

Parade plans are proceeding

STAFF WRITER

It's "looking pretty good for a small parade" in Fort St. John to coincide with the opening of Expo 86.

The local Expo committee plans the event for Saturday May 3 in the morning, and arrangements have been made for a number of participants.

ICG is building a gas torch to be carried by a runner in the prime feature of the parade. Other participants or items to be seen in the event are:

The Dr. Kearney School band, which will ride and play on a high-boy truck, the baton twirlers, at least one antique car, bagpipe band, BMX bikes, the Miss Fort St. John candidates, floats, the 'Gold Wings', street machines, three-wheelers and a freightways truck.

Bike contest

A number of entries have been received for the bike decorating contest.

Any kids interested should call the Artspace at 785-1986 to register. The Kinsmen club is to provide three trophies for winners.

Entrants are asked to bring their bikes to City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on May 3 for judging.

The parade will start at City Hall and proceed to Centennial Park. Mayor Brian Palmer will address the gathering and Ald. Eric Graham will be emcee.

The Expo committee will hold another meeting Thursday at 1 p.m. at Anna's Deli to finalize parade arrangements.

Expo parade ready to go

It's all systems go for a local parade Saturday to mark the opening of Expo 86.

Plans for bikes, antique cars, balloons and other things will be augmented by a big cake, four by eight feet, which will be served at Totem Mall following the parade Saturday morning.

Residents will also see an impressive 12-foot high torch, which is being constructed courtesy of ICG, lit at Centennial Park as part of ceremonies.

Children still interested in the bike

contest should call the Artspace at 785-1986 to register. And they are reminded to bring their bikes, which the Expo committee requests they, not parents, decorate to City Hall at 9:30 a.m. Awards will be given out at Centennial Park following the parade.

The parade is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. from City Hall and move south to Centennial park for ceremonies.

RCMP will lead and block roads to clear traffic.

Expo parade is planned

Plans for a celebration to coincide with the opening of Expo 86 are picking up steam in Fort St. John.

The Expo Committee plans to hold a parade and speech to mark Expo. Ideas have been discussed for the past few weeks and one thing has changed with respect to the event — the date.

It was decided to change the parade to Saturday, May 3 in the morning. This way, the committee found it will have more participation in the parade.

In plans for the parade, committee members are looking into naming a runner to carry a torch in the procession, which will go from City Hall to Centennial Park, having a number of modes of transportation in the parade; members will contact local BMX and ATC clubs ride and. As well, the committee hopes to have Miss Fort St. John and the candidates

for the title ride in cars.

BIKE DECORATING

Tentative plans include a bike decorating contest. Interested kids should call the Artspace at 785-1986 to be put on the list. A service club is trying to have trophies as prizes for the contest.

A number of floats are also plan-

ned, one to mark Expo and another the Heritage Festival. Mayor Palmer will be asked to make an address at Centennial Park following the parade.

The committee is planning the event simply to commemorate the opening of Expo. The whole show should last about half an hour.



photos by Denise Driksing

IT WAS a 'torching' event Saturday as Mayor Brian Palmer ignited the Fort St. John flame that will burn throughout Expo in recognition of the world's fair. Not even the rain and the cold could put a damper on this event, the Miss Fort St. John contestants huddled together for warmth. The torch was constructed by ICG.



Expo parade is planned

The Fort St. John Expo committee is finalizing plans for festivities to mark the opening of Expo within the next few weeks.

The committee hopes to decide by next Tuesday on a parade, which will have the theme of transportation. Transportation and communication are the theme of Expo 86.

The parade is to be held Friday, May 2.

Plans call for a runner to carry a torch, which is being made by ICG. The gas company is also prepared to

hook up an Expo flame using an existing gas line.

Ald. Ella Fraser broached the idea of a torch with the gas company some weeks ago.

Committee members are also looking into having antique cars, local baton twirlers, a number of floats in the parade. Also, the Legion has offered use of its hall in case support is shown for some kind of event to be held indoors.

The committee sent letters to community groups inviting them to

last night's meeting but only two persons from the community attended.

Other activities the committee has undertaken include the compilation, printing and mailing of 10,000 brochures which list events in the area being held in conjunction with Expo 86.

In other news related to the committee, chairman Ald. Dave Bodnar will be going to the coast on the weekend for an Expo committee directors meeting and tour of the site.

LETTERS

Regarding Region H display

The Editor

Alaska Highway News

Regarding the controversial
Region 'H' Expo topic.

Just some personal comments
regarding the subject of Region 'H'
and recent requests for the
resignation of Walter Slany, Tourist
Co-ordinator for Region 'H'.

Personally, I do not hold any
grudges or conflicts with Mr. Slany. I
am not properly informed as to what
accomplishments he has made as
Tourist Co-ordinator. I know of two
points: A favorable review on the
Region 'H' video and I commend him

for that. I criticize him for his stand
and involvement concerning the
Region 'H' Expo Display. However, I
do not feel that one mistake, if it was
a mistake or human error, should
warrant asking for his resignation. If
there are other reasons for the
request, pardon my ignorance.

Those requesting his resignation,
please read this carefully —
remember two wrongs have never
made a right.

A concerned Taxpayer,
Alan M. Hunt.

(These are my personal opinions.)

Expo 86 — it's a matter of preference

Continued from page 1

gramming is that "it's turning the festival into something that could be seen anywhere from Cleveland to Tokyo." He contends that using B.C. talent in the World Festival would have given the program an indigenous feel, and that by largely ignoring local performers Expo programmers are "denying themselves the opportunity to do something creative."

Expo's Wootten concedes one thing: "I feel badly that we're not able to offer more work to the theatre community. I think where we haven't found a niche is the local acting community. Basically, on the site, I don't see the room to put on legitimate theatre."

But even discounting the lack of theatre-related work at Expo, the drain on discretionary dollars to the fair portends a lean season for Vancouver's theatres. Theatres around town now are planning a joint advertising campaign to combat the competition from the fair, and even the provincial government has chipped in \$10,000 towards the exercise in recognition of the theatres' concerns.

The local film industry has been increasingly recognized throughout Canada and the U.S. as possessing the collective skills to handle just about anything: \$60 million worth of films were produced here last year, and this year, 14 shoots are scheduled in the Lower Mainland — four theatrical films, seven TV movies, two TV series and a big-budget industrial film.

But this is an industry that says it was not consulted when the B.C. Pavilion decided on a "relatively unproven and very costly" 70mm Showscan process for the film that will showcase B.C. at the fair. The industry is angry that the producer selected for the film, Peter O'Brian, is from Toronto.

Keith Cutler, a director/producer of industrial films and B.C. Film and Video Industry Association board member, said in an interview that B.C. Pavilion president David Podmore was in effect "playing producer" by selecting the Showscan process anyway, because the process itself

locks the producer in to a very specific method of filmmaking.

Podmore, however, said: "I don't have any apologies at all for the Showscan production."

Cutler said that two years ago, Expo was asked by local filmmakers to institute a request-for-proposals tendering system along the lines of the National Film Board.

He said that never happened, that in the case of another 35mm film for the B.C. pavilion, the contract was never put out to bid but was awarded to a California producer. "We have got award-winning industrial producers who would have jumped at the opportunity . . ."

Cutler said: "That somehow is a total betrayal, there is no reason that couldn't have been done locally."

But Podmore, in an interview, discounted suggestions that the local industry has been unfairly treated. To the charge that the B.C. Pavilion's tendering system has been wanting, Podmore admitted "we went through some rough times on

that" but says the major directing talent in B.C. was interviewed — using a BCFIA list as a guide.

Indeed, the director of the Showscan film will be Vancouver's Rob Turner, who was on the BCFIA list, and Podmore says: "I defy anyone to say Expo hasn't had a positive impact on the film industry."

But Ray Hall, president of the BCFIA, doesn't mince words when it comes to the fair.

In a letter to Expo chief Jim Pattison, himself a car dealer and financier, Hall wrote: "*An exact analogy would be if B.C. consumers went to Detroit to buy a new car because they would not trust the competence of a local dealer; or negotiated financing only in Toronto or New York with the excuse that the Vancouver investment community is simply too insignificant.*"

Hall's letter to Pattison was sent mid-May. Last week, Cutler and two other local producers met Pattison and were told it was too late to include local films in Expo's displays at the fair.

Expo talent auditions Feb. 15

Talent from Fort St. John and area will audition on February 15, for a chance to perform at Expo '86 during the B.C. Pavilion Regional week August 17-23.

The auditions are open to the public on Saturday, February 15, at North Peace Secondary School. Thirteen performances are scheduled from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

The afternoon schedule begins with individual dancers, Shawna Strate, Deneen Babcock and Shari Campbell at 2 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Friendship Centre is scheduled for 3

p.m., Dennis Szalai at 3:30, Northern Dance Society at 4 p.m. and at 4:30 p.m.

The evening will begin with Tom Cole at 6:30 p.m., Can-Cannettes at 7 p.m., Ian Mackenzie at 7:30 p.m., Metro Semeniuk at 8 p.m., Karree and Shawna Phillips at 8:15 p.m. and Canadian Express at 9 p.m.

The admission for all day is \$3 adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens. The public is invited to support local talent since all the proceeds from the door will assist the

successful participants to travel to Expo in August.

The B.C. Pavilion will provide \$100 travel assistance, accommodation subsidy at BCIT, free access to Expo '86 during the week and a three day pass to performers for up to 200 people from each region.

The two adjudicators, Pam Quick and Ray Thompson from outside the region will be looking for quality, delivery, technical skill, costuming and appropriateness to the regional theme of "Frontiers of Peace".

The other two auditions will be held

in Fort St. John, February 15 and Fort Nelson, March 8. All successful applicants will be notified by March 22 and showcased first in this region at the Heritage Festival '86 in Fort St. John between July 9-13 before going to Expo '86.

Regional producer, Sue Popesku in Fort St. John would be pleased to answer any questions about the B.C. Pavilion Regional Week at 785-1986. Her office is located in the Artspace at 10003-100 Street, Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 3Y5.

Expo *Tumble R Ridge* committee *Sept 25* news

Submitted by Cheryl Stevens.

Amature Talent Contest and Events

One hundred and fifty people chosen from this area will perform at the B.C. Pavilion between August 17-23. Auditions will be held between January and March in Chetwynd, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John. Application forms must be in by October 1st, 1985, even if you're not quite sure what you may be presenting.

Performers will perform one to three times a day, Monday to Sunday. They could be performing in the B.C. Pavilion, which seats 15,000 people, or in the Restaurant or out in the streets. When performing they are given passes for the day. They are also given a three-day pass for a friend. If they also choose, there are rooms available at the Pacific Institute of Technology for a minimal fee of \$11.59 per night. There is some assistance available for travel expenses.

(Continued on Page 8)

Cultural performances 1

VANCOUVER — From May 2 to October 13, 1986, more than 14,000 free performances will dazzle EXPO 86 visitors with the colour and rhythm of cultures from six continents.

International, provincial, territorial and state pavilions will feature the best performing artists, including Fort St. John's Canettes. From calypso music to miners' choirs, lantern parades to tribal dance, diversity is the key to it all.

Says Jeff McNair, Expo vice president of Marketing and En-

tertainment: "The site will be filled with non-stop action and entertainment from around the world. Whether visitors are looking for exotic international shows, classical performances of music and dance or the latest hits off the charts, they're sure to find it all at Expo."

From morning till night, an incredible variety of performances will animate the Exposition in theatres, bandshells, pavilions, plazas and impromptu areas across the 70-hectare site. The Royal Bank/EXPO 86 World Festival will present performances in venues both on site and

in Vancouver's premier theatres off site.

On-site venues include the 1500-seat Xerox International Theatre and the state-of-the-art 4200-seat Expo Theatre, both covered, outdoor theatres. The Kodak Pacific Bowl, an open-air performance area surrounded by a demonstration track provides covered seats for 3100, with additional hillside seating on the grass.

For a taste of that unique blend that makes up Canadian culture, Folklife, a cedar-clad enclave at the east end of the site, offers more than 25 free

to dazzle Expo '86 visitors

shows a day in the Barn, the Big House and on the Common. Demonstrations of arts, crafts and cuisine will go on in the Forge, the Weavery and Foodlife.

The glass-covered Plaza of Nations adjacent to the B.C. Pavilion is the home of National and Special Day ceremonies, the Amateur and Heritage Programs, regional weeks showcasing B.C.'s top entertainers and a variety of other programs. Pacific Station, a complex of three cabarets in the B.C. Pavilion, is the hub of the Expo Afters Hours

program, with the Second City comedy company in residence throughout the Exposition.

Twelve hours a day, everyday, jugglers, buskers, comics, clowns, robots, fiddlers, puppeteers, mimes, magicians and street entertainers will entertain crowds in shady spots, open areas, plazas, queues and walkways the length of the concourse.

The Royal Bank/EXPO 86 World Festival brings together the finest artists of many participating nations to present the greatest international festival since EXPO 67. World-

renowned companies such as Leningrad's Kirov and Britain's Royal Ballet join a multitude of Canadian theatre and dance troupes and orchestras in a cultural extravaganza in venues both on and off the Expo site. The majority of World Festival attractions are ticketed separately and are not included with the price of admission to EXPO 86.

See the world on stage as more than 80 nations, provinces, territories, states and corporations entertain at the 1986 World Exposition in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Opening of B.C. Pavilion at public party Dec. 12-14

VANCOUVER (CP) — The B.C. Pavilion at Expo 86 will open this month with a three-day Christmas Party that will give British Columbians their first glimpse of their pavilion.

There will be candy canes, carols and Santa Claus at the big public party Dec. 12-14.

There will also be Vancouver's largest Christmas tree — up to 50 metres high — helicoptered in to the site.

“We hope to bring it in at dusk with

its lights all lit up — if we can figure out how to do it,” said pavilion publicist Rod Cameron.

The free party will be held in the Plaza of Nations, which is part of the B.C. pavilion complex, fronts on False Creek and is capable of accommodating 10,000 people. It has a glass canopy overhead but is otherwise open to the elements.

“This will be the main ceremonial centre of Expo — where all the national day events will take place,” said Cameron. “We hope that our Christmas party will start a tradition of this plaza being a gathering point for British Columbians to do things because the B.C. Pavilion will remain after the fair as a heritage building.”

Coal vaulters gymnastics

Interest in gymnastics in Tumbler Ridge seems never ending. With 190 kiddies registered in the school badge program and 20 gymnasts on Cynthia Southard's expo-try out team, The CoalVaulters, it was no surprise when 52 youngsters turned out to try out for the competitive team.

Under the expert eye of Crystal Orke, the children went through a series of skills and were graded until the top scoring 24 were chosen to represent TR for a Competitive Gymnastics team.

Not only the interest is big but also the number of hours these dedicated little souls will spend in the gym—fourteen hours each week—but the hour is not big, no it is wee wee...yes 6 a.m.! for five days a week.

Cammie Owens is assistant coach under head coach Crystal Orke with Cynthia Southard as an advisor.

The team which is yet to choose its name has set its first goal as the Winter Games in Smithers in early February.

Following are the names of our 24 little gymnasts ranging in age from 8 to 14 years:

Jonathon Howe, Troy Marsh, Aaron Martin, James Nesbitt, Nicola Bernier, Danielle Gagnon, Carin Bernier, Simona Jurcak, Sheri Burgess, Zoe Flower, Melanie Tubbs, Nicole Davies, Erin Berardine, Shannon Blais, Jolene Coates, Nora Lee Ragan, Dodie Barry, Stacey Allan, Heather Downey, Tara Given, Vanessa Ferrier, Angela Pittman, Karen Richardson, Colleen Foy.



Cynthia Southard's CoalVaulters Gymnastic students just finished a vigorous work out. Twenty one of them are pictured here. These children are

off to Expo in August. They are also going to Smithers in February for the winter games.

B.C. PAVILION REPORTS

A WORLD STAGE IN OUR BACKYARD

Expo 86 — it's an exposition, a festival and an opportunity rolled into one; a chance for B.C. to take the stage and share our special spirit with the world.

The British Columbia Pavilion believes everyone should have a chance to participate in this premier world event. That's why we're bringing the whole province into our pavilion during Expo 86.

IT'S A SHOWCASE OF B.C. TALENT

For 10 weeks this summer, the Host B.C. Pavilion will come alive as thousands of young performers bring the heart and soul of British Columbia to the centre of the Expo site. This is our **Regional Weeks Showcase** — a chance for communities everywhere to share the spotlight during this special time.

AND EVENTS GALORE

Epic events such as the historic **Fur Brigade** from Langley will dramatize B.C. history for our international guests. A fanciful sea battle by the **Small Ships Society** will demonstrate our marine heritage. There'll be sailboat races, tumblers, native dances, and our very own Sea Monster Convention — all in celebration of Expo and the exciting part we're playing in it.

In the process, we've discovered new and exciting B.C. talent which has already gone on to greater heights. They'll be there too — performing for the world and supported by a cast of thousands!

IT ALL BEGAN LAST SPRING

That's when we asked community groups and associations everywhere to build the Regional Showcase program. They responded by forming regional committees and developing themes dealing with the unique character of each region.

Now, auditions are taking place all over B.C. as thousands of hopeful performers try out for the Showcase — and you can be sure the very best will represent our people, history and culture at **Expo 86**.

Because Expo is more than an international showcase; it's a chance for us to share our special province with the whole world — and with each other.





photo by Denise Dirksing

PRESSING THE memory into his mind as well as his scrapbook, Peter Vogelaar held an audience of his own as he sketched a number of the artists as they auditioned for the B.C. Pavilion recently.



The Coalvaulter's Gymnastics team are going to Expo 86 in August.

Coalvaulter's are going to Expo '86

The Tumbler Ridge Coalvaulter's Gymnastics team are very proud of themselves as they received confirmation recently that they have been selected as one group who will represent Tumbler Ridge at Expo '86, in the talent showcase.

The announcement was made on March 22 at a luncheon held at the Community Centre.

They will perform in the B.C. Pavilion August 17-23 in the Regional Week programs to be hosted at the Pavillon.

After being auditioned in Dawson Creek in one of the 12 regional auditions held throughout the province from January through March their many hours of practice paid off.

Coaches Cynthia Southard, Coach and Rosemary Tull, Coach of the 160 member levels program, are excited and proud of the 20 young gymnasts in the group. The Coalvaulter's themselves can't wait for this big event.

Their performance category is a sport performance which they have to develop into a 15 to 20 minute

program. They will each be provided with an honorarium for travel expenses, free admission to Expo each performance day, plus a complimentary 3 day pass.

Congratulations, Coalvaulter's!
(More pictures follow inside.)

Another local resident, Wayne Primeau, auditioned for the Expo '86

Talent Showcase. He will also be performing during Regional Week at the Pavilion. He won the audition for the music category and will be entertaining people from all over the world with songs about Tumbler Ridge that he has written.

Congratulations, Wayne!



photo by Denise Dirksing

TRACING THE HISTORY of the city, dancers from the Northern Dance Society delighted audiences

with their creative skills during the auditions for the B.C. Pavilion at Expo 86.

South Peace does well at Expo

From August 17th through the 23rd approximately 50 performers from Dawson Creek worked the B.C. Pavilion appearing before thousands of people.

Charles Kux-Kardos acted as Master of Ceremonies together with Bob Bennets from Fort St. John. Charles was also the Spirit of Dudley Shaw in an original piece written by himself to give outsiders just a "bit of

the magic of the Peace River country." The junior dancers displayed Dawson Creek's own cabbage patch kids, the tiniest ballet dancer in town and two modern interpretive pieces.

Newly-weds Verna & Curtis Keding/Charleton, joined by sister Arlene sang and played their own popular interpretations. Lann Lieurance, Layne Dahlen, Mike White and Ron Kidd presented their

music under the name Dudley Shaw Band. Other bands included The Weekend Warriors from Pouce Coupe, Canadian Express, The Northern Lights Chamber Ensemble incognito as David and the Goliaths. 2 Plus Piano featured none other than

Merrill J. Flewelling, Laura Car-driver and Melody Hewko. James Oldenburg together with Ester Osterbaan also entertained with classical guitar and flute.

The array of Dawson Creek talent was well received at Expo.



photos by Denise Dirksing

PERFORMERS gave their all on Saturday, as they auditioned for the honor of taking their acts to the B.C. Pavilion during Expo 86. Among the many groups of local talent were 40 performers from the Northern Dance Society (above), who acted the history of Fort St. John from pioneer times to modern day living. MLA and newly-appointed B.C. Energy Minister Tony Brummet was on hand for the performances, and offered them his whole-hearted support (at right). Saturday's auditions were the second day of them last week; on Friday auditions were held in Dawson Creek. Another round is slated for March 15 in Fort Nelson. Below, Deneen Babcock does her gold-panning skit. "Frontiers of Peace" is the theme of the Peace Region's talent showcase.



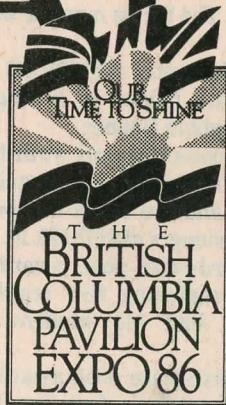
BRITISH COLUMBIA TALENT



PEACE RIVER YOU WERE SUNSATSIONAL.♦

EXPO 86 really does belong to all British Columbians. You proved that during your "Frontiers of Peace" Regional week at the B.C. Pavilion.

For seven days, your talents, your vitality, your enthusiasm and your spirit



made the Host Pavilion even more sunsational.

Thank-you for helping us share British Columbia with the world. And with each other.

You really did shine.

Hon. Patrick L. McGeer, Minister Responsible

Region H at Expo

Continued from page one

A number of other familiar faces also dotted the fairgrounds as Fort St. John quick-sketch artist Peter Vogelaar, and an exuberant cheering section of families and friends from all over the region accompanied performers to Expo.

The Peace River/Alaska Highway regional week at the B.C. Pavilion was front and centre of the 146 performers minds long before these northeastern British Columbian cultural ambassadors took to the stage August 17.

Performers began preparing for Expo almost one year ago when they began honing their acts to audition last January for one of the limited spots in the B.C. Pavilion limelight this summer.

Regional producer Popesku, an active member of the Fort St. John arts community for over a decade, also began working on the Pavilion project over a year ago.

Popesku, responsible for orchestrating Peace Country talent into the supremely successful showcase that appeared at Expo last week, was hired last July as a 13-month contract employee of the B.C. Pavilion.

The long year of recruiting and auditioning performers, attending to travel and accommodation arrangements for 160 people and wrestling to schedule some 300 performances over the seven days the group was at Expo was worth the effort, though.

Popesku and her battalion of volunteers' reward for a job very well done was, as a tired Popesku said with a smile last Saturday, "the compliments we've been getting all week about our marvelous performers and how smoothly everything has gone all



REGIONAL PRODUCER Sue Popesku, left with volunteer Jan Armstrong from Fort St. John discuss schedule of Region H performers at Expo last week.

seven days."

Popesku was the only salaried employee of the group to travel to Expo last week. Performers and volunteers all donated their time and talents for free.

In exchange for services rendered (performers each took two, and often three, half-hour daily stage spots and road crew members had 4 1/2 hour daily shifts), volunteers received \$100 travel and \$40 accommodation subsidies, a site pass for seven days and a three-day pass for the fairgrounds (many of these were passed on to families and friends accompanying volunteers).

And performers also received something else - the opportunity to display their talents in a one-in-a-lifetime performance at a

world's fair before an international audience.

"That's the whole philosophy of regional weeks at the B.C. Pavilion," Popesku explained. "To allow amateur talent to perform in a setting many of the performers otherwise would not have."

Popesku said the regional weeks have brought to light the vast wealth of raw talent that exists among amateur entertainers in British Columbia.

"The regional weeks at the B.C. Pavilion have revealed the fact our amateur performers aren't paid professionals doesn't mean we aren't good," Popesku said proudly.

"We have a tremendous storehouse of talent in this

province."

The theme of the Peace River/Alaska Highway regional week at the B.C. Pavilion August 17-23 was Frontiers of Peace because, as regional producer Popesku explained, the region is one of the last frontiers of recreation, unspoiled wilderness and quiet peace in the province.

But it will likely be a while before Expo visitors enjoy the untamed recreational opportunities and peacefulness of the Peace Country.

Expo, Popesku told the Highway News last week, has drawn tourists away from the Peace River/Alaska Highway region and other parts of the province this summer.

"Definitely this year the focus of tourists has been on Vancouver," Popesku said when asked about the economic spin-offs to the Peace River region as a result of Expo.

"Travellers have limited finances and time and Expo has been such a focal point this summer that it has drawn tourists away from the rest of the province."

Popesku said that while areas of the Peace Country have gained a certain amount of traffic because of Yukoners and Alaskans travelling down-province to Expo, overall, the world's fair has drained the tourism dollar of B.C. outside of Vancouver rather than contribute to it.

Popesku doesn't forecast total gloom and doom for the tourism economy of the province, however.

"The seed has been planted."

"I think we'll see an increase in tourism traffic throughout the province in the next five years as a result of what visitors have learned about B.C. at Expo this summer," Popesku said.

And when people come to the Peace Country for a post-Expo visit, they'll see a lot more than the raw resources of coal, oil and gas. They'll see a rich human resource - Peace Country talent - many of these visitors discovered for the first time at the B.C. Pavilion last week.

They'll be back for more.

B.C. Pavilion officially opens



Mark Osborne (left), was photographed sitting with his creation, a papier mache trucker and waitress in his artists concept of a typical Alaska Highway restaurant. His vignettes of the eight tourist regions of the province are on display in the Discovery B. C. building

at Expo '86. These stage settings are the backdrops for a series of musical sketches performed by a roving troupe of performers who entertain visitors while they are waiting to enter the Discovery Theatre.

By **MARCHETA LEOPPKY**

News Staff Reporter

In his speech to the thousands of invited guests at the official opening of the B.C. Pavilion Friday, Premier Bennett stated that "the B.C. Pavilion offers up a reflection of who and what we are." If this is the case then there is one small blight on the beautiful scene.

The B.C. Pavilion is rather like an enormous square consisting of three permanent buildings surrounding the Plaza of Nations, an entertainment centre that seats 10,000 under a steel and glass roof. The northern corner of the complex is one of the major entrances and is situated across from the B.C. Place Stadium on Pacific Boulevard.

Off to the left as you enter, is the Showcase B.C. building, in the eastern corner sits the Discovery B.C. building and to the west is the Challenge B.C. building. The southern corner opens out onto False Creek with Plaza Waterfront built out on the water.

The media team that were brought down to Vancouver to cover the opening of the B. C. Pavilion, were taken on a conducted tour of all these facilities. Everything on the site is first class and most impressive but for one exception...the exhibit depicting northeastern B.C. in the Discovery B.C. Pavilion.

The building is a soaring 30-meter high glass galleria designed to depict the lifestyles of British Columbians and has some fantastic, state-of-the-art facilities to show the world our people including the Trees of Discovery, the Showscan Theatre and the B.C. Revue.

REGION H DEPICTED AS A GREASY SPOON CAFE

Amidst all of this splendor, and it is magnificent, sits animated murals and stage sets depicting the landmarks and scenes of daily life of each of the province's tourist regions. Region H, the northeastern section of B.C., is displayed as a dirty, greasy-spoon Alaska Highway Cafe.

Every large city has one of these restaurants in the older, slummier part of town. Looking at the grubby, stained walls in the display, you could almost smell the permeated stale grease that is associated with such an establishment. To show the world this scene of 'northern hospitality' is a disgrace!

When questioned by reporters from the area, the set designer Mark Osborne, explained that his vignettes are composites that show the flavour of an area. If this is the case and visitors to EXPO take him seriously, then we might as well forget about any visitors on the

(Continued on page 2)