

Boomer got break with TV series

By DICK KLEINER
HOLLYWOOD — Things have broken nicely for Linwood Boomer, the last six months or so. The only thing he's worrying about is whether or not Mike Landon

will quit while he's ahead. Boomer was cast, last season, as the young blind teacher who helped Melissa Sue Anderson, playing Mike Landon's daughter who went blind on NBC's Little House

On the Prairie. And, this season, the two blind youngsters got married. Which means that Linwood Boomer, as Adam Kendall, is a permanent member of the "Little House" cast.

But the thing is — how permanent is permanent? "They told me," Boomer says, "that this would be the last season for the show, because Mike Landon wanted to call it quits after six years and go on to other things. But the show is still doing so well — just recently it was number one — that it seems hard to quit."

"I think the network will try to persuade him to continue with it. And that would be fine with me."

If the future goes as smoothly for Boomer as the past, chances are the show, and his part, will continue. He has been fortunate and, in fact, calls himself "the luckiest actor in the world."

How he got the part is an indication of his luck (of course, he had to have the talent to capitalize on his luck, when it happened). Actually, Little House On the Prairie is the first professional acting job Linwood Boomer has ever had.

He comes, originally, from Vancouver, in British Columbia, Canada. When he was two-years old, his father, an engineer, left to come to San Francisco, looking for work, and brought his family with him. So he grew up in San Francisco, but still retains his Canadian citizenship.

He says that acting was all he ever wanted to do, and has no idea where that goal came from. It just was there, all his life.

He was never good at the academic part of school — not even acting classes —

because he hated homework. After high school, he went to the American Academy, in Pasadena, where he studied acting seriously.

His girl friend (now wife), Shannon, worked as a secretary in a talent agency. That agency had the inside track on casting a pilot for a producer, who was a friend of the agency boss. They had sent all their clients over for one particular part, but the producer didn't like any of them.

"Finally," Lin Boomer says, "in desperation, they sent me, the secretary's boy friend. At least, the producer gave me a screen test, which convinced the agency that I might have something, so they signed to represent me."

He didn't get that part in the pilot but, a week or so later, they sent him off to audition for the part of the blind teacher on Little House. He didn't get that part, either, and, for a time, he was discouraged.

"I went back to the job I'd held to make eating money," he says. "I was peddling a texture-coat product, door-to-door, in Watts. That was when I heard that the actor they had originally cast for my part on Little House had backed out, and now they wanted me."

Shannon, his wife, is no longer working for the talent agency. Boomer says that she supported him for a couple of years. "so now I'm giving her a year off."

TV's Crenna sees career blast off

By JOAN CROSBY

Richard Crenna has found the truth of the old cliché about it never rains but it pours.

He hadn't been seen on TV for nearly a year when all of a sudden there he was in Devil Dog: The Hound of Hell, which did very well in the ratings when it was telecast on Halloween.

Then he showed up in Centennial, followed by First You Cry and then Fire in the Sky.

Crenna, who has been doing more and more directing of late, says he was very impressed with the script of Fire in the Sky when it was sent to him.

"Most disaster films are lacking in any kind of a personal story," he said. "It's usually a guy having an affair with a stewardess or a man and his secretary trapped in an office building and the way the script is written, you don't really care that much about them. But this one had excellent personal stories to tell. People are really understood in the show. You care about them."

Crenna is one of the really nice people in the business.

He grew up in front of the public, playing a teen-ager when he was really an adult in Our Miss Brooks, then moving to The Real McCoys and then into the very well respected series, Slattery's People.

"Can you believe that was 14 years ago?" he asks.

WEDNESDAY

- 4:30 Battle of the Planets (7)
Kids Magazine (6)
Bonanza (5)
- 5:00 News (3)
Candid Camera (7)
Adam 12 (6)
Six Million Dollar Man (13) (8)
- 5:30 News (3) (5) (6)
Carol Burnett (7)
- 6:00 News (5) (13) (8) (7)
CBS Report (3)
House of Com. Ques. Period (CATV 10)
- 6:30 Family Feud (5)
Winsday (13) (8)
Agri-Vision (7)
Alias Smith & Jones (6)
- 7:00 Eight Is Enough (7)
Movie (3)
In The Beginning (13) (8)
Eight Is Enough (5)
- 7:30 Jeffersons (13) (8)
Muppets (6)
- 8:00 Movie (13) (8)
Charlies Angels (7)
The Day My Granddad Died (6)
Charlies Angels (5)
State of the Arts (CATV 10)
- 8:30 Yuletide Messages (CATV 10)
- 9:00 Movie (7)
ABC News Closeup (5)
Two's a Crowd (6)
Cable Rock (CATV 10)
- 9:30 Musicamera (6)
- 10:00 News (5) (3)
Hawaii Five O (13) (8)
- 10:30 Police Woman-SWAT (5)
Tonight Show (3)
Watson Report (6)
- 11:00 News (6) (8) (13)
- 11:20 News (13) (8) (6)
- 11:45 Canada After Dark (6)
- 12:00 Movie (7) (13) (8)
- 1:30 Emergency (13) (8)

A New Year's bash with a new kink

SEATTLE, Wash. (AP) — For people looking for a new year's eve party that's out of the ordinary, the bash the Venusian Church is throwing may be just the ticket.

The party will be at Camp Armac in Bothell north of Seattle — 32 acres of seclusion where clothing is optional. Sponsors say it features the largest hot tub in the state, a swimming pool and several dormitories.

"Let go and experience love and sexuality at its best in our safe and supportive environment," urges a brochure for the party. "Fall asleep in the arms of the ones you love — and be greeted by Armac's famous pancake brunch at noon Monday."

"Continuous hard-core religious erotica will be shown ... beginning at 12:10 a.m.," the brochure adds.

Ron Peterson founded the Seattle church three years ago.

"We consider Venus worship to be the oldest religion going," he says solemnly. "Venus was the goddess of love. Worship of the fertility goddess goes back to cavemen days."

Peterson said 40 to 50 people are expected at the party, with admission \$10 a couple, or \$25 for non-church members.

"At midnight we'll blow a horn, then we'll all commence activities in the pillow room," Peterson said. "Part of that will be some erotic films as well as some sexual activity. Some necking, touching and stroking. Sex is not the end-all. Some will fail asleep."

"We create an environment that's sensuous and fun," he said. "We try to desensitize people's fears about sex and help them find a sexual identity."

"People who are phobic about such things will stay away. The people who come are into caring about themselves and other people."

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Wednesday Movies

- Ch. 7 — 1:00 p.m. "Planet of the Apes" — Science Fiction — Roddy McDowall, Kim Hunter, Maurice Evans
- Ch. 3 — 7:00 p.m. "Les Miserables" — Drama — Richard Jordan, Anthony Perkins, Cyril Cusack
- Ch. 13 — 8:00 p.m. "The Incredible Rocky Mountain Race" — Adventure — Christopher Connelly, Forrest Tucker, Larry Storch
- Ch. 7 — 9:00 p.m. "Les Miserables" — Drama — Richard Jordan, Anthony Perkins, Cyril Cusack
- Ch. 7 — 12 midnight "The Charge of the Light Brigade" — Adventure — Trevor Howard, David Hemmings, Vanessa Redgrave
- Ch. 13 — 12 midnight "Bloodsport" — Drama — Gary Busey, Ben Johnson, Larry Hagman

Wednesday Specials

- Ch. 3 — 6:00 p.m. "CBS Reports" — A report on mental health services
- Ch. 5 — 9:00 p.m. "ABC News Closeup" — A report on human rights

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