



LOUISE SNIDER

Danger shadows 'Company C' boys

Keeping company with "The Boys in Company C" (R) can be hazardous to your health. The stats at the end of this Vietnam war film verify that. But the cast of young, unknown—but not untalented—actors has worked hard to pump some individuality into cardboard characters and statistics. "The Boys in Company C" presents a familiar line of development. It follows the lives of a cross section of young men as they metamorphose from raw recruits to battle-hardened soldiers.

With one exception, a suspenseful sequence in which the soldiers are moving through a minefield, the most vivid scenes are those at boot camp, not in Nam. Apparently, hell hath no fury like a Marine drill instructor. Depiction of the rigors, the brutal training and the indignities of boot camp not only grind down the recruits but assault the viewers. The obscenities alone could scar for life, and the entire first half of this film is one long stinging whiplash of obscenities.

THE IDEA MOTIVATING THIS mode of training is to divest each man of personal pride and self respect, then when he admits to being nothing more than —, the rebuilding process starts. Individuality is replaced by a sense of group pride and responsibility. The sense of mutual trust is supposed to help keep them alive in combat.

It is ironic that the concentration of furious energy packed into the drill scenes somehow is dissipated when we get to the real war. The film is much less taut once the locale is shifted to Vietnam.

Here, the director, Sidney J. Furie, throws in every old theme and cliché of war movies: Sentimentality, inept leadership, corruption, favoritism, black marketeering and, of course, the requisite sacrifice—the soldier who throws himself on a live grenade to save others.

There is even a soccer game (Marines vs. Vietnamese allies) that is just a variation on the football game in "M*A*S*H."

If there is anything distinctive about this war, it is suggested only in the narrow, mechanical attitude of the Company Captain. His biggest concern is not his men, not winning battles, but obtaining a high "body count." A high body count is everything.

OTHER THAN THAT, one gleams little information about Vietnam. There is no particular slant or message to this movie. It focuses more on individuals than on strategy or politics.

What "The Boys in Company C" has going for it is a Philippines location and the use of new and unfamiliar faces, such as Stan Shaw, James Whitmore Jr., Michael Lembeck, James Canning and Andrew Stevens.

The resemblance to southeast Asia and the presence of ordinary persons (not superstars) are two factors which strengthen the film by suggesting authenticity.



Michael Lembeck portrays a sharp sports hustler who learns about selflessness and comradeship as a U.S. Marine.

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

THE BETSY (R). Intrigue and power within horny the set of auto industry, based on Harold Robbins best-selling novel. Many scenes filmed in metropolitan Detroit.

BLUE COLLAR (R). Tough, realistic drama of three auto workers whose small-time rip-off produces drastic results.

CANDLESHOE (G). Jodie Foster in Walt Disney adventure about young heiress and a search for treasure. Helen Hayes and David Niven co-star.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND (PG). Steven Spielberg's megabuck epic about contact with extra-terrestrial beings. Special effects make this another treat for sci-fi fans.

COMA (PG). Scary and unpleasant movie about some strange goings-on at a hospital. Genevieve Bujold is the plucky doctor who uncovers a fiendish arrangement.

THE GOODBYE GIRL (PG). Neil Simon comedy of set-up situation and laughs when an actor (Richard Dreyfuss) moves in with a twice-dumped, actor-hating hooter (Marsha Mason).

A HERO AIN'T NOTHING BUT A SANDWICH (PG). Cicely Tyson and Paul Winfield in constructive story about young black teenager who shoots heroin to escape home-life pressures.

HIGH ANXIETY (PG). Mel Brooks tips his hat to Hitchcock in this lumatic romp at the Psycho-Theoretic Institute for the Very, Very Nervous. Liberal visual "quotations" from Hitchcock in this howler.

THE MOUSE AND HIS CHILD (G). Award-winning full-length cartoon feature with voices of Peter Ustinov and Cloris Leachman.

THE ONE AND ONLY (PG). Zany romantic comedy with Henry Winkler pursuing Kim Darby and getting gussied up as a wrestler called "The Lover."

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN, PART II (PG). Three-hanky movie about doubts, frustrations and loves of real-life Olympic skier portrayed after an accident.

THAT OBSCURE OBJECT OF DESIRE (R). Whitty tale about middle-aged French capitalist who falls in love with young Spanish housemaid whose identity keeps changing.

THE NIGHT FEVER (R). John Travolta (of Kotler's sweet-hearts) is the main man in film with plenty of disco action.

SEMI-TOUGH (R). Self-improvement schemes and football take equal lumps in comic but raunchy film with Burt Reynolds and Kris Kristofferson.

THE SERPENT'S EGG (R). Liv Ullmann in Ingmar Bergman's savage account of the violence and decadence of Berlin in the '20s.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audiences admitted.
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
X No one under 18 admitted.

Badlands look good in winter

Travel

Take a trip through the past—to the threshold of the West—the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska, country known as the Old West Trail. The West that once was will never be again but its heritage remains thoroughly imbedded in the lifestyle and culture of these four states.

You'll see Western ways and habits all around when you travel through Old West Trail country but perhaps the most aesthetic and vivid way to find the true West is by discovering the art which depicts it.

Famed western artist Charles Russell left his brand on Montana and there you will find art galleries that display many of his best works. Russell rode with the cowboys of his time, shared details of their lives and painted them in such a way that he forever captured the hearts of people both East and West.

He was born in St. Louis, Mo. in 1864, came to Montana in 1880, lived dangerously and gloriously in this big land. He became Western in appearance, actions, ideas, speech and attitude. He painted cowboys, Indians and their land in graphic detail.

C.M. RUSSELL produced more than 3,000 known works of art in his lifetime and they remain some of the most significant documentary records of the Old West. Western historian K. Ross Toole once said, "The entire artistic product of Charles M. Russell is an eternal commentary on the end of a

great and important American experience."

Russell's art can be seen at the C.M. Russell Gallery in the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building, 224 N. Roberts in Helena. His oils, sculpture and watercolors of the West are exhibited here and can be viewed each day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Winter hours differ and it's best to check those.

The collection housed in the gallery represents a cross-section of the prodigious output of Charles Russell. Many personal objects, photographs and less formal pieces of art also are on display in the gallery. Reproductions of Russell's oils, his original art and Russell bronzes are available from the gallery.

The C.M. Russell Museum, 1201 Fourth Ave. North in Great Falls also has an excellent selection of his art. The museum is open daily during the summer and just down the street is Russell's former home and studio. You can tour them Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. from May 15 through Sept. 15. During the fall and winter months the museum is closed on Mondays.

Seafood restaurateur earns honor

Detroit restaurateur Charles A. "Chuck" Muer has been honored by the Michigan Restaurant Association with its highest award, the Distinguished Service Award.

Muer is a third-generation restaurateur and president of C.A. Muer Corp. of Detroit. C.A. Muer Corp. operates 13 restaurants, including Charley's Crab in Troy, Bloomfield Charley's in West Bloomfield and Clandingers in Farmington Hills.

A 14th restaurant, the Grand Concourse, is set to open in mid-March in historic P & LE Railroad terminal in Pittsburgh's new Station Square development.

Son and grandson of a Detroit restaurant dynasty family, Chuck Muer was 27 years old when he founded and became president of C.A. Muer Corp.

MEUR WAS BORN in Detroit in 1937 and grew up working in the family restaurant.

taurant as porter, kitchen helper, bus boy, cashier, oysterman, bookkeeper and maître d'.

The name "Muer" has been honored in Detroit since 1865, when grandfather Joe Muer opened a factory for making fine cigars. In 1929, he opened Muer's Oyster House on the corner of Gratiot and Vernor, where the internationally famous restaurant still stands today.

Chuck Muer graduated from the University of Detroit High School and John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Despite a budding career of five years as IBM sales representative, he succumbed to the lure of Muer tradition and formed C.A. Muer Corp. in 1964 to handle the restaurant operations of the soon-to-be-opened Hotel Pontchartrain in downtown Detroit.

Today, C.A. Muer Corp. still operates the food and beverage services at

ADMISSION IS \$1 for individuals, \$2 for families and 50 cents for students or group tour members. Hours for the studio and home are the same but no admission is charged.

The C.M. Russell Museum has collections of Russell watercolors, oils, sculpture and samples of his illustrated letters. You can buy reproductions of his art there.

South Dakota's Harvey Dum, born and raised on the frontier of Dakota Territory, painted the prairies of this land in his own honest method, depicting both their unexplainable beauty and the frustration found in their empty spaces.

Dum, who was reared near Manchester, S.D., on a homestead bordering a lion run, studied at the Chicago Institute of Art and in New York under Howard Pyle. For the last 25 summers of his life he returned to his prairies and painted the land and its people. Dum once remarked, "I prefer painting pictures of early South Dakota to any other kind . . . my search for other horizons has led me around to my first."

DUNN, RECENTLY named to the Hall of Fame of the Society of Illustrators, died in 1952. A collection of 59 of his oil paintings is now housed in the museum. The center on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings. The center is located at 1000 Medary Ave. and is open during the week throughout the year from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. on week-

ends the art center is open Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. on Sundays. The center is open free to the public and many reproductions of Dum's paintings are sold there.

In DeSmet, west of Brookings and Dum's summer home during his life, two of his paintings hang in the office of the DeSmet News. There are also Dum paintings at the Museum of Pioneer Life, 1311 S. Duff in Mitchell. That museum is open daily during the summer, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and reproductions of Dum's art can be purchased there. Dum prints can also be bought at Corn Palace Concessions, 605 N. Main, Mitchell.

The western art of North Dakota is probably best typified in the works of two artists, James A. Kirkpatrick and Gordon Mortenson. Kirkpatrick, 78, who homesteaded near Beach, N.D., and now resides in Jamestown, N.D., is still painting vigorously.

In his pen and ink drawings and oil and watercolor paintings Kirkpatrick depicts the pioneer west he knew—its native inhabitants, immigrants and hard-working settlers. In many of his works he instills a feeling of hard-core humor that brings the viewer a new insight into life in the Old West.

KIRKPATRICK PAINTS every day, and during the summer can be seen at his studio in Frontier Village open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., north of Interstate 94 at Jamestown. His works also are displayed at many business places in Jamestown.



C.A. "CHUCK" MUER

Safaris combine game viewing, sports

Mountain Travel, the California firm which pioneered worldwide wilderness travel some 10 years ago, is offering a series of game viewing safaris in the national parks of India, Bhutan and Nepal.

These 24-day safaris are designed for the dedicated outdoor and wildlife enthusiast and are a comfortable blend of camping, staying in game lodges, hiking, river-running and wildlife viewing.

The Indian sub-continent houses a magnificent array of wildlife—more than 500 species of mammals including tiger, leopard, one-horned rhino, gaur (Indian bison), wild elephant, many species of deer, and more than 2,200 species of birds.

Unlike its counterpart in Africa where game congregates in large numbers, the wildlife of India is solitary and somewhat elusive, and many of the large mammals are on the endangered species list. The excitement of Indian game viewing lies in

the search for these now-protected rare species.

The Mountain Travel India-Bhutan-Nepal Wildlife Safari—limited to a maximum of 12 participants—will travel by elephant on foot or in land-rovers to seek out wildlife in tall jungle grasses, along peaceful rivers, across Himalayan foothills, forested plains and open grasslands.

AMONG THE SAFARI'S highlights will be visits to two game parks in Assam: Kaziranga, a great stronghold of the one-horned rhino, and Manas on the India/Bhutan border, where the game viewing is done by small boat on the sparkling waters of the Manas River. Moving north to Nepal, there will be an exciting but safe two-day boat trip in rubber rafts down Nepal's Trisuli River to the jungle game lodge of Tiger Tops in Chitwan National Park.

Then, a visit to Arjan Singh's farm, Tiger Haven, adjoining Dudwa

National Park in India, and finally a visit to Kanha in central India, the finest area for the heart-pounding experience of encountering a Bengal tiger in the wild.

Time is also set aside for sight-seeing in Delhi, Calcutta, Kathmandu and Bombay, but the major emphasis is on the in-depth exploration of the varied wildlife habitats of the Indian sub-continent.

Along with two experienced safari leaders, the group will be hosted in each game park by well known naturalists and wildlife experts. Departures are scheduled through December. For a fully detailed four-color brochure on the Mountain Travel India-Bhutan-Nepal Wildlife Safaris, contact Mountain Travel, Solano Avenue, Albany, Calif. 94706; (415) 527-8100, Telex 335-425.

Vocal group offers concert

Bloomfield Hills Community Singers will present its debut concert at 4 p.m. Sunday at Conant Elementary School, on Quanton Road, one block east of Telegraph in Bloomfield Hills.

It will be a family concert and sing-along. There will be an admission

charge for anyone 17 or older. Senior citizens and those under 17 will be admitted free.

The concert is sponsored by the Bloomfield Hills Schools Recreation-Community Education Department.

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