



ART IS VERY strong in this city and the North Peace Art Group held two shows, one early in the year and one later at City Hall in conjunction with the Potter's Guild. Both were well attended.

DEC 30 1946

DUP

MAY 5, 1946

A big week for arts

by Richard deCandole

This year the first week in May will be a special week-long Festival of the Arts in Fort St John involving in some way just about every art or cultural organization in the city.

The event is being coordinated by the Arts Council which serves as an umbrella body designed to promote arts related activities in the community.

One of its most important functions is that each year it approaches the municipal and provincial governments to request funding for the various projects that will be undertaken during the year. The council was able to raise \$5,200 through the two levels of government and this money has now been distributed to the community groups which request financial assistance.

Some of this money will be used by the various groups to participate in the week-long Festival. For local residents it will be a good opportunity to see how many different arts related groups there are in the city and what sorts of things they do.



HUNDREDS OF local residents will be flocking down to the Kids' Arena May 8 and 9 to once again take in the Annual Art and Craft Fair which will be the wind up event of this year's

ten day Festival of the Arts. The Festival begins April 29 with a Piano and Violin Concert at Burch Presbyterian Hall.

In previous years the Arts Council had not tried to bring together all the organizations to participate in one grand festival. Rather, individual shows were held on separate weekends throughout May and June.

The opening event of this year's festival will be a concert of violin and piano on Thursday, April 29 performed by two local musicians, Dr James and Mrs Marianna Survis. The concert will take

(Continued on page three)



PART OF THE Festival of the Arts will be the five day Music, Drama and Speech Arts Festival. Over 800 local people will be performing in the various competitions including dance classes like the one this young couple was competing in last year.

On Saturday and Sunday, May 8 and 9 the Annual Art and Craft Fair will be held in the Kids' Arena. Local artists either individually or in groups will be setting up display booths and in some instances will have their art work for sale.

The intermediate teachers of Fort St John will have a school display. Central Elementary is planning to set up some of the art work done by students from the school. The Women's Institute of FSJ will be holding a Strawberry Tea during the fair. Both the Pottery and Art Group will perform demonstrations of their particular art work. Spectators may even be given the opportunity to try out some of the techniques.

Further there will be half hourly entertainment which has been arranged by the Workshop Players and will include a wide variety of different acts. Sometimes it will be a musical number, other times it will be dance or drama.

Throughout the entire Festival of the Arts the BC Potter's Guild Travelling show will be on display at Pat's Home Furnishing and at the Pioneer Plaza. This display has been sponsored by the local Potter's Guild.

The Festival will wind up on Tuesday, May 11 when the Arts Council holds its annual general meeting at the

Mackenzie Inn in the Tartan Room.

To stage as big an event as the Festival is highly commendable and for the viewing public it will undoubtedly be a very entertaining and in some instances instructional occasion. For the artists and performers, it will be very rewarding as they gain self-confidence in their particular area of artistic endeavour.

A big week . . .

(Continued from page three)

Friday May 7.

The Grande Finale concert on Friday evening promises to be a highlight of the festival. The people who will be performing have been selected so that the audience will be treated to as varied a program as possible. At that time the trophies and awards will be made to conclude the music festival.

The big trophy which festival participants will be competing for is the Grand Aggregate trophy sponsored by Winspear, Higgins and Stevenson. This is awarded for the most deserving performance of the festival. Each category in the festival whether solo or group has a first place trophy which has been sponsored by a local club or business.

Arts Centre plans approved by council

1976?

The long term prospects for an arts and community center and a new home for the library in Fort St John appear bright, following a recent meeting of the Community Center Committee with City Council. Approval in principal was given to the project by city councillors which has greatly encouraged the community center committee.

The C C C symbol of this committee should become familiar to residents of the North Peace in the years to come. They have been working during the past winter to assess the needs of the community and to explore all possibilities for funding such a project.

The cramped space the library occupies in the provincial building is becoming more and more inadequate, and it is contrary to provincial policy to house the library in the provincial building indefinitely.

The outstanding production of Oklahoma during the past winter has pointed up the fact that the city has reached a stage of growth where adequate auditorium is becoming a real necessity, with a large stage,

comfortable seating, and good acoustics. It's felt an auditorium would be in constant use in this community. Already, Fort St John is being left out by touring performers, because present facilities are inadequate.

Basement space is a new community center might be utilized for activities such as dance classes, photography, painting, potting, weaving and all the craft activities to which people, with an increase in leisure time are turning.

The committee realizes that a project such as this one will have to involve co-operation in planning and funding from all levels of government and the entire community. The committee was encouraged, therefore, when city council gave approval in principal to their participation in long range planning, and named four aldermen to sit with the committee.

Members of the CCDC will be working on background information during the summer so that they may be prepared for the next stage in the planning when people return from summer vacations.

"Oklahoma" coming along

Producing a musical when most of your actors haven't even seen one is a gallant endeavour. But a teacher at North Peace Secondary School, Susan E Popesku, has been doing just that. She has been working steadily at it with her cast since the beginning of November, and her efforts are just about to pay off.

She and her team of helpers, and the cast, of course, are in the final stages of producing the musical "Oklahoma" and it will be presented to the expectant public on February 13 and 14.

"Because most of the kids in the cast have never seen a musical, they can't pattern themselves on someone they have already seen. It's therefore very much their own interpretation, and quite unique." With a script in one hand and a box of makeup in the other Mrs Popesku was clearly talking with conviction.

"They are an extremely enthusiastic bunch of kids. This is the first year that we have ever attempted anything like this, and they are all working very hard. It's going to be a great show."

She is not alone in her opinion. A lot of local people are agreeing with their pocket books. Over half the 960 tickets printed have been sold already. Tickets are \$2.50 each.

Community interest in the project is manifest in other ways too. Apart from the excellent advance sales of tickets, it is also getting a lot of good help from a number of well wishers. People have lent an antique butter churn, an old stove, period guns, an antique Dutch rug beater, a handmade patchwork quilt and a rocking chair.

It hasn't stopped there however. Costumes have been sewn by local ladies and those with other special skills have been quick to donate their assistance. People like Hilary Jones, for instance, who has been responsible for the choreography throughout. Or Dr Jim and Mariana Survis who are 'doing' the music along with Wayne Donn. Dr Survis plays the violin, and Wayne and Mariana play the



SUSAN POPESKU, who is producing the play has worked at rehearsals almost every night

since the beginning of September. Getting the dancing right is a big part of the work.

piano.

Pat Peeke-Vout has been diligently designing and making costumes for as long as rehearsals have been taking place. "These people have been most helpful in everything," declared Mrs Popesku. "We've been holding rehearsals every night of the week, but nobody has found it too much. They've all worked tremendously hard."

Other valuable assistance has come from the Workshop Players. They have every school in the city so wired that they can hook up their equipment and they will be

(Continued on page three)

"Adlard's Army" on the march

"Yes, they call it Adlard's Army, but a lot of people get a kick out of it," said Gordon Adlard. Adlard, principal of the North Peace Secondary School, was speaking in his capacity as pipe major to the Rotary Pipe Band of Fort St. John.

"I don't know whether it's the skirl of the pipes, or the history behind it, but we get asked to play at all the big functions," continued Adlard.

And indeed they have. They played 'Scotland the Brae' at the opening of the new City Hall. They've opened bonspiels, played for Burns Nights, at rodeos, sports days and so on. What would be for many bands the climax of their career was in fact their first engagement. They piped the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh off their aircraft when they visited the city in May 1971.

"I remember the occasion quite well," said Adlard. "We were a very inexperienced group in those days and when the Queen made her visit, we had only had our pipes a few days, having done all our work on practice chanters. There was a strong wind and we had a job to make ourselves heard."

The band is often asked to travel to other places to perform, which bespeaks of considerable improvements in quality since those early days.

"We played at Hudson Hope for the Lions in June last year," said Adlard, and a couple of times we've been flown up to Fort Nelson for the Trappers' Rendezvous, once again by the Lions.

"People out of town tend to be very appreciative and give us plenty of notice of their events. In the city, there seems to be more of a feeling that we can play at the drop of a hat. This is not strictly true.

Apart from getting folks together, the bagpipe is a temperamental instrument and goes out of tune every time it's played."

Apart from being temperamental, the bagpipes are also controversial. Some people love them, others love to hide when they come in earshot. It is also said the Irish gave them to the Scots as



A FEW FACES ARE NEW, but the Rotary Pipe Band in 1976 is as strong as it was when it started and a good deal more experienced. Present members from left to right are, Glynis Adlard, Reg Harmer, Brian Gentles, Terry Cowles, Ruby

Macbeth, Al Balch, Doreen MacDonald, Ross Haller, Frances Luiken, Gordon Adlard, Lynn Fedoruk, Butch Balch, Joan Thompson. (Noreen Adlard is not in the picture.)

a joke and the Scots haven't caught on yet. Not a bad reputation for what started out as a goatskin and a reed.

The pipes have been persecuted in their time, though for political reasons rather than aesthetic. After the abortive rebellion in Scotland in 1745, the English made a determined attempt to suppress Scottish emblems. They

(Continued on page three)

Fort St. John

Much work going into "Oklahoma"

JAN 28, 1976

A combined effort is being put forth to make the NPSS production of Rogers and Hammerstein's musical comedy "Oklahoma," February 13 and 14, a big success. The enthusiasm shown by all the departments of North Peace Secondary School is overwhelming.

The production has been in the planning since September when the school year began. Since November 3, the 24 member cast has sung, danced and recited lines almost every night of each week.

The leading members of the cast are Ruth Hopkins as Laurey, Ken Kirschner as Curley, Monica Milne as Ado Annie, Nick Vanderline as Will Parker, Maureen Arnold as Aunt Eller, Bill Arnold as Carnes, Donna Demers as Gertie, Mike Luciw as Ali Haikim and David Redford as Jud.

The chorus includes Maureen Von Hollon, Debbie Kindrat, Terry Westmoreland, Cheryl Bartell, Bernie Spicer, Sue McWilliams, Heidi Roeters, Tammy Brekkaas, Margaret Langerud, Lisa Bush, Terry Cowles, Gary Payne, Curtis Payne, John Gentles, Alex McGowan.

A number of students rehearse on stage at lunch times and evenings doing rollicking dance routines choreographed by Mrs Hilary Jones.

The set is almost complete.

Students in a construction class built a farmhouse with several unusual features designed to surprise the audience. Painting and special effects have been undertaken by the Art Classes. An old stove, donated for the play has been refinished by the Occupational Classes. No "Oklahoma" set would be complete without an antique butter churn and an original rug beater, kindly provided by interested community residents.

The colorful costumes are rapidly taking shape. Designed by Mrs Pat Peeke-Vout, the costumes are fashioned after the turn-of-the-century period of the musical. The most challenging costumes to create were the provocative can-can dresses.

The technical aspects of the production is being arranged by community residents. Bob Bennetts is stage managing the show. Wendell Snyder from the Radio Shack will install and operate the sound system. Lighting will be supplied by Tony Atkins of the Workshop Players.

The talents of Dr Jim and Marianna Service and Wayne Donn will combine to provide the exciting orchestration.

Under the management of Alice Hardt and her Foods Class, an Oklahoma Day is planned to promote the musical. All students will wear Western dress. The menu features a whole roast pig and many of the foods referred to in the play. Excerpts from the musical comedy will entertain the guests.

Tickets are available at NPSS. All seats are reserved at \$2.50 for adults and \$2 for students and children. Don Angus, ticket manager, reports that sales are going well.



THE THREE KINGS, Richard deCandole, John Bergh and Geoff Ainsworth (l-r) sit with regal poise as the shepherds gather round to offer their gifts. This one of many scenes from

the Christmas production "Amahl and the Night Visitor" which is currently being rehearsed at the Presbyterian Hall in readiness for the December 11 and 12 performances.

NOV 13, 1976

FORT ST JOHN, BC, WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1976

Top tutor teaches North Peace potters

It's small wonder that the Fort St John Potter's Guild is quickly establishing a strong reputation for pottery when one considers the kind of help they're getting for themselves. Workshops conducted by out of town experts have been a regular part of their schedule with the result that there is a lot of expertise in that small group.

The group had a chance to pick the brains of Les Manning, president of the Canada Craft Council on Saturday and Sunday. Manning, from the Banff school of Fine Arts gave an in-depth study of wheel work.

He stated later that he was impressed by the kind of questions he was being asked and considered that the group was displaying a high standard of work.

The seminar was attended by 35 people, half of whom came from Dawson Creek.

The next event in the city of interest to Potters will be a window display of modern ceramics at Pat's Home Furnishings (on Centre Avenue) between March 3 and 15. The display has been put together by

the BC Potters' Guild and is shown in different cities to show the direction that modern ceramics is taking. It has been

brought to the city by the Fort St John Potters' Guild and consists of the works of many BC artists.

Lustres, porcelain, inlay, salt glaze and photographic deco are among the techniques that will be exhibited.



THERE WAS NO LACK of concentration at the Kid's Arena on Saturday afternoon, when Les Manning from the Banff School of Fine Arts gave

his lectures and demonstrations of wheel work to the North Peace Potters Guild. Manning is president of the Canadian Craft Council.

Arts fair organises

MAR 31, 1976

After the success of the first two Art and Craft Fairs, last year and the year before, the organizers, the Community Arts Council have declared it to be an instant tradition and are now preparing for another one this year.

It is to be held in the Kid's Arena on Saturday, May 8, and Sunday May 9 beginning at noon on both days. The organizers will supply tables but no booths.

The fair is quite simply an opportunity for arts-minded groups to display or sell their work. Among the other attractions will be 15 minute skits and sketches presented by the Fort St John Workshop Players every hour.

The organizers point out that exhibitors will be responsible for putting up and taking down their exhibits, as well as supplying the wherewithal to do it, such as hammers string, and nails.

Entry forms should be addressed to Mary Wheat, 8924-77th Street.

Audio books at library

MAR 31 1976

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Fort St John, the audio book program is now underway. The library has just received a shipment of tape recorders which were purchased with a donation from the Rotary Club. The tape recorders and audio books can be borrowed free of charge from the library by visually or physically handicapped people.

The audio books are recorded on tape cassettes by professional artists. Each cassette is equivalent to about 40 or 50 pages of print. Thus an average book might be contained in 6 or 7 cassettes. Some of the books which the library

has on tape are Hotel, the Poseidon Adventure and Day of the Dolphin.

This audio book program is sponsored by the Library Development Commission and is designed to replace the CNIB's talking records. Experiments have been done at Dr Kearney School using the tapes along with the printed text for students with reading disabilities.

If you would like to receive this library service, or know of people who might need the audio books, please phone the library at 785-3731.

KATHERINE ELLIOTT
Librarian

"Oklahoma" real smash

FEB 18, 1916



KEN KIRSCHNER played Curley, and Ruth Hopkins as Laurey played hard to get. Two of the principal characters in the plot, they end up married. Both Kirschner and Ruth have attractive voices.



THINGS IN KANSAS City are really up to date, I guess they've gone as far as they can go. Will Parker, (played by Nick Vanderline) tells his admiring audience of motor cars and telephones, hot and cold running water and other innovations in the big city, near the start of the show.

The North Peace Secondary School's production of "Oklahoma" sold out all tickets a week before the performances, thereby setting an enviable box office record in the city. Nearly a thousand people saw the show, either on Friday or Saturday nights. It was staged in the North Peace Gymnasium.

Those who saw it adjudged it to be an enormous success. The singing was clear, and some of the young people have got "discoverable" voices. If the dancing was well disciplined and coached it also retained that bit of exuberance and spontaneity that made the show come alive.

Oklahoma, a charming love story from Rogers and Hammerstein is set in the American midwest in the early 1900's. Outfitting the cast with period costumes was no small task and many people unconnected with the school assisted with this.

The turn of the century atmosphere was emphasized by the borrowing of many period piece props from local citizens. These included a butter churn, an old wood stove and an antique rug beater. The piece de resistance was a horse drawn surrey in splendid condition, complete with fringe on top. On stage of course, a manpower replaced horse power, but the buggy was a real find.

Other local assistance came from Dr James and Mariana Survis along with Wayne Donn, who provided all the music, the Workshop Players who assisted with the lighting and stage effects and Hilary Jones who organized the choreography. Pat Peeke Vout designed the costumes.

Director Sue Popesku and her team have been working on the musical since November.



THE STAGE WAS red all over when the RCMP band performed for the children of North Peace Secondary School on Thursday.

Their varied repertoire included light music of the post war years, selections from Walt Disney and popular ballads.

MAY 26, 1976

Arts council says

SEPT 15, 1976

Get involved with Northern Lights

Last night the Fort St John Arts Council gave unanimous endorsement to Heather Hannaford's proposal that the council submit a brief to the School Board supporting the idea of joining the Northern Lights College.

The group feels that time is running out and unless steps are taken in this direction very soon Fort St John may be by-passed altogether. The many benefits to the community would be lost.

Fort St John is presently one of two major centres in BC that are not part of a community college.

The Arts Council is particularly interested in setting up a Fine Arts department which is not only lacking in the present Northern Lights program but would also do much to enhance the aesthetic quality of Fort St John.

"But it's only a matter of

ayear or two before we can expect to see an Arts program established in Dawson Creek," warned Hannaford, "and then it'll be too late for Fort St John to get in on having any kind of Arts facility set up here. Unless we do something about it now we could end up as an isolated corner with no community college benefits."

It was the feeling of the group assembled last night that part of the problem was that the School Board Committee struck to look into joining a community college rarely gets any input on the matter from the community at large. The result is that they have been operating in a vacuum not knowing what the community feeling is. The time has come to inform and support the committee's work they felt.

The brief will be a starting point.

Arts Centre group seeks city support

New life has been given to the idea of a Community

Centre in Fort St John.

The Community Centre Committee plotted out a course of action last night which they hope will lead to the establishment of a multi-purpose facility by 1978.

Next Monday, City Council will be presented with a brief on the project for its endorsement. On Wednesday, September 22, the committee will be holding a public meeting at North Peace Senior Secondary to hear any views the public at large may have on the project.

The following Tuesday, September 28, the brief will then be presented to the Regional District meeting along with a formal request for financial backing.

It is hoped that the Regional District's response will be favorable and that a money by-law will be drawn up this winter. The project will then have legal status and the committee can begin the task of raising funds for the Centre.

According to the present plan the centre will include a 6,000 square foot library area, a gallery foyer, a forty by forty foot stage with a theatre seating 600 and three or four workrooms which could be used for anything from mini-recitals to pottery workshops

DEC 17, 1976

Stories for the kids

The FSJ Public Library will be holding a special Christmas storytime for preschool children aged 3 to 5 on December 21, at 11 to 11:30 am. We have planned some special Christmas stories and songs which are sure to interest the children. No pre-registration is necessary.

The Christmas season always brings a lot of requests for correct addresses of friends and relatives before people mail their Christmas cards. We use our collection of telephone books to find this information. The library has telephone books for almost all centers in BC and the major cities in other provinces like Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, Winnipeg, etc.

Our collection of Christmas books is circulating widely as people become curious about Christmas celebrations and traditions around the world. We also have books on Christmas folklore and fables, plays, carols, crafts and decorations, and cooking.

Have you lost a scarf, mitten, glove, hat or sweater? The library is accumulating quite a pile of articles which have been left or lost in the library. Check with the staff the next time you are in to see if we have your missing article.

The library will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 27 and 31. So be sure to drop in to pick out your holiday reading before we close. Some books which are currently popular with our borrowers include Lady Oracle, by Margaret Atwood, Agent in Place by Helen MacInnes, The Canadian Establishment, by Peter Newman, Touch Not the Cat, by Mary Stewart, The Final Days, by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward; Bear, by Marion Engel; Who Has Seen the Wind, by W O Mitchell; Sugar Blues by William Duffy; Building with Logs, by B Mackie and Curtain, by Agatha Christie. Happy Holiday!

Katherine Elliott
Librarian



PERFORMING FOR THE first time this year the North Peace Senior Secondary Band entertained parents and friends with a varied program of

Christmas music Thursday evening in the gym. Dr Kearney's Concert Band and Choir was also part of the two hour program.

DEC 20, 1976

High quality carolling at schools' band concert

A large audience of parents and friends attended last night's band concert at North Peace Senior Secondary which included both secondary school bands and Dr Kearney choir.

The senior band from Dr Kearney under the direction of Ed Stobbe opened the program with a variety of Christmas pieces including Here Comes Santa Claus, Let

It Snow, Let It Snow and The Christmas Parade.

The girls choir from Dr Kearney were second in the program. They sang three pieces, Still, Still, Still, Medley Christmas and Do You Hear What I Hear. under the direction of Paul Pearson.

Again the emphasis was on Christmas music. The pieces they played were A Tribute of Carols, Carol of the Drum,

Procession of the Sardar and a three movement piece, Little Christmas Suite.

All bands were given a fine round of applause for a performance which clearly represented many hours of rehearsal and effort.

The program was concluded by four selections by the North Peace Senior Secondary band which was appearing for the first time in several years

SEPT 21, 1976

Art centre proposal unveiled

Support for presentation of a proposal for a Community Arts Centre to the regional district was given by city council on Monday. The centre to contain a library, 600-seat auditorium, working arts rooms and gallery could cost from one to three million dollars according to estimates.

While backing the proposal in principle, the council did not make any monetary commitments. Individually most aldermen and the mayor agreed to lend their support to the public meeting being held on Wednesday night on the subject.

"The Wednesday meeting will be held at 8 pm in the North Peace Senior Secondary," said Bob Bennetts, chairman of the group.

"If the people turn out in hundreds, we'll use the auditorium. If they come by

tens, we'll meet in the library."

Bennetts briefly reviewed the extensive proposal and noted that any talk of costs or size at this time was really very nebulous.

In response to a query from Alderman Jon Howe, he had stated that the present concept was of a building of roughly 24,000 square feet. The committee hoped that it would be built in the area near the arena set aside for recreation purposes.

The brief was prepared for presentation to the regional district at its meeting on September 28 at 1:30.

Considerable discussion arose on the understanding in the brief that up to one third of the capital cost of a recreational facility to a maximum of \$1,000,000 would be available through the provincial "capital facilities fund."

Mayor Peter Frankiw noted that deputy premier Grace McCarthy had stated that this fund was at or very close to a zero balance and the government was definitely looking "at not re-introducing it."

Aldermen Wally Gentles and Brian Palmer informed the group that their discussions while at the UBCM convention indicated that a similar fund with probably more strict guidelines would be introduced shortly..

Ald Gentles said that information on this fund "should be out before Christmas."

No clues had been given as to the guidelines, he said, but indications were that there would be very definite tightening of controls. Viability would probably be a major factor and a feasibility study would probably have to

be made "in depth and have to be accurate."

"The viability of a program will probably have to be accepted by them before it goes into the architectural design stage," he added.

He stated that in the past many community facility proposals had been fully drawn by an architect at considerable expense only to be turned down by the fund.

The brief stated: "In summing up our thoughts on the concept, we believe the centre should be designed by a firm of architects with experience in the field, employing consultants who are specialists in theatre design."

The theatre-auditorium is one of the main facets of the proposed centre. The committee concluded that seating capacity of 600 was most suitable.

"The theatre must have a sloping floor and comfortable seating. It must be acoustically excellent and be properly designed to accommodate theatre, dance, small symphony, etc."

The concept calls for a minimum 40 by 40 foot stage with proscenium not over 50 feet and minimum 20 foot run-off on each side.

The library would require a minimum space of 6,000 square feet under specifications laid down by the provincial Library Development Commission. Bennetts suggested that possibly this should be increased to 8,000 square feet to keep up with future expansion of the city rather than being held to the minimum.

A "foyer-gallery" would serve both the library and the auditorium.

Workrooms would probably be located in the basement

area under the auditorium. They would include a pottery studio, a "wet" workroom, a dry workroom and other meeting and working rooms.

When queried about the need for a 600-seat auditorium, a question apparently raised in discussion with people at the UBCM convention, Bennetts stated that probably the deciding factor in determining this as suitable size was the size of Unchagah Hall in Dawson Creek.

"That auditorium seats 640 and it is not a large auditorium," he said.

Heather Hannaford stated that ideal relationship was about one third stage size to two thirds audience area. This would provide about 600 seats if the stage was built to the size requested.

Arts and crafts fair makes hit

MAY 12, 1976

For those who have an interest in Arts and Crafts, the two-day show held in the Kid's Arena over the weekend was a good opportunity to see what fellow artisans are doing in the Fort St John area.

Altogether 27 different displays were set up during the Art and Craft Fair featuring everything from string art and macrame to hand finished weapons.

There were a number of individual painters including E T Dahlen of Dawson Creek who set up their works for viewing and in some cases for purchase.

Mrs Cranston had an eye-catching display of polished stones and other finished ornaments which had been made from the stones. Another particularly attractive display was the string art craft of Mrs Schoenenberger.

An old-timer from Stettler, Alta gave a demonstration of spinning wool. On display were a number of his own hand-knit garments.

The Quilter's Club had a colorful display of some of their projects completed during the last winter. The Potter's Guild as in previous years was also well represented.

At regular intervals throughout the two-day fair, live entertainment was provided by local artists. The Immaculata School choir sang and the North Peace Senior Secondary Drama Club performed a short improvisation. John Gentles did a piano solo, David Holmes sang a solo and Timothy and Phillipa Woolley sang a duet. The North Peace Stage Band, Mrs Wilkinson's Dance Groups and the Forty-Niners Square Dancing Club also did short programs during the Fair.

The draw prize winners were Mrs Clarence Cranston, who won the Public Library's Pictorial Book, Mrs Dodd, who won the quilt and Peggy Dummett, who won the string art ornament.

Fort St. John

Next year's Mukluk committee formed

MAR 3, 1976

Next year's Mukluk Rendezvous steering committee has now been chosen following recommendations from the nominating committee presented in open meeting last Thursday night at Ambrose School.

Joe Szpradowski became the new chairman with Denis Buan being chosen as vice-chairman. Dennis Befus will be the treasurer, Leslie Redhead the secretary and Barry Willis the publicity chairman.

Seven other people were appointed to be directors. They are; Alex Polis, Dick Kales, Annette Pearson, Jim Collins, Don Jefferies, Wayne Kelly and Bob Hawes.

The first act of the new committee will be review the proposed constitution drawn up by last year's committee and to make any recommendations it feels necessary. When the constitution is finalized, hopefully in a month's time, it

will be sent to Victoria as part of the application to become officially registered as a society.

The advantage of having the Mukluk Committee registered as a society is that it ensures continuity from year to year and that the basic constitution and bylaws are observed. It also makes the committee eligible for grants that may become available from time to time.

The meeting was attended by representatives from a wider variety of community organizations than on previous occasions with the result many new and different ideas for improving next year's Rendezvous were discussed. There was unanimous agreement that more community groups should be involved in the event, particularly school-aged youngsters. This year there was very little for them to do and to a large extent that was because they weren't involved in the planning. The only activity they did participate in extensively was the Saturday night dance at

Immaculata School put on by the Probation Department which turned out to be one of the greatest successes of the Rendezvous. Clearly the young people's talent should be put to more widespread use next year.

Rotarian Homer Good announced some proposed changes for the dogsled race. They plan to stage the event on Charlie Lake next year so as to get away from so many hazardous road crossings along the 14 mile course and to possibly allow for a mass start race which, from a spectator's point of view would make the race infinitely more exciting.

The committee also plans to bring the centre of activity during the final weekend back into the downtown core area as it had been a couple of years ago. One of the Centre Avenue blocks will be closed off, allowing events like the flour-packing contest, pancake breakfasts and other out-door activities to take place in that area. If the weather is good, all

kinds of other activities could also be staged in this downtown area.

Publicity is the other major area which the committee will be improving next year. It was recognized that more money must be spent promoting the event. Former chairman Barry Willis stated that to do so would require a minimum operating budget of \$2,000, last year it had been somewhere around \$400. To raise this \$2,000 he suggested selling charter memberships at a cost of \$5 per person to a maximum limit of 1,000. Residents could regard such a membership as a donation to the furtherance of a collective community good.

The next meeting which will deal primarily with recommendations from the constitution committee will be held at Ambrose School at 7:30 pm on March 26 and is open to the public.