

"DUEL IN THE SUN"

MARCH 6, 1947

PROPOSED CUTS MADE IN "DUEL"

REEL 2A
PAGE 5

CUT END OF SENATORS CU "BUT I'VE ALWAYS TOLD YOU — TAKE YOUR FUN WHERE YOU FIND IT"

REEL 3A
PAGE 3

CUT BEGINNING OF SECOND SCENE EXTERIOR NIGHT — PEARL MEETING JESSE.
PEARL: "I'D LOVE TO — BUT I"

REEL 3A
PAGE 4

SHORTEN BEGINNING OF SCENE PEARL IN WATER AFTER LEWT WHISTLES.

REEL 3B
PAGE 1

CUT PEARL "NOW YOUR MA THINKS THAT — "
LEWT "I KNOW WHAT MA THINKS. AND NEXT TIME, SHE'LL BE RIGHT"

REEL 3B

CUT SINKILLER SAYING "PADRE" SO THAT IT READS "AS NICE AND PRETTY AS ANY OF HIS OWN FAITH COULD—A DONE"

REEL 4A

CUT BEGINNING OF SCENE LEWT ENTERS DOOR TO PEARL
CUT BEGINNING OF NEXT CUT OF PEARL ON FLOOR.
CUT LAST HALF OF SCENE PEARL TURNS AROUND AND SPOTS LEWT.
CUT BEGINNING OF LS PEARL GETS UP FROM FLOOR.
CUT ALL THE LS THAT SHOWS THE LAMP BEING KNOCKED OVER AND START OF STRUGGLE.
SHORTEN BEGINNING OF FIRST SHOT AFTER WINDOW ELIMINATING SOME KISS.
CUT END OF SAME SHOT ELIMINATING PASSIONATE KISS

REEL 4B
PAGE 3

CUT DIALOGUE OF JESSE: "LEWT HAS THE RIGHT IDEA. TAKE WHAT YOU WANT AND TAKE IT WHEN YOU WANT IT"
PEARL: "OH, NO! NO! NO!"
CUT PEARL'S LINE WHERE SHE CALLS "LEWT" AT THE WINDOW.

REEL 4B
PAGE 4

CUT DIALOGUE "SHE DON'T SEEM TOO HAPPY TO ME"
LEWT: "SHE'S HAPPY, ALL RIGHT. YOU'D THINK SHE WAS GOIN' TO HER FIRST DANCE"

PEARL: "IF SHE THROWS A NICE COLT, I'D SURE LIKE TO BREAK IT"

LEWT: "MORE LIKE TO BREAK YOU"

PEARL: "YOU THINK YOU'RE PRETTY SMART, DON'T YOU?"

REEL 5A
PAGE 1

CUT LEWT "NOW TAKE HIM DOWN TO HIS SWEETHEART. ~~XXX~~ MAYBE HE'LL FEEL BETTER"

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PAGE 2

REEL 5A
PAGE 1, CONTINUED

CUT DIALOGUE LEWT: "FEEL LIKE GOING DOWN TO THE SNORTIN' POST?"

PEARL: "NO LET'S NOT"

REEL 5A
PAGE 2 & 3

CUT EXIT OF SCENE AFTER LEWT PUTS HAT ON, TO ELIMINATE EXCHANGE OF LOOKS BETWEEN LEWT AND PEARL.

CUT DIALOGUE PEARL: "I'M NOT COMIN' HERE NO MORE IF WE'RE NOT"

LEWT: "NOW, WHAT'S BEIN' BESPOKEN GOT TO DO WITH COMIN' HERE?"

PEARL: "EVERYTHING! I MEAN IT, LEWT!"

PEARL: "YOU JUST WANT TO GO ON LIKE THIS TILL YOU GET TIRED OF ME.
IS THAT IT?"

LEWT: "OH, STOP NAGGIN' ME, PEARL!"

REEL 5A
PAGE 3

ELIMINATE ENTIRE DANCE. IN LOVE SEQUENCE FOLLOWING DANCE, A TEN-FOOT CUT HAS BEEN MADE TO ELIMINATE THE ONE KISS.

REEL 5B
PAGE 2

SHORTEN END OF SCENE SENATOR AND LEWT ELIMINATING WHISPER AND ACCOMPANYING DIALOGUE AND LAUGHTER

REEL 6A
PAGE 3

CUT SID'S DIALOGUE "HAVE TO MARRY HER FOR"

REEL 6B
PAGE 2

CUT LEWT KICKING PEARL IN FACE.

REEL 6B

CUT FINAL PART OF SEQUENCE WHERE LEWT VISITS PEARL, ELIMINATING KISS AND FOLLOWING DIALOGUE:

"PEARL"

"OH LEWT - HONEY! LEWT, IT'S GOT TO BE YOU, WHETHER IT'S THIRTY MILES OR ONE HUNDRED."

Legion of Decency

Inter-Office Memorandum

To: ~~XXXXXX~~ Files From Monsignor McClafferty

Subject: DUEL IN THE SUN

Date March 13, 1947

Tuesday, March 4th, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Selznick and Monsignor McClafferty met to discuss the objections to the film. Wednesday, March 5th, Mr. Selznick showed three scenes which he had cut to lower the objectionable emphasis.

1. the scene of Pearl suggesting that she and Lewt go for a swim,
2. the scene of Pearl calling for Lewt,
3. the scene of Lewt in Pearl's room after he had evaded the sheriff and the sheriff's posse.

To meet the objection of the ending in view of the fact that Mr. Selznick was unwilling to change the ending a prologue was prepared. The prologue would be integratively a part of the picture and dramatically presented with music and spoken comment. The prologue is as follows:

Fanfare. Narrator's voice. The overture to DUEL IN THE SUN. Twenty or thirty seconds of music in clear. Music lowers and continues as narrator's voice comes in. DUEL IN THE SUN, two years in the making, is a saga of Texas in the 1880s, when primitive passions rode the raw frontier of an expanding nation.....Here, the forces of evil were in constant conflict with the deeper morality of the hardy pioneers.....And here, as in the story we tell, a grim fate lay waiting for the transgressor upon the laws of God and man.....

Music swells ten seconds in clear, then lowers again and continues, as again we pick up narrator's voice. The characters in DUEL IN THE SUN are builded out of legend, but are prototypes of a colorful era when a million acres were one man's estate, and another man's life was held as lightly as a woman's virtue.....The character of the sin killer is based upon a type of bogus unordained evangelists who preyed upon the hungry need for spiritual guidance, and who were recognized as charalatang by the intelligent and God fearing.....

Music builds for two or three seconds. Narrator speaks. DUEL....IN THE SUN.....Music swells for twenty or thirty seconds of completion of overture to a conclusion and main title of film come on.

Friday, March 7th the film was screened for consultants and reviewers. The following reports were received after this screening:

11. C
11. B
3. A-2

Tuesday, March 11th Monsignor, at luncheon with Mr. Quigley showed to him the reports of the reviewers and introduced to Mr. Quigley the "musts" toning down the "sump" scene and doing something about the ending. Mr. Quigley saw Mr. Selznick. Mr. Selznick said he would work on the toning down of the "sump" sequence. He still remained adamant on the ending and came up with the suggestion of an epilogue.

Wednesday, March 12th Monsignor and Mr. Selznick and Mr. Quigley met. There was a lengthy discussion of the "sump" sequence and on the changes. Finally, the scene was cut, all those portions were removed wherein there was no dialogue. The result was to tone down the scene. However, there still remained some prolongation which could be considered objectionable.

The epilogue wording was worked upon and was further worked upon on Thursday, March 13th by Mr. McNamara (of Selznick's office) and Monsignor McClafferty. The epilogue wording will be as follows:

"Pearl Chavez pursued, tortured by her own passions, whose moral weakness lead to trasgression against the law of God, played by Jennifer Jones, Academy Award Winner. Lewt McCanles, untamed, godless, whose unbridled recklessness brought havoc and destruction, and brought down upon him in the end the frustration of all his hopes. Laura Belle McCanles, whose gentle nature could not cope with the brutal immorality of the crude new world."

The moral overture alluding by way of the moral characterization of the characters, will be in bolder face type than the mention of the academy awards that the three actors have received.

Bishop Scully by telephone was brought up to date on the situation and concurred. Archbishop McIntyre likewise was brought up to date and concurred. The Selznick office will release a statement for Friday papers. The text of the statement was gone over in conference on Wednesday with Mr. Selznick, Mr. Quigley and Monsignor.

The Legion office will release a statement for Saturday papers. The statement is attached and was agreed upon on the Wed., and Thursday conferences.

LEGION OF DECENCY
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FOR RELEASE SATURDAY PAPERS, March 15th

The National Legion of Decency has classified "Duel in the Sun", after revision, as "B-Objectionable in Part." The reason for the classification is as follows:

B

Immodestly suggestive sequences; glorification of illicit love.

In effecting the revision the producer, Mr. David Selznick, has responded with cooperation and understanding to critical reaction subsequent to the trial engagement of the film in Los Angeles and has thus displayed an awareness of responsibility for the moral and social integrity of motion pictures.