

Boom In Culture Is Underway In Nation

By HARRY FERGUSON
United Press International
WASHINGTON (UPI)—The cultural explosion and the advent of television have plunged American movie producers into a nightmare world. Their sleep is troubled by visions of concert halls and community theaters crammed to the last seat, 40 million families clustered around television sets, long lines waiting to buy tickets to foreign films and Elizabeth Taylor demanding \$1 million and a share of the net of their next production.

The movies, one-time cultural dictators to the American masses, are fighting for survival. Television is the biggest financial headache to American movie makers, but the deepest wound to their pride is that foreign films have moved into the United States and taken a big share of their market.

Thirst For Realism
"It began shortly after World War II," says Vernon Scott, UPI columnist in Hollywood. "The realism and adult themes of the

French, Italian, British and Swedish films are responsible. At the time this started the major Hollywood studios still were turning out boy meets girl stuff. The heroines invariably were all good and the villains all bad. There were too many June Allyson and Doris Day sweet young things.

"The public goes to the 'art houses' to see things that cannot be found on television or in most American movies. They can see a hero who is not above an adulterous affair, a heroine who cuckolds her husband and a story that does not end with the principals living happily ever after as they walk into the sunset. When foreign films such as 'Naked City' and 'The Bicycle Thief' came along, moviegoers jumped at the chance to see something different from the formula pictures being ground out in Hollywood.

"Since then many American pictures, i.e. 'Marty,' have tried to capture the feeling and substance of foreign pictures. The results have been disastrous in some cases and quite good in others. You must remember that most of the men who make pictures in Hollywood are interested in profits, not praise from critics or the applause of sophisticates. I would fix the number of artistically worthwhile pictures produced in Hollywood at less than 25 percent."

Set Working Rule
In the days of the silent films Louis B. Mayer and the other giants of the industry laid down as a working rule the thesis that it was impossible to underestimate the intelligence of the American public and that all films should be directed at the mentality of a 12-year-old. On July 6, 1928, the first all-talking picture, "The Lights of New York," was shown and Hollywood believed it had achieved a monopoly on the entertainment business in this country and that

the legitimate theater was doomed. But some of the 12-year-old mentality philosophy survived. Instead of using the vast resources of the camera and the screen, the movie makers began photographing plays. Alfred Hitchcock, a noted director who has survived and prospered in the jungle of movie making for 39 years, thinks that is still the trouble with most American pictures. "They are simply pictures of people talking," he says. Hitchcock believes motion pictures should be in motion and loaded with action.

Spectaculars Born

When television began to cut into motion picture receipts, the movie makers decided they would fight back with the spectacle—thousands of persons moving across wide screens in color. The idea was to offer something that

television could not produce on its own. On the surface it looked like a sound idea, but the plan had one built-in problem—money. Most movies are financed by bankers who are inclined to be hard nosed about letting go of five or ten million dollars unless they can be sure of a fairly certain return. Many producers never could raise the money for their spectacles. Some who did lost their shirts. There is \$40 million tied up now in Elizabeth Taylor's portrayal of Cleopatra and nobody can say for sure that the picture will take in that much.

Trouble Everywhere

The harried America movie maker sees trouble everywhere he looks. De Kalb is a town in Illinois with a population of a little more than 20,000. (This is about 16,000 when Northern Illinois University is not in a session.) It has the normal number of televi-

sion sets, but that isn't all the movie makers have competing against them. The culture explosion is under way in De Kalb with this result:

In one week there were capacity audiences for the Texas State Chorus from Houston, the Augustana Choir and the Don Cossack Dancers. The De Kalb Stagecoach Players is in the middle of its 17th successful season with hundreds of persons participating as actors, directors, stage hands and ticket sellers.

There is a Children's Community Theater which brings professional talent to De Kalb. The Drama Club meets once a month to read plays and present skits. Northern Illinois University and the De Kalb High School put on several plays each year. The American Association of University Women conducts a music, art and literature study group. The



SIZE OF FARMS INCREASES—Newspaper shows how the average size of farms has crept slowly upward. In 1961 the national average was 307 acres as contrasted to the 1962 average of 324. Back in 1950, when there were many more farms, the average was only 213 acres. (Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.)

Sycamore Concert Association presents four nationally known artists each winter. There are two art galleries in town, a band concert once a week in the summer and Mrs. Romeo Zulaus, chairman of the Audubon Society's Wild Life Series, says the sale of season tickets is at an all-time high.

Next: Television and the cultural explosion.



The Rev. John H. Lanier, Jr., will begin a two-week evangelistic series at the Church of the Nazarene in Wren, O., with services nightly at 7:30 p. m. starting Wednesday. Friday evening the Gospel Crusaders of Berne will give a special music program. The public is invited to attend all services.

Lenten Service At Church Wednesday

The final mid-week Lenten service will be held in the Zion United Church of Christ, Third and Jackson streets, Wednesday at 7:30 p. m. A sound motion picture, "Triumph and Defeat," will be shown. This is another episode in the Cathedral Living Christ series of films, and presents events that took place during Jesus' last week, from the cleansing of the temple to the time when Jesus was delivered to the will of the Sanhedrists.

Special music will be presented by a double trio composed of Jane Gerber, Joan Bohnke, Alice Roth, Donna Roth, Shariene Morrison and Nola Isch. They will sing, "Now the Day Is Over," arranged by Grey. The service will be in charge of the pastor, the Rev. William C. Feller, and Mrs. J. Fred Fruchte will be the organist.

Following the service, the confirmation class will be presented before the official board, parents and interested friends. The Women's Guild will also meet after the service, and the senior choir will hold rehearsal.

All members and friends of the church are invited to attend the worship service and the presentation.

Paper Catches Fire, Department Is Called

Some paper loaded on a truck owned by Frank Baker of Decatur, caught fire shortly before noon today, resulting in a call to the Decatur fire department.

The paper caught fire from an undetermined source at 11:30 a. m., while parked at Gene's Mobil Service, Monroe street. The firemen quickly extinguished the blaze, and Baker's truck suffered no damage.

Deputy Sheriff At Ordinance School

Deputy sheriff Harold August is attending a district ordinance school meeting at Marion today and Wednesday.

The two-day affair is being held in the National Guard Armory in Marion and was set up for the purpose of orientating law enforcement some of their various duties and obligations in a bombing emergency. August is representing Adams county.



LAST-MINUTE TRAINING—Campaigning right down to the wire for Canada's April 8 federal elections, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker shakes hands with a potential voter that popped up between cars of his train at Montreal. The workman is car inspector Rene Labonte.

Elks Will Install Officers Thursday

Newly elected officers of the Decatur B. P. O. Elks lodge will be formally installed at the regular lodge meeting Thursday evening at 8 o'clock at the home on North Second street.

The new officers who will serve for the ensuing year, are as follows:

Ralph Bollinger, exalted ruler; Roger Blackburn, esteemed leading knight; Willis (Bill) Cook, esteemed loyal knight; Joseph Schulz, esteemed lecturing knight; Earl DeWeese, chaplain; Michael Kohne, esquire; tiler, Curtis Jones; secretary, V. J. Bormann; treasurer, George Bair, Sr.; one-year trustee, James Newton; two-year trustee, Bernard Hain; three-year trustee, Frank Lybarger, retiring exalted ruler.

George Laurant, a past exalted ruler of the Decatur lodge, will install the new officers.

Preceding the meeting, a carry-in dinner will be served, starting at 6:30 o'clock. The lodge will furnish the chicken, coffee and rolls. Members and their wives are asked to bring a covered dish, and enjoy the fellowship before and after the meeting.

Foreign Minister Of Laos Murdered

VIENTIANE, Laos (UPI)—The assassination of pro-Communist Foreign Minister Quinim Pholsena threatened today to upset the shaky three-way coalition governing this Southeast Asian kingdom. Quinim Pholsena was killed by a burst of machine gun fire as he and his wife stepped from a car in front of their home in Vientiane Monday night. His wife was wounded seriously in both legs.

The assassins apparently escaped without being identified.

The foreign minister was the leader of a dissident pro-Communist group of the neutralist faction sharing the government with right-wing and Communist factions.

Quinim Pholsena's group had been suspected of engineering two previous political assassinations in the last three months and shooting down an American supply plane last November.

His death was expected to heighten the factional rivalry which erupted in civil war in 1960 and led to a truce last year un-

Ellis Shaw Heads Buddy Poppy Sales

William Grant, commander of Post 6236, Veterans of Foreign Wars, today announced the appointment of Ellis Shaw as chairman of the VFW's annual Buddy Poppy drive, which will be held in Decatur Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18.

In accepting the appointment, Shaw expressed a hope that this would be the biggest year ever in the sale of Buddy Poppies here. He pointed out, "today, more than ever, we have a solemn obligation to help those who gave us so much during times of war."

"The high cost of living," he said, "has placed an increased burden on our disabled veterans. It is our responsibility to see that they are properly cared for and relieved so far as possible from greater hardships."

"In addition, we must not forget those widows and orphans of veterans now living at our national home at Eaton Rapids, Mich. This national home is the only orphan project of its kind being supported and maintained by a veterans organization. Child welfare experts, who have watched its growth and development since 1925, unanimously agree that the VFW national home is the finest child welfare venture of its kind in the world."

"The support of this VFW national home is only one of the many welfare projects that we raise annually through the sale of Buddy Poppies. Every penny of the sale makes it possible to furnish relief and assistance to our disabled and needy dependents. Honor those who paid the supreme sacrifice by helping the living through your whole support of the VFW Buddy Poppy sales."

derwritten by a 14-nation Geneva agreement.

Reliable sources said Quinim Pholsena and his wife were returning from a party in honor of King Savang Vatthana when the shooting occurred.

Radio Vientiane announced the assassination of Quinim Pholsena early today but gave only the time and the fact that machine guns were used.

Soviet Diplomat Dies In Moscow

MOSCOW (UPI)—Georgy Pushkin, a deputy foreign minister and one of the "young guard" of Soviet diplomats, died today at the age of 54.

The official Tass news agency, which reported the death, did not specify the cause.

An expert on German affairs, Pushkin was regarded as one of the Soviet Union's toughest career diplomats.



EXPLAINS ATTACK—Capt. Curtis Olsen of the motor ship Floridian, which was fired on by two unmarked MIG fighters in the Florida Straits, describes how the planes approached his vessel.

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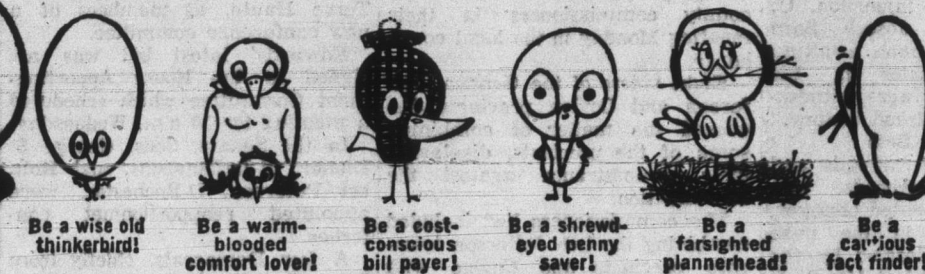
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Everybody that enters gets a Reddy pin!

Everyone who sends in an entry will receive a free Reddy Kilo-watt pin, like the one illustrated at right. It is a gold-plated pin, 3/4" high, with Reddy's body brightly enameled red. It's fun to wear! Contest is open to all children under 14 years of age who live within the I&M service area. Children of employees of I&M and their advertising agencies are not eligible.



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