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'Scotch on the Rocks': Fine British Comedy

By ROSE PELSWICK

THE provocatively titled "Scotch On the Rocks" is the latest London Group 3 import, another of those engaging little British comedies that provide a succession of chuckles.

Now to be enjoyed at the Trans Lux 60th st. Theatre, the piece is spun out in a picturesquely isolated Scottish hamlet named Laxdale. As the story tells it, only five of the inhabitants own motor cars: the Laird of Laxdale Hall, the minister, the midwife, the undertaker and the shopkeeper. But it seems that the single road leading out of the village is so impassable that the five refuse to pay their licenses until the authorities give them a new road and a new pier as well.

Whitehall considers this to be close to anarchy, so a Parliamentary delegation is sent to the Highlands to look into the matter. And the way in which the villagers and their leisurely mode of life win over the skeptical investigators is detailed with persuasive humor.

The film is rich in incident and characterization, and a good part of its charm stems from the use of actual locales.

Among the script highlights are the pompous M.P.'s unsuccessful attempts to convince the happy country people that they should move into a modern inland factory town; an outdoor performance of "Macbeth" on rain-swept moors, and the manner in which the entire community plus the London contingent rounds up salmon poachers from Glasgow. Director John Eldridge keeps the Eric Linklater story moving briskly and a well-chosen cast is headed by Ronald Squire, Kathleen Ryan, Raymond Huntley, Sebastian Shaw, Fulton MacKay and Kynaston Reeves.