AS I SEE IT

Pat Cook

Somehow the new television season came upon us with such unexpected speed that I keep getting my schedules crossed.

As one whose natural inclination is to start off every meal dessert first, so does it seem proper to my bent to begin testing the new programs by sampling the situation comedies first.

But other than "Rhoda" which I caught on the first time around I keep missing the sit coms by tuning in the dramas or melodramas as you wish.

Wednesday when I intended to take a peek at "That's My Mama" I found myself up to my eyebrows in "Sons and Daughters" instead.

And on Saturday I opted for "The New Land" in lieu of seeing the start of Archie's new season and realized after the entire hour long episode of the Frontier family was up that I had missed "Paul Sand in Friends and Lovers."

I was not disappointed in the 50's story, "Sons and Daughters." It was just about what I expected, e.g. heavy on the young love theme, contrived humor and precious little characterization. To make matters worse there's a wrecked marriage in the background, a young child who lies as easily as he steals until his conscience catches up with him, and throughout it all a lot of over emoting.

At least part of the adverse feelings I experienced over this particular story are attributable to the horrible outfits worn by young Glynnis O'Connor. I suffered enough **wearing** skirts to the ankle, bolero tops and sweaters buttoned down the back without having to watch their reincarnation.

"The New Land", the latest story in the wave of dramas about Scandinavians pioneering in this country, was attractive primarily thanks to its stars Bonnie Bedelia and Scott Thomas. As a young couple who come to Minnesota with two young children and his younger brother (Kurt Russell) they lose their barn and oxen to fire in the initial episode.

How he gets the money for more oxen from a pseudo pious fellow immigrant makes for an interesting twist. There's a foot race, an expose of a cheat and the eventual purchase of more animals. It's a good hour and will give parents who prefer other subject matter than what "All in the Family" has been dishing up in recent years another alternative along with "Emergency."

I'd been hearing that "Apple's Way" was going to change — make its characters more human. If the first show of the new season was any indication of the transformation then all it boils down to is making the mother a bit of a harpy, the father more harried and the three kids fighting like animals. So much for TV's conception of a "real family."

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