

JUN 9, 1971

Arts

(Continued from page three)

Group, the Workshop Players, the Friendship Society, the Community Band, the Music Teachers' Association and the Potters' Guild were then called upon to report upon their activities and, where applicable, to give a brief account of how the money granted to them had been expended. It was clear from the reports given that all groups had experienced a busy, fruitful and successful year.

Other groups represented who intend to affiliate this year were the Community Choir, the FSJ Association for Retarded Children and the North Peace Historical Society who each gave a short resume of activities and future plans.

The meeting closed with election of officers and directors for the current year. The new president is Bertha Kirschner, the vice-president Frank Strong, secretary Dorothy Wallace, treasurer Tony Atkins together with directors Heather Hannaford, Barbara Russell and Ann Nobel. Mary Anderson, as past president, is automatically a member of the executive but the constitution of the Arts Council vetoes the continuance of any member in the same office for a period exceeding two years — it was, therefore, necessary to elect an almost completely new slate of officers and directors to the board.

HELEN GORDON PASSES

Mrs Helen E Gordon Fort St John has graduated from the Famous Writers School of Westport, Conn. Mrs Gordon specialized in non-fiction writing during her three year course with the long established home study school.

DEC 29, 1971

Broadway in Fort St John

The Broadway musical "The Stingiest Man in Town," by Fred Spielman and Janice Torre, presented by the pupils of Alwin Holland school as their Christmas offering was thoroughly enjoyed by large audiences December 20 and 21.

This light-hearted and tuneful version of Charles Dicken's "Christmas Carol" was a major challenge to the young artists and to everyone concerned with the production. Apart from the necessity to build a special stage and scenery for the three act, 20 scene show, the costumes alone must have taken many hours of preparation. With a cast of over 90, costumes could well have been expected to be a trifle sketchy — they were on the contrary attractive and excellent, deserving of the highest praise as were the settings and lighting.

"The Stingiest Man" was an outstanding example of what can be done when students, staff and parents get together in a harmonious team determined to succeed and undeterred by production difficulties. In the event only one scene from the original script had to be omitted due to technical difficulties — this fact gives the measure of the work that went into the production.

Congratulations to musical director Mrs Stobbe and stage director, Dave Ross, for a very fine job ably supported by the whole cast and a magnificent backstage team. So far as individual performances are concerned Ken Kirschner as the old miser Scrooge was particularly good in a difficult part. David Miller, playing Scrooge as a young man, also did a fine job, although handicapped with laryngitis. Susan Lipinski as Mrs Dilber and Cheryl Molnar as Martha Cratchit also earn special mention for their performances.

I must not forget to give sincere thanks to Mrs Denise Blandford whose work as pianist made the whole thing possible.

Altogether a most enjoyable and thoroughly successful show. The total production costs are estimated to have been something over \$300 and there seems little doubt that these will have been met. I sincerely hope that this is the case as it would be most disappointing to be met with even the smallest financial deficit after all the hard work in courageously bringing a fresh type of entertainment to Fort St John.

MAR 17, 1971



BAND BEAT

The Fort St John community band announces that an all-day workshop will be held in the NPSSS auditorium March 20, commencing at 10:30 am. In addition to the community band, directed by Randy Rayment, the three Dawson Creek school bands under their musical director Welton Epp will be joining in the workshop. Also present will be Bill Rayment, musical director to the Vancouver school board. The workshop will be followed at 8 pm by a public concert presented by all the bands taking part. Admission will be free but a silver collection will be taken up during the evening.

A second workshop will be staged at 10:30 am April 3, but on this occasion will be limited to the Fort St John band only. Taking part will be Fred Turner, music co-ordinator to the Vancouver school board and musical director of the New Westminster community band. Turner is well-known in community circles for his work with school and other bands.

The community band has been invited to play at the airport May 8 when Her Majesty the Queen will be paying a short visit to Fort St John.

Local artists display ever increasing talent

DEC 1, 1971

The North Peace Art Group's fall exhibition, held in Hunter's Mall November 19-20, can honestly be described as bigger and better than ever.

There were some 106 works, mostly paintings, on view from the brushes of experienced and new members of the group. The standard, as usual, was high and it is not hard for even the most unartistic and uninformed viewer to note the great improvements in skill and technique.

Subjects are predominantly those of the Peace country around us and illustrate once more the vast opportunities there are for the artist in this area. Anyone wishing to have a permanent memento of residence in the north country cannot do better than to possess a work by one of these local amateur artists.

Unfortunately some of the most attractive exhibits were not for sale — not that one can blame the artists for being unwilling to part with works of which they can be justly proud.

A novel feature this year was the introduction of paintings by the spouses of group members. Very effective — painting must be a catching hobby.

All in all a thoroughly worth while and attractive exhibition — I am looking forward to seeing what some of the less experienced painters will be producing in the spring.

— FMS

Talent search

APR 28, 1971

The North Peace Secondary school auditorium will be the scene of the regional semi-finals of the Centennial '71 Search For Talent, April 30 at 7:30 pm.

This contest has drawn 36 entries and promises to be an evening of entertainment of the highest calibre. Entries have been received from Fort St John, Dawson Creek, Moberly Lake, Hudson's Hope, Montney, Charlie Lake and Wonowon.

The purpose of the talent show, sponsored by the Canadian Association of Broadcasters in conjunction with the B C Centennial '71 Committee and the B C government cultural fund committee, is to seek and find the highest calibre young performers in B C, providing them with not only the opportunity to broaden their experience by performing in public, but also to win radio and television recognition.

Five finalists will be chosen April 30, who will compete with Dawson Creek on May 13.

The regional finals in Dawson Creek will be carried both on radio and television. Three cash prizes will be awarded in Dawson Creek, with the first place winner travelling to Vancouver with all expenses paid, to compete with 12 other finalists from the province. Grand prize in Vancouver is \$1,000.



BAND BEAT

A most successful band workshop and concert was hosted April 3 by the Community Band Association, when over 100 young musicians had an opportunity to work with a nationally famous band director.

Fred Turner, music co-ordinator for the Vancouver school board, a veteran of over 40 years in the field of band music and eight times winner of concert band trophies across Canada, received an enthusiastic welcome from his young players.

Each of the three levels — beginner, intermediate and senior students — was tested at the start of each session to determine ability, and to give the guest conductor a guide in choosing suitable material. Pointers were given on breath control, phrasing, instrument



FRED TURNER, MUSICAL CO-ORDINATOR of the Vancouver School Board, joins with members of the senior band to demonstrate how it should be done. This photograph was taken

handling and the correct way to practice at home.

"A beginner is better off to practice for five minutes, four times a day, than to blow for twenty minutes in one go. His instrument should be so familiar to him that it becomes an extension of his arm," Mr Turner remarked.

Each workshop session became a very relaxed informal learning situation, with a liberal sprinkling of humour interspersed with hard work.

Several parents who had time to watch the sessions were very impressed with the ease of communication between the director and the bands..

Mr Turner who was assisted by Mr Bill Rayment, elementary schools band co-ordinator Vancouver, spoke of the values of a musical education. Many facts taught in school are rarely used once formal lessons cease, but music is something that can be used, and made useful, for many years. Even if it made a

person more aware of happenings around him, more conscious of the skills involved in rock, or concert music, then that young musician has a contact.

Of interest to the parents of the Community Band members, was how the students rated as compared to the Vancouver school bands. Mr Turner as well as being the conductor of the New Westminster Concert Band, a community sponsored organization, has the op-

portunity to hear and conduct every school band in the Vancouver school system. So, it was extremely interesting to hear that the program sponsored by the parents of this community and conducted by Randy Rayment, was rated on a par with any southern band.

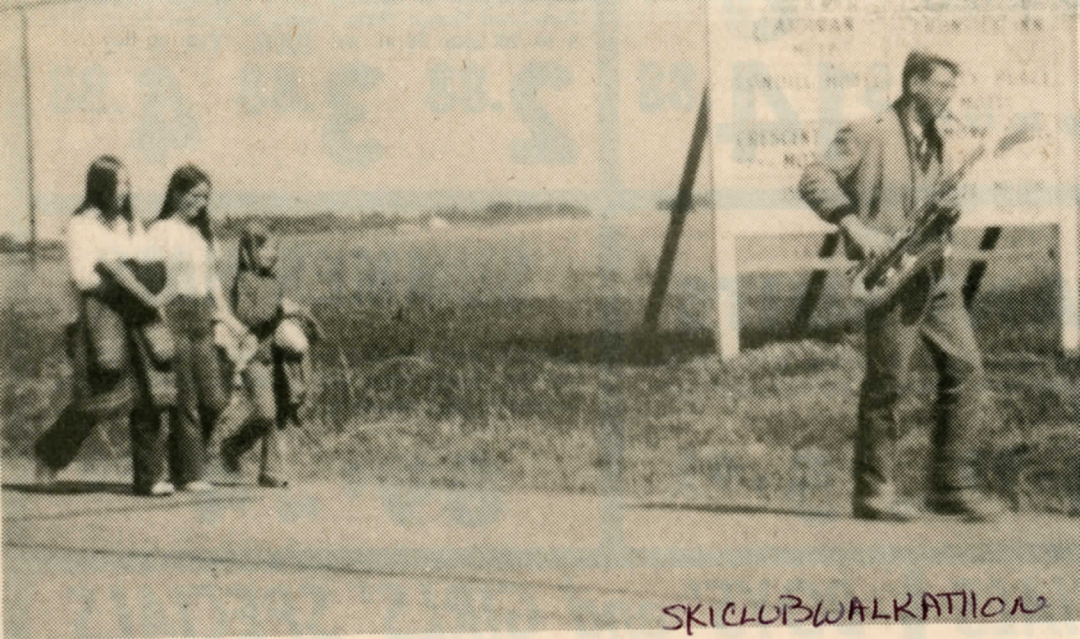
"Your beginners squeak in the same places that ours do, and are as advanced in their method book as we are," Mr Turner stated. He congratulated the intermediate band in their sight reading exercises and told them that was the real test of a good musician. Any student in this group transferred to Vancouver would find no difficulty in fitting in with any junior high band. To the senior band he extended an invitation to any student entering University to contact him, and commended the group for their fine playing with special mention of the four flautists and the strong trombone section.

The president, Mrs Elizabeth Richards, thanked the guests for working with the students, and for the helpful encouragement given. She extended an invitation to visit Fort St John in the fall to start off a new season and presented them with "Land of the New Totems" pins.

The next public concert will be at the airport reception for H M the Queen on May 8; followed by the Grande Prairie High School concert featuring band, chorus and orchestra, on May 15.



MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY band perform for the Queen's visit. MAY 12, 1971



SKIT CLUB WALKATHON

LONE MEMBER OF THE FSJ Community

Band to show was Bob Wilson who tootled all the way to Big Bam . . . MAY 19, 1971

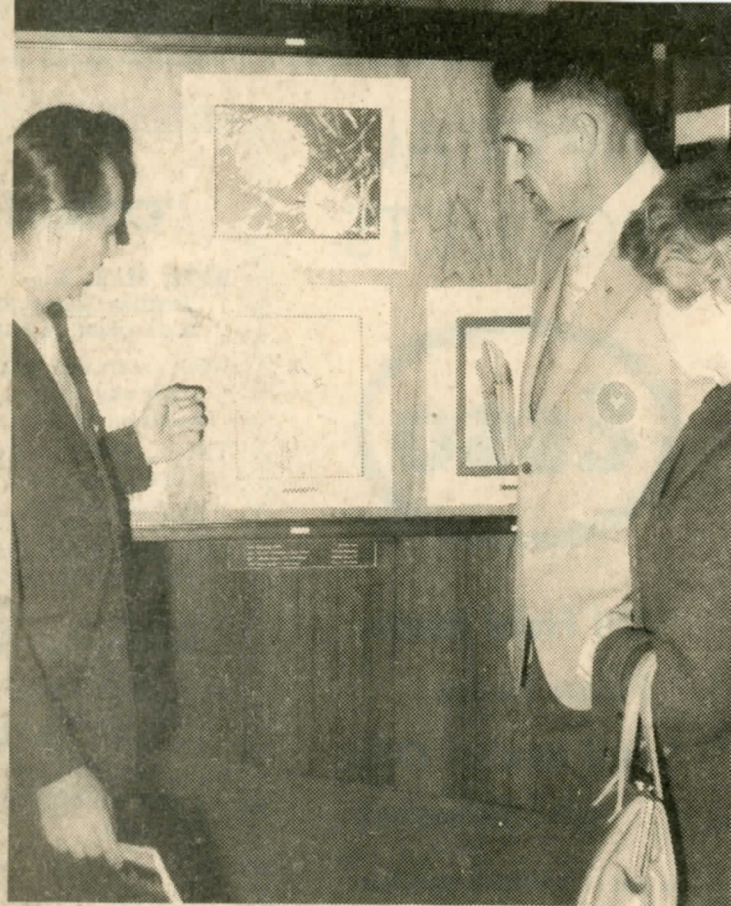
'Portraits of Nature''

MAR 24, 1971

Jointly presented by the Fort St John centennial committee, and the Fort St John Community Arts Council, "Portraits of Nature", can be seen at Hunter's Mall, March 26 at 8 pm to 10 pm and March 27 from 10 am to 9 pm. The official opening ceremony will be at 8 pm March 26. There will be no admission charge.

The photographer, William Dekur, of North Vancouver, is travelling with his exhibition, prepared and sponsored for the British Columbia Centennial '71 committee and the British Columbia Cultural Fund Advisory committee.

Dekur spent much of the past year travelling throughout the province preparing the exhibition.



WILLIAM DEKUR WAS IN Fort St John with his portraits of nature exhibition last weekend. Here he explains one of the many beautiful nature shots to Centennial '71 chairman Tony Brummet and Mary Anderson of the arts council.

MAR 31, 1971

Talent show attracts crowd

The amateur talent show sponsored by the Fort St John Friendship Society in the Legion auditorium October 29 was thoroughly enjoyed by an audience of about 300.

Some two dozen competitors entered the four classes — adults 16 years and over, children under 16, duettists and instrumentalist. Judges were Bill Stark, Millie Poplar and Don Christie and the various acts were introduced by Gordie Vance.

Prizes in each category were \$10 first, \$8 second and \$5 third.

In the over 16 solo group first prize went to Yvonne McAllum, with Donny Sowden taking second place and Peter Priebe the third. Successful duettists were Harvey and Doreen Laboucan, of Dawson Creek, followed by Hilda and Peter Priebe with Darlene Cardinal and Wayne Campbell in third position. The only instrumental entry — the brothers Kevin and Elden Fell — were awarded a \$10 prize.

The under 16 class attracted six entries and resulted in a win for Lorna Laboucan, of Dawson Creek, with Susan Priebe from Charlie Lake second choice and

NOV 3, 1971
Cindy Letendre third.

This was a well supported venture and the quality of the various entrants was such that many of them gave considerable promise of greater things in the future given encouragement and opportunity. The Friendship Society is certainly doing its part in making local citizens aware of the latent talent there is in this area.

Following the talent show, many of the audience stayed to enjoy a dance to the music of the City Lights band.



THE FORT ST JOHN BAND supplied some lively tunes at the opening of the PGE extension to Fort Nelson September 10. Chilly temperatures made for some white-knuckle playing but everyone enjoyed the effort. Randy Rayment with back to camera is the director.

