

ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Chuck Lapp

Photo: John Brett



Chuck Lapp (left) seems to be excited about something that Art McKay (centre) is skeptical about while an unidentified spectator (right) watches the show at a Bluegrass Music Festival

These ocean-washed provinces seem to be vibrating with the hum of Arriflexes and Eclairs these days as an unprecedented number of films are being shot in this area.

At the Atlantic Filmmakers' Co-Op John Brett has almost completed the shooting of **Voices from the Landscape**, a documentary of the decline of the family homestead way of life on the South Shore of Nova Scotia. John lives near Yarmouth, N.S. and joined the Co-Op this Spring after taking film production at Sheridan College near Toronto for two years. Ken Pittman, a Halifax filmmaker originally from NFLD is about to edit his film called **The Devil's Purse**, a cinematic study of the work of Nfld sculptor, Don Wright. Don Wary, former percussionist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, is doing the soundtrack for the film. Lionel Simmons, another Halifax filmmaker is editing a short piece of esoteric erotica called **See-Saw** and is doing pre-production on a Co-Op film scheduled for shooting in September with a working title of **Masterpiece**. The film will involve the building of a number of sets because of its futuristic theme and Lionel will be working with designer Fred Allen, formerly Canada Council Artist-in-Residence at Dalhousie University and now working with CBC on the **House of Pride** series. **Equilibrium**, another of Lionel's films is currently being shown as part of a play called **Dangling Desperation** or **All Strings Attached** at Pier One Theatre, written and directed by Keith MacNair.

At recent meetings of the Script Selection Committee of the Atlantic

Filmmakers Co-Operative, several productions were given the go-ahead with stock, equipment, and expenses. Ramona Macdonald is now in production on a film called **The Castaway**, a half-hour drama about superstition in a small fishing village. Gary Castle, Jim Clarke, Ashley Lohnes, Art McKay, John Brett, and Chuck Lapp teamed up to do a film on a recent Bluegrass Music Festival held on a farm 30 miles from Halifax.

In other Co-Op productions, Grant Young has recently completed the shooting of a film called **Fable**, an allegorical short involving children playing on a beach, with Lionel Simmons helping out with the cinematography. Margaret Mead is at the sound editing stage with a short film she is producing under the auspices of the Co-Op and Art McKay is also putting the finishing splices into a 16mm colour short. In Super 8, Mike Benoit is working on a film to go with an extensive soundtrack which has been in the making for about a year, Normand LeBlanc and Monique Leger from Moncton, N.B. are also working in Super 8 on a film about Acadian life in their home city. A group of students from the Halifax South Open School are funded under OFY but are working through the Co-Op to do a Super 8 documentary on their school. The group is using the Hampton-Leacock Super 8 sync sound system courtesy of the National Film Board's Challenge for Change program, and is editing the film at the Co-Op. Members of the group are: Bernie Johnson, Mary Ruth Crosby, Charles Grantmyre, Dave Barteaux, and Giesela Andrews.

Cod on a Stick

The National Film Board series of productions for the **East** television special next March has been gaining momentum and has carried the "board" to the outermost regions of Newfoundland. Two satirical sketches by a Nfld theatrical company called **Cod on a Stick** are scheduled for shooting in mid-August along with a five-minute skit called **Media Outport**. Other productions in Nfld include an animation film about famous and notorious figures in Newfoundland history, and **The Brothers Byrne**, the story of two well-known Nfld brothers who came from a tiny outport called Paradise.

In other Atlantic areas, NFB is working on a 10-minute historical treatise on Halifax called **Halifax Song**. The music track for the film was written by Jim Bennett of **Singalong Jubilee** fame. **Acadian Expression**, a film shot in New Brunswick is now ready for editing and **Boohoo**, a film about a man who manages a cemetery in Saint John, N.B. is in the final shooting stages. **Black Community**, a film to be shot under the NFB Multiculturalism program by the Montreal Production unit is also scheduled but will not be part of the **East** series.

Outtakes

The Atlantic Filmmakers Co-Op has moved to 1671 Argyle St., Halifax, N.S., and now shares lairs with Teled, a media access video group.

Grant Crabtree, a filmmaker formerly with Crawley Films, NFB, and most recently, the National Research Council, has moved to the Margaree Valley, Cape Breton recently from Ottawa, and has been working with the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-Op on several productions as a technical advisor.

John Brett (left) takes a reading at the Bluegrass Festival while Art McKay (right) takes in the music.



Photo: Chuck Lapp

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