

# ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Chuck Lapp

Well, I'm sitting here with a cool Keith's India Pale Ale, wondering what to tell you about the far east this month. Hmmm ... "Keith's - Nova Scotia Brewery - Established 1920 - Veritas Vincit" ... I wonder if they've been bought out by Upper Canada yet ... Olands has gone down ... talk about foreign ownership.

## \$35,000 GRANT

The Atlantic Filmmakers Co-op was recently awarded a Canada Council grant of \$35,000 for the establishment of a resource centre for the production of independent films in the Atlantic area. The Council apportioned the grant as follows: Equipment \$15,000; Production \$10,000; Salaries & Administration \$10,000.

The Co-op is set to go into production in the first week of June with scripts submitted at this writing by John Brett, Ashley Lohnes, Ken Pittman, Lionel Simmons, Ramona MacDonald, Peter Clarke and Derek Kennedy. Indications are that up to ten more scripts will be submitted by the June 1st deadline so it should be a productive summer for the Co-op. Equipment ordered by the Co-op includes an Arri BL, Nagra 4.2; Moviola, Bolex, lights, Canon 1014 Super-8 and other knick knacks necessary for epic making.

## ROBERT FRANK

Photographer-filmmaker Robert Frank, who is now a full-time resident of Cape Breton, is having difficulty getting his documentary of the '72 Rolling Stones tour (formerly entitled *Cocksucker Blues*) into general release. Apparently Frank's camera had a habit of showing up at the most indiscreet places but everyone was so stoned or involved in whatever that they didn't care or forgot he was there until the morning after. According to a Stones' spokesman quoted in the latest *Rolling Stone* magazine, some of the Stones' crew have wives who shouldn't see what happened on the tour. According to others who have seen the film, nobody should see what happened on the tour or everybody should - depending on your point

of view. Frank taught a filmmaking course at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design last summer and has been active in helping local filmmakers.

## NFB "EAST"

Along the lines of a different type of documentary, the National Film Board is gearing up for shooting a two and a half hour special entitled *The East* to be aired on CBC next March 26th. Rex Tasker, Executive Producer of NFB Atlantic, states that the Board is attempting to create a fresh view of the Atlantic area through a mixture of "humour, music, and satire". The 2 1/2 hour special will be made up of different films ranging in length from 30 seconds to 60 minutes. There will be one 20-30 minute film on each province and the rest will be made up out of approximately 25 shorts slated for shooting. Some of the productions will be done with the Atlantic Production Unit and others will be coordinated locally and shot by Montreal crews.

One of the half-hour documentaries for the *East* special is called *Eastern Graphic* and is loosely based on a small weekly newspaper of that name published on P.E.I. Some of the shooting for that film was done during the recent P.E.I. election in an attempt to capture some of the grass-roots politicking that happens in a rural area like the Island. Other films scheduled are a 15-minute portrait of St. John, N.B. city cemetery manager entitled *On the Brink*; a study of the changes taking place in the Atlantic area using Sanboro, N.S. as a microcosm of the phenomenon called *Change by Degrees*; an as-yet untilted look at the Acadians of New Brunswick; a poem-song about Cape Breton; and a portrait of Nova Scotian painter Brian Porter.

Some current NFB films that are close to completion are: *Margaree People* that has just been mixed and *The Island*, an historical documentary of P.E.I. by Brian Pollard that is at the sound editing stage. *People Music*, a half-hour look at the comprehensive Halifax City music programme is the most recent project. The film's climax will be a gymnasium concert that will require what is rumoured to be the

biggest lighting set-ups seen in these parts for quite a while (multi-mini-brutes, maybe an article in the *American Cinematographer* ... ?)

On tape, NFB has almost completed *Histoire d'Amour*, a 90-minute feature locally produced in Bathurst, N.B. It was shot on half-inch video for two-inch broadcast via the recently developed Time Base Corrector. Also recently recorded on video was a hockey game between the Truro RCMP and the inmates of the Springhill Penitentiary with Solicitor-General Warren Allmand playing centre for the inmates. ... !

As part of their regional program, NFB has hired filmmaker-trainees in each province of the Atlantic area. Each of the filmmakers will serve an apprenticeship in some aspect of production as well as making their own film. The trainees are as follows: Kent Martin, Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Robert Awad, Kedgwick, N.B.; John Peterson, Saint John, N.B.; Michael Jones, Saint John's, Nfld.; James Rotboll, Halifax, N.S.; and Stefan Wodoslawsky, Halifax, N.S.

## TRIMS

No word on the rumoured *Barometer Rising* film but historic footage of the morning after the explosion viewed recently makes the final scene of *Zabriskie Point* look like a string of firecrackers.

The Atlantic Filmmakers Co-op is in the market for good used filmproduction equipment. Send info to: 5211 Blowers St. Suite 23, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Anyone who has information on the building of an optical printer please contact Lionel Simmons c/o The Atlantic Filmmakers Co-op (above).

A Film & Video Newsletter for the Atlantic area is available from NFB Atlantic, 1572 Barrington Street, Halifax, N.S.

Correction: In the last edition of *Atlantic Provinces* it was incorrectly reported that Sheryl Wright was a photographer at the Dalhousie Medical School. Sheryl was actually working as a photographer for the Halifax Infirmary where she took the slides for her film *Cancer In Women*.



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