

sure sign of spring is that men are coming home to stay now after a winter in the bush or the oil patch. Bishop Ham-bidge spoke to a good crowd at the Cecil Lake Church last Sunday. He said that he just had to take a picture of the 65 or 70 pair of boots lined up on the porch. Well can you think of a more typical rural Peace River spring picture? A group got together to sing some songs at the Peace Country Arts Festival. Included were Shirley Harris, Connie Hebert, Helen Lehmann, Marianne Lehmann, Sharon Nicholson and Joan Thompson. We got a Red Seal and a lot of fun and enjoyment out of it all. Shannon Thompson won a Gold Seal for her recitation of a poem at the Festival. Out thanks to everyone who helped and encouraged us. (By Joan Thomspon.)

All entries by Feb. 15

All entries for the Peace Country Arts Festival must be submitted to Box 2000, Dawson Creek by February 15.

Creative Writing, Speech Arts, Dancing, Baton Twirling, Sculpture, Photography, Ceramics, Graphics, Textiles, and "Mixed Media and Murals" are some of the categories open to entrants as well as instrumental and vocal classes.

There are interesting classes such as "Family Music", "Community Music", "Boy Scout, Girl Guide or similar group" classes, as well as classes for church, school and fraternal or barber shop chorus.

The festival will be held in Dawson Creek from March 27 - 31. The same syllabus will apply for the Grande Prairie festival which runs from April 4 - 14, and

entry closing date there is February 19.

Further information can be obtained from any school or Mrs Helen Woolley at 5-5504.

Drama group plans for April festival

JAN 24 1973
A zone meeting of the newly elected committee of the BC Drama Association was held January 13 at the South Peace Secondary School in Dawson Creek.

Mrs B Russell presided as chairman, Mrs A Exner as advisor, Mrs J Haugen as newly elected secretary and Miss P Wallace as publicity secretary. Also present were B Bennets, president of the Fort St John Workshop Players, G Rupart, B Cousins and Miss P Sim, who will be in charge of artistic

inspiration.

The meeting covered various aspects of drama in the zone, not the least of which was the setting of the date for the drama festival, which, it was decided, will be held on April 13-14 in the Unchagah Hall, Dawson Creek. Entries are anticipated from various drama groups within the zone, from Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John and hopefully from Hudson's Hope and Fort Nelson. The job of finding a suitable adjudicator is now underway, and that important point should be settled within the next few meetings.

Other subjects discussed were funds and the possibility of having a drama advisor for the zone to go around giving advice and encouragement to schools and drama groups.

It is hoped that all will go well with organization of the festival, and that it will be well supported by entries and public alike.

1973.

Participants are invited to the ^{NOV 21, 1973}

PEACE COUNTRY ARTS FESTIVAL

in

Dawson Creek, B.C.

Festival Dates: April 23 to 27, 1974

Entries Close: March 15

A copy of the syllabus may be obtained from
The Secretary, Box 2000

Arts festival has top local entrants

MAY 1, 1974

The Annual Peace Country Arts Festival was held in Dawson Creek, once more, this year, April 23-27. Several entrants from Fort St John competed, including school ensembles and soloists, in categories ranging from dance, creative writing, piano, baton twirling to instrumental and choral music.

Three well qualified adjudicators were kept very busy throughout Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The competition took place at several schools in Dawson Creek. Unchaga Hall was used as headquarters and a showcase for the festival talent at three evening concerts. Saturday's concert played to a full house. At the evening's end, trophies were awarded the winners.

Some entrants from Fort John were: North Peace F Singing Club, directed by Ms Huxley, (they earned a G Seal and were asked by adjudicator to do an encore); Ambrose School Girl's Chorus, directed by Mrs H Raha, winners of two Gold Seals and Shield for Best Elements School Choir; Ambrose Grad Choral Recitation; Ambrose Square Dance Group.

Alwin Holland Choir (21 girls and 2 boys), directed by Mrs Ross, winners of an Honour Red Seal; Dr Kearney Jr School Band, directed by Mr Cameron, winner of an Honour Red Seal and the Jim McKenna Trophy for Best Instrumental Group; Peter Togni, of Kearney School, winner of Gold Seal and trophy for best instrumental solo. Peter played a baritone horn solo, accompanied by Mrs D Fines.

The winner of the Winsper Higgins and Doane Trophy was Cecilia Kurjata from Dawson Creek. This award is given to the best performer throughout all categories and accompanied by a \$250 Scholarship donated by the South Peace Community Association Council. Miss Kurjata won with her creative dance interpretation.

Mrs Toszak, president of the peace country arts festival, and her organization are to be complimented for a fine job. It would be great to have the Festival in Fort St John. There are many interested and willing people who could do the job, how do we match a facility like the beautiful Unchaga Hall?

for arts festival to be published soon

DEC 11, 1974

ditional single entry and \$6 for adult groups. The committee says these fees and a minimum charge at the gate is for the payment of adjudicator schools and janitors.

The committee's next meeting will be after the New Year on January 7 at 7:30 pm in the Legion Hall.

Arts festival?

JUN 19, 1974

Editor, Alaska Highway News

There has been considerable interest shown with offers of help in response to the idea we host an Arts Festival next year. Since Dawson Creek will still be holding their Arts Festival, one suggestion was that we start small, concentrating on the elementary school groups this time. There are many teachers who will enter younger children when held closer to home. What are your ideas?

Come to the meeting Thursday evening, June 20 at the Fort Hotel at 7:45 in the small banquet room and express your feelings. We know people willing to take on the executive duties but we are anxious to hear any and all suggestions for making this venture a successful one. See you there!

— JEAN THOMPSON

Be concerned!

MAY 1, 1974

Editor, Alaska Highway News

The past week saw the 12 Annual Peace Country Arts Festival successfully held again in Dawson Creek. This is the third consecutive year it has taken place there. Fort St John and Dawson Creek formerly hosted the Festival alternate years.

If there is any chance of the festival being held in Fort St John next year we need to begin at once. Surely we have capable energetic people willing to serve on the executive once they realized the situation.

Also, to be successful, there must be an interested participating community. The number of awards last week to participants from north of the Peace shows no dearth of talent in our vicinity, but are we concerned enough as a community to do the work required to host the festival?

If you are interested in helping, please phone the Ambrose School at 5-2321 before noon, or my number 5-2832 between six and seven in the evening, Monday to Friday.

— JEAN THOMPSON

The North Peace Arts Festival which expired in 1971 will be revived again next year on April 16, 17 and 18.

An Arts festival meeting held Thursday evening, December 6 in the Legion Hall, outlined plans for the festival. The committee agreed that they will

be following Dawson Creek's syllabus with a few more entries to include events for senior students. Some of the events the syllabus have are piano recitals, dancing, singing, poetry reading, drama and writing. The committee indicated that many people are interested and giving suggestions to make a successful syllabus.

People who are planning to participate in the festival will pay \$1.25 for one entry, \$3 for group entries, \$1 for each ad-

Arts meeting here

JUN 19, 1974

efficient to make an executive, the Peace River North Festival Association needs the ideas and suggestions of all types of people who want to recover the festival in Fort St John.

If unable to attend the meeting, but wish to lend support or want more information, telephone 785-6246 after 6 pm.

To recover the festival in Fort St John, the Peace River North Festival Association will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 20 at 7:45 in the small banquet room of the Fort Hotel.

Many people have shown enough interest in an arts festival in Fort St John to warrant a meeting. Although the number of people is suf-

Speech arts adjudicator is named

FEB 13, 1974

The Peace Country Arts Festival Committee has obtained the services of Mrs Souzann McMillan to adjudicate the Speech Arts section of the festival to be held in Dawson Creek on April 23 to 27. Mrs McMillan has studied speech since age six, has studied at the "Harlequin Theatre School", the Banff School of Fine Arts and Creative Drama at the University of BC. She has been on staff at Mount Royal College in Calgary for 15 years where she is presently occupying the position of Assistant to the Director of Speech Arts and Drama.

The Festival Committee can supply texts for the speech arts selections. These may be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Peace Country Arts Festival, Box 2000, Dawson Creek, BC. The Festival Committee can not supply music. Entrants are advised to obtain their music quickly as some selections are difficult to obtain. Some alternatives are provided, for which see the advertisement elsewhere in this paper. Entries close March 15.