



Hopeful Sign

The marquee of the Elmira Theatre, which was inundated by floodwaters early in the summer, gives a cheery apology to would-be moviegoers while clean-up operations continue on the inside of the theatre.

PAT COSTA

As I See It



"The Waltons", the hour-long CBS series about a large family living in the Blue Ridge Mountains during the Depression has aced out "The Flip Wilson Show". That's at our house. I don't know how that other ratings system, The Neilsen, has evaluated its popularity.

This show, a semiautobiographical work created by Earl Hamner who gave us "The Homecoming" last year, has won over the children. It follows "The Waltons" is overridden with children, and strangely enough, they act like real children rather than the cardboard characters we are used to seeing on the tube.

Besides the kids there are a couple of parents played by Michael Learned (the mother) and Ralph Waite and a set of crusty grandparents featuring the formidable Will Geer and Ellen Corby.

The cast of kids is headed by Richard Thomas who does a fine job as the oldest, John-Boy. There are six other charmers who get involved in varying degrees with the plot line.

In the first episode the family is the recipient of a deaf child

left on their doorstep. While attempting to find her mother they teach her how to communicate, using simple sign language.

The hour was no "Miracle Worker" but it did have a certain something. The next week, an abandoned troupe of circus players found their way to the family barn exchanging a performance for food and crude lodgings.

The third week the storyline revolved around a new-born calf that was sold and then repurchased after the sacrifice of a special quilt and a go-around with the owner who didn't want to give the animal back.

The plots clearly are nothing to make the series outstanding. But the way they are handled and the attractiveness of the actors compensates.

The show is at its best when there is an exchange between just two characters. Real warmth and credibility are apparent from time to time. In spite of various faults which include a certain slickness, "The Waltons" is one of the better family shows to appear in awhile.

At Home With the Movies

A GREAT AMERICAN TRAGEDY

Wednesday, Oct. 18 (ABC)

Not necessarily the Great American Tragedy, but there is a chunk of solid drama in this story about an aerospace engineer who is laid off and fears the loss of his self-respect, family's love, and other sundry and traumatic items. George Kennedy is the worried man, Vera Miles is his wife, and Kevin McCarthy, William Windom, and Sallie Shockley add their acting weight.

The Catholic film office does not rate those movies made specifically for television.

THE LEGEND OF LYLAH CLARE (1969)

Thursday, Oct. 19 (CBS)

Sudsy, sentimental Hollywood soap opera, with Kim Novak as a young starlet caught up in her first major role, portraying a legendary actress who met a tragic death.

Peter Finch is the romantic has-been director, once in love with Lylah, who coaches young Miss Novak in the dead actress's screen reincarnation. She spends so much time trying to "get into" her role, that Miss Novak becomes the object of unworldly interest on Finch's part.

It's rated B, objectionable for all.

FOOL'S PARADE (1971)

Saturday, Oct. 21 (NBC)

All Jimmy Stewart and his cohorts want to do is take the \$25,000 he earned in prison and quietly set up the general store they have been drawing up an inventory for during those long years on the rock pile. But greedy prison captain George Kennedy doesn't want those no-gooders to have that money, so he hires gunman Mike Kellin and plots with the local bank president to deprive the three of their dollars and their lives.

Alas, poor Jimmy and friends Strother Martin and Kurt Russell get chased over the entire South and, even worse, aging madame Anne Baxter gets her "house" boat blown up in her excitement over all that money.

Occasionally there are some funny moments. Rated A-III, for adults.

THE ADVENTURERS (1970)

Sunday, Oct. 22 (ABC)

A long, sprawling soap-opera based on Harold Robbins' novel, encompassing too much ground

to produce any effective drama or depth of characterization.

Brutality, pillaging, rape, voyeurism, sadism, lesbianism, nudity and adultery are all exploited as characters wander in and out of the story.

Candice Bergen's hypnotic charm and Ernest Borgnine's consistency are not enough to save this film from getting an objectionable, B rating.

THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS (1971)

Monday, Oct. 23 (NBC)

George C. Scott plays a demoted New York judge who believes himself to be Sherlock Holmes, and Joanne Woodward is cast as the psychiatrist (named Watson) enlisted to

bring him to his senses.

There are just too many slack spots and unconnected parts.

Rated A-III, for adults.

SHORT WALK TO DAYLIGHT

Tuesday, Oct. 24 (ABC)

James Brolin, Don Mitchell, James McEachin and Abbey Lincoln are among eight "representative" subway riders caught in an early morning earthquake that traps them in between Manhattan subway stations.

All the action is in the tunnels and centers around an escape route that finally leads to the East River. Barry Shear directs this made-for-TV movie.

Once Over Briefly

DOCTOR PHIBES RISES AGAIN - Adults and adolescents - Vincent Price returns as the abominable one, this time with Chapter II of "How to Kill Your Friends and Influence People."

THE DARWIN ADVENTURE - Unrated - So what if our ancestor was Adam or an ape? I still think those monkey suits are cute.

SUPER FLY - Condemned - Same type of film as "Slaughter," "Melinda," "Legend of Nigger Charley" etc. If you've seen one...

FRITZ THE CAT - Condemned - R. Crumb's Frisky Fritz comes to the screen. Felix, it isn't.

THE NIGHTCOMERS - Condemned - Marblemouth Brando in a film that ends where Henry James' "Turn of the Screw" begins. But, where James' masterpiece subtly implies violence, Michael Winner's film openly exploits it.

RIVALRY - Condemned - Widow's second hubby and her 10-year-old Oedipus fight it out for her love.

HICKEY AND BOGGS - Adults, with reservations - You know those movies that are made for TV? Well, this one sounds like a TV show made for theaters. It stars the "I Spy" duo, Cosby and Culp.

DEALING - Condemned - A comedy about drug dealers.

WHEN THE LEGENDS DIE - Adults - Kill them, civilly.

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS - Adults and adolescents - Bloody good film.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE - Adults, with reservations - Vonnegut freaks will go for this adaptation of Billy Pilgrim's space saga.

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