

"Grapes of Wrath" Is Epic of Screen

By MWR
Once in a blue moon comes a truly unforgettable picture to the screen, one so poignant, stark, realistic that it becomes an epic of human emotions, so dramatically different that it is unquestionably destined to go down in cinema annals as one of the greatest of all times.

Such is the story of the soul-stirring screen version of John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath," adapted from the much-discussed best-seller by the same name which opened at Hunt's Indian theatre yesterday before capacity audiences. Of all the great books written in the last decade, not one has elicited so much vitriolic condemnation on one hand and unstinted praise on the other, as did this great novel of the Joad family.

It is not a happy picture and decidedly not one for children, but for all that it is a powerful melodrama that will hold you breathless, leave you cold with a peculiar feeling in the pit of your stomach. It is thought-provoking in its sincerity and abject humility. There is little comedy, relief throughout and these few bits that do lighten the serious and somber border on the tragic.

The story, by now, is familiar to most everyone. It follows the trek of the Joad family, "Okies" from Oklahoma, bereft of all but their indomitable courage, driven from their land by never-ending dust storms and overbearing landlords. Promise of work in California leads the refugee share croppers to sell their few belongings for enough to buy a derelict truck with which to take them to the "promised land." Their search for this Utopia is a sad, somber and sometimes sordid story.

The expertly chosen cast is headed by an exceptionally fine performance by Jane Darwell as Ma Joad. Her role as the central figure of the family, bent on keeping her flock together, is of such high character that already she is being mentioned as a future Academy of Awards winner. No less outstanding is Henry Fonda as Tom Joad, the hot-headed, paroled convict son; John Carradine as Casy, the ex-preacher; Russell Simpson as Pa Joad; Charley Grapewin and Zeffie Tilbury as Granpa and Granma; Doris Bowdoin, new to theatre-goers, as Rosalyn, an expectant mother; Eddie Quillan as Connie, her husband; O. Z. Whitehead as Al; John Qualen as Muley, who refuses to leave his land and many others.

This is a "must see" attraction, recommended to all who desire the finest in screen entertainment.

Business Upswing Shown in Higher Tax Returns

WASHINGTON, March 19.—(AP)—Federal income tax collections by the treasury ran 26 per cent ahead of last year in the first 16 days of March.

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regional offices since the March 15 deadline for filing returns, income tax collections in the first 16 days of March totaled \$319,999,247, compared with \$253,638,951 in the same number of days last year.

The higher collections, officials said, reflect better business in 1939 than in 1938, and may also be due partly to the fact that state and local governmental employees had to pay federal income taxes for the first time this year.

"Desert Padre" Is Killed in Mishap

LONG PINE, Calif., March 18.—(AP)—Father Crowley, the "desert padre" whose pastorate covered 10,000 square miles, was killed in an automobile accident yesterday.

A religious and secular writer known throughout the United States, Father Crowley's parish reached from central California to the Nevada border, from Death valley to high on the slopes of 14,000-foot Mount Whitney.

The "desert padre," seldom called by his full name and title, the Rt. Rev. Monsignor John J. Crowley, was killed before dawn near Freeman Junction, 66 miles south of here. His automobile struck a cow and careened into an oncoming truck while he was en route to say early mass at Farrand Creek Inn, below sea level in Death valley.

The 48-year-old priest was chaplain for 400 CCC boys in the area.

Officer Shoots Youth Who Ignores Halt Order

PORTLAND, Ore., March 19.—(AP)—A youth who casually disregarded an officer's command received a bullet in his back early today.

Arthur E. Hastings, Jr., special agent, said he found Ralph Richardson, 20, of Gresham at the Fred Meyer store, Southwest Fifth avenue and Yamhill streets. The officer ordered him to halt.

"I'm hell with you," Richardson roared and sauntered through the store. The officer fired and the wounded youth crawled to a hiding place beneath a canvas cover.

Hospital attendants said his condition was serious.

Oregonian Rubes Lose at Basketball Tourney

DENVER, March 19.—(AP)—Marked from the 1939 Peak peak country moved down the Rubenstein's Oregonians from Eugene in a major upset of the 33rd national A. A. U. basketball tournament last night.

Unheralded Colorado Springs Jewellers completely routed the highly regarded Oregon team, 63

to 46, largely through a great second half offense. They ran their lead to 49-24, in the first eight minutes of the period before the Oregonians made a point. By that time they were safely in front.

The jewelers were composed of former Colorado college players. Three members of the Rubenstein's quintet were starters of the University of Oregon's 1939 national college champions.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(AP)—Richard Hall, 86, struck by a hit-run driver March 11, died last night, boosting Portland's 1940 traffic death toll to 22.

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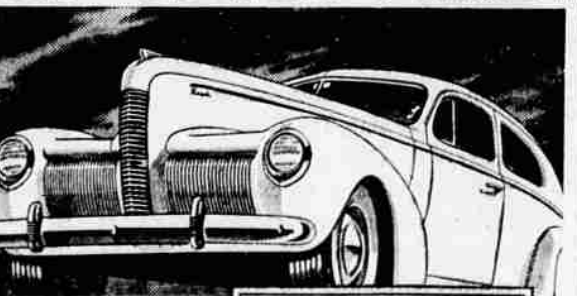
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Bridges Tells What His Union Demands

SANTA CRUZ, Calif., March 19.—(AP)—Coast longshoremen will enter a five-year contract with employers guaranteeing no strikes, provided the employers recognize "fundamental points" of existing agreements and consent to arbitrate further issues, Harry Bridges, California CIO director, said here last night.

Bridges, addressing an audience of 1,000 in a high school auditorium, listed the fundamental points as the hiring hall, a six-hour day, the right to select union leadership and the right to support another marine union on strike.

"Despite employer propaganda, we want peace on the waterfront," said Bridges, who is president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union. "It is no fun to strike. We have no strike benefits. The minute a strike starts, our pay stops and that includes my salary from the union."

He declared shipowners were earning more money this year than last, and said 1939 was a "banner year" for the shipping industry.

Tax Payments by Copco Give Douglas \$51,129

The 1940 Oregon state and county taxes amounting to \$57,205.63 have just been paid by the California Oregon Power company, according to an announcement by

Hance H. Cleland, its president. This sum takes into consideration the 3 per cent discount for prompt payment, amounting to \$11,946.51.

Of this state and county tax bill, \$51,129.63 went to Douglas county. It was announced. The total amount of the Copco taxes in this state shows an increase of 6.72 per cent over the amount of 1939 taxes paid last year, officials said.

Including federal and all types



of taxes, the company is paying quarters of a million dollars, it is this year a sum in excess of three-

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