

## Burkhardt Attends New England Conference

The 24th New England Conference was held Nov. 18th and 19th at the Hotel Statler in Boston, given by the six New England Governors and the New England Council.

The purposes of the Conference are: "1. To promote coordination of efforts for the solution of economic problems common to these six states. 2. To advance the economic welfare and prosperity of New England."

Pres. Burkhardt attended a luncheon on Friday, Nov. 18th, for the whole conference. That evening he was present at a dinner for Governor Gibson. Speakers at this dinner were: Mr. H. Ladd Smith, Vermont Vice-President of the New England Council, who presided; Governor Gibson; and Mr. E. W. Miller, General Manager of The Fellows Gear Shaper Co., Springfield, Vt. A color motion picture, "Background for Living", produced for and presented by the Vermont Development Commission was shown. There were separate dinners for the governor's of each state.

On Friday at the concluding General Session Mr. David E. Lilienthal, Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission spoke. Other speakers included George D. Aiken of Vermont, and Mr. Robert Cutler, President of the Old Colony Trust Co., of Boston.

## Ski Lessons for Beginners

(Reprinted from Winter Sports News)

Otto Eugene Schniebs

Director and Coach of Skiing,  
St. Lawrence University, Canton, N. Y.

The selection of equipment depends to a large degree on the buyer's pocket book. Most of our American products for skiing are well designed, however, I suggest to either go to a store known for its expert service or go with a skiing friend when buying equipment.

SKIS are either of hickory, ash or metal, solid or laminated, some more flexible, others more stiff, satisfying the demands of most skiers. Whatever you may buy, don't take them too long. As a rule the tip of the ski reaches to the bottom of the palm of your hand with arm raised high. Have your skis equipped with steel edges (on metal skis you don't need them) to save wear on the wood and to get a better bite on hard snow. Have their running surface protected by several layers of Liquid Plastic, which will also make waxing your

## Burkhardt Explains Science Policy

A number of students have recently made inquiries of their counselors and of the administration about the "new policy concerning Science." It may, therefore, be of general interest to make the following points:

1. There is no "new policy" in existence, as yet. The place of Science in the Bennington curriculum and in a liberal arts education in general has for several weeks past been under discussion by both the Student and Faculty Educational Policies Committees and by the Science Faculty. It is hoped that out of these discussion a clear-cut program will emerge, but as yet it is too early to be definite about it.

2. One can, however, say quite definitely that there is no proposal to make Science an automatic requirement for all students. Such a mechanical solution would be entirely inconsistent with the educational philosophy of the College, which has never had required courses in this sense. The requirements which have existed in our curriculum have all been the kind which are imposed by the disciplines themselves and designate training which is necessary for competence in a given area or subject matter.

3. Whatever policy emerges, it is also safe to assume that it will not apply automatically to students whose plans are already well under way. No student need have any qualms that she will suddenly be faced with new "requirements" which she could not have foreseen, and which would operate to the detriment of her program as now formulated.

Ed. Note—This is the first of a series of articles which the Administration has agreed to write for the Beacon on matters of current interest to the College community. The Beacon will welcome suggestions from students or faculty as to the subjects they would like to see covered in future articles.

skis much easier for the various snow conditions.

Bindings are of conventional steel cable type or the safety type. Whatever you use don't put the down pull attachment for the cable too far back of the toe irons. Be sure the heels of your boots are in center of the skis. Don't fit the cable so tight that you need help closing the lever. As long as the ski stays on the heel of your boot when lifted off the snow, your binding is well adjusted.

BOOTS should be tried on with two pair of socks, woolen of course. Boots should not be too low nor too high. They should have a strong stiff sole and a high toe box. It pays to take good care of your ski boots. Grease them a few times during the winter and finish up with a coat of regular shoe cream. When taking boots off insert shoe trees and keep the moist boots away from fire. Look over the stitching from time to time.

POLES are of bamboo or steel, some are adjustable. It is well if the grip is of leather, with a wide leather strap and light rings. The length of poles approximately one or two inches above the belly bottom.

CLOTHING should allow freedom of movement. Gabradines for trousers and jackets to shed snow and water, woolen sweaters, windproof parka, ski cap with ear flaps, leather mittens with woolen fillers and long woolen underwear and maybe a scarf. And goggles to protect your eyes.

## Three One-Act Plays to be Given Next Week

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 13, 14, and 15, the drama department is presenting three one-act plays, "The Boor" by Anton Chekov, "Yes, Mr. King," by Allan and Brooke Waring Lewis, and "The Love of Annunziata," by Pietro di Donato.

"The Boor" is being directed by Felicia Warburg, stage managed by Laura Franklin, and the cast includes Irene Moore as Madame Popova, John Devoe as Smirnov, and Richard Deacon as Luka.

Mr. Lewis is the director and Linda Borden the stage manager for "Yes, Mr. King," in which Georgia Hoffman is played by Joan Tewksbury, Babe by Coe Norton, Mr. Hoffman by Richard Deacon, Miss Pach by Anne Borman, Mrs. Sneedens by Suzanne Lockhead, and Wanda by Patsi Birsh.

Mr. Alvin is directing "The Love of Annunziata," and Joanne McCallum is the stage manager. The cast includes Suzanne Sessions as Annunziata, William Darrid as Geremio, Patricia Hogan as Paul, Marilyn Bernstein as Joie, Ruth Rigler as Annina, Mary Lou White as Mrs. Farrel, Elaine May as Grazia, Nancy Smith as Farabutti, Philis Meili as Maria, Jerry Fritz as Luigi, Bert Prenskey as Nicolo, Dusty Hutton as Angelina, Ann Mobley as Regina, Dorothea Harding as the priest, and Joanne Colt, Caroline Crane, Elinor Heggeman, Eleanor Holmes, Louise Loening, and Suzanne Rich as the crowd of Paesanos.

## Bennington Was Never Like This

One day (many long years ago) when Petrie Manning was in the seventh grade, she wrote a diary about Bennington College. A far-sighted teacher told the class to pretend that they had been accepted at the college of their choice and to describe their days at college. Looking into the future, Pete painted the following picture of her college career.

August 25, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today I received my letters and application blanks from the Bennington College for girls in Vermont. Mother says I was very lucky to get in and I think I am because the college only takes in 250 girls every four term. I will have to plan very carefully from my allowance as mother says I must pay for all my own clothes. But I can omit worrying about my bathrobe and slippers as Aunt Ann sent me a beautiful bathrobe of white quilted silk with pink, blue and yellow flowers on it with a pair of white fur slippers, (boy, are they comfy) for college. I met Betty for dinner and we talked about college as she is going to the same one as I. When she left she was as silly as I am! But now I hear mother coming upstairs, so

"Good night"

C. M.

September 2, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today I got up early to do all the odds and ends before I left. Father took us to the Los Angeles Station where we had lunch and caught the train. Mother and Dad had tears in their eyes when I left. Please excuse my writing but it is terribly hard to write on the train. The compartment I have is very nice and modern. I just came back from the dining car with Betty

(Continued on page 3)

## Public Relations Has First Meeting

One of the purposes of the newly-formed Public Relations Committee is to stimulate communication within the campus and keep students and faculty informed about each other. Also, the committee intends to foster better public relations toward the town of Bennington and, of course, promote outside publicity. They will acquaint other members on the committee of the "goings on" around different parts of the college.

These purposes will be accomplished with the aid of "College Week", "The Beacon" and committees that have contact with students, such as house chairmen. Also, there is the possibility of their publishing a special bulletin for the townspeople. It has been suggested that the program of student teaching in town be expanded and that performing art students give special performances in town.

### Members

Ted Goodman and Rebecca Stickney represent the public relations department on the committee. The faculty is represented by Mr. Woodworth, Mrs. Foster and Mr. Hall; students by Cynthia Lee, Dusty Hutton and Stanya Lowe; staff by Miss Shelley and Miss Funnell; and Mrs. Finckel is representing the alumnae.

## Campus News

Most of the college went home for Thanksgiving, and since they are either still silent with memories or grimlipped with term papers, there is a dearth of news this week from almost all the houses. However, the three most faithful, party-throwing, and erudite houses are shoveling in their usual news, and this is it.

### Canfield Party

Canfield reports that Marie O'Donnell gave a pre-Thanksgiving party for the whole house a week before Thanksgiving. Marie's mother sent up a twenty-pound turkey with complete paraphernalia (including nuts and candy for the table). The twenty pounds is now evenly distributed among the Canfield member, who seem very pleased.

### Swan Celebration

Swan had an after-Thanksgiving party, just to be different (or perhaps just because they were still hungry), given by Helen Johnston, who brought the large turkey and also all the fixings from her home when she returned from her family orgies. The dessert, a homemade chocolate cake, was still being drooled over when news was reported.

### Intellectual Booth

Booth house had the most encouraging news received: it runs as follows: "Booth house has been carrying on its usual tradition of intellectual solitude. Several of the girls are finishing up their senior projects.

"Marianne Gershwin has been following the Bagylonian Dance through the ages, while

"Silva Pitknit has been absorbed in the study of the evolution of the toothpick, and

"Cornelia Black has nearly finished her translation from Greek to Arabic." (Doubtless for instant dispatch to Palestine and the enlightenment of the now peace-loving nations.)

"Their studies are only interrupted by the sandwich girl. There has been one serious disturbance. The telephone rang the third week in September. By unanimous vote, both phones were ripped out to eliminate further distraction."

## IN THIS ISSUE

Community News:	Page
Public Relations Has First Meeting	1
Three One-Act Plays	1
Burkhardt Attends New England Conference	1
Burkhardt Explains Science Policy	1
Campus News	1
Features:	
Bennington Was Never Like This	1
"A Girl's Guide to the College Weekend"	4
Reviews:	
The Book is on the Table	2
General:	
Ski Lesson for Beginners	1
Last Minute Shopping Cues	2



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## The Book is on the Table

To the editors of the Beacon,  
Sisters,

If you don't want to publish this stuff, no one, will understand more readily than I; just push it back in my mailbox and all will be forgotten and forgiven.

By the same rule, if you want to publish it please publish it as it stands. I do not wish to sign it simply because that rather (for me) spoils the fun; you are of course at liberty to tell anyone you like who wrote it, and I would, at necessity, be responsible for the use of two phrases which seem to be the property of this institution.

Love and a merry Xmas to all,

(Name withheld at authors request)

## REVIEW

—The book is on the table. Review the book.

—I don't want to review the book.

But as a responsible member of the community who has been invited to review the book, you **must** review the book.

—Don't say **must** to me.

—I apologize for courtesy's sake, but in effect the position remains what it was. —On the other hand, I'm perfectly willing to **praise** the book.

—Ah, but that's dull. Everyone knows your strong line is intelligent contempt. —There's nothing here to be contemptuous of, and I don't see either what being intelligent will get us. This is a book of poems.

—Oh, come on. I've seen you rip the critical bejesus out of any number of poets in your time. All you need to do is take a deep breath and begin in a big voice. You've no need to talk about poems, you only have to say how dreadful everything is. Everyone will understand, they're not going to read the stuff anyhow. They just wanted to know how things are in the poetry world. You know, like LIFE every week. Tell 'em what's going on.

—Such a good book. Splendid poems. Goes back, goes way back beyond, to the *dolce stil nuovo*. Seems like he never bothered with that incredible nineteenth century.

Come, Friend, pull yourself together. Don't mumble. A little criticism, now, a couple of smart, sharp phrases. It's not too late to put this book in its place. —Elegance, pride, nobility.

—Those are not critical terms.

—"The Ceremony must be found that will wed Desdemona to the huge Moor."

—That explains nothing, not a thing. I mean, I like poetry as well as most anyone, but what I like about reviews is that a little criticism kind of breaks it up—know what I mean?

—"The ceremony must be found Traditional, with all its symbols

ancient as the metaphors in dreams; strange, with never before heard music; continuous until the torchs deaden at the bedroom door."

—That doesn't sound so integrated to me.

—.....

—Vulgarity will get you nothing. Kindly try for just one moment to straighten up and make sense in terms of total situation. Time and space are running out. Say something intelligent before it's too late.

—"Desdemona was small and fair, delicate as a grasshopper as the tag-end of summer. . . ."

—I see there's little to be done with you. You've forfeited your critical reputation. There hasn't been one remark about Poetry and Modern Society, so far as I can see.

—"O it is not enough

That they should meet, naked, at dead of night

in a small inn on the dark canal. Procurers less expert than Iago can arrange as much."

—Let's leave personalities out of this, if you please.

—Ephimich & Gronov

N. B. The Editors have discovered, at great expense, that the book being reviewed is THE COLLECTED POEMS OF JOHN PEALE BISHOP, Edited, and with a Preface and a Personal Memoir, by Allen Tate. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1948. \$4.00.

Ephimich & Gronov is the stage title of a low-comedy team presently (according to latest word) doing the Lehigh Valley circuit.

## Last Minute Shopping Cues

Christmas is almost here and you haven't bought your presents? Bennington, believe it or not, has some very inexpensive and unusual buys. At the Sports Center, for instance, white chamois, fur-lined boots sell for \$1.98 and make wonderful bedroom slippers, or what-you-will. Another buy are the fur-lined mittens which sell for only \$2.50. Still in the way of clothes, Nichols sells 100% wool scarves for only \$1.00. They have a particularly pretty design in blue and yellow plaid.

For the acquaintance or casual friend the Bennington Bookshop has some very attractive and utilitarian calendars of which the New England type can be particularly recommended—only \$1.25.

Back to Nichols for a wonderful little brown wood stand which has compartments for cigarettes, matches and even ashes. It looks like mahogany but it can't be for its price of 50c. It's definitely the buy of the week!

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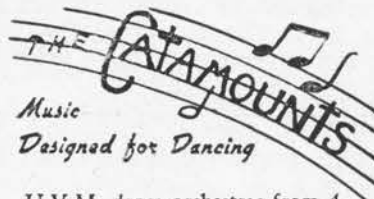
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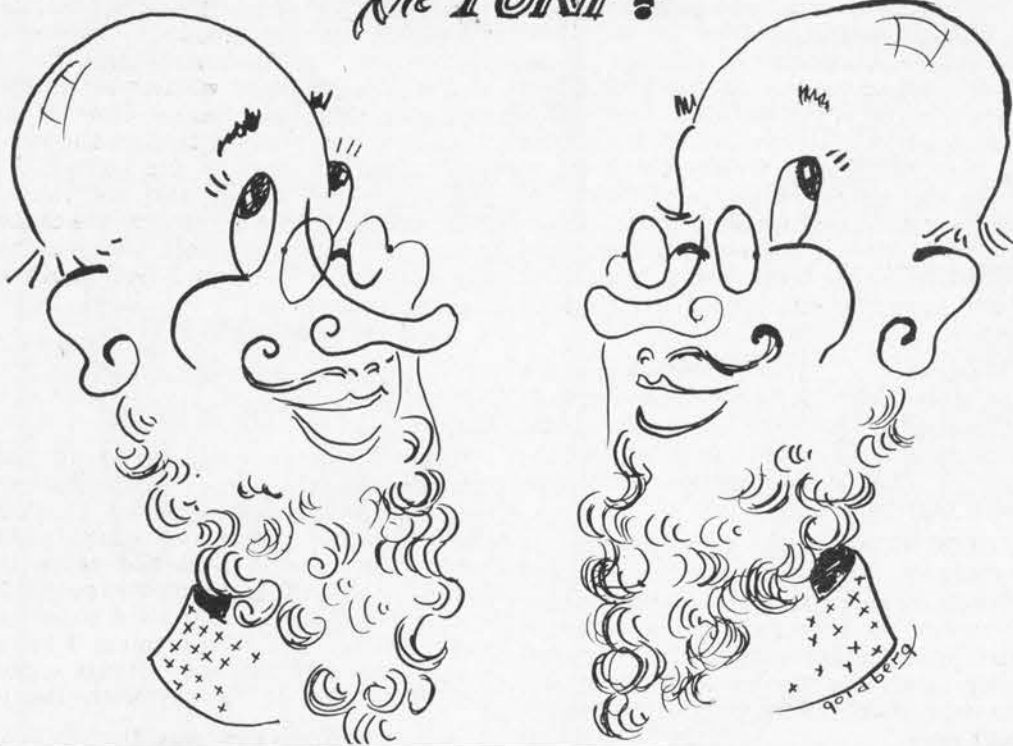
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### Bennington Was Never Like This

(Continued from page 1)

as she is in the same compartment as I. I have the upper berth and it will be much more fun I think. From now on I will be writing on both sides of you as I want to have plenty of room. I will probably skip several days of the trip in you, but that is because nothing exciting happens.

Lovingly,

C. M.

September 5, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today we arrived at the town called Bennington. Mrs. Swan met us at the station and drove us to college. It is very pretty but I could not see much in the dark. All the girls met us and what do you think? They asked me to come to see their sorority houses where I was to live. I had always wanted to belong to a sorority but never dreamed I would. My room is all pale blue with bedspreads to match. Janet Kingsley is my room mate. She is very tidy (thank goodness.) After I was settled, the girls came in with a huge bowl of ice cream and cake. What a surprise! I know I will love it here. We were allowed to stay up until 10:30. Then Janet K. and I talked about how we would like to belong to the art club. The reason she is interested in art is because we are in the art sorority.

So long,

C. M.

P. S. Janet is swell. I love Bennington.

September 6, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today we got up late and went to the dining hall. After breakfast we went to chapel which was very nice. Miss Barstow told us the rules of the college and told us she had planned a picnic for today. We had a wonderful time at the picnic with salad (potato) fried chicken (cold) deviled eggs, lemonade and doughnuts. That night we made a tour of the large library. We had to go to bed early as tomorrow there will be classes.

Good night

C. M.

September 7, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today we met our professors and were assigned to our clubs. Janet was to be president of the art club so of course she had me join. The studio is very attractive and overlooks the campus. Miss Emily Tarton is the art club leader and decided we would start first on sketches and choose the best

person for sketches, etc. As my talent does not lie in sketching I have not got hopes for sketching queen but perhaps for others.

See you soon,

C. M.

Sept. 12, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today was quite dreary except for a weener roast for dinner. We had a secret art club meeting and are going to give an art exhibit on the first of Oct.

Love,

C. M.

Sept. 10, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today I had to write a letter to my family. School is fun but the three hours I spent in the art studio are best. We girls in our sorority decided to give a fruit shower to the professors, and tonight was the night. We telephoned and told them to come as they were. Prof. Landon was the funniest. She had her hair in curlers and was in her bare nightie with half a peeled orange in her hand. The others were in bathrobes and slippers or school clothes. I was in slack suit.

C. M.

December 1, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today I must bid you goodbye and how sad it will be. Well today we had a wonderful time in the snow tobogganing, sledding, and ice skating. Then best of all we rode in a furlined sled with white bells and horses, but now I bid you goodbye.

"MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION"

I wish to go far in my artist's career. Wish me luck.

C. M. for Charlotte Manning

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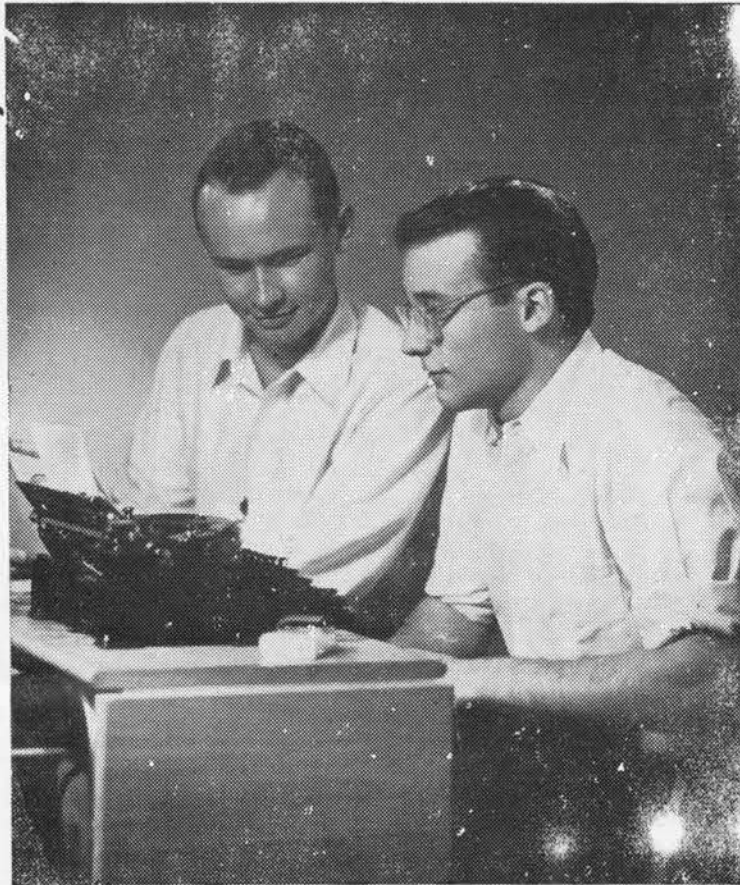
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**DRYSDALE'S**



### "A Girl's Guide to the College Weekend"

William Jones and Richard O'Riley are two Dartmouth students whose interest in a common problem, women's colleges, lead them to collaborate last year on a book called "For Men Lonely". In their second book "Weekend" A Girl's Guide to the College Weekend, which was published this fall, they described ten men's colleges.

The authors, who hope to graduate from Dartmouth in February, took turns as legmen to gather information for their latest book. One of the two boys always tried to be at a college during a particular weekend they were writing about. This meant more than a year of visiting with hardly a weekend at the books. "No one will ever know all the blood, sweat and martinis that were shed putting together 'Weekend,'" the authors say.

This detailed guide book tells about the special activities at each college, tells the girls what to wear, what to expect from their escorts and what their escorts expect from them. Some of the remarks are:

**Princeton:** "Of all the Eastern college men, none is quite so easy to identify as the man from Princeton. If he isn't wearing an orange tie, then his socks are sure to be orange, or his hatband, watchband, or underwear; something, somewhere will be orange and black."

**Yale:** A young thing from Vassar once described the typical Yale football weekend as one continuous cocktail party punctuated by an occasional dance and an afternoon of sitting in the cold to sober up."

**Williams:** "The Williams man can best be described as the country gentleman. He always manages to look as though he has just been out for a stroll to see how the new colt is faring, or how the new spaniel is shaping up for next season's duck shoot."

**Amherst:** The typical parties are

"definitely of the beery, spur-of-the-moment variety, and can best be described by an old Holyoke hand's comment, 'All they ask you for is to sing tenor in some quartet'."

**Brown:** "The walk from downtown Providence to the Brown campus is about as close as you can come to scaling a cliff."

**Harvard:** "These parties are not going to be the brawls you'll run into at some colleges. Proper to the nth degree, when there's singing it's always kept at a gentlemanly pitch, volume and color."

**West Point:** Dancing at one of the formal hops, "the forty-eight buttons are everywhere, and you feel as if you were dancing with a washboard."

**Cornell:** "On the outskirts of the campus lies the Agricultural School which is sponsored by the State of New York . . . here Cornell's future farmers learn about Bossie's plumbing as well as the subtle science of plowing a field."

**Dartmouth:** "There's an old saying that they only have three seasons at Dartmouth: Before Winter, During Winter and After Winter. Way up north in New Hampshire, no one ever bothers to put on his earmuffs until it's fifteen below zero, and two feet of snow is disparagingly referred to as 'fair skiing base—wait till the blizzard'."

**Annapolis:** "If you're Annapolis bound, the surest way to rate a 'demo' is to call the Midshipmen 'middies' or 'cadets'. West Point is where the 'kay-dets' dwell and only they would think of calling an Annapolis man a 'mddie'."

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Thursday, December 9

**GOOD SAM**

Ann Sheridan, Gary Cooper

Friday and Saturday, December 10, 11

**THE PLUNDERERS**

Rod Cameron, Ilona Massey

**BLONDIE'S REWARD**

Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake

Sunday and Monday, December 12, 13

**THE STREET WITH NO NAME**

Mark Stevens, Lloyd Nolan, Barbara Lawrence

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 14, 15, 16

**WHEN MY BABY SMILES AT ME**

Betty Grable, Dan Dailey

Friday and Saturday, December 17, 18

**SON OF GOD'S COUNTRY** Colored Western with Monte Hale

**MIRACLE OF 34th STREET** Maureen O'Hara, John Payne

Sunday and Monday, December 19, 20

**ONE TOUCH OF VENUS**

Ava Gardner, Dick Haymes

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 21, 22

**RAW DEAL**

Dennis O'Keefe, Claire Trevor

**THE ADVENTURES OF GALLANT BESS**

Cameron Mitchell, Audrey Long

Thursday and Friday, December 23, 24

**THE VIRGINIAN**

Barbara Britton, Joel McCrea

**JUNGLE FLIGHT**

Robert Lowery, Ann Savage

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