

JERRY COFFEY

'Little House on Prairie' Likely to Succeed

The way "The Little House on the Prairie" has been knocked around, you'd think it was occupied by the least resourceful of the Three Little Pigs instead of a stalwart member of the "Bonanza" clan. First there was a much-

publicized flap over the filming site, when complaints from prospective neighbors forced a change of location. Then co-executive producer Ed Friendly quit the project, charging the series concept was getting too far away from the source material, the

"Little House" books of Laura Ingalls Wilder, favorites of generations of young readers. But with all its preproduction problems, "Prairie" remains one of NBC's likeliest prospects for series success this fall. From the first the net-

work figured it had a pioneer-days "Waltons" in the works, and when the pilot screening earlier this year produced very high ratings and a positive critical reaction, NBC immediately assigned the program a 1974-75 series slot.

"Little House on the Prairie" will occupy the 7 to 8 p.m. hour Wednesdays starting Sept. 11 on Channel 5. Its competition will be two other new series — "Sons and Daughters" on CBS and "That's My Mama" on ABC.

IN A LOS ANGELES interview earlier in the summer, series star and co-executive producer Michael Landon acknowledged the hardest part of the audience to please probably would be special fans of the "Little House" books. "Obviously, we'll have to embellish upon the books," Landon said. "We're not dramatizing all the 'Little House' books. The series is intended to cover only a small part of the Ingalls family story, and there simply isn't enough material from that period to supply the demands of a weekly television series. "We'll have to bring in things that could have hap-

pened. The important thing is being true to the characters. And that is especially important in this case because these people really lived and thus must progress in a certain way.

"There may not always be factual authenticity but there will be emotional authenticity."

"MY CHARACTERIZATION will be as close to the real Charles Ingalls as I can make it," Landon said. "The one obvious departure will be in physical detail. The real Mr. Ingalls had a very long, bushy beard. He looked like a wild man. I won't try to look like that. In the first place, I couldn't grow that much hair. And if I did, it would scare viewers away."

"You'll recall that at the end of the pilot the Ingalls family was forced by the government to leave the land they had homesteaded in Kansas, so the series starts with their arrival at Walnut Grove, Minn., in 1876," the actor noted. In addition to the family — Karen Grassie as Charles' wife Caroline; Melissa Gilbert as Laura; Melissa Sue Anderson as older daughter Mary; and twins Lindsey and Sidney Green Bush alternating as baby Carrie — there will be several other recurring characters, including Victor French, who made quite an impression as the good-hearted mountain man

who befriended the Ingallses in the pilot film.

"BUT THE emphasis will be on the family — the total family. It will be a simple show about people caring about each other."

In addition to his acting chores, Landon will direct some of the episodes and will be involved in the writing, too. The latter two specialties have absorbed much of his creative energy since "Bonanza" went off.

Mike's interest in writing and directing developed during his 14 seasons as "Little

Joe" Cartwright. He contributed 30 scripts to the popular western series during the years and directed many others.

"I started writing out of sheer desperation," he recalled. "One time we were facing a week of production and there was no script. I mean literally no script. It was just poor planning. So I wrote one during the weekend and we started shooting it on Wednesday. It wasn't the greatest show we ever had, but it wasn't the worst, either. It made sense, it moved, it had action."



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| KDFW CBS | WRAP NBC | WFAA ABC | KTVT FOX | KERA PBS | KXTX FOX |
| TUESDAY DAYTIME | | | | | |
| 6:00 30 Summer Semester 7:00 Morning News 8:00 Captain Kangaroo 9:00 The Joker's Wild 9:30 Gambit 10:00 Now You See It 10:30 Love of Life 11:00 Young and Restless 11:30 Search for Tomorrow 12:00 Eyewitness News 12:30 As the World Turns 1:00 Guiding Light 1:30 Edge of Night 2:00 New Price Is Right 2:30 Match Game '74 3:00 Tattletales 3:30 Merv Griffin 4:00 4:30 | 6:00 Good Morning Today Local News, Weather Name That Tune Winning Streak High Rollers Hollywood Squares Jackpot! Celebrity Sweepstakes News: 20 Dateline Jeopardy Days of Our Lives The Doctors Another World To Survive Marriage Somerset Star Time Sale of the Century | 6:00 Cox; 30 D. Reed The A.M. Show 30 The Mike Douglas Show \$10,000 Pyramid Brady Bunch The Saint With Roger Moore Run for Your Life Metroplex Noon News Cartoon Carnival Movie The Best of Exchanges David Niven, Michael Wilding Comedy Capers Batman Addams Family | 6:00 Med. News Slam Bang Theatre Z. Revue; Funhouse Fury My Favorite Martian The Saint With Roger Moore Run for Your Life Metroplex Noon News Cartoon Carnival Movie The Best of Exchanges David Niven, Michael Wilding Comedy Capers Batman Addams Family | 6:00 Sesame Street (R) 30 Misterogers (R) Sesame Street (R) Sesame Street (R) Hathayoga Newsroom (R) Firing Line Evening at Pops Who's Afraid of Opera? Day at Night Misterogers Electric Company | 6:25 Look-Up: News B. Bunny; M. Mouse Bozo; Little Rascals Lone Ranger Pillagers Eddie's Father Lucy Show Mayberry R.F.D. Quick Draw McGraw 700 Club Pat Robertson host A New Day Bugs Bunny Little Rascals Lost in Space Star Trek |
| TUESDAY AFTER 5 | | | | | |
| 5:00 Eyewitness News 5:30 CBS News 6:00 Eyewitness News 6:30 Thrillseekers 7:00 Maude Comedy starring Beatrice Arthur 7:30 Hawaii Five-O "A Bullet for El Diablo." 8:00 (R) 8:30 Shaft "Murder Machine." Starring Richard Roundtree. A professional gunman is hired to kill a grand jury witness. Clu Gulager, Julie Stein 9:00 9:30 10:00 Eyewitness News 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 Movie: "The Tiger Makes Out." 11:30 El Wallach | 5:00 Inside Area 5 NBC Nightly News Area 5 Texas News Treasure Hunt Adam-12 "KRASH." (R) Mystery Movie "The Devil Made Me Do It." Starring Helen Hayes and Mildred Natwick as the Snoop Sisters (R) Police Story Kurt Russell stars as a country boy who finds the police academy not quite what he expected (R) Area 5 Texas News Tonight Show Bill Cosby guest host Tomorrow | 5:00 Movie (Continued) ABC News News 8 Happy Days "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do." (R) Movie "Scream, Pretty Peggy." Bette Davis, Ted Bessell, Stan Barbara Allen (R) A Time Of Man "The Young Rebel." Horst Buchholz, Gina Lollobrigida News 8 Metroplex News 35 Movie (Continued) 30 Movie "Dorian Grey." 1:20 News; Meditations | 5:00 Leave It to Beaver I Love Lucy Petticoat Junction Beverly Hillsbillies "Pygmalion & Elly." Wild, Wild West Agents West and Gordon use courage and technology to thwart the evil plans of arch criminals Perry Mason The dueling scene in a production of Romeo and Juliet becomes more than just an act Movie "The Young Rebel." Horst Buchholz, Gina Lollobrigida Firing Line William F. Buckley, Jr. host (R) A New Day Kathryn Kuhlman 1974 FW Star-Telegram Advertiser | 5:00 Sesame Street Electric Company (R) Newsroom Local news, news analysis Special of the Week "Parole." This documentary examination of America's parole system shows the cases of two inmates. Special of the Week "Myshkin." Hogan's Heroes Andy Griffith Comedy series 700 Club A talk-variety and counseling program with Pat Robertson host A New Day Kathryn Kuhlman The Bold Ones Bonanza Western Adventure Look-Up | 5:00 Star Trek (Continued) <i>Comet Pyle</i> Hogan's Heroes Andy Griffith Comedy series 700 Club A talk-variety and counseling program with Pat Robertson host A New Day Kathryn Kuhlman The Bold Ones Bonanza Western Adventure Look-Up |

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