

SELF-CENSORSHIP PLAN IS TRIED BY MOVIE PRODUCERS

By Robbitt Coons
HOLLYWOOD (AP) — The ideal solution of the vexing problem of "morality" in the movies, as many film men have seen it from early in the battles, is a rigid "self-censorship" in the industry before production.

In a form this came into being in 1909 with creation of the organization that became in 1915 the National Board of Review. Apart from the industry, yet supported largely by the producing companies, its reviewing of films and recommendations constituted "self-censorship" in a sense because it was voluntary submission of product to a reviewing board.

Its recommendations, however, were not mandatory, and while it could withhold its approval, it could not prevent distribution of a film it refused to approve.

Hays Office Is Buffer
The industry's attempts at self-regulation came to have centralized authority with organization in 1922 of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc. Will H. Hays, president. From that time on the "Hays office" has been the "buffer" between the industry and its critics.

Immediately prior to Hays' acceptance of his post, picture men in 1919 had voted to "reform themselves" — in the language of a reformer of the time — "by censoring their own films." The same reformer later declared this promise broken.

In 1921, united film men adopted a "code of morals" embodying 13 principles. In 1922, one of Mr. Hays' first acts of office was to form a "committee on public relations," including representatives of numerous national welfare organizations.

Reform Crises Persist
The crises for reform persisted, and have persisted since, regardless of promises made by the producers' organization. Reformers have charged promises were broken, while the producers' association continued to reiterate its desire to make wholesome pictures.

During prohibition years, prohibitionists charged the films were failing to support the eighteenth amendment, and in 1925 the producers agreed to refrain from scenes which might be objectionable to these partisans. In the reform point of view, the agreement was not upheld.

In 1930 the Producers' association drafted a new and revised "code of ethics" which still exists. Whether or not the studios have lived up to this code, the agitation that prompted it continued and this agitation has reached its height in the current campaign of the Catholic church, with its "legion of decency" engaged in a warfare on "unclean" films, aided by other churches and numerous women's organizations.

Hays Directs Work
Enforcement of the code has rested in the Hollywood office of the Hays organization, where recently Joseph I. Breen has been in charge of the work. It discouraged the filming of objectionable novels or plays, and was always a source of information for director and producer as to what could and what could not be filmed.

If any offending producer disagreed with the "Hays office" ruling, a jury composed of fellow producers, serving in rotation, passed on the picture.

Breen, known as an aggressive and alert monitor, took over the work in December of 1933, and coincidental with the new rise of anti-movie agitation, began a campaign of stricter "self-censorship" for the industry.

New Plan Proposed
Out of the conference of Catholic bishops in Cincinnati recently, attended by industry representatives, came a new plan, under which appeals from Breen's decisions would be made directly to the heads of the film companies in New York, serving as a jury, rather than to a jury of Hollywood producers.

The virtue of this change, it has been argued lies in the fact that it puts responsibility for the films upon the shoulders of the actual heads of the companies.

Prune Growers of State Sign Code

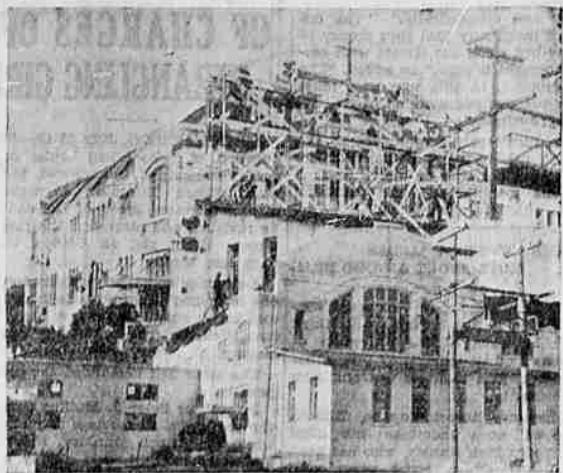
SALEM, July 25 (AP) — The proposed prune growers' agreement will be filed with Max Gehlbach, director of agriculture, today, the committee in charge announced.

The committee reported that a substantial majority of growers, representing also a majority of acreage, had signed the code.

Summer attendance at the University of Michigan this year was estimated to be 11 per cent above 1933.

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"BEFORE" AND "AFTER"



"Before" and "after" improvements to the Agricultural building at the Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem. Similar repairs were made to the interior and exterior of 11 State-owned buildings. Most of the labor was furnished by C.W.A. The fair spent \$15,747.30 of its last year's profits for materials. The entire improvement is paid in full with no outstanding bills.

LOCALS

From Spokane — Jack Permaine Hemaiger is visiting here with his uncle, John Permaine. He was accompanied to La Grande by Roger Phillips and both boys reside in Spokane. They expect to remain here for several weeks.

From Hillsboro — Miss Lenore Putnam arrived in La Grande Sunday from her home at Hillsboro and is a guest this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry French. Miss Putnam is a daughter of Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Putnam, who formerly made their home in La Grande while he was pastor of the Christian church.

MURDER AT MOCKING HOUSE

BY WALTER C. BROWN
Sergeant Harper has proved to his own satisfaction that the policeman and the stranger found in Pierre Dufresne's house were murdered, and did not kill each other. He believes one of the guns used in the house, but when he fails to find it, Dufresne ridicules him. Now he and Detective Lafferty are searching the room in which the Dufresne household was locked up while the remainder of the big house was searched.

Chapter 23
WET STRING
"NO LUCK, Steve," Lafferty reported, finished with his part of the search.

"What've you got there?"
"Just a length of twine," Lafferty answered. "I picked it off the door, near the window-seat."

"The window-seat? That's where Dufresne and Macklin were sitting. Let's have a look at it."

Lafferty handed it over, with a chuckle. "Big clue?" he chaffed.
But Harper was paying little attention to his assistant's joking. He roughly estimated the length of the twine at about twelve feet. "Dufresne has been wearing that bouncing robe all morning," he mused. "It could have fallen from his pocket." He ran the touch cord through his fingers. "It feels wet here in the center, Jack."

Lafferty was still smiling. "You don't even know that any one dropped it. It might have been there before we came to this room at all."

"Then it would have been noticed and picked up before this," Harper argued. "Look at it this way. Assume that Dufresne took the gun and hid it. We know it's still in the house, for no one has gone out even as far as the garage. Whoever took it had to plant it, and quickly, in a place where it would be hidden not only from us, but from every one else in the house."

"Where could it be hidden so quickly and so safely? There was no time to prepare a special place nor to go out and bury it in the grounds."

"Well, one could open a window and heave it out as far as possible. Or, there may be a little sliding panel somewhere in good old melodrama style."

HARPER nodded. "Laugh if you will but there's always the possibility of a secret cupboard somewhere. Four yards of twine—how was it used?"

"Well, I've heard of things being hung behind shutters and outside window sills and inside chimneys, but in that case we wouldn't have the string."

"Yes, and it's wet in the middle. That suggests contact with water—or snow."

"We've looked around outside and we've been up in the little capota. There's not a single mark in the snow on the roof."

Harper was deep in thought. "I'm sure the gun is hidden, not just thrown away to get rid of it. Suppose you call at the neighboring houses and find out if anything unusual was heard or seen last night. In the meantime I'll try to squeeze a little information from the servants."

The detective folded the piece of twine and put it away in his vest pocket. Lafferty set out on his quest, Harper going as far as the front door with him. Then, as he returned along the hall, he glanced into the drawing-room in passing and was surprised to see Dufresne still wearing his bouncing robe, pac-

ter Francana, an instructor at St. Vincent's academy, who has been in Portland recently studying piano under David Campbell and violin under Frank Eichenlaub.

To Baker — Mrs. Tom Standley, of Fruitdale, was taken to Baker Tuesday for medical treatment.

See Celebration — Among the visitors from Portland to the U. P. celebration here who have now returned to their homes were Mrs. Edith Gardner and son, Dan, Mrs. Louise Given, Mrs. Eagan and Mrs. Biblehausen.

Guests Return Home — Mrs. F. A. Elliott, who has been the house guest of her sister, Mrs. A. T. Hill for the past four weeks, returned Tuesday to her home in Salem. Other guests over the weekend at the Hill home and who returned to Western Oregon earlier in

the week were Dr. J. C. Price and son, Jimmie, of Newberg, Mrs. D. P. Price and daughter, Margaret, and Mrs. O. L. Price, of Portland. On Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Hill and all their guests enjoyed a picnic on the creek which runs through the Hill ranch in Walla-walla county.

From Oklahoma — Mrs. Henry Young has as her guest this summer, her daughter, Mrs. Freeman, who is here from her home at Wewoka, Okla. Mrs. Freeman will be remembered by her many friends here as Miss Harriett Young.

Here From Berkeley — Mrs. Laura Zuber Childs, of Berkeley, Cal., who has been visiting her relatives and friends here will leave within a day or two for Lewiston, Ida., to visit before returning to her home in the south.

Here From Logan — Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Randall, Mrs.

J. H. Peitzger and Mrs. W. R. Goodrich, all of Logan, Utah, were visitors in La Grande yesterday.

Tonsillectomy — Captain Rody, who is in charge of the Salvation Army work here, underwent an operation Monday for the removal of his tonsils and is reported to be recovering satisfactorily.

From Flora — Mrs. M. O. Courtney, accompanied by her nephew, is spending a few days in La Grande from her home at Flora and is receiving eye treatment while here.

Former Resident Visits — W. D. Vaughn, who formerly made his home in La Grande, during which time he was manager of the Sommer hotel and for a short time managed the Sacajawea also, was an overnight visitor here. Vaughn now makes his home at Boulder City, Nevada, where he is in business. He was accom-

panied by W. E. Goodrich, C. W. Newlands and Earl Honroth, all of whom are residents of Boulder City.

Here For Treatment — Mrs. G. C. Roop has been spending several days in La Grande from her home at Wallowa and has been receiving treatment for an eye ailment during her stay here.

Is Here — R. V. Jones was registered at a local hotel yesterday from his home at Irrigon, Ore.

Stops Here — Miss Lillian Dale stopped in La Grande Monday en route from her home in Wallowa to The Dalles where she expects to spend a few days visiting friends.
Baker Attorneys Here — Frank McCulloch and Howard Bergman, attorneys of Baker, were transacting business in La Grande yesterday.

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