

**LEND AN EAR**

**Troy Man Collapses, Dies Climbing Fence**

TROY—C. C. Jones, 67, of 123 Staiwart, Troy, collapsed and died Sunday while attempting to climb a fence in a field near Coolidge and 11 Mile roads. Police said an autopsy revealed Jones died of a heart condition.

**Edward G. Robinson Shines in 'Middle of Night'**

"Middle of the Night" is a play that does nothing for Edward G. Robinson—it is he who does everything for the play. In this performance he leaves behind the strut of "little Caesar"—the gangster intonation and growl of movie fame, and shows himself to be an actor of no mean stature, carrying on his able shoulders the whole, thin, inadequate fabric of a play which often smacks of afternoon television-drama

and radio soap opera. The author, Paddy Chayefsky, scored with "Marty," a movie story of little people. But he flounders with "Middle of the Night," because here the little people have become small and the legitimate theater cannot flourish with material which might be better suited to the films where action can sometimes effectively be substituted for a lack of character development and plot interest.

WHEN THE curtain fell, one had the feeling that it really wouldn't have mattered if the play had not been written. That unfortunately we didn't really care what happened to the middle-aged manufacturer and his 24-year-old lover. All we might have thought was that there was a vehicle, demanding good solid acting and an intense depiction of character. Edward G. Robinson would have been more than equal to the task. There were many other able actors in his production who also labored fruitfully under inferior material.

JUNE WALKER as the girl's mother was excellent in a role that demanded the portrayal of weary determination born of a bland acceptance, both comical and sad, of a tremendous gulf in education and understanding between herself and her daughter. The daughter, as played by Mona Freeman, was a characterization lacking much sympathetic quality. One felt the manufacturer could have done better. Nancy Pollock, as the manufacturer's sister, was convincing as a woman who fought for her own security as well as for her brother's future happiness.

THE GIRL'S husband, played by Martin Landau, was a dippy and jaxxy enough characterization of a "combo musician" to make one readily understand the girl's aversion. Ethel Britton in a bit role as the nosy neighbor, was highly droll and convincing in dialogue which consisted of "So what the hell, why not?" and the like. The rest of the cast, well, did its best with a play which inevitably boiled down to a peek or two into the private lives of two unimportant families—their squab-

bles, their crises, and their problems. And all of this is seen on television which daily propagates mediocrity. The audience laughed many times when I am sure the author did not mean that it should. Even with Robinson's fine acting, the audience could not follow the portrayal of situations and people that were preponderantly trite, insignificant and commonplace.

BOUQUETS TO Edward G. Robinson for a fine performance. As for Chayefsky, we believe that he is capable of far more. Even in this uninspired story there were moments of insight, of that special spirit of drama which is, for all men of all time, the lure of the theater. But unfortunately these were few and were often obscured by triviality and tautology. We hope Chayefsky will learn to dip a more meaningful cup from his overflowing well of ideas.

**Random Notes About Town**

**MUSIC**  
BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL in Christian Concert, the Community House auditorium. Thurs. 8 p.m.  
DETROIT SYMPHONY performs EN-PANDE DU CHRIST by Herlioz with Paul Tarry and the Bachman String Quartet and soloists; tonight, 8:30, Ford Auditorium.  
ROBERT and LYDIA COURTNE—Violinists at the Bachman Educational Memorial; Fri., 8:30.  
DETROIT WOMEN'S SYMPHONY. John Swesney conducting—Institute of Arts Auditorium, Sat., 4:30.  
DETROIT SYMPHONY. Walter Ponce will join the original TV cast of GIAN-CARLO MENOTTI'S AMAL AND THE NIGHT VISITOR in a performance of that opera—Ford Auditorium, Sun., 7:30.

**THEATER**  
CASS: MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT with Edward G. Robinson and Mona Freeman, written by Paddy Chayefsky—directed by Joshua Logan—10 more days—Junior, if you like the show-stick.  
SCHUBERT: NO TIME FOR SERENADES—19 more days—Junior, if you like the show-stick.  
**MOVIES**  
BIRMINGHAM: Dec. 11-17: THE JOKER IS WILD with Frank Sinatra, Jeanette Crilly, Eddie Albert; also OMAR KHAYYAM with Charles Boyer and Michael Rennie. NO DOWN-PAY. SERVED with Jeanne Woodward and Sheree North opens Dec. 18.  
BLOOMFIELD: PLAIN GAME with Boris Day and John Ball—an excellent movie—Dec. 17. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS with Charlton

By MADELEINE HARRIS  
Special Writer for The Eclectic

Heston, Anne Baxter, Edward G. Robinson, Ted Blyden, and many more—a multi-begin Dec. 18.  
**TELEVISION**  
CLAWSON PLAYHOUSE: THE EARLINGS OF MIDWINTER with Charles Dwyer, Daphne Jackson, and Vittorio Gassman. 8:30, channel 2.  
OP OF THE NIGHT with Raymond Felton and Nettie Mattson—8:30, channel 2—tonight only, Dec. 11-18—GRAPES OF WRATH with Helen Hayes and Jane Darwell; also TOBACCO ROAD with George E. Stone—8:30, channel 2.  
SULP AND CORONET: A Japanese Film Festival with GATE OF HEAVEN—Japanese Film Award—Dec. 12, 13, 14. LIGHTS OUT—8:15—much artistry in color effects in all films.  
WORLD AND STUDIO: MADMOISELLE STIFFENSE—has France's answer to M.M. Briefer's Bardot—funny, but definitely not for children.  
**TELEVISION**  
PLAYHOUSE 98: THUNDERING WAVE—drama with Frances Tone, Joan Bennett, James Mason, and Sidney Love—tonight—9:30, channel 2.  
TELEVISION: THE EDWARD G. ROBINSON INTERVIEWS Gov. Meyer, wife (Princeton, N.J.)—8:30, channel 2.  
HOLLYWOOD: THE 1919, channel 8.  
WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP, with Robert Trout—"live" on-the-spot voices from London, Paris, Tokyo, Rome, the Middle East, etc.—Sun., 4:45, channel 2.  
TWENTIETH CENTURY HAS MILLIE ROLIN: the story of the first modern-day divorcée—his rise to power and ultimate downfall; with Walter Cronkite, Sun., 4:30, channel 2.  
GENERAL ELECTRIC THEATER: starring James Earl Ray in a dramatized version of Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL, Sun., 8:00.  
OMNIBUS: Peter Ustinov and Kenneth Haigh will receive a meeting between Howell and Johnson; Sun., 4:00-5:30, channel 2.  
**HALLMARK PLAYHOUSE: TWELVE NIGHTS with MAURICE Evans, Peter Laurie, Donna King, and Alice Ghostly; Sat., 8:30-9:30, channel 2.**  
SULP TELEPHONE SCREENS: OUR MR. SUN—a repeat with Dr. Frank Taylor.  
LOOK HERE: Benny Goodman interviewed by Martin Agronsky.

**Youel New Public Relations Director**

Kenneth Youel, 345 Woodridge road, Bloomfield Hills, has been elected president of the Detroit chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Youel, a former newspaper man, is director of divisional relations for General Motors Corp. He received national honors recently when he was named membership chairman of the national organization. Looking for a pet for the children? See the Classified columns under "Pets for Sale."

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