

On the Line

Hollywood A Has-Been

By Bob Considine



Any journalistic assessment of Hollywood as the film, capital, as it was once called, should now be made by an archaeologist rather than a gossip columnist.

The town is hardly the historical successor to Pompeii but there are inevitable parallels. Pompeii was buried under volcanic ash; Hollywood was gassed and choked on the noxious fumes from free TV. It hasn't died, of course. A few old and young pros keep its heart beating and its liver lubricated.

It is a question as to which place has more ghosts, Hollywood or the exposed skeleton that lies on the slope of Vesuvius.

There was a small item in the news recently to the effect that two priests who had rented a movie theater to show only clean films went bust for lack of patronage. Their next scheduled film was to have been, appropriately enough, "Gone with the Wind." But a couple of dogs named "Myra Breckinridge" and "The Adventurers" will be box office winners.

"The Godfather," to be made by Albert Ruddy at Paramount, probably will be the big picture made here this bleakly unproductive year. There will be no stars. If Louis B. Mayer had that property 30 years ago, and the imprimatur of his spiritual adviser cardinal, he would have stuffed it with Clark Gable, Lana Turner, Walter Pidgeon, Greer Garson, and a child named Elizabeth Taylor. Spencer Tracy, of course, would play the old Don.

Hal Wallis, Mike Frankovich, the Mirisch Brothers, Eddie Small, young Bob Enders, Ross

Hunter and one or two others function. But the immortal Sam Goldwyn is holed up in splendid isolation.

No longer can dear Louella Parsons say, "Hello to everyone from Hollywood . . . Here is my first exclusive." Hedda Hopper is working in the millinery department in heaven. Marilyn Monroe is in a vault in a local cemetery and there is a fresh red rose there each day from Joe DiMaggio. Some of the great "lots" of old are now just that—lots.

John Wayne keeps punching, but his old mentor, John Ford, is sidelined unfairly with bad eyes. Howard Hughes left to buy Nevada and lives there, but his strongest Las Vegas rival, Kirk Kerkorian has bought control of MGM and put Jim Aubrey, once the youngest brain-in-residence at CBS, in charge. Mayer used to make 30 pictures a year. Aubrey may make 10.

The Legion of Decency was outlawed, or something, years ago and has been replaced by a system or ratings ranging through good, bad, rotten and diseased.

Otto Preminger, the industry's most successful cynic, told a New York advertising executives club meeting not long ago that few exhibitors would stop a 5-year-old kid at the box office of the most offensive film in town if the kid had the price of admission.

I walk the streets at night, softly calling, "where are you, Ronald Colman? . . . Is that you Leslie Howard? . . . Fie on you, Eric Von Stroheim . . . Here Rin Tin Tin, here boy . . . Hi, Van Johnson, you look as young as you did in '30 Seconds over Tokyo." . . . Why doesn't Myrina Loy answer her mail?

Letters

What Keeps Christian Going

Editor:

In today's world with its many problems, it is understandable that many are tempted to feel dismal. The true Christian, however, can never know this temptation, for the "Good News" he has heard renders such a temptation unthinkable. Initially, this Good News was proclaimed by Jesus Christ; today it is proclaimed through the Magisterium of the Church which He founded.

Tempted to dismay by the problem or racial relations, the Christian recalls Jesus' doctrine of the universal brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. The Christian well knows that many have not yielded to this gentle doctrine of the Lord; nevertheless, he, because of his interior acceptance of this doctrine through the action of grace, daily proclaims to the world, through his exterior behavior, the height of Christian love and hastens thereby the day of the universal acceptance of the Lord's doctrine of love.

The problem of ecology in today's world may be a further temptation to dismay, for it reminds us of our inevitable death. A polluted environment does not excessively discommodate the Christian, however, for even as he works to improve the environment in this world, he recalls that Jesus has promised everlasting life in a kingdom which "is not of this world" to all those whose life on earth, with His saving help, merits entrance into His kingdom. Leaving the outcome to God, he attempts to improve the condition of life in this world for all men through an active apostolate; at the same time, he remains conscious of his, and indeed all men's final destiny. Thus, the Christian avoids frustration.

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The Slot Man

A Place For Everyone

By Carmen Viglucci



The Courier-Journal recently received a letter from a guy in Missouri who either is one of the world's great bigots or is doing a masterful job of pulling our leg. We'd prefer the latter but, remembering Harvey Gumbly's dictum that "bigots are awfully funny," I suppose the former is true.

The writer starts off by modestly revealing that God exists in his (the writer's) image, as a segregationist who justifies that stance by noting that dogs and cats don't mate, so why should blacks and whites? That the man is a consummate thinker and writer is evident for not once did he resort to mentioning the birds and bees.

After raking the government for wasting billions on "welfare programs, illegitimate children, etc." (it's the etc. that rankles), he shows that he is not all bad. He urges that the government spend money to "move the blacks from the ghetto to a place of their own." He even picks the place — Alaska!

But, as I've implied, he's more than just a do-gooder. He is a keen observer of the passing scene and a philosopher to boot.

To wit and verbatim:

"One should remember from history that the main purpose of bringing the black race to America was to exploit them with no intention of mixing races. Today and always will remain this condition since one only has to look around him to see it unchanged."

Then where did all those coffee-colored people come from?

And a child shall lead them . . .

In a way, that's just what Leigh Ann Simmons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmons of Addison did earlier this month.

Relatives from along the Atlantic seaboard showed up for the baptism of the child at St. Catherine's Church, Addison, by Father Richard O'Connell, pastor.

Four generations were there, including John C. Cullinane (Leigh Ann's great-grandfather), grandmother Jane C. Simmons and her son Robert H., the proud father.

But that's only one side of the family; maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Walter O'Connor of Rochester also were there.

Nice going, Leigh Ann.

It's just about impossible to steal the show from the Monroe County Band during its concerts around the area but 4-year-old Lori Hanford came close to doing just that when John W. Cummings' aggregation showed up in Penfield recently.

I can't remember whether during "Hello, Dolly" or "Stars and Stripes Forever" or a Wagnerian opera piece or all three but Lori's energetic and modern dance interpretation in front of the bandstand rivaled the band's renditions.

Cummings paid note, "Look, her shirt says 'I'm a little angel'. I'll bet she is, too"

Her mother, however, reveals that at times she really isn't.

Salting the Earth

The Good Shepherd

By Father John Hempel

At last, a breakthrough in the California farm-labor dispute — growers representing over 50% of the table-grape industry signed labor contracts. I was pleased to see the Courier-Journal, (8-5-70) place on its front page NC news service coverage of this settlement.

In reading the press release on this historic settlement, I began to realize some of the hidden benefits that flowed from the agreement.

First, it was a victory for the non-violent struggle that Cesar Chavez has carried on for almost eight years. Bishop Donnelly describes him as a "sincerely religious man and an honorable dedicated trade unionist utterly devoted to lifting the burden of the economic and social injustice which Mexican-Americans have carried for generations."

Chavez has not yet won the war to give his people their rightful expression of human dignity but, at least, he has won a major battle — final victory will not be denied to one so sincerely dedicated to God and suffering mankind.

Second, this settlement could be a breakthrough for all farm workers — some of the most poorly paid workers in our affluent society. These are the laborers who make it possible for the United States to be the best fed nation in the world.

No longer can this nation expect to sit smugly at a bounti-

ful table while over a million farm workers struggle for an existence.

Third, Catholic bishops played a most important role in resolving the grower-worker dilemma. So often the hierarchy is criticized for its inactivity, its refusal to take a strong stand (one beyond rhetoric) on social issues. Here they have demonstrated by means of their ad hoc committee that solutions can be worked out and peace be restored to a part of God's good earth. Their willingness to study a situation, determine resources available and then support the organization of disadvantaged people to determine their own destiny could be a forerunner of the Church's taking its responsibility to help change a world so desperately in need of social change.

Bishop Donnelly who headed this committee states this very clearly: "In this greatest crisis of Christian history . . . we must build a world in which men must accept the fact that we are brothers to one another in Christ; that we are our brother's keeper and bound to help him; that respect for human rights and the public interest is a duty of all men. We won't build this kind of world in the sacristy." The actions of the bishops have shown that the crozier is more than an ornament, but a staff of the Shepherd concerned about the lost as well as those who are not lost.

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