

15 YRS AGO — JAN 22, 1964

**LOCAL BOY MAKES CBC-TV:** Danny Bridge, a Grade 7 student in the Alwin Holland School has achieved fame by having a play accepted by the CBC. His play will be shown on the program Razzle Dazzle next Wednesday, January 29, so all of you young fry be sure to watch the program to see Danny's achievement. Pictured is Danny listening to the transistor radio which was his prize.

**COUNCIL TO AID LOCAL BAND.** Fort St John town band urgently needs a grant of some \$100. Owing to the recent purchase of required instruments the band is in debt. When the subject of a grant was brought up at a council meeting last week Mayor Pomeroy pointed out that a town without a band isn't much of a town. The band plays at all the hockey matches and many other functions, which might lose much of their color without music. The council approved of the grant and by suggestion of Alderman Hamilton the matter was turned over to the finance committee. JAN 22, 1979

15 YRS AGO — NOV 5, 1964

TOWN BAND: Fort St John band has 26 members. Some of them have played in internationally famous bands and many have been working with music all their lives. It has had its up and down periods said band president Bob Trotter. Right now it is about to hit another up, it is hoped more stable this time. Conductor Gene Forster says that this year the band shows great promise and he feels confident that the forthcoming concert will be a success. The band plays a vital role in the community. It is there to greet visiting politicians; it is there to herald and adorn the hockey games, and it is there to add a festive touch to the many occasions in town that warrant it. The building of the new Legion and the facilities thereby provided, such as the new auditorium, has given the band somewhere better to practise.

# School

# band

# approved

JUL 2, 1964

Fort St John is to have a school band! The instruments are already on order and expenditure of \$6,000 was approved by the school board last week. The band will consist of about 50 pieces.

Bandmaster will be an Englishman, Mr E A Eames, who was recently appointed to the new junior secondary school. He will select his band members from the younger grades, in order to start them young enough to build up a really good quality band.

The expenditure was recommended by the finance and budget committee, which met early in June. Mr Eames is expected to be here in the middle of August.

**LOCAL BOY WINS****LITERARY HONORS**

A 17-year-old Fort St John boy was awarded first honors in the senior poetry division of the province-wide MacMillan Literay Club contest.

The poem is a 27-line piece inspired by the Cuban crisis entitled "The Storm" and talks with considerable relish about "screaming emptiness" and the like. It was written by John Sculthorpe, son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Sculthorpe.

JUN 11, 1964

# Shall we have a school band?

The new junior secondary school is going to include music lessons as part of the curriculum next fall.

A British bandmaster, Mr Edward Eames, was introduced to the school board at the meeting on Jun 4 by the principal of the school, Lyell Rodger. Mr Eames was invited up here for the day to see what he thought of it. It is understood that he was suitably impressed and is going to accept the position of director of music.

He has held similar positions at schools in Castlegar and latterly, Victoria. Prior to coming over to Canada he was a bandmaster in the British army and then director of music at the Gordon school for boys.

Mr Eames is to start from scratch here. There are no instruments and this is the first time that instrumental music has been taught in the schools up here.

# New shelves for library

Oct 15, 1964

The monthly library board meeting was held the first Thursday in October with seven members and two librarians present. Circulation figures showed 4563 books out in September with 103 new members. The latter figure indicates a new high in new members signed in one month a good indication that our library is more and more appreciated by the residents of the community it serves.

The problem of shelving space is now proving to be acute and was dealt with by the board. The free standing units as recommended by the large city circulation libraries are very expensive. It was decided to take the plunge financially and place an order for a first unit. It will be of metal 5' high, 3' wide that will afford room for 300 volumes.

It will be noted that the library now has telephone directories for all the large cities in B C for Edmonton and Calgary readily available for use during its hours open.

A letter regarding Young Canada Book Week poster contest has been sent to all interested teachers and so we hope that the artistically-inclined pupils will submit entries.

## BAND CONCERT

The Fort St John band will hold a concert on Nov 16 in the Legion auditorium. Tickets for this concert are available from Bob Trotter, Garry Matheson and Gene Forster.

Oct 22, 1964

# Combined choirs to give concert

DEC 10, 1964

A Christmas song festival will be held Wednesday evening, Dec 16, at 8 p m in the North Peace Senior High School auditorium, Fort St John.

It will be the evening for everyone in the community to enjoy Christmas singing. A large group of singers is practising

several choice choir numbers. This "community" choir will be under the able and experienced directorship of Mrs W T Lambly, with Mrs Art Flethcher accompanying on the piano.

In addition the program will include numbers by church choirs and other musical groups.

During this evening of song generous time will be devoted to community carol singing when all in attendance will have opportunity for participation.

Many have appreciated the community choir concerts of former years, conducted by Mrs Lambly. The Christmas song festival this year is a continuation of this fine tradition, with some variation in the program.

There will be no admission charge. The evening is sponsored by the school's inter-school Christian fellowship club.



# Concert band on sound basis

DEC 17, 1964  
The Fort St John Concert Band held its annual meeting in the Legion Auditorium on Monday night with president Robert Trotter in the chair. Due to the cold weather there was a small turnout.

Election of officers resulted in the following: Robert Trotter, re-elected president; Barry Matheson, vice-president; Art Musson, re-elected secretary treasurer; Ross Haller, public relations and business manager; Bruce Erickson, librarian; Gene Forster, bandmaster and Jack Musson, assistant bandmaster.

Finances showed approximately \$200 profit on the concert and raffle which leaves the band short \$50 for the purchase of a new baritone. During the year they played at all the home hockey games and appeared at six social functions plus their own concert in November.

Present membership is 18 and new players are welcome.



**THE SWEET** voices of young girls, in a choir only two months old, helped to celebrate the opening of the new school

on Friday. The choir is trained by Mr Ted Eames, teacher at the junior secondary school.

# Film society's last showing

MAR 19, 1964

The last showing of the Fort St John film society will take place tonight, when "Julius Caesar" will be shown. This film will star John Gielgud, James Mason and Marlon Brando.

The film society has received very poor support, but this film is well worth seeing, and admission is only \$1. Anybody is welcome to come and see it. Film time is 8 p m, in the high school cafeteria.

# Local writer features our Peace River

JAN 9, 1964

The December meeting of the Fort St John Writer's Club was held in the form of a party on December 27. The members of the club and their guests gathered at the home of Mrs M Lawrick on 103rd Ave.

Highlight of the meeting was a story read by Miss Sylvia Blenkin of Cecil Lake. Sylvia did an article on the Beaver Indians of this area. The story was for the Anglican youth second prize for her work.

Delicious refreshments were served by Mrs Lawrick who is quite a hand with short breads and other goodies.

The club has been active for over a year and certainly is a worthwhile organization. Mrs Dorothy Blenkin has written a feature for the Toronto Star Weekly. This story should be published soon and the people of this area have a real treat to look forward to. Mrs Blenkin has written some children's stories and many other articles of interest. The story in the Star Weekly is about a pioneer family and something of interest is that Mrs Blenkin is doing it on request. This alone is a great credit to her as the Star Weekly market is a tough one to break into.

Other members of this aspiring group may have pieces published so we should all be looking for their work on various magazines.

The next meeting of the club will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Ed Gould on January 16.

# FSJ churches unite in choral concert

An impressive and exhilarating experience was the concert of combined choirs which took place on Wednesday, Dec 16 in the high school auditorium.

A carol concert under the direction of Mrs Wilf Lambly had become a tradition in Fort St John, but this was a concert of a new kind. The choirs of five different churches performed individually, and also formed part of a massed choir of about 70 voices, with members from all churches. In addition the audience was asked to join in a number of carols sung in unison.

Mrs Lambly was there as conductor of the massed choir, which sang three pieces already familiar to those who had been members of previous choirs directed by her. Even so the music was new to a good number of those singing. Only four practices were possible and the result she drew from this mixed choir was amazing.

Art Klassen was master of ceremonies, introducing the program and each choir. Choirs performing were the United Church, under the direction of Mrs D Weicker, the Mennonite Brethren, directed by Irwin Klassen, the Roman Catholic, directed by Gene Forster, Peace Lutheran children's choir, directed by Miss Bunty Brown, Peace Lutheran senior choir, directed by Karl Wuthrich, and the Alliance Church, directed by Ed Olichny.

Erwin Klassen also directed the community carol singing.

sang the well-loved "Carol of the Drum," and concluded the program with Handel's "Hallelujah chorus."

The singing of the different

choirs represented the differing traditions of their churches. The Roman Catholic choir sang in Latin the Gloria which is a regular part of their Sunday worship.



**THE ONLY** children's choir to perform at last week's concert was the Peace Lu-

theran chapel choir, posing here ready robed for the performance.

DEC 24, 1964

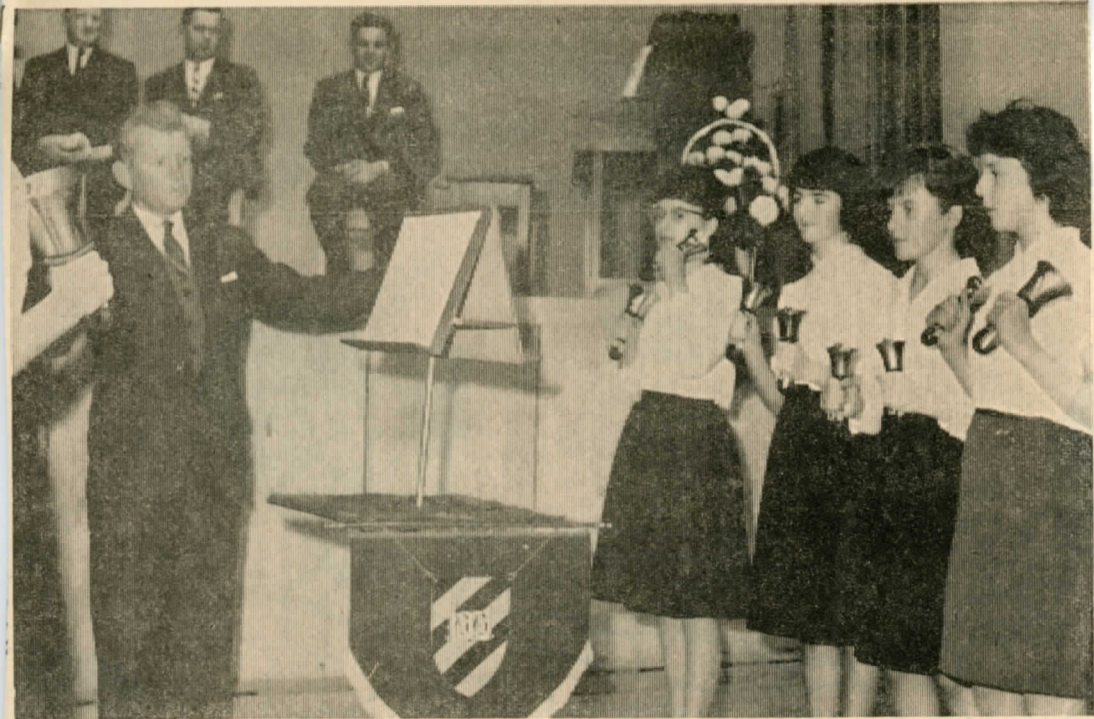
# Evening of entertainment tomorrow

APR 16, 1964

Don't miss the evening of entertainment at the school tomorrow, when three children's groups will put on a performance. The Grade 6 children will do a play and the Brownies will also contribute a feature.

From Fort St John will come the St Martin's Girls Auxiliary, to perform their festival play "The King's Creampuffs". These girls are aged 12 and 13, and have already performed their play in public twice, at the festivals in Fort St John and Dawson Creek.

Time of performance will be 8 p m, with admission 75c for adults and 25c for children. Come early, as there will be no reserved seats and seating is limited. The W I is sponsoring the evening, and supplying hospitality for the girls from Fort St John, who will stay the night and have a visit to the dam the following day.



THE CROWD at the school opening was captivated by the bell ringers.

## *Saint Cecilia in the North Peace*

Since Mildred Lambly gave up the Harmony Mixed Chorus, there has been no significant musical contribution in the North Peace. The town band under Gene Forster has kept its end up and is a valuable asset, but beyond that there is little beyond church choirs and children's music lessons.

Now all this has changed, with the appointment of Ted Eames, an Englishman, to the junior secondary school. Mr Eames has an amazing collection of musical instruments, which he has already had on display. These instruments cover all ages, from the bronze age to our own, and many countries. Where he has been unable to

made about 1820.

He has Chinese and Japanese instruments, a Tibetan oboe, a Nigerian malimba, forerunner of the marimba, drums with varying tones according to the way they are held, and an Indian temple gong.

He has a large collection of flutes and clarinets, as well as coaching horns (one six feet long) and little pocket bugles used by early cyclists.

One treasure is a slide saxophone, which he says was a genuine attempt to make a cheap saxophone. It can be played, and a sliding rod provides the different notes, but it is hard to

in the junior secondary school. She is painted on a plastic base, but she looks like a stained glass window and brightens the whole room. Ted is working on a companion window showing Orpheus with his lute.

An instrument new to Fort St John delighted the audience at the recent school opening. This is a very simple thing, a handbell, with a clapper inside held by a spring. All that is needed to play it is to hold the bell upside down, and bring it down with sufficient force to make the clapper hit the bell.

This seems very simple, but the girls who play the bells must be able to read music. Ted makes his own arrangements for his bell ringing team, in four parts. To play them requires good timing.

In addition, the bells them-  
(Continued on page four.)



get hold of an instrument, he has made one himself. Many of the instruments are still playable, though some, because of the type of string used or for other reasons are for display only.

One of the interesting exhibits is a bronze age Danish lur. This instrument can only be seen in a museum, but Ted isn't daunted by difficulties like that. He made one himself, following pictures in an encyclopedia, and it really plays. He also has a beautifully carved hunting horn which he made.

One interesting instrument is a zinck, which is made of wood covered with leather, and is an early attempt to obtain a chromatic scale. It dates back to the sixteenth century. He also has an early clarinet, first produced in 1720, and a ladies' drawing room instrument, a harp lute



**THAT'S TED'S** slide saxophone, hitting a high note.

get the notes distinct and clear.

What of Saint Cecilia? She is the patron saint of music, and she adorns Ted's music room



**THAT THING** that Gene Forster's trying out is an ophicleide, or keyed serpent.



**HARD WORK** and many hours of practice is what makes a good band. Caught by the photographer in a practice session

is the Fort St John band and band master Gene Forster.

## Town band has big hopes for next concert

Fort St John band has 26 members. Some of them have played in internationally famous bands and many have been working with music all their lives.

It has had its up and down periods said band president Bob Trotter. Right now it is about to hit another up, it is hoped more stable this time.

Conductor Gene Forster says that this year the band shows great promise and he feels confident that the forthcoming concert on Nov 16 will be a success.

The band, said the president, plays a vital role in the community. It is there to greet visiting politicians, it is there to herald and adorn the hockey games, and it is there to add a festive touch to the many occasions in town that warrant it.

The building of the new Legion and the facilities thereby provided, such as the new auditorium, gave the band somewhere better to practise.

Fort St John is more than fortunate to have in Gene Forster a professional calibre bandmaster and music teacher. There

*Nov 5, 1964*

is nothing that can stop this thing moving now, the president of the band commented.

Another event that gives the band members great confidence for the future is the formation of a regular music class under EA Eames, formerly a full-time British army band master.

Mr Eames is on the staff of Fort St John junior secondary school. He has \$5,000 worth of instruments at his disposal and many youngsters eager to learn to play them.

This odes well for the Fort St John band of tomorrow, as not only will there be more young people taking an active part, but many parents will also become interested in the progress of the band through their children.

Last year the Fort St John band was given a \$100 grant by the town and it is expected that another grant will be asked for this year. Mr Forster commented that \$100 was not a heavy price for the town to pay for a band and pointed out that hockey games would lose some of their aura and excitement for many people without the brass band.

# Overture concert tomorrow

FEB 27, 1964

Tomorrow, Feb 28, Rolston and Moore will be at the Alwin Holland School Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Rolston and Moore are a talented young couple from the University of Alberta who have won world-wide acclaim for their piano and violin playing. They have toured as a team in England, Scotland, Canada and Europe, and have performed for the BBC, CBC and the Bavarian radio.

Their program will consist of piano and violin solos and duos. A part of their program is devoted to an "at home", where you find yourself "joining us in our living room for an evening of song and fun."

Following the concert, there will be a tea and coffee party conveniently held in the Grade seven classroom at Alwin Holland. Everyone is invited to come and meet Thomas Rolston and Isobel Moore.

A limited number of tickets to the concert will be available at the door. A nominal fee of 50 cents will be levied for the tea and coffee party.

# Overture concert delights many

A crowd of 200 people spent a delightful evening last Friday, on the occasion of the Rolston-Moore overture contest. The concert was held in the Alwin Holland school and featured piano and violin duos and solos, and concluded with delightful playing on a small Irish harp.

Thomas Rolston and Isobel Moore are from Vancouver, and are a charming young couple who bring music of a high quality. Isobel Moore (Mrs Rolston) is from Glasgow and the two met while both were students at the Royal Academy of Music in London. They have toured together in England, Scotland, Canada and Europe, as well as performing on radio. Thomas Rolston has also studied in Brussels, and his wife has studied in Vienna. Both have won many prizes and scholarships. Thomas has recently been appointed assistant professor of music at the University of Alberta, as well as concertmaster and associate conductor of the Edmonton symphony orchestra.

The couple was introduced by Alex Hendrickson, principal of Central Elementary school and president of the Overture Concert Society in Fort St John. He spoke of the value of such concerts, in which a communication can be established between the performers and the audience, as against the many excellent recordings which can now be obtained.

The concert opened with sonata in A major by Mozart, in two movements. This light and happy piece opens with an allegro movement, which is followed by a theme with variations. While it is a pleasure to see such enthusiasm for good music here, it is unfortunate that a Fort St John audience shows its enthusiasm by applauding between the movements, thereby breaking action of the sonata.

This was followed by another sonata, the one in C minor by Grieg. This richly toned and passionate work was played with considerable feeling by the two young performers, and drew tumultuous applause from the appreciative audience.

After the intermission, Isobel Moore played a piano impromptu and two mazurkas all by Chopin. These three light dance pieces were a good sample of what can be done by piano alone.

MARS, 1964  
After the concert, a good number of the audience stayed for the reception and were able to meet the performers. The winners of the school poster competition were also present and were presented to the Rolstons.

The next concert will be on Mar 11.

An entirely new feature then followed, when Thomas Rolston played the fugue in G minor by Johann Sebastian Bach. Before playing, he gave a brief explanation of the fugue and played the theme in three different voices. In order to help the audience to follow the very complex interweaving of the voices, he had arranged for the music to be thrown on a screen, so that the notes could be followed. He explained that he had never done this before, but was doing so as an experiment. The fugue itself is a challenge to the performer, with frequent three and four note chords. It was played to such effect that it was easy to believe it was in fact being played by three violins at once.

The experiment of showing the score on the screen was felt by the audience to be very successful, providing better understanding of a difficult work.

The concert concluded with a charming interlude, in which the two sat down and played well known Irish and Scottish folk tunes on the violin and Irish harp. Isobel Moore explained to the audience that this small harp was the type used at one time in private homes for drawing room concerts. It is quite small, and rests on a stool in order to bring it to the right height for playing.

Some of the harp playing was accompanied on the violin. Some of the songs Isobel sang, in a low clear voice. The applause at the end was so insistent that the two returned and concluded the evening by the singing of

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# French folk singers here next week

MARS, 1964  
Janine and Nico the famous French folk singers, will appear in Fort St John on Wednesday, Mar 11 at the Alwin Holland school auditorium. They just began their second North America tour in Feb and will be the second concert of the 1964 Overture series.

Janine and Nico have appeared on television in Europe and in North America. Many people in Fort St John have seen their show, "Songs of Love Through the Ages". In 1959 they represented France with their songs at the Chicago international trade fair.

They met and married in Paris where they started performing in the cabarets on the left bank. Nico is really a northern Dutchman but he has a genuine French flair and gaiety. Janine is "Parisienne" and in her voice and actions she has all the spontaneity and charm that is associated with French women.

On March 11 they will sing favorite French folk songs of yesterday and today. Their program is a beautiful blend of the old and the new. Janine plays the recorder, an instrument of the Elizabethan age, and Nico plays the modern guitar.

Because of the interest expressed by the young people in these popular folk singers, members of the Fort St John Overture Concert Association may bring a student guest for the admission price of only \$1. As, at our previous concert, a limited number of single admissions will be available: adults \$3 and students \$1.50.

A tea and coffee party will again be held to enable members of the association to meet the artists informally. At our first concert, tea and coffee were poured by Mrs Eden Robinson and Mrs Eugene Forster. On Wednesday, the tea and coffee will be presided over by Mrs Ralph Pomeroy and Mrs Terrence Smith.

## Overture dates set

OCT 22, 1964

The Overture Concert Association held an emergency meeting Sunday evening to chose the artists for the January concert. After discussion, it was decided to engage the folk singers Malka and Joso the stars of last year's Mariposa Festival.

Last Saturday they were featured in the Juliette show on TV. The three concerts to be held in Fort St John are Carillon Quartet—a group that sings a wide variety of songs including "Speak up" by Tanninelli, the famous quartet from Rigoletto, Negro Spirituals, English and Irish folk songs.

Their concert is scheduled for Nov 7 Malka and Joro appear on Jan 31 and the lovely Lenaud sisters on April 8. These young ladies bring their own pianos.

Concerts available to overture members in Dawson are Die Fledermous (The Bat) by the Canadian Opera Company. Susana Jose, European dance group and Lord's Marionettes.

Mr Eames, band master of the junior secondary school will hold a display of musical instruments in the Anglican Hall tomorrow evening and also on Saturday afternoon.

This is a unique collection of instruments some of antique design and all of interest to the music lover. There are close to 100 different pieces. Mr Eames will display and explain the collection personally.

## Overture half way for members

OCT 29, 1964

On Monday evening the executive of the Fort St John Overture Concert Association met and campaign chairman, Mr Giguere, announced that we have also just passed the halfway mark in the sale of memberships.

If Fort St John is to enjoy these excellent concerts, memberships must be purchased this week. If you are considering taking advantage of this splendid opportunity to hear the finest of musical entertainment here and at Dawson Creek, then get your membership card now. Next week will be too late.

You may purchase memberships at Al's News; or if you write Box 759, or phone 2320 a membership card will be delivered to you promptly. Cheques may be post-dated until Dec 31.

## Local concert ass'n starts season well

NOV 12, 1964

The Fort St John Overture Concert Association put on the first of three productions in Fort St John Elementary School last Saturday night.

This was the first concert to be staged in the new school auditorium.

The Carillon Quartet, which oddly enough has five members, four singers and a pianist, staged a varied program for an audience of about 160.

The four artists, Barbara Stathdee, Darlene Hirst, Garnel Brooks and Maurice Brown and the pianist George Brough are all members of the Canadian Opera Company.

The quartet was formed to fill an obvious gap in the North American concert field—a traveling quartet. Before the formation of this group when entertainment

of this sort was asked for the concert association had had to turn to New York. This seemed to the company to be ridiculous considering the number of fine Canadian singers available.

The program included a duet from The Merry Wives of Windsor, quartet from Faust, seguidilla from Carmen and a madrigal from the Mikado.

Many of these pieces gave the company considerable scope for reinforcing the singing with acting which occasionally saddened and often amused the audience.

Without doubt this production must come high up on the list of successful presentations of this sort in Fort St John.

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