FLICK FLAK

‘In Love and War’ Has Same Old Subject Matter

By JIM KUTTLER

The welcome melting of some two weeks’ snow has seen a deluge of flicks gone un-flakked in this weary weekly, a sad state of affairs indeed for our morbit fans. Can there possibly be another such rich source of unbiased and unbased opinion?

A Negative Snarl

For all who have asked about “Old Man and the Sea,” the reports are mixed, but the average Rice feeling about it has been a negative snarl. Once again, this is one of those shows made for art’s sake, and not the audience’s. If you have the Hemingway fetish, however, you’ll find the show faithful to the story and might get your two dollars’ worth after all.

and LOUIS BELL

No Charm?

In Jerry Wald’s case, the third time is completely lacking in charm. His first two productions, “No Down Payment” and ‘Peyton Place,’” were entertainment gems. “In Love and War” utilizes the same subject matter, everlasting sex and love irrespective, but is too episodic and strained, too unevenly proportioned to be completely plausible or laudable in its message.

Hang-It-All

Robert Wagner seems to have gotten a pretty steady footing in the hang-it-all method, and is the only worthwhile thing in the show. The humor is too contrived, too sophisticated, and often ironic.

In the heat of battle a buzz on the hook-up is greeted by a casual “Good Morning! World War II!”

This is so funny that it’s pathetic.

Disturbingly Nil

Taken separately, almost every scene serves up a generous helping of passion, drama and fun, but the effect of their combination is disturbingly nil. Perhaps the film editor is to blame, because with a juggling of scenes in a picture of this type the possibilities might have added to give a positive score. Sorry, but we’ll have to give this a -10 for general laxity of production. Other contributors to the confusion: Jeff Hunter, Dana Wynter and France Nuyen.