

BAROMETER

FINE: "Justice est Faite."

FAIR: "Hondo."

FAIR: "Keep An Eye on Amelia."

Even the title looks a bit familiar: a man's name, brief and kinda mysterious. But please don't expect the likeness to go too far, because *Hondo* isn't another *Shane*. If you know this in advance you won't expect too much and will probably enjoy, as I did, what you see.

Actually, John Wayne as Hondo is no poor substitute for Alan Ladd, and other welcome familiar faces are Michael Pate and an old friend named Ward Bond. The woman is an able newcomer, Geraldine Page, who manages to convey the impression long before her missing husband pegs out that there's a vacant place in her heart. All the same, she's a woman of principle, as she makes clear when Hondo gives her a speculative peck. I haven't seen many Westerns lately, but I have the feeling that while this isn't in the *Stagecoach-High Noon* class, it's above average. It moves along at a fair pace, seems to avoid (or at least to squeeze out of the frame) the shock tactics that have marred some other Westerns in recent years, and winds up, as it should, with an exciting fight with Apaches. John Farrow directed.

KEEP AN EYE ON AMELIA

(Lux-Archway)

KEEP AN EYE ON AMELIA is the sort of film I hate to have to grade. It's a rather naughty French farce, directed by Claude Autant-Lara (who made *Le Diable au Corps*), about a cocotte (Danielle Darrieux), who's left by one of her lovers in the care of someone else. It impresses with its bewildering speed and its invention and, well, sheer brilliance as a piece of film making. It has some people rolling in the aisles. I found bits of it funny, too, but I can't honestly say I enjoyed it all that much. The wrong mood? Perhaps. But I think the real explanation is that farce just isn't my cup of tea, even when it's as well done as this.

Explosive Romance

THE RIGHT TO HAPPINESS, the new thermonuclear serial which will be broadcast at 2.0 p.m. by Commercial stations, begins from 22A on Wednesday, February 16. It will be heard shortly afterwards from the four ZBs and will play on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from all these stations. Joan Stapleton, loyal and devoted, marries a scientist who is working on a new development in hydrogen bomb manufacture. Her mother-in-law wishes to keep her brilliant son to herself and seeks to make trouble by misinforming Joan when her husband is called away suddenly from the wedding breakfast. The secrecy covering all scientific work on the thermonuclear bomb makes explanations difficult, and Joan also finds her life complicated by the man who, engaged to her sister, falls in love with her. Leading roles in *The Right to Happiness* are played by Margo Lee, Lloyd Berrell, Rodney Taylor and Marie Clarke.

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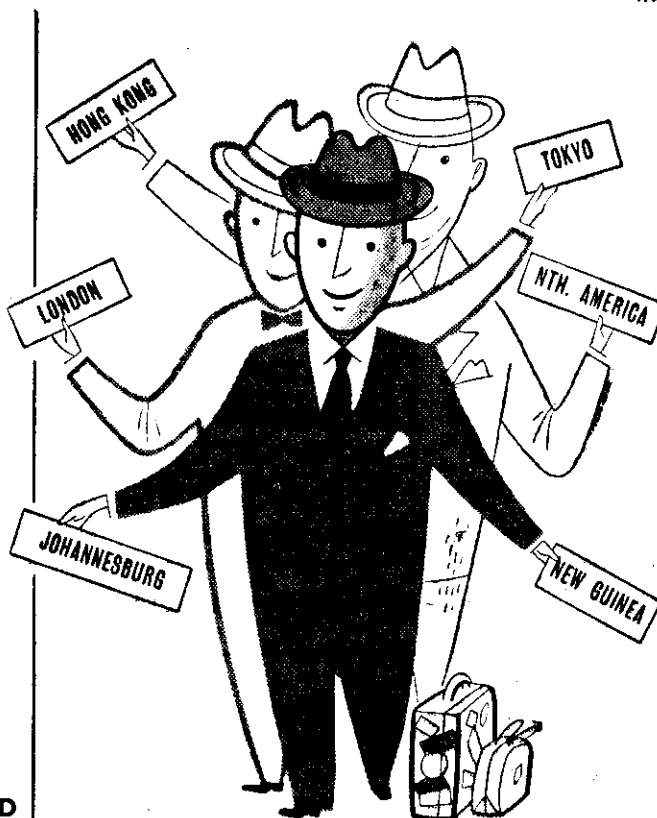
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N.Z. LISTENER, FEBRUARY 11, 1955.



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