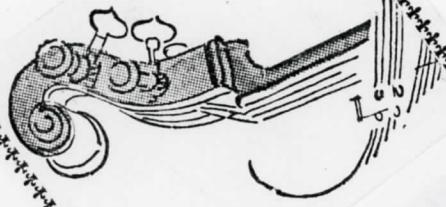


FESTIVAL ORIGINS
1955 p 1



MAR 10, 1955
ELOCUTION FESTIVAL
School Auditorium
th and 30th

MAR. 17, 1955

**MARCH 7th, DEADLINE ON
FESTIVAL ENTRIES** MAR 3, 1955

The Music, Elocution and Dancing Festival will be held in Fort St. John on March 28th, 29th and 30th.

Entry forms and syllabus available from school for students and from Mrs. K. D. Birley - Secretary - all forms must be returned to the Secretary not later than March 7th.

Those wishing for the services of a piano accompanist for singing, please contact Mrs. T. Lander - the official accompanist - as soon as possible and not later than March 9th.

Marion Birley, Sec.

WEATHER UNPREDICTABLE:

FESTIVAL FAIR MAR 31, 1955

This week, the first three days were devoted to the tenth annual Musical Festival and fate dealt out an apathetic hand to effort. The attendance was curtailed due to a sudden change in the weather, making a quagmire out of the roads, and a slough around the Auditorium. Out of one dancing entry, five of the eight contestants were ill and unable to perform. A great deal of sickness. The reception for the adjudicators on Tuesday evening lacked the usual spontaneity and some are debating that the new dates which were changed from former years in May to March, might not be such a good idea. We hope to have from Marion Birley, a full dress report of this community affair next week.

10th ANNUAL

MUSIC, DANCING



Pro-Rec Hall and

MARCH

10th Annual

Music, Dancing and Elocution Festival

Pro-Rec Hall and High School Auditorium

March 28th, 29th and 30th

ADJUDICATORS:

MUSIC:

MR. RICHARD S. EATON,
Edmonton, Alberta

DANCING:

MISS PAT AUSTIN,
Edmonton, Alberta

ELOCUTION:

MRS. ANNE MANSON,
Dawson Creek, B. C.



10th Musical Festival Over ^{Apr 7, 1955} Five Trophies Not Contested

The tenth Annual community event closed on Wednesday evening with awards and trophies distributed for another year. A good many of the Festival entries were scratched at the last moment due to sickness and generally the 1955 effort suffered as a result of illness, weather conditions etc. However the Grand Finale was well attended, a large crowd turning out in a very muddy terrain to get to the Auditorium. The acoustics were disappointing, and hearing was not very good. Mrs. Hornick's Grade five at the School took top honours winning along with two more the Bowes and Herron Shield, the highest award of the Festival. Sharing it also were, Grade Six, Ian Currie teacher, and Sandra Scott of Dawson Creek. Mrs. Hornick's Grade Five also won the Gordon Moore Trophy for Town Choral Speech.

Five trophies were not presented because contestants were not forthcoming.

Other trophies awarded were: Co-op Victory Shield - High School Girl's Choir, Mrs. W. Lambly. Hudson's Hope Coal Mines - North Pine School, Mrs. Ross Smith. Hudson's Bay Company - No Presentation. Merlin Bunt Trophy - Grace Thompson, Dawson Creek, Tarantella, Mrs. D. Forster. Don Wright Trophy - No Presentation. R. H.

Rashleigh Trophy - Karleen Schubert, Donella Chiulli, Luan Bowes, Frances Sheward. Legion and Auxiliary Trophy - Norman Carlson, Fort St. John. Mrs. Dorothy Forster Trophy - Tarantella, Mrs. D. Forster, Mrs. C. Brooks. Mrs. Dorothy Forster Trophy - Reel O'Tulloch, Dawson Creek. Mrs. Dorothy Forster Trophy - No presentation. Ray Forster Trophy - Sandra Scott, Dawson Creek. Condill Hotel Trophy - No presentation. Canadian Utilities Shield - No presentation. Peace River North Festival Association - Dewayne Pomeroy, Peace River North Festival Association - Miss June Jackson. Peace River North Festival Association - Mrs. J. Mertler, Pine View.

Festival Ass'n. ^{MAY 19, 1955}

A new slate of officers was elected at the Peace River North Festival Association meeting of Monday, May 9th.

The new executive is as follows: President, Mr. "Doc" Aubrey; Vice-President, Mrs. F. Davies; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. J. Ked-dell; Drama, Mrs. H. Hazlett; Music, Rev. Mr. S. Self; Dancing, Mrs. C. C. Brooks; Elocution, Mrs. Maughan; Trophies, Mrs. J. Bremner; Reception, Mrs. F. Lornie; Programmes, Mr. J. W. Quelle.

"The Play's the Thing" At Fort St. John As Amateur Artists Make Winter Plans

Plans for the forthcoming season's activities in the amateur drama field of the North Peace Festival Association were speeded on their way with the work here for three days of Sydney Risk, Drama Supervisor, Extension Department, University of British Columbia.

Mr. Risk, who has had a successful career on the stage before taking up the work at University, is a native son of Vancouver, a talented and energetic artist who is bound to help develop the Canadian theatre.

At the auditorium at the Fort St. John School, Mr. Risk lectured to classes for three days. There were eight present on the final night who have written plays and have had them produced. Mr. Risk said that this was a most exciting achievement and marked Fort St. John as a sort of cradle of genius. (One visitor said that Fort St. John was becoming known as the Athens of the Peace River country.)

Many phases of play-writing were dealt with by Mr. Risk. Stage management, lighting, make-up were subjects of one session.

Department came in for a good going over and to the younger people Mr. Risk revealed many of the secrets of the finished actor or actress. He dealt with the body beautiful and the need of its being co-ordinated with the clean and sparkling mind and that bit of divinity in all mankind known as the soul. How drama influenced the thinking of a nation; how pageantry could be used to stimulate loyalty to home community and state — these were the more serious themes.

Local Artists Good Mimics

Mr. Risk introduced a novel scheme of teaching. He set up four groups from the class. Each was to go into a huddle for a few minutes, then to go to the stage and put on an example of pantomime. In other words they were to tell the story by signs and gestures, grimaces and other soundless, wordless methods.

Each of the four groups brought much applause. One in which Mesdames Dorothy Lornie, Dorothy Forester, Vernice Melvor and Georgina Keddell held the stage was highly amusing. Scene: Travelers Insurance office; Mrs. Lornie whacked away at an adding machine; Mrs. Keddell was switchboard operator, Mrs. Melvor went on typing letters, Mrs. Forester filing same. The "mime" was declared by Mr. Risk to be very good. The group was recalled to embellish the "mime" with words. The dialogue was a riot. Now the four are planning to write the act down and make it into a one-act play for next winter.

in a Hudson's Bay bargain count She "stole" a purse from Mrs. Mo Jackson and snatched phantom bssieres, panties and silk stocking which she stuffed into her waist and her pockets. A stern store detective, moving in the background with heavy, flat foot, soon to Mrs. Landers into custody. The pantomime was highly amusing a more so when Mr. Risk demanded words to match the various physical expressions which so vivid in themselves told the story.

Mr. Risk expressed satisfaction with the co-operation shown at Fort St. John and plans an early return. Meantime members are at work on several one-act plays for the forthcoming drama festival.

At the final session a hearty vote of thanks was moved by Mrs. Hazlett to the visiting lecturer.

Woman's Page

^{Sept 22, 1955} NORTH PEACE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

The first fall meeting of the Peace River North Festival Association was held in the Elementary School Staff Room on Tuesday, September 13th. There was a good attendance which included some of the new teaching staff. Mrs. Frank Davies occupied the chair in the absence of the President, Mr. R. J. Aubrey.

The secretary, Mrs. James Ked-dell, read the correspondence which included a letter from Mr. Walter Kaasa, accepting the position as adjudicator for the drama section of the festival in November. A great many people will remember Mr. Kaasa from two years ago when he gave actors, directors and the festival association so much encouragement for their efforts. Last year Mr. Kaasa won a scholarship under which he spent several months studying at the Old Vic in London, England.

It was decided that delegates from other organizations be invited to meet with Mr. Wallace of the Dept. of Education, for the purpose of discussing planned recreation, this meeting to take place

in the Village Office on Wednesday afternoon, September 28th at 2:30.

The matter of lighting was considered and it is hoped that more Fresnel lights would be obtained before the drama section of the festival.

The date of the music, dancing and elocution section of the festival was discussed and it was decided to set this date for the first week in May, providing this date would be agreeable with the school authorities.

Dr. George N. Cormack, as motor cop, rode an unseen motorcycle to bring to a sharp halt four ladies driving to a non-existent bridge party in a wheel-less chassisless vehicle. The cop halted the driver and after examining the unseen driver's license, waved them foursome on their way with stern warning. The four: Mrs. Mil Hazlett, Mrs. Cavers, Mrs. Iris D. and Mary Boughen. When the conversation was added to the pantomime, the whale act became most amusing.

It's pretty hard to be a grandfather's clock. But Brian Palm managed it in due and ancient form with his arm as the pendulum his frozen face as the clock face. Jeanne Taylor went so far as to wind this "Clock" In this a Mrs. Margaret Davie was the rich old lady, Jeanne the servant and Mrs. Jean Schoenberger the "candle". It was very clever tableau work of Charlie Chaplin in the days of "The London Music Hall."

Mrs. Tony Landers made a very upset shoplifter when apprehending

Oct 6, 1955

"TWO FOR COMPANY"

An exciting show business 'first' is to visit Fort St. John this coming fall.

On Saturday, November 5, 1955, the Peace River North Festival Association will present at the high school auditorium a professional theatrical production entitled "Two for Company", co-starring Mr. Eric Christmas, the internationally famous stage, radio and television performer, and Miss Anna Reiser, the brilliant young Canadian actress.

"Two for Company" will be a sparkling two-hour Theatre Party filled with laughs — for which Eric Christmas is famous — balanced by suspenseful drama, with a



ERIC CHRISTMAS

touch of sentiment thrown in for good measure.

Mr. Christmas will be readily known to CBC radio and TV fans. During the last seven years he has performed on over one thousand network productions, playing parts ranging from the fabulous "Madam Hoomperdink" on the Wayne and Shuster Show to starring in dramatic roles on many of the CBC Wednesday Night and Stage series of broadcasts.

Miss Reiser has recently returned from Europe to electrify Canadian TV viewers with her performances in such productions as



ANNA REISER

'The Leonardi Code' and 'Drought', both of which were acclaimed by Toronto critics.

Mr. Christmas and Miss Reiser have long felt that first-class Canadian talent should be seen in person throughout the country in communities large and small, and therefore they have combined their acting talents into an evening of comedy skits and dramatic scenes under the title of "Two for Company" — the kind of program that Ruth Draper and Charles Laughton have made famous all over the world.

For many communities "Two for Company" will be the first high-calibre professional performance to be seen in several decades, and Mr. Christmas and Miss Reiser look forward to making many new friends on their tour, with the hope that it will be the forerunner of future presentations under their direction.

The tour will cover 8,000 miles, with nearly forty towns to be visited, from Timmins, Ontario to Prince Rupert, B.C.

The response to the announcement of the tour has been wonderful and both Mr. Christmas and Miss Reiser are proud to see that Canada is so solidly behind its own excellent talent.

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To Appear Here Nov 6

OCT 27, 1955



MISS ANNA REISER

Miss Anna-Reiser combines those two essentials of dramatic talent, instinctive truth and technical control. These qualities, allied to a natural poise, make her potentially the most exciting actress in this country.

Although a native born Canadian, Miss Reiser has brought to her acting the influence of England and France, where she has studied and travelled in recent years.

On leaving school in Toronto Miss Reiser was faced with the choice of continuing with University studies or turning to the stage as a career. Despite the promise of a brilliant University training, she followed her instinctive calling and started theatre studies in Toronto.

Miss Reiser sailed to England after a year of local study and continued her training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

Her student performances created great interest among London theatrical producers and Miss Reiser was offered a number of dramatic roles in England.

These she declined in favor of further study and travel in France.

of comedy and dramatic presentations, under the title of "Two for Company".

"Two for Company" is to tour the country from Toronto to Prince Rupert, B.C. this fall and should prove a stimulating and amusing show. Miss Reiser and Mr. Christmas will be appearing in town on November 6, 8:45 p.m., at the High School Auditorium, under the sponsorship of North Peace Festival Association.

and Miss Reiser returned from France to Canada just over a year ago.

Her natural talents were quickly recognised by Mr. Andrew Allan, the CBC Drama Producer and Miss Reiser was soon playing leads on radio plays in Toronto. Radio part lead to Television appearances and Miss Reiser has been highly praised for her leading roles in "The Leonardi Code", "Drought" and other Television dramas.

Anna Reiser shares with Mr. Eric Christmas a belief in the need for first-class professional talent to visit the many thousands of Canadians who constitute the national radio and TV audience, and therefore they have prepared an evening

15 YEARS AGO — OCTOBER 6, 1955

PLANS ARE BEING LAID for great activity by the North Peace Festival Association. Sidney Risk lectured to classes for three days and eight original plays were presented.

Oct 20, 1955

To Appear Here Nov. 6th



ERIC CHRISTMAS

"Two for Company", the Eric Christmas-Anna Rieser show, which will appear here November 6th, at 8:45 p.m., High School Auditorium, will bring to show-lovers a lively two-hour program chosen from the outstanding dramatic repertoires of these two fine Canadian actors.

Eric Christmas made his first appearance as a performer while still at school. The President of the School Board of Governors was chosen as Lord Mayor of London in 1927, and the twelve-year-old Eric took a part in the Lord Mayor's Show, the famous London Pageant that puts the Lord Mayor into office each November.

Having had his theatrical appetite whetted, Mr. Christmas never allowed his thoughts or dreams to wander very far from the footlights.

On leaving school, he won a Scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, the famous English theatrical academy that has nurtured such famous names as Charles Laughton, James Mason, Margaret Lockwood, Sir Laurence Olivier and many hundreds of others.

Britain with "Bitter Sweet", and then received on invitation to return to London to play in the Royal Command Performance at the London Palladium before their Majesties King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth.

This great honor led to many offers, and until the outbreak of war. Mr. Christmas was one of the busiest actors in London, playing on stage, radio and the early pioneer days of British TV.

At the beginning of the War, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force, and was soon actively engaged in putting on Air Force shows all over the fighting fronts.

At the end of hostilities, Mr. Christmas was featured as leading comedian at the world-famous Windmill Theatre in Piccadilly Circus and this established him as a name in theatrical London.

But a spirit of adventure had always moved him forward, and in 1948 Eric Christmas broke away from English theatre and sailed for Canada, a move he has never regretted, because on the Canadian scene he found a range of work that had never been open to him in

Oct 27, 1955
ERIC CHRISTMAS and Anna Rieser will appear here on November 6 in "Two for Company," sponsored by the North Peace Festival Association and promises an exciting theatrical experience.

Oct 27, 1955
ERIC CHRISTMAS AND Anna Rieser will appear here on November 6 in 'Two for Company', sponsored by the North Peace Festival Association. It promises an exciting theatrical experience.

THE NORTH PEACE FESTIVAL AS 1955

High School Auditorium

BY WALTER KAASA

November 24-25-26

Two years at the R. A. D. gave Mr. Christmas a solid foundation on which to build an acting career. On leaving the Academy as an Honour Graduate he worked as Assistant Stage Manager in a number of English repertory theatres and eventually progressed to the point where he was playing small parts.

His talent for comedy was soon noticed by London producers and he spent a year playing a leading comedy role in Noel Coward's famous Musical, "Bitter Sweet".

Eric Christmas toured all over

England.

From 1948 to the present day Mr. Christmas has played over 1,200 parts on stage, radio and TV in Canada — parts ranging from "Madam Hoomperdink" on the Wayne and Shuster Show to the Gravedigger in the 2-hour version of "Hamlet", the most ambitious CBC Television production to date.

He has been described by the Canadian magazine "Saturday Night" as the most versatile comedian on the CBC roster, and his talent for dramatic interpretation has been well established in numerous roles.

In answer to the call of progress Mr. Christmas is touring the country this fall from Toronto to the coast of northern B.C., presenting first-class professional theatre to dozens of communities all over the country.

He is presenting an evening of comedy, drama and sentiment — a two hour theatre party entitled "Two for Company" — in which he will be partnered by Miss Anna Rieser, the brilliant young Canadian actress.

Mr. Christmas and Miss Rieser will be visiting this community on November 6, 8:45 p.m., in the High School Auditorium under the sponsorship of North Peace Festival Association and they bring with them the promise of an exciting theatrical experience.

Nov. 10, 1955

ONE MAN SHOW WINS PLAUDITS Mr. CHRISTMAS TALENTED ARTIST

More than 400 turned out to hear Eric Christmas, the famous actor, who appeared in the High School Auditorium under the auspices of the Peace River North Festival Association. Despite the fact that it was Sunday night, the attraction went over exceedingly well and officers of the association expressed their thanks to those who turned out to hear Mr. Christmas. Owing to a highway motor accident, Miss Anna Reiser was not able to appear on the stage. Despite this, Mr. Christmas carried on alone and the applause which was given him showed that his great talents were appreciated. While some tickets were sold, the executive depended upon the collection at the door for revenue with which to meet expenses and were well pleased with the generous contributions given.

Interpreter Of Dickens

Uriah Heap has never been better revealed than by Mr. Christmas. The artist portrayed Heap for what he was, a snivelling, lying, smoothie, who pretended to be the friend of David Copperfield but was out to do David dirt whenever Copperfield's back was turned. When Charles Dickens created

Uriah Heap, he advertised a type of scoundrel active on every hand even in the atomic age. Christmas showed how Uriah Heap "soaped" his hands while getting off his 'umble lying.

There are Uriah Heaps today at United Nations, in Houses of Parliament, in Legislatures and City and Town councils, on school boards and church boards. They pretend to be so very modest and so sincere and so very, very humble. They are wicked spirits in black clothing and white linen, authors of half the woes that the world knows. You can deal with a straight, out and out sinner, but not with an oily, soapy hypocrit, out to put a dagger in your back when opportunity offers. The portrayal of Heap, we repeat, was of the highest quality.

Dickens provided Mr. Christmas with another good vehicle in the sketch from the Tale of Two Cities. As the hero walks to the guillotine, he knows that despite the blackness of his past, he is now laying down his life for his neighbor — "doing a far better thing than I have ever done".

The Little Nell story was also delightful and brought back to older persons in the audience memories of other actors in other times.

Harold At Hastings

In comedy, Mr. Christmas was very good. His recitation of King Harold at Hastings, with his 'awk upon his 'and brought much applause. Humorous treatment of this great event should help students to recall more vividly the Battle of Hastings, the date and story.

The artists's recitation featuring the Old War Veteran at the Chelsea Infirmary in London was supposed to be amusing but there was a thread of stark tragedy which ran through it which could have brought tears to sensitive persons whose families have been decimated by various wars which were fought by men who often didnot know where they were fighting or for what they were fighting. A flock of medals for it all and a chair in the Old Chelsea Hospital where a veteran could play checkers and forget — and wait for the end. It's different these days and the veteran gets some recognition at least and every time the Old Chelsea figure is brought up it should direct more attention to a war veterans' problem.

Mr. Christmas kept his audience in rounds of laughter with his witty verses and anecdotes. One wondered how one actor could possibly remember so many lines. He was well labelled a "one man company"

Shakespearean Actor

Prior to offering selections from Shakespeare, Mr. Christmas, urged his audience to learn more of the work at Stratford, Ont., of Canadians building up a new interest in Shakespeare and of making substantial contribution to the creation of a Canadian Theatre. He said that Stratford, Ont., was now world famous in the theatrical sense for its summer presentations of plays under huge tents in the manner of the production in the days of Will Shakespeare himself more than 300 years ago.

Nov 17, 1955

Merchants Close For Sat. Drama. Kaasa Adjudicator Popular Choice

With less than a week to go, the members of the North Peace Drama groups are entering the last lap of practices, preparations and plans for the annual Drama event of the year and for the most original effort of self expression we have in our neighborhood. Our Drama has become provincially famous and we still hold the cup for the most outstanding contribution to drama in the province. This year of 1955 is going to be the best one yet. As time goes on and amateurs who write up the plays and then those who take the parts and act them out are getting more proficient as time goes on. It is the easiest thing of all for the audience to just go and watch what has taken long hours of thought and writing, or application to words and memorizing, to say nothing of the interpretation the directors have sweat over in bringing out the best there is in the actors and the script.

The regular meeting of the Peace River North Festival Association was held in the Elementary School Staff Room.

Sylvia Stuby, Billy Musson, Clifford Adams and Mary Davies were the winners of the prizes given for ticket sales for the Eric Christmas show.

As this was the last meeting before the drama festival, November 24, 25 and 26, there was much dischssion re: stage curtains, lights, make-up, etc.

It was decided that Saturday evening would be the most suitable time for the reception for the adjudicator, plans for which are well on the way to completion.

A schedule of practice periods is being drawn up by Mrs. H. Hazlett, Drama Convener. Anyone desiring to practice in the rec hall or the auditorium should contact Mrs. Hazlett regarding time.

The Festival program will be out this weekend it is expected. Mrs. Millie Hazlett is the director of the Program and with the help of John Quelle of the News, who by the way designed the cover this year is knee-deep in details. It is quite an honour to design the cover, and for many years it was done by Carl Schubert with Dr. Cormack kibitzing. Last year, it was a display of Northern Lights on a black ink-back-drop and very clever, which was obtained by photographic manoeuvres but which went over a good many heads. This year the it is in crimson and lime, and definite 'Drama'. A good looking cover it is though, and bound to be a favorite with the fans who

over now and shoppers and patrons who will co-operate will find the storekeepers if all others are eager to close at 8 p.m. on November 26th instead of nine as usual.

FESTIVAL ORIGIN
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buy the programs for souvenirs and send them away to relatives and friends. There are usually a great many peoples names printed in the program of many different plays, last year eighteen.

It looks like fifteen plays for this year and Jean Taylor, public convener has been kind enough to supply some inside and advance hints of what to expect.

"The Voyageur's Ruse" is the title of this year's play by Mary Davies. This play is about the lives of the early settlers in the year 1763, who spent much of their time shooting the rapids between Montreal and Grand Portage.

Vernice McIvor has chosen "White Bird Flying" as the name of her play which is centered around a refugee camp in Germany.

The Three Bears from Bear Flats are presenting George Bernard Shaw's "Androcles and the Lion".

"The Patch Work Quilt", the play to be entered from the Charl Lake group has included in its cast Mrs. George Dodd, winner of last year's award for the best senior actress.

The all male cast of Doctor Cormack's play "The Purloined Pig" are learning much regarding law and order in the hinterland.

With November 24th, 25th and 26th, which is next Thursday, Friday and Saturday being the days the hope is expressed that the stores will close at 8 p.m. Saturday night for the staff and shoppers to make sure and take in this night. It will be the last and the biggest of all and the adjudicator, Mr. Walter Krassa is worth the price of admission. Therefore the Merchants' Association are mulling

ALASKA

DAVIES Frank (1089) 10-56

ELEVENTH ANNUAL DRAMA FESTIVAL

Three Days Of Theatre Now Open Local Players Appear In Own Plays

"Drama" was on everyone's lips around Fort St. John as folks awaited the opening of the Eleventh Annual Drama Festival, Thursday, Nov. 24 at the High School Auditorium.

The show goes on for three nights with matinees Friday and Saturday. Tonight is a triple header. "The Three Bears from Bear Flat" present a "Prologue to Androcles and the Lion". Charlie Lake Drama group offer "The Patch Work Quilt". The Fort St. John Little Theatre swing wide the doors on "The Purloined Pig".

The fine artistic programme issued by the Peace River North Festival Association tells us that all three plays are by local writers. The Androcles is based on the George Bernard Shaw work with local original additions. It is humorously referred to as by "courtesy of Barnum and Bazeley". M. G. Bazeley and Mrs. Helen P. Robinson are the outstanding artists.

"Patch work quilt" by Rachel Field and directed by Stella M. Ronaghan, is a touching little fantasy, centering round an old woman's love for her patch work quilt. Each square in it meant so much to the dear old lady. We haven't read the script but can realize that here is a homely, lovely medium for a good bit of drama. In the cast: Mrs. George Dodd, Jeane Neilson, Bob Angus, Judy Brodoway, Evelyn Zoerb, John Quelle and Joyce Bouffieux. It is on Thursday night.

Dr. Cormack Writes Again

"The Purloined Pig" is the amusing title of what must be a screamingly funny story about law and justice — a vignette of the north country. The story will be revealed Thursday night to the rocking of the building with loud laughter, according to one report. Here are the responsible artists: Dan Spicer, G. N. Cormack, Sam Davidson, Bill Blais and Paul Odmatt.

Friday afternoon we have three choice contributions: "The Candy Kidd" by Fort St. John Elementary Schol, original play by Carol Retallack, directed by Gail McIvor. The foursome: Charlene Holmes, Patsy Painter, Carol Retallack and Alan Shevkenek.

North Peace High School presents "Beauty or Beast" an original by Karen McRae. With Miss McRae

Olsonberg and Bill Johnson.

This is a Canadian play which will live and everyone believes that the cast will fully do justice to Mrs. Davies' rugged story.

Vernice McIvor's Offering

Bringing matters sharply up to date is the play of Vernice McIvor, where the scene is a German camp where displaced persons are handled. The story awaits, but Mrs. McIvor handles with great delicacy and feeling this tragic period in the Post War world.

"The White Bird Flying" is the title. Director: Dorothy Forester.

Where Is Betsy?

This is Old Ontario, about 1830. William Lyon McKenzie has not yet got his rebellion going. The Zorra pioneers were still in Sutherland and were beginning to save for the voyage to America. Betsy is planning to elope down the Governor's Road with Matthew Richmond.

D. J. Dickie is the author and Mildred Hazlett directs a play which is built around pioneer Canadian conditions. Dramatic personae: Bobbie McLaughlin, Alta Grace Peace, Calvin Netterfield, Patsy Painter, Frances Sheward, Donelia Chiulli, Reuben Ordell and Marion Foster, Gerald Abel and Donna Foster, Marlene Propochuk, Lance Cutihill, Elmer Westergard. Read those names over again and link them up with the various blood lines that are making the new nation of Canada and you will realize why this is a very significant play.

"The Scalping Party" is another Saturday afternoon play. Carl Schubert wrote it and he directs it. It is pure Canadiana. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the mighty explorer, is the central figure. Wayne Gretzinger impersonates the dashing, adventurous young Mackenzie who camped here in 1793 and created Fort St. John. You have the charming Karleen Schubert, Minema Mucci and pretty Patsy Chiulli to make up the cast. We hear the story calls for more mature players. Be that as it may, it is a play which should live.

Workshop 59, Dawson Creek presents "Overlaid". This was written by Robertson Davies. It is directed by Anne Manson and Mrs. D. Tillemans. Walter Shane, Betty McKie and Kenneth Wier tell the story.

are the following, Rose Marie Hamilton. Ken Cheesman, Norman Ross, Tom Moran and Norman Meunier. George Smith directs this student-written, student-directed play.

Friday Night's Bill

First on the billing tomorrow night is the Fort St. John Players' original effort "It's How You Walk". This springs from a spasm of pantomime recently presented when Sydney Risk of the University of B. C. was here on official rounds. Five ladies take part in this play, each having written her own lines—Dorothy Lornie, Dorothy Forester, Vernice McIvor, Dianna Brooks and Georgina Kedell.

"Nobody's Child", an orphanage story comes on Friday night with a large cast. Roslyn McCrae wrote and directs the play. Taking part are: Dorothy Hosker, Linda McRae, Clark McRae, Roy Lefler, Jim McCrae, Anne Lefler, Alana Lefler, Larry Pimm, Bessie Holmes and Budd Hosker, Audrey Welden and Ricky Mucci, Karen McCrae and Floyd Erickstad, Alvin Hosker, Terry McCrae.

Workshop 59, Dawson Creek, presents the "Invisible Worm", directed by Miss Kench. Barbara Desprez is the wife in this play, Andrew Soles, the hubby and Alan Dainard the family doctor. The story has to do with evolving a manless world.

Saturday evening should be a full one as three fine plays are presented. "The Voyageur's Ruse" by Marguerite C. Davies is a story of Canada in 1763 when Beaver Hall Hill Montreal was the counting house for the great west and north. Furs ruled and the voyageurs were the knight errants of those days. From Montreal to Hudson's Hope was their field and in this vast empire the scene is laid for this original Fort St. John play. It is directed by Jean Gross. The players: Yolande Lepine, June Jackson, Larry Solodan, Ted James, Sig

Rounding out Saturday night offering is Workshop 59, Dawson Creek. Jay Tobias is the author of "Carrs to the Rescue". Here again Anne Manson directs and she always does an excellent job. Interpreting "The Rescue" are G. Leeds, Tiny Soles, Winnifred Howes, Marion Boyd, R. H. C. Musens, Joan Gray, Joan Graham and Margaret Ballantyne.

Adjudicator at the festival (Continued on Page 8)

DRAMA FESTIVAL Nov 24, 1955

Continued from page 1

Mr. Walter Kaasa, Director of Drama Victoria Composite School, Edmonton, Alta.

Turn to the official programme for further details of this remarkable achievement. Buy yourself a copy of the programme as soon as it comes. It is an artistic thing, a useful record of the plays which go on or the rest of this week.

Has Steadily Grown

Since 1946, the festival has steadily improved. Launched as it was in the old Carlsonia Theatre and Elk's Hall, many handicaps had to be overcome. But the "show must go on" and the next year was continued there. Fire drove the festival from pillar to post. It now is properly housed in the High School Auditorium. Lighting has been improved and the large stage gives an excellent setting for the plays. Seating accommodations ample and heating is good. There is ample parking space for motorists. So that it makes a first class evening for those who desire to help along by their presence the aspiring young artists who have already made the name of Fort St. John known in far distant places or support of the drama. Just as Stratford, Ont., is gradually gaining world wide publicity for its Shakespeare plays, so will Fort St. John in due time be widely known for its interest in the Canadian theatre.

Stores Close Saturday Night

Local merchants will close Saturday night to enable everyone to see the grand finale and enjoy the closing events of the festival. A reception will be held at the conclusion. Social engagements have planned around the festival and many outside visitors are expected to come to town to share in the excitement.

Officers Are Optimistic

Mrs. Millicent Hazlett, who is program director expressed confidence that the festival would be something worthy of the best support of the community.

"There has been great effort put into every one of the plays being produced," Mrs. Mazlett said, "and we are hopeful that this year will exceed all previous efforts. Everyone has shown the greatest spirit of co-operation and while we have given a great deal towards making it a success, they in turn will gain a great deal of genuine pleasure from having the eleventh annual festival top all previous efforts."

DRAMA FESTIVAL

(Continued From Page 1)

Mr. Kaasa's third play of the play of the festival, not his fifteenth, and he was more lenient with the cast, though he gave the author a bad time for his role as the prosecuting attorney.

Carol Retallack, author-actress in "The Candy Kid", a junior original entry, won the award for the best junior girl actress. Mr. Kaasa felt that Carol had written a lovely little play, simple yet clever. Director of this play was 12 year old Gail McIvor, herself a talented little actress, who did an outstanding job as the girl twin in her mother's "White Bird Flying."

New Talent Developed

Two brand new playwrights, mother and daughter, contributed to this year's festival — Mrs. Howard McCrae, and her daughter, Karen. Mrs. McCrae's "Nobody's Child" found its theme in the adoption of a child, and the "home" youngsters performing were delightful, as young children usually are. The technical faults of the play were brought out, and were no more numerous, nor greater blunders than those committed by the McIvors and the Davies of several years ago.

Karen McCrae's "Beauty — or Beast?", another first attempt

original play, showed plenty of talent in the author's pen, but the adjudicator suggested that she choose a theme with which she has had experience. He felt that the psychological study of an unbalanced woman was too difficult a task for a sixteen-year-old. But everyone hopes Karen will carry on with her writing after such a sincere effort as a beginner.

Another of the plays, which goes under the "original" heading was "It's How You Walk," the result of the Sidney Risk Dramatic Course held here in September. This play was the joint effort of the five ladies who took part, each suggesting lines for themselves, and directing their respective roles. This play was done without props, a regular panting "mime", and the audience laughed in all the right places. The adjudicator appeared to enjoy judging this play more than all the rest — probably because he knew its background, and because he hadn't read the script! All the cast were members of the Festival Committee, and were amply awarded by laughs from out front.

Carl Schubert was thoroughly taken to task by Mr. Kaasa for his junior original play this year "The Scalping Party". This was a sweet little play, beautifully set and costumed, but after Mr. Schubert's "Daughters of the Sea" and other efforts, both adjudicator and audience looked for something more typical of the author. However, the children in this play were wonderful. Their diction and delivery was a joy. The dancing was good too. The whole thing was polished and well prepared. The idea was good — possibly the bobby sox style of dialogue was what the adjudicator didn't like. Nor did he think that the Mackenzie epic was a fit theme for comedy. The wee hero Wayne Gretzinger played his part well, had his lines perfect and his Scottish burr well emery-papered.

Workshop 59 Is Tops

Dawson Creek's entry "The Invisible Worm", a hilarious half hour with a psycho who figures that all things real are fast disappearing from the earth, and furthermore that women will soon take over and do everything, was the winner of the award for the best adult play. This was an exceedingly popular win. Kitty Kench of Dawson directed, and can take her trophy home to England today — she leaves today for a holiday abroad. It retained for Mr. Andrew Soles of Dawson Creek, a talented gentleman, the best adult actor award. Deidre Sandy and Bill Smith won the intermediate class actress and actor award for their performance in "Bobby pulls up her socks", directed by Miss Horner. This play also won the best intermediate play award. Mrs. Harry Hazlett directed the best junior play "Where is Betsy?" This was Cana-

25 YRS AGO, NOV. 20, 1955

DRAMA. An original play won the 1955 award as the best contribution and was written by Marguerite Davies, a Canadian motif, 'Voyageurs' Ruse.' The top adult actress award went to June Jackson who played in it. Deardrie Sandy won the Junior Oscar as the best in the No. 2 Class, and Andrew Soles of Dawson Creek took the top award for the best adult actor.

It was interesting to note that nearly a hundred fowl, big and little, and all kinds were cooked up for the wedding feast. After the very large company was served, there were still 25 birds left over for the midnight supper, which was served in proper style but taken 'country etiquette' in one hand, with a bun in the other.

There were 15 plays presented, seven of them written especially for the festival. Adjudicator Walter Kaasa warmly complimented the village and the people on the outstanding talent and probably the only place in Canada where such enthusiasm and co-operation exist. Nearly 2,000 admissions were taken to the five performances.

25 YRS AGO-DEC 2, 1955

DRAMA FIESTA. The Eleventh Fort St. John Drama Festival produced three excellent original plays, in the opinion of the adjudicator, Mr. Walter Kaasa of Edmonton. It enjoyed even audiences of at least 300 people on each of three of the coldest November nights anyone can remember for years (circa -15 to 120) and adequate afternoon audiences for the junior plays. It was altogether a rewarding effort to the festival committee, and a wonderful success from a community point of view. The three outstanding original adult plays were George Cormack's 'The Purlioned Pig,' Vernice McIvor's 'White Bird Flying' and Marguerite Davies' 'The Voyageur's Ruse.' The award going to Mrs. Davies.

dian to the core and Mrs. H won praise from the adjud and the plaudits of the aud

The Executive of the Peace Drama Festival extend thanks to the citizens of the without whose enthusiastic port, the Festival could not exist. To the heads of committees and their helpers, notably to Mrs. Harry Hazlett who headed the Drama Committee, and carried a very heavy assignment. To Mrs. Fred Lornie and helpers for the delightful reception which followed the Saturday night session. To the cadets who ran and fetched and ushered and were most helpful. To Mr. John Quelle for his work on the programme, and at the auditorium. To Mrs. Sheward for acting as secretary to the adjudicator through all sessions. And to Mrs. Multhorpe of the Home Economics Dept., whose work at the Festival Reception is certainly above and beyond the call of duty.

Any preview of the arrangements for the festival would not be complete without reference to the work of John Quelle in assisting in the lighting arrangements for the festival. Mr. Quelle is himself taking a part in the presentation of the Charlie Lake group. His skill as a technician has been taken advantage of by the committee and he is gaining world wide publicity for his Shakespeare plays, so will Fort St. John in due time be widely known or its interest in the Canadian theatre.

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DRAMA FESTIVAL A CREDIT TO COMMUNITY

This is the Eleventh Annual Drama Festival of the North Peace. It is a credit to the committees in charge of it and to the many young people who are taking part in it. Merchants and business men are thoughtfully closing up shop Saturday night so that all may share in the festival.

The plays have been written here and being enacted by young amateurs. It may be that history is also being written here. No other community in Canada, of this size, is expressing itself so ably in amateur drama.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO BE PROUD OF

Dec 8, 1955

Fort St. John Wins Fresh Laurels In Eleventh Annual Drama Fiesta

(By G. M. K.)

The Eleventh Fort St. John Drama Festival has come and gone. It produced three excellent original plays, in the opinion of the adjudicator. It presented three or four dozen players who are growing up theatrically, though many of us have yet a long way to go! It enjoyed even audiences of at least 300 people on each of three of the coldest November nights anyone can remember for years (circa -15 to 120) and adequate afternoon audiences for the junior plays. It was altogether a rewarding effort to the Festival Committee, and a wonderful success from a community point of view.

While the standard and tone of the festival has risen several notches from the point of view of play writing and production, what struck this reporter as even more significant was the reaction and behaviour of the audience which has also taken on an added sense of discrimination, and a new sophistication. Gone are the days of three or four years ago, when children crowded the front rows and swung from the rafters so to speak, while mother and dad held the younger children, shushing them and comforting them as the evening advanced. The children who attended this year's session didn't seem to be there, so well behaved were they. Perhaps the new and imposing High School Auditorium has something to do with it. Perhaps the plays were better and held the interest of the juniors more closely. In any case, the audience was warm, responsive and altogether

were plenty of wet eyes in the audience, and Fort St. Johnner generally felt it was good entertainment. Not one of the actor had been on a stage more than twice, and for most it was a first attempt. The junior actor awarded was made in this play to Master Clarence Hazlett for his excellent portrayal of the eleven year old boy twin.

George Cormack's "Pig" was a lovely bit of western Canadiana written about a court case at Peace River in 1910. All it needed was the addition of a Bob Edwards newspaper report to make it even more delicious early Alberta comedy. But alas, Edwards would be down in Midnapore or someplace about that time, so Cormack had to get along without him. This was

(Continued on Page 5)

wonderful. Indeed, they individually can take credit for the success of the Drama Festival. Without them, it would be a dismal and uninspired affair.

Mr. Walter Kaasa of Edmonton Sends Adjudicator

the adjudicator, and by now an old friend of the Festival, has recently returned from a year's study abroad, where he has picked a few more letters after his name. He was a much sterner adjudicator than two years ago, and undoubtedly he found this assignment considerably more difficult than in former years. He was kindly and indulgent as ever with beginners, whether writers or actors — but he was rough on those whom he felt capable of better things. His opinions were not those of the audience in some instances, but mostly they were popular.

The three outstanding original adult plays were George Cormack's "The Purloined Pig", Vernice McIvor's "White Bird Flying" and Marguerite Davies' "The Voyageur's Ruse", the award going to Mrs. Davies. It is hard to say which of these three very different plays Mr. Kaasa liked best, but Mrs. Davies' finished production was no doubt the smoothest of the three. This play was directed by Mrs. Frank Gross and was a rolling half hour of early Canada, a standout. It won for June Jackson the best adult actress award. Mrs. McIvor's very dramatic and poignant tragedy, in the opinion of the adjudicator, was worthy of professional, and possibly his disappointment with the treatment of such an excellent writing effort caused the toughness of the adjudication of the cast. Actually the

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

FESTIVAL ORIGINS
1955 p 4

Dec. 22, 1955

Curtain Is Rung Down On Good Year; Drama Takes Top Place

In looking back over the year of activities, the one thing which stands out as involving the most people, giving the most pleasure to so many and affecting hundreds of others in one way or the other, is not hard to name in our opinion and we believe that the Drama Festival in its eleventh year has contributed more to the general good than any other one thing.

Musical and drama effort were combined for the first festival in 1946 and Maisie Staake, Della Cut-hill, Marie Bougie, Pat Bazeley, Ida Titus and a couple of young service girls, one we remember as Ruth Bremner, including this scribe presented a bit of drama. Roberta MacLean was also in this. Everyone was too busy or too new at the idea to learn lines and the atmosphere wasn't such as today when the fascination of drama would have just naturally drawn these women into learning lines. In depicting a century of progress made by women in the Peace, we had ten who took an era and stepped into a frame

while a voice read the commen-tary in the shadows of the cur-tain. It was a poor effort but it started a ball a-rolling which is gathering more weight and sub-stance as it goes on from year to year when it reached such heights this year as to turn over a new leaf.

Following every festival wheth-er drama or music, the readers are so feverish to get the reports on them that we haven't time to send out prints and get pictures made. This year we covered the Drama Festival quite fully and now we are presenting three pic-tures for three worthy efforts even if they were not the prize winning ones. We took the "Patch work Quilt", a sweet bit of fan-tasy which was played by the winning actress of last year, Mrs. Dodds. It was a royalty play and practised and presented by the Charlie Lake Players. It was a hard part for Mrs. Dodds as she is naturally a bouncing vivacious character and to be portrayed in a simple old woman whose mem-ory was gone was a very difficul-thing to do. Mrs. Rhonigan who directed it, had the misfortune to have her caste interrupted and her players changed, but even all that the "PQ" a well known royalty, was worthy of picturizing.

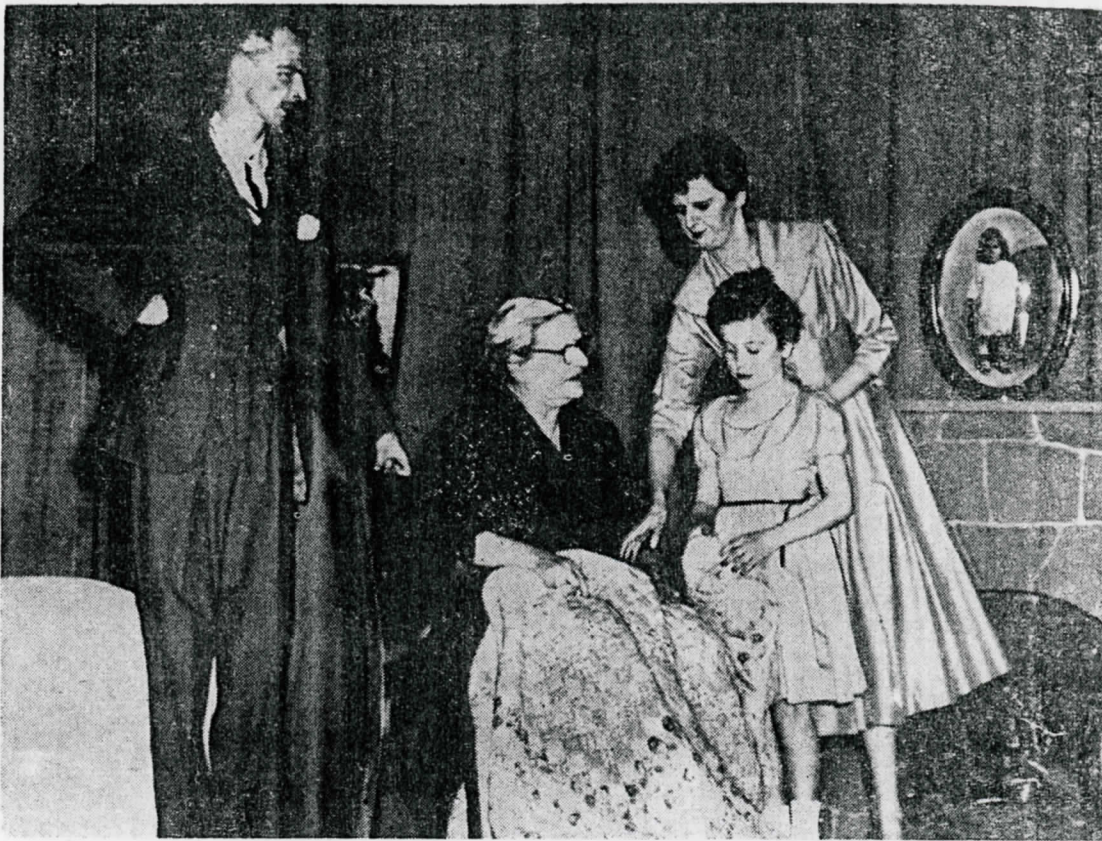
We selected the "Scalpin Party" an original written by Carl Schubert, who almost got scalped himself by the adjudicator be-cause it didn't meet with the man's expectations, but we liked it, thought it was well taken and certainly the juvenile player earned an award in the best prac-ticed and memorized lines. If the great explorer saw it or came in this day and age, it was a likeable happening and would have given him a good laugh.

We selected "White Bird Flying" an original by Vernice McIvor, another play which came in for considerable drubbing but which earned merit both from the play-ers and from the initiative and talent of the contributor. This tra-gic bit of acting would have been hard to win any laurels where most people want everything the look at to be assuring and ending like story books should. A bit of honest life with it defeat and woes was not out of place even though it failed to come off the script or win any oscars. We saw in Mr. Pressley, a valuable addi-tion to the Drama group, we sym-



— Photo by Schubert

(Continued on Page 13)



TOP:

From left to right: Robert Angus, Mrs. Dodds, Jean Neilson and Judy Brodway in a touching scene in this favorite royalty "The Patchwork Quilt". Others in this caste were John Quelle, Eveline Zoreb and Joyce Bouffieux.

CENTER:

From left to right: Gail McIvor, Mollie Jackson, Clark Hazlett and Iris Dick. The only other member of this cast in the original play written by Vernice McIvor was Kenneth Pressley and the scene is laid in the rehabilitation office of the United Nations.

BOTTOM:

From left to right: Karlere Schubert, Wayne Gretsinger and Mimeo Mucci, in a comedy skit written around Alexander Mackenzie, explorer, who came to the bank of the Peace in 1955 and was met by a band of young rapscale lions who snared him into a trap, tied him to a tree, threatened him with scalping. The other member of the caste was Patsy Chuilli.



CONT. Dec 22, 1955

— Photo by Schubert

DRAMA FESTIVAL

(Continued From Page 12)

pathize with Mollie Jackson who did more than some in trying a teutonic impersonation with a natural Scottish burr. Iris Dick was superb as the dubious one and we are glad the children were oscar-ed but then children are children.

In the final fling at the wonderful effort and great success the Drama Festival was, the Committee also regrets that some of those were not mentioned who added so much to it all. One was Harry Chryll who was a faithful stage manager for the entire session which he did for a labor of love. Others whose names are not before us can take this "thank you" also from the Festival Committee.

after our Canadian ones. The sailing from Southampton on the "Batory" was very gay and we found ourselves to be travelling with passengers about three-quarters of whom were Indian. This was very good for the girls as they became good friends with many of them. In fact their closest friend on ship lives in Amritsar and her father is an eye-specialist who has just returned from studying in England. He is Carolanne's Doctor and has checked her

eyes and reports her operation a good success, and holds hope she may one day do without glasses! We went ashore en route at Gibraltar, Port Said, Aden and Karachi and arrived at Bombay exactly one month after leaving Montreal. Such a wonderful feeling when we had our first glimpse of India -- relief, excitement, anxiety, and pleasure, all in one feeling! We had eight days in Bombay before we could get passage all

together on the train north. We spent most of the time sightseeing and exploring the fascinating bazaars and shops. The most striking things to me in Bombay were (Continued on Page 13)

15 YEARS AGO — MARCH 24, 1955

TICKETS ARE ON SALE for the 10th annual festival. Adjudicators are music, Richard Seaton; dancing Patricia Austin; elocution, Anne Manson. The clever cover for the festival program was drawn by Miss Jean Taylor.

20 YRS AGO — APRIL 9, 1955

AS THE TENTH annual community music festival drew to a close, five trophies were found to be not contested as competition in those categories was not forthcoming.

"A good many of the Festival entries had to be scratched due to sickness, weather conditions, and such."

15 YEARS AGO — AUGUST 3, 1955

A SHORT COURSE in drama has been arranged by the Fort St John Festival Association. Sidney Rick of the department of extension, university of British Columbia will be the instructor.

TICKETS ON sale for 10th annual festival, adjudicators, music, Richard Seaton; dancing, Miss Pat Austin; elocution, Mrs Anne Manson. MAR 24, 1955

MAY 10, 1956

THE 11th SPRING Festival came to an end. Mr Green of Edmonton was the adjudicator along with Mrs Gene Forster and Mrs Manson.

10 years ago—Dec 21, 1955

THE NP FESTIVAL Association met and were informed that Burton Kurth of Vancouver would be this year's adjudicator. Syllabu has been distributed.

FOR 1956 FESTIVAL?

25 YRS AGO — MAR 12, 1955

ONE OF THE handsomest bits of printing recently got out in the north is the program for the 10th Annual Festival of Elocution, music and dancing, to be held at Fort St John on March 28, 29 and 30. This was produced here in the office of the Alaska Highway News. The etching on the cover is from a drawing by Miss Jeanne Taylor and is in two colors. It is a work of art which reflects credit upon Miss Taylor and the printers who caught the spirit of the festival in producing a beautiful and well got together program which has been quickly bought up wherever offered for sale - bought up by those who wish a lasting souvenir of the forthcoming cultural event of the year in the Land Beyond the Peace.

1955

10 years ago—Mar 24, 1955

THE CLEVER program cover for the 10th annual music, dancing and elocution festival was drawn by Miss Jean Taylor. It is a work of art that reflects credit on Miss Taylor and will make a lasting souvenir.

NOV 17, 1955

WALTER KAASA has been named adjudicator of the coming North Peace Festival. Fifteen plays are in rehearsal most are original productions.