

1960  
DIZAMA

# FESTIVAL NOTES

JAN 21, 1960

## WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T?

With the festival season drawing near, we, of the committee are getting a bit worried, to say the least.

So far only two adult plays have been entered, and to have a drama festival, we certainly need a few more.

If you have ever thought you might like to be up on the stage doing the acting instead of in the audience watching other people do theirs, grab your chance this year. By all means get a cast together, select a suitable play and your off and running.

You can't quite imagine the sense of accomplishment derived from slowly working a play into near perfection, through the teamwork of the whole cast.

Not to mention the riotous fun you can have during rehearsals. Mr. Jones getting stuck in his lines 'cause Mrs. Jones gets the giggles every time he gets halfway through his little speech.

Furthermore, the cultural value, betterment of speech and language and last but not least the gain of new friends are facets of amateur acting which are pleasant and useful. The cultural value especially cannot be overemphasized.

Many of us do not realize that culture is as important as our daily food, drink and shelter even though most of the time we tend to shrink away from this 'culture' as if it were just a five dollar word invented by some big time author. Or perhaps we associate it with the Beatniks.

Clubs, lodges, sporting events, movies and books, without which we would not be happy, are apart of our culture. So are the public performances of artistic efforts by amateurs, be it in drama, music, dancing or what have you.

It is the festival committee's wish for you to get up there and act. Fun guaranteed.

Oh, no, don't give us that excuse. Who says you can't act!

Have you tried lately?  
—R. L. Roeters



# FESTIVAL NOTES

We are glad to hear, through Freda Mertler, that possibly three young people's plays will be brought in to the drama festival to be held on February 25, 26 and 27. North Pine is to be congratulated. Georgina Kedell is working on a children's play, and there are possibilities of others.

In the high school, Audrey Henderson, drama instructor, is coaching three plays. Dawson Creek will be bringing up at least one play in this division, possibly the winning play in their house festival which will be held a week before the Fort St. John festival.

The drama committee is happy with the promised entries in the junior and high school sections, but there is a little worry over adult participation. At this time there are only two adult plays in production in this area. If you plan to enter an adult play, please let the committee know and ease that worried look!

It is not true that certain gentlemen from Bear Flat have sold some cattle (previously earmarked for the purpose), caught the bus for parts unknown, and intend to remain incommunicado until after the festival. These slightly reluctant, but talented, thespians would not willingly impede any community effort in this manner. Other unrelated pressures there are that may keep the Bear Flat group from entering this year. Past production of Mrs. Bazeley's scripts leave the desire for more. We hope difficulties can be overcome and an entry from this group yet be made.

There is still the better part of six weeks—if you are thinking of a play—good hard work will still do it. Please let us know.

(though we are promised an entry from Dawson Creek Operatic Society, and hope there will be entries from other groups there.)

If you are interested in directing in a play, acting in a play, or in any effort connected with drama festival work, please be at the Festival Association meeting to be held at the Jr.-Sr. high school at 8 p.m., on Monday, January 11. Copies of plays will be there for your consideration. The drama festival will be the chief concern of this meeting.

Those of you in rural communities, who put on a good play for your local Christmas program, have you considered polishing said play for entry in the February festival?

And a note to newcomers in our midst: your talent and experience in drama could be a "shot-in-the-arm" for the February event. How about getting busy?

It was decided to drop the drama workshop meetings until after February, in order that each group may devote the time to practise.

The syllabus for the spring festival of music, dancing and elocution is in the mail.

# FESTIVAL NEXT COMMUNITY EVENT FEB. 25, 26 AND 27

JAN 21, 1960

The Community Programmes Branch, Department of Education, have announced their appointment of Mrs. Dorothy Goldrick, Vancouver, as adjudicator for the Fort St. John drama festival, February 25, 26, 27.

We are very pleased with this selection. Mrs. Goldrick comes with enthusiasm for outlying festivals and with an understanding of the problems involved in presenting drama in smaller communities.

In order that there may be something worth Mrs. Goldrick's adjudicating, will everyone please get very, very busy! With Tom Kerr, the genial instigator of much drama effort in Dawson Creek, now teaching in Kamloops, and Mary McPhee busy with Dominion Drama entry, we dare not "count our chickens before they're hatched" as far as entries from Dawson Creek are concerned,

In connection with spring festival, it was very pleasant to see Ruth Foster recently. Ruth was responsible for the music end for many years and a great deal of the success of the spring effort was due to her. Mrs. Foster, with her family, came up from Prince George for the holidays. During her stay her daughter, Mrs. Hank Roeters, entertained several of Ruth's former cronies. You will, of course, be up for both festivals, Mrs. Foster!

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FORT ST. JOHN, B.C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1960

## Drama festival outlook: several plays under production

Several excellent plays are now in production. The 1960 Drama Festival looks like a great deal of fun for the audience. To date, the trend seems to be completely comedy. St. Luke's United church will present "Suppressed Desires", which while handling a deep subject, amusingly teaches a wife to respect her husband's psyche. This play is well cast, the players being Ellen Smith and Hank Roeters, with Dilys Loucks, the psychiatrist. The director is D. Stewart.

Another play to watch for is "If Men Played Cards Like Women Do". These actors

wish to remain anonymous as long as possible!

Further reports on the plays in production will be made next week. The important thing right now is to remind the directors to get their entries, entry fees, and requests for payment of royalty in before the deadline—February 2. Please read your syllabus in order to give all the information requested, which will help the program committee very much. Please send this information to Mr. J. Webb, Box 849, Jr.-Sr. High school, Fort St. John.

# 1960 drama festival notes: a scrap book item

The Fort St. John Drama Festival is over for another year. The make-up is wiped off, the properties returned, the costumes put away. The number of entries was smaller than in previous years, but in many ways this was an encouraging festival, in spite of the absence of some of the well-known stars and directors. There was a noticeable improvement in quality of acting, particularly from our high school group. Except for the elementary school entries, every play was a comedy, but most of them comedies of a better quality than we used to consider satisfactory for our festival.

Our adjudicator was Mrs. Dorothy Goldrick, of the Community Programmes Branch of the B.C. Department of Education. Her warm understanding in adjudication enabled her to give help and encouragement to many. She never lost sight of the difficulties of production, the nervous actors, the inexperienced, and the fond parents in the background, and all her advice was of a most practical nature.

The first play on Thursday evening was performed by the North Peace High Senior Drama Club. It was a light little comedy, set in the time of Napoleon and Waterloo, when young ladies were modest as violets and unmarried ladies were never referred to as old maids, and it represented the reaction of a number of these ladies to their introduction to that wicked dance—the waltz. Mrs. Goldrick said that the players had been successful in creating the mood and feeling of a past era. All the girls used their voices well, and their timing and gestures were good. Donella Chiulli as Miss Charlotte Brighte raised her voice too much at the beginning, possibly through nervousness, but had good light and shade.

Lyddie Brokes (Arlene Chase) was very good and could be heard well. Laetitia (Orva German) carried through very well her representation of the idiotic feather-brained type, but should beware of distracting the audience by too much handkerchief play. Rosie (Donna Parsons) was particularly good in speaking as if she had just thought of those words instead of having learned them. Alicia (Sylvia Stuby) made particularly good use of her voice. Phoebe (Barbara Gladysz) needed to speak more slowly, but made a good entrance. Abigail (Lois Scheck) should have been seen a bit longer. Lady Bagshot (Carole Periman) had great vitality, but moved about too much. In fact, the chief mistake in the play was that there was too much movement and too many feet showing, in a period when women wore skirts to the floor, and hardly showed their feet.

The next play was performed by the United Church Young People's Society of Dawson Creek, and was in an entirely different idiom. It was the type of street play performed in Italy in the Middle Ages, and had to be done in a very stylish manner with precise miming and exaggerated gestures. Such street plays had stock characters, Harlequin and Colombine, which in their Italian versions are Colombina and Arlecchino. This play was called "The Many disguises of Arlecchino", and told of the courting carried out by Arlecchino on behalf of his aged master, Pantalone. Mrs. Goldrick was delighted with this play, particularly with the mime. Clarice, the old lady, played by Doreen Jones, she said should have been more rigid and exaggerated. Pantalone (Dicie Vangenne) kept up his part very well, particularly the shaking hands and the distorted falsetto voice. Colombina (Vonnie Johnson) was charming, but could have been a bit lighter. Arlecchino himself (Don Kazakoff) gave an outstanding performance, particularly his mime and dancing. Mrs. Goldrick particularly praised the backdrop, and said that the whole play was fun, and very well done.

The only original play of the

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WHEN MISTRESS ENCOUNTERS MAID—both wearing identical bonnets—the fat is in the fire! Although this photograph was taken in rehearsal, this is the Senior High School play "In Waltztime".

find a husband for his daughter. Mrs. Goldrick was delighted with this performance, in which the humor was well understood by the actors, and the characterisation was generally good. The king (Emil Gagnon) was supposed to be very stupid, and perhaps could have made this more apparent. The chancellor (Allen Krantz) was exceptionally good for his mobile expression. The queen (Colleen Stewart) gave a true portrait of a plain jane with no nonsense about her. Princess Camilla (Karen Wetmore) had a clear lilting voice and looked delightful. Dulcibella (Susan Little) did her part excellently. Prince Simon (David Esau) gave his somewhat long explanations with clarity and decision. Carlo (John Grady) was somewhat obscured by the grouping in the final scene of the play. Altogether it was a delightful rendition.

On Friday afternoon there were two elementary plays and one junior high. The first was from North Pine, an action play entitled "Robin Hood to the Rescue." This was the first attempt of these children in a festival. Mrs. Goldrick said that the choice of play was excellent, and also the scenery, and the characterisations quite good. Walter (Lyle Lansing) looked suitably miserable, but spoiled his words by holding his hands up to his mouth, so that much of the comedy was missed. Colin (Ken Jeannotte) spoke very

The mother (Vicki Mc... movements... too matter... have shown... sympathy v...)

## THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1960

### FESTIVAL

The 1960 Spring Festival will be held this year on May 2, 3 and 4 Wednesday evening, May 4, will be the final or grand concert.

The spring festival will include music, dancing and elocution, with most entrants of school age. At the last festival (1958) 600 children took part. The town has grown since then so this year the festival could be much larger. With this in mind the committee is insisting on the rules (found in the syllabus) being observed. The following are some that are especially important:

- 1) Entries must be in by April 4. None will be accepted after that date.
- 2) In all school classes entries in any one event are limited to two (2) from a single room. It is assumed that these will be the best two in the room for that age group concerned.
- 3) Items other than those in the syllabus will not be considered.
- 4) The adjudicator's decision will be final.
- 5) Entry fee must accompany entry.

Each school has a syllabus. Anyone not having access to a syllabus may phone the secretary, Mrs. Carl Lutz, 678R2, to arrange to see one.

It is hoped many adults will take part in the music, dancing and elocution classes. Newcomers to town with training in the arts could help the festival work here greatly by competing, or by volunteering their services in an administrative capacity.

clearly. The second play was a musical performed by the Robert Ogilvie School, Hansel and Gretel. This was a delightful version of the old story with excerpts from Humperdinck's famous music. Some of the children formed a choir standing by the piano and sang songs which accompanied the action on the stage. Mrs. Goldrick was very pleased with everything about this play—the choice, the interpretation, the set. The treatment, she said, was interesting, and the words clear. The narrator (Daniel Wutrick) had a good clear voice. Harel (Randy Woodruff) did very well and had a clear voice. Gretel (Rosemary Jensen) was very dainty, and her children play it was all too quick. More study of timing was needed, and dance (The other) were very good in their mime and timing, and putting in pauses to bring out the meaning of the words, changing pace, and putting more color into the voice.

The Committee departed from its usual custom by having one play in the morning. This was to shorten the afternoon session, and fit in with school buses. The play was The Ugly Duckling, performed by the North Peace High Junior Drama Class. This was a fantasy by A. A. Milne, in which the king is trying to

finish the performance. The third play came from North Peace, and was entitled "The Boy on the Meadow". This was a Christmas play with a serious theme, a legendary manifestation of the Christ child, and a miracle. Mrs. Goldrick said that it was well worth doing and generally well done, but not enough attention was paid to lines. Particularly in those plays, sentences should be divided up, and the thought analyzed. Roschen, the man (Irene Smith) did not say appreciatively her lines, also made the mistake of anticipating what was going to be said.

The production was extremely beautiful, and trained and fit in with voice. The choir was well trained and had more scary. The witch (Sharon Elias) had a good attack and good voice. The father (Lyndon Ward) had a good performance.

The production was extremely beautiful, and trained and fit in with voice. The choir was well trained and had more scary. The witch (Sharon Elias) had a good attack and good voice. The father (Lyndon Ward) had a good performance.

Festival was next on the program, "Sassenach", written by the chief architect of our festival, Vernice McIvor, and performed by the Fort St. John Players. This was a Peace River play, in which the immigrant Scotsman feuded with the immigrant eastern European, who was a better violinist than he was a farmer. But wouldn't you know that the one had a son and the other a daughter, but according to the old Scotsman never the two should meet. However, it turned out in the end that the hard-headed farmer was as sentimental as the professor, and all was well. Mrs. Goldrick said that this was a very well-written play, entertaining, with a good plot. Mrs. MacBages (Mary Garvin) showed good attack and business, and also had a good good voice. William MacBages (Lloyd Amundsen) made It was comedy a bit too broad. It was well done, but could have been more subtle. By being over-played, it tended to detract towards the more serious play. Robert (Bill Orme) had a nice voice and good business, but needed more projection. Sonia (Gail McIvor) needed to study timing in her speeches, and to show more conviction. The professor (Derrick Meyer) could have made more of his entrance. At the end of the play it was all too quick. More study of timing was needed, and dance (The other) were very good in their mime and timing, and putting in pauses to bring out the meaning of the words, changing pace, and putting more color into the voice.



view community hall when the cast presented a dress rehearsal concert for neighbors and friends of the community the weekend before the festival. Left to right in the picture, Margaret, Sharon Moffat, Vicki McNelly, Gary Jeannotte, and Ives.

## Winner of Fort St. John drama goes to Stratford

Eric Last summer he was fortunate to see Archibald McClish's play "JB" on Broadway, the musical "West Side Story," in England, among many other well known productions.

Locally Eric has been seen on stage and television. Last Christmas he was in the TV production of "Hasty Heart" and more recently in the school house festival as Captain Standish in "Five At The George."

Eric has twice won the best actor award in the drama festival in Fort St. John.

The viewing of top flight drama is no new experience for

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# Drama Festival wins support many plays to go on stage

Three very interesting plays are to be presented at the forthcoming Drama Festival by the drama classes at the Fort St. John Jr.-Sr. High School.

Grade eight students are preparing "The Ugly Duckling". This play is by A. A. Milne and the only word for Milne "Whimsy" is delightful.

**FEB 4, 1960**  
You will enjoy this play. The senior girls (a group of only eight or nine energetic and enthusiastic students) are presenting two plays: "Pictures on the Wall", a play with ghostly nuisances, and "In Waltz Time", which is a period costume play set in the of 1813, just after the battle of Waterloo. A fourth play, a modern

comedy, "Mr. Fothergill Joins the Angels", is being presented by a senior group who meet after school hours. This play is concerned with a gentleman who is so pure he sprouts wings (a premise which may be a little difficult for some of us to accept). However, we hear that his wings fall off!

These groups are all directed by Audrey Henderson, the high school's drama instructor. These are good plays, and when you see them you will appreciate the time and work involved for both instructor and young people.

Keep these dates open: February 25, 26 and 27.

1960  
DRAMA  
FESTIVAL

## **FEB 11, 1960 FESTIVAL**

Winners in the annual drama festival program cover this year are as follows: Lynn Thompson, first; Gabor Mezei, second; Carol Perman, third and Barbara Gladysz, honorable mention. These were chosen from an array of about 25 entries. The winning entry will be used for the program cover with only a slight change. The lettering will be moved to the top of the cover in order that it may not detract from the design. The Festival Association would like to thank these young people and the art teacher for the interest and effort shown.

The judges were: Mrs. E. Cuthill, Mrs. D. H. Campbell, Mrs. F. Davies, Mrs. C. Lutz and Mr. John Quelle.

All entries were by students of Mrs. Hazlett's art classes.

A gremlin got into the typesetting last issue and made what was meant to 'a play with ghostly nuances' into 'a play with ghostly nuisances.' To the cast of "Pictures on the Wall"—the only nuisance about your play is waiting to wait so long to see it!

A young adult group from the United Church in Dawson Creek are hoping to enter the festival. This is the group that won the Northern Motors shield for the best adult play last year. We hope they are able to come.

Remember the dates: February 25, 26 and 27.

Something new will soon be showing in Fort St. John and it isn't the

## **FEB 25, 1960 Drama**

Festival, although we suggest everyone seeing this ad attend the

## **Festival**

and see for themselves what talented folks live here on the Northside (Also note the posh cover of the program which was designed by an art student right here in Fort St. John.) We will soon be unveiling the new Valiant which

## **features**

all the good points of the Compact Cars and the fine workmanship of Dodge know how. This younger brother of the

## **Dodge**

will really send you . . . it purrs like a kitten, has get up and go like a jack rabbit and hugs the corners like a greyhound. Of all the

## **cars**

on the market, Valiant is the one to see . . . and so reasonably priced. Why not drop into Northern Motors now and talk over your car problems? Our customers go out singing!

## **Thank you from the festival folks**

**MAR 10, 1960**

The Drama Committee of the Festival Association wish to thank everyone who helped with the work of running the three day festival.

Many thanks to the ticket and program sellers, to the door-men (what a thankless job!) and stage hands.

A special thank-you to Mrs. Vic Jackson for her assistance as secretary to Mrs. Goldrick, and to Mrs. G. Westover and helpers for convening the lovely reception on Friday evening. Also thanks to Mr. Dennis Coppard, president of the Jaycees, for kindly conducting Mrs. Goldrick on a sightseeing tour on Sunday afternoon.

A special thank-you to the Alaska Highway News for the publicity so heartily given to festival work in this town.

## **DRAMA WINNERS**

**MAR 24, 1960**

Class 1, elementary winning play: M. Mazlett Shield, "Hansel and Gretel," Robert Ogilvie School. Directors Harriet Cowan and Byron Baxter.

Class 2, junior high winning play: Wilson Freightways Shield "The Ugly Duckling," North Peace High-Jr. Drama Class. Director, Audrey Henderson

Class 3 senior high winning play: Can. Bank of Commerce Shield, "Five at the George," South Peace Senior High School.

Class 4 adult winning play — Northern Motors Shield, "Suppressed Desires," St. Luke's Players, Fort St. John. Director, Dave Stewart.

Class 2, elementary; Crosbie trophies; Best actress: Karen Wetmore in the "Ugly Duckling." Best actor: John Grady in the "Ugly Duckling."

Runners-up in above class: Margaret Mertler in "The Boy in the Meadow;" Allen Krantz in "The Ugly Duckling."

Class 3, elementary; Cormack trophies; Best actress: Doreen Jones in "The invisible Worm;" Best actor: Eric Schneider in "Five at the George."

Runners-up in above class: Carole Perman in "Pictures on the Wall;" Doug Paulson in "The invisible Worm."

Class 4, adult; Moffat trophy; Best actress: Dilys Loucks in "Suppressed Desires;" Rose trophy; best actor: Don Kazakoff in "The many Disguises of Arlecchino."

Runners-up in above class: Best actress: Mary Garvin in "Sassenach;" best actor: Hank Roeters in "Suppressed Desires."

# FSJ Drama to meet every second Friday

OCT 13, 1960

The Fort St. John Drama Club meets every second Friday at the home of Lloyd and Enid Amundson. The membership includes Dilys Loucks and Dorothy Aalhus, Baldonnel, Marguerite Davies, Marion Booth, Jack Webb, Lloyd Amundson, Ted Phillips, Sheila Wilson, Mary Garvin, Vernice McIvor, Mary Palmer, Lief Glosli, Dave and Gail Stewart, Bill Orme, and newcomers to Charlie Lake, Mrs. Rewald and Mrs. Fulton.

Problems of speech, stage movement, direction and other matters pertaining to play production are studied. At present two plays are in rehearsal: "The Dear Departed," directed by Dave Stewart, and "Husbands Supplied," directed by Lloyd Amundson.

The first play is a satirical

FEB 18, 1960  
THERE ARE to be 14 plays presented in the drama festival this month. A new comedy team, Mary Garvin and Lloyd Amundson will make their appearance in "Sassenach" with supporting cast Bill Orme, Gail McIvor and Derrick Meyer.

FEB 25, 1960  
A LARGE crowd turned up at Pineview community hall last Saturday to watch three plays, two of which will be entered in the coming drama festival in FSJ. The first was directed by Mrs Freda Mertler.

THE DRAMA festival has invited Mrs. Dorothy Goldrick to adjudicate the plays.

FEB 25, 1960  
THE DRAMA FESTIVAL has invited Mrs Dorothy Goldrick to adjudicate the plays.

account of emotions evoked by bereavement and the second a farce, concerning ridiculous "doings" in a Lonely-Hearts Bureau. These plays will be presented in November.

## STUDENTS PRESENT TWO PLAYS

NOV 17, 1960

The high school drama club will present a one-act play in the high school auditorium on Friday, December 2 at 8 p.m. The play, "Lavender and Red Pepper", will be a great deal of fun for both cast and audience

The Rev. R. F. Smith will be featured as soloist and a short character sketch will be presented by two members of the Fort St. John Drama Club. To round out the program, other members of the group will present a one-act play entitled "Husbands Supplied". Sufficient to say the theme of this play is light hearted!

Members of the casts will be selling tickets, or they may be obtained at the door.

Keep December 2 open — for a very pleasant evening.

## Play about grandma

NOV 24, 1960

"Lavender and Red Pepper" is the title of the one-act play being presented by the high school drama club on December 2 in the auditorium at 8 p.m. Bridget Murray, Ivory Jean McKenna and Carole Perman have leading roles. Mrs. Booth is directing. The plot concerns an attempt at modernizing "grandma."

"Husbands Supplied" is the presentation of hilarious doings in a lonely-hearts bureau. You will love Miss Crunch, Mrs. May Miss Jones, Mrs. Wuff, Miss Wuff, Mrs. Bee and of course, The Man.

And Bob Smith's singing will round out an enjoyable evening. Don't miss December 2, in the high school auditorium.

## DRAMA CLUB THANKS ALL WHO HELPED

DEC 8, 1960

The high school drama club and workshop 60 would like to express appreciation to Mr. Paton for use of the auditorium in presenting the recent plays.

A great deal of work is involved in any production and many whose names do not appear on the programmes are responsible for much of its success, to mention some, those at the door, those who helped with props, lights and curtains, the janitors who attend to the aftermath.

To the high school students who helped so much, Percy Nelms and Roger Abel, thank

you, and we'll be calling on you again!

In regard to the actors in both productions, each performance was pleasing — your reward is the fun you got out of it, but we would like to mention Lucille Cranston in particular. Lucille filled in at the last minute and was learning her lines while being made up. Here's looking forward to what these young people will be producing for the drama festival in February.



ARLENE EVELYNE CHASE, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Chase of Fort St. John, who received a joint scholarship from the East Asiatic Co. Ltd. and the Goodwin-Ellis Advertising Ltd., is attending the summer school of theatre at the University of British Columbia. Arlene has written her mother that the two-hour lectures are wonderfully interesting and pass all too quickly. She enjoys the audition and try-out sessions, and has been lucky enough to be chosen for a part in a play which will be produced in August in the university theatre, and will run for five nights. JUL 14, 1960

NOV 17, 1960  
DRAMA CLASS at North Peace High School under the capable hands of Mrs. J. Booth are taking advantage of the holiday to get in some practice.

THINGS ARE shaping up for the Drama Festival. Groups are working hard on their productions. Georgina Keddell directing a group from PacPete, Dave Stewart directing St Luke's Players, Charlie Lake group under the direction of Sylvia Rehwald, Jan Fulton. Lloyd Amundson is lead in Mc-Baggis "In Production". JAN 26, 1961

**THINGS ARE** shaping up for the Drama Festival. Groups are working hard on their productions. Georgina Keddell is directing a group from PacPete, Dave Stewart directing one from St Luke's Players and Sylvia Rehwald and Jan Fulton are directing a group from Charlie Lake. FEB 21, 1961

SO FAR 11 plays have been entered in this year's drama festival. There have been 30 entries in the program cover competition. Winners were Brian Shaw, Bruce Watchell and Evelyn Neufeld. FEB 9, 1961

## Drama Festival round-up

Well, this is it. The festival starts tonight, with the plays from the high school, from Montney, and the one from Workshop 60 directed by Georgina Keddell. The first performance is at 8:00 each night and the festival runs for three nights, only \$1.50 if you get a season ticket, 60c single.

News reaches us that the winning house play from the Dawson Creek high school is "The Ugly Duckling Re-visited". This takes place on Friday night also Charlie Lake and the St. Luke's players. On Saturday is the other Workshop 60 play, directed by Vernice McIvor, and two from Dawson Creek.

MRS CHARLOTTE MOORE, ADJUDICATOR for the drama festival presented the best actress award to Mrs Zoerb. St Luke's drama club presented the best play. Vernice McIvor for original script, Marguerite Davies, best director, Hank Roeters, best actor and best supporting actress, Sylvia Stuby. MAR 2, 1961

MRS CHARLOTTE Moore, adjudicator for the drama festival presented awards to Mrs Zoerb, as best player. Other awards to St Luke's; Vernice McIvor for best original script; best director Marguerite Davies; best actor, Hank Roeters; best supporting actress, Sylvia Stuby. MAR 2, 1961

## Drama festival round-up

The committee of the forthcoming drama festival reports that so far 11 plays are entered. Information about some of them is still skimpy, but we learn that the Charlie Lake play is entitled "The Laboratory," and is in period costume. The McPhee production from Dawson Creek is an original script on an Old Testament theme—no more is known at the present time.

Two adult Montney plays are on the boards, both directed by Mr. Ferguson. They are entitled "A Box of Trouble," and "Dear Departed."

There are two original plays of local origin. First our unfailing Vernice McIvor, who has composed a play called "The Day of Flitting," and second Marguerite Davies re-appears as an author, with "The Ghost Writer."

The Fort St. John high school play is "No Greater Love," and there will also be two high school productions from Dawson Creek.

As usual, Mrs. Hazlett's art class has taken part in the annual cover competition, judged this year by Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Carl Lutz and Mr. W. McClean. Winners are: 1st, Brian Shaw, 2nd, Bruce Watchell, 3rd, Evelyn Neufeld. Honorable mention to Sandra Taylor and Don McLeod. There were 30 entries, extremely good with a terrific variety of design.

Admission prices this year are slightly altered from previous years. Individual performances will be 60c for adults, 35c for students, inclusive of program. Season tickets will be \$1.50 and can be bought at the door the first night.

THE CAST in the "Box of Troubles" took their play to the festival last Thursday night. They were pleased with Mrs. Moore's adjudication and hope to gain by it for future efforts.

THE SHOW "Gallant Bess" sponsored by the W.I. was well attended in the hall last Saturday night, although the collection did not quite meet the expense of the technicolor film. We shall hope for a few more next month.

## 'Errol Flynn' in FSJ drama festival

Lloyd Amundsen, president of the Peace River North Festival Association, opened the 16th annual Drama Festival on Thursday night. In her opening words he greeted the adjudicator, Mrs. Charlotte Moore of Duncan, and presented her with a corsage of pink carnations and rose buds.

The festival entry was smaller than in previous years, and it was disappointing that there were no elementary school entries this year, and only one from our own high school. Again Dawson Creek ran away with most of the honors, but there is evidence in our adult groups of an advance in technique over previous years, which gives hope for the future.

Even if we didn't get all the awards, Fort St. John got quite a lift when Mrs. Moore said of our government agent, Lyman Sands, in the play The Laboratory, "He sort of reminded me of Errol Flynn."

Mrs. Moore proved to be a witty and vivacious adjudicator, who had the knack we noticed in Miss Mitchell two years ago, of creating a character through the flick of a wrist or the wave of an arm. Some may have felt the weight of her criticisms, but criticism is the work of an adjudicator, and the purpose of her visit. Her criticisms were always kindly given, and she repeatedly begged her audience to understand that her aim was to help, not to be criti-

cal in the adverse sense.

Two points in the management of our festival took her by surprise. One was the cover competition, which had been held every year for seven years. The other was the practice, which has always been ours, of having adjudications immediately after each play. Mrs. Moore said that the usual practice is to hold adjudication until the end of the evening, but she believed our way to be better, and adopted it after the first evening.

WE ARE looking forward to having the Fort St. John festival plays come to the hall on Saturday April 22, so if you missed these at the festival do be at the hall at 8 p.m. Admission will be 50c for adults and the children free. Lunch will be served.

PINEVILLE  
PATER  
APR 20 1961

# ALASKA HIGHWAY

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Thursday, March 2, 1961, Fort St. John, B.C.



MRS. McIVOR checks the phone before her play goes on stage. Her play, "The Day Of Flitting" won the original play trophy. Billie Friend, listening

for an answer, won spontaneous applause from the audience with her portrayal of the leading lady.

—Si Trepus photo

## 'WORKSHOP' FOR ARTS AND LETTERS GROUP MOOTED

MAY 18, 1961

Fort St. John has a full complement of sports and recreation clubs but boasts no organized group interested in developing and furthering the arts. Except for the North Peace Festival Association which is active only seasonally and is dedicated to the annual music, elocution and drama competitions, no organization offers a chance to meet and mingle to those people who are interested in art, writing, reading, music, films — in short, something for the mind.

With the blessing of the festival association which badly needs the support of such an organization, Mrs. Willi Payne who has been elected publicity convenor of the North Peace Festival Association for the coming year, will undertake a survey of possible members of such a 'workshop' group. High on the lists of 'musts' for such an organization is a place to hold meetings, read plays, see films and so on.

Anyone interested in joining a group of this kind is urged to telephone Mrs. Payne at ST5-3053.

The new festival executive is again headed by Mr. Lloyd Amundson, with Mr. A. B. Jensen, vice-president and drama coordinator. Mrs. Olive Lutz is recording secretary and Mrs. Mabel Campbell, treasurer. Mrs. Willi Payne is publicity convenor.

A change in the constitution will require that festival members pay \$1 a year membership. Only where all members of drama casts are paid up members will play royalties be covered by the festival association.

The festival executive would like to point out to the public the assistance it receives each year from the department of education which pays half of the adjudicator's per diem fee of \$20 a day, as well as his or her full travelling expenses. The local festival association pays hotel, meals, half the per diem fee which is \$10 and substitute teacher's wages where the adjudicator must leave regular classes to attend festivals.