

North of England  
Edition

BBC Radio Stoke-on-Trent  
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'Just Perfick' by H. E. Bates  
Radio 1 & 2: Tues & Thurs

Nigel Dennis story  
Radio 3: Friday

# Radio Times

Programmes for  
1-7 November: Ninepence

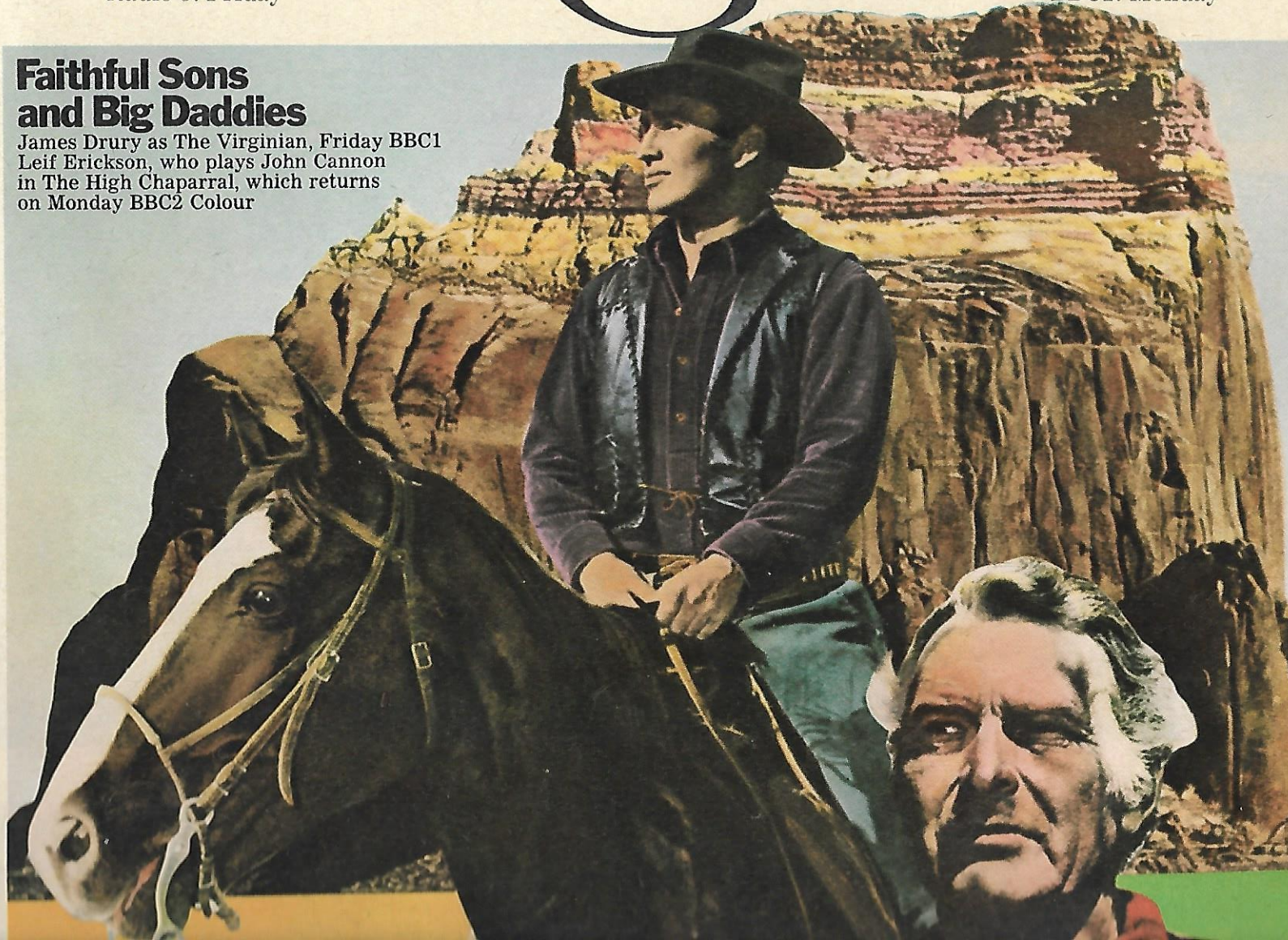
British film - This Sporting Life  
BBC1: Sunday

Peter Grimes - Opera  
BBC2: Sunday

Kenneth McKellar sings  
BBC1: Monday

## Faithful Sons and Big Daddies

James Drury as The Virginian, Friday BBC1  
Leif Erickson, who plays John Cannon  
in The High Chaparral, which returns  
on Monday BBC2 Colour





H. E. Bates tells Malcolm Winton how he went about

## Pollinating 'The Darling Buds'

'Just Perfick': Tuesday 8.15 Radio 2

It's flattering for a novelist to become well known, but when the characters he's invented become even better known than he is it's more flattering still. This is what's happened to H. E. Bates.

The creator of the Larkin family is small, a little stout, courteous and peaceful. He's 64 now, and very comfortably off. He lives a few miles from Ashford in Kent in a lovely house with a village green in the front and a vivid garden at the back.

He writes in longhand—in an open, south-facing summerhouse when it's warm, and in his study when it isn't. His big study window faces south too, overlooking his garden. He's devoted to gardening, and it's curious that although he can see almost all the best flower beds from his desk he should still prop up in front of him one of the little paintings from his collection to look at while he writes.

He has a theory about the writing of fiction. 'It isn't only a matter of one idea, you have to have two ideas. You see what you think is a wonderful idea and you say "I must get this down on

paper." And then when you go to get it down nothing happens, you realise it's sterile, you see. You need another idea to fertilise it.'

This was exactly what happened in the creation of *The Darling Buds of May*, the first of the four published books about the Larkins and from which part of 'Just Perfick' has been adapted. 'The original junk yard in the Larkins is only about three miles from here. I used to go past it two or three times a week. You never saw such a mess in your life. Bits and pieces of everything, ducks and geese and God knows what. A gorgeous mess. It just cried to be written about.'

'Then outside a village sweet shop right up the other side of Kent I saw this oh so home-painted lorry and suddenly out of the shop came the whole Larkin family, Pop and Ma and all the kids each sucking great big iced lollies. And I knew that what had been missing from the junk yard had arrived.'

H. E. Bates has had his work on radio before. 'Sometimes they've come out very well but of course it varies a good deal. How this is going to turn out I don't know. They've got some very good people doing it. Bernard Miles and so on.'

Photograph by TONY RAY JONES

Bobbie Gentry will be seen in her own show on Tuesday (7.30, BBC1). Her guest this week will be James Taylor.

David Griffiths asked a cross-section

## Do you like Ke

A Song for Everyone: Mo

MRS RHODA ROCK housewife, 33, Crewe. 'Oh yes, I'm a great admirer of Kenneth. I especially like his travel programmes—you know, *Road to the Isles*, *Road to Naples* and so on. I think the presentation's very attractive. I don't like anything too highbrow.'



MRS CAROLINE BARLOW trade union secretary, 28, Claygate. 'I prefer his sort of singing—it's nearer to classical than those awful squawks you get from most pop singers. And you ought to talk to my mother—she's very keen. Also I prefer a man to have a haircut.'



MRS ROSINA PAUL housewife, 42, South Lancing. 'He's got stage deportment, quite a strong, powerful voice—melodious I find. I like his style. I really enjoyed his *Christmas at the Stars* appearance last year.'



DENNIS DAVIES schoolteacher, 30, Warrington. 'McKellar's got a very good voice and he uses it well. I think he chooses the right material for himself. If he tried to change his style song I doubt if it would help him. Obviously, all artists like to expand their range but he should create it very slowly and carefully. I once saw him on a *TV* vision Contest singing pop songs and they didn't really suit him. He goes out of character before going to disappoint his public.'



MISS PAULINE PANDA student, 19, Sierra Leone. 'I have to be in the right mood but... yes, he's a very good singer. He's got a good voice. I don't mind those sort of songs, I was in school choir and am used to them.'



## Shakespeare in stereo

Shakespeare in stereo, Fenella Fielding in Shakespearean listen to John Powell's production of *Much Ado About Nothing* to be repeated on Sunday (The Programme, 7.0).

Fenella plays Beatrice to Paul Daneman's Benedick, with Richard Richardson and Cecil Park heading a strong cast.

Nana Mouskouri, who had her own BBC2 show last year, is first guest in Kenneth McKellar's new series, which begins on Monday (BBC1).