

## Why do we love blood and guts?

Blood and guts may catch your interest at the crime bookstalls, but why they're spilled can rivet you to your seat. John D. MacDonald cottoned on to this in 1950. Since then his more than 70 whydonits have sold nearly 80 million copies around the world. His famed Travis McGee mystery-suspense stories and his other chillers have made him one of the world's most popular writers.

MacDonald hardly ever grants an interview...doesn't have to, as his fame and fortune fly skywards. But he agreed to talk to Patrick Hynan of New York, for CBC Radio, and Hynan visited the six-foot-four, 67-year-old author at his secluded home on stilts in Florida. They hit it off right away, and the

result is a lively, intimate and amusing profile of a fascinating author, whom Hynan describes as "part anthropologist, poet, philosopher, economist, and master storyteller -- in short, a phenomenon".

You can meet MacDonald on CBC Radio's **ANTHOLOGY** on Saturday, March 3 at 11:10 p.m.. Production is by Eithne Black.

Hynan has prepared a number of profiles for Anthology and other CBC series, including an outstanding 90-minute view of author Raymond Chandler, and he has another portrait of American writer Raymond Carver coming up on Anthology on March 17.

John D. MacDonald tells Hynan about his childhood, when he read everything in sight. He recalls how he

began writing, when he was serving with the OSS (Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the CIA), in south-east Asia during the Second World War, and how the rejection slips from pulp magazines piled up after the war while he struggled to get established. At one time he had as many as 30 manuscripts circulating. He says: "I guess I must have

written about 800,000 words before I got my first short story accepted, and for the life of me I can hardly remember what any of them were about!"

Hynan takes listeners through MacDonald's interesting house, and they'll learn how he writes and researches his books, and what he thinks about a great variety of things. He

tells why he created McGee's friend, Meyer. And there's news about his latest novel, *One More Sunday*, which concerns a fundamentalist church and its minister, the Rev. John Tinker Meadows. Hynan describes the novel as a blockbuster dealing with one of MacDonald's favorite themes, that power corrupts.

## Ice Capades in Moncton Feb. 29 - Mar. 4

Moncton, New Brunswick; February 14, 1984--Ice Capades, coming to the Moncton Coliseum from February 29th through March 4th, features sixteen cast members from Canada. In almost every instance, the skaters were selected following auditions that were conducted during a previous Canadian tour of Ice Capades.

Area skaters will have a similar opportunity this year when try-outs will be held by Ice Capades at the Moncton Coliseum on Friday, March 2nd, 1984. The auditions will begin at approximately 10:00 p.m., following the evening performance.

### Victorians

Most of us think of the Victorians as being eiderdown-snug in their religious convictions. But because of all the scientific and ideological advances in the 19th century, they faced an unprecedented crisis in religious faith. For the first time the cozy comforter that had wrapped them since nursery days was proving less than adequate, and they stood shivering among serious doubts about the existence of God in His traditional form.

In a fascinating Sunday series beginning March 4 at 8:05 p.m., CBC Radio's *Ideas* looks at four ways leading Victorian intellectuals...mainly literary people...responded to that religious crisis. *The Victorians and the Death of God* was prepared by Norma Rowen, writer and critic who teaches at York University, Toronto.

Prospective cast members wishing to audition should be strong in basic jumps and spins, and have knowledge and training in figure and freestyle skating. A background in dance (such as ballet or modern dance) is helpful; personal appearance and enthusiasm are also given consideration by the Ice Capades performance director and coaching staff who will be conducting the auditions.

For women, the minimum

perferred height is 5'3" with weight according to height; for men, the minimum preferred height is 5'9". To audition, skaters must be at least 18 years of age; if under 18, auditionees must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If accepted, skaters must be free to travel on tour with Ice Capades.

Those who try-out should bring their own skates and wear comfortable skating apparel.

## Ladies choice

Like many musical groups, The Ladies Choice Bluegrass Band came together almost by accident. Around 1978, friends Gordon Strobbe, Trish York and Bill Doucette got together and sang harmony at open mike nights. Soon they were being paid to perform. Fellow musicians Walter Jakeman and Skip Holmes joined, and the Ladies Choice Bluegrass Band was born. The Ocean Limited presents the Ladies Choice in concert from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia on CBC Radio Saturday, March 3, at 8:05 p.m.

Strobbe says that the key element in the band's success is finding and meeting challenges. "Finding new challenges has stimulated people to stay in the band. We've never been guilty of

hanging our hopes on any one thing...there has always been something else coming; another goal, another milestone to be reached."

At one point in the Spring of 1982, the band thought about splitting up. The poor economy and the limited amount of work available to bluegrass bands at the time were two factors. A farewell tour was planned, but Lady Luck appeared in the form of Up Home Tonight, a television series seen in the Maritimes. The show is doing very well in a prime time slot and has offered the band a chance to diversify and reach new audiences.

The Ocean Limited is hosted by Bill Stevenson and produced by Glenn Meisner.

## Ex Centre briefs

The Fredericton National Exhibition Centre will be holding a March Break Arts and Crafts course for children ages 6-10. Instructor is Judy Ellis. The course

The Explorations gallery at the National Exhibition Centre will be showing a series of drawings by Prince Edward Island artist Henry Purdy from February 11 until March 11, 1984. Titled *Icons*

will run from Monday to Friday, March 5-9 - 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Registration is \$20. To register please call 453-3747 or drop in during regular gallery hours.

of *Poverty and Riches and Francis*, depicting the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the drawings are original illustrations to books of poetry of the same titles by Father Adrien Arsenault also of P.E.I.

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