

15 YRS AGO — MAR 16, 1963

IT WAS MUSIC with a flash and a flourish at the Band Concert in the High School Auditorium. Twenty talented musicians, under the direction of Gene Forster, played a varied program to a music loving public last night. Guests artists included Margaret Brown, Dorothy Nash and Andy Vanderee. The small, but appreciative, audience could not help but catch the enthusiasm of the players and note the improvement that told of many, many hours of practice. Mr Alex Philip, who MC'ed the program paid a tribute to their fine talent, "Fort St John should take more pride in its band and realize the opportunity it affords many young musicians." Bandmaster Gene Forster was surprised and delighted when he was presented with a new baton by members of the band. (I think he broke his old one over our heads.)

CONT MAR 16, 1963

BATTLE FOR EVERYBODY'S ENTERTAINMENT

Dear Editor *AUG 29, 1963*

The battle for everybody's entertainment has started again this season for the Fort St John concert band, and conductor Gene Forster.

Gene is planning to start practising the orchestra on September 9 with only six people remaining from last years group.

Quite a few musicians left Fort St John since the last concert season and the band is now facing the "To Be or Not To Be" situation.

The band in past years has been staging four or more successful concerts entertaining music lovers in our town. Concert season should begin in November but due to the shortage of musicians interested in this season concerts are in question.

We strongly believe that the number of musicians lost previously due to job transfers could be (comparing present rising population) replaced if people concerned had enough interest.

The band in some cases will supply instruments needed and two to three rehearsals are held once a week. The day and time to suit all members.

Anderson heads library

The annual library meeting was held in the library on Wednesday, January 16, 1963 with 14 interested persons including Howard Overend present. An executive was elected for the coming year. Chairman, Andy Anderson; secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Embreus; treasurer, Jake Thygesen. Directors, Mrs. K. Murray, W. Lambly, Mrs. B. Todrick, B. Lawry, B. C. Lewall and D. Woodward.

This new slate of officers looks forward to a busy term providing books for the ever growing populace of Fort St. John. The long awaited moveable book shelves will be installed in the near future and will afford more room for the now crowded book shelves.

Mr. Andy Anderson thanked the retiring members of the executive especially Mrs. Stan Kent who has so efficiently held the position of secretary for the past 12 years.

—KMM



LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER FUN—Children of the Fort St John Anglican kindergarten cluster around the Library Commission van at the close of their term.

Their teacher, Jean Pustanyk is to the right. The picture was taken by our regular book columnist, Howard Overend.



SHOWN IN THE "Waltz of the Flowers"
are Arlena Chase, Carolyn Kirkwood
and Kathleen Woodard. The girls are

members of Jan Fulton's school of dancing and will be part of a group of 60 appearing in a concert on May 31.

MAY 16, 1963



THIS IS the way the band looked when its last concert was held. Membership has changed somewhat, but the band is as good as ever and is working for an-

other concert, though no date is set yet. Band leader Gene Forster who poses in the centre is still active in this work.

Fort St John band needs your help

Oct 24, 1963

The struggle for survival is not a new story, but it is a pity that the band of Fort St John is in this position.

Miss Marlene Gladstone directing.

Since the beginning over two years ago, these brave souls have been faced with unbelievable difficulties.

It would be great to see the hall packed for this concert, and to let our struggling band know we do care.

—ANNE FULLERTON

The first four or five practices were held in the Elk's hall. Then the next four times in the PacPete hall, from there to the central elementary hall, but this was made into classrooms. The next move was made to the basement of the school—then to the auditorium, which was again made into classrooms. The present location for their practices is half the stage of the central elementary; this is far too narrow.

Mr Gene Forster is the music director of the 18 musicians. They are all experienced, with the exception of four. For instance Jack Musson, the trombone player, was with the central air force band in Ottawa for four years.

Stew Brown, who with Bev Fraser and others who started the band, is being transferred, so the band will lose their alto-horn players. They are also very much in need of a base drummer and a tuba player.

Gene Trytten, the president, will shortly be conducting a six week course in instrumental music. The modest sum of \$1 a lesson will be charged. He will be able to tell the pupil honestly at the end of the course if he is qualified to continue or not. If they are, they will be qualified to play in the band, which is sorely in need of reinforcements.

This talented group of musicians is broke and do not even have uniforms. This is the reason they are not seen in any parade.

Surely there is enough pride in Fort St John to get behind a band, of whom they can be justly proud.

Let's see that they are equipped!

There will be a band concert between November 1 and 11. Added interest will be an exhibition of baton whirling with

Film society

starts tonight

OCT 3, 1963

Fort St John's first film society starts tonight at 8 p m in the cafeteria room of the North Peace secondary school.

The first program will be "Jour de Fete" starring France's greatest comedian Jacques Tati. The film has English narration for the benefit of those whose French is not up to par. Also on tonight's program is the academy award winning short Bespoke Overcoat by the director of Room at the Top.

There will be nine or more excellent foreign films with subtitles shown this season. The price is \$5 before Christmas and \$5 after or \$9 for both. Information and tickets may be got tonight at the door. If you want to see a film society in Fort St John this is your chance. Come out or forever stop complaining.

Film society will feature top films

SEPT 26, 1963

Fort St John is at last going to have a film society. It starts Thursday October 3 at 8 p m at the North Peace High School. It is being offered as part of its evening adult education program. Films that would otherwise never get to Fort St John are to be shown.

On the first program is Jour de Fete the first film of France's most famous comedian, Jacques Tati plus Bespoke Overcoat, an academy award winning short by the director of Room at the Top. In all 10 programs will be shown on Thursday nights, five before Christmas and five after, at approximately two or three week intervals.

Films coming up include Sundays and Cybelle (this year's Oscar winner), Cleo From 5 to 9, Kindly Shoot the Pianist, Forbidden Games, all by French "New Wave" directors, Wir Wunderkinder, a German satire, at least two films by Sweden's Ingmar Ber-

man, Orson Welle's Magnificent Ambersons, Stairway to Heaven, a British satire, A Summer to Remember, a Russian non-propaganda film and Cannes award winner, and Olivier's Henry V.

With each film will be shown excellent award winning shorts.

Price for the series is \$5 for the films before Christmas and \$5 for those after or \$9 for the complete series. If you are interested you may purchase your season memberships the night of the first showing, Thursday, October 3.

Square dance news

APR 18, 1963

The square dance jamboree has been postponed until May. Actual dates will be announced later.

Square dance scheduled at Alwin Holland School on April 20 will be held as planned with guest callers being Jack and Virginia Soley from California. These callers, on a tour of Western Canada, will be calling in Dawson Creek on the 18.

All square dancers are welcome and are reminded that slippers or soft shoes must be worn in the auditorium. •

Band concert

Being a member of the Fort St. John town band doesn't mean playing for pure pleasure or for the enjoyment of others all the time. Occasionally it means playing for pure profit in order that new instruments may be purchased for the band. Such was the motive behind the second annual concert given by the band on March 14 in the high school auditorium.

Twenty-two members of the band, conducted by Eugene Forster, began the concert with bright pounding march music and ended with a serene lyrical piece. The program was varied and included an arrangement of classical music entitled "Salute to Brahms", and an Olivadoti overture, "Laurette". Interspersed with the band music were various interludes.

During the first interlude, a vocal solo was given by Margaret Brown who sang "Vilia" from Lehart's "The Merry Widow". She changed both clothes and character to sing her next piece with the company of Dorothy

Nash, both women temporarily becoming convincing hillbillies and singing and acting "Feudin' and Fightin'".

Later, the debonair Andy Vanderree provided an interlude of piano music and for seven minutes played a selection of melodies with a poignant theme. Young Danny Nash gave a solo performance, playing the "Little Commander" on his cornet. Following this, band members made a presentation of a new baton to their leader, Eugene Forster.

According to Ricky Mucci, the band's business manager, instruments are extremely expensive. Many of the band members own their own but instruments are needed. Recent purchases have been a drum which cost approximately \$100, and a double flat bass horn which cost \$250 and was shown to the concert audience. Apparently, some instruments such as saxophones run as high as \$1,000 in price, trumpets start at \$125 and go as high as \$275 and horns can cost \$700 or \$800. You can see why a concert with a fund motive is necessary! In view of this, it was disappointing to see such a small propor-

tion of Fort St. John people support the band.

There were a few off-key notes but these were not provided by the band. They were the results of a suggestion made by Mr. A. Phillip, the competent emcee, that the audience sing "Three Blind Mice" during an interlude.

MAR 21, 1963

JG.

Concert promoted here

Oct 31, 1963

A bit of culture is being brought to Fort St John with the formation of the Overture Concert Association.

Recently Mrs Helen Hove, the Overture Concert representative from Vancouver was in town to help form a local executive board to promote the concert series here. President is Alex Henrickson; Mrs Dudley Wagner is vice-president; Mrs Wm D Tompkins is secretary; publicity, Mrs Marvin Shoulders; and Gary Nixon will serve as campaign manager for the membership drive.

With a successful membership campaign, Fort St John will be able to enjoy concerts by Porgy and Bess Singers, minstrel troubador Philip Hanson, the vocal-

Overture coming to FSJ

DEC 5, 1963

The membership campaign of the Fort St John Overture Concert Association is nearly completed. We need only a few more memberships to bring an exciting season of musical events to our town.

Memberships may still be purchased from the secretary Mrs W Tompkins at St 5-2965 or from the Fort Pharmacy or Central Department store.

The three concerts planned for Fort St John are THE CASSENTI PLAYERS in January. The Rolston-Moore Duo is in February and The Folk-Singers "Janine & Nico" in March.

In addition members may attend, free of charge, the three concerts to be held at Dawson Creek. These include:

The Canadian Opera Company on December 17; The Turgeon and Chapman Vocal Duo in January and Richard Gresko, the young Montreal pianist on March 24.

1963

OVERTURE
CONCERTS
FORT ST JOHN.