

ATLANTIC PROVINCES

— Chuck Lapp

The coffee is perking madly here at the Atlantic Filmmakers' Cooperative as several people are trying to finish their films for the upcoming Nova Scotian Film Festival. The festival will be held January 18th and 19th at the National Film Board Theatre, 1572 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S.

The film Co-op received a \$2,600 grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Recreation to organise the festival which will show professional and independent films from all over Nova Scotia. I'll be giving a complete story on the festival after it has taken place, but I'll give a preview for you here.

Woman Filmmaker: Marg Perry

One of the Nova Scotian filmmakers to be featured in the festival is Marg Perry, who just retired after 24 years of making films with the Nova Scotian government. Mrs. Perry started making films as a hobby in Fredericton, N.B., after her husband died in 1936. She decided that office work wasn't what she wanted (she had worked as a stenographer) so she began writing feature articles for newspapers such as the *Family Herald* and making films as well. In 1942 the federal MP for Bathurst, N.B., where she was living, recognized her talents and contacted the National Film Board which was just starting up under the direction of the legendary John Grierson. The Film Board then asked Mrs. Perry to go to Ottawa where she worked under Grierson for two years. She describes Grierson as "a little fella" but dynamic and "full of ideas". At the Film Board she did both editing and camerawork and was sent on her own to shoot documentaries on P.E.I. and Newfoundland. In 1945 she came to Nova Scotia to work in the provincial Bureau of Information where she remained until she retired in 1969. Her first Nova Scotian film was *Battling*

Bluefins which she shot with a Kodak Cine-Special, "back in the days when they used to really fish". Her most recent film is *Artists*, 1969, which explores the work and inspirations of Nova Scotian painters and sculptors. In her retirement Marg says she does some articles for magazines such as the *Atlantic Advocate*, *Canadian Geographical*, and formerly for the *Star Weekly*, but no filming now.

Sable Island

Another filmmaker to be featured is Les Krizan who has just completed a beautifully photographed documentary about Sable Island. Sable is a sandbarcum-island off Nova Scotia which is infamous for the number of shipwrecks it has caused over the years, but is now famous for the oil deposit that has been discovered there. Les also worked for N.S. Information Services, but is now with the audio-visual department of Dalhousie University.

Several underwater films made by Charlie Doucette of Dartmouth will also be included in the screenings of professional films. One of these is a documentation of the wrecks in the harbor off the historic Louisburg Fortress which is being restored.

While the first night of the festival will cover the professionally-sponsored films, both recent and historic, the second night will feature the "New Wave" of Nova Scotian filmmakers. The films will include experimental shorts, both 16mm and Super 8, along with short dramas and documentaries. Some of the filmmakers known at this writing are: Ramona Macdonald, David Illsley, Charles Lapp, Paul Mitcheltree, Lionel Simmons, Grant Young and Michel Thibault.

Super 8 Demonstration

The festival will be run in conjunction with a display of advanced Super 8

equipment being brought in by various manufacturers and distributors. The new gear will include the Leacock-Hampton sync sound system which is comprised of a blimped camera, cassette tape recorder, full-coat transfer machine, projector, and a flat-bed editing table. Other systems will be displayed by Kodak, Super 8 Sound, and Bellevue-Pathé.

On the Co-Op scene, the organization recently received a donation of 10,000 feet of 16mm color stock, processing, and workprint plus 150 rolls of Super 8 stock, processing, and workprint from the new NFB Halifax Production Office. NFB has also made available to the Co-Op, on long-term loan, a Super 8 sound projector, a 16mm sound projector, and an Oxberry Super 8 animation stand. The Co-Op has been fortunate in receiving also on long-term loan from CBC Halifax: a Bell and Howell 16mm camera, a sun gun, a 16mm viewer, rewinds, and other equipment still to come. The organization is certainly getting support from the local film institutions and if the upcoming application to Canada Council is successful then the Co-Op will be a lot more than the vision in a glass of beer that it was a year ago.

RUMORS DEPT.: a lady producer has been scouting locations in Halifax for a production of Hugh MacLennan's novel about the Halifax explosion, *Barometer Rising*.

Gordon Pinsent has a "property" which could be shot in Nova Scotia and he is looking for local investors.

The first Canadian feature film was called *Evangeline* and it was shot in the Annapolis Valley, N.S., in 1913.

The next Canadian Film Awards could be held in Halifax . . . (providing the Gaelic folk don't protest the assumption of cultural homogeneity inherent in the awards) ●

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