

# Winnipeg's TV Station Goes Into Action Starting Monday

The first television station on the prairies will go into action at 8 p.m. Monday when CBWT goes on the air in Winnipeg.

Owned by the CBC, the station will operate on Channel 4 with an output of about 60,000 watts, serving an approximate 80-mile radius area.

Start of operations marks the climax of a lengthy period of build-up and preparation, disappointment and wishful hoping.

Originally the CBC-owned station was slated to be the first in the west, but equipment delays and switched plans put the CBC station in Vancouver in first place by about six months.

Further delays resulted in the station being set back and it was not until March that the firm and final May 31 target date was established.

Initially, the majority of programs will be films. The only

local telecasting scheduled at present will consist of news, interviews and commentary.

As equipment is available more local live programs will be added, with football, hockey, boxing, wrestling, stock car racing and other sports events mentioned by CBC officials as possibilities.

CBC officials say the official opening ceremonies for the station are going to be kept brief. Their view is that "the program is the thing."

The opening ceremonies will include a brief address by Premier D.L. Campbell, messages from top CBC officials and then the first of nightly telecast news programs which will be a regular feature.

## GOVERNMENT FILM

The premier will then introduce a new Manitoba government film, Look to The Centre.

Initial regular week-day programming calls for children's programs from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., one hour of test pattern from 6 to 7 p.m., and four hours of regular

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## FACTS ABOUT WINNIPEG TV

Cost of the Station \$1,000,000  
 Range of the Station 80 miles  
 Power Output of Station 60,000 watts  
 Height of Tower from street 240 feet  
 Height from roof top 190 feet  
 Hours of Telecast Daily 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.  
 Opening Program Monday, 8 p.m.

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news, musical and drama programs from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

On Sundays, the number of children's programs is fewer, there is no test pattern, and telecasting runs straight through from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. giving viewers their top diet of the week.

One program which CBC officials say they are confident will meet with public approval is the 26-part Victory at Sea show.

Produced by National Broadcasting corporation in the United States, the show is a documentary history of Allied naval operations during the Second World War.

## OPEN-MOUTHED VISITORS

# Natives Of Rome Take Its Wonders Quite For Granted

Just to drive through Rome is to be filled with enchantment, writes Frank Morriss, Free Press movie critic, as he crowds a lifetime of sight-seeing into his five days in that ancient capital. Frank writes here of the lasting impression left on him by the devout thousands waiting hopefully in the Square of St. Peter's for a glimpse of the Pope.

BY FRANK MORRISS

ROME (Special) — The sun shone down in the Square of St. Peter's today and

there was a dark massing of people before the section facing the place where the Pope dwells. A restless, devout crowd of thousands, their voices were raised in song of supplication.

Because of the Pope's recent illness, it didn't seem as if their prayers were going to be granted. But suddenly a window was opened, and just as suddenly the Pope was there, his hands outstretched in blessing.

All through that immense square there was an electric, throbbing silence, and only the sound of the fountains splashing. The great crowd went on its knees reverently. A few moments before, the singing had been interspersed with waving of hands. But now the goal that they had travelled so far for was realized. The hopes they

See FRANK MORRISS Page 9

# Tractor Overturns, Man Killed

An elderly farmworker was killed near Portage la Prairie and our people were injured in Winnipeg in accidents Friday.

Dead is:

# Winnipeg TV Debut

## 'A Total Success'

Winnipeggers received their first dose of TV Monday night, and indications today were that the patients were thriving.

CBC officials reported the opening telecast over CBWT went off "without a hitch" and was a "total success."

Meanwhile reports to the Free Press indicate that the station's effective reception range is greater than had been expected.

### 'GOOD' IN FARGO

A report from Fargo, N.D., about 225 miles, said reception was "good" and a report from Grafton, N.D., 128 miles away, said CBWT was "loud and clear."

However, reception on the one set in Emerson was not good. It was reported "snowy" and weak. The set has been installed for about a year and gets fair reception from Fargo.

At Brandon, reception of CBWT was "snowy" at first, but owners of 10 private and 15 dealer TV sets reported reception clear and excellent later.

Televiewers in Gladstone — just outside the predicted 76-mile fringe reception area — said they were satisfied with the reception, though the signal faded at times. It is considered that experimentation with proper aerials will improve reception to the point that

TV sets will be a marketable line. Reception in Selkirk, Portage la Prairie and Morden was reported first class.

Meanwhile, Winnipeg TV viewers were busy Tuesday arguing the merits of the first night programs.

### ONE WEAK SPOT

In this viewer's opinion the opening night's offerings had one lamentable weak spot. The Big Revue is not first class entertainment if Monday night's show is any indication of the general calibre of the show.

There was not enough good material for the one-hour show and the entertainment was thin in places. The humor was sometimes strained and too staged.

We would make the suggestion that the Big Revue could be a pretty fair half-hour show—there was about that much satisfactory material — instead of a poor one-hour effort.

Victory at Sea is everything that has been claimed. It is a really first class piece of telecasting. Telling the story of the Allied navies during the Second World War, it has an American accent as it was originally produced by the National Broadcasting Co. for United States consumption. It is top drawer viewing.

J. S.