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JOHN WAYNE is joined by three of his sons in Cinema Center Films' "Big Jake." Michael Wayne, (right) 36, produced the film, and John Ethan, eight, and Patrick, 31, appear with their father in it.

They Went Thataway, In Their Galloping Reos

By BETTY MASSON

John Wayne's newest shoot-out "Big Jake" is pretty routine Western fare, except that in a couple of instances the old West has been brought up to date, 1908, that is.

BIG JAKE
Gets Rating: GP

There is something delightfully comic about seeing the Texas Rangers set out after a band of kidnappers in a trio of Reos. They are accompanied by an intrepid—slightly stupid—motorcyclist, who in the movie is Big Jake's son and in real life, Robert Mitchum's son, Christopher.

HE'S STUPID because when the Rangers and Reos come to grief and are ambushed, instead of taking his shotgun from its special rack on the motorcycle, he roars up and down the rocky cliffsides, jumping over the passes. And it turns out later that he's a sharpshooter.

When he reached the top of the cliff, why he didn't just pick those bad men off I'll never know.

Unless it's because it would have spoiled the story, and Wayne and his Indian friend couldn't have come ambuling up on their horses and burros to pick up the pieces, go on into Mexico with the ransom money for the grandson Wayne has never seen, and

very cleverly and rather bloodily, dispose of all 10 vicious kidnappers.

"BIG JAKE" is interesting because two of Wayne's sons appear in it. Patrick, 31, plays Big Jake's son, James, and John Ethan, eight, plays the kidnapped grandson. Both are very good-looking. Michael Wayne, 36, another son, produced the picture.

One of the smartest rescuers in the film is a black-dyed Lassie. It's been suggested that the dog was dyed daily because a Collie can't be a killer or it would destroy the Lassie-image. But the image is maintained when the dog dies saving his master and the grandson.

"Big Jake" is released by National General Pictures.

Film Course To Be Offered At OCC

"Theater 190: Introduction to the Film" is the title of a new course being offered this fall at the Orchard Ridge Theatre Department of Oakland Community College, 27055 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington.

The film course will be offered on Thursday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m., as well as Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. It will be taught by Dr. Dan Greenberg, chairman of the department.

The course may also be elected for humanities credit as Humanities 190.

THE CLASS WILL deal with major film types, silent comedy, western, spectacle, mystery, spy, musical and drama, as well as considering the film as an art form.

It will include lectures and

screening of feature films as the basis for class discussion of motion picture techniques, principles, esthetic values and history.

FILMS TO BE shown include Eisenstein's "Potemkin," Charlie Chaplin in "The Gold Rush," Ingrid Bergman in "Spellbound" and Lon Chaney in the 1922 classic production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

The fall semester of the Orchard Ridge Campus of OCC begins Wednesday, Sept. 8, at 8 a.m. Registration for this course as well as for hundreds of others being offered this fall begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 31, and runs until 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 3. Evening registration is from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and Sept. 2.

Mother Is A Cyclist, Unhappy With Critics

By BETTY MASSON

Most women with married daughters wouldn't consider motorcycling as a leisure time activity.

Not Mrs. David (Barbara) Merchant of Plymouth. In fact, she gets downright unhappy at the amount of criticism that is leveled at motorcycles and the people who use them.

"Do you know what it feels like to ride down a country road or woodland trail with the wind blowing through your hair?" she asks.

And again, she wonders, "Should I judge all people who drive cars by a few who act or dress undesirably by my standards?"

MRS. MERCHANT'S interest in motorcycling began about 20 years ago when she rode her brother's Harley-Davidson, but it really became an enthusiasm several years ago when the Merchants bought one for their son, David, to ride on the 40 acres of fields and trails behind their home.

Today the Merchants own three motorcycles, one for father, one for son, and one for mother. They find it a great family sport, one which brings them closer together. Even their younger daughter, Margie, who at five is too young for her own motorcycle, can operate a two-wheeled bike and knows something about using a wrench.

And David is learning a lot about things mechanical. He recently "pulled the heads and put new rings" in his mother's motorcycle.

A number of young people in their farmland area, south of Plymouth own motorcycles. Mrs. Merchant points out, and they are quick to let her try them out.

At the very least, she says "you've got something to talk about with the kids. And they're thrilled to have an older person share their interests."

Mrs. Merchant became so unhappy with comments on



MOTORCYCLING is not only a leisure-time activity but a family affair with the David Merchants of Plymouth. In this mother-son picture that's Barbara Merchant with son, David. Father has a motorcycle too. (Observer photo)

motorcyclists by one writer, she took a poll among her younger friends, to see if you had to be young, long-haired and wear a black leather jacket to "belong" on a motorcycle.

SHE FOUND out that the kids no longer expect the older generation to conform. If they (the old folks) want to ride motorcycles, it's all right with them.

However, on the advice of a policeman friend, the Merchants do confine their riding pretty much to their own property and the back roads. Car drivers (and Mrs. Merchant admits to being among them) do seem to be compelled to pass a motorcyclist, even though he may be traveling at the legal speed for the highway.

Mrs. Merchant may be able to discuss the insides of a motorcycle knowledgeably

with her son, but that doesn't make her "half a man." If she drops anything to grab a pair of handlebars, it's as apt as not to be a crocheting hook or knitting needle.

And she's just proud of the gorgeous quilt she has designed and put together as she is of belonging to the motorcycle set.

Car Wash Will Aid Synanon

A car wash and gasoline sale will be staged by the Dearborn-Livonia Singletons from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 21 and Sunday, Aug. 22, to raise funds for the Synanon Foundation to help fight drug addiction.

The project will be held at the Total Gas Station, 23785 Michigan, Dearborn.

from the balcony

Films listed in this guide are showing at area theaters. Check the theater listings for the specific theater and time of showings.

BIG JAKE — John Wayne as Big Jake McCandles tracks down and disposes of 10 vicious kidnappers. Sons, Patrick and John Ethan appear in the film. (GP, A-3).

LAWMAN — Burt Lancaster, Robert Ryan and Lee J. Cobb star in the tale of a sheriff who tracks down a band of men who murdered an adolescent. (GP, none).

WHO IS HARRY KELLERMAN — Dustin Hoffman stars as the 40-year-old kid who made it to the top, but realities puncture his world. (GP, A-3).

CARNAL KNOWLEDGE — A Jules Feiffer - Mike Nichols movie about two men's lives and feelings about women. With Jack Nicholson and Candice Bergen. (R, none).

VANISHING POINT — Barry Newman and his car try to outrun the police of three states, meeting some interesting characters en route. Good direction. (GP, B).

WILLARD — A horror-film starring Bruce Davison as a psychotic who sets out to avenge wrongs done to his family with the help of his friends... rats named Ben, Socrates and so on. (GP, A-2).

A NEW LEAF — Walter Matthau and Elaine May star in a comedy (what else?) about what happens when Matthau loses his money and marries May for hers. (G, A-3).

THE LOVE MACHINE — Jacqueline Susann's book about the world of show business and television is brought to the screen. If you liked the book... (R, none).

ON ANY SUNDAY — This film deals with people who race motorcycles on Sunday afternoons. Tells of two participants and their travels. (GP, none).

THE HELLSTROM CHRONICLE — A well-filmed blend of science and science-fiction dealing with facts and possibilities in insect life. (G, none).

KLUTE — An adult mystery, with Donald Sutherland as a detective and Jane Fonda as a call girl. (G, none).

THE OUT-OF-TOWNERS — Jack Lemmon and Sandy Dennis star in a very comedy about the perils of visiting New York City. (G, A-1).

THE CHEYENNE SOCIAL CLUB — Jimmy Stewart plays a cowboy who inherits a brothel and Henry Fonda is his pal. The brothel proves too much for them and they decide to go back to the range. (GP, B).

THE SECRET OF SANTA VITTORIA — Anthony Quinn leads Italian peasants in a battle to save their wine supply from the retreating German Army. Very funny. (GP, A-3).

RYAN'S DAUGHTER — Photographic effects and a mature ending make this a good film. Irish Rosy Ryan is looking for "something more." (GP, A-3).

LOVE STORY — Ali MacGraw and Ryan O'Neal star in a sad story of young love, based on Erich Segal's best-seller. A real tear-jerker. (GP, A-3).

U-M To Stage Comic Opera

ANN ARBOR — "The Barber of Seville" a three-act comic opera by Rossini, will be presented Aug. 16 and 17, at 8 p.m. in the Mendelssohn Theatre by the University of Michigan School of Music and department of art.

Josef Blatt will conduct and Ralph Herbert will stage the production.

Tickets may be obtained at the box office from 12:30 to 8 p.m.

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