

## **HOBBY CORNER**

to

## **HYMN SING**

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### ***Hobby Corner***

Mon 5:00-5:15 p.m., 23 Jan-3 Apr 1958

Thu 5:15-5:30 p.m., 6 Feb-3 Apr 1958

Mon 5:00-5:15 p.m., 7 Apr-30 Jun 1958

Wed 5:00-5:15 p.m., 9 Jul-22 Sep 1958

In Hobby Corner, a fifteen minute broadcast from Winnipeg, Glynne Morris discussed and demonstrated hobbies such as bird watching, fly tying, judo, and radio controlled toy boats with guest experts.

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### ***The Hobby Show***

Wed 7:45-8:00 p.m., 10 Sep-17 Sep 1952

Produced by Norman Campbell, The Hobby Show provided advice to homemakers, and lasted only for two broadcasts in the first weeks of television broadcasts from Toronto.

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### ***Hobby Workshop***

Mon 5:15

Thu 4:45-5:00 p.m., 21 Oct 1954-31 Jun 1955

Tom Martin, who was the assistant supervisor of art for the Toronto Public

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### ***Holiday Lodge***

See Wayne And Shuster.

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### ***Holiday Ranch***

One of the most popular shows in Canadian television of the 1950s, Holiday Ranch was a simple variety show that seemed to be designed for fans of country music. It started its five year run on weeknights, but settled into a slot in the early evenings on Saturdays. (The weekly NHL broadcast attracted viewers to the CBC on Saturday nights. Apart from that factor, Holiday Ranch ran opposite programming usually devoted to news on the U.S. stations, particularly important to a city such as Toronto, which received signals from Buffalo, New York.) The show's sponsors, Aylmer (starting January 1954) and Nabisco (as co-sponsor, from February 1956), both manufacturers of food products, underwrote sixty per

Comic Doug "Hap" Masters was usually at the centre of the show's story. He would run on near the show's opening to introduce the idea for the week (such as building a television set or convincing himself and everyone else, for St. Patrick's Day, that he is Irish), reappear at the middle point of the show to remind viewers of the idea and develop it, and return again at the conclusion, when whatever he planned to do invariably failed.

Holiday Ranch was written by Fred Diehl and produced by Loyd Brydon and, subsequently, Bob Jarvis.

For its modesty, its familiarity, and its ultimate popularity, Holiday Ranch set a pattern for a strain of musical variety show that has served the CBC well, with such descendants as Country Hoedown, Don Messer's Jubilee, and Singalong Jubilee, all of which were based on television "families" that projected to viewers a sense of community in themselves and a familiarity that extended that community to include the viewers.

Photo (courtesy of CBC) shows Fran Wright.

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## ***Home Fires***

Sun 9:00-10:00 p.m., 9 Nov-28 Dec 1980

Sun 9:00-10:00 p.m., 27 Sep-15 Nov 1981 (R)

Sun 9:00-10:00 p.m., 22 Nov-20 Dec 1981

Sun 9:00-10:00 p.m., 26 Sep-28 Nov 1982

Home Fires was a commendable achievement for CBC Drama. Like *A Gift To Last*, which it replaced in a Sunday evening time slot, it was a family saga, told in weekly hours, that combined elements of episodic television (for which each episode is complete and which does not depend on order from segment to segment) and serial drama (which develops a story or set of storylines over a number of sequential episodes, as a soap opera does). Created and written by Jim Purdy and Peter Such, Home Fires was the story of the Lowes, a Toronto family, during the years of World War II. Purdy developed the idea for Home Fires from a workshop on the history of a downtown Toronto, working class neighborhood by NDWT, an experimental theatre group with which he worked. As the show's title implied, the story remained in North America. Although several important characters went oversea, the action of the war remained offscreen,



Tue 9:30-10:00 p.m., 24 Jun-22 Jul 1975

Homemade Jam was a series of three, half-hour musical programs, starring Bob Ruzicka, and produced in Edmonton by Lee Livingston.

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### ***Homemade TV***

Mon/Fri 4:30-5:00 p.m., 27 Feb-26 Mar 1976

Tue 5:00-5:30 p.m., 2 Nov 1976-8 Mar 1977

Thu 4:30-5:00 p.m., 2 Jun-11 Aug 1977 (R)

Wed 4:00-4:30 p.m., 5 Oct-28 Dec 1977

Wed 4:00-4:30 p.m., 4 Apr-7 Jun 1978 (R)

A half-hour show for children, Homemade TV featured the Homemade Theatre Company: Fred Mollin, Larry Mollin, Barry Flatman, and Phil Savath. Each show included a segment called "The Big Story," which dealt with a particular theme or experience common to children. Subjects included Sports Day, Me Day, Home Day, and such. Other stories included Ricky, a parody of Rocky; Ovest Side Story, a bilingual tale on Quebec separatism, and Rock 'n' Romans, the fable of Emperor Rollus and his slave Rockullus. Writer Jed McKay was also a member of the Homemade Theatre Company, and the television show was produced by Don Elder.

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### ***Home Movies: The Great Canadian Film Capers***

Wed 9:30-10:00 p.m., 17 Aug-7 Sep 1966

Artist John Gould hosted this series of four, sixty minute programs on Canadian cinema. The first three programs each concentrated on a different form of film: documentary, the feature film, animation. In the first program, filmmakers Donald Brittain, Beryl Fox, and Richard Ballentine discussed the documentary film, with illustrations drawn from their own films: Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Leonard Cohen, The Most, and The Single Woman And The Double Standard. The second program outlined the state of the contemporary feature film in Canada, with extracts from Don Owen's Nobody Waved Goodbye, Claude Jutra's A tout

prendre, Larry Kent's Sweet Substitute, David Sexter's Winter Kept Us Warm, Gilles Carle's La Vie heurese de Leopold Z, Julian Roffman's The Mask, and The Luck Of Ginger Coffey, directed by Irvin Kershner for Crawley Films. The third program featured animation from the National Film Board, the CBC, and from independent filmmakers, and included illustrations from My Financial Career, by Grant Munro and Gerald Potterton, Christmas Cracker, by a number of Film Board artists, and A Is For Architecture, by Geral



After an interruption in the schedule for the NHL semifinals, Horizon returned with a program on Shakespeare, *This Was A Man*, produced by Vincent Tovell, written by Lister Sinclair, with musical direction by William McCauley. *Corridors Of Power* examined the institution of the Canadian Parliament, with interviewer Norman Ward. *Speed: The Only New Thrill*, written and narrated by Lister Sinclair, and produced by James Murray, surveyed the idea of speed in the development of transportation in the twentieth century. Written, produced, and directed by George Ronald, *D- Day: The Canadians* told the story of the World War II invasion through the testimony of Canadians who were there. *The Measure Of Morality*, which was broadcast on the actual anniversary of D-Day, tried to determine whether standards of morality had eroded from those of the past. James Murray produced *Down From The Trees*, a study of human evolution, with appearances by Drs. Alfred S. Romer, Elwyn Simons, and John R. Napier, from a script by Napier, and narrated by Lister Sinclair. *The Many Faces Of Gambling* was produced and written by John Kennedy, and *The Age Of Wonder*, which looked at how young people were preparing for adult life, was written and directed by Tom Koch. *Clown Of A Thousand Years*, written by Bernard Rothman and produced by Jim Guthro, featured Nancy Wickwire, Don Francks, Jack Creley, and Ron Hartman in an examination of the modern comedian in the context of the figure of the clown.

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Although the original drama was spurred by the conflict among family members about whether to sell off the family house after the death of the father, played by George Waite, the program fragmented into the isolated stories of the smaller families in different areas of the country. The House Of Pride production team similarly branched into units centred in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Winnipeg, and Vancouver, each with its own writer, producer, and cast. Writers included Alan Oman in Vancouver, Tom Ashmore in Winnipeg, Charles Israel in Montreal, and Ron McInnis in Halifax, with George Robertson, head writer for the series, in Toronto. The producers included Herb Roland, who created the series, and Jack Nixon-Browne in Toronto, Michael Sinelnikoff in Montreal, and Hugh Beard in Vancouver. Bill Beeton was the art director for the series. The program coordinator was Diane Higgs, production coordinator was Grahame McFarlane, and the executive producer was John T. Ross.

The cast for such a broadly defined story was understandably large. The principal figures of the Toronto family were an MLA, played by Budd Knapp, who tried to convince family members to sell off the home, and the farmer, played by Murray Westgate, who had worked the land for fifty-five years. The Toronto segments also featured Angela Clare, Linda Sorenson, George R. Robertson, Scott Baker, Lynne Griffin, Scott Carson, and Norma Renault. The Vancouver family included actors Charmion King, David Stein, Shirley Milliner, Neil Dainard, Matthew Skynner, and Jann Mortil. The Montreal branch of the family, the Fortins, included Amulette Garneau, Pierre Dufresne, Sebastian Davhernas, Norman Bernard, and Julien Lacombe. In Halifax, the Prides were Florence Patterson, Coliox, Dan McDonald, Susan Harrop, and Mary Lou Martin. The Winnipeg cast featured Steve Pernie, Juli Amato, Doreen Brownstone, Duffy Glass, and Tracy Dahl.

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### ***House Party***

Tue 10:30-11:00 p.m., 26 Oct 1954-52.024 567Beb 1955

A half-hour talk show, House Party ran fortnightly, alternating with What's My Line or Make A Match. An offscreen commentator introduced guests over film or still photographs, and then host Michele Tisseyre interviewed them in a setting appropriate to their talent or story. Guests were generally from the field of entertainment, including sports, television, radio, the stage, and could include international stars or lesser-known talents.

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Howdy Doody originated in 1945 on a New York radio show called Triple B Ranch, hosted by Bob Smith. There, a character called Elmer introduced himself with the catchphrase, "Well, howdy doody!" The marionette Howdy Doody first appeared on television two days after Christmas 1947, on a show called Puppet Playhouse, hosted by Smith, later named "Buffalo Bob" by the Sycapoose Indians.

In autumn 1954, the CBC built its own Doodyville in a Toronto studio. Most of the puppet characters, including Phineas T. Bluster, the cranky mayor and chief killjoy of Doodyville, Dilly Dally, a foolish carpenter who was usually the butt of Bluster's plots, Flub-a-dub, a beast with a duck's head, cat's whiskers, and the parts of several other animals, Heidi Doody, Howdy's sister, and Howdy himself, of course, were retained from the U.S. production. Other puppets, which were manipulated by Hal and Renee Marquette, included Percival, a parrot, and Mr. X, who zipped through time and space in his "whatsis box." Claude Rae provided the voices of Howdy Doody, Phineas T. Bluster, and Mr. X; Jack Mather spoke for Dilly Dally and Percival; Norma Macmillan was the voice of Heidi Doody; and Larry Mann--who already had experience working with puppets, with Uncle Chichimus--

***Howie Meeker's Hockey School***

Wed 7:30-7:45 p.m., 19 Sep 1973-13 Mar 1974

Fri 7:30-7:45 p.m., 20 Sep 1974-28 Mar 1975

Fri 7:30-7:45 p.m., 19 Sep 1975-26 Mar 1976

Sun 5:30-

The next season included Beryl Fox's own film on Vietnam, *Mills Of The Gods*; *Frontiers Of The Mind*, produced by Alan Landsburgh; *The 700 Million*, on China, produced for Document (q.v.) by Patrick Watson; *A Sense Of Captivity*, part 2, produced by Ross McLean; *One Man's Hunger*, produced by David Windlesham for Associated Rediffusion; and Douglas Leiterman's film, *Youth: In Search Of Morality*.

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### ***Hymn Sing***

Sun 5:30-5:59 p.m., 3 Oct 1965-26 Jun 1966

Sun 5:30-6:00 p.m., 23 Oct 1966-9 Jul 1967

Sun 5:30-5:59 p.m., 1 Oct 1967-30 Jun 1968

Sun 5:30-5:59 p.m., 6 Oct 1968-29 Jun 1969

Sun 5:30-6:00 p.m., 5 Oct 1969-28 Jun 1970

Sun 5:30-6:00 p.m., 4 Oct 1970-27 Jun 1971

Sun 5:30-6:00 p.m., 3 Oct 1971-25 Jun 1972

Sun 5:30-6:00 p.m., 1 Oct 1972-24 Jun 1973

Sun 5:30-6:00 p.m., 30 Sep 1973-16 Jun 1974

Sun 5:30-6:00 p.m., 22 Sep 1974-15 Jun 1975

Sun 5:00-5:30 p.m., 26 Sep 1976-26 Jun 1977

Sun 5:00-5:30 p.m., 25 Sep 1977-1 Jan 1978

Sun 4:30-5:00 p.m., 8 Jan-

Sun 1:30-2:00 p.m., 1 Oct 1978-21 Sep 1980

Sun 1:30-2:00 p.m., 28 Sep 1980-27 Sep 1981

Sun 1:30-2:00 p.m., 2 Oct 1981-3 Oct 1982

Sun 1:30-2:00 p.m., 10 Oct 1982-8 May 1983

In its Sunday afternoon time slot, Hymn Sing has continually been buffeted about in the broadcast schedul by sports programming. However, it remains one of the longest lived shows on the network. Originating in Winnipeg, it was from the start a simply produced, elegant half-hour of hymns, spirituals, and inspirational music st

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