

An active arts scene is taking place over the next year. Plans for the Heritage Festival, to be held July 9 to the 13, 1986 are well under way. Carol Thomson and Pauline Laboucane, hired to organize the festival under a Canada Works grant, already have an extensive list of local and touring entertainers and many events taking place at Centennial Park during the festival.

The Second Annual North Peace Art Society Auction will take place Thursday, April 25 at the Mackenzie Inn. Doors open at 7 p.m. for an hour of viewing, refreshments and entertainment before the auction. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door, with room for 200.

Saturday, April 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. is The Artspace's Un-Birthday Party, called an un-Birthday because of the difficulty of putting an exact date on the formation of the organization. The arts group, now with 120 family members and 22 group members, is organizing a hat-making contest, a sing-along and of course a Birthday cake, for the occasion.

Kaleidoscope Theatre from Victoria will be touring schools in Fort St. John from May 3 to the 10. They will also be giving an evening performance Monday, May 13 at North Peace Secondary School auditorium at 7 p.m.

Tickets are still available for the Winsday Draw to be televised this Wednesday evening, April 17, from Northern Lights College. Tickets are \$2 and available at the chamber of commerce office at the museum.

April 10/85

be acted out

A bunch of the boys were whooping it up in the Malamute saloon; The kid that handles the music-box was hitting a jag-time tune; Back of the bar, in a solo game, sat Dangerous Dan McGrew, And watching his luck was his light-o'-love, the lady that's known as Lou.
 By SHELLEY BROWNE

'The Shooting of Dan McGrew' has been enjoyed by generations of readers since this haunting ballad flowed from the pen of beloved Klondike poet Robert Service during the days of the legendary Yukon Gold Rush.

Dan McGrew, Blasphemous Bill and Sam McGee have died thousands of literary deaths since Service created the antics of his fictitious wild and untamed characters at the turn of the century.

McGrew and his gold-grubbing cronies will be brought to life once more Monday, April 29 in a noon-hour performance at the Artspace.

Fort St. John's Heritage Festival Committee is sponsoring a 40-minute dramatization of the works of Robert Service entitled 'Songs of a Sourdough and Other Bar Room Ballads'.

'Songs of a Sourdough', created and performed by Calgary entertainer Thomas Legg, is a story-telling, not a recital or poetry reading. Except for a few lines quoted directly from the text, Legg performs entirely from memory. He acts out each poem or ballad as an individual play, using a variety of music, lighting and sound effects to create an authentic story-telling atmosphere.

Using only a few props and his memory, Legg

becomes (in his own words) "a painter, sketching with the mind's eye, creating images with words."

For 'Songs of a Sourdough', Legg utilizes a set he constructed from the relics of a 60-year-old barn. The set includes a small saloon and part of a prospector's log cabin. Legg's audience experiences shivers of realism as they witness Legg, sitting on a lonely cot beside a glowing wood stove, recount how Sam McGee, a prospector from Tennessee who died on the Dawson Trail, was cremated by a friend in the boiler of an abandoned sternwheeler.

The ragtime piano of Jac Friedenberga, a 74-year-old Dutch-born musician, adds the final touch of realism to Legg's 'Songs of a Sourdough'.

Legg will not be accompanied by his pianist or stage set for his 'Songs of a Sourdough' performance in Fort St. John next week. Audience members won't be disappointed, though, as the 51-year-old Legg can bring the heroes of Yukon lore to life with the aid of only his silvery beard, grizzled face and story-teller's voice as props.

Legg is stopping in Fort St. John on his way home from a series of performances in Dawson City. He will not have the time to unpack and construct his set and deliver a full evening's performance of 'Songs of

a Sourdough'. His 40-minute appearance at the Artspace, rather, is a hastily arranged favor to Fort St. John's Heritage Festival Committee.

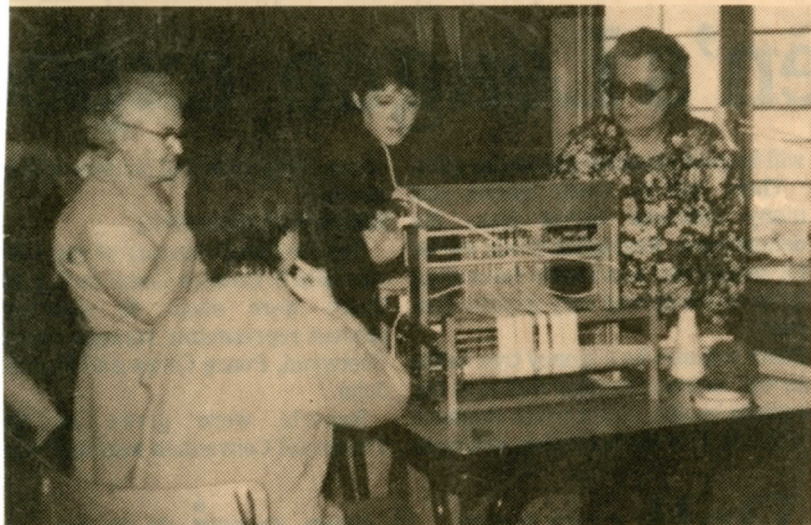
The Heritage Festival is a five day celebration of the North Peace's past and is set for July, 1986.

"As a special side event, we are considering the engagement of 'Songs of a Sourdough' for the Heritage Festival," said committee spokesperson Carrol Thomson.

"Thomas Legg has been kind enough to consent to giving us a preview of his performance next week on his way home to Calgary. We're very pleased to have such a talented and acclaimed performer as a potential for the Heritage Festival."

Legg has been involved with live theatre since he was 20 years old. He has worked behind the scenes in summer stock, was a master carpenter for the Manitoba Theatre Center and Rainbow Stage Winnipeg and was stage manager for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet for a time. Legg is currently head of the theatre design department at the University of Calgary.

Tickets to Legg's April 29 performance of 'Songs of a Sourdough and Other Bar Room Ballads' may be purchased at the Artspace this week. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for seniors and students. Showtime is for 12:10 p.m.



GUILD MEMBERS Donelda McGabe, June Ferguson, and Faye Eggelston take instruction

from Mrs. Dorothy Powell, who conducted a twills weaving workshop.

Lifestyle

Weekend conference for spinners, weavers

The North Peace Spinners and Weavers Guild are off to a busy start for the 1985/86 season.

They are organizing and hosting the fourth Conference of the Peace Country Spinners and Weavers (an organization consisting of spinners and weavers from northwestern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia).

The conference will be held in Fort St. John at the Elks Hall on Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The guest

speaker will be Ms. Jean Farrington of Victoria who is a master weaver and designer.

This will be a "Hands-On" Conference with the use of 30 four-harness looms on which 15 fabric and 15 rug samples will be woven by rotating groups of weavers.

Anyone interested in attending the conference can obtain further information by calling Chris at 789-3598.

The North Peace Spinner and Weavers Guild began their 1985/86 season on Saturday, September 21 with an introduction to spinning. The Guild has taken up residence in the basement of Central School located 10215-99th Avenue in Fort St. John and meets the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in spinning and weaving is most welcome to become a Guild member or just come and see what the group is all about.

The Guild is planning workshops on felting, chemical and nature dying, weaving on 4-harness looms, tapestry weaving and knitting with home-spun wool for this coming season. For further information call Chris at 789-3598 or Suzanne at 785-0877.

Sept 18/85

Can-Canettes recruit

It's dance time again for the Fort St. John Can-Canettes as they enter into their seventh season. New costumes, new dances and new music will enhance their shows this year which promises to be the best one yet.

New dancers are now being recruited and trained for the group. Dance or gymnastic experience is preferred but not a necessity.

Anyone interested in joining or booking this

energetic and vibrant group should contact either Winnie Krimmer at 785-9414 or Veronica Bedell at 785-4070 for more information.

Last season, the Can-Canettes performed about 30 shows throughout the Peace River area. The highlight of the season was a trip to Vancouver to appear on the BCTV Variety Club Telethon with Ronny Prophet. The show was a tremendous success and

the group hopes to return to Vancouver again this year.

Other plans for this year include Christmas shows, a revival of the "Old Fort Follies" and hopefully a trip to Expo '86.

The dancers will also be seen regularly at the Pioneer Inn. They have been booked to appear during the week of September 30 to October 4 for the grand opening of the new dining room.