

BAROMETER

FINE: "The Sun Shines Bright."
FAIR TO FINE: "Martin Luther."

central figure and the unifying element in the story. I suspect that Judge Priest (in whom old Charles Winninger finds the role of a lifetime) combines in the one person most of the qualities Ford respects, as well as a flock of smalltown eccentricities from which Ford distils the gentle humour which pervades the whole production. The Judge typifies loyalty and tolerance, Southern courtesy and political shrewdness, the slow, easy-going tempo of the South in civilised contrast to the hustle and bustle of the damyankees (the period is 1905 and the Civil War is not forgotten).

The story, though it is occasionally sparked by spells of excitement or tension, moves for the most part with a deceptively casual rhythm creating almost by accident, it seems, a full rich nostalgic evocation of time and place. And the materials which Ford uses are the veriest clichés—steamboats on the river and mint juleps on the porch, Kentucky colonels and fallen women, sweet-singing darkies, lynching bees and political processions. But they are clichés polished with such loving skill that they shine like jewels.

I commend to you *The Sun Shines Bright* and I will be surprised if you can tell, when the last reel has run out, whether the shimmering soft-focus photography is a camera trick or exists only in the eye of the beholder.



Irma is the girl everybody loves to laugh at. She's blonde and beautiful—but, oh, so dumb! Yet Irma has made many more friends for herself than Dale Carnegie. In America she's a favourite on radio and television, and two films have widened her circle of admirers even further. Irma and her friend Jane live in a boarding house kept by the irascible Mrs. O'Reilly. Jane wants to marry her millionaire boss, while Irma has more straightforward ideas of marrying her steady beau Al. His line of employment is being unemployed, however, and Irma's seriously undertaken but daffy schemes to straighten out her love-life lead to confusion. "My Friend Irma," a series of half-hour episodes, starring Madi Hedd (above), will be heard from ZB stations at 7.0 p.m., beginning Tuesday, April 5.

N.Z. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS' ADVISORY BOARD

Advice concerning appealing as a Conscientious Objector against Military Training can be obtained from the N.Z.C.O. Advisory Board, P.O. Box 1922, Auckland, C.1.

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