Tuesday next, January 25th: Frank Capra's "LADIES OF LEISURE" (1929) with Barbara Stanwyck, Lowell Sherman, Ralph Graves, Marie Prevost; and Rupert Julian's "WALKING BACK" with Sue Carol, Richard Waring, Ivan Lebedeff.

January 18, 1966
The Theodore Huff Memorial Film Society

An announcement. The two programs cancelled because of the transit strike will be re-scheduled in toto early in March, and these dates will be confirmed in our next Bulletin. Many of you checked with me directly concerning our status during the strike period, and others I know called the Academy Hall, which had been notified that there would be no shows. Our apologies to those faithful few who still turned up, hopefully. We could have been in Chicago with the films - the room rent after all was paid, so profit or loss hardly came into it - but it seemed rather pointless and unfair in view of the fact that the movies you couldnt have made it. So the missed films will be shown soon, and there'll be some interesting surprises, picked up in Europe, on our March schedule too.

"LADY BY CHOICE" (Columbia, 1934) Directed by David Burton
Screenplay by Jo Swerling from a story by Dwight Taylor; camera: Ted Tetzlaf.
Adele: Viola Lawrence; 7 reels.

An obvious attempt to cash in on and duplicate the success of the Frank Capra-May Robson "Lady for a Day", this comes off rather better than most such follow-ups. Its Bunyonesque story doesn't quite have the bite that it might have, and the rather slow-paced story is fairly predictable, but it's a suitable little programmer, nicely held together by the infallible trooping of May Robson, the brittle charm of Carole Lombard, and the seedy villainy of Arthur Hohl. A minor film to be sure, but an enjoyable one, and an interesting look at Carole Lombard on the very brink of her best films.

- Intermission -

"FAST AND LOOSE" (Paramount, 1930) Directed by Fred Newmayer
Scenario by Jack Kirkland and Doris Anderson, and dialogue by Preston Sturges, from the David Gray-Avery Hopwood play "The Best People"; camera: William Steiner; 7 reels.
With Miriam Hopkins, Carole Lombard, Frank Morgan, Charles Starrett, Henry Wadsworth, Tika Chase, Herbert Yost, Winifred Harris, David Hutcheson, Herschel Mayall.

"Fast and Loose" is one of those prolific 1929-31 filmed plays which seems to have no valid artistic or entertainment reason for ever having been put on celluloid, but which by virtue of all the embryonic talents involved takes on added historic and academic interest today. On the surface, it teems more than a casual relationship to "Laughter" - but Fred Newmayer (at best a night-club man in silents) is no Harry D'Arrast, and the pseudo-sophistication and hints of social comment rarely come off as surely as cast and director obviously feel they are doing! The dialogue is properly brittle, but the recognisable Sturges wit creeps into the lines fairly late in the proceedings at a night-club party. Miriam Hopkins, in her first film, has dowdy costume, weird hair-dressing and an obvious over-reliance on her clonation coach all ganging up on her to produce such a singularly unattractive debut that it's a miracle her career survived. Carole Lombard (the first time her billing added the "s" to her first name) is off the screen during the middle chunk of the film. She is quite charming but rather wan and subdued, and a far cry from the more boisterous Carole we've seen in "Lady by Choice" of less than four years later. That old professional Frank Morgan wraps up the whole show quite effortlessly of course. "Fast and Loose" is one of those convictions to the contrary, in fairly tame imitation Capra, but it's short and snappy and an interesting museum audio.

Note re the current Tuesday night series at the Trans-Lux, with which we are also marginally involved. Tuesday being considered a "bad" night by the trade, and therefore a "good" night for experimenting, we were unable to get them to shift to another evening, and compromised by booking two films which happen to fit most of our needs. The exceptions: "Salome", which is our pick, and which we will fit into a later Huff show. Ambitious things are planned for the Trans-Lux series, and if these expansions materialise, we'll take steps to see that there's no conflict - even if it means working out a different night for Huff shows.

Available tonight are a very few copies of the brochure containing details of the Canadian Cinematheque (Montreal) weekend marathon sessions of extremely rare Russian silents. Interested parties see WES after the show.