

J. C. Erhardt Memorial School

Makkovik
Labrador

Presents

TELEVISION COMES TO OUR TOWN

T.V. Comes to Our Community

1. Interviews with typical Makkovik people about the coming of TV. Written by Grades 5 & 6.
2. Commercial written by Jane Mitchell in Grade 9.
3. Joey's Dream - How Joey changed after TV came to Makkovik. This piece was composed by the students in Grade 11.

Grades 5 & 6

CAST:

Geraldine Nochasak	Edwin McNeil
Neil Andersen	Cathy Ford
Glenda Evans	Solomon Semigak
Angela Ford	Eldred Broomfield

DIRECTORS:

Eileen Chaulk
Joan Andersen

"TELEVISION COMES TO OUR TOWN"

(In the format of a TV program or programs, but meant to reflect the effects of television on the community.)

Part I: Interviews

Part II: A Commercial Break

Part III: The Story of "Joey's Dream"

PART I

Narrator: Good evening. For our feature story tonight, our roving reporter has travelled to Makkovik where he has interviewed several residents of that community concerning the coming of TV to their town for the first time.

Interviewer: I am speaking with Mrs. Evans of Makkovik. Mrs. Evans, how do you feel about having TV?

Glenda: Oh, it's just great. I can hardly wait to see the next episode of "The Edge of Night."

Interviewer: What effect has it had on you?

Glenda: Well, when there's a good programs on, my housework piles up.

Interviewer: Does your family mind that?

Glenda: No, as long as supper's on the table! They enjoy TV as well.

Interviewer: Let's go to Mr. McNeill to find out his views. Good-day sir. I see you are still reading the newspapers.

Edwin: Oh yes, I like to get all the details.

Interviewer: Do you like watching the news on TV?

Edwin: Yes. I also enjoy "Land & Sea".

Interviewer: What effect has it had on you?

Edwin: It's costing me more money. The TV was quite expensive. There's a monthly payment to make, and I guess the electricity bill is higher.

Interviewer: Do you think it's worth the extra money?

Edwin: Yes, I think so.

Interviewer: Now let's see how the youngsters feel about it? Hi,
what's your name?

Angela: Angie.

Interviewer: Do you watch a lot of TV?

Angela: Yes. Cartoons, Dallas, Nature of Things, and all the other
good programs.

Interviewer: Do you study less?

Angela: I slacked off at first but now I study more.

Interviewer: Do you do other things in your spare time besides
watch TV?

Angela: I play hockey, go skating and go to dances still.

Interviewer: Do you think TV is educational?

Angela: Oh yes, very.

Interviewer: Next, we talk with Mrs. Ford, treasurer of the
Recreation Committee. How has TV affected your business?

Cathy: Well, nobody goes to movies anymore. We're probably going
to have to give up ordering movies.

Interviewer: Which do you prefer, TV or movies?

Cathy: I think there's more variety in TV.

Interviewer: Do people still come to other things you arrange?

Cathy: Yes, they still come to dances, darts and bingo.

Interviewer: Finally we chat with one of our senior citizens to see
how she feels about TV. How are you, Mrs. Nochasak?

Geraldine: Oh, just fine.

Interviewer: What do you think about TV?

Gerl: Oh, I think tis wonderful. I'd be pretty bored without it.

Interviewer: Do you still get visitors?

Geri: Not as many as I used to, and when they do come they mostly watch TV. But lots of kids come over because I have a television and they don't. I keeps cookies baked, so we have a cup of tea together. Keeps me busy and I enjoy their company.

Interviewer: What programs do you like?

Geri: Oh, I'll watch just about anything. I likes it all.

Interviewer: Well, stay tuned for Part II of tonight's program, entitled, "Joey's Dream". We'll be right back after this commercial break.

PART II: COMMERCIAL

Leader: We have two gentleman here who have agreed to test out some mitts to see which pair is warmer.

Mr. Semigak will try out these woollen mitts. Mr. Broomfield will wear these seakskin mitts.

They will go on a 3-day hunting trip and report back then.

So, see you in three days! Happy hunting!

(paces back and forth)

Oh, here they come now.

(Mr. Broomfield marches in briskly. Mr. Semigak, looking cold, huddles in behind, rubbing his hands.)

Leader: Well, what do you think of the seakskin mitts?

Eldred: Oh, ugly warm.

Leader: What about the woollen ones?

Solomon: I'd better get a pair like that too, I s'pose. Yup, I'll drop into the Craft Centre on my way home.

Leader: (holding up mitts) Seakskin mitts - warmest mitts money can buy.

PART III

" JOEY'S DREAM"

NARRATOR: Joey is 15 years old. He's been watching TV ever since it first came in. Every chance he got, he was stuck in front of the TV, ruining his eyes. His mother would tell him to do work, but he wouldn't listen if the TV was on. At school he was failing test after test. He had time for nothing but the "tube".

Late one night, Joey fell asleep while watching the program "On the Evidence", right in the middle of a trial. As Joey drifted off to sleep.....

JUDGE: I call Mrs. Smith to the stand as our first witness. (she walks up) Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

MRS. SMITH: I do.

JUDGE: Now, could you please describe the events that led to the change in your son, Joey.

MRS. SMITH: Yes, your honour. You see sir, just a few months ago, my son was like this:

LIGHT GOES TO HOME SCENE

SON: Good morning Mom, what time is it?

MOTHER: 5 a.m. You're up a bit early.

SON: Oh, I'm planning on going hunting this morning and I wanted to chop some wood before I left. Can I give you a hand with breakfast before the young ones get up?

MOTHER: No, but you could pump some oil before you go.

SON: I did that last night before I went to bed. So, I guess I'll be off. Hopefully, I'll get a few partridges for supper. I'll be back in time for school.....

BACK TO COURT

MRS. SMITH: But your honor, last year TV came to Makkovik. Sure, we all watched television quite alot at first, but after a few weeks everybody returned to their day to day business. Everybody except my son. Now it's all like this
...

MOM: Joey, will you get out of that bed, it's 11:30 already.

SON: Oh, buzz off. Has the mail plane come with any new TV tapes?

MOM: No, the mail plane is going to Nain first.

SON: Boy, I wish they would get some new tapes in soon. I've been watching some of these tapes three times over now.

MOM: I know, last night you were up past midnight watching Charlies' Angels for the third time! and we ran out of oil, which you were supposed to take care of earlier. When the house got cold, all you did was take the cover off the day bed and move closer to the TV. Well, your father had to pump the oil this morning before he went seal hunting/....

MRS. SMITH: Your honor, I could say more but I really don't want to be saying these things about my son.

JUDGE: That's all right, ma'am, you have said enough. You may step down. Mr. Smith, would you please take the stand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

MR. SMITH: I do, Sir, my son had the fine makings of a man before we received TV. I never had to remind him of his duties...

JOEY: Dad, dad, wake up! It's six o'clock. Time to go hunting.

DAD: Could you lash the grub-box onto the komatik and gas up?

JOEY: I already got that done.

DAD: What time did you go to bed?

JOEY: Around 10:30.

DAD: So you had a good rest.....

JUDGE: He sounds like a boy to be proud of, and now?

FATHER: but now things are different....

DAD: Get up, Joey. It's the third time this week I've had to call you, now get up!

JOEY: Sorry, Dad, I guess I stayed up too late last night watching television.

DAD: All you do is watch television. You never do any work anymore. Did you buy the cartridges yesterday?

JOEY: Oh, Dad, the store was closed by the time "Happy Days" was over.....

JUDGE: Please take the Bible in your right hand and take the oath.

CATHY: I swear to tell the whole truth, so help me God.

JUDGE: Now, Miss, can you tell the court in your own words what has happened to Joey in the past few months?

CATHY: Well, my boyfriend used to be like this.....

JOEY: (on phone) Hello, is Cathy there? Oh good, could I speak to her please?

CATHY: Hello?

JOEY: Hello honey, how about going to the dance tonight?

CATHY: Sure, what time will you pick me up?

JOEY: 10:30. Is that soon enough?

CATHY: Yes, fine. It's not formal is it?

JOEY: Gosh, no. I hope not anyway.

CATHY: Good, see you soon.

CATHY: But now your honor, I never see him anymore

Cathy: Hello, is Joey there? Well, I'd like to speak with him please. I haven't talked to him in weeks!

Joey: Ho hum, hello

Cathy: Well, hello "honey"; it's about time you came to the phone. The last time I called I had to wait a half an hour! This time it's only minutes.

Joey: Who is this anyway? What do you want?

Cathy: Huh! What do you want! he says. Want you to take me to the Valentine's Dance, if it's not too bothersome!

Joey: Oh yes, I think it would be cause my favorite show is on tonight. I'll have to go now before it comes on..see you sometime, whats-your-name?

.....

Judge: State your name and position.

B.C. Barry Cole, teacher.

Judge: Mr. Cole, why is Joey being charged?

B.C. Because he watches too much television.

Judge: How was it before television?

B.C. Well, sir, he was an A student. Good marks, always on time, always participating in school activities. But lately....

Classroom Scene

B.C. Joey, this is the eighth time you've been late this week!

Joey: So, I watched the Golden Oldies last night.

B.C. You missed your History test this morning, so I'll have to give you a zero.

Joey: So what, I don't like history anyway....

.....

Back to Court

Judge: I now call Fred Doe to the stand. Swear on the Bible.

Fred Doe: I do.

Judge: You know the accused?

F.D. Yes, I played hockey with him. He was on my team. He used to be a favorite of the players and the fans. Last season he won a trophy for the most gentlemanly player.

Judge: And you say he's changed?

F.D. Well, he hardly ever shows up for games, afraid he'll miss Dallas or something. And if he does come, his eyesight is now so poor that he can't see the net. He's gotten fat and out of shape. He doesn't even bother to pass the puck, and because he can't play as well as he used to, he gets cross. Spends a lot of time in the penalty box.

Judge: Well, uh, ladies and gentlemen, I think we have heard enough. Now before the jury makes its decision, I would like to introduce the members to you:

J.R. Ewing
Raven Swift
Miss Peggy &
Relic

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, have you reached a decision?

J.R.: Yes your honor, we find Joey Smith guilty as charged.

Judge: The jury has found you guilty. You are sentenced to spend 99 years in a Hollywood television studio. I now rest the case.

.....

(Screams of help are heard from the scene opposite.)

You can't - you can't - you can't do this to me.

Joey wakens wildly.

Mother: Joey, wake up. What's the matter. You okay son?

Joey: Yes, I think so...(looks around rubbing his eyes etc)
What time is it? I'll be late for school.

Mother: You'll be glad to know that school has been closed because the weather is too bad.

Joey: Dad! Let's go hunting.

Dad: You heard your mother - it's not fit out there.

Joey: Too bad for hockey too, I guess.

Mom: It's a good day for watching television.

Joey: TV's not the only thing to do, you know. I think I'll catch up on my reading.

(Takes a pile of books from behind the bench.)