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"The True Story of Jesse James"

Sheds New Light On Famous Outlaw

(Advance)

Few men in the history of the United States have achieved more widespread fame for less praiseworthy accomplishments than have Jesse James and his brother, Frank. Adept at outwitting the law from 1866 to 1882, the James Boys established a world's record in keeping out of its clutches. Although some phases of their story have been told by the Hollywood producers, a new and more documented film is now about to be screened.

It is Twentieth Century-Fox's "The True Story of Jesse James" in CinemaScope and De Luxe color, which will have its local premiere at the Theatre. This film claims to shed new light on the fabulous career of the great Missouri outlaw which should prove highly interesting to watch.

Robert Wagner was chosen to portray the title role, probably the most important of his career. He came to this Herbert B. Swope, Jr. production fresh from a successful starring role with Spencer Tracy in "The Mountain." In the role of his brother, Frank, the studio selected Jeffrey Hunter, who achieved top stardom with "The Searchers" and "The Great Locomotive Chase," his two most recent credits. Hope Lange, winsome, young star, who scored highly in "Bus Stop," also has her most important assignment to date, that of "Zee," Jesse James' wife. Agnes Moorehead, late of "Raintree County," rounds out the star cast.

In making this picture, Producer Swope realized it was almost impossible to literally tell "the true story" of Jesse James,

but he put together a faithful rendering of what eye-witnesses said was the truth. In effect, the film puts Jesse James on trial with witnesses for the prosecution and the defense, and lets



Robert Wagner in the title role of "The True Story of Jesse James," at the Theatre. Mat 1A

the audience act as the jury.

"The True Story of Jesse James" traces the outlaw's life from the time he was 16 and joined Quantrill's band, through the famous Northfield, Minnesota bank holdup which has been called "The Gettysburg of the James Gang" because it was the gang's most ambitious effort and an almost completely ruinous disaster. Every year, that town still celebrates "The Defeat of Jesse James Day." The film ends with the outlaw's death at the hands of "that dirty little coward, Bob Ford" who shot Jesse in 1882.

Nicholas Ray as the director of this saga should prove an ex-

cellent choice. He has directed "Rebel Without A Cause" and "Bigger Than Life," which more than qualify him in the action genre. The screenplay was written by Walter Newman from an original scenario by Nunnally Johnson. Newman recently wrote the screenplay for "The Man with the Golden Arm," which was highly regarded for its suspenseful and artistic quality.

A strong supporting cast, headed by Alan Hale, Alan Baxter, John Carradine, Rachel Stephens, Barney Phillips and Biff Elliot, should add to the exciting journey into the life of the West's most astounding outlaw.