

What BBC West has for opt-out slots

by a Television Today reporter

TO continue our look at what the BBC regional stations have planned for their twice-weekly opt-outs from the network, Television Today asked BBC West regional station manager Jimmy Dewar what he has lined up for the slots.

"In the Tuesday slot at 7.05 pm, our four-part history of aviation in the west country, Flying High, has just finished this week, and starting on August 28 we introduce a magazine programme, The Rectangular Picture Machine," he told us.

Produced by David Pritchard, the series "will deal with everything from architecture to real ale" and among the contributors will be Auberon Waugh. The Tuesday October 30 programme will be the last of the ten-part series.

Starting on November 6 is a seven-part series, Day Out, produced by Keith Sheather and presented by Derek Jones and Gwynn Richards. The first programme will be a celebration of the Westonbirt Arboretum, near Stroud, which was founded in 1829 and which includes specimens of trees from all over the world. Other west country locations visited in the series will include Cirencester, Bristol and Dorchester.

In the New Year, although exact dates are not yet available, BBC West will use the Tuesday slot to bring back its occasional series Breakthrough, which Jimmy Dewar



Jimmy Dewar, regional station manager of BBC West.

describes as "a regional version of Tomorrow's World." John Norman will present the three programmes which are to be produced by Paul Smith.

Following these will be seven programmes looking at minority sport which will also include a competition between various regional sports centres. As yet no presenter has been allocated to Sports Show, but producer will be Keith Sheather.

Four programmes featuring amat-

eur music and dance in the west country are lined up to follow Sports Show in the Tuesday slot. Margaret Benton will produce the series but no title has been decided on.

Last of Jimmy Dewar's 1980 plans for Tuesdays is Movie Magic, a second series made up of professional and amateur film of the area and including archive material. Gwynn Richards will introduce the six programmes and Dennis Dick is to be producer.

The series also follows up a competition for local film-makers that was launched in the first series earlier this year. Movie Magic will finish on May 20 of next year.

For the Friday 10.15 pm slot BBC West has prepared a mixture of light entertainment and current affairs. Following *The Producers*, a series about industry in the west which finishes tomorrow, will be a television version of Bristol University's Revunions Show. This was one of the fringe events at last year's Edinburgh Festival; BBC West producer on the programme is Paul Dickins.

Friday September 7 sees the first of three Summer Serenade concerts recorded in historic west country settings. Producer is Paul Smith and presenter is Deborah Rix.

Public Life, BBC West's occasional current affairs programme, starts a new series on September 28. Jimmy Dewar will edit the series himself but different producers will work on the six programmes.

Although not all the topics have yet been decided on, one programme will look at the Bristol newspaper war which was waged over the Bristol Evening World, introduced fifty years ago. The feasibility of local evening newspapers in the face of radio and television opposition will also be discussed.

Once a year, film students from Bristol University supply a programme to the station, and this year the offering is called Razzle Dazzle and will go out on Friday November 9.

The film, which follows a west country fair as it travels round the area, has been edited at BBC West with Jimmy Dewar executive producer on the project.

Following this, on November 16, Roger Mills will introduce the first of three profiles of social workers in Wiltshire. One topic planned for the series is a look at the off-duty emergency service that the social workers run. No title has been chosen yet but David Pritchard will be producer.

In the last few weeks before Christmas, Jimmy Dewar intends to re-run the Summer Serenade programmes in the Friday slot. Programmes for the New Year are still very much in the planning stage, but Jimmy Dewar hopes to start the Friday opt-out slot in 1980 with six investigations into local archaeology, to be produced by Margaret Benton, followed by another look at current affairs with Public Life.