

Hollywood Comes to Lawrence!

DIRECT FROM HOLLYWOOD!

*** MOVIE STARS ***

IN PERSON!

**WORLD
PREMIERE**
THURSDAY—APRIL 4th

One of the Great Motion
Pictures of All Times!

**ROUSING ADVENTURE!
GLORIOUS ROMANCE!
SPECTACULAR ACTION!**

Republic Pictures

Proudly Presents Lawrence's Own Great Story



The **DARK** *//* **COMMAND**

QUANTRILL RIDES AGAIN...
See the Looting and Burning of Lawrence!



with
**CLAIRE TREVOR • JOHN WAYNE
WALTER PIDGEON**

**Roy Rogers • George Hayes • Porter Hall
Marjorie Main • Raymond Walburn**

Special Notice!

All Seats Reserved for World
Premiere at Dickinson and
Granada Deluxe Performance
with Stars in Person.

All Seats 75c

Deluxe Show at 8:30 p. m.

Seats on Sale Now
Dickinson and Granada

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THURSDAY... APRIL 4th

See

- ...Gigantic Street Pa-
rade in the Afternoon!
- ...Priceless Displays of
Early American Relics!
- ...Reenactment Burning
of the Free State Hotel!
- ...Many Other Thrilling
and Spectacular Events!

DARK COMMAND

combines Civil War "atmosphere" with fast-paced action to create a western remake of Quantrill's Raid. This time it's the hero, John Wayne, who rides into Lawrence from across the border--the Texas border, of course--and local schoolteacher William "Cantrell" (Walter Pidgeon) who turns raider. The suave, educated Cantrell and bumpkin Wayne are soon battling it out, first for the job of town marshal and then for the affections of Mary McCloud (Claire Trevor). With all these passions inflamed, we can't help watching the Lawrence storefronts anxiously for signs of smoke. Humorous high-lights are provided by George "Gabby" Hayes as an itinerant dentist who attends to patients damaged by Wayne's ready fists, and the young Roy Rogers as Mary's hot-headed brother.

Directed by action picture veteran Raoul Walsh, DARK COMMAND excuses itself from following history too closely with a disclaimer in the opening scene. Just as well, for soon after hordes of partisans pour into Kansas to settle the free state/slave state controversy, Lawrence forgets the Civil War and tackles the real frontier problem: getting a tough marshal to handle the rowdy cowboys and villains.

History's Quantrill, of course, led his guerilla band from Missouri into Kansas after the state had already joined the shattered Union, and long before Texas cowboys ever visited Abilene. Improbable as it sounds, the future raider did teach school briefly in Ohio, and settled for a time in Lawrence. Fleeing to Missouri in 1861, he organized a band of pro-slave sympathizers including the likes of Frank and Jesse James and the Younger brothers. Olathe, Shawnee and other towns were targets before 450 men invaded Lawrence in 1863, killing 150 men, looting, and burning the town. Though Hollywood's code demanded that Lawrence fight back and the leader meet his just deserts, in reality the unprepared

populace offered little resistance, and Quantrill went unscathed until his violent death two years later. Again, contrary to the movie plot, he was a legitimate Confederate captain when he struck Lawrence.

Over the years, the figure of Quantrill has been surrounded by historical controversy and legend. A curious footnote to the story rests in the stacks of the Historical Society, which in 1903 and 1912 received four bones purportedly snatched from Quantrill's grave. Typical of the "oddities" which museums collected at the turn of the century, the bones are not currently displayed, but rifles, melted glass and several other artifacts preserved after the Lawrence raid are part of the museum's exhibit in the "Famous Kansans" gallery.



DARK COMMAND created almost as much furor in Lawrence as did Quantrill's original visit. But the second time around the raider received a far more enthusiastic greeting. Though the movie was filmed on Hollywood stage sets cloned from the latest Dodge City western, Republic Pictures selected Lawrence as the scene of the World Premiere in 1940.

A special Santa Fe train triumphantly hauled stars, director and Republic executives into a media-blitzed Lawrence on the day of the premiere. Wayne, Pidgeon, Hayes and Rogers all made appearances, along with Hollywood actresses Wendy Barrie, June Storey and Ona Munson, who had to fill in for the ailing Claire Trevor. After checking into the historic Eldridge Hotel, the stars joined a massive parade featuring every horse, buggy and marching band in the vicinity. Prominent among the glittering crowd was Grand Marshal Gene Autry, the singing cowboy, in his \$2500 silver-studded outfit. (continued)

DARK COMMAND, continued

In the evening, 15,000 residents watched a replica of the original Eldridge Hotel go up in flames in South Park, in a simulation of the raid acted out by Haskell Institute staff and students. The 9:00 premiere showing sold out at three theaters, despite the special admission price of 75¢.

A handful of survivors were still alive when DARK COMMAND premiered 77 years after the historic raid. A few indignant citizens protested the festivities, insisting that memories of the atrocity still lived and the film itself was an outrage to Lawrence. Another point of view was expressed by Ed Anderson, who was a year and a half old at the time of the raid and viewed the original production from his father's basement. "This time," he told the Journal-World, "I won't be in the basement. I'll be right there in the front row when the raiders pull in."



In THE LAST FRONTIER, our weekly serial, the innocent Tom Kirby (Lon Chaney Jr.) has become the prime suspect in the gun-smuggling operation, with only Uncle Happy and a bonnet-wielding Aggie to defend his besmirched reputation. Undaunted, Tom continues to do good. But will his gunshot wound keep him from saving Betty Halliday from the quicksand? We'll find out today in Chapter Six, "Terror Trail."