



Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

The Conformist will be showing at Sheldon this week.

Films

Italian release featured

The Conformist, a 1970 Italian release, is tonight's presentation in the Union Program Council's Foreign Classics Series. Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci, the film is a disturbing character study of an Italian fascist secret service member during the 1930s.

The Conformist helped bring Bertolucci to the attention of world wide audiences. Since then he has become one of the leading international directors with films such as *Last Tango in Paris*.

The film will be shown tonight at 7 and 9 p.m. in the Sheldon Film Theatre. Admission is \$1.50 for general audience and \$1.00 for holders of a regular Foreign Film Series ticket.

Birth of a Nation, D. W. Griffith's classic epic of the Civil War, will be screened for the film study classes at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. There is no admission charge.

Released in 1915, *Birth of a Nation* is regarded by many critics as the first great American film. Although silent, the film will be shown with an accompanying musical soundtrack.

This week Sheldon Film Theatre will present a highly acclaimed Swiss film *Jonah, Who Will Be 25 in the Year 2000*. The film was directed by Alain Tanner, whose preceding feature *Middle of the World*, was shown in last year's Foreign Film Series.

This week's TV movie highlight is *Hearts of the West*, a 1975 film about Hollywood in the thirties. Jeff Bridges plays a struggling writer who stumbles into the movies as a star of B-grade westerns. However, the best role belongs to Alan Arkin, who has a field day as a hack director.

Hearts of the West will be shown tonight at 8 p.m. on NBC.

Lawmen out-fox Wild Bunch outlaws

By Carla Engstrom

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch. Information is taken from *The Wild Bunch* by James Horan, Signet Books, published by The New American Library, Inc. New York, N.Y., 75 cents.

In the beginning, the Wild Bunch were only small bands of train robbers, horse thieves and highwaymen. Gradually they drifted together forming a tight liaison under Butch Cassidy, their undisputed leader. Cassidy made places like the Hole in the Wall and Brown's Hole famous, since they were the Wild Bunch's principal hideouts.

Harvey Logan was second in command, but to the Wild Bunch and the West, he was known as the "deadly Kid Curry." Curry was fast with a gun and deadly because of "his utter contempt for fear and human life—even his own," wrote James Horan, author of *The Wild Bunch*.

The heart of the Wild Bunch was Butch, Curry, the Sundance Kid, Elza Lay, the Tall Texan, Deaf Charley Hanks, Laura Bullion and Etta Place, according to the author.

Deceiving appearance

Harry Longbaugh of Sundance County, Wyoming,

didn't look like an outlaw. A Wanted poster would describe him as short, neat, trimmed black mustache and black hair parted in the middle.

On the trail, he dressed in a dark blue suit and a black bowler. He was probably the only outlaw to own a "full-dress suit."

Horan concluded from a picture taken in 1902 that Etta Place, Sundance's wife, was beautiful.

Horan describes Etta as a "tall, slim woman with a pile of chestnut hair, dark eyes and an aristocratic profile."

"When the Kid told her they (Butch and Sundance) were leaving the states, she said rather than never see him again she'd come along, and she did. What became of her after Butch and the Kid died is not known. But this we know: she was beautiful and loved the Kid," summed up Horan.

Women riders

As for the rest of the Wild Bunch, Butch met Elza Lay when he got out of Wyoming State Prison. Butch was heading for Brown's Hole when Lay teamed up with him.

Ben Kilpatrick, better known as the Tall Texan, was an outlaw in every sense of the word. He was fearless and on "two occasions said he'd never be taken alive if he can help it."

He was a train robber and rustler by occupation. His only weakness was women, Horan wrote, and he never had trouble finding them.

One special woman was Laura Bullion, who could "ride like a jockey and shoot like Annie Oakley," Horan wrote.

Hanks story

The other main outlaw in the Wild Bunch was Camilla Hanks, alias Deaf Charley Hanks. Charley was born on a "run-down ranch" and his mother was a "drunken slattern."

Charley was completely deaf by age 19. No one "dared cross Charley's path, he couldn't hear, but was fast on the draw and ready for a stand-up fight," wrote Horan.

The Wild Bunch was a strong band, but in 1897, cattlemen first attempted to rid the West of the outlaws.

"The cowboy-versus-the-rustlers battle clicked across the wire services of the press and even in New York the strange name "Hole in the Wall" was becoming well known," wrote Horan.

But the outlaw's day was almost over and Butch knew it. The law was becoming more organized and trains harder to rob.

The final days

Their fates could be expected.

Elza Lay was sentenced to life in prison and later released. The Texan was killed in a train robbery; Kid Curry was killed by a posse. Laura Bullion (who married the Texan) walked out of prison at age 37. Deaf Charley Hanks was the only one to escape and resume life under an assumed name.

Butch, Sundance and Etta, visited New York, then fled to Bolivia and robbed silver mine trains. Eventually, Butch and Sundance found themselves surrounded by soldiers. The Kid was shot in the chest but Cassidy kept firing until he was certain he'd be captured, then shot himself.

Their bodies were dragged into the village square for a few hours and then buried in a cemetery in San Vicente, Bolivia.

"On one wooden head board was written Cassidy and on the other Longbaugh. Under each name was added Bandido Yanqui (Yankee Outlaw)."

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