

15 YEARS AGO—JANUARY 17, 1952

MORE PUBLIC SUPPORT needed for our festival association. The drama and elocution sections under the direction of Mrs N McIvor and Mrs L Bazely. Dancing section under Rev. G Dobie and Mrs F Davies. Volunteers are asked for handling props.

MR BUNNY Hearn, from the provincial department of recreation spoke to a large gathering of members of the drama club on the problems of producing a festival. He came up here after speaking at the Teachers convention at Dawson Creek. NOV 13, ~~1962~~ 1952

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME FEB. 4, 5, 6

The Drama Festival set for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week promises to spotlight the best and most varied array of dramatic talent ever to be seen in this area. Sixteen plays will be presented in the four sessions of the three day festival.

The school Recreation Hall has been completely redecorated and is a joy to behold. Charlie Kezer and his crew have outdone themselves in readying the hall for the event. In particular, festival goers and players alike will welcome the redesigning of the stage which has been widened, deepened and—please note—raised so that it is now visible to everyone in the hall, even those at the very back.

The acoustics too have been improved several hundred per cent. The raising of the ceiling and the refinishing in plywood ensure now that the voices of the actors will carry to the back of the hall just as easily as to the front.

Tickets are on sale this week—admission as follows: Adults—Season (all four sessions)—\$1.25 Evening sessions—each 50c. Afternoon sessions—each 35c
Children—Season (all four sessions)—\$1.00. Evening sessions—each 50c. Afternoon sessions—each 25c.

(Continued on Page 4)

—each 25c.

Brightly colored posters are on display in town, and Roche's Drug Store is featuring in its window a very clever display by Mrs. Frank Davies, consisting of miniature stages showing scenes from three of the plays (the centre one seems to be a bit of a puzzle). Programmes especially designed for the event by Bill Kehoe of DOT (who also designed the posters) will also be on sale by the beginning of the week.

The programme has been set as follows:

WEDNESDAY EVENING Feb. 4 — 8:00 p.m.

Opening of Festival and welcoming of Adjudicator, Miss Esther Nelson, by Mr. Hilliver, president of the Festival Association.

Wayside Warfare — High School Comedy, a howler, directed by Mr. J. Ratzlaff.

A Box of Troubles—presented by the ladies of the Airport Club Drama group. No wonder it's trouble, 10 ladies and no men in the cast. Directed by R. J. Aubry.

A Sister to Assist 'Er — Have you ever heard those two cockneys, Mrs. Bazely and Mrs. Keddell, carry on. No? Well you can imagine, but it's better seen than imagined.

(Continued on Page 4)

Festival Programme Feb. 4-5-6

(Continued from Page 1)

Peace River Legacy—Mrs. Melvor's original success of two years ago, rewritten and recast, and still with a snowstorm in August. Directed by Mrs. Gene Forster.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Feb. 5 — 1:30 p.m.
The Silken Rope — A Chinese fantasy, from the Upper Pine School, under the direction of Mrs. Frank Gross who can always be counted on to come up with something good.

The Three Bears — A pantomime, under the same direction from the same school.

Canadian Hills — An original play written for the North Pine elementary school by Miss Gay M. Howard. A play with a punch.
Company for Valentine—Mrs. Stuby with a new cast is offering the festival winner of 1947. It's good.

THURSDAY EVENING

Feb. 5 — 8:00 p.m.
The Valiant — The play that won the Prince George High School festival last year (Mr. Downey's group from Vanderhoof) an old favorite, and tearjerker, with a High School cast under the direction of Mr. McLean.

When Johnny Comes Marching Home—Original play by Mrs. Ruth Carlson and Mrs. Gladys Peterson of Upper Pine written especially for the festival, with a cast from Rose Prairie, and again under the direction of Mrs. Gross. Wait till you see the twist in this ending.
Sunday Costs Five Pesos—Mrs. Jan Johnson goes south of the border (The Mexican one) with this mirth provoker, this one with a High School cast. Remember their play in the Christmas con-

cert. This one's even better.
Feathers in the Wind—Original play by Dr. Cormack who has changed his mood from the comedy spirit of last year's play to a more sombre tone. (Publisher's Note — It should be sombre, I have a part in it, that's enough to make any director weep).
Presentation of High School and Adult awards at the end of this session.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Feb. 6 — 1:30 p.m.

The Yarn of the Nancy Belle — A rattling good yarn about the poor old Nancy Belle and its mate (I mean fated) crew, from the Taylor school, directed by Ernie McKeown.

St. Martin's Day—Ernie McKeown again with his adaptation of a tale of old Quebec, from the Taylor School. St. Martin's Day was the Quebec equivalent of April 30 nowadays, when the taxes are due.

The Magic Wand—Grade 1—Fort St. John under the direction of Mrs. Plain with more bunnies, brownies and fairies, this one's about spring instead of the Christmas spirit that prevailed at the Christmas concert.

The Golden Pine Cone — Mrs. Melvor's dramatic adaptation of the beautiful fantasy of the Golden Pine Cone with Indians and Spirits and Lake Snakes and Pearl Folk and Giants, by Mrs. Hazlett's Grade 5 class. Presentation of Junior awards after this session.

FRIDAY EVENING

Feb. 6 — 8:30 p.m.

Reception for Miss Nelson at the School Dormitory. Everyone who is interested in the work of the festival or in drama in any way is cordially invited to the reception to meet Miss Nelson.

DRAMA FESTIVAL STARTS THE 4TH

Jan 28, 1953

The Peace River North Music & Drama Festival Association wish to announce that the dates of Drama Section of the Festival have been set for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 4th, 5th and 6th. Watch next week's paper for more details.

FESTIVAL Origins 1953 pg 1

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE reports 15 plays have been entered. Miss Esther Nelson, Extension Dept. of U. of A. is adjudicator.
Jan 22, 1953

MRS. DAVIES DESIGNS CLEVER SETS FOR THREE FESTIVAL PLAYS

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They are the artistic handiwork of Mrs. Frank Davies of Fort St. John. She has fashioned and dressed miniature actors with the aid of pipe cleaners and clever manipulation of tiny bits of material, and has gathered together miniature furniture so that the whole scene is in scale.

This particular set is designed to depict the play "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Johnny is at the door, in a soldier suit. His wife has arms extended to embrace him, and a tiny baby sits back in a miniature play pen and approves of the scene.

"The Golden Pine Cone" is the second play chosen in the group. A plastic Ogopoga presents a terrifying tableau at the side of a lake with Lucy and Bren and their small dog prepared to do battle with the green-eyed beast.

Dr. Cormack's play is suitably noted with a blank stage on which is emblazoned against a stage backdrop one large question mark.

STARTS FEB. 4TH JAN 22, 1953
DRAMA FESTIVAL
AROUSES INTEREST

In lively session on Monday evening the Festival Committee met and threshed out final plans for the Drama Section of the Eighth Annual Festival.

Mrs. McIvor reported that 15 plays have been entered, 7 in the elementary section, 3 in the high school, and 5 in the adult section. Rural areas are represented by entries from Taylor, North Pine and Upper Pine; the Airport Drama Group is putting in an adult entry; four groups from Fort St. John are entering three adult and one elementary play; the local elementary school will be represented by a school entry; and the high school students are well under way with two comedies and a drama. Of particular interest is the fact that there will be four original scripts, one from Upper Pine (adult) one from North Pine (elementary), and two from Fort St. John (adult), as well as a locally written dramatic adaption.

The Festival begins Wednesday evening, February 4, with a session of four adult and high school plays, to be followed by sessions Thursday afternoon (elementary), Thursday evening (adult and high school), and ends with an elementary session Friday afternoon, February 6. Trophies are being offered for competition in each of the three classes (elementary, high school and adult) for the best play, the best actor, and the best actress.

On Friday evening a reception at the school dormitory will be tendered the adjudicator, Miss Esther Nelson of the Department of Extension of the University of Alberta, whom many will remember for her very capable and instructive adjudication at the Sixth Annual Festival two years ago. All who are interested in drama or in the work of the Festival are cordially invited to the reception to meet Miss Nelson.

Of unusual interest to this year is the fact that the Festival Association has offered to back the winning adult play to the extent of \$150 for the purpose of competing in the Zone Finals at Prince George in May — and rumor has it that the winning high school play will likewise be backed to compete in Prince George.

Next week we will have more details regarding the actual programme.

Keep those dates open for a very interesting three days, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 4, 5, and 6.

Local Woman Does Adaptation For Juvenile School Drama Entry

JAN 29, 1953

"The Golden Pine Cone, a Canadian story by Catherine A. Clark, is an entry in the forthcoming Drama Festival. It is being done by Mrs. Hazlett's class, Fort St. John School from an adaption by Mrs. Vernice McIvor"—News Item.

The Golden Pine Cone is as Canadian as its name. In fact it not only takes place in Canada but in this very province of British Columbia. It is a delightful story by a B.C. author. Mrs. Clark has based her story upon Indian legends of the Kootenay Lakes district. In the book we find two children, Lucy, 9, and her brother Bren, 11, and their dog Ooshka. They are ordinary children playing around their home until Lucy finds a golden pine cone. It is magic! So, as long as the children have it, strange things happen to them. Their dog can talk. They see the pearl folk and Bren fights the Fierce Lake snake.

The golden pine cone really belongs to Tekontha, queen of the spirit world of the region. The children have many weird and

lovely adventures before they reach Tekontha and return it to her.

This book was chosen for the local library. One of the Board read it and was so impressed with it as possible play material, she didn't rest until something was done about it. Mrs. Vernice McIvor kindly consented to dramatize the story. Mrs. Hazlett is directing the play and has her whole class working on the parts. It has been difficult to shorten the adaption to the time allowed for one act plays . . . so much and so interesting is the material. A whole evening's entertainment could easily be taken from the wealth of material in the book.

The Golden Pine Cone will be presented at the Drama Festival, Friday afternoon, February 6th, at 1:30, in the Rec. Hall. This could be the Canadian classic we have all been looking for. Mrs. Clark has written another children's book, "The Sun Horse". It is on order for the Library. Both books will be available here soon.

Third Column

By G.M.K.

FEB 5, 1953

Feb 6, 1953

OUR MAN: (entering from rear) with apron, specs and surly expression on puss) Where is SHE?

OUR WINNIFRED: She went out . . . didn't say where.

OUR MAN: Does she work here or is that just an ugly rumour? Three o'clock . . . no editorial . . . no woman's page . . . no tea ready . . . We otta gift-wrap her pay cheque.

OUR WIN: I'm sure I couldn't say . . . is it time for tea already?

OUR MAN: It's always time for tea . . . when is this blasted festival over?

OUR WIN: Thursday I think.

OUR MAN: Well, thank God for that . . . say, it's cold in here . . . must be getting colder outside . . . how about a little more coal, eh . . . saaaaaaaay, where's that fan. (voice rising to a shriek) Where's that fan?

OUR WIN: Well, Dr. Cormack was in . . .

OUR MAN: Yes, was in . . . was in . . . he borrowed it, I suppose! What did he want with it. What are we supposed to do . . . freeze to death? What does he want it for?

OUR WIN: He just took it for half an hour . . . he said something about feathers . . .

OUR MAN: Feathers, eh. He's written a play about feathers, isn't that it. (hysterical laughter) I hope they get up his nose and tickle him to death. I hope he gets his finger in the fan. Festivals, bah. (he exits, rear)

OUR WIN: (running after him) Oh . . . just a moment . . . I forget to say that Ronnie won't be in after school today. He just phoned. He says there's too much work around here . . . and besides he's in the "Golden Pine Cone" . . .

OUR MAN: "Golden Pine Cone, eh. Well isn't that just fine. As long as they don't want him to carry any of them in for kindling he'll get along fine . . . it's no wonder this town looks like it does. Where else would they take a whole week off at a time like they do here. Last week it was bonspielling. This week it's just spelling. (Our Win reaches for her coat and hat) Where do you think YOU'RE going, now

OUR WIN: Oh I won't be long. You see I'm prompting.

OUR MAN: AND who, may I ask, are the lucky prompted ones?

OUR WIN: It's Mrs. Keddell's play.

OUR MAN: Mrs. Keddell has enough to do without getting stage struck at her time of life. We all have enough to do around here without getting involy . . .

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CORMACK: (rushing in with a cloud of frost from street) Just the man I'm looking for. Here it is . . . (extends hand holding script) . . . now you're the FIRST MAN . . . starts here and goes over to HERE.

OUR MAN: Now look here George, I have no time for nonsense like this. Do you know we've worked nights for two weeks around here . . . there's the festival programme . . .

CORMACK: (interrupting) Yes I know all that . . . but you can't let nine people down . . . you've got to do this part . . . my reputation as a playwright depends on your co-operation . . . rehearsal at 6:30. Be there.

(exits and slams door . . . forgets something and returns)

Co-operate with me and when you get your ulcers I'll co-operate with you. No play, no house calls . . . no hospital calls and no office calls! (Exit and slams door . . . returns second time) And don't think you're NOT getting an ulcer. I know the signal.

OUR MAN: (Picks up script and starts memorizing . . .) (curtain)

Hundreds Enjoy Two Nights Of Theatre As Drama Festival Presents Best Plays Yet

16 Plays In All Include Four Originals - Thrilling Experience, Concludes Adjudicator

Feb 12, 1953

The Eighth Annual Fort St. John Drama Festival was a smashing success this past week. Sixteen plays were entered by adults and school children. Four of them were original plays.

"It has been a great thrill to me to come to Fort St. John . . . and to see this wonderful festival", said Miss Esther Nelson, University of Alberta, adjudicator. "It is especially thrilling to see these four original plays. Canada, you know, hasn't a great deal of literature of its own. This is the sort of thing we want . . . we cry out for. Yet people do a lot of talking about it and not much else. You have indeed done a great deal about it, and I congratulate you."

Miss Nelson was referring to these four. "Peace River Legacy", a homely play, written by Mrs. Vernice McIvor of Fort St.

John was first produced two years ago, but was rewritten, recast and presented again this year for adjudication. The second play, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home", was written by two farm women of Upper Pine. Mrs. Ruth Carlson and Mrs. Gladys Peterson. The interesting things about both these plays was that their authors very wisely stuck to their home backgrounds for their material. Talk of crops, prices, weather . . . the ordinary conversation in any farm home . . . on the stage, took on new proportions. It became witty and amusing. The bits of business . . . beating up a cake, a little girl saying a 'piece' for her Granny's birthday, a man lathering his face at the kitchen wash stand, all ordinary things that go on in anyone's home . . . turned out to be wonderful. The

best adult actor can play . . . George R.

"Feathers in the" a play with a message, ten by G. N. Cormack John, won the prize play. Dr. Cormack considerable creative "Feathers", using effects with great effect feathers across the change the scenes, a caste which was through. The author ration. His play was and compelling. Not youngster up front, tiniest noise for 30

Dr. Cormack protected his own play Forster directed "Peace Legacy" and Mrs. directed "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

(Continued on

RECEPTION AT DORM HONOURS ADJUDICATOR

The Fort St. John school dormitory was the scene of a post-reception, honoring Miss Esther Nelson, adjudicator, prior to her departure for Edmonton. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Howe were the hosts.

SEVEN JUNIOR PLAYS, including one original were entered in this year's Drama Festival and won Oscars for Don Peterson and Sylvia Stuby judged best young actor and actress.

DORA ANN SPICER and Ruth Cornock are new president and secretary of the newly formed CYO. Mr. and Mrs. Hale Parker offered the music for the program.

TWO LADIES CURLING rinks took part in the bonspiel in D.C. Mrs. V. Stark skipped one rink and Mrs. L. Weber the other.

HUNDREDS ENJOYED the two nights of the Drama Festival when 16 plays were presented—four of which were originals.

Feb 12, 1953

Drama Festival Outstanding . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

The fourth original play was by Miss Gay M. Howard, "Canadian Hills". This was written for juniors of the North Pine Elementary School, and is dealt with elsewhere in this issue.

Of the other adult plays, the Airport Ladies turned in an excellent job. But another time, experience has taught them that they could do the same splendid job on a more worthwhile vehicle. "A Box of Trouble" was good fun all the way through, however. The 'ladies' were a delightful crew, quite typical . . . and Shirley Lewis as Winnifred Jason had the audience rolling in the aisles.

"A Sister to Assist 'Er", a sketch of Victorian Times, and as the adjudicator pointed out, actually a bit of music hall entertainment, was a duologue. Mrs. Les Bazeley and Mrs. Jim Keddel enjoyed themselves as much as the audience enjoyed watching them. Mrs. Keddel . . . as Mrs. McMull, the landlady . . . took the prize for the best adult actress.

In the High school class, the best play was judged "Sunday Costs Five Pesos". This sparkling little play was directed by Miss Jan Johnson. Evelyn Myhre turned in her usual excellent performance as Berta, the affianced of Fidel who was played by Dennis Spence. Evelyn, a fiery bit of Mexican femininity, met her match in Celestina, played by Eunice Beaton. And there ensued between the two, one of the most convincing stage fights I have ever seen. Norma Armstrong and Dolly Babcock lent fine support to the principles. The sets were interesting in this play too.

"The Valiant", directed by Mr. Wm. McLean and L. W. Downey, won the cup for the best junior actor for Lorne Hazlett who played James Dyke, the convict. Any play with sufficient appeal to cause the audience to weep real tears must be, overall, a good play. This is, in fact, how not a few members of the audience reacted. The adjudicator recommended more practice, more polishing, but commended the performers for an over-all good performance.

"Wayside Warfare", another high school entry, won the cup for the best junior actress for Miss Lillian Dingman as Alicia Pemberton, the spy. This was a 17th century story concerning an incident in the Moomoth Rebellion. All the actors showed a wonderful grasp of their lines and spoke them feelingly . . . but without enough maturity or deliberateness in voice. Cyril Pomeroy, as the Colonel was very good. Susan, the inn-keeper's wife, was convincing also. Peter Hornick as the Sergeant was equally good, but it remained for Miss Lillian Dingman as the fascinating and dangerous Alicia Pemberton to outstar the others.

SEVEN JUNIOR PLAYS SHOW TALENT AND AMBITION OF CHILDREN

Seven junior plays, including one original, were entered in this year's Drama Festival and won Oscars for Don Peterson and Sylvia Stuby, judged the best small actor and actress.

Silken Rope", a play from Upper Pine, directed by Mrs. Frank Gross. Don was commended by the adjudicator for his spontaneous manner and general performance. Sylvia was Marilyn in "Company for Valentine", called play was directed by Mrs. Richard Stuby.

"Canadian Hills" written by Miss Gay M. Howard, school teacher of North Pine, especially for her pupils, was an interesting piece of work and was commended. Miss Nelson considered it a

and Mrs. Bert Lowe, and Mrs. Jack Ratzlaff.

Also present were Mr. and Mrs. Gene Forster, Mrs. Jean Taylor, Mrs. Vernice McIvor, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brodoway, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie McKeown, Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Mr. Jim Trearton, Mr. G. N. Cormack, Mr. Charles Greenhaugh, Mr. Ian Currie, Mr. Bill McLean, Mr. Lorne Downey, Mr. R. Lucas, Mr. Wilf Lamble, Mr. D. G. Murray, Mr. N. H. Iyer, Mr. R. J. Aubrey and members of the Airport Drama Club.

good piece of work, especially since it was Miss Howard's first attempt to tell the story of a little crippled girl who longed to be able to climb the hill round her home with her little friends.

Upper Pine entered two pieces of pantomime on "The Three Bears" was commended for the good quality of speaking behind the scenes, and for the clever masking of the bears. Mrs. Gross directed this play too.

Two plays were entered from Taylor School. "The Yarn of the Nancy Belle" by W. S. Gilbert directed by E. R. McKeown, who also directed "St. Martin's Day" a bit of Canadians from old Quebec. The costumes in "St. Martin's Day" were very good, and the story delightful.

The adjudicator commended the choice of the play, commenting that it was worth doing . . . if a little difficult.

"The Yarn of the Nancy Belle" a rather lusty and blood curdling effort for girls was costumed and staged effectively, and likewise well received.

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS, Fort St. John, B.C. February 12th, 1953

"Pine Cone" Winner In Junior Drama Feb 19, 1953

"The Golden Pine Cone" which won the shield for the best junior play at the recent Fort St. John Festival" was one of the most ambitious productions of the two day show. It was directed by the Grade Five teacher at the Fort St. John Elementary School, Mrs. Harry Hazlett, and her entire class formed the cast.

"The Golden Pine Cone" was a new book released at Christmas written about the fairy folk of the Kootenay Lake district of British Columbia. Its charm so impressed Mrs. Hazlett and others, that Mrs. Vernice McIvor was urged to do an adaptation of the book for the Grade Five Festival Entry.

In six scenes, the ingenuity of the director, her assistant, Mrs. Frank Davies and other helpers was brought to bear on the sets, which were admirable. Mrs. Hazlett herself did a backdrop depicting the Kootenay Lake country. The canvas was 20 feet long and 7 feet high, done in coloured chalk and 'fixed' with a sugar solution.

With limited staging facilities, it was a remarkable feat to change the sets so many times. In one scene, a floating island rose out of the lake, arranged in the Industrial Arts department of school out of chicken wire and a form, to which greenery was affixed. Indian teepees were cleverly done for yet another set.

Mrs. Dorothy Forster worked out the choreography for the Pearl Babies ballet, and the children were coached by Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Hazlett.

Paper and paste fashioned some very clever 'costumes'. The snake was excellent. The dog masks, the square heads . . . everything was created in the mind of the director and fashioned by her.

The adjudicator thought the children might have spoken their lines with more conviction, and they might have spoken louder. There was of course the difficulty of waits between scenes, but "Pine Cone" was really something to see. And enormous effort and ability went into it.

Billy Bouffieux and Theresa Richter were very good as the principals, and 'stars' of the show.

(Left Inadvertently from last week's issue)

Little Leslie To Have A Cup For Acting

MAR 26, 1953

Two-year-old Leslie Johnson of Upper Pine, has been awarded a silver cup for outstanding merit for her part in the recent adult Festival Entry "When Johnny Comes Marching Home". Leslie, a little girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, played the part of "Johnny's" tiny son, who had never seen his dad until the day he came 'Marching Home' from the Korean War.

Leslie played the part with easy grace, came in on cue, knew her lines and carried the whole thing off extremely well. At the conclusion of the festival, the Trophy Committee was anxious to mark the little girl's performance in some way, but had made no provision for this. Difficulties have now been overcome, and Leslie's cup is at the engraver's this week.

TWO YEAR OLD Leslie Johnson of Upper Pine has been awarded a silver cup for her recent part in the drama festival entry, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home?" MAR 26 1953

15 YEARS AGO – NOVEMBER 28, 1953

DRAMA FESTIVALS BEST actor award went to Roger Ventress. Dorothy Dockiray won the best actress award. Best play was "The Purple Doorknob" written by Georgina Keddell and V Bazeley. Best junior award to Peter Ambrose as a king in A A Milne's "Ugly Duckling". Best senior actor was Gary Runka.

THE NINTH ANNUAL drama festival was a great success. The three nights presented 16 one-act plays for which the net proceeds were \$700.

SPRING DRAMA presented three plays on Saturday night. The Ghost of Green Mansions presented by the junior high.

G N Cormack presented the "Pot of Broth". Sam Davidson as the tramp did a fine job. Daughters Of The Sea now polished the finals in Penticton next week would be the program. JUN 3, 1954

NP DRAMA FESTIVAL will be best yet with 17 plays scheduled. A new trophy will be offered for the best original script this year. Mrs Gwen Melville and Mrs Hal Roche will be hostesses at the reception following the plays. NOV 11, 1954

10.22.1954
THE 1954 DRAMA award for the Peace River had gone to Dawson Creek, with their presentation of "Aria Da Capo" by Edna St Vincent Millay. Alan Dianard won the trophy for the best actor. Miss Janie Stevenson was the adjudicator.

TimeCapsule



AHN file phot

A fine pair of cowpunchers walked the Fort St. John main street boardwalk in 1954 as Jeanne Clelland and Dr. George Cormack were dressed for the rodeo.

Oct 6, 1955
SIDNEY RISK, drama supervisor, extension department of the UBC will conduct a three-day workshop here.

Nov 17, 1955
WALTER KAASA has been named adjudicator of the coming North Peace Festival. Fifteen plays are in rehearsal. Most are original productions.

10 years ago—Nov 24, 1955

ELEVENTH ANNUAL drama festival is the event of the hour. Show goes on for three nights and matinees this weekend starting tonight. Dozens of local members will take part in the three plays all locally written.

DEC 1, 1955
DRAMA EFFORT unequalled anywhere said adjudicator Walter Kaasa. Mrs Marguerite Davies as author of 'Voyageur's Ruse' won the 1955 award for the best original play. Top actress award went to June Jackson. Deirdre Sandy won the junior Oscar. Andrew Soles of Dawson Creek took top award for best adult actor.

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Confusing - 1955 in t
Festival - not
the 11th Back dates
Looking for
1957 - may not be in order.

DEC 8, 1955
MORE THAN 300 attended each night of the drama festival despite the coldest November nights recorded. Three excellent original plays by George Cormack, Venice Melvor and Marguerite Davies won high acclaim.

APR 19, 1956

THE SPARKLING COMEDY "Going That A Way" will be presented Friday evening in the CWL Hall. Starring Chris Lawless, Dan Spicer, Marie Bougie, Sylvia Cranston, Marcie Hlushko, Bill Blais and Vince Richter.

SEPT 13, 1956

A DRAMA COURSE conducted by Sidney Risk, field drama supervisor from UBC will commence Monday and continue to September 21.

15 YEARS AGO — OCTOBER 18, 1956

THE DRAMA FESTIVAL IS SHAPING up to be an assured success. Already three original plays are in rehearsal written by Marguerite Davies, Mrs M McIvor and Mrs Pete Helm.

NOV 29, 1956

DRAMA FESTIVAL for this year came to a close with Dawson Creek taking top honors. Mrs Yvonne Firkins was the adjudicator.

DEC 13, 1956

THE 12TH ANNUAL DRAMA Festival was highlighted by three plays by local playwrights. One each by Vernice McIvor, Marguerite Davies and Julia Helm. Tom Kerr directed "Storm In a Loving Cup" for the Dawson Creek high school. Eric Schneider played Beau Brummel.

NOV 25
1956 - ONLY 3 original plays from Fort St. John and a royalty play from Charlie Lake in this year's drama festival which was saved by six Dawson Creek entries.

20 YRS AGO — NOV 14, 1956

DRAMA USED TO BE a big part of life back in Fort St John back in the early days of the community. Drama festivals were always packed, locally written scripts were featured, and admission prices over the three days were often very small compared with other forms of entertainment. Something really noteworthy in expressing the community effort behind the festival was that village stores closed at 8 pm on Saturday night. It was the first night of the festival this year and it was intended that employees could go and people would not in any way be dissuaded from going to the performance which commenced at 8 pm.

* 20 YRS AGO — NOV 30, 1956

THE DRAMA FESTIVAL for 1956 came to a close after three wonderful nights of entertainment when 10 plays were presented. Most of the honors went to Dawson Creek who sent six of the entries and who put real effort as well as talent into the preparation for the festival. Fort St John all but lost its reputation for effort. Only three original plays were presented and only one royalty play, done by the Charlie Lake players, a JM Barrie Classic directed by Evelyn Zoerb, was attempted. Happy was the choice of the adjudicator, Mrs Firkins, who seemed to please everyone and who had for herself a wonderful time. She adjudicated a festival at Pouce Coupe 17 years ago.

1958

JAN 2, 1958

LOCAL PLAYWRITES are working on new plays for the coming festival. Tom Kerr will enter four plays, Miss Mary McFee is entering another. Georgina Keddell and Dorothy Lornie hope for another curtain raisin as are Mrs Les Bazeley. Mrs Vernice McIvor and Mrs Marguerite Davis.

10 YEARS AGO - JANUARY 30, 1958

SEVENTEEN GROUPS have plays ready for this year's drama festival. Lloyd Amundson, Carol Rettalack, Mary Davis are newcomers to the author's circle. Tom Kerr is expected to enter a winner from Dawson Creek as is Mary McFee.

20 YRS AGO - MAR 7, 1958

"GOT YOUR Crop in John?" - A conversation piece while awaiting for the good ship D A Thomas. Well, for heaven's sake! (pictured) If it isn't Jimmie Ogilvie, Gordon Pomeroy, Johnnie Lohman, Ed Thomas, Gordon Watson, Joe Richter and Cliff Watson. This group of pioneers were all part of the cast of "Waiting for the D A Thomas," an original play by Marguerite Davies, which delighted Saturday night patrons of the recent Drama Festival.

THE DON COSSACK choir was presented by the North Peace Drama and Festival Assn at the high school to a sellout crowd. Fred Lornie was the MC and conveyed the appreciation of the audience. Oct 16, 1958

A DRAMA WORKSHOP was held on Nov 13 at the home of Mr and Mrs Lloyd Amundson. Freda Mertler lead the demonstration of emotions. **NOV 12, 1959**

JAN 29, 1959
THE FESTIVAL association has 14 plays lined up, Roger Ventess co-ordinator reports, the play "Mr Sampson" will be produced by members of the Canadian Legion.

DR BETTY Mitchell MA LLD CDA head of the department of drama for Western Canada high school. Calgary presented Joanne Wolfe with the award for best junior actress. **MAR 5, 1959**

SIDNEY RISK chief of the drama department, UBC extension will be here in May to give a short course. It will consist of five lectures and will cost \$5 a person. **APR 9, 1959**

5 years ago—April 9, 1959
SIDNEY RISK, chief of the drama department, UBC will be here May 8, 9 and 10 for a short course on acting. This is being sponsored by the North Peace Festival Ass'n.

HIGH SCHOOL drama club presented two plays in Prince George. "A Room In The Tower" and "Little Glass Houses". Joanne Wolff who won the best supporting actress award here was equally successful at Prince George.