

Plight of Irish Immigrants Is Necessarily Unpretty Tale

LAMENT FOR THE MOLLY MAQUIRES by Arthur H. Lewis, Hecourt, Bore & World, New York, 1964, 338 pp., \$2.75.

Reviewed by MARIAN TRAINOR

The struggle of a minority group for a place in a society in tension on rejection is a vigorous one. Current events bear witness to the fact. History proves it. History also proves that acceptance can be won but it cannot be forced.

One of the groups who was to learn this lesson the hard way was a band of Irish immigrants who came to this country in the 1820's. Fleeing hunger and poverty in Ireland, they came with high hopes to the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania.

There they again found hunger and poverty plus prejudice and hopelessness. They watched their families freeze and starve. Yet the courage they took to correct their plight could not have been more disastrous.

BANDING TOGETHER in an organization known as the Molly Maquires, a few hundred of the men doled out death, beating and destruction to those whom they regarded as their enemies.

Frequently these enemies were mine foremen who were only doing their job when they fired a "bug" for being "under the influence" on the job.

In his book Lewis recounts the hostilities between the Molly Maquires and the operators. "They were not battles between capital and labor," he asserts. Yet the question must surely be asked, would these men have been so willing to follow a man such as Jack Kehoe, "King of the Mines," had working conditions been better?

JACK HIMSELF was typical of the group. At 22 he had already spent a third of his life at work. Like their neighbors, his family was poor, never going to bed with a full stomach and waking up at five on a freezing morning to put on shoes (the only thing taken off at night) which were nothing more than eight-inch strips of thin leather. There was no soap for washing.

Breakfast was lukewarm gruel without milk and sugar. There was a bitter lot indeed, and they fought it with senseless violence. Those who opposed them met death.

HELPLESSLY the law struggled against the situation, but for every arrest made there were dozens of Mollies who were willing to testify that the culprit was elsewhere when the crime was committed and not one witness dared to contradict the testimony for fear of reprisal.

Into this deadlock came Jamie McParlan, a detective who, pretending to be one of them, infiltrated the society and for three hazardous years built up sufficient evidence to destroy the organization.

In his story of the Mollies, Lewis has written not facts alone but emotional history.

THE READER cannot help but condemn the Mollies' course of action for it was ruthless and cruel and senseless, but at the same time, one cannot help but sympathize with these men.

They were illiterate without hope of enlightenment. They were exploited. They were deprived. They were men of character who lent their strength to an unwise course. They were victims of an uncer-

ing economic society where men worked and died early of exhaustion.

There is a good deal of violence in the book but the most moving scenes are those of the execution of 16 of the leaders of the organization.

THE CONDITIONS under which the men spent their last night on earth—chained to the floor as the law prescribed all men should be on the night previous to an execution—their public hangings, the bundling of the hangman ("The rope, which had not been properly fastened back of the left ear, slipped forward, and bound as he was, arms, knees and feet, the man twisted and moaned"); the descriptions of the men.

(In Cell Ten sits Edward Kelly, scarcely 19 years old, his face is wan and drawn, and there is a look of bewilderment in his eyes. He seems more like an acolyte who has forgotten his lines than a man with only hours to live); the sorrowing relatives (The women hang about the necks of the unfortunate culprits and fairly shrieked their agony. Strong men wept, and little children followed the example of their elders) are never-to-be forgotten scenes in a book which is replete with moving descriptions.

LEWIS HAS DONE a good job. His tale is not a pretty one but, as he says, "We have given you a plain, unvarnished tale; we have set down naught in malice and nothing extenuated; we know the tale we have unfolded is a horrible one, but it was due to the truth of history that it should be written."



WISE MEN BRING GIFTS TO CHRIST CHILD
By Cindy Jane Schmidt, six years old



CHURCH CHOIR SINGS OF JESUS' BIRTH
By Willow Ann Schmidt, eight years old

B'ham Youngsters Win Awards for Drawings

What is the meaning of Christmas to two Birmingham sisters? In her own words, six-year-old Cindy Jane says: "Jesus birthday when the wisemen gave Him gifts."

To Willow Ann, eight, it means: "On Christmas we sing in the choir at church about Jesus' birth."

Both sisters illustrated their meaning of Christmas and entered their drawings in the 13th annual Christmas art contest sponsored by Michigan Bell Telephone Co. for the children of its employees.

For their drawings and accompanying notes, both were named merit award winners, with Cindy Jane placing second for grade one entries, and Willow Ann placing second for grade three entries.

THE GIRLS, two of 655 children who submitted drawings in this year's contest, live at 6315 E. Surrey, Birmingham.

Cindy Jane's drawing shows the three Wise men in colorful costumes, bringing gifts to the Child Jesus, with Mary kneeling by His side. Nearby an animal waits in the stable.

tion is the top annual event in automotive engineering circles.

More than 20,000 SAE members and others interested in the automotive industries are expected to attend the 1965 Congress and Exposition from this country, Canada, Central and South America, Europe, the Near East and Japan.

SMITH SINGER

Sharon Connelly, a student at Smith College, Northampton, Mass., has recently been chosen to sing with the Smith College Chamber Singers.

The group joined by the Princeton University Glee Club, will spend the summer touring Europe, and on returning will sing at New York's Lincoln Center and the White House.

Sharon, a sophomore studying psychology and religion, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Nelson of Birmingham and is spending the holidays with them.

ELECTED AT ALBION

Albion College women students in residence at West Hall have elected officers for the coming year. President is Barbara Nunn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Nunn of 745 Sebago Lane, Bloomfield Hills. Inter-dorm committee chairman is Marilyn Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Gordon Anderson, 4325 Pine Tree Tr., Bloomfield Hills.

Everyone is an owner of property—real or personal. For this reason, anyone 21 years or older should make a will. A proper will protects persons nearest to you from legal complications, possible squabbles, injustice and expense.

The 400th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare is being observed the world over this year. Few people know his father was an alderman at Stratford and also operated a glove shop in his house.

Movie Guide

Parenteen Committee
Birmingham P.T.A. Council

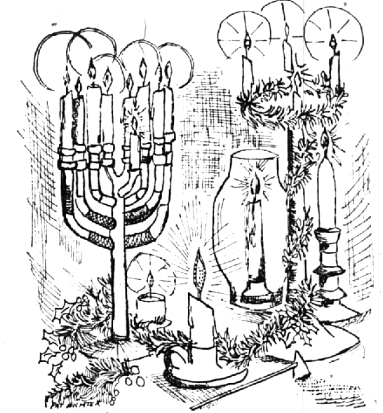
MOVIE	Green Sheet National Legion of Decency	CODE
The World of Henry Orient	A-MY	A-2
A Shot in the Dark	A	B
Send Me No Flowers	A-MY	A-2
Rio Conchos	A	A-3
Guns at Batasi	A-MY-Y	A-3
The Disorderly Orderly		A-1
Invitation To A Gunfighter	A-MY-Y	A-3

* recommended as superior entertainment especially for children

GREEN SHEET
These audience symbols are intended as broad guides to selection, and do not indicate either recommendation or non-recommendation of the films to which they are applied.

- A Adults
- MY Mature Young People
- Y Young People (12 years to 16 years)
- C Children (unaccompanied by adults)
- GA General Audience

NATIONAL LEGION OF DECENCY
A-1 Morally Unobjectionable for General Patronage
A-2 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents
A-3 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults
B Morally Objectionable in Part for All
C Condemned
SC A separate classification is given to certain films which, while not morally offensive in themselves, require some analysis and explanation as a protection to the uninformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions.



Area Engineers To Give Papers At SAE Confab

Arnold R. Brown of 2486 Comford Drive, R. G. Brierley of 1375 Cedar Drive, F. Earl Heffner of 2529 Binbrooke and Bruce D. Van Deusen of 2883 Windemere, all of Birmingham will present technical papers at the 1965 SAE International Automotive Engineering Congress and Exposition to be held January 11-15 at Cobo Hall in Detroit, by the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Brown is senior project engineer for the Chevrolet Motor Div. of Warren. His paper is titled "High Caliper Braking."

Brierley is tool application specialist for the Metallurgical Products Dept. of General Electric Co. His paper is titled "Cemented Oxides—Where, When and How to Apply."

Heffner is supervisory research engineer for the Research Laboratories, General Motors Corp. in Warren. His paper is titled "Highlights from 6500 Hours of Stirling Engine Operation."

VAN DEUSEN is senior scientist, physics research department of Chrysler Corp. His paper is titled "Discussion of Effects of Tires on Tandem Truck Ride and Vibration Problems."

The SAE Congress and Exposit-

Candles of Christmas

A Christmas card with design and verse by two of the school's students being sent out for 1964 with season's greetings from Bloomfield Country Day School. Patty Richter did the drawing, which shows candles of various religions. The verse by Mary Monaghan is "A Christmas Prayer." It reads: "Dear Lord send forth Your light, To guide us on our way, No matter our faith, Or how far from Thee we stray, Send out Your light, To shine on us always, And bless us all, On This Thy Christmas Day."



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SALE

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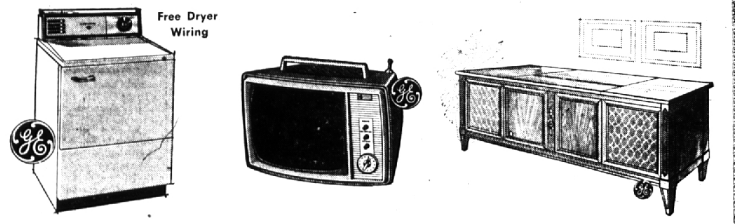
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