



Hollywood Cavalcade

Directed by Lyle W. Nash

FEW movie greats loved the industry more than William S. Hart. When he died (1946) he left all his earthly possessions to the people of Los Angeles County. Now his 330-acre ranch is open to visitors daily but Monday. Admission and parking is free. Newhall, site of the Park and where Hart filmed many of his epics, is about 40 miles from Hollywood, easily reached by Freeway. Visitors can see the corral, the barns, the ranch house and his pet cemetery. Frequently visitors enjoy seeing a blacksmith applying his trade with the horses now a part of the ranch.

HART'S home, called the Hill of the Winds, perched on a hillside, offers a magnificent 360 degree view of the rolling hills and Santa Barbara mountains. Most of the original furnishings and art objects are just as Hart left them. Hart had the designers keep in mind the view from various rooms of the Spanish type home. In the living room, about 20 x 36, Hart's elegant saddle sits, polished and ready for instant use.

EIGHT Charles M. Russell masterpieces blend beautifully with the general western theme of the home. There are scores of original paintings and sketches of James Montgomery Flagg and Frederic Remington. Other interesting items include his extensive gun collection and framed letters from many notables. Particularly fascinating to me was a 1928 RCA radio-phonograph which was in A-1 shape and ready to play at the touch of a button. Operation of the Park by the Los Angeles County Parks Department is excellent. The staff enjoys meeting visitors and are well versed in Hart history.

HART, more than any other actor, created the concept of the western hero that was to (and really does today in clean films) be the prototype of good guys. He was an accomplished Shakespearean actor before his film debut at the age of 40 in 1914. He wrote at least two books and perhaps more. For the dedicated movie fan, especially those who remember the early film era, a visit to the William S. Hart Park is a heart warming experience.

RETAKES... George O'Brien's 1937 "Windjammer" held up very well when shown on TV recently... Janet Gaynor had another art display of her paintings... One time child actor Billy Butts is now a minister in La Canada, California... Horse wrangler William Trow, 82, died last month, after being in films since 1919. He appeared in many of the John Ford films... Organist-lawmaker Frank Lanterman says his installation of the Fox, San Francisco 4/36 Wurlitzer sounds quite pleasing... "Movies are ministering to the lowest passions of children... are wholly vicious... hopelessly bad." That's what the Chicago Tribune trumpeted in 1907. Wonder what they think about Deep Throat?

When Betty Compson signed her first Christie comedy contract around 1916 she sent the good news home on a post card - knowing very well that it would be read and re-read

before its delivery to her mother... Remember John Carroll the singing bandit of the MGM films of the 30's? John is well, wealthy and wise enough to make a new film in and around Rubonia, Florida. *A-Ride in a Pink Car* is the title of the film which might be in release when you read these lines.

WILLIAM WYLER the authorized biography by Axel Madsen (Crowell, \$9.95, 456 pages) is an in depth probe of what made the great director tick. It is loaded with facts, anecdotes, behind the camera battles and to a degree an inside view on the operation of Universal studio in its glory days. Madsen constantly interjects foreign phrases when his English fails and some of his research is less than gospel. The filmography is extensive and the illustrations excellent. Wyler spent half a century in the film industry. History will regard him with the same respect as it does John Ford and D. W. Griffith. Good reading.

IN a recent TV outing for 1932 WBros. *One Way Passage* Kay Francis asked William Powell: "Is it late?" He replied: "Does it matter?" Later in the film she said: "Where shall we dine tonight?" Came the same old reply "Does it matter?" Director Tay Garnett told me recently that OWP was still one of his favorite films.

EXECUTIVE ACTION is the name of the new controversial film about the murder of President Kennedy. It will be in release before Christmas. In the first three years after the assassination some 18 material witnesses died. The odds on these witnesses dying that soon, an actuary says, is one hundred thousand trillion to one. If you believe there is more about the Kennedy killing than has been told, this may well be your type of film.

THE 1973 critics can be tough at times. About the new *Trader Horn*, MGM, they said among other things: "... laughably insane... childish... banal script... cardboard perils... a mangy cur... all mixed up... a dog... unbelievable."

WALTER Pidgeon, 76, told an interviewer recently: "If I were just starting in films as in 1925, I'm not sure I would stay in films. It is tough now. Haven't seen any new films in years."... In the passing of Crane Wilbur, films lost a great talent. He was a great writer, director, actor and producer... Comments, questions and contributions to HC are welcome. Send to P.O. Box 113, Pasadena, California, 91102.