

Gene Wilder in "The Frisco Kid."



## Rabbi hits stride traveling to Frisco through old West

Take a healthy portion of "Fiddler on the Roof," add the buddyism of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," throw in a dash of Mel Brooks' "Blazing Saddles" and you just may have the first Jewish Western, "The Cricox Kid", Use "Blazing Saddles" Frisco Kid" (PG).

"Blazing Saddles" and you just may have the first Jewish Western, "The Frisco Kid" (CP) Days the graduate of a rabbinical school in Poland. Gene Wilder plays the graduate of a rabbinical school in Poland. Finishing "a close 87th" in a class of 88, he's now on his way to his first assignment, a congregation in San Francisco.

"Where's San Francisco?" he asks his Old World teachers.

"Next to New York," they reply.

Pippointing the location of San Francisco is one of the major challenges facing the naive rabbi, Avram Belinsky, when he lands in Philadelphia in 1850. It's a running joke in the film as Belinsky Inreheas along in quantum jumps, by boat, wagon, foot, train and horse, trying to reach his destination. I don't recall any other film that could milk so many laughs out of a geography lesson.

N HIS TRAVELS he encounters robbers, Amish farmers, wild Indians and silent monks. In a railroad camp, he meets a Chinese laborer who tells him he talks fanny but suggests they go into partnership and open a Chinese relavarant.

of this min the bases are supported as a Chinese relaturant.

However, Belinsky's real buddy and guardian angel proves to be a described "bankrobber, gambler and whoremonger," played by Hardeseribed by the chinese and who

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However, Belinsky's real buddy and guardian angel proves to be a self-described "bankrobber, gambler and whoremoager," played by Harison Ford.

The cultural gap between these two seems impossible to bridgeness earen't companiable thieves like Butch and Sundance, and the growth of their friendship, based on mutual curiosity as well as respect, is a basic theme of the movie, developed in parallel with the story of their trek to California.

Ford and Wilder, as the robber and the rabbi, make a smooth-working, complementary, comic pair. Ford's the easy-going entrepreneur, wilder's the passionately committed teacher who, in this case, is the student learning about a new country.

When his simpleness or naviete seems to stretch matters perilously thin, Ford's pragmatism helps pull everthing together again. On the other hand, Wilder's humanism — whether jawboning with monks who have taken a vow of silence or teaching Jewish dances to drum-beating Indians — infuses every comic moment with a special warmth and grace.

grace.
Wilder, Ford and a genuinely funny story make "The Frisco Kid" a very enjoyable movie.

# Climpses

#### NEW RELEASES

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (B), James Brolin and Margot Kidder look for a "dream house" and find a nightmare.
THE APPLE DUMPLING GANG RIDES AGAIN (FG). Tim Conway and Don Knotls return as the bumbling outlaws in this light feature from Triemay

Disney.

BLOODLINE (R). Relatives trying to bump off pharmaceutical heiress constitute a bitter pill in placebo version of Sydney Sheldon's best

SEREAKING AWAY (PG). Bicycle racing occupies four high school pals from Indiana who discover the graduate world in funny, touching

from Indiana who discover the granulate worm in many, concursions, story,
Story,
BUTCH AND SUNDANCE: THE EARLY DAYS (PG). "Prequel" to the
successful hit. Tom Berger and William Katt are paired off as the
rascally robbers in their salad days.
THE DEER HUNTER (R). An emotionally gripping and violent film
about the lives of three friends from a small steel town as they are
affected by the Vietnam war.
BRACULA (R). A seary and very sensual remake of "Dracula" with
Frank Langella in the tille role he played on Broadway.

ESCAPE FROM ALCATRAZ (PG). Clint Eastwod and director Don
Siegel team up again to create a tense, tunt drama from the conventions of the prison-escape film.
THE FRINCO KIU (PG). Comic adventures of a rabbi (Gene Wilder) and
a robber (Harrison Ford) as they cross the West to San Francisco In
1850.

1850.

GOLDENGRIL (PG), Susan Anton is a track star after Olympic gold in film that tries too hard with too many themse and finishes least.

THE BN-LAWS (PG), Hilarious comedy with Peter Falk and Alan Arkin as near-relatives who not only plan a wedding but ripoff the U.S.

JUST YOU AND ME, KID (PG). A comedy nimbly tailored for George Burns, with Brooke Shields standing by as half of this young-old duo

Burns, with Brooke Shields standing by as hall of this young-old duo of delinquently. D (PG). George Segal and Glenda Jackson are paired again in romantic comedy about a "fractured" couple who meet in the Swiss Alps and decide to yodel on through life together. LOVE AT FIRST BITE (PG) Dracula goes disco dancing in funny, contemporary version with George Hamilton.

TIEM MAIN EVENT (PG). Barbra Stellsand is a perfume manufacturer who manages a retired boxer, Ryan O'Neal, in comedy about the flight

who manages a relied toker, ryan o veen, in content about the lig-game.

MANHATTAN (B.) The inhabitants are somewhat fraved, but the lig-Apple looks glorious in Woody Allien's witty peek at the pairings and partings among New York literati.

MEATBALLS (PG). Lively conced with Bill Murray (of "Saturday Night Live") as head counselor at a summer camp in an "Animal House" for

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

General audiences admitted.
G Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
No one under 8 admitted.

Terry Pollard fights way back

One half of Terry Pollard's body is making a slow and gradual return to near normal functioning. Her left side, however, is paralyzed. The scar and indentation on the right

temple of her head is a permanent clue to what she has endured in the last 15 months that are a blank in Terry Pollard's mind.

months that are a blank in Terry Pollard's mind. Her left arm is bound in a white sling, mainly because it is virtually useless. Walking is an agonizingly slow motion method of moving. When not assisted by another human, she requires the use of a metal contraption for constant support. She is beginning to feed herself with her right hand, a major accomplishment in her recovery. Her speech is slow. She must search for words once easily spoken.

easily spoken.

TERRY POLLARD was stricken with a cerebral aneurism one Sunday morning in April 1978. Friends who saw her when she was in a coma, following an emergency operation, consider it a miracle that she has come so far.

"We're proud of her," says her long-time friend Midge Ellis. "It's like a baby learning to take her first step we all cried the first day a few months ago when she used a spoon to feed her-self for the first time. Up to then, we fed her with a rubber tube."

Ms. Pollard, one of Detroit's premier

fed her with a rubber tube."

Ms. Pollard, one of Detroit's premier jazz vibitst and planists, was interviewed at her home last week on Detroit's east side. She tires easily and her full-time nurse is protective of her. Nine-year-old Corby, the younger of the two Pollard children, was helpful when her mother's faulty memory refused to yield information that at one time would have been known as well as her name.

her name.

Corby recalls coming home with her father from a store to find her mother lying on the living room couch. "She had one eye closed. She had a cerebral aneurism," Corby recalls.

FOLLOWING THAT fateful Sunday, her mother was hospitalized for months. There was surgery at Holy Cross and recovery and rehabilitation at St. John's and Cottage hospitals. For six weeks Ms. Pollard was comatose

Michigan Inn, Stouffer's Northland Inn and Sheraton Southfield, all in Southfield, were honored at a recent luncheon in Southfield by the Automo-bile Club of Michigan for being among North America's most outstanding

North America's most outstanding establishments.

The three hotels received Four-Diamond National AAA ratings in the 1979 Michigan-Wisconsin Tour-Boo.

A Four-Diamond botel is one which is "exceptional; significantly exceeds AAA requirements in most physical and operational categories. It offers luxurious accomodations, as well as extanements. The management and staff, the house housekeeping and maintenance rank. well above average."

Southfield hotels

feted for facilities

Steve Allen recently announced that he will bring his night club act to highlight the afternoon portion of the benefit at the Music Hall. It was during the time Ms. Pollard was part of his studio band that she left a brilliant career as one of the brightest jazz stars on both piano and vibes.

melodies.

When her old friend, Marian McPartland, also a renowned jazz pianist, was in town recently, the two of them played three-handed piano. Ms. Pollard found that she could call out the chords on tunes that Ms. McPartland didn't know.

know.
"I still remember the tunes," she said, and that is a morale boost.

sald, and that is a morale boost.

Her friends in the world of jazz still remember her. "Look at this letter," she said pointing to a book beside her favorite chair, in which she is propped up with white pillows. She is referring to a book. entitled "The Integrated Mind" by the parentlesited. Mind" by two neurologists.

Mind" by two neurologists.

INSIDE THE BOOK, which details new discoveries about the two halves of the brain, is a letter—a personal note from Steve Allen wishing her a speedy recovery and sending her the book read during her onvalescence.

Ms. Pollard and whist Terry Gibbs, read of the steve of the sending the sendi

Cadillac Hotel at 7 p.m.

The benefit committee is chaired by

No estatissment in the state, received a Five-Diamond rating, the highest given. Only 45 of 14,258 AAA, approved holets and motels in the Unit-ed States, Canada and Mexico received a Five-Diamond rating. There are 979 Four-Diamond hotels, less than 7 per-cent of the total number of establish-ments.

while her family and friends kept a daily vigil.

"The doctors said it would be good for Maina and me to go see her," Corby questions and me to go see her," Corby questions and me to go see her, "Corby questions and me to go see her," Corby questions and me to go see her, "Corby questions are trusted from leading and along activities from leading and load and leave the partial form and the me to go see her, "Corby questions from leading and the good properties of the committee has received requirements from leading and the good properties."

Judge Myron Walls and includes jazz exists to perform at this fundational properties. The committee has received requirements from leading and load and local jazz exists to perform at this fundations as Terry Globs, Dennis Rovattee, and the properties of the pro jazz artists to perform at this fund-raising event. Volunteering are such stellar jazz names as Terry Gibbs, Denais Row-land, Johnny Trudell, Jimmy Wilse, Roland Hanna, Clark Terry, the Brook-side Jazz Ensemble, Charles McPher-son, Yused Lateel, Barry Harris, Candy Johnson, Teddy Harris, Jr., Billy Mitchell, J. C. Heard, Dave Wilborn, Ursula Walker, Oliver Jackson, Major Rolley and George Benson, (the Detroit sax artist).

ALLEN recently announced that he will bring his night club act to highlight the afternoon portion of the benefit at Music Hall. Ms. Pollard was a member of his studio band when she left a bril

of his studio band when she left a bril-lant career as one of the brightest jazz stars on both piano and vibes for motherbood.

"I always wanted to be a mother in-stead of a piano player," she said. That came shortly after she won the Down Beal Critics Poll as new star on vibes and after winning a Playboy Jazz. Poll as pianist. She says she never regretted the moye.
"I was happy I did it," she comment-ed in her slow manner. "I had the few moments with Dennis. I got to take him

"I was happy I did it," she commentted in her slow manner. That the few
moments with Dennis. I got to take him
to school. A home is very important for
a child. A child needs good parents and
a good education. How can you answer
questions when you're traveling around
the country and your kid has to try to
reach you by phone?"
She chuckled, as she had a memory:
"Now, Dennis still does."
Dennis, now 27, lives in New York.
He is an artist and clothes designer and
frequently calls his mother to talk. Ms.
Pollard said she and her children are
close. Corby, her second child was

close. Corby, her second child, was born 17 years after Dennis.

MUSICAL TALENT is unique to the ollard children and their mother in the family

the family.

"Bob carries mail but he couldn't. arry a time in his mail bag. He is not musically oriented," Ms. Pollard explains, referring to husband, Bob. The pianist says it was being blessed with an inborn ability to play that led

to her becoming a professional musician. "I never learned to play," she said: "I sever learned to play," she said: "I set down at the piano and it come to the play of the play of the play in the play of the playing jazz, and when she worked in local clubs in the '40s, it was with musicians who went on to establish big reputations in jazz. There was Yusef Lateef, Thad Jones, and Billy Mitchell for example.

They would play in Detroit clubs like the Blue Bird Inn on Tireman or Trent's on Livernois, the Hobby Bar and, of course, Baker's Keyboard Lounge.

HER MUSICAL influences were jazz pianists Nat King Cole and Al Haig. She recalls, "I had a chance to see Nat Cole at a theater in Detroit. He was an excellent piano player before the became a singer. I knew he was a very good piano player. I think Oscar Peterson would agree with me. I think he was influenced by Nat Cole's play-ing too."

ing too."

I She left Detroit in the early 1950s to tour with Terry Gibbs.

If started playing with Billy Mitchell and Thad Jones at the Blue Bird Inn.

Terry Gibbs was in town and needed a Terry Gibbs was in town and needed a piano player and came to hear me at the Blue Bird. He hired me to travel with his group and I was with him for six years. I recorded with him and we did the Steve Allen show and Ed Sullivan and the man with his glasses, what's his name? Oh, yes, Dave Garrowar."

way."
Why did she leave Terry Gibbs?
"I had a little boy and I wanted to be home with my Dennis. So, I came home to be with him just after I had won the Down Beat Award in 1947." Corby lat-

Down Beat Award in 1947." Corby later tells her it was 1957.
When Ms. Pollard returned to Detroit, she was installed by Clarence Baker as the house painsit at Baker's. 'He's a beautiful kind of person,' she said about Baker. 'He always kept his piano together — in tune. He's not a typical club owner. He let me work there when I was pregnant with both truding way out am there I was playing the piano.'
As house pianist at Baker's, she had some "beautiful" musicians to play some properties of the properties of the

one beautiful" musicians to play behind. She fondly recalls sets with Chet Baker, Sonny Stitt, Zoot Sims and

Chet Baker, Sonny Sun, Stan Getz.
Although Ms. Pollard won't be able to enjoy the tribute in person, she shares the excitement about it.
"It's coming out just beautiful," she commented. "It's like a big birthday." commented. "It's like a big outlied, party for me. I'll be 49 on Aug. 15. It's beautiful what people are doing for me — so beautiful."

## Gallery sponsors

Bowers of Stouffer's and Daniel Murphy of Sheration Southfield.
Michigan boasts 24 Four-Diamond hotels among 453 that are rated by AAA.
The Northfield Hilton Inn, Troy, is another area hotel which has received a Four-Diamond rating.
No establishment in the state received a Five-Diamond rating, the From August 8-14, the artist-operated Detroit Focus Gallery will be accepting entries for its up-coming "Support Detroit Art" T-shirt exhibit on display, from Aug. 18 through Sep. 1. The outstanding design will be awarded \$50 and produced for sale through the non-profit gallery. Entries may be sik-screened T-shirts, painted T-shirts, drawings, photographs, or other media. For a \$5 entry [s. and artist and shows the produced that the produce

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