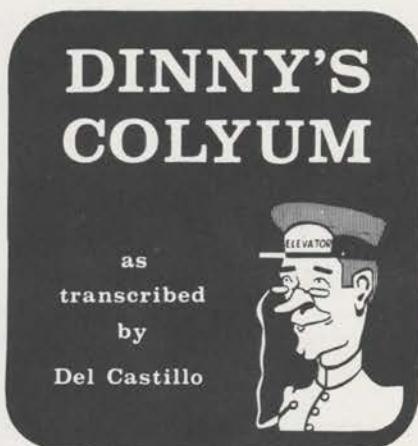


Audience conversation and commotion by adults were always present. It has never ceased. You can hardly see and listen to a film today unless you sit in your own car at a drive-in. In the old days, some people would read the sub-titles out loud, particularly for the illiterates in their families; sometimes they did it just for fun or because they became emotionally involved in the film. During boring scenes, kids would drop popcorn and bags filled with water from the balcony. There was always a certain amount of destructiveness on the part of younger theatre-goers. Broken and slashed seats have always been, and are, perennial.

The only really silent film I ever heard about was a two-minute segment in a 1924 British film *Reveille*, in which the two-minute pause of respect on Armistice Day was represented in a score that directed complete silence by the organist and orchestra. The effect was emotionally overwhelming. It was a truly silent film for one-hundred and twenty seconds. The French sound-film *Rififi* had a long half-hour sequence without a word of dialogue. It was a bank robbery scene. There were only subdued sounds, no music. Outside of these, and perhaps a few others like them, movie theatres showing "silents" were anything but silent. □



Now is the time of the year when us riters has to rite about the Xmas season and Santy Claws and presents and Jingle Bells and all like that there. And all the stores they start doin a lot of advertisin in October about Do Your Xmas Shoppin Early and they have a lot of Xmas decerations and the windows all fixed up

speshal and then they got canned music with Xmas Karols and they got big ads in the papers and if you aint enspired to get out and start buyin stuff for Xmas why you just aint with it to coin a phrase. And then they is a lot of speshal concerts with the big choruses singin Handels Messiah and the Ballet Companey doin the Nutcracker Sweet and Santy Klawses at all the street corners ringin little bells sos you will give them your loose change.

I spose maybe they was a time in the past when they was a real Sperit of Xmas as you mite say, but I guess it must have been before my time because the only Sperit of Xmas I ever seen was everybody in a hurry and gettin impashent if youre in the way and lookin kind of worrit because they is so many people and evrythin costs so much and then on all the vacant lots they is Xmas trees that dont look like the Xmas trees I use to see because they is all colors like pink and white and purple and I guess they never heard of Mother Nature Knows Best.

So I thought well everybody else is talkin about Xmas and mostly they is sayin the same things they say every year so why dont I shut up about Xmas and talk about sumthin else. I spose the subjeck that is the furthest away from Xmas would be the Forth of July so I will talk about that instead. Of course I aint really any better off because every July all us riters says the same thing about the Sperit of Independents and the Liberty Bell and the Sperit of the Revolushun and Yankee Doodle which goes with July the Forth the same as Jingle Bells goes with Dec. the 25th, but anyways I will be talkin about sumthin the rest of the riters aint talkin about.

Back in Boston where I grew up we had a kind of a double barrel as you mite say because we didnt get only the Forth of July but we had a kind of rehearsal of it on April the 17th which was the Battle of Bunker Hill. I think they called it Patriarts Day to distingwich it from Independents Day but it turned out like it was about the same thing with the perades and the bands and stayin up all nite to have bon Fiers. I dunno whether they still have it on acct I aint been back there on one of them holidays, and anyways they keep changin the dates on all the holidays

so as they can come on weak ends. Come to think of it semms to me I read somewheres that Patriarts Day is on a Monday. I even got to makin a speshul trip to the Liberry to have somebody look up holidays on acct they got a speshul department in the Los Angeles Liberry where they look up anythin for you and you would be serprised at how many holidays we got. Of course evrybody knows about Thanksgivin and Xmas and Labor Day and Noo Years Day, and then they is not only Washingtons Birthday and Lincolns Birthday but in Texas they is Johnsons Birthday and Huey Longs Birthday in Louisiana and of course they is Robert E. Lees Birthday in the South.

I dunno about other countreys but we are certainly hipped on patriartic holidays. I spose every country probily does the same thing but we got not only Independents Day on the Forth of July and Patriarts Day in Noo England on the 15th of April and then we got Flag Day and Memorial Day and Veterans Day and Arm Forces Day and Loyalty Day. Betcha you never knew about that. The Congress they made it on the 1st of May but it dont seem like people pay much attenshun to it.

And I aint through yet. We Got Mothers Day, and so on top of that we have to have Fathers Day. And on top of that we got Forefathers Day. And then we got Arbor Day and Fast Day and Prayer Day and Bird Day and Child Health Day and Ground Hog Day and Halloeen and Aviation Day and Valentines Day. Want some more? How about Susan Anthony and Will Rogers and the Wright Brothers and Gen. MacArthur and Sadie Hawkins and Gen. Pulaski and Gen. von Steuben and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Frances Willard whoever they are. They all got Days. Looks like everybody got a Day for theirselves except Jesse Crawford and Dinny Timmins. How about that? □

