

PAT COSTA

As I See It



"Sesame Street" can be seen once again at 4 p.m. Channel 21 had eliminated the morning and afternoon screenings in favor of a summer schedule showing at 6 p.m. weeknights.

After protests from mothers and children, the educational channel has brought back the 4 p.m. screening and kept the 6 p.m. as well.

I understand it is not economically feasible to show it at the usual 9 a.m. time. In our neighborhood it is the only one of the three time slots that coincides with the actual presence of a child indoors.

"Sesame Street" may be excellent but, happily, it still can't compete with the great summertime as an attraction.

A managing editor of a television station tells us with no little glee that the fellows who write the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" are obviously people

with inside knowledge of a TV newsroom.

According to our informer, the anchorman characterization of Ted Baxter is nigh unto perfect. Baxter you'll remember, is the overly handsome guy, who thinks Arkansas is pronounced Ark-Kansas.

At our house we have been enjoying mightily Channel 13's festival of memorable movies, seen mornings, afternoons and evenings.

After all these years of hearing about Bette Davis and her dramatic portrayal of a fatally ill heiress in "Dark Victory", I finally stayed up one night to see it through.

The head of the house found "Roaring Twenties" with Jimmy Cagney and Priscilla Lane playing one Sunday afternoon. The first adult movie he remembers seeing as a boy, it is a tune-filled melodrama and nothing if not memorable.

Once Over Briefly

Ratings from the Catholic Office for Motion Pictures on the moral suitability of current movies; A-1: morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-2: Unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: Unobjectionable for adults; A-4: For adults only with reservations; Class B: Morally objectionable for everyone; C: Condemned.

AIRPORT—Adults—Good story about a bomb-threatened 707 and a snow-bound airport.

ANDROMEDA STRAIN—Adults and adolescents—Chilling science thriller from a best-seller about a killer microbe.

BANANAS—Condemned—Woody Allen comedy, "tasteless insult and irreverence," offensive because it deals with lowest moral and artistic ideas.

BARFOOT EXECUTIVE—Family—A TV executive discovers a chimp who's a champ at promoting video shows.

BED AND BOARD—Adults—Warm and witty French film about marriage and parenthood, by talented Francois Truffaut.

BEGUILLED—Adults, with reservations— Lust and violence in Civil War setting; called a comedy, if you consider nymphomania and murder funny.

BUTCH CASSIDY AND SUNDANCE KID—Adults—Action story about outlaws on-the-lam with many laughs.

CARMEN BABY—Condemned.

CLAIRE'S KNEE—Adults—A Frenchman romances mentally with a girl's knee; amusing but not sexual theme. Highly praised by Catholic film office and critics for wit and intellectual stimulation.

CROMWELL—Family—History and stirring do about old England's political war, Alec Guinness and Richard Harris.

DERBY—Adults—A story of roller-derbies and the people who share them; their moralities, aspirations and thrills.

DESERTER, THE—Adults—A foreign-made, rough-tough Western.

FIVE EASY PIECES—Adults, with reservations—Excellent acting and pace in haunting story of a man running away from his roots and responsibilities.

GINGER—Condemned.

HOUSE THAT DRIPPED BLOOD—Adults and adolescents—Four British horror tales, non-gory, excellently acted.

IN COLD BLOOD—Adults—Retelling of true story of farm-family murders and how the killer was caught.

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA—Adults and adolescents—Return of David Lean classic of exciting desert warfare. Dazzling cutting of original version makes plot somewhat disjointed. Great acting and photography.

LICKERISH QUARTET—Condemned.

LITTLE BIG MAN—Adults—Dustin Hoffman in autobiography of white boy raised by Indians, who becomes sole survivor of Custer's massacre.

LITTLE MURDERS—Adults, with reservations—Angry and funny commentary on human relationships and the bruises ("murders") which hit us everyday.

LOVE STORY—Adults—Many-Kleenex story of a Harvard Radcliffe romance which never wins.

LOVERS AND OTHER STRANGERS—Adults, with reservations—Funniest movie of year, showing complex outsiders of married love in several families sharing a new marriage.

MASH—Adults—Funny but harsh story of medical outfit in Korea where war has made all jokes mean.

MRS. POLLIFAX—Adults and adolescents—Rosalind Russell fans will like her as a suburban widow who takes a spy job with the CIA.

NEW LEAF—Adults—Walter Mathau loves living beyond his means, goes broke, pursues a wealthy botanist, decides not to drown her for her money.

OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT—Objectionable in part for all—Vulgar and funny romance between a book-store clerk and a lady of easy virtue. B. Streisand without a song.

PAINT YOUR WAGON—Adults—Songs and colorful scenery in gold rush days; shortage of women in mining camp is chief theme, involving confusion and laughs.

PATTON—Adults and adolescents—Oscar-winning biography of tough general whose professional dedication to excellence is his downfall.

RAID ON ROMMEL—Adults—Desert warfare with E. Burton.

RED SKY AT MORNING—Adults—Portrait of teenagers growing up in Arizona town in '44.

RELATIONS—Condemned—Skin-flick from Denmark.

ROAD TO SALINA—Condemned—Twisted morals in a family setting.

RYAN'S DAUGHTER—Adults—Beautiful to the eye, long and moving story of adultery in an Irish town.

SPACE ODYSSEY—2001—Adults and Adolescents—Space-travel thriller with a mysterious message you may partially get.

STEWARDESSES—Condemned—Those fly-girls are not as sweet as they look.

SWEET SWEETBACK—Condemned.

THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS—Adults—George Spot thinks he's Sherlock Holmes tracking Moriarty in New York City.

THE MUSIC LOVERS—Adults with reservations.

VALLEY OF THE DOLLS—Adults—Dope and sex in Hollywood.

WATERLOO—Adults and adolescents—Napoleon has a cinema downfall, too.

WHEN 8 BELLS TOLL—Adults—Exciting British plot about lost gold bullion, sunken ships and double-cross. Super tension, violence and no sex scenes.

WHERE'S PAPA—Objectionable for everyone—A vulgar, offensive tale of families too unbelievable to be laughed at.

WILD CHILD—Adults and adolescents.

WILD PUSSY—Condemned.

WOMEN IN LOVE—Objectionable in part for all—Victorian romance with Oscar-winner Glenda Jackson.

20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA—Family—Exciting retelling of J. Verne classic.

At Home with the Movies

Thursday, June 24 (CBS)

FROZEN DEAD (1967)

This is a horror story that starts out with seemingly high hopes, but then deteriorates into your everyday shock film.

Dana Andrews stars as a German scientist in charge of a project that involved putting some members of the Nazi elite into a deep freeze, to be thawed out after the war. The first part of the film carries a lot of intrigue and suspense, before it melts away.

The national Catholic film office rated this A-1, unobjectionable for all.

Friday, June 25 (CBS)

DR. FAUSTUS (1968)

Richard Burton stars in the classic story about an aging German scholar who promises his soul to the devil in exchange for 24 years of youth, knowledge, power and love. Elizabeth Taylor appears in brief non-speaking roles as Helen of Troy and various other women.

The Burtons filmed it with members of the Oxford University Dramatic Society to raise funds for the university's theatre, and the film—which received so-so reviews—is stolen from the Burtons by a Harvard graduate named Andreas Teuber, who plays Mephistopheles, the devil's emissary.

NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

Saturday, June 26 (NBC)

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS (1951)

Gene Kelly dances up a storm with "I Got Rhythm" and there is a long

ballet finale in this lavishly-produced M.G.M. musical filled with the melodies of George Gershwin.

Leslie Caron is the love interest and Oscar Levant is there for laughs. Some critics consider it a classic film musical.

NCOMP rated it A-2, for adults and adolescents.

Sunday, June 27 (ABC)

THE THIRD SECRET (1964)

A British whodunit with psychological twists and a lot of talk, this is about three Londoners badly in need of psychiatric help who hire a head-shrinker. But he's soon murdered and the question is: which one of the three did it?

Stephen Boyd, Jack Hawkins, Richard Attenborough and Diane Cilento head a fine cast.

NCOMP rated this A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

Sunday, June 27 (CBS)

ONCE A THIEF (1965)

French actor Alain Delon stars in an American-made film (directed by Ralph Nelson) about an ex-convict who tries hard to lead a straight life but who is hounded by his former cronies and by the police.

It is an intelligently-constructed story featuring fine performances by Delon, Jack Palance and Van Heflin, and won an International Catholic Film Office prize at the time of its release.

NCOMP rated it A-3, unobjectionable for adults.

Monday, June 28 (ABC)

WOMAN TIMES SEVEN (1967)

Shirley MacLaine stars in each of

seven short stories, all about women: a French woman in mourning, a high-brow reader of poetry, a fashion-conscious woman, a screwball wife of a writer, one-half a suicide pact, a shy, flirtatious wife, and a deceived wife attempting prostitution.

All the critics panned the film, and NCOMP rated it B; objectionable in part for all, because "this potpourri of comedy, farce, and pathos is needlessly marred by one tasteless and provocative episode," the one about the prostitution.

Tuesday, June 29 (ABC)

THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE (1946)

Dorothy McGuire and George Brent starred in this thriller-diller about a mute servant girl who is being stalked in a gloomy mansion by a mysterious killer.

A great example of how mood music and subtle camera-work can create high suspense.

NCOMP rated it A-2, unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

Wednesday, June 29 (NBC)

SECRET CEREMONY (1968)

Mia Farrow and Elizabeth Taylor are the stars of this psychological horror story about a demented orphan who persuades an aging prostitute to take her into her house and treat her as her own child. Later, the girl's stepfather (Robert Mitchum) appears to claim the child's allegiance. The film ends with the child's suicide and the murdering of the stepfather by the prostitute.

NCOMP rated this A-4, unobjectionable for adults, with reservations.

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