

'Local Sheriff' Shoots Down Cliches

"Support Your Local Sheriff" is playing at the Statton Theater and has been approved for general audiences by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures.

(Catholic Press Features)

New York — It is the classic Western-movie scene: The sheriff and the bad guy slowly walk toward each other in the dusty street as the townsfolk scurry for cover.

But before the evil gunslinger can make his play, the sheriff beats him to the draw — and throws a rock at him, then another, and another as the bewildered bad guy high-tails it down the street and out of town.

"Support Your Local Sheriff" the film in which the Western's obligatory gunfight scene goes down in a hall of laughter, was intended to be a low-key satire, but some people have come away from it with the thought that the most effective way to cut down violence in films and on television is to laugh it out of town.

"If the picture has anything resembling a consistent point of view, it is one of debunking violence," concluded the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures. "It is a refreshing viewpoint to



JAMES GARNER MAKING A POINT.

encounter today and perhaps a movie that is an intelligently made piece of deliberate silliness is as good a vehicle as any for expressing it."

In "Support Your Local Sheriff," James Garner (TV's former "Maverick") rides into a goldmining town where the last three sheriffs have either been killed or run off, takes the job for lack of anything else to do and proceeds to restore law and order.

But in the process he shoots holes in practically every cliché known to Westerns, the entertainment form that perhaps more than any other is responsible for the violence syndrome in modern movies, television — and real life.

In the film, Garner plays a man who deep down abhors violence — sidestepping fist-fights, shooting only when he is too tired to think of something more inventive and, when he sees that he is outnumbered 15 to 1 in a showdown, giving serious thought to resigning as sheriff and leaving town.

In other words, a total put-down of the "a man's gotta do—what a man's gotta do" idea that has made idols of everyone from William S. Hart to John Wayne to James Arness.

"As far as Director Burt Kennedy and Screenwriter-Producer William Bowers really feel about the basic western myth it is a childish business, grown men taking seriously an extraordinarily primitive concept of masculinity and the proper methods of proving it," the reviewer in "Life" said.

"Support Your Local Sheriff" subtly spoofs the idea that bullets and bars are more effective in maintaining law and order than common sense and, sometimes, shrewd psychology.

When the new sheriff learns that the cell in the town jail has no bars, he draws a chalkline across the entrance, splashes some blood-red paint just outside the line and soon has a killer fearfully hunching into a corner of the psychological cell.

When the killer's father (Walter Brennan, playing a Ben Cartwright gone bad) bursts into the jail and points a gun at the sheriff, Garner calmly pokes his finger into the gun-barrel, forcing Brennan to choose between a loss of face or — a loss of face.

In a climactic shoot-out, Garner upbraids the mayor's daughter when she actually kills two of the villains. In the same shoot-out — as if it were nothing but a child's game — Garner holds up one hand for a "time out" as he gingerly crosses the street from one covering place to another, yells "okay!" and then the guns start roaring again.

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Seminary Slates Priest's Institute

The annual Pastoral Institute at St. John Vianney Seminary in East Aurora will be conducted by two priest-authors, Fathers James Killgallon and Gerard Weber, who collaborated in writing "Life of Christ," a catechism for adults. They are also co-authors of "Beyond the Commandments" and of a series on "Word and Worship".

Priests from the Rochester Diocese are invited.

Father Killgallon is pastor of St. Ambrose Church in the Chicago Archdiocese; a member of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission and also a member of the Archdiocesan Board of Consultants.

Father Weber is pastor of St. Carthage Church in the same Archdiocese. He was among the first chaplains in the Christian Family Movement and for years gave Gama Conferences. He is vice president of the Foundation for Adult Catechetical Aids.

Sacred Tridium Scheduled

The Daily Mass League and the Fathers of Our Lady of Victory Church will sponsor a Tridium to the Sacred Heart, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday June 11 to 13.

Harold J. Coleman, director of the Daily Mass League, explained that the special Masses would be celebrated at 11 a.m., 11:40 a.m., and 12:10 p.m. each of those three days. The Homily at one Mass each day will

be preached by one of our Bishops.

The Daily Mass League is a Rochester endeavor which has gained national acceptance. There are no dues, no meetings, just a desire to attend daily Mass. The league's headquarters is in Our Lady of Victory Church at 10 Pleasant St. It is hoped that the special Tridium to the Sacred Heart will stimulate greater attendance at Daily Mass throughout the year.

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CCD Workshop Slated June 11

A religious workshop, sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine will take place Wednesday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m., in Sacred Heart Cathedral Rectory Hall.

Featured on the program will be a presentation of "Word and Worship," Benziger Brothers elementary education program which includes pupil texts, multi-sensory teaching aids, and supplemental materials for child, parent and teacher.

Principal speaker will be Kathryn Drew, Benziger's religious education consultant. Miss Drew has had 10 years classroom teaching experience in Catholic schools and has taught religious education at both the elementary and secondary education levels.

The CCD office urges all teachers using the Benziger series to attend.

Sacred Heart Devotions Set in Victor

Mass, Benediction and devotions to the Sacred Heart will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 13, in St. Patrick's Church, Victor. For persons interested in the religious practice of enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home.

Father Albert J. Shamon, pastor of St. Patrick's and vicar for the diocesan Office of Christian Formation, will officiate. He will be assisted by the Rev. Mr. Michael Cole, newly-ordained deacon and director of the diocesan Family Life Bureau.

Dr. Falvo Elected By Dental Society

Dr. John P. Falvo, 320 Rhinecliff Drive, Brighton, was elected president of the Monroe County Dental Society at the annual installation dinner-dance held Saturday at the Towne House Motor Inn.

Dr. Falvo received his bachelor of science degree at St. Bonaventure University in 1943 and his dental degree from the University of Buffalo Dental School in 1952.

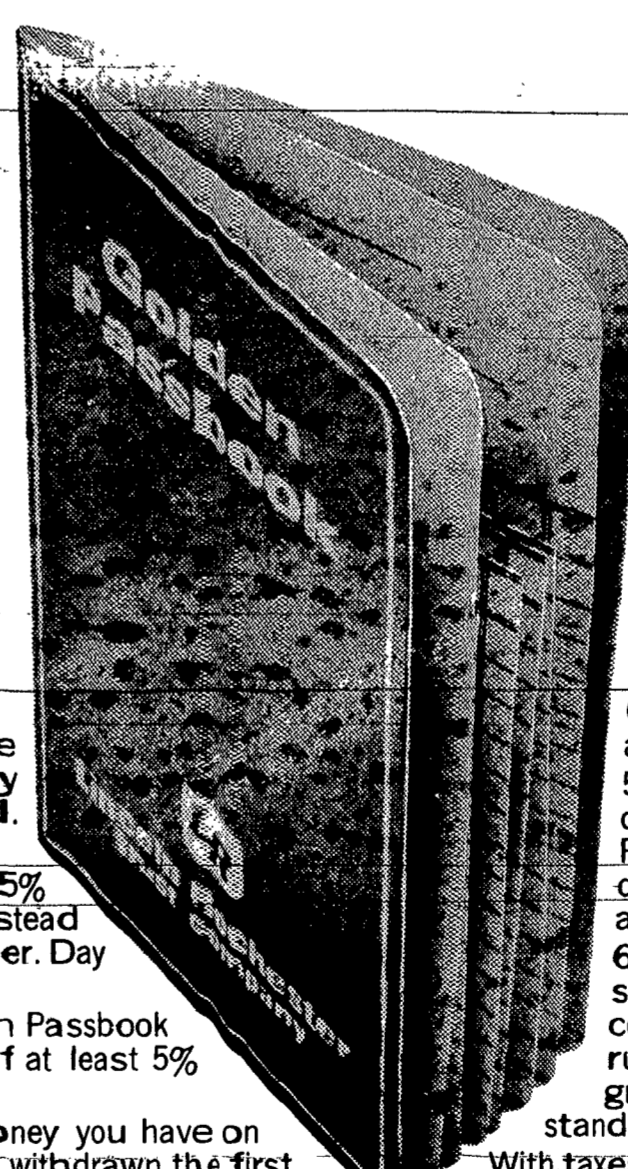
He is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, a member of the Knights of Columbus and on the staff of St. Mary's Hospital.

Dr. Falvo and his wife, Grace, have six children and one granddaughter.

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