

FILM NEWS

Major Developments

Famous Players is wasting no time in jumping into the quota system; they've placed Crawley's feature **The Man Who Skied Down Everest** (see review, p. 46) in a first run Toronto theatre. The engagement is billed 'For a Limited Time Only', which means it's a filler until the autumn biggie moves in.

In order to invest its \$1.2 million, Famous is changing its previous approach from scattered small investments to a few large ones. And to help them to do it they've got Paramount, a sister company in the Gulf and Western empire, as well as two or three other Hollywood studios offering advice as to suitability. They've got seven scripts on the Coast for appraisal. Odeon is also looking homeward and will rely on Rank Organisation advice in their quest for money-making properties. Odeon also says it will invest in only two or three features per year. All of which emphasises the fact that the chains are looking for commercially viable properties only, and in the British or Hollywood mould.

As an adjunct to feature financing, Mr. Faulkner, secretary of State, stopped off in London on September 12 and co-signed the British-Canada co-production agreement. Now each country's filmmakers will be able to take advantage of the other's special incentives for filmmaking. Conditions attached are not too stringent: the budget must be over \$350,000, technicians and profits must be spread around on both sides of the Atlantic. Already productions are planned

under the agreement (see Ontario Production section, p. 7).

Back home there is no official film policy but it appears that someone may formulate one soon. Pierre Juneau has been appointed Minister of Communications and should give a needed jolt to the federal cabinet. On Sept. 25 **Le Devoir** reported that Mr. André Gourd, past right-hand man in cinema matters to Quebec's Cultural Minister, would soon become Juneau's executive assistant. (see Quebec Political Echos, p. 8)

Meanwhile the effect of a cabinet shuffle on filming, whether Mr. Faulkner retains his portfolio or not, is unknown. What we do know is that Sydney Newman has received money, people — John Boundy, formerly of the NFB foreign distribution division, — and a task: advise on film. This might allow Newman's best ability, inspiration and enthusiasm, to be directed in an effective way.

Over at the Canada Council, much is in limbo. Geoffrey James is the new Visual Arts Officer, and Penni Jaques, film officer, has departed for B.C. Her replacement is Francoyse Picard, formerly of the National Film Board in Toronto, who may have to cope with a re-allocation of funds where the ratio would be video 2/3 and film 1/3. And that's despite the fact that there is more activity in film. Perhaps the Council, long unable to define film's art and commerce components, has decided to leave it all up to the Canadian Film Development Corporation.

In Montreal, new Nation-

al Film Board head André Lamy has appointed his number two man, James B. de Domville. He's a producer who has been responsible for the drama division and one of the CBC-NFB theme evenings last year. Roman Kroiter will replace him in the drama division. One of de Domville's first priorities will be to supervise the NFB's decentralisation of English-language operations, starting with the Toronto-based Ontario division. Latter still needs an Executive Producer to run the show.

In Halifax, an interesting confrontation is taking place. The theatre chains and Hollywood distributors are accused of discrimination. Rocca Cinemas is suing Warner Brothers because Warners won't allow Rocca to show first-run product. If the outcome favours Rocca, booking patterns across the country may change radically, but most noticeably in the ten top-grossing cities, where the distributors deal with one or the other of the chains almost exclusively for first-run showings.

And finally to TV and broadcasting again. The CRTC has not announced a replacement for Juneau at press time, but presumably it will be Harry Boyle. And the CRTC has raised Canadian Content quotas for commercials on TV and radio to 80% by 1978. And the CBC is planning such massive coverage of the Olympics next year that most, if not all, of the Corporation's equipment and crews will be required in Montreal, which is unfortunate. I'm a firm advocate of exercise, but all that running, jumping and hopping around is ridiculous when everything else is standing still.

Film people

Rodger J. Ross, engineer, lecturer and author has been given the Agfa-Gevaert Gold Medal Award by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers for 1975. The Award will be given at the Annual Awards Presentation of the Society at the Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, September 29.

The Agfa-Gevaert Gold Medal Award is presented to Rodger J. Ross, in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the promotion of advances engineering practices and techniques which resulted in significant improvements to the interface between motion picture film and television imaging systems.

A call from Actor Chris Wiggins pointed to inaccuracies in a previous column of mine. I spoke of the demise of two TV shows, **Police Surgeon** and **Swiss Family Robinson**, stating that both cancellations were due to an FCC ruling, that the programmes were American and that they had supplied sustenance and experience to Canadian personnel. Mr. Wiggins says that **Swiss Family** was not American and that it was cancelled because ABC came up with its own version of the show. Furthermore, he insists that **Swiss Family** had a top crew and cast. I agree. I stand corrected.

Screenings: **Why Rock the Boat?** opened for a brief run in Washington, and received warm reviews... **The Master Blasters**, originally seen on CBC's Gallery series last season, was shown on U.S. TV's **60 Minutes** recently, and was highly successful. Toronto filmmaker John Foster, who made the short, was

Now that Cinema Canada is publishing monthly, the deadline comes quickly. We missed hearing from the West Coast and the Prairies, news from the Maritimes will be included in our November issue. We welcome any additional contributions to these pages.

Stephen Chesley

hardly acknowledged when it was first shown, and barely earned a living from filmmaking in Canada. Now he's got well-deserved offers...

Writer John Saxton, one of the developers of CBC's police series **Sidestreet**, also wrote **Ilsa: She Wolf of the S.S.**, the much castigated pic banned in Ottawa. A sequel, **Ilsa: Harem Keeper of the Oil Shieks**, emerged from Saxton's pen and is now being shot in the U.S... Martin Lavut has been hired to teach script-writing at York University's Film Department.

Canada Council's Exploration program announced grants, and the following film activities received financial assistance: J.E. François Ayotte of Montreal to study the problems of professional use of Super 8 sound and to produce a documentary on Shawinigan; Pierre Demers of Jonquiere to prepare an inventory of films made by Catholic communities in Quebec from 1930-60; Gary Evans of Montreal to study the history of World War II government propaganda films; Richard Cohen of Toronto to make a film on the sequential movement of a gymnast; DEC Films of Toronto for film forums; Jacques Menard of Alexandria to make a film on the Franco-Ontarians' struggle against assimilation; Filmwest Associates of Edmonton to interview persons involved in the history of Western Canada for a film; Colin Browne of Saanichton, B.C. for preparation of a catalogue of films made about B.C. before 1939; Robert Rodgers and Gail Singer of Toronto to complete a film on the people of South Indian Lake, Manitoba.

Many producers are traveling to California and finding the work they want. Following John Kemeny's example Richard Hellman and René Malo are both producing Stateside. ... Do-

minique Michel and Jean Zaloum have teamed up to found Prospec Films, a new distribution company... Directors Denis Héroux and Gilles Carle have both been to Toronto working at the CBC and André Thériège has taken advantage of the new CBC training program...

Stephen Chesley

Harold Greenberg, President of Astral Bellevue Pathe Ltd., announced the appointment of Alfred C. Pariser as General Manager of I.C.L. Industries Ltd., a subsidiary of Astral Bellevue Pathe. I.C.L. Industries has been formed to co-ordinate all the motion picture and television production activities of Astral Bellevue Pathe and its related companies.

Mr. Pariser had previously been Director of Production for Cinepix Inc. and, before emigrating to Canada, was General Attorney for ABC Pictures and in the Business Affairs Department of the William Morris Agency. Mr. Pariser is a member of the New York Bar. In making the announcement Mr. Greenberg said "We are most gratified to have someone of Mr. Pariser's knowledge and experience co-ordinate Canada's largest and most ambitious film production schedule".

Starting Sept. 15, Mr. Robert Desrosiers became chief of the Directorate of Film at Radio-Québec. The unit consists of one administrative service and three operational services concerned with shooting, post-production and photography, with a staff of over 50 people. After a 6-year period as chief film editor at CBC in Montreal, from 1952 to 1958, he left to freelance as cameraman, editor and producer-director. In 1957 he rejoined CBC as chief film editor at the International Broadcasting Centre in Montreal, and was later

appointed film production editor and supervisor of film quality control. Then he went to CBC Head Office in Ottawa, where he held several positions, returning to Montreal earlier this year as manager of the film group at CBC's Engineering Headquarters. Bob has been active with the SMPTE Montreal-Ottawa section of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, and is presently the section chairman. He was elected a corporate member of the British Kinematograph, Sound and Television Society in 1972, and he is also a member of the Canadian Film Editors Guild and the Broadcast Executive Society.

Rodger Ross

Festivals

The current festival activity in Southern Ontario is now at its peak, with Stratford and the Canadian Film Awards Festivals running back to back. This year the CFA activities have been broadened into a festival celebrating the past, the expatriates, and a distributor

instead of concentrating only on recent competition entries.

Filmmaker Bonnie Kreps reports that two of her films, **After the Vote** and **Portrait of My Mother**, were shown at the Annenberg Film Festival in Philadelphia in May and the Iris Films Festival in Washington in August... Next November Moscow will be the site of a Canadian Film Week. The purpose is to sell films and eight features as well as children's films will be shown. The Russians have been asked to help in the pre-selection... The Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Centre is planning a follow-up conference to their successful effort on the Business of Film. The topic is **The First Film**, and site will be York University in Toronto. The university is acting as co-sponsor of the event, to be held on the week-end of March 31. Format will be similar to last year's, with various panels of experts offering advice for the novice about funding and marketing.

Stephen Chesley

ONTARIO

Production News

Feature production seems to be stepping up; shooting was completed this summer on Joyce Wieland's **The Far Shore**, Dennis Zahoruk's **Brethren**, Martyn Burke's **The Clown Murders**, the last two of which are low-budget efforts. The Fall promises increase in planning, if not actual shooting. Central to the increase is not the Faulkner-theatre chain agreement, but the Canada-Britain co-production agreement; several projects that were being held in abeyance can now be finalised.

Don Shebib is in back of the camera again. He's di-

recting **Second Wind** about a stockbroker who gives up all to become a marathon runner. Americans headline the cast: Lindsay Wagner and James Naughton; Ken Pogue, Tom Harvey, Louis del Grande and Tedde Moore are also included. James Margellos is producing, Reg Morris is DOP, and John Eckert is production manager.

Projects in the planning stage are being announced with more conviction now. Don Owen's **Partners** is set for late Fall. Chalmers Adams is producing and Marc Champion is DOP for this tale of an American lad who falls in