

New Film Ratings

Following are the titles of films reviewed this week by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures:

Class A, Section 2
Custer of the West

Class A, Section 3
Sebastian
Sol Madrid

Class A, Section 4
China Is Near
Observation: Due to confusing direction, this satire on Italian politics and morals lacks a clear enough viewpoint to support what may appear to be heavy-handed and offensive treatment.

Class B
Don't Just Stand There
Objection: Low moral tone; suggestive treatment.

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier, Feb. 4, 1943)

Father Benedict Ehmman of St. Bernard's Seminary was to speak on "The Ritual and the Candle," at the First Friday Luncheon Club meeting in Hotel Sagamore (now Sheraton), Feb. 4, 1943.

Monsignor John F. Bopp, pastor of St. Boniface Church, Rochester, was honored on his Golden Jubilee as a priest by Bishops James E. Kearney, Walter A. Foery and Emmett M. Walsh, seven Monsignors and 50 priests. Bishop Kearney spoke at the Mass.

War industries employing women in Rochester and Baltimore were to distribute child-spacing information as part of their general health program to combat absenteeism. It was announced by Dr. Kenneth Rose, a national director of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Learn Defensive Driving
A Defensive Driving Course, sponsored by the Rochester Safety Council and the local Red Cross Chapter, will begin on Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Red Cross Chapter House, 276 Clinton Avenue South. The course, open to the public, will be held in four weekly 2-hour sessions. Register by calling the Red Cross, 454-2400.

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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE



ITALIAN SCHOOL SCENE from children's film, "Testadrapa," to be shown in two parts on CBS-TV, Feb. 4 and 11. Sign behind young student reads: "Today is the last day of school."

Network Responds

Viewers Demand Children's Films

New York — A Sunday-afternoon TV series of prize-winning films made especially for children will be carried by CBS-TV from Feb. 4 to March 24, as a result of popular reaction to the series' debut last year.

At the same time, the New York Film Critics — one of the most influential film groups in the country — has announced a major project designed to influence Hollywood producers to make more high-quality films for children.

The TV series, titled "Children's Film Festival," will feature seven films from throughout the world that have been acclaimed by audiences and critics — three of them being repeated from last year's series because of particularly high viewer mail. Among these three is "Hand in Hand," a British-made film about the friendship of a Catholic boy and a Jewish girl that "got a rousing reception" last year, according to CBS. The films will be telecast from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (EST).

The first of the films this year, "Testadrapa," will be shown in two parts, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11. Italian-made, it is set in 1877, when obligatory schooling was introduced in Italy. It tells the story of a man named Testadrapa and his young son, Gostio, who live an idyllic life — hunting, fishing and farming — until the authorities jail the father for keeping the son from attending school.

On Feb. 18, the Russian-made "Funny Stories," recounting the lively activities of two boys — Mishka, a leader and organizer, and his pensive pal, Demis, who often follows his friend into mischief.

The next Sunday, Feb. 25, there will be a repeat of last year's "Skinny and Patty," a Japanese film in which a poor thin boy helps a rich but fat and shy boy overcome his problems.

"Flash, the Sheep Dog," to be shown on March 3, was made in Scotland for the renowned Children's Film Foundation and is the story of a Scottish sheep-herding dog that seems almost human.

On March 10, Czechoslovakia's "The Goal Keeper Also Lives on Our Street" tells of a young boy's dream of glory: winning an ice hockey game — complicated by his problems with school work and team rivalries. Sportsmanship and good fellowship triumph, with the aid of a famous goal keeper from the country's National Hockey Team.

The following week, March 10, there will be a repeat of the Russian-made "The Boy and the Blind Bird," in which a boy is willing to sacrifice anything to have his pet pelican's sight restored, only to learn that love demands a greater sacrifice — the bird's freedom.

The March 24 film, which will begin at 4 p.m. and run until 5:30 p.m., will be a repeat of "Hand in Hand," which poignantly shows how two children of different faiths learn that they can still be friends despite warnings from troublemaking youngsters.

Critics Pledge Help

Taking note of the scarcity of good films for children, the New York Film Critics — made up of critics from the "Today" show (Judith Crist), "Newsweek," "The New York Times," and several other New York area newspapers — has announced that beginning in February the group will single out movies of special merit for children, offering comment on them.

"The unspoken goal of the New York Film Critics," said one of their number, Joseph Gelmis, critic for Long Island's "Newsday," "is that their collective recognition and support of the best films for younger audiences may eventually persuade Hollywood to begin to regularly supply wholesome, challenging films for this neglected market."

"Despite the daily reviews by critics as individuals," Gelmis commented, "there has been no focal point for encouraging intelligent family and children's films. Even the producer who believes there is a profitable market for vigorous (not bland), stimulating (not boring to parents) movies for youngsters has had no organized encouragement outside of moral watchdog groups."

(Catholic Press Features)

Family Rosary Radio Leaders

The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WISAY, WMBO-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 5 in Hornell, Channel 6 in Auburn, Channel 8 in Elmira and 88.75 mc. in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week will be:

Friday, Feb. 2 — A Kolping Society representative.

Saturday, Feb. 3 — Mass will be celebrated.

Sunday, Feb. 4 — Sam Boña, St. Cecilia's.

Monday, Feb. 5 — Mark Nothnagle, St. Bernard's Seminary.

Tuesday, Feb. 6 — A representative of the Knights of Equity, Court 10.

Thursday, Feb. 8 — William Lewis, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, accompanied by Boy Scout Troop 82.

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Devotions of Forty Hours in the Diocese of Rochester: Sunday, Feb. 4 — Blessed Sacrament, Rochester; St. John, Perinton.

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