

The Happy Years At Watts Theatre

"The Happy Years," new M-G-M attraction at the Watts Theatre, Sunday and Monday, is a picture which every member of the family, from Grandpa down to little Junior, can enjoy to his heart's content.

Based on the American boyhood stories about Lawrenceville Academy, made famous several decades ago by Owen Johnson, the Technicolor photoplay is filled

with delightful humor, tender touches and heartwarming characterizations.

It is the story of the incorrigible young Dink Stover, whose penchant for getting into mischief gets him expelled from several schools and finally lands him at Lawrenceville Academy. Here he immediately becomes the most unpopular boy on the campus because of his refusal to conform to Lawrenceville traditions. Victimized, duped and ostracized by his classmates and made the chief butt of the sarcasm of his Latin teacher, the formidable Old Roman, who is also football coach, Dink is ready to call it quits when his first term ends. But when his family are ready to concede that Dink can't "take it," he returns to Lawrenceville to show his mettle not only in battling his student adversaries but as a football hero. And in the story's final sequences, when he refuses to take advantage of an opportunity to

James Craig Plays First 'Heavy' Role

It's a startling "about face" for James Craig in his new role as the ex-con-man in M-G-M's exciting drama, "Side Street," showing Tuesday and Wednesday at the Watts Theatre, with Farley Granger and Cathy O'Donnell costarred.

In his latest film characterization, Craig, heretofore seen in sympathetic roles, turns killer in one of the most savage portrayals written for a photoplay. Four victims, two of them women, met violent ends at his hands.

Craig is the second M-G-M star to shift from hero to villain, the cheat in an examination, he proves himself once and for all the stuff that Lawrenceville boys are made of.

A large cast of Hollywood's veteran juvenile actors are seen in "The Happy Years," with the role of Dink played by Dean Stockwell, perfectly cast as a typical American boy of the period. Other toponotch portrayals are contributed by Darryl Hickman as Tough McCarty, Scotty Beckett as Tennessee Shad, Donn Gift, who wins the nickname of Hungry Smeed after devouring forty-nine pancakes, breaking all records, and Claudia Barrett as the girl who first interests Dink in romance. Leo G. Carroll is both funny and sympathetic as the sardonic Old Roman, with other adult roles filled by Leon Ames as Dink's father and Margalo Gillmore as his harassed mother.

William A. Wellman, who achieved great success with his direction of the soldiers in "Battleground," proves himself equally adroit with the almost as tough youngsters in "The Happy Years" and has given his story a delightful human quality. As in "Battleground," he has also assured complete authenticity of local color by filming much of his new picture directly on the Lawrenceville Academy campus. The result is a picture which stands out as one of the screen's rewarding efforts. Everyone, young and not so young, will capture its infectious spirit.



"Den I took my rusty rifle and I shot him. Dat's how I got my rug," Jimmy Durante becomes a raconteur for Terry Moore and Queenie Smith in the above scene from George Pal's comedy, "THE GREAT RUFERT," which shows Tuesday and Wednesday at the Marco Theatre. Tom Drake is also starred in the film which is being released by Eagle Lion Films.

first being Ann Sothern, who played her first "heavy" in "Death in the Doll's House," in which she tried to put a small child witness to murder out of the way.

Craig, a product of Nashville, Tenn., began his film career in Westerns and won his first important "break" opposite Ginger Rogers in "Kitty Foyle." He has won popularity in a long string of pictures among them, "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "The Human Comedy," "Little Mister

Jim" and "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes."

Filmed largely in New York City, with its characters representing a cross-section of the varied types, rich and poor, which make this metropolis one of the most colorful cities in the world, M-G-M's "Side Street," offers a compelling dramatic story, action-packed, fast-moving and marked by some of the season's most persuasive screen performances.

Told through the eyes of Paul

Kelly, cast as a New York homicide squad captain, the story centers on the plight of a work-a-day young couple, Cathy O'Donnell, young expectant mother, and Farley Granger, her ill-paid husband who in economic desperation resorts to robbery. When he subsequently tries to return the money it is too late and he finds himself hopelessly caught in a mesh which involves a shady lawyer and his sadistic ex-convict pal, a black-mailing adventuress and a down-at-the-heel Greenwich Village night club singer. There is enough action for several pictures in the terror-ridden man-hunt and the excitement-pitched chase through the streets of lower New York in which the police finally catch up with a vicious murderer.

Farley Granger gives an outstanding performance as the husband unable to resist the temptation of sudden wealth, and Cathy O'Donnell is poignantly moving as the young wife. James Craig, unexpectedly cast as a "heavy," is the sinister con-man, Jean Hagen scores as the night club singer and other expert character work is contributed by Paul Harvey, Edmon Ryan and Charles McCraw. The realistic and taut direction of Anthony Mann also aids in making "Side

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