Tonight's program, as you know, is unplanned, extra-curricular and somewhat unofficial. Since we are able to pick the print up only an hour or so ahead of showing time, there has been no chance to pre-screen it or to assemble program notes. (Second-hand program notes assembled from ancient writers of others are something we've always tried to avoid.) We can offer no guarantees as to the condition or completeness of the print, but we assume that both are A-1, and certainly the rental fee indicates that they should be!

Since this showing was so hastily set up, there has been little time to work up a supporting bill. In any case, with a film like "THE BIG HOUSE," we're presumably all too anxious to get at it to worry about a second feature.

However, so that we'll feel in an appropriately stir-crazy frame of mind, we have a short (30-40 mins) introductory reel with some appropriate excerpts from other prison movies. (Alas, the wonderfully sadistic "Big House Bunny," a cartoon we ran a few years ago, isn't available tonight!) These will probably be more fun if left unannounced, but since the main title is missing from the final short, perhaps we should identify it here. It's "The Last Chapter," an MGM "Crime Does Not Pay" short of 1943, with Cameron Mitchell, Walter Sando, Addison Richards.

We hope you'll enjoy renewing acquaintance with all the dope, screws,inks, fish and stoogies who've been very much absent from the screen ever since Capney and Bogart moved out of Warners.

At a time when two, and sometimes three, different foreign versions were being made on all the really important early talkies, MGM really went to town with a minimum of four versions of "THE BIG HOUSE," and possibly more. Andy Kohay has been doing some of his customary delving, and has come up with the following information on foreign versions, which we are printing following the American credits:

"THE BIG HOUSE" (1930) Dir: George Hill Author: Frances Marion Scenario & Dialogue: Frances Marion, Joe Farnham, Martin Flavin Camera: Harold Von Sinnen; editors: Blanche Sewell; Recording Engineer: Douglas Shearer; Art Director: Cedric Gibbons; General Press Representatives: Howard Dietz, Pete Smith; Premiere: Century Theatre, Miami, June 7 1930; release: June 21, 1930. Length is given alternately as 30 mins and (copyright length) 10 reels.


German Version

Title: "Hemot'en Hinter Gittern" ("Man Behind Bars"); Directed by Paul Fejos; photo rephased by Harold Von Sinnen; additional scenario, Welles Hasselvey, Ernst Toller, E.W. Brandes. Berlin premiere: June 24 '31.

Cast:


French Version Also directed by Paul Fejos

Italian Version Directet by Emile de Rezet.