

## FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION MEET

The regular monthly meeting of the North Peace Festival Association will be held Monday, January 9 at 8 p.m. at the high school.

JAN 5, 1961

## FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION ACTIVE AGAIN

Don't forget the meeting of the Festival Association to be held on Monday. The high school is the place and the time is 8 p.m.

SEPT 14, 1961

## CORRECTION

Dear Editor: AUG 17, 1961

I must take exception to the inaccurate reporting of the farewell held in honor of Mrs. Mabel Campbell as given in last week's paper (August 10).

The farewell was held by the Peace River North Festival Association and not by the Drama Club as reported in your paper. Mrs. Campbell was treasurer of the Peace River North Festival Association for the past three years and to the best of my knowledge held no office in the Drama Club which is a separate group. Mr. Lloyd Amundson made a presentation to Mrs. Campbell on behalf of the Peace River North Festival Association, of which he is the president.

The Peace River North Festival Association covers music, dancing, elocution and drama. Members of all branches were represented at the farewell and it is an injustice to these people to say that the farewell was given by the drama section only.

Mrs. OLIVE L. LUTZ  
Secretary,  
Peace River North Festival  
Association

Ed. Note: Thanks for the information. We did not know that the drama club was a separate organization from the festival association.

FEB 16, 1961

ADJUDICATOR for this year's drama festival will be Mrs Charlotte Moore of Duncan, B.C.

# SPOTLIGHT

ISSUED BY THE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

## WHY SCHOOL FESTIVALS

Participation in a festival is an invaluable part of the school year's program. Through festivals, the drama students are able to obtain professional adjudication, direct, unbiased comment on their technical shortcomings. Secondly, they gain the valuable experience of playing before a strange audience, which is definitely not prepared to think they are marvellous before the curtain goes up. In the home town there is the tendency, understandable enough, to applaud the second rate, because members of one's family are involved—proud parents are apt to pour out praise, where constructive criticism would do more good. At a festival, audiences are won by the merit of their students work only. Thirdly, students and audiences get an idea of the capabilities of other school drama groups, and they have a chance to compare standards—the beginners meet a challenge, and the more experienced are encouraged to advance in their undertaking.

Fourthly, and I think this is important, we learn a little humility, a little more about our own failings, and a little less about our self-importance. At home you may have made a smash hit—at a festival your performance may be considered as lacking in many aspects. Also we realize we are not operating alone, but are a small part of a Dominion-wide organization which is capable of enormous development.

The aims and objects of all drama festivals should be to improve standards. A festival is an experience shared by a number of people, not casually, but with their faculties alert, and with a sense of the occasion. Drama, of all the arts makes the most direct impact on us. The

audience is human, the actors are human, and so is the adjudicator—or he should be. Canada's professional theatre has developed to a stage in the past 20 years where it is now possible to consider a career in the theatre. It is from these groups of young performers that future Canadian actors and actresses will come. To those who want to take their acting seriously, there is no finer place to start than in the school, and to enter festivals. For others, it is a fine opportunity to gain poise, break down selfconsciousness, use and develop the imagination, and to express themselves artistically, and to improve diction. Choice of first class plays contributes to their contact with well-written English, and historical plays stimulate interest in school subjects which really come alive when they are acted and costumed by the students themselves.



# SPOTLIGHT

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ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

FORT ST. JOHN, B.C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1961

PAGE FIFTEEN

## MUSIC FESTIVAL

### DEADLINE—OCTOBER 2

The first fall meeting of the North Peace River Festival Association was held at the high school in Fort St. John on September 19. Despite the publicity and circulation of letters to all the different organizations and clubs in town a very few people showed interest. There is a great need for more participants and committee members. The association needs a recording secretary, treasurer, drama co-ordinator and stage manager.

The big discussion was whether there would be a music festival next year or not. Many children and adults would like to participate in such a competition through their clubs, classes, groups and churches. However it needs to be pointed out again that this only is possible when everybody participates.

It is pitiful and a great shame that so little interest is shown by the local groups. When a mailing list was made up by the publicity chairman of the association 60 active groups were found; many of these groups are overlapping in services and activities and nearly everyone would benefit from the experience that the festival has to offer. Unless of course we want our children and teenagers and adults to be ignorant of other activities than the pool halls, poor movies, un-

supervised sports and hanging on the streets at all hours of the night.

Good behavior attracts by good example and as long as the adults will not help and get out to the meetings to discuss these things Fort St. John will maybe be known for more than being the oil capital of B.C.

It also is possible that a reason is the great transfer of people. A great number of people would like to see more than we have at present. Festivals have brought tourists and an increase of business to many small towns.

On October 2 a meeting will be held at the high school in Room 1 to discuss the possibilities of a possible music festival; everybody is invited and everybody who would enter the music festival if such an event took place, has to be present at this meeting.

An annual fee of \$1 has been decided as membership fee in the association. Any group participating has to take out a membership and of course the membership is open to all interested persons. One last warning. The October 2 meeting is the last chance of a music festival. If nobody shows up for the meeting—no music festival.

MRS CHARLOTTE MOORE, adjudicator for the drama festival presented the best actress award to Mrs Zoerb. St Luke's drama club presented the best play. Vernice McIvor won the award for the most original script. Marguerite Davies was named best director, Hank Roeters, best actor and Sylvia Stuby was chosen as best supporting actress.



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

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



# OPENING

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