

# Letters To The Editor

To the Editor: JAN 17, 1952  
The 7th Annual Music, Drama and Dancing Festival will shortly be under way with the Drama and Elocution sections taking place the last day of February and first day of March, and the Music and Dancing sections the third week in May.

Most of us thoroughly enjoy the performances of the young folks who bravely take the stage, yet cast little thought at the effort that goes into the final production on the part of the teachers and directors. It is true that music and the other kindred arts are a part of our regular school curriculum, however the exertion required in staging a public Festival should not be entirely saddled on the School Staff and the very few other citizens who have assumed the burden in the past.

Since "many hands make light work" we would welcome a larger turnout at the meetings, the next of which will be held Wednesday, February 13th at 8:00 p.m. in the School Staff Room. May we see you there?

Yours faithfully,  
J. W. Baker, President.  
Fort St. John Festival Ass'n

# Entries For Festival Will Close Tomorrow

JAN 31, 1952  
Several entries have already been received by the local committee of the Fort St. John Drama and Elocution Section to be held here on February 29 and March 1. Rehearsals of four one-act plays are now shaping up at the school, one of them to be presented by a high school group and the others by pupils in the elementary grades. Active part in the direction of these dramatic efforts is being taken by several teachers including Mrs. Helen Hornick, Miss Iris Hill and Greg Rice.

Members of the Festival committee are still hoping that several original manuscripts of one-act plays will reach them by tomorrow, February 1, the closing date. At the moment it is known that at least two will be submitted by local writers. Further information regarding the Festival can be obtained from Mrs. Vernice McIvor or other members of the Fort St. John committee.

# Drama Festival Success, Original Weather, Community Cooperative

The seventh annual Drama and Elocution Festival is now over and safely tucked into the page of our village history. It was an achievement, however, which will be remembered a long time and will likely mark the era of home-talent effort for future entertainment. With such encouragement as the adjudicator gave for future drama, it will be easy to anticipate a much larger contribution next year, and indeed we can expect some home-talent drama for various money raising schemes in the coming year.

"It's a great thrill to visit a Drama Festival such as Fort St. John's and find that sufficient interest in dramatics has inspired a class of original plays. This is the sort of thing we want so much to encourage in Canada, for a Canadian Theatre must surely have Canadian playwrights," said Mrs. Freda D'brascouville, from Vancouver, who had adjudicated the Festival.

In commenting on the two plays, one written by Vernice McIvor and the other written by Dr. G. N. Cormack, Mrs. D'brascouville, criticized both plays for being directed by the leading character in each play. She told them, it hindered either his or her ability to see the production from a distance. In the case of Mrs. McIvor's play, the adjudicator pointed out the weakness in staging, failure to make important situations "come off the paper" and other faults in direction. She commended Mrs. McIvor's warm portrayal of 'Margaret' and suggested some of the difficulties met with in the directing, might

MAR 6, 1952  
have been overcome had the play been re-written.

Dr. Cormack's play, "The Play is the Thing" dealt with the efforts of a woman's bridge club to portray various scenes from Shakespeare as its contribution to drama festival. All members of the cast had fun doing the play and had no difficulty infecting the audience with their good humor. Mrs. D'brascouville commended Johnny Campbell, K. Cross and Georgina Keddel for a good performance, but too author George Cormack to take for hamming, "Gentle Will" in the first place and commanding from centre stage for all of his speech. After the adjudication, however, some of the others expressed surprise. Mrs. D'brascouville, many said, had missed a point, and failed to see Dr. Cormack's performance as typical of an amateur who found that he could use the Immortal Bard and couldn't resist doing it even tho it was Shakespeare! Of course, the adjudicator's advice was well taken as was Shakespeare, who ought to be able to take lampooning. The criticism of both plays was enjoyed. And the wholehearted warmth of the audience helped the cast of the second play, no doubt to romp through the ha-

(Continued on Back Page)

# More Public Support Needed For Our Festival Association

DAV  
The Fort St. John Festival Association held a regular meeting January 9. Attendance was light, partly owing to the cold weather. Those that did show up are to be credited for their interest in the cultural activity of our community.

The three-hour meeting occupied itself with problems presented by the nearness of the first portion of the Festival, namely the Drama and Elocution sections which will be held Friday and Saturday, February 29 and March 1 at the school Rec Hall under the direction of Mrs. N. D. McIvor and Mrs. L. Bazeley. The Music and Dancing sections under the direction of Rev. George Dobie and Mrs. F. Davies will be held during the third week in May.

## Volunteers Needed

Assistance in the matter of handling props was discussed and hope was expressed that vol-

unteers from the town would make themselves available, and so lift the burden from the school staff and pupils, to whose lot this has usually fallen in past seasons.

It was pointed out at the meeting that participation in any of the sections of the Festival was open, not only to school children but to anyone who might wish to compete in open classes. The Entry Secretary is Mrs. H. G. Jarvis, and the Syllabus is available from the Secretary, Mrs. Jeanne Taylor.

Lack of public interest in the meetings was deplored since the Festival is a public responsibility but it was hoped that by suitable publicity this condition might be improved.

JAN 17, 1952  
25 YRS AGO — APR 23, 1952  
THE SEVENTH ANNUAL Fort St John Music and Dance Festival is being held in early May.

# Festival Story

(Continued from Page 1)

hour performance with ease and enjoyment for all. TROPHY AWARDS

MAR 6, 1952  
The North Pine School won the Canadian Utilitie's trophy for Choral Speech while Grade Six of the Fort St. John School won the Gordon G. Moore Shield Mrs. Vernice McIvor won the Gordon Wilson Trophy for the best acting, in her own play, E. Lundquist, took the honours in the junior for her portrayal of Mrs. Marsh in "Christmas Breakfast" a scene from Little Women. Mrs. Jean Cross trained the Upper Pine School for the play and Evelyn played the leading role.

Mrs. Harry Hazlett's class, in "Dick Whittington" the old English Classic, won the distinction of being the best play for the Junior groups. Three plays were entered, one other from North Pine "Raddison Finds a way" directed by Ian Currie. All three received warm praise from the adjudicator, and Don Campbell as Dick Whittington was outstanding. Besides these mentioned in the grand Finale were Clark Hazlett, Catherine Cross, Henry Chapple, Florence Smith and Edith Clarke. We hope to print a full report of the winning contestants and prize list in a early issue.

30 YRS AGO, APR 23, 1952  
THE SEVENTH ANNUAL F S J Music and Dance Festival is being held in early May.

## Pre-Festival Recital

Montney Hall on May 9th will be the place for the local residents to gather and give a little cheer and moral support to the youngsters of the United Church mission orchestra. The two Festival selections will be rendered besides a lovely program from the talented youngsters.

## Musical Festival, Best Ever, Grand Finale Closes Two Day Event MAY 8, 1952

Next Monday morning, May 12th and continuing to May 13th, the Village will be hosts to the contestants from the country to the Seventh Annual Musical Festival. This is a great event in the lives of the children who look forward to it all during the year, and the Seventh Annual promises to be the best yet. The Festival Committee have been working long hours to have perfected as

much as possible, all arrangements.

Many are looking forward to meeting Mr. Burton Kurth, supervisor of Music for the Vancouver School Board who is coming here to adjudicate the music. Mr. Kurth has some four thousand pupils in music under his supervision in Vancouver. He has many long years of outstanding service to his credit and in his spare time is organist and choirmaster of Chown Memorial Church.

Mr. Kurth is a composer and delights in his Lullaby interpretations. He concentrates on children's numbers and many of his own compositions will be tested pieces at the Festival. Mrs. Kurth is a soloist of considerable fame and it is hoped she will be able to accompany her distinguished husband to the Peace River. The Kurths hail from Winnipeg but have lived so long and full in B.C. that they are considered part of the Province by now.

Dancing will be one of the delights of the Festival. Mrs. Dorothy Forster has been teaching the dancing classes in the school for the past month and the Festival will see some thirty-five entries in this class. Mrs. Marie Rouse from Dawson Creek will adjudicate the dancing sessions which will all be held in the Recreation Hall at the school. Musical sessions will all be held in the Carlsonia Theatre, Monday morning, afternoon and evening, Tuesday morning and afternoon and the Grand Finale will be presented in the Carlsonia on Tuesday evening.

Trophies will be competed for and are all coveted by the school which win them. New trophies this year will be from the Central Department Store, rural school and town schools. Canadian Legion and W.A. presented a handsome trophy for Junior Instrumental Championship. Merlin Bur is the donor for a trophy won by the Junior Vocal solo, Don Wright presented one for rural dancing championship. Ray Forster presented for Solo dancing championship.

Besides the winners of the contests at the Grande Finale, added attractions will be a play directed by Dr. G. N. Cormack, Junior Elocution and music by Gen. Forster's boys. It will be a rousing Finale and the public will be cordially invited.

## Montney Pre-Festival Program Cancelled

Residents of Montney and adjacent communities are asked to note that due to circumstances beyond control of all concerned the pre-Festival program announced for Friday, May 9th has been cancelled.

Special family day services will be conducted in the North Pine United Church and the Montney church hall next Sunday, May 11, at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. respectively. Appropriate selections in music will be rendered by the young people's orchestras.

## Festival Report

### Next Week MAY 15, 1952

Another milestone in the history of the North Peace has been made. Another lovely festival of music and dancing by the school children mostly, has now been tucked away in the records. It was larger and finer many said, than last year and the Grand Finale though long in program was enjoyable. The drama was completed in February and so the entries for music and dancing far exceeded last year.

It was a motley group of public spirited citizens who revived the Musical Festival in 1946, and a considerable amount of work to gather trophies, many of which are competed for and coveted when won. However it is a brave group, the Festival Committee who keeps it alive and virile. Next week we hope to have a full list of the winners and the outstanding events which were presented in the Grand Finale.

MAY 1, 1952



## Seventh Annual Fort St. John Music and Dancing Festival

Monday and Tuesday, May 12th and 13th  
Music Sessions — Carlsonia Theatre

Adjudicator: Mr. Burton Keith, Van., B.C.

Dancing Sessions — Recreation Hall

Adjudicator: Mr. J. G. Rause, Dawson Creek

Grande Finale — Tuesday Evening

## Festival Adjudicator

### Honoured MAY 15, 1952

A very interesting and delightful evening for a large number of workers and friends of the Festival had an opportunity to meet Mr. Burton Kurth who is here this week to adjudicate the Music portion of the Festival. Mr. Kurth was here last year for the same assignment and fell in love with the pioneer spirit of this community. He was delighted to meet the parents and some of the contestants in a friendly chat at the home of Ruth and Frank Paquette on Sunday evening. It was an informal party and was the only one given during this Seventh Annual Festival. The Committees were grateful to the Paquettes for their hospitality.

# SEVENTH ANNUAL Fort St. John

Monday and Tuesday

FESTIVAL

DANCING

MAY 18, 1952

Music Sessions — Morning, Afternoon and Evening — Carlsonia Theatre  
Dancing Sessions — Monday Morning and Afternoon — Recreation Hall and 13th.  
Grande Finale — Carlsonia Theatre — Tuesday,

Burton Kurth, Vancouver, B.C.  
Creek, B.C.

## Musical Festival Grows In Size And Importance

MAY 22, 1952

The Seventh Annual Musical Festival has gone on into history and it is with much pleasure we print the list of first and second contestants who took the highest marks for 1952. There must be much credit given from the parents and others to the Festival Committee who work all thru the year for this event, and to the Teaching staff who take the time to prepare the youngsters for the Festival. The School Chorus' and the Dancing were especially well done this year and the Montney Church Orchestra showed considerable improvement from last Festival. The Grand Finale was well attended and the citizens of the town came forward with financial assistance in supporting the ticket sale and also the program. It is a lot of work for a few no doubt, but a great deal of pleasure for a large number. The list of names are given herewith.

Class No. 63 — School Choirs, Grades 2 and 3: 1st, Grade 2, Ft. St. John; 2nd, Grades 2 and 3, Fort St. John.

Class No. 53 — Girls' Solo, 8 and under: 1st, Janice Schauwecker; 2nd, Elaine Lunquist.

Class No. 58 — Boys' Solo, 12 and under: 1st, Raymond Wagner; 2nd, George Smith.

Class No. 75 — Piano Solo, Grade 2: 1st, Donella Chuilli; 2nd, Anita Stuby.

Class No. 51 — Girls' Solo, 12 and under: 1st, Marlene Lepper; 2nd, Betty Smith.

Class No. 66 — School Choirs, Grades 6 and 7: 1st, Grade 6, Fort St. John; 2nd, Grade 7, Fort St. John.

Class No. 67 — School Choirs, Grades 8 and 9: 1st, Grades 8 and 9 combined, Fort St. John.

Class No. 78 — Piano Solo, Grade 5: 1st, Gwen Tucker.

Class No. 32 — Ladies' Choir: 1st, Fort St. John Ladies' Choir.

Class No. 59 — Boys' Solo, 10 and under: 1st, Donald Campbell; 2nd, Ken Lutz.

Class No. 76 — Piano Solo, Grade 3: 1st, Mary Germain; 2nd, Joyce Thompson.

Class No. 48 — Girls' Solo, 18 and under: 1st, Helen Holden; 2nd, Evelyn Myhre.

Class No. 43 — Baritone Solo: 1st, Matt Pruden.

Class No. 50 — Girls' Solo, 14 and under: 1st, Audrey Welden; 2nd, Ruthann Senz.

(Continued on Page 10)

25 YRS AGO — APRIL 29, 1952

**THE FESTIVAL is just two weeks away; the seventh annual will take place in the Rec Hall and the Carlsonia. The entries are more numerous than ever and with the dramatic festival already over, two full days of fine entertainment is promised. Jean Taylor is secretary this year and the usual number of volunteers who can help with the secretarial work for the adjudicators will be welcome to the committee.**

Dear Editor: MAY 29, 1952  
The North Peace Festival Association wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for the kindness of yourself and staff in regards to the publishing of the activities of the recent Music Festival, and especially on the wonderful job of the printing of the Grande Finale programs, which were put out in such record time.

Yours truly,  
JEANNE TAYLOR,  
Secretary,  
North Peace Festival Ass'n.

## Festival Story

(Continued from Page 3)  
Class 80 — Piano Solo, open 1st, Enid Danard.

Class No. 47 — Girl's Solo, and under: 1st, Sussanne Galibou.

Class No. 87 — Square dance Adult: 1st, Grade 11 and 12 2nd, Grade 10.

Class No. 86 — Square dance Grades 8 and up: 1st, Grade 9 2nd, Grade 9b.

Class No. 84 — Square dance Grade 1 to 4: 1st, North Pine Junior Room; 2nd, Grade 1, Fort St. John.

Class No. 91 — Acrobatic dance 1st, Delores Forster.

Class No. 85 — Square dance Grades 5 to 7: 1st, North Pine Senior Room; 2nd, Grade 5b, Fort St. John.

Class No. 96a — Rural School Folk Dances, Group: 1st, Upper Pine.

Class No. 96b — Rural School Folk Dances, Solo: 1st, Sharon Smith.

Class No. 81 — Folk Dance Grades 6 and under: 1st, Grade 6b, Fort St. John; 2nd, Grade 6 Fort St. John.

Class No. 93 — Classical dance Grades 5 and 6: 1st, Grade 5 Fort St. John.

Class No. 82 — Folk Dance Grades 7 and up: 1st, Grade 7 Fort St. John; 2nd, Grade 8 Fort St. John.

Class No. 98 — Couple Dance Grades 4 to 6: 1st, Lorita Szilag and Yvonne Sand, Fort St. John; 2nd, Ethel Locke and Rosemar Beaton, Fort St. John.

Class No. 99 — Couple Dance Grade 9 and up: 1st, Delores Foster and Marion Thomas.

Class No. 62 — School Choir Grade 1: 1st, Grade 1, Fort St. John.

Class No. 60 — Boys' solo, 8 and under: 1st, Floyd Germain; 2nd, Maurice McLeod.

Class No. 74 — Piano Solo Grade 1: 1st, Frances Senz.

Class No. 52 — Girls' Solo, 1 and under: 1st, Sylvia Mitchell 2nd, Marion Foster.

Class No. 65 — School Choir Grade 4 and 5: 1st, Grade 4, Fort St. John; 2nd, Grade 5, Fort St. John.

Class No. 73 — Rhythm Bands 1st, Grade 1, Fort St. John (Mr. Plain); 2nd, Grade 1, Fort St. John (Mrs. Darnell).

Class No. 70 — Two Room Rural School Choir: 1st, North Pine.

Class No. 73a — Instrumental Open: 1st, George Smith; 2nd, Clayton Martin.

Class No. 71 — One room rural School Choir: 1st, Taylor; 2nd, Upper Pine.

Class No. 72 — Young Peoples Orchestra: 1st, North Pine and Montney United Orchestra.

## Festival Proceeds To Assist Work of Boys' Band

The Peace River North Festival Association held a special meeting in the school staff room on Friday, June 26th.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of assisting Gene Forster in regard to his Boys' Band.

After much discussion it was decided to make a donation of \$300.00 to Mr. Forster for the purpose of purchasing instruments, music, etc., for his band.

Mr. Forster said he has a lengthy list of boys names who have shown interest in joining his band but due to the difficulty in obtaining funds to purchase instruments he has been unable to expand his present group.

In the past local organizations have generously made donations and these have been very much appreciated and it is hoped that these organizations and others will see the possibility of again donating to this worthy cause.

Gene Forster has taken such an interest in our local youths and the good he has obtained has been remarkable and considering the fact that he himself receives nothing in return except his own satisfaction of a job well done and the thanks and appreciation of the boys and their parents, it is sincerely hoped that he is given all the assistance possible.

—Jeanne Taylor.

## Drama Group To Organize, Sept. 2nd

Sixteen attended a pre-organizing meeting of a proposed Drama Club for Fort St. John Friday night at the home of Mrs. Gene Forster.

A temporary chairman was elected to enquire about a permanent place of meeting, and to order plays for the play reading group. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for September 2nd, at 8 p.m., at Mrs. Forster's home, when a permanent executive will be elected, and a tentative programme for the year worked out.

## First Festival Meeting, Sept. 17th

The First Fall Meeting of the will be held at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, Peace River North Festival Ass'n day, September 17th, in the school staff room. It is hoped to have a good turn out. It is not necessary to be musically inclined to attend these meetings and everyone is welcome, so if it is at all possible for you to give this ass'n your support it will be very much appreciated by the present committee.

## Some Notes on the Drama Festival

The Drama Festival Syllabus is now ready. Herewith a few notes gleaned from the publication.

Drama Festival entries may be in three classes. A shield may be won in each class. Trophies will also be given for the best actor and actress in each class.

CLASS 1 - Junior (Grades 1 to 8)  
CLASS 2 - Senior (Grades 9 to 12)  
CLASS 3 - Adult.

Time limit: Junior - 20 to 30 minutes. Senior - 30 to 45 minutes. Adult - 30 to 45 minutes.

ONE-ACT PANTOMINES may be entered in any class. (Definition of Pantomines: Script is read offstage; Cast pantomines story.)

ORIGINAL SCRIPTS are particularly welcome! The Department of Education is pleased with the efforts made in this line heretofore. Please keep the ball rolling.

A list of plays available may be obtained by writing to Mr. Hurn, Library of School and Community Drama, Department of Education, Victoria, B.C. It would be advisable to state the age and experience of your actors, also the number of male and female participants you plan to use.

Plays are loaned for reading purposes by contacting Miss Edith Stewart, University of Extension Play Lending Library, UBC, Vancouver, B. C. By sending the information about age, experience and numbers in your group, the Extension Department will send you a group of plays to read. After this, on payment of \$1, you may borrow plays for the remainder of the year.

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

**30 YRS AGO-APR 29, 1952**  
THE FESTIVAL IS just two weeks away; the seventh annual will take place in the Rec Hall and the Carlsonia. The entries are more numerous than ever and with the dramatic festival already over, two full days of fine entertainment is promised. Jeanne Taylor is secretary this year and the usual number of volunteers who can help with the secretarial work for the adjudicators will be welcome to the committee.

**THE 7TH ANNUAL** music festival was held this week. The school choirs and the dancing were especially well done. The Montney Church orchestra showed considerable improvement.

**BERT BOWES** consented to head the festival committee. Don McIvor, George Broadhurst, Keith Harrison, Ella Roche, Frances Sandy and Margaret Murray will all serve as committee members.

**25 YRS AGO - FEB 19, 1952**  
STEADILY MOUNTING interest is being shown in the Drama and Elocution sections of the annual Drama Festival when locally written plays will be presented. In the adult section, three plays will be staged. "Mr Validen's Violin," written by Mrs Vernice McIvor and directed by Frances Paquette; "All in a Day," written and directed by Mrs Margaret L. Murray; and "The Play's The Thing," written and directed by Dr G N Cormack. Several entries have been received for Juniors from Fort St John North Pine and Charlie Lake Schools.

**25 YRS AGO—JUL 29, 1952**  
**FIVE TRUMPETS**, three trombones and four clarinets have arrived in recent weeks and round out the instruments necessary for the school band to get underway in September. Bandmaster Gene Forster estimates that these instruments and the music necessary to get started have taken more than \$500. Six hundred dollars was allocated by the Fort St John Festival Committee. A list of applications from students who wish to play an instrument in the band assures Forster that plenty of interest and enthusiasm will attend the practices starting at the beginning of school. Altogether over \$1000 has been raised for the military type band. Glen Pomeroy will likely be assistant director.

1952.

THREE PLAYS by local talent for next week's drama event when Mrs. Fred Bransco-ville of Haney will be the adjudicator. In the adult section "Mr. Validi's Violin" written by Mrs. Vernice McIvor and directed by Mrs. Frances Paquette, "All in a Day" written and directed by Mrs. Margaret L. Murray and "The Play is the Thing" written and directed by Dr. G. N. Cormack. FEB 21, 1952

30 YRS AGO, FEB 19, 1952

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## Three Plays By Local Talent For Next Week's Drama Event

1952

Steadily mounting interest is being shown in the Drama and Elocution sections of the annual Drama Festival when three locally written plays will be presented. Final arrangements for this event were completed at the monthly meeting of the Festival Association held last week.

The Drama and Elocution offerings are set for February 29 and March 1 when the adjudicator will be Mrs. Freda Bransco-ville of Haney, B.C. In the adult section three plays will be staged—"Mr. Validen's Violin", written by Mrs. Vernice McIvor and directed by Mrs. Frances Paquette; "All In A Day", written and directed by Mrs. Margaret L. Murray; and "The Play's The

Thing", written and directed by Dr. G. N. Cormack. It was also announced that several entries have been received for junior section plays from Fort St. John, North Pine, and Charlie Lake Schools.

Members of the cast in Mrs. McIvor's entry include Jean Groger, Gail McIvor, Rev. George Dobie, Robin Holmes, Ken Hunter and Mrs. McIvor.

This two-day event will be held at the Rec Hall. Adult season tickets are \$1.00; Children 35 cents. Admittance to individual events is 35 cents and 25 cents.

The Music and Dancing Section of the Festival will be held in May.

## Looking backwards

10 YEARS AGO—March 10, 1952

MARCH, 1952

THE SEVENTH annual drama and elocution festival is over. Mrs. Freda D'bracouville from Vancouver who adjudicated had praise for two plays, one written by Vernice McIvor and the other by Dr. G. M. Cormack. She commended Mrs. McIvor's warm portrayal of "Margaret." Dr. Cormack's "The Play is the Thing" with cast including Johnny Campbell, Kit Cross and Georgina Keddell infected the audience with their good humor. North Pine school won the Canadian Utilitiy trophy for choral speech. Grade six FSJ won the Gordon Moore shield. Mrs. Vernice McIvor won the Gordon Wilson trophy for best acting.

PEACE RIVER North Festival Association held their second meeting of the fall season. President Rev. Hilliard took the chair. A Drama Club is in its formative stage at the airport. Those interested contact Mrs. J. Wasylyk or Mrs. R. Hamilton. Oct 23, 1952