

MOVIE ASSURED WORLDWIDE SHOWING BY NEW FILM UNIT

Idea for the Burning Cross was born seven months ago. Co-producer Solly Levinson (World War II vet with 20 years in picture business) recalls: "The vet was being pushed around in housing. He had trouble getting his job back. The Columbians organized in Georgia. The vets had to take over Athens, Tennessee, to get good government. We thought it would be a fine idea to make an entertaining documentary film, showing the forces of evil trying to take over parts of the country again."

"Even though we knew Hollywood was always on the fence when it came to offending any group—even the KKK—we decided to go ahead. And strangely enough, many actors volunteered to do the picture for nothing so strongly did they feel about the script although the writers we consulted wouldn't touch it. They were afraid their name on the script would kill them in the industry."

Actually Levinson got his inspiration for The Burning Cross earlier in the Far East during the war. He relates: "At Chengtu, China, we got replacements in for an anti-aircraft battery. The highest-ranking non-com who was shipped in was a Negro staff sergeant. So he was put in charge. There was a Mexican boy, a Jewish kid, and Italian and an Irish guy—all under a Negro. Those boys lived together in the same tent and became so friendly, their teamwork made them the most proficient gun battery on the field. I guess they knew everybody bled red when wounded. Seeing those guys made me really feel what people could do when united—color or creed didn't mean a damn."

Levinson paraphrased his feelings

into a moving scene where Negro vet Charlie says: "There's something I'll always remember. I learned it in school. President Lincoln said, 'government of the people, by the people, for the people.' I was born in America. My father was born in America and his father was born in America. So I figure what Mr. Lincoln said includes me, too."

Worldwide distribution of The Burning Cross will be handled by Screen Guild Productions, a new movie outfit similar to United Artists. Plans include selling the picture in the South despite sure Klan opposition. Screen Guild president John Joy Jones insists: "We have the ability to reach the majority of movie houses in the world and this gives us an obligation to the public to expound democratic principles. We feel now is the time that there should be free and equal rights for all people."

CHATHAM NOTES

Mrs. Charlotte Taylor, wife of Mr. Tommy Taylor, Wellington St. E. was the victim of a fatal accident. Friends are still mourning her untimely death.

Mrs. W. H. Burke, Wellington St. gave a delightful surprise party in honour of her daughter Barbara-Jean's birthday on March 5th.

The death of Mr. John Matthews, Colborne St. was felt deeply by both friends and relatives. Surviving are his wife and son John.

To Mr. and Mrs. Allison Rolls a fine baby girl, 7 pounds, 4 ounces.

Rev. Dickerson, pastor of the Church of God in Christ, will formally open his new church on King Street East, Monday, March 22.

THEY'RE COMING BACK!



Last year Ontario played host to hundreds of thousands of American tourists who discovered in our province a wealth of places to visit and goods and services to buy. Even if we don't benefit directly, each of us benefits indirectly from the money that is spent by visitors to Ontario.

This year those same hundreds of thousands of American tourists are coming back. They have told their friends about our hospitality and friendliness. Now, at a time when we are so much in need of United States dollars, we owe it to ourselves and our neighbours to see that our visitors to Ontario enjoy the same pleasant visit as they enjoyed last year. Everything that we can do to make them happy during their stay here benefits all of us.



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THE WORLD

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