

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

MEMBER OF AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

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ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

PAGE THIRTEEN FORT ST. JOHN, B.C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1961

Local talent in night of comedy

The three plays presented last Wednesday and Thursday by local players played to enthusiastic audiences who had braved the icy blasts intrepidly in order not to miss the evening's entertainment. They were rewarded by hilariously funny performances by players of varying experience and ability, all of whom had a high level of keenness for their task.

The first play, "Consolations" by the Charlie Lake Players, was a hospital farce, in which nurses of doubtful efficiency consistently caused the maximum irritation to a nervous patient. Miss Judy Shunter gave a very lively performance as the patient, who was finally forced into walking out of the hospital in order to find quiet. Nurses were Elaine Brodoway and Helen Clarke, the second of the two having an approach to nursing well calculated to induce nervous breakdown. The hospital maid, a sympathetic and inefficient girl, was well played by Teressa Scott. Notable was the performance of Norma Jackson who came to "cheer the patient up".

A weakness in this play was the speech, which was not always plainly audible. This was because of a failure of some players to give emphasis to their words, rather than in speaking too softly. However, some of these players are inexperienced and showed very good promise. Director was Evelyne Zoerb.

"A Cup of Tea", by Workshop 60, directed by Jean Gross, showed the competent performance which we expect from this director. It was an uproariously funny play on the old triangle theme, with Jean Gross in the part of the injured and understanding wife, who forestalls all violence between the men by pouring tea and acting as if everything were normal.

in which two figures from a stained glass window appear in the flesh to reclaim pieces of broken glass, is comic, but as the two figures are St. Michael and the devil, there is also here, done with a very light touch, a glimpse of the battle between good and evil.

Hank Roeters, as the little man, gave his usual competent performance, depicting a wide range of emotions brought forth by the claims of his wife, the angel and the devil. Jean Querin as his wife achieved an impression of frail nonentity quite unlike her real character. The concluding episode, in which Ross Haller as St. Michael chased Dave Todd as the devil all round the theatre brought the evening to a fitting climax. The acting of both Ross and Dave was convincing, the devil showing through the comedy evidence of a very thoughtful performance. This play was directed by Vernice McIvor. Make-up was by Yvonne Dixon and Jan Fulton.

Her steadiness and calm was the focal point of this play, in which the other three characters, Ed Shaw, Roger Ventress and Evelyne Zoerb gave in to emotional storms which delighted the audience. Evelyne Zoerb's interpretation of the "other woman" was particularly convincing.

The third play, though also very entertaining, had a touch of profound thought in it lacking in the others. The situation,

Local talent to present three plays

The first major event in the newly built Central school auditorium will take place on November 29 and 30, when Workshop 60, in co-operation with the Charlie Lake players, will

present three hilarious one-act plays.

Mrs. Jean Gross, Mrs. Evelyne Zoerb, Roger Ventress and Ed Shaw will perform together in "A Cup of Tea". Acting in "St. Michael comes to Shepherds Bush" are Jean Querin, Hank Roeters, David Todd and Ross Haller. Another play, "Consolation" comes from Charlie Lake.

Tickets will be \$1, for students 50c. They are available in advance from any Fort St. John drama club member.

COMEDY NIGHT,
WEDNESDAY AND
THURSDAY

Workshop 60 and the Charlie Lake Players are putting on a comedy night, the first big occasion in the Central school auditorium, next Wednesday and Thursday. There will be three one-act plays, with 15 people taking part. Tickets \$1, students 50c, from Al's News, or any member of Workshop 60.

SPOTLIGHT

ISSUED BY THE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

JAN 18, 1962

Workshop 60 drama group is getting busy in the new year, starting with a meeting last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Amundson. Present were Marguerite Davies, Vernice McIvor, Judy Shunter, Evelynne Zoerb, Jean Gross, Willi Payne, H. Huttingman, Art Jensen, Fred Wood, besides Lloyd and Enid Amundson.

Mrs. Jean Gross attended a seven-week drama course at UBC last summer and told the group something of what she learnt there. She talked on acting and directing, with suggestions on how to improve technique. One suggestion, particularly for young people, was that budding actors and actresses should watch people all the time, notice how they move and how thought is expressed outwardly. Young people, not having the experience to draw on, need much help. She stressed the importance of concentration.

In order to do well, actors must believe in the play and enjoy it and must work as a unit. Concentrate all the time while acting, and think constantly of the audience. She divided acting into two types: acting for truth, which is the right way, and for effect which is wrong. In preparing a part, speech, mood and emotion must be considered in making characterizations. Teamwork is necessary to get the right reactions.

Mrs. Gross concluded her talk by reading from a book, "Producing the Play", by John Gassa, which emphasized the points in her talk.

The course which she attended is a regular summer school course, open to everybody. The fee is \$66, and board and room at the UBC dorm is \$115. The workshop will meet every second week, in people's homes or in one of the schools.

The values of acting were stressed at this meeting. It gives an experience and training which is valuable to all, not only to give greater ability and confidence on the stage, but also to give confidence, good speech and movement, to help in daily life and work.

This year's drama festival will take place on February 22, 23 and 24. Deadline for submission of entries is January 30. Already an entry has come from a Pouce Coupe group, who will perform "The Monkey's Paw", by W. W. Jacobs. The play

directed by Vernice McIvor in November, "St. Michael comes to Shepherd's Bush", will also be put on for the festival.

Local groups are reminded that every participant in a play, those behind the scenes as well as on stage, must be a member of the festival association, paying a fee of \$1. If this is not the case, the play will not be permitted to participate in the provincial finals. This is of interest this year, as the finals are to be held in Dawson Creek, and local players will be able to participate. This will take place in May.

The adjudicator for the North Peace festival will be Mr. Sam Payne, who instructed at last year's summer school in make-up. He is a noted B.C. actor and director, who helps in workshops throughout the province. His home is in Vancouver.

SPOTLIGHT

ISSUED BY THE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

JAN 25, 1962

Monday night at 8 p.m. will be the time for all those who are enjoying the novelty of seeing local affairs on TV to see some familiar faces from Fort St. John. Forming a panel to discuss our famed drama festival will be Vernice McIvor, Georgina Keddel, Marguerite Davies and Jack Baker, all of them veteran drama enthusiasts here. Miss Daphne Phillips of Dawson Creek will be the moderator.

The panel will aim to tell the story of the growth of our festival from its small beginnings. They will tell how it grew to a festival of outstanding size for such an area, with a high proportion of local talent, both in acting, directing and writing. Vernice McIvor was the spearhead of this local effort, starting the ball rolling with a play she wrote herself.

Also part of the TV program will be a re-enactment of the "Temptation" scene from the play "St. Michael comes to Shepherd's Bush", with Hank Roeters, Ross Haller and Dave Todd.

Of late years our festival has

shown a tendency to get crowded out by other interests, but there is still a hard core of keen workers, besides a growing body of newcomers who take their drama work seriously. Monday night's TV show will be a chance for everybody to catch up on the progress of drama in this festival, which includes the whole district, as plays are offered from Dawson Creek as well as north of the Peace. This year for the first time a play is also coming up from Pouce Coupe.

Directors please note that Monday, January 29 is the closing date for entries.

Local drama fans on TV

Four Fort St. John leaders will be appearing on TV in Dawson Creek on Monday night, along with three distinguished local actors. For story see "Spotlight" on page 13.

JAN 25, 1962

SPOTLIGHT

ISSUED BY THE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

FEB 1, 1962

Drama enthusiasts will be interested to know that our famed drama festival will be held this year on February 22, 23 and 24 at the high school auditorium.

The entrance of 10 plays, so far, including some entries from Pouce Coupe and Dawson Creek as well as Fort St. John and district, will ensure a varied and lively program, and those taking part are hard at work rehearsing.

Monday night's TV appearance

of the panel consisting of Vernice McIvor, Georgina Keddell, Marguerite Davies and Jack Baker outlined the history of the festival in the North from 1946 to the present year, and a skit was given on one of this year's plays. It was certainly an exciting experience for all four performers as none of them had appeared before.

Tickets are being sold at 60c for one night, and \$1.50 for three nights. All are welcome.

SPOTLIGHT

ISSUED BY THE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

FEB 15, 1962

The festival committee got word this week that Mr. Sam Pavne, who was to be our adjudicator, is unable to come after all. In his place we will have Verlie Cooney, a B.C. actress and adjudicator of considerable experience. It is unfortunate that we have no children's plays this year, as she has specialized in children's drama.

Plays entered in 1962 Drama Festival: Pouce Coupe, Monkey's Paw, director, Dave Bowman.

Dawson Creek, Central Jr. High, The Beatnik & the Bard, director, Henry Lenn Friesen; South Peace High, Laughter in the Dark, director, Walter Schneider; South Peace High, The Prince Who was a Piper, director, W. Goddard; South Peace High, Shock of His Life, directors, Miss L. Scheffer and Miss B. Carstens; Dawson Creek Choral and Dramatic Society, The Thrice Promised Bride, director, Mary McPhee; Dawson Creek Choral and Dramatic Society, Kezia, director, Mary McPhee.

Fort St. John, To the Lovely Margaret, director, Hank Roeters; St. Michael Comes to Shepherd's Bush, director, Vernice McIvor; Giant's Stair, director, Jean Gross; The Ghostwriter, director, Marguerite Davies; Intolerable Journey, director, Vernice McIvor.

The usual contests for the program cover and for posters are being held this year. Prizes for both contests are \$4 for first.

\$3 for second and \$2 for third.

A new trophy this year is being awarded in an effort to stimulate interest in the sale of tickets. The trophy for the "World's Best Ticket Seller" will be given to anybody, man, woman or child, who makes the highest score in the selling of tickets. Season tickets are \$1.50 for three nights entertainment, 75c for students. Single tickets are 60c.

SPOTLIGHT

ISSUED BY THE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

FEB 22, 1962

It has been a busy week for the many local drama enthusiasts, as final preparations for the 1962 festival have been made. The festival opens tonight with Vernice McIvor's original script "Intolerable Journey", followed by a Dawson Creek school group known as "The Rejects" with "Laughter in the Dark", and Marguerite Davies's play "Ghostwriter".

Tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 there will be three high school plays from Dawson Creek, "Shock of his life", "The beatnik and the bard", and "The prince who was a piper". Tomorrow evening opens with Hank Roeters' play "To the lovely Margaret", followed by "The giant's stair", by the Charlie Lake players, and "The thrice-promised bride" by the Dawson Creek Operatic Society.

On Saturday evening Mary McPhee's play "Kezia" opens the program, with "The Monkey's Paw" by the Pouce Coupe players following. The festival closes with "St. Michael comes

to Shepherd's Bush" by Workshop 60.

Winners of the program cover contest are as follows: 1st Brian Shaw, 2nd Evelyn Neufeld, 3rd Edmund Scheck. Honorable mention goes to Betty Hamilton, Barabara Watchell and Art Musson.

This year there has also been a poster contest, with winners as follows: 1st June-abelle Dofher, 2nd Jack Watchell, 3rd Ellen Groger. Honorable mention for Gordon Fossum, Percy Nelms, Shirley Greer.

The festival committee expresses its appreciation to Mrs. M. Heazlett and Mr. Bill McClean who headed the panel of judges.

The committee also announces the annual reception, to meet the adjudicator, on Friday evening after the close of the performance. This will be held in the high school cafeteria.

Adjudication will be given as usual after each play, with awarding of trophies on Saturday night at the conclusion of the festival.

SPOTLIGHT

ISSUED BY THE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

NOV 22, 1962

Do the long winter nights bother you? Here's one way to beat them. Start working on a play for the Drama Festival. You'll be surprised how the time flies—and how!

How about you people in the rural districts? You can't play bingo ALL winter. Get cracking on that latent talent. Write an original script, or work up a royalty play. You have no idea how much other people enjoy it.

Scientifically speaking, did you know that play-acting, like walking, employs more muscles than any other exercise? So if you feel you're in danger of becoming moribund through mental inactivity, you know the cure. Get busy on that play, bring out your hidden talent. Let's make Fort

St. John the drama centre of northern Canada.

The festival itself takes place on February 21, 22 and 23. Closing date for entering is January 29. The festival association is spading the ground up—preparing the foundation. The splendor of the edifice to be presented is entirely up to you—the potential actors, actresses, writers, and directors who are hiding their talents under bushels of snow in this northern country.

For those wishing to read plays with the idea of producing, the public library has quite a goodly number on hand, or you may phone me at ST5-2151 and I will do my best to aid you in selecting a play.

See you on stage!

—EVELYNE ZOERB.

The festival story

Great possibility in local talent ^{PART I}

MAR 1, 1962

"Set your standards high," said Mrs. Verlie Cooter last week, as she concluded her adjudication of the drama festival. "There is so much talent here."

"It has been a very refreshing and inspiring experience to come here for your festival," she went on. She commented on the very good standard achieved here, higher than some festivals in larger centres.

"Some of your societies are not working hard enough," she said. She suggested workshops, schools for directors and the

studying of a three-act play with an outside director. "You have great possibilities," she (Continued on page two)

of social customs. It was well performed by students from the C. J. H. Drama Club in Dawson Creek. In her adjudication Mrs. Cooter commended the excellent characterization. She felt, however, that more energy could have been employed but commented that the acting showed great promise. The art work was excellent.

The South Peace Senior High School gave a delightful rendering of the "Prince who was a Piper" This was the story of a princess with modern notions and a prince who considered himself a musician. The adjudicator congratulated the directors and cast on the splendid characterizations. The play was enhanced by charming group dancing scenes but she felt that there could have been more group movement. The play was beautifully set.

(Continued next week)

Festival story ^{PART 2}

(Continued from page 2) his father. MARI, 1962 The play had been condensed to suit the festival and the adjudicator commented on how well this change had been accomplished. In her adjudication she congratulated the cast and directors on a delightful performance.

"The Beatnik and the Bard" was a satirical play aimed at advertising "gimmicks" and present day trends in this area

DRAMA TROPHIES ^{FEB 15, 1962}

The trophies for the forthcoming drama festival are on display in the Glacier Drug Store this week. Also on display is the new trophy for the "World's Best Ticket Seller". Drama enthusiasts, get out and sell those tickets, and win this trophy!

COMING EVENTS

1962 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22—Drama Festival at the North Peace High School auditorium at 8 p.m. All welcome. Three nights, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The festival story ^{MAR 1, 1962 PART 2}

(Continued from page one) concluded. by the appearance of the ghost, who could only be seen by genuine writers but was not seen by the imposter.

This was her summing up before the awarding of trophies, all but one of which went to Dawson Creek, greatly to the disappointment of those who have worked hard here. The one exception was the Vernice McIvor trophy for the best original script, won by Vernice McIvor herself, with her play "Intolerable Journey". The only other Fort St. John representative in the award list was Ross Haller who took a certificate for best supporting actor.

THURSDAY EVENING

The festival opened on Thursday evening with two original plays and one high school entry from Dawson Creek. The first play, "Intolerable Journey", presented the problem of integration in serious vein. Billie Friend as the mother of a white child in an integrated school took a stand along with her colored friend (Candace Bell) but the weight of public feeling was too much for them and they finally had to leave.

Mrs. Cooter commented that this was a delightful script and the actors showed great sincerity but there was a lack of pace in the acting. Movement was poor but individual gestures easy and graceful.

The Dawson Creek play, "Laughter in the Dark" she said was a very difficult play but an interesting one. Individual parts were convincing but the play lacked pace and needed more use of inflection. "This is a very promising young group," she said.

The evening closed with "The Ghostwriter", by Marguerite Davies. The theme of this play involved a play on words, in which two ghostwriters appeared, one a genuine ghost, who completed a script left unfinished by him at the time of his death by accident and one a man who took the name of writer but whose work was all written for him by someone else.

His deception was discovered

by the appearance of the ghost, who could only be seen by genuine writers but was not seen by the imposter.

Mary Priebe took the part of the woman writer who completed the unfinished script with the help of the ghost, played by Ken Hunter. The imposter was played by Lorne Perceval and the farm woman who came to see what was going on was Mies Meier. Mrs. Cooter commented that the play needed more pace and movement.

"Acting is from your big toe up to the top of your head," she said, in getting over the point that the players needed more energy in carrying out their parts. Mary Priebe she said was a sensitive actress.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The plays on Friday afternoon by the schools competing in the drama festival displayed lively enthusiasm. Those taking part threw themselves wholehearted-

serve next Friday evening, March 16 to see the plays. One entitled "The White Phantom" is directed by Mrs. Shirley Nelson with cast including Ada Bell, Evelyn Hassard, Alma Holden, Elsie Martin, Monty Nelson, Elwin Philpott and Harold Waite. The other called "The Dummy" is a shorter production, starring Katharine Busche, Pat Bell, Vernon Pearson, Peggy and Larry Stewart, coached by Chrissie Bell. These besides the school play and dances assure everyone of a most enjoyable evening, we feel sure. See you there.

AND WE know you'll all re-

MAR 8, 1962

NORTH PEACE DRAMA FESTIVAL

TONIGHT — TOMORROW — SATURDAY ^{FEB 22, 1962}

High School Auditorium

Season Ticket \$1.50; Single Ticket 60c

DRAMA 1962

Full list of drama trophies

There were no children's plays entered in the drama festival this year. therefore no awards were made in Class 1, for which the Mildred Heazlett shield is given.

In Class 2, junior high, there was one entry only, "The Beatnik and the Bard", from the Central Junior High in Dawson Creek. This play won the Wilson Freightways shield. Corsbie trophy for best actress went to Alison Cavendish and for best actor to Terry LeGarrden.

In class 3, senior high, the Canadian Bank of Commerce shield went to "The Prince who was a Piper", from the South Peace Senior High. The Cormack trophy for the best actress went to Diane Kortmeyer and the Jean Gross trophy for the best actor to Terry Gosselin.

The Northern Motors Shield for the best adult play was awarded to "The Thrice-Promised Bride", by the Dawson Creek Choral and Dramatic Society. The Moffatt trophy for the best actress went to Marjorie Montezuma, with runners up being Mary Priebe, Helen Runkle and Billie Friend. Best supporting actress was Susan Dixon, with runners up being Candace Bell, Mies Meier and Stella Netterfield.

The Rose trophy for best actor went to Peter Gibb, with runners up being Hank Roeters, Ken Hunter, Frank Perkin, Tom Humphries, James Pierce. Best supporting actor was Ross Haller, runners up Ludwig Schneider, Don Campbell, Lorne Perceval, Henry Friesen and Tom Yearsley.

The Vernice McIvor trophy for the best original script was won by Vernice McIvor, and the new award given by Marguerite Davies for best director was won by Mary McPhee.

Adjudicator enjoys our hospitality

Mrs. Verlie Cooter, adjudicator for the North Peace drama festival, was amazed at the hospitality shown her here. "Everywhere I go I see nothing but the hotels and the schools", she said, "but here it is different." During her three days stay here she was taken on a tour of the plant at Taylor, a well as being shown around Charlie Lake. She also took in the AHN open house and was thrilled to see how a paper is produced.

HIGHWAY NEWS
MARCH 8, 1962

Drama festival highlights

FRIDAY EVENING

The Friday evening session opened with a performance of a difficult play, "To the lovely Margaret", directed by Hank Roeters. This play represents a girl who is clever at her studies but not a social success. The action concerns the efforts of her mother and a kindly uncle to help her to fit with others. "A fine attempt", said Mrs. Cooter in commenting on the play. "A charming play to read but very difficult to produce. The players were sincere but not big enough; their playing was too natural." She suggested that actors should study ordinary conversations and notice the change in tempo. She commented favorably on the costumes and set.

This was the play which was acted twice in one evening, for the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Foster, who arrived too late from Prince George to see their daughters perform the first time. Sylvia Roeters took the part of the mother, Margaret was Carol Netterfield, the

kindly uncle was Frank Perkin, a newcomer to our Fort St. John drama, the foreign student was well played by Don Campbell and the scatter-brained friend by Stella Netterfield.

The next play, "The Giants' Stair" was directed by Jean Gross and acted by the Charlie Lake Players. This was a play involving two women on a lonely farm. The husband of the farm woman has disappeared. The other woman is the farm woman's mentally deficient sister, skillfully played by Jan Fulton. The giants are ghosts imagined by the sister. In the midst of a violent storm the sheriff arrives to investigate the disappearance of the husband and in the course of the action it is revealed that the sheriff himself is the murderer. Evelyne Zoerb took the part of the farm woman and Tom Humphries was the sheriff.

"The play opened well," said Mss. Cooter, "the actors created the mood of tension, which improved as the play went on." She suggested that more business was needed. "A play like this needs terrific inner vitality because it moves slowly. It is important to pick up the cues, so that it flows all the time."

From Dawson Creek came "The Thrice-Promised Bride", a translation of a Chinese play directed by Mary McPhee and performed by the Dawson Creek choral and dramatic society. This play had beautiful setting and costumes. It concerned a Chinese courtroom at which it was decided which of three suitors should have the bride.

While here she commented favorably on our paper saying that reading it gave her a picture of the town, so that she felt she really knew it. "It's not a bit like most local papers," she said.

Mrs. Cooter is a genuine product of B.C., having been born in Vancouver. She now lives in New Westminster, where her husband is a decorator. Her daughter, Paddy Cooter, returned on the last day of the festival from England, where she had been studying at the Slade dramatic school.

Mrs. Cooter herself came to an interest in drama comparatively late. It was her husband, Frank, (Continued on Page 14)

Adjudicator ...

(Continued from page 10) who introduced her to dramatic work, because he was and is a keen amateur himself. However, once she had started, there was no holding her back. Her dramatic knowledge comes from practical experience and from wide reading on every aspect of drama, rather than from formal study. She herself became a professional, and sometimes performs on CBU-TV in Vancouver. For the past 25 years she has directed the Vagabond Players in New Westminster, an amateur group first formed 27 years ago. This group was just completing a series of performances of "The Great Sebastian" while Mrs. Cooter was here. She has also run a children's dramatic school.

She urges that practical experience is essential for success in dramatic work. At the workshop held on the Saturday afternoon of the festival, unfortunately attended by only a few addicts, she gave much helpful comment, advice on voice production and breath control and many other vital matters. She also stresses the widest possible reading for those who are genuinely interested in self-improvement.

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS
FORT ST. JOHN, B.C., THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1962

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SALUTE THE PIONEERS!

Dear Editor:

We would like to correct a statement made on the recent TV broadcast from CJDC regarding festival work in Fort St. John.

Vernice McIvor should not be listed as the first writer of original scripts in our Fort St. John drama festival. Elsie Stuby entered original plays very successfully, featuring her own little family, before I appeared on the scene.

Also, Margaret Murray was an entrant in this class in one of the earliest festivals.

I'm sorry I did not have the opportunity to see these plays, and regret sincerely these writers did not continue—and that their names were not mentioned on the broadcast. These people contributed as much to the building of the festival as those who came later.

However, girls, would a gentle nudge help in persuading you to get your pens out again?

—VERNICE McIVOR

Drama 1962

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS



Published every Thursday at Fort St. John, British Columbia by Alaska Highway Publications Ltd., Dan Murray, president; John Guelle, vice-president; Georgina Kedell, secretary-treasurer.



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Just a suggestion

MARCH, 1962

IN VIEW of the recent drama festival the following suggestions for next year's festival are offered by a humble spectator.

1. All taking part are to wear Chinese costume (including those behind the scenes—this is to help create the correct atmosphere).
2. Background music to be obligatory, even if speech is thereby made inaudible.
3. Masks to be worn by all players; also additional marks for wigs, if they are sufficiently flamboyant.
4. No plays to be accepted unless they have elaborate stage sets. Addition

of some special feature, such as gongs or babbling brooks, to be obligatory.

5. The audience to be sprayed with perfume, suitable to the mood of the play. (If a religious play is performed, scented holy water may be used.)

6. Chief consideration in choice of play is to be the superficiality of the parts. No extra marks to be awarded for profundity of characterization.

We feel that if these points are seriously considered, the competition between south and north will be much more equitable, as all players will start from the same base.

—CONTRIBUTED

A woman's work that is never done may be that which she has asked her husband to do.

SQUEAK FROM THE CREEK *MAR 29, 1962*
Dear Editor,
I happened to see the March 8 issue of your paper the other day and was quite appalled by the lack of sportsmanship shown by two articles slamming the Dawson Creek play the "Thrice Promised Bride." One of these gems, unsigned, was given the hallowed spot of the lead editorial article. The other, where it should be at least, amongst the letters to the editor. This one was a poem, I think; That is if ump-duh-duh-ump-duh-duh ump etc is poetry.
Of course all this did nothing to hurt the Dawson Creek play, which went onto Grande Prairie last weekend and took practically all the laurels there too.
As far as I can see the greatest harm done was to the Fort St. John group itself who can only be classed as poor sports. Not to mention the unforgivable rudeness shown to their most competent adjudicator, Mrs. Cooter by so crudely criticising her final judgment of the festival.
—MONICA WILSON
Pouce Coupe

Letters to the editor

THE PIRATES OF FSJ

MARCH, 1962

CHORUS:—

On Chinese mythology they rose to fame
Regardless of the acting or the plot so lame
On Chinese mythology they rose to fame
Regardless of the acting or the plot so lame.
—ump duh-duh, ump duh-duh, ump duh-duh, ump

Now we must learn to never cling
To the misbegotten theory that the play's the thing
Fanciful costumes we must buy
To be sure to have a setting that will please the eye.

CHORUS:—

To triumph at the Festival is our aim
Regardless of the acting or the plot so lame
To triumph at the Festival is our aim
Regardless of the acting or the plot so lame.
—ump duh-duh, ump duh-duh, ump duh-duh, ump.

Fort St. John. —H. B. FULTON

TICKLED PINK

Dear Editor, *APR 12, 1962*
The rather childish diatribe from Pouce Coupe, directed at the Peace River North Festival Association, shows an inability to assess real facts, as at no time has any member of the executive or any actor in any play from the northside expressed dissatisfaction in print with the outcome of the recent Drama Festival.

Editorial opinion and feelings of those outside the festival group are their own particular privilege.

In any case, the author of the

Provincial festival at Dawson Creek

Some Fort St. John people will be taking in the provincial drama finals, which are taking place at the B.C. drama festival in Dawson Creek.

The festival occupies four nights, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week. Tickets are \$1, students 50c, for the first three nights and \$1.50, students 75c for award night on Saturday. The plays will take place in the South Peace high school auditorium. There will be three plays each night.

Fort St. John socials 'Bride' again wins award

JUN 7, 1962

The spirit of the drama season has obviously not yet worn off and the festival in Dawson Creek last week attracted a number of enthusiasts from Fort St. John. Attending Friday's performance were Mrs. Vernice McIvor and Mrs. Frank Davies. They both stayed overnight in order to attend the annual meeting of the B.C. drama association, and also took in the workshop the following afternoon.

To join them at Saturday evening's performance, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Zoerb and family from Charlie Lake, Mrs. Jean Gross and Mrs. Dick Stuby drove down late on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday night's performance, the last in the festival which began on Wednesday, consisted of a repeat of the three best plays in the festival. Dawson Creek's "Thrice Promised Bride" won the award.

Other competing plays were from Quesnel, Kitimat, Penticton, N. Vancouver, Windermere, Victoria, Nanaimo and Slocan.

FEB 1, 1962

SPOTLIGHT ON FSJ when members of the Drama Society appeared on CJDC-TV. Mrs F Davis, Mrs N McIvor, Mrs J Keddel and Jack Baker formed the panel to review the growth of the club since 1946.

FEB 8, 1962

SPOTLIGHT WAS ON the local drama club when Marguerite Davies, Vernice McIvor, Georgina Keddel and Jack Baker formed a panel on Dawson Creek's tv.



VONNIE DIXON exercises her art on the devil's beard, as Mr. Dave Todd prepares for his TV appearance last Monday, on the show of local talent which featured our drama festival. Feb 1, 1962

NORTH PINE NOTES

Montney stars to play at Pineview

MAR 22, 1962

ALL THOSE who went to see the plays at Montney on Friday had a wonderful evening. They are to be at the Pineview Hall on March 31 and I think we will probably all go to see them again. It's worth the price just to look at the hats the school girls fixed up for themselves.

MONTNEY NEWS APR 5, 1962 Plays cancelled by sickness

HAS SPRING really sprung? These days seem so at any rate but don't you think another short storm will appear before the crocuses yet? I do.

THE CANCELLATION of the plays at the Baldonnel and Pineview halls last week was most regretted but it seemed the only solution when illness struck the cast in the eleventh hour, and the muddy roads and busy season ahead made postponement impractical. Next year we shall try to get the "Little Theatre" group going a little earlier perhaps so all may enjoy the performances. We do trust the announcements over CJDC reached all ears and prevented anyone from needlessly inconveniencing themselves. A big "thank you" to all concerned for the invitations, preparations and publicity—they were most appreciated.

Rural players act with great vigor

APR 5, 1962
(Delayed)

The Montney dramatic group had already made quite a name for itself before the recent evening of plays, but that name will be considerably greater as a result of the latest effort.

On March 16 the Montney community hall started to fill at an early hour. At 15 minutes before starting time, there was not a seat left. The crowd continued to arrive in a steady stream, packing every corner, sitting on knees, standing along walls, peering through windows. Many had to be turned away.

The evening opened with a play by the senior children of Montney school, all of whom took part. The first scene was acted by the girls, who were holding a women's meeting and decided to investigate the men's club just started by their husbands. In the second scene the men held their meeting. The gorgeous array of ladies hats and dresses, also accessories such as umbrellas, was matched by the lavish moustaches and rustic accoutrements of the men.

The entertainment at the men's club that evening took the form of a liar's contest. Three men stood up and told tall tales. Before the fourth, meek little Percy Worthington, could speak, in walked three ladies, headed by Mrs. Percy Worthington, to sit in at the meeting and make sure that it was suitable for their husbands. Up stood Percy with his prepared speech—all in praise of his wife. The ladies departed, satisfied with the high tone of the club. The winner of the liar's contest? You guessed it.

Outstanding performances

came from both Mr. and Mrs. Worthington, but all joined in the spirit of the thing and had a lot of fun.

The first of the two adult plays was "The Dummy", in which a poor neglected wife schemes with her maid to have a dummy man for company on the many nights that her husband is out. Naturally the husband sees the dummy through the window, mistakes him for a real man, and comes in to investigate. The dummy meanwhile is hidden and he finds nothing. In the end the maid inadvertently reveals all and a happy reunion occurs. The maid, Peggy Stewart, gave a very fine performance.

The last play, "The White Phantom", was another lively piece, with a genuine flesh and blood ghost haunting a house rented by an unscrupulous social-climbing society lady, vigorously portrayed by Mrs. Jack Bell. She was supported by Evelyn Hassard, unrecognizable as her colored maid. In the end the villain is brought to book and the two young lovers are united in a satisfactory manner.

The evening was filled out with a lively square dance by the younger children, as well as some choral numbers.

The Montney players have a vigor and pace sometimes lacking in more polished productions. They play as a team, project both their characters and their voices and give a lively sense of enjoyment.