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FILM ON TV

By LYNN COUCH

This week lightning strikes twice at the same time, if not in the same place. Tuesday night presents, in addition to the suspense of election returns, a knotty choice between the cinema of Howard Hawks and that of John Ford. Although both films being offered are excellent, I'd have to go with Ford this time. After all, Hawks' *Rio Bravo* (that which is being shown) was televised just two weeks ago, and it's a safe bet that within a month or so you'll have another chance at it. *Rio Bravo* is one of the most frequently shown films on Oregon television. Happily, it is also one of the very best.

Hawks' hero (John Wayne),

while in no way "softer" or less able to perform his duties, finds that the lonely road is not the only road and gets by with a little help from his firends.

If you haven't seen it enough to get the dialog memorized yet, you have another chance at 7 p.m. on Channel 12.

A rarer film on television, and therefore the top choice of the week is Ford's *The Last Hurrah* which starts (Tuesday) at 8 p.m. on Channel 5. Ford was a great filmmaker, one of a small handful of the finest directors who ever lived. And because he made many Westerns, whether by personal inclination or studio insistence, they are among the best ever made, both as Westerns and as films. He was not confined to a single genre, though. *The Grapes of Wrath*, *How Green Was My Valley*, *The Long Voyage Home*, *The Quiet Man* and *The Long Gray Line* are also examples of the best cinema has to offer, and *The Last Hurrah*, set as far east of Ford's traditional stomping grounds as possible without sinking into the Atlantic, is no less a brilliant product of a towering artistic personality than are his poems of sand and sagebrush. Starring Spencer Tracy as a mayor seeking re-election, the film is graced by Ford's brilliant sense of time, history, tradition and his overwhelming love for the crowds of people who move through his cinematic world.

Monday at 9 p.m. is *Casablanca*. *Casablanca* is undeniably magic—suberb stars (Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, in case you've been lost in the Amazon jungles since 1940), a by-now-legendary song ("As Time Goes By") and more classic Bogart one-liners than in any other film. Directed by Michael Curtiz, it's entertainment of uncommon richness.

Before George Stevens was afflicted with a taste for super-productions (*Shane*, *Giant*) he used to make films like *Gunga Din*, simpler, less pretentious and generally a lot more fun. Starring Cary Grant and Victor McLaglen, it's being shown Monday at 8 p.m. on Channel 3.

A fine King Vidor Western of the

50s, *Man Without a Star*, starring Kirk Douglas is shown today at 1 p.m. on Channel 12.

Channel 3 is throwing another "Film Festival" your way, this time focusing on the great Edward G. Robinson. I have been unable to find out many details about it, however. The Festival is comprised of *A Dispatch from Reuters*, *Lacey, Inc.*, and *The Sea Wolf*, and begins at 7 p.m. Friday on Channel 3, but according to TV Guide the whole works lasts only three hours. It can't be done without cutting the films to shreds. It might be worthwhile to check it out anyway, in case the magazine is misinformed. If the films are not mutilated beyond repair, the best of the bunch is *The Sea Wolf*, directed by Michael Curtiz, featuring John Garfield.

FRIDAY: *Death of a Gunfighter*, directed by "Allen Smittee" (pseudonym for Don Siegel and Robert Totten), 9:30 a.m. on Channel 9; *Dr. Strangelove*, by Stanley Kubrick, 10:30 p.m. on Channel 12; *Cleopatra* with Claudette Colbert (1934), directed by Cecil B. DeMille, 11:30 p.m. on Channel 6.

SATURDAY: *Man from the Alamo* by Budd Boetticher, noon on Channel 12; *The Chapman Report* by George Cukor, 11:30 p.m. on Channel 13; *And Then There Were None* by Rene Clair, midnight on Channel 12; *The Masque of the Red Death* by Roger Corman, 1:30 a.m. (Sun. morning) on Channel 2.

SUNDAY: *Some Like it Hot* by Billy Wilder, 6 p.m. on Channel 12.

MONDAY: *My Little Chickadee* with Mae West and W.C. Fields, 1 p.m. on Channel 12; *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* by Stanley Donen, 11:30 p.m. on Channels 5 and 6; *Big Brown Eyes* by Raoul Walsh, 1:30 a.m. (Tues. morning) on Channel 6.

TUESDAY: *The Mating Season* by Mitchell Leisen, 9:30 a.m. on Channel 9; *Apache* by Robert Aldrich, 1 p.m. on Channel 12; *Rancho Notorious* by Fritz Lang, 11:30 p.m. on Channel 5.

WEDNESDAY: *Magnificent Obsession* by Douglas Sirk, midnight on Channel 12.

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