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LINDA EARL & CHARLES MANDEL



CALGARY – “What we need is a major dramatic television series to keep people working,” says Calgary-based producer **Doug McLeod**. At press time McLeod and fellow Kitch In Synch producers **Peter Campbell**, **Tom Dent-Cox**, **Grace Gilroy**, **Allen Stein** and **Arvi Liimatainen** were meeting hopefully to close the financial deal on their proposed 13 half-hour series called *Sylvan Lake*. The series will feature a cast of characters who provide a humorous look at the clash of communities that happens every summer at Alberta's only beach resort, Sylvan Lake. **Don Truckey**, a former Calgarian lured to Toronto to write for *Street Legal*, is the series' story editor.

COUNTRY, KIDS AND HORSES

There is television work coming up for Canadian country bands. CFAC Television in Calgary, a Global affiliate which was recently taken over by BCTV, starts shooting seven of 14 half-hours in the new series called *Capital Country*. Calgary fiddler **Roy Warhurst** is the show's musical director. He's lining up such cross-country talent as the Great Western Orchestra, **Ronnie Prophet**, **Kelita Haverland** and **Valdy**.

Dan Parrish will produce and direct the syndicated country music series which began taping in CFAC studios at the end of March. Besides country music shows, Parrish has a good track record in producing children's programs. Twenty-six new *Mr Wizard's World* episodes have been commissioned by the Nickelodeon Cable Network in the U.S.

In post-production is a new series called *Balloon Landing*, produced and directed by Parrish, targeted at the 3-11-year-old market. **Lee** and **Sandy Paley**, a Calgary duo in their 40s, have been entertaining children with their songs and stage antics for years. The Paleys share hosting duties with three characters created by Calgary master puppeteer, **Ronnie Burkett**.

Filling in for the dry spots in local production is some extended work on **John Frankenheimer's** feature drama, *The Fourth War*. About eight to 10 ACTRA members have roles until the end of April, and about the same number of DGC members are working in the production office and on set as 1st and 2nd ADs. *The Fourth War* is shooting just west of Calgary in the Bragg Creek area and outside of Banff at Canmore. **Bev Bliss**, head of DGC's Calgary chapter, notes, “It's a very challenging shoot because of the worst winter ever.”

Primo Baby is at the fine cut stage with the complete mix to be finished at the end of April. *Primo's* distributor, **Thomas Howe Associates** of Vancouver, will be taking it to Cannes in May but it has no official screening.

LIFE AFTER HOCKEY?

EDMONTON – *Cool Film* – spotted at Edmonton's Riverdale hockey rink recently in minus-30-degree temperatures were hockey legend **Rocket Richard** and director **Tom Radford**. The chill weather brought added realism to Great North Production's shooting of **Ken Brown's** and **Mike Puttonen's** script *Life After Hockey*.

Life After Hockey first made its debut as a play at Edmonton's theatre festival, the Fringe. The film, after eight days of shooting in Edmonton and two in Montreal, wrapped on February 25th. **Andy Thomson** produced on a budget of \$413,000. As well as Ken Brown and Rocket Richard, *Life After Hockey* stars Edmonton Oilers coach **Glen “Slats” Sather**, Canadian, and now World, figure skating champion **Kurt Browning**, and actress **Patricia Phillips** and **Elizabeth Brown** (no relation to Ken).

Edit and post-production is scheduled for the end of June, and it is expected that the one-hour teleplay will be aired nationally by Winnipeg's CanWest Broadcasting in the late fall or early winter.

THIRD WORLD FEST

The ninth Third World Film Festival kicked off in Edmonton March 3rd. Over 60 films, several premieres, an International Expo of Organizations, the GeoMunch Food Fair and the WorldBeat Boogie Dance should exhaust even the most committed of festival party animals.

Questions – ARIA, the Alberta Recording Industry Association – which includes many sound technicians from Alberta's film industry – is housed under CISN FM's roof. Will the takeover by Shaw Cable of CISN FM endanger ARIA? The National Screen Institute-Canada continues to have problems gaining a charity number for tax purposes. Why? For answers, check this column next month.