



second runs

Tom Panzenhagen

"Stagecoach" (1939), 11:30 p.m. Saturday on Ch. 2. Originally 99 minutes. TV time slot: 105 minutes.

"Stagecoach" was the first disaster movie — the granddaddy, as it were, of "Airport" and other imitators. Disaster movies have basic elements: characters from divergent walks of life thrown together in dire times, usually on a journey. In "Stagecoach," a gunslinger (John Wayne as the Ringo Kid), a fallen woman (Claire Trevor), a drunken doctor (Thomas Mitchell), a tough-talking sheriff (George Bancroft), a blue-blooded banker (Bertone Churchill), a riverboat gambler (John Carradine), and a grizzled stagecoach driver (Andy Devine) find their fates intertwined when their trek is interrupted by Apaches. It's also the first movie director John Ford filmed in Monument Valley, a breathtaking region of southern Utah that's home to a Navajo Indian reservation. Ford returned to the site to shoot "My Darling Clementine," "Fort Apache," "The Searchers" and "Cheyenne Autumn." "Stagecoach," Wayne's first big film, still holds up with the best westerns of the cowboy-happy '50s or any era. Tim Holt and Many Mules (as Geronimo) also co-star.

Rating: \$3.15.

"The Big Sleep" (1946), 1:30 Monday night (Christmas Eve) on Ch. 50. Originally 114 minutes. TV time slot: 132 minutes.

What better way to stay awake for Santa than with "The Big Sleep"? After all, the film doesn't have much going for it other than Howard Hawks'

And what better way to wind down from Christmas than with "The Bells of St. Mary's"? Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman star in a fine-spirited film about a parish in need of money.

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

A ratings guide to the movies

Bad	\$1
Fair	\$2
Good	\$3
Excellent	\$4

exacting direction, a script co-written by William Faulkner and incorporating the best elements and dialogue of Raymond Chandler's original novel, and stars Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall fresh off their scorching debut together in "To Have and Have Not." ("The Big Sleep" actually was filmed the same year as "To Have and Have Not," 1944, but not released until 1946.) True, "The Big Sleep" is hopelessly complex — the murder of Gen. Sternwood's chauffeur is never resolved — but it's also style personified. Everyone's at their best, including co-stars Marjorie Main, Dorothy Malone and Regis Toomey.

Rating: \$3.50.

"The Bells of St. Mary's" (1945), 11:05 p.m. Tuesday on Ch. 8. Originally 122 minutes. TV time slot: last program on schedule.

And what better way to wind down from Christmas than with "The Bells of St. Mary's"? Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman star in a fine-spirited film about a parish in need of money. Curiously, sparks of forbidden love fly between father Bing and sister Ingrid — unintentional and unscripted sparks, one assumes. Nonetheless, the picture's all the more interesting for it. Henry Travers and William Gargan co-star in this sequel to the hit film "Going My Way."

Rating: \$3.05.

Donna Reed Watch: In case you missed it a couple of weeks ago on Ch. 9, Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life," starring James Stewart, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell and an inebriated Donna Reed, will be shown again on Ch. 50 at 8 p.m. Tuesday. Merry Christmas!



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