Grundy Granger Heads List Of Week's Meager Fare

By LOUIS BELL and JIM CUTTLER

Greetings from the vicious critics' circle. This is what as known in libido land as sick flick week. The pickings are less than meager; they're unbelievable. Better things are in sight, however, with the scheduling of Hemingway's "Old Man and the Sea" and "The Big Country" in the near future at the River Oaks and Majestic respectively.

Grundy Granger

Perhaps the biggest mistake on screen at the present is a sleeper (no meritorious connotations here) from Fox, "Harry Black and the Tiger." This one gets a G.M. (gross morose) for absolutely no effort. Stewart Granger is a sea-ess type hunter who holds his liquor like a Rice freshman and carries around the same knowing expression even in the darkest wilds.

While the acting is bad and the photography worse, the plot is indescribably barf. Grundy Granger and Barbara Rush play footsie through two sluggish reels, presumably hunting a man eater (also women-and children-eater) in the bush.

Great White Hunter

For Great White Hunter Granger the tiger makes a stalwart piece de resistance and Miss Rush something a little less, (Think). The over-all effect one gets after viewing the "Adventurous" life story of Harry Black is one of sterile exhaustion and relief.

"Onionhead"

"Onionhead" is a hard picture to type. It has more slapstick per reel than most Abbott-Costello films, yet the only thing funny about it is the audience: they laugh. Andy Griffith, as usual a competent comedian, does the rankest kinds of "takes" with penhouse tee-pee.

James Darren is promising as the seduced youth, but Tab Hunter ought to be shipped to Siberia. As a drama it is not altogether disappointing. There are some good action shots in which T. H. murders his daily dozen in the bloodiest fashion printable.

Fair Fare

The courtroom scene is a challenge to "Peyton Place" as pure fiasco. The picture was made too long on too short a bankroll. Aside from this, it might be fair fare for shoot-em-up enthusiasts.

Williams In The Swim

"Raw Wind in Eden" was sneaked last Sunday and successfully emptied the house before closing time. This horror put Esther Williams back in the drink after being dry-docked for six years. She doesn't drown, but falls for Jeff Chandler, who is all wet himself.

Rossana Podesta is a greasy litl adolescent who runs around the lighthouse in tight nighties scrounged from Frau Williams' wardrobe. The plot is so improbable as to merit a full two-column spread, but the snowflakes are falling and it's off to T.V. for us.

Others Unseen

Others we haven't seen: (Truth is our greatest weakness).

"War of the Worlds:" top-grade science-flicktion for them as can stomach it.

"The Silken Affair:" smooth and spicy. Worth careful study by biology majors.

"Indiscreet:" light, trite, terrific.

"Kathy-O:" Patty McCormick, brat, plays Patty McCormick, brat.