this firm. For further information on other functional fashions contact Helen Cookman, Executive Director, Clothing Research and Development Foundation, Inc., 48 East 68th St., New York City 10021.



A "Functional fashion" for men

Family Rosary Radio Leaders

The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAV, WMBO-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 8 in Elmira, Channel 5 in Hornell and at 88.75 mc in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week will be:

Friday, Aug. 25 — Robert Weiss, St. Charles Borromeo parish, Orlando, Fla.

Saturday, Aug. 26—(Mass will be celebrated)—Francis Wagner, St. Monica.

Sunday, Aug. 27 — Richard Brown, Annunciation.

Monday, Aug. 28 — Jerry Serafine, St. Joseph, Penfield.

Tuesday, Aug. 29 — Francis Regan, St. Louis, Pittsford.

Thursday, Aug. 31 — John Vorrasi, Sacred Heart.



Irish Dancers Garner Medals

The Penrose Irish Dancers, under the direction of Desmond Penrose, traveled to Syracuse on July 15 to compete with dancers from Chicago, Toronto, Cleveland and New York in an Irish Dancing Festival. A total of 11 medals were won by the Penrose Dancers, who range in age from 5 to 18.

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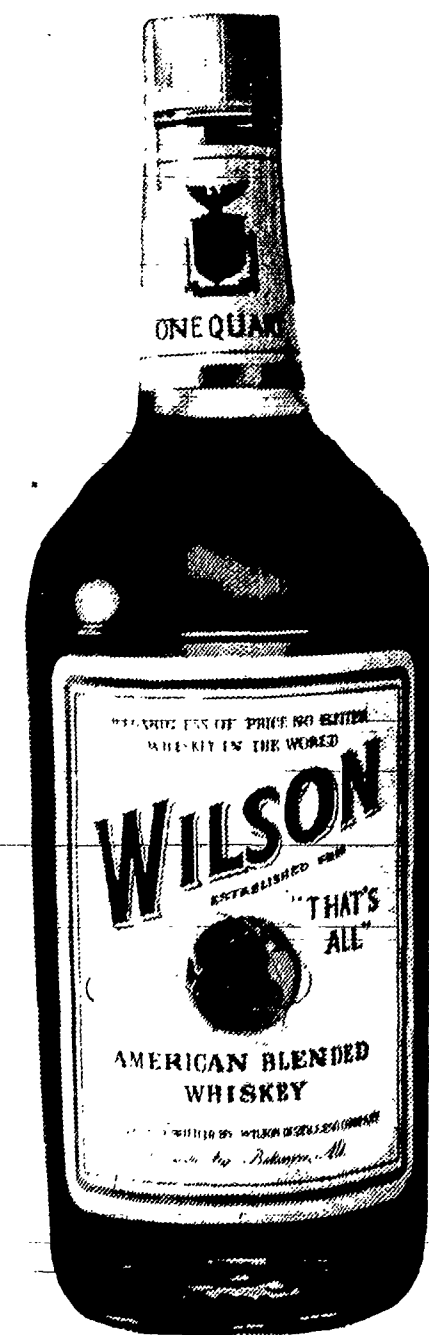


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