

# Ramona Play April-May Dates Set

HEMET — Early preparations went ahead yesterday for the 29th staging of California's most beautiful outdoor play — the famed Ramona Pageant — by the people of Hemet and San Jacinto.

The three weekend showings of the historic drama have been set for Saturday and Sunday afternoons of April 21 and 22, April 28 and 29, and May 5 and 6.

Milton R. Nims, general manager of the civic, non-profit Ramona Pageant Assn., announced that, with new paved highways and completed parking facilities for more than 3000 cars, attendance this year is expected to reach an all-time record.

The Ramona Outdoor Play, dramatization of Helen Hunt Jackson's love story of the Indian maiden Ramona by the late Garnet Holme, wizard of California pageantry, has been witnessed by more than 500,000 persons since it was first staged.

Yearly visitors to San Jacinto Valley from all parts of the globe have seen the story enacted in the actual valley where portions of the drama are said to have taken place.

# Hitchcock Revives Book 'From Dead'

"From Amongst the Dead," a mystery drama, has been purchased by Paramount as an upcoming production for producer-director Alfred Hitchcock.

"From Amongst the Dead," a French novel, was written by Pierre Boileau and Thomas Narcejac, French writing team which has turned out many best-selling suspense novels for the Continental market. The book was published in France under the title of "D'entre les Morts." It has attracted so much favorable attention that it will soon be published in England by a London firm, and American publication is being set for the near future.

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# Mike Connolly

... GINGER TO PLAY 3 SISTERS

HOLLYWOOD—Dave Barry did his Liberace imitation at Ciro's and smiled so hard he dislocated his jaw . . . Bob Hope bought out Balenciaga, the perfumer . . . Paramount plans to premiere "Anything Goes" in Las Vegas, where anything goes . . . Ginger Rogers set up an independent picture, "One at a Time." Ginger will play all three sisters in a sister act, one blonde, one brunette, one red-head. They all hate each other. Ginger will sing and dance with herself. . . . Deborah Kerr may cross up everybody who has other plans for her and hit the road with a musical . . .



Connolly

Photo finish for Oscar bids, male division: Ernest Borgnine, Frank Sinatra, Jimmy Cagney, Glenn Ford, Jimmy Dean . . . Something awful happened to an actress I know. Her press agent was out of town when her mink coat was stolen.

ARLEEN WHELAN and Bob Rains appear ready for the orange blossoms and flat silver . . . John Smith had a cooler of wine on one side and an eligible companion named Ann Orvis on the other at the Eldorado . . . 20th-Fox is talking to Diana Dors, England's answer to Marilyn Monroe, about coming to these shores as Fox's answer to Marilyn Monroe . . . Remember a few years ago when everybody called it video? . . . Wild Life Dept.: A flock of owls has settled in Laurel Canyon . . . Lin Crosby, Bing's youngest, swings a mean golf club, too . . . If author Herman Wouk okays her (she already has the producer's blessing) Jennifer Jones will play "Marjorie Morningstar."

Dean Martin, having listened to Ella Fitzgerald sing at the Mocambo, says he'd better take up dancing.

CAN'T UNDERSTAND why Constance Talmadge wasn't asked to accept the George Eastman House Award her sister Norma was too ill to accept. Connie's been in town for weeks . . . After everyone at the Eastman affair agreed that pictures aren't as good as they used to be in the silent days, director Henry King got up and said he's just finished his best to date, "Carousel" . . . Mae Marsh was mighty happy with her award because at long last it'll convince her six grand-

children, all hipsters, that she was really and truly a great big movie star once upon a time! . . . Mary Pickford paid tribute to her old "family": Miss Marsh, Lillian Gish, David Wark Griffith, Richard Barthelmess . . . While America's Sweetheart was speaking, something fell. Said she, "Don't bother, it's just a diamond" . . . Cecil B. DeMille said it was nice of all the people to come over during the Christmas rush to pay tribute to "these old monuments of the picture industry."

MATERNITY WARD: Bobby and Diane Van expect the baby June 1 . . . The Leighton Nobles also are expecting . . . Nominations for Hollywood's best-looking mothers-to-be: Ann Blyth, Janie Powell, Janet Leigh . . . Ethel Barrymore, Cam Mitchell, Bill Bendix and Claire Trevor will do "The Prowler" on "Climax!" Jan. 5 . . . Dept. of Deflation: Less than a year ago MGM described Ed Purdom as a potential \$20,000,000 property. So now Purdom tells the divorce court judge he has only \$300 to live on . . . Ruth Roman will file for divorce after the holidays . . . Don Taylor is talking an acting-directing deal with CBS-TV.

Overheard: "I like him personally—and believe me, that is a tough way to like him!"

STERLING HAYDEN has clammed up re his need for a (Turn to Page Thirty-three)

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