Programme for Wednesday September 16th, 1953, at 2 East 23rd Street, Room 318, promptly at 8.30 p.m.

With this programme we present the second in a series of films specifically requested by our members. Two weeks ago, with "Greed", we had, in spite of the appalling weather, a sufficiently large turnout to almost meet expenses. With the heat wave behind us, we hope we can count on an even bigger attendance for this performance. As we remarked before, these better-quality programmes have to pay for themselves if they are to continue - so it is entirely up to our membership to determine whether they do in fact continue.

"THE IRON HORSE"

Released by Fox, August 26, 1924. Author and scenario writers: Charles Kenyon and John Russell. Photography: George Schnoldekon. Original musical score: Erno Rapee. Directed by JOHN FORD.

The Cast:
Prologue: Davy Brandon, aged 10 (Winton Miller); Abraham Lincoln (Charles Edward Bull); Marion Marsh, aged 8 (Rosaleen Gerhart); David Brandon Sr. (James Gordon); Thomas Marsh (Will Walling).

Davy Brandon (GEORGE O'BRIEN); Mariam (MARGE HELLMAN); Abraham Lincoln (Charles Edward Bull); Doreux (Fred Kohler); Ruby (Clayda Huilett); Sgt. Stiltsky (Francis Farmer); Private Schultz (James Welsh); Danny (Jack O'Brien); Col. Cody (George Maguire); Major North (Charles O'Malley); Charles Crockher (Helmert Mann); Thomas C. Durant (Jack Diamond); Sioux Chief (Chief White Sparrow); John Hay (Stanhope Mashford); Thomas Marsh (Will Walling); Peter Jesson (Cyril Chadwick); Judge Haller (James Marcus); Corporal Casey (J. Ferrel MacDonald); Tony (Colin Chase); Can. Granville Bridge (Walter Bopy); Mills Bill Harker (John Podjahn); Collins P. Harrington (Charles Natoon); Gen. Stanford of California (John Podjahn); Chayenne Chief (Chief Big Tree); Polka Dot (Frances Teague); Old Chinaman (Edward Paid).

And a regiment of U.S. troops and cavalry, 3000 railway workers, 1000 Chinese laborers, 800 cowboys, 3000 horses, 1924 model railroad, the merger of the Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific lines in 1866.

Prompted by the critical acclaim and popular success of Paramount's "THE COVERED WAGON", William Fox rushed "THE IRON HORSE" into production to convert the wide open spaces into realms of gold. He assigned John Ford to direct the production after Ford's first big commercial success in 1923 directing John Gilbert in "COURAGE" and "CAMO KIRBY". The theme of the film might be considered as an epic dramatization of the construction of the first American transcontinental railroad, the merger of the Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific lines in 1866.

Paul Rotha, writing in "The Film Daily" commented: "... (it) combined the best elements of the Western school with the more sophisticated direction of the Hollywood feature film... was vast in its conception, and John Ford handled it with a high degree of talent. ... I remember with feeling the long line of rail workers' camps on the progress of track; the spirit and adventure of the pioneers; the clever rendering of the manners of the encircling Indians; and above all the far-stretching landscape across which the steel track was to run."

The stars: George O'Brien rose to stardom with this film, previously having played only minor western roles, and having started his career as an assistant cameraman and stunt double for Tom Mix. Marge Hellman, seen by this society last year in "The Potatood" and "Lonesome Dams", came to the screen from the Broadway stage. In films she duplicated the fragile little girl she essayed on stage in "Pollyanna" and "Fag O' My Heart". Her most notable role was opposite William Gillette in Barrie's "Dear Brutus". Currently she is operating a motor court in Calif.

Again, it is difficult to do justice to a film of the calibre of "THE IRON HORSE" on one page of program notes, but a short introductory talk prior to the screening will cover the main points of interest that space limitations prevent here. Suffice to say now that "THE IRON HORSE" is still one of the biggest - and best - of all outdoor epics, and a film not to be missed. This is the first New York Screening in many years.

Following "THE IRON HORSE", we shall be screening "COWBOY AMBROSE", a classic Masc Swain two-reeler of 1910. This is a short that we ran, unannounced, as the final item on one of our longer shows last year. Consequently many members missed it -- and several of those who saw it, have requested us to play it again. A wonderful satire on the horse opera, it pokes fun at all the sacred traditions of the western, while packing in more action and stuntung than many a western feature.

AT OUR NEXT SCREENING - SEPTEMBER 30TH - JOHN BARKHORSE in "BEAU BRUMMEL."

Enquiries to: Bill Kenly (CH.2-3897)
28 East 13th Street
New York City 3.