

PAT COSTA
As I
See It



Many years ago when my family first got their television set I used to read the listings carefully and if I decided to stay up late on Friday night I always avoided the NBC channel.

It read: "Steve Allen, Skitch Henderson and the Tonight regulars." For some reason I had decided (without ever seeing the show) that this was a basketball team, something akin to the Globetrotters. And, obviously every Friday night the team put on an exhibition show.

(It was some time before I actually turned to Steve Allen and discovered what a funny man he was on that early Tonight show.)

I thought of my error the other day as I was going down the list of soap operas in the TV Guide and idly wondered what someone unfamiliar with the genre might think should he try to select a show by one of its titles.

To those fans who can appreciate the sense of foreboding the titles are obviously meant to convey, a phrase such as "Love of Life" means one thing.

Cenacle Offers Year-End Retreat

The Cenacle Retreat House has scheduled a year-end night of recollection, with Father Albert Shamon in charge.

It begins with supper at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, and ends at breakfast New Year's Day.

To someone unfamiliar with American or English television, on the other hand, it can mean something else.

For example "Search for Tomorrow" may have a philosophical sound to your ear. For our foreign friend who speaks perfect English but doesn't know an ABC from a CBS or an NBC from a PBS it could well sound like a drama about a calendar printing business.

Some other possible errors:

"All My Children" — the continuing story of the old woman in the shoe.

"Secret Storm" — Drama of competition between two weather forecasters.

"Guiding Light" — story of Maine lobstermen. What else?

"One Life to Live" — About a swinging cat that's used up his first eight.

"As the World Turns" — historical documentary on the life of Copernicus.

"Edge of Night" — live debate over daylight saving time versus standard time.

Once Over Briefly

Ratings from the Catholic Office for Motion Pictures on the audience suitability for current movies:—

BEDKNOBS AND BROOMSTICKS — Everyone — A delightful Disney fantasy about the way to win a war.

BILLY JACK — Objectionable — The Catholic film office rating of this highly controversial film is in dispute. Father Patrick J. Sullivan, head of the office, has taken the matter under consideration and recently wrote: "We often wish we had a classification which would read 'objectionable for older people and acceptable for younger people.' Billy Jack is a case in point."

BLACK BEAUTY — Everyone — A sadly uneven remake of the Anna Sewall classic.

FANTASIA — Everyone — Disney classic that's been drawing older folks back to the movies.

GOING HOME — Unrated — A man returns from prison to a house filled with bitterness.

Kolping Society To Sponsor Christmas Mass

German is the vernacular language for the Catholic Kolping Society's Christmas Mass. Hymns and homily also will be in German.

The annual event is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 2, at St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt Street. Msgr. Charles V. Boyle, praeses of the society and pastor of the host church, will celebrate the Mass with several other priests. Afterward, a Christmas party in the school hall will be followed by dinner.

Leo P. Saeum, Kolping president, invites the public. Dinner reservations should be made through William Wittman, 288-3895 or Mrs. German Sperr, 342-0923.

Courier-Journal

At Home with the Movies

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (1967) (Part I)

Saturday, Dec. 25 (NBC)

A lushly photographed but slow-moving film based on Thomas Hardy's novel about a strong-willed woman (Julie Christie) who proceeds to wreck the lives of three men, played by Alan Bates, Peter Finch and Terence Stamp.

There is a lot of rustic authenticity recreating the Wessex, England, countryside of a century ago, and director John Schlesinger put the film together with tender, loving care. But with the commercial breaks, this is going to seem longer and slower than it already is.

The national Catholic film office rated it A-2, unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

A BOY TEN FEET TALL (1965)

Sunday, Dec. 26 (ABC)

A rather captivating saga about a 10-year-old boy who becomes a war orphan during the 1956 Suez crisis — journeying 2,000 miles from Port Said to Durban, South Africa.

Midway, the youth (Fergus

McClelland) meets up with a grizzled diamond smuggler (Edward G. Robinson), who helps out. The cross-country saga is also supposed to be symbolic of the boy's journey to manhood.

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

D-DAY, THE SIXTH OF JUNE (1955)

Sunday, Dec. 26 (CBS)

If the recently-telecast The Longest Day wasn't long enough for you, here's another film about the Normandy Invasion.

But this one features a lot

Eastman School Lists 3 Operas

The opera department at the Eastman School of Music will stage three major productions this season, all of them originating in plays by Shakespeare. Two are contemporary works.

Benjamin Britten's fantasy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, will be performed for the first time in Rochester on Friday night, Jan. 21, and the following night, at 8:15.

less action, with the stress being on the personal lives affected by the event, especially a love triangle involving Robert Taylor, Dana Wynter and Richard Todd.

At the time of its release, the film was rated by the Catholic film office as B, objectionable in part for all, because of its "light treatment of marriage" and the fact that it "tends to arouse undue sympathy for immoral actions."

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (Part II)

Monday, Dec. 27 (NBC)

See preview for Saturday, Dec. 25.

Christopher Sly, a two-scene comic opera based on the prologue to the Taming of the Shrew, is scheduled for Feb. 25 and 26 in Cutler Union. The music is the work of Dominick Argento, an Eastman alumnus who teaches at the University of Minnesota. The third production, April 28 and 29, will be Verdi's Falstaff, which the school has done three times previously.



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