

THE LOVABLE LIAR

JACQUELINE

(Rank) G Cert.
WHEN you know nothing of a film and expect little it's pleasant to be cheered up by its humanity or good humour. *Jacqueline* has both. Its big star, John Gregson, is a little disappointing—too decent to make credible even a cheerful drunk; but the rest compensate, and Jacqueline Ryan especially (as Jacqueline) is a delight. Her vice is lying, full-blooded and romantic, and she's completely credible.

Belfast is the setting for this tale, which gets us from the start with Mr Gregson, a farm worker out of his element, having one of his dizzy turns high on some scaffolding in the shipyards. When the whistle blows he goes off to the pub. At home only Jacqueline, who has been lying about him all day at school, really forgives him, and in the end, with separation threatening, she's to be the architect of salvation.

Jacqueline is a tale of an ordinary working-class home with a troubled and warmly human life. The family pleasures are a visit to a carnival and the street's Coronation celebration—a wonderful affair with Cyril Cusack as a hen-pecked husband who satisfies a 20-year thirst and goes on dancing in a rain-storm that sends everyone else home. The dialogue, in which Liam O'Flaherty had a hand, is completely right. As Jacqueline's mother Kathleen Ryan does a fine job in the sort of part she had in *The Yellow Balloon*, and Noel Purcell makes a good parson. Only Jacqueline's grandma, still pushing the barrow for the smug, steady fellow her daughter should have married, seems a little overdrawn, and even so it's nice to see this little extra tilt at respectability. Don't leave, by the way, till you know this film is over, for Jacqueline has a last word that will slay you.

THE TRUE STORY OF JESSE JAMES

(20th Century-Fox) G Cert.
[T'S more than five years since I rode with the James Brothers, but admiring the work of Nicholas Ray (and



JACQUELINE RYAN
Romantic liar, family saviour

N.Z. LISTENER, JUNE 7, 1957.

BAROMETER

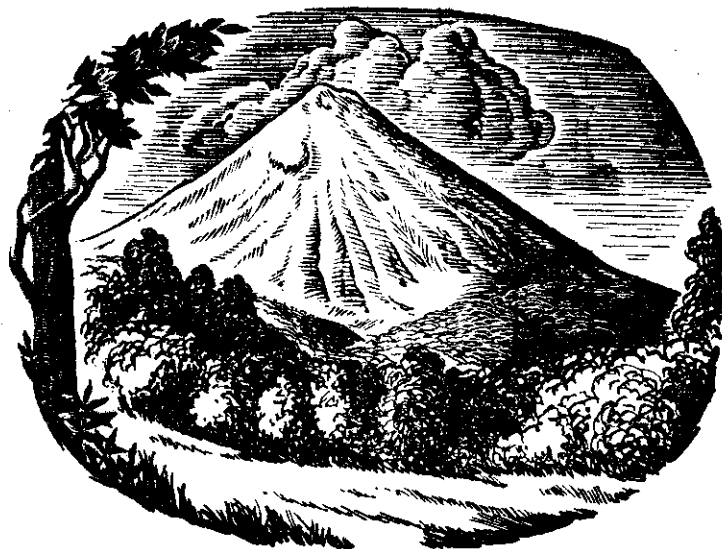
FAIR TO FINE: "*Jacqueline*."
FAIR TO FINE: "*The True Story of Jesse James*."
FAIR: "*Miracle in the Rain*."

especially his interest in the man beneath the skin of the wrongdoer and the misfit), I saddled up willingly enough when I noticed that he had directed this new film. In many ways, and in particular as an action story, it's a very good film. Starting with that last, disastrous hold-up at Northfield, it chases the James boys some way into the hills; then, with the suspense still simmering, it tells their story in a series of flashbacks. Though I think the use of this device has been rather overdone here, the interest doesn't flag, and when you get back to the Northfield hold-up again and see it through from the start you'll be sitting right on the edge of your seat. The end of the James story, too, has been well told.

What made Jesse James an outlaw? the film asks. In attempting to answer it covers much ground that we've ridden before—the raw deal from their neighbours for their active sympathy with the South in the Civil War, and so on. In this familiar country the narrative is no doubt better than in *The Great Missouri Raid*, and there is some additional significant detail. The dialogue (by Walter Newman from a Nunnally Johnson screenplay) is good, the Cinema-Scope photography is often impressive, and the ending is a nice study in betrayal. But in spite of very competent playing by Robert Wagner as Jesse and Jeffrey Hunter as Frank, this is not really the character study in depth that I hoped Mr Ray might give us.

MIRACLE IN THE RAIN

(Warner Bros.) Y Cert.
[T would have been so easy to make a syrup of *Miracle in the Rain* that one must praise Rudolph Maté's attempt to do something better. Scripted by Ben Hecht from his own novel, this story of Ruth Wood, a lonely, gentle New York office girl, who falls in love with a young soldier, loses him in the war, but in a miraculous moment meets him again, was a most terribly difficult one to tackle. Unpretentious black and white photography (by Russell Metty), thoroughly convincing New York settings, good dialogue and some first-class playing almost get away with it. Jane Wyman makes a touching Ruth, and Van Johnson is likeable as the soldier; and there are fine studies by Peggie Castle as Ruth's girl friend, Josephine Hutchinson as her mother, and William Gargan as her father, whose unexplained desertion years before has left the mother numb with shock. The sadness and loneliness of the girl's life and the glow of her first love are very real, so that at least until she hears her soldier has been killed this is a quite absorbing story. There are many good moments later, too, but even with my good stomach for low-key stories, I felt that the agony was a bit prolonged; and I think that, as much as my natural scepticism, made the miracle—which was really quite well handled—a little hard to take.



5. HOLDING THE SOIL

One of the important aims of forestry is the prevention of erosion. Forests like those clothing Mt. Egmont protect the dairying lands below. New Zealand is a mountainous country and the forests, scrub, tussock and other vegetation literally hold the steep country together. Forests on upland country and at the source of rivers act as natural reservoirs, prevent water run-off and flooding, store rainfall for the generation of electricity and provide a regular flow of clear water for town supply. Forests minimise the flooding of rivers with all its destructive consequences—the washing away of the soil, loss of life and disruption of communications. The New Zealand Forest Service works in close co-operation with the Soil Conservation Council for the prevention of erosion and the economical recovery of land.

Forestry is forever

Inserted in the interests of forest protection
by the New Zealand Forest Service
... Soil Conservation Council.



The
Essential
Household
Milk

Highlander gives all your cooking that added creamy flavour the family loves. Always ask for economical and convenient Highlander Milk. Backed by the famous Nestle's name!

indispensable in the kitchen