

School Dance Highlighted By Dancing Exhibition

ARTS

1947

Highlight of last Friday night's Students Council dance in Fort St. John was the floor show, put on by members of Dorothy Forster's Dancing School, a striking example of what can be accomplished in a few short weeks of practise.

First item was the Virginia Reel done by tots, dressed as gingham gowned country gals, and straw-hatted red-kerchiefed farm boys. Their size and childish charm completely won the audience, and they retired to a thunderous round of clapping.

Second item was a Swedish folk dance, with the ten to twelve year olds. This number was beautifully costumed in crepe paper, and the little girls danced with precision and grace. The applause if anything grew.

The final number, a strikingly designed "Skater's Waltz" was a most effective number from a spectacle standpoint. The dancers, dressed in swirling white skirts, capelets and pom-pom caps, glided onto the dance floor in pairs, and skated around emulating the fancy design of an ice ballet. Many remarked on the attractiveness of the young ladies taking part.

Miss Lois Stokke's encore

"White Christmas" was in character, and both this and "The Anniversary Song" were well received. Bill Whyte did two whistling numbers which were a surprise and delight to the audience.

Among the dancers were the following boys and girls:

Virginia Reel—

Girls: Beverley Carriere, Jeanie Forster, Deidre Sandy, Marguerite Gallibois, Helen Campbell.

Boys: Rickie Campbell, Billie White, Dannie Bowes

Swedish Dance

Carla Pomeroy, Patsy Pickell, Marlene Cuyler, Jeanie Forster, Dolores Forster, Grace Forster, Beverley Carriere, Tenny Machan, Carol Foster, Louise Brandt, Marielle Gallibois, Deidre Sandy.

Skater's Waltz

Virginia Denhoff, Joyce Carriere, Elsie Mones, Pat McFadden, Mona McFadden, Joy Fjetland, Billie Holmes Audrey Powell, Irene Carey, Mary Holmes, Michelle Gallibois, Suzanne Gallibois, Diana Johnstone, Gwen Williams, Dorothy Crooks, Verla Dressler.

Dorothy Forster wishes to thank Mesdames Friend, Pickell, Stokke, Johnstone and Audrey Powell for helping to sew the costumes.

Their instructress, Mrs. Gene Forster was called to the stage at the conclusion of the programme and received the applause of the crowd for her contribution to the success of the evening.

Much Practice and Thorough Tuition Evident In Sparkling Entertainment Presented by Follies

Jan/47

Second Annual Event Well Attended as New Talent Comes to the Fore and Delights St. John Audience

LOVELY COSTUMES, GOOD MC JOB CONTRIBUTE TO PRODUCTION OF SHOW

Opening with a lavishly costumed can-can number, the Alcan Follies was a gay and spirited presentation this year from start to finish. A finale song with the entire cast on stage came along all too early as far as the packed house was concerned. Fisher's orchestra of Dawson Creek furnished entr'acte music, and Jack Lawless a former Pantages and Orpheum circuit song and dance man threaded the whole performance together with a patter that smacked a little of the old days but delighted everyone.

COSTUMES MADE LOCALLY

The show was costumed again this year by Mrs. Georgia Romine who leaves the north shortly to try her hand in the large cities to the south. Mrs. Romine's ingenuity will be missed when another Follies show rolls around. The can-can costumes, gorgeous blue satin creations with ruffles on the underside and enormous plumed hats, were rented outside. Otherwise Mrs. Romine made over last year's costumes and added one complete new set for the Dutch number. A. H. Mones accompanied the dancing and chorus and Mrs. Warren Titus played for Miss Stokke.

MISS RIX DELIGHTS AUDIENCE

The dancers were trained by Mrs. Dorothy Wilson of Vancouver who started them off in the fall, and who gave over to Miss Donnie Rix in November. Miss Rix has finished the performers creditably. She herself did a tap number and encore and a ballet number which was extremely well received. The soft lights, and the white and sparkling sequins of her satin and net ballet frock, made a lovely stage picture.

DANCERS SHOW WHAT PRACTICE CAN DO

The second annual Alcan Follies held this past week in Fort St. John, was an outstanding success. Better in every way than the first Follies, the dancers showed more eloquently than words what can be accomplished with a little guidance and help. A. H. Mones is to be congratulated heartily on his unceasing and mostly unrewarded—efforts on behalf of the teen agers of this community.

SHOW GREAT IMPROVEMENT

A year has shown much improvement in the voice and presentation of Miss Lois Stokke. She sang her songs with feeling and warmth — and very promising personality.

Miss Diana Sandy, the only member of the cast who also took part last year, dances with all the grace and charm of a young lady who has had the advantage of dancing lessons when a small child. She makes everything count even the use of her hands. In her singing she shows the lack of adequate training. Without proper breath control, range of voice is not very important, though Miss Sandy is ably equipped to put expression and individuality into her songs.

Pauline Bazely's sweet girlish voice was well suited to the number, with chorus, "Wait for me Mary". An attractive brunette, she and Miss Sandy were well matched for their dutch number.

YOUNGER GIRLS PROMISING

A promising new comer was Virginia Dephoff who has a voice worth watching, and worth training. This pretty little dark haired thirteen year old has considerable stage presentation also and danced well.

Another charmer was Joyce Carrier who had a bout in hospital right after Christmas which undoubtedly made it hard catching up. Joyce dances well and as if she loved it — her treatment of the Dutch number was clever and much appreciated by the audience.

Miss Mones, Miss Powell and Miss Curiston who danced opposite Joyce Carrier completed the chorus and all turned in very finished jobs.

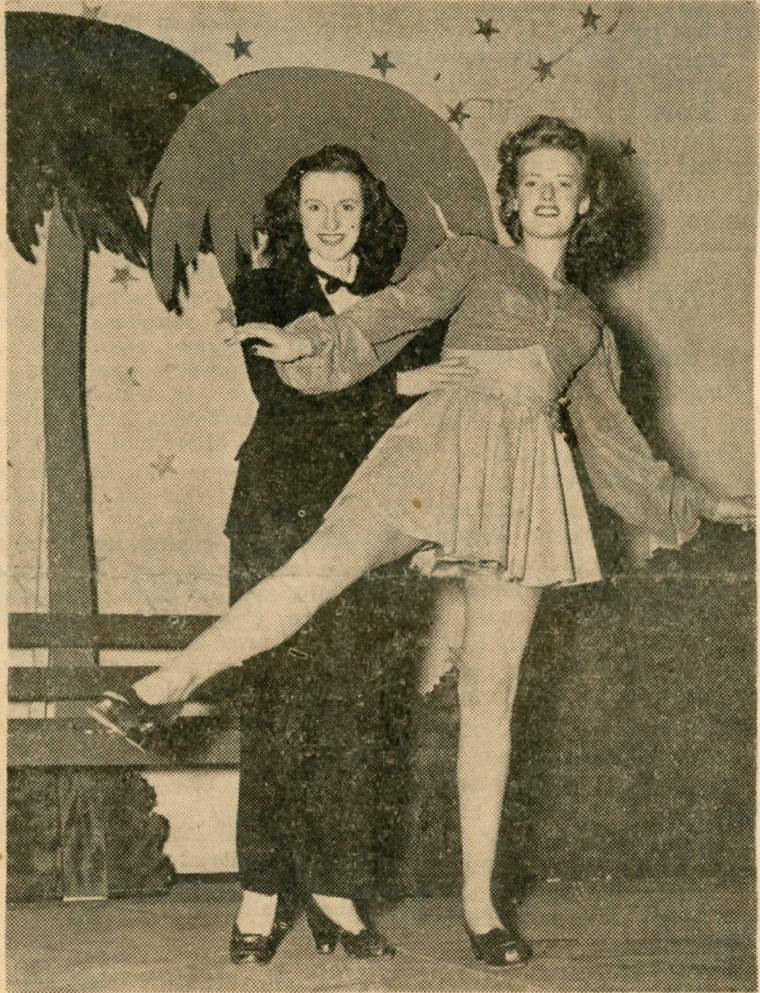
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These Pretty Girls Are Being Asked To Go Places!

Following the first presentation of the Alcan Follies and the successful encore concert which followed it a week later, the musicians and cast of the Alcan Follies are turning down engagements! Later on, however, they plan to visit Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie, travelling with the show.

A. H. Mones, director of the Follies, says that he would like to hear from young people in the community who would be interested in learning to play the piano, violin, or other instrument, or who would learn to dance or act if he or she had the chance. A studio is being considered for Fort St. John at the present time and any indication would be helpful to the directors.





TWO PRETTY FORT ST. JOHN GIRLS who took part in the recent "Alcan Follies" are pictured above—Miss Diana Sandy and Miss Mary Anne Lohman. Their clever little tap dancing number was one of the many worthwhile acts in the show. Miss Sandy's costume was made right here in town. She is the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sandy, while Mary Anne is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Schauwecker, Sr., all of Fort St. John.

ALCAN FOLLIES TO APPEAR IN MAGAZINE "DANCE"

A. H. MONES AN-
NOUNCES OPENING
OF STUDIO HERE.

Miss Lois Stokke, secretary of the Alcan Follies, received an interesting letter this week from the Canadian representative of that smooth little magazine called "Dance," which is published in New York. The representative, F. A. Coleman, asks for details on what the Alcan Follies hopes to do—something of its background, extent, scope—and any pictures available for publication.

Coleman wants the material for articles in a series being written for "Dancing Times," a London, England, publication; and for "Theatre Arts" of New York, and a similar trade publication for South Africa.

"News of the 'Alcan Follies' will no doubt be an interesting addition to the series of articles I am doing for the 'Dancing Times' of London, describing the dance in Canada, and a similar one I am preparing for the 'Dance Index' of New York," says Mr. Coleman, in part.

As "Dance's" Canadian editor was writing this letter to the Follies' secretary, Arthur H. Mones, of Fort St. John, was looking around for material, himself. The Follies have an ambitious season coming up, what with shows at Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie immediately ahead, and a five-day show for Whitehorse in July at the Yukon's Jubilee Celebration.

With this in mind, Mr. Mones has announced this week the opening of studios in Fort St. John, in which will be taught piano, violin, saxophone, trumpet, voice, dance and dramatic art. He is anxious to hear from prospective students, and urges them to write to him at Box 164, Fort St. John. Although the studios will be inaugurated to groom talent for the Follies, tuition will be available to all, whether interested in the entertainment side of the picture or not. Personnel of the Follies, however, will receive their tuition without cost.