

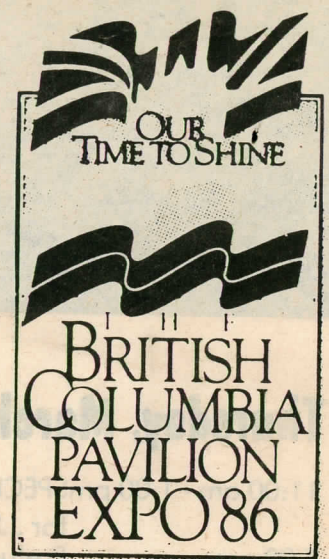




"FRONTIERS OF PEACE"

AUDITION

PROGRAM



MASTERS OF CEREMONIES:
Dave Doman and Earl Brown

FORT NELSON NEWS RENDEZVOUS SUPPLEMENT WEDNESDAY MARCH 5, 1986 PAGE 5

10:30 a.m.	Texas Peck	2:00 p.m.	Carol Hall
11:00 a.m.	The Alaska Highway Road Show	2:15 p.m.	BREAK
11:30 a.m.	Kari Bailey	2:30 p.m.	Fort Nelson Drama Club
11:45 a.m.	Bill Dolan and Tim McLean	3:00 p.m.	Jimmy Jack
12 Noon	BREAK	3:30 p.m.	Bridget Faherty
1:00 p.m.	Rendezvous Stage Players	4:00 p.m.	Fort Nelson Aurora Choir
1:30 p.m.	Can-Can Girls	4:30 p.m.	Sara Yoon
1:45 p.m.	Can Canettes	5:00 p.m.	Lyall Mullaney

Saturday
March 8, 1986

FT. NELSON
COMMUNITY CENTRE

10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Leisure

CLASSIFIED/12
★★★★ SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1985



EXPO '85 AND THE ARTS

B.C. talent feels slighted by 'world stage' theme, but it's all a matter of preference

By IAN GILL

"Arrangements have been initiated . . . to bring the finest of the popular performing arts of the world to a potential audience of over 1,500,000. Dancers from Kenya and the Ivory Coast could be presented alongside Inuit drummers from the Canadian North. Traditional dance, sword play and music from Japan could share the stage with the nostalgic big band, rock and roll from the Wildroot Orchestra of Vancouver."

Nancy Boake, Expo on-site entertainment producer

“**IT'S** a deep, dark secret to me,” says Jim McGill-veray, who heads the Wildroot Orchestra and has heard nothing from Expo 86.

Nancy Boake was admittedly talking “could-bes” when she outlined the on-site program to participating nations at Expo’s international planning meeting in May.

But according to many local artists and performers, “could-bes” are about as close as Expo has come to adding substantive British Columbian content to the fair’s entertainment package.

The film industry feels “betrayed.” A theatre manager talks of a “sour picture” and a choreographer says local talent has been “snubbed.” The work of architect Arthur Erickson is nowhere to be seen.

Christopher Wootten, Expo programming director and the man in charge of the multi-faceted show planned on and off the fair site next year, says “there will always be complaints, I am resigned to that.”

He concedes the politics are “just unbelievable,” but defends Expo’s cultural arabesque: “We are specializing in providing a strong international flavor and we will highlight within that context the B.C. talent.”

In the end, it depends on your view of what a world’s fair actually is. Is it a chance for the world to come and see *our* world-class talent in B.C.? Or is the idea to bring the world’s best to us, so we, traditionally fed on a thin gruel, get to add a few pounds to our cultural frames? The answer is, at best, a compromise.

Impresario Hugh Pickett believes that with former Expo president Michael Bartlett out of the picture, local artists stand a better chance of getting heard at the fair. With the departure of the “man from the circus in Toronto,” Pickett says, “they have been told to change their tune.”

His optimism is not widely shared.

Jim Hibbard is a choreographer, a dancer, a promoter, and, it must be admitted, an American. But, having married local actress Charlene Brandolini in 1964, and having spent the past 12 years living and working in Vancouver, he considers himself a local.

Expo bothers Jim Hibbard. “None of the major shows are going to be done by local people. There is kind of an elitist feeling that pervades their decisions.”

Hibbard objects to Wootten’s recipe that subsumes B.C. talent within the international thrust of the fair. “If I’m going from country to country, I would want to see what is happening *there* . . . what is home grown. If you’re coming to our fair — and I still say it’s *our* fair — it’s unfortunate that the majority of the local talent you are going to see is in the cabarets and the outdoor theatres. Nothing larger than that.”

It’s not that Hibbard hasn’t tried. “Way back when they first put out tenders for a big show, and they said the budget was going to be a million and a half dollars . . . I put my proposal in and so did several other people all over the country.

“As soon as they turned every single one down, that said to me that they weren’t planning on having anybody in the first place, so they were going through the motions.”

Hibbard refers to a tender put out last October for a revue in the Expo Theatre; Expo received his and about 25 other proposals but according to Wootten, “just as we were about to make our decision as to who to go with, the entire program was cut,” for budgetary reasons.

Hibbard: “They did the same thing later on when they took out an ad in The Sun for ideas for the opening ceremonies.

Wootten says the advertisement in January in The Sun, the Globe and Mail and Variety is evidence of Expo’s intention to “open up competition — so you can see our motives were good.”

Hibbard thinks it was tokenism. After sharing his concerns with Pickett and others, Hibbard says, he eventually got a call from Expo chairman Jimmy Pattison.

That led to a meeting about four months ago with Pattison, which in turn led to another with Wootten, who told Hibbard Expo did have one contract left — for a ‘50s-‘60s revue. Hibbard says he’s heard nothing more about it. Wootten says: “We lost the budget for it.”

In the end, Hibbard’s concern is that “they didn’t put out any tenders or proposals for anything else other than the ad in

WHAT THE CULTURE COSTS



CHRISTOPHER WOOTEN: "there will always be complaints"



JOHN GRAY: indigenous feel needed

Until now, fair management has revealed only that its World Festival (a 5½-month dance, music and theatre festival taking place in civic theatres) will cost \$9 million. And, of that, \$5 million will be recovered in ticket sales. A further \$8 million in revenue is expected from "name" entertainment in the 4,300-seat Expo Theatre.

Expo refused to allow The Sun access to detailed budget material, but, upon request, did release the following:

- On-site entertainment at Expo — which includes parades, the Folklife Festival, amateur and street entertainers, and the music, song and dance performed at the International Amphitheatre — will cost \$6.1 million to stage;

- Cost of the Attractions program — which includes "name" entertainment, bandstands, cabarets and Expo's after-hours entertainment in general — will be \$9.6 million;

- Special Events — the opening and closing ceremonies, national day events, spectacles like the tall ships and the air show, and the specialized periods featuring specific theme-related displays — will cost \$7.4 million; and

- The Visual Arts program — including Ramses II, the Michael Snow holography exhibition, and art gallery and museum exhibits associated with the fair — will cost \$2.7 million.

This brings the total cost of the cultural program at Expo to \$34.8 million.

Expo pays fees, per diems, facility rental and for accommodation, translators, airport transfers, food and incidentals in the case of World Festival acts. But these acts must cover the entire cost of getting themselves and their equipment to Vancouver.

Ticket prices for entertainment events have not yet been announced.

Wooten says there were few responses to the advertisement, but Expo has retained a consultant to the opening ceremonies. He is Tommy Walker, from L.A., who Wooten describes as "absolutely excellent . . . he's a master."

If Expo is Vancouver's cultural incarnation of Yankee-style imperialism, then the city's theatre community is its Nicaragua.

Bill Millerd runs the Arts Club Theatre and he is concerned for its very survival while Expo does its song and dance across the way. Millerd is not worried that the Arts Club has no involvement with Expo, but "I feel for a lot of artists who haven't gotten anything out of it."

So does Sherman Snukal (author of Talking Dirty), who doesn't need the work himself but says, "I would have thought there would have been a lot of work for local writers and that just hasn't happened."

Snukal points out that the sole local theatre production planned for the \$9-million off-site program, the World Festival, is a work commissioned by the Vancouver Playhouse. But Lysistrata 86 (its working title) will be written by Sharon Pollock, who was born in New Brunswick.

Pamela Hawthorn, managing director of the New Play Centre and chairman of the Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance, says that with the exception of the Playhouse work, "the local Vancouver theatre companies are not being included in Expo programming in any way.

"In general," Hawthorn says, "the local arts community will give you a fairly sour picture of the Expo situation."

Playwright John Gray says he doesn't want to plead the problem in "welfarish" terms, by complaining about local people not getting jobs.

For Gray, the problem with Expo's pro-
"Expo 86" D5

the Sun paper. If I had sent my proposal from L.A. through my agent there I probably would have got more response — I'm sure of it."

"I think it is a solid approach, but it doesn't win friends."

Christopher Wooten, the man responsible for pulling together Expo's \$35-million entertainment package, wants to dispel suggestions that B.C. performers will get cold comfort from the fair.

At the Folklife Festival, which is an entirely Canadian show, one-third of the program will be "strong B.C. content."

At the International Amphitheatre, a 1,500-seat venue that will feature short performances of dance, theatre and music groups several times daily, about 17½ per cent of performances will be by B.C. acts

The bandstands will feature

"virtually entirely" B.C. performers, and the "hundreds of performances involving thousands of people" that will make up the amateur program will be about one-third British Columbian.

Local performers will also feature strongly in street theatre and other on-site programs, Wooten said, although most of the acts at the Expo Theatre, where "name" entertainers will perform, will be from outside the province.

Wooten also said the opening ceremony "will be strongly Canadian and British Columbian

... and here's the B.C. breakdown

and will have thousands of British Columbians in it."

B.C. artistic involvement in the fair that has actually been announced to date centres on the World Festival, the major off-site entertainment package, only about one-third of which has been revealed. So far, it includes performances by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Vancouver Opera Association, the Vancouver Playhouse, and new works by three dance companies — Jumpstart, the Paula Ross Dance Company, and EDAM.

Performances of *The Breath of our Grandfathers*, by the Dancers of 'Ksan from Hazelton, in

northern B.C., have also been booked and announced.

In addition, because "I think it is misrepresenting us to say we don't have such a strong commitment to local performers," Wootten also released details of the following B.C. acts hired to Expo, or under active consideration. "This is not the end of the list," Wootten says. "This is the beginning of the list."

Street Performers: Festival Characters, Slim and Angel, Douglas Newell, Timestops, The Burples, The Knickers; **Magicians:** Pat Quail, George Holloway; **Clowns:** Pepper, Conrad Flapp, Cirque Alexander, Presto the Clown, Gerardo, O Sweet Clown, Taxi Whizz; **Others:** a capella

vocalists Party Fever, jugglers Dick and Dick, storyteller Stephen Nemtin, flautist Norm Stanfield, ventriloquist Don Bryan and the Razzle Dazzle musicians.

Bands, Soloists: Powder Blues, Sharl Ulrich, Spirit of the West, Killarney, Doc Fingers, Jim Byrnes, Charles Butler, Connie Russell, Science, Big Band Trio, HB Concept, Ron Haywood & Stripes, Al Foreman, Heatwave, Steam Heat, Elmer Tippe, Phase III Steel Band, Meet Men, Caputo, Barbara Fischer, Heartbeat, Lance Harrison, Vancouver Wind Trio, Leslie Duka, Yamaha Duo, The Goldamez Duo, ASA, Wager, Legs Diamond, Tim Brecht, Willy Mal Calder Trio.

• What Wootten calls a sampling of local talent that will be invited to perform in the International Am-

phitheatre: Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Chamber Choir, Repertory Dance Company of Canada, Anna Wyman Dance Theatre, Karen Jamieson Dance Company.

• Acts that will be performing at the Folklife Festival: Len George Dancers, Connie Kaldor, Bim, flautist Zheng Zheng Hua, Margo Kane and Slahai (native theatre), Irish acts Paddy Graber and Under the Moss, Little Mountain Band, drummer Themba Tana, games demonstrator Jane Hewes, blacksmith Bob Taylor, the Musqueam Weavers, Fraser Valley Quilters and East Indian henna painter Shanti Ayre.

• Amateur acts include the Bee-feater's Band, Magee High School Choir, Canadian Forces School of Music Band, Vancouver Police Pipe Band, Delta Police Pipe Band, Seaforth Highlanders Pipe Band and the Mountain Combo.



NOV 19/86

EXPO 86's THEME, "World in Motion + World in Touch," is captured in the spherical shape of the Expo Centre and the stylized wheel rings of the

main gate, bisected by the concrete guideway of the new rapid transit system. Expo opens its gates on May 2, 1986.

Proud show for Region H

EXPO 86 — They saved the best 'til last.

The Peace River/Alaska Highway region took Expo 86 by storm last week to end the nine-region, nine-week talent showcase in the B.C. Pavilion in fine style.

The week of August 17-23 was "our" week at Expo and the 146 performers who travelled to Vancouver to represent Peace River/Alaska Highway communities in the host province pavilion did all back home proud with their talent they showed during those seven days.

The Peace Country have always known it has a first-class act when it comes to culture and the fine arts, and after last week at Expo, the rest of the world knows it, too.

Thousands of the 140,000-odd visitors to daily click through Expo turnstiles August 17-23 had the good fortune to relish the riches of some outstanding northern entertainment. Fair goers are sure to remember the region as one of the highlights of their exposition experiences.

"Absolutely tremendous," exclaimed an elated Sue Popesku, Peace River/Alaska Highway regional week producer, when contacted by the for a progress report on-site last Wednesday.

"We're getting some excellent comments from members of the public who've seen our very talented people perform.

"And many of the Expo staff working on the regional shows here at the Pavilion say the Peace River/Alaska Highway regional week is one of the best they've seen all summer."

The enthusiastic appreciation of staff and visitors at Expo for Peace Country talent was evidenced by the fact all of the shows — from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30

p.m. August 17-23 — were well attended by thronging fair-goers.

Sashaying Can-Cannettes, gyrating gymnasts, fleet-footed dancers, crooning country-western singers and rollicking rock bands had members of the international audience clapping their hands, stomping their feet and raising their own voices in song at the B.C. Pavilion last week.

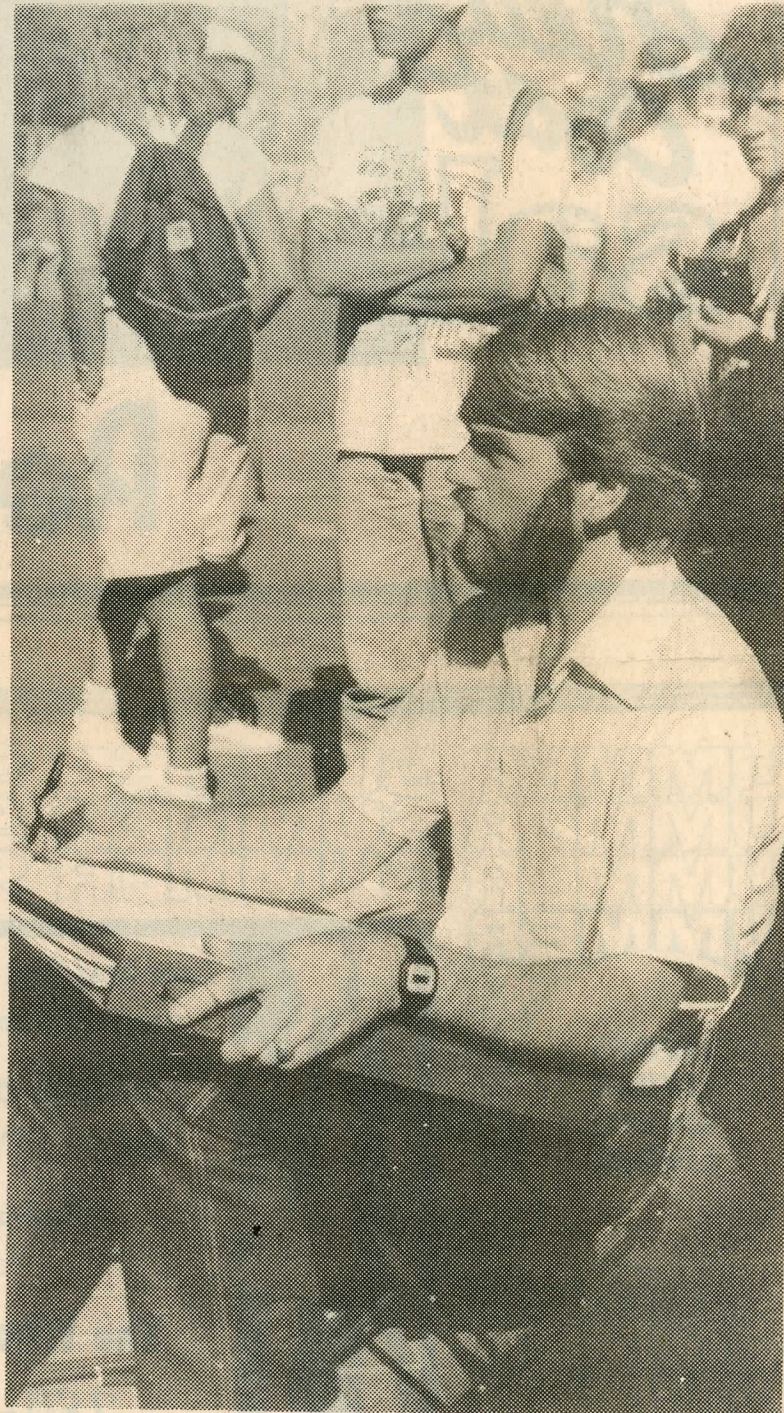
Performers ranged from a captivating little tyke from the Northern Lights Dancers of Dawson Creek to Fort Nelson's grizzled sourdough Jimmy Jack — whose animated 'how-to' explanation for sourdough bread had his audience alternately laughing, salivating and laughing again — from four communities represented by the Peace River/Alaska Highway region of British Columbia.

Included were 17 performers from Tumbler Ridge, 44 singers and dancers from Dawson Creek, 24 Fort Nelson entertainers and a 59 member troupe from Fort St. John.

Off to Expo from Mile 49 of the Alaska Highway were the high-kicking Can-Cannettes, country singer Tom Cole, Northern Dance Theatre Society, impressionist Ian MacKenzie (who brought along a whole host of friends, among them Jack Benny, Ed Sullivan, Marie Osmond and Elvis Presley and light-rockers, Canadian Express.

Other members of the official Peace Country contingent to Expo last week were 10 hard working volunteers (whose daily 4 1/2 hour shifts had these dedicated roadies running all over the fairgrounds attending to a multitude of tasks), tuxedo-trimmed master of ceremonies Bob Bennetts and regional producer Sue Popesku.

Continued on page two



PETER VOGELAAR of Fort St. John did quick-sketches at Expo as part of Region H performers at Expo last week.



THE CAN-CANNETTES, one of many Fort St. John and other Region H performers strutted their stuff at the British Columbia

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Performers make region proud at Expo

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4 1/2 hour shifts had these dedicated roadies running all over the fairgrounds attending to a multitude of tasks), tuxedo-trimmed master of ceremonies Bob Bennetts and regional producer Sue Popesku.

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, at-

tending 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 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.

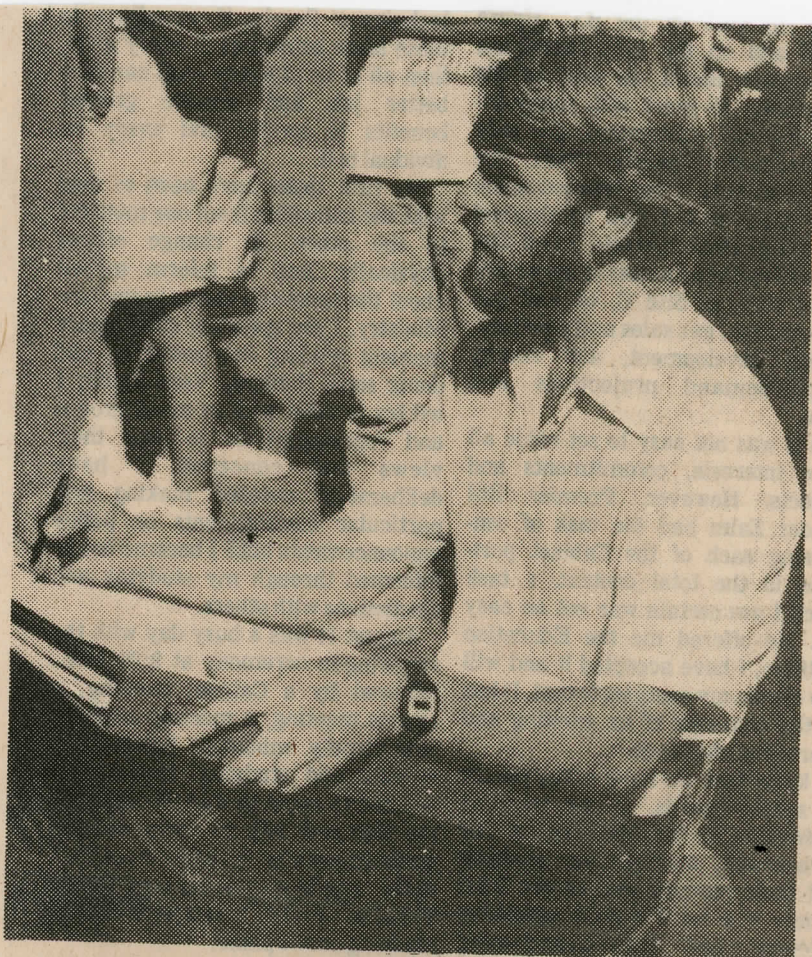
And when people come to the Peace Country for a post-Expo visit, they'll see a lot more than the raw resources of coal, oil and gas. They'll see a rich human resource - Peace Country talent - many of these visitors discovered for the first time at the B.C. Pavilion last week.

They'll be back for more.



REGIONAL PRODUCER Sue Popesku, left with volunteer Jan Armstrong from Fort St. John

discuss schedule of Region H performers at Expo last week.



PETER VOGELAAR of Fort St. John did quick-sketches at Expo as part of Region H performers at Expo last week.



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Pavilion as Northeastern B.C. marked its week at Expo last week.

Local



REGION H display in British Columbia Pavilion at Expo 86 in Vancouver, depicts Alaska Highway Cafe. This exhibit seemed to draw a lot of interest last week as area representatives toured

Expo site. While the display has been the centre of some controversy in the region, journalists who viewed it seemed reasonably impressed.

Regional Alaska Highway **NEWS WEEKLY**

Fort St. John, B.C., Vol 4, No. 30
Wednesday, May 7, 1986

FREE!

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photos by Dave Nagy

PEACE COUNTRY banner leads the way for Region H in parade at B.C. Pavilion opening.

BC Pavilion, Expo are officially open

By DAVE NAGY
of the

Alaska Highway Daily News

EXPO SITE, False Creek — The North Peace and Region H played their part in ceremonies held to mark the opening of British Columbia's Pavilion at Expo 86 Friday, April 25.

The tired but excited group found Expo was more than worth waiting for. And perhaps the hardy spirit of the North Peace residents helped them through a chilly, rainy day as they joined others in the B.C. Regional Parade, one of several events held to mark the opening.

Thousands of others came to see the spectacle which is part of Expo, now officially open. And see they did.

What they saw was and probably is the biggest show this province, the country, and maybe the world will see in the 1980's.

About 5000 media and specially-invited guests came out in inclement weather to witness and be a part of history in Vancouver as Premier Bill Bennett officially opened the B.C. Pavilion on the site of Expo 86.

PROUD DAY

It was a "proud day for all British Columbians," the premier said, addressing the crowd assembled in the plaza of nations outside B.C.'s pavilion.

It was now up to B.C. "to show the people of the world... the many areas of B.C. and to invite them back as tourists," Bennett said.

Expo was designed to "bring them back," Bennett explained, adding the exposition was part of a economic strategy for the future of the province, in developing programs and selling products. And the economic strategy was to keep on going "long after Expo 86 is gone, the premier added.

SEE SHOWS

Transportation and communication are the themes of Expo. The media tour last Friday began with a live theatre performance called Challenge B.C. The point of that play

was the message of B.C.'s resource riches. Next was a film shown on a huge (100 ft. wide) screen, spilt in three parts. The challenge of B.C.'s resources was the theme of a film called Our British Columbia, which depicted typical days in the lives of real British Columbians.

The subject of the film was the quality of work life, and the film used all real people in the professions at work, including their unscripted remarks.

Next, the tour moved to to the B.C. Pavilion Discovery theatre where another film, Discovery, was shown. Aimed at all members of the family, the film showed what visitors to B.C. could see — the provinces's austere beauty, the excitement of flying down a river nestled in deep valley, of the thrill of downhill skiing.

Both films were shot with a new technology in filmmaking called ShowScan, which shoots film at two-and-a-half times its normal speed, and with 70 mm film. The result is an experience of motion, the audience was warned, and many of them including this writer actually thought they were flying down that river or going down the ski slopes. Many shouts were heard but it was not clear if they were from excitement or fear.

After a couple of hours of being inundated with wall-size movie scenes, the media were turned loose for about an hour until the official opening of the pavilion.

RAINY DAY

The weather 'sort of' co-operated for the opening. It rained on and off every 15 minutes or so up to the opening. The premier's day Friday couldn't have turned out better as the rain stopped as he and his entourage moved inside the pavilion. Federal Energy Minister Pat Carney was among dignitaries for Friday's ceremony.

Two plaques were unveiled to mark the occasion, one by MLA Russ Fraser and the other by the Hon. Pat McGeer, minister of international trade, science and investment and

minister responsible for the B.C. Pavilion.

Opening remarks and the Premier's introduction came from Thomas G. Rust, commissioner for the B.C. Pavilion and chairman of the board of B.C. Pavilion Corporation.

MLAs, Carney, Rust and other dignitaries followed Mr. Bennett into the Pavilion to view the Challenge and Discovery films.

Expo's Soft Opening was Saturday, when the gates were opened to the public, and thousands came despite pouring rain.

Expo officially opens Friday, May 2. Front gate staff said 1500 per hour could be handled through the gates, or 18,000 per day. Admission is \$20 per day for everyone six years of age and up, but discounts are available in various day pass configurations.

EVERYONE FRIENDLY

Everywhere reporters went they were met by pleasant, smiling people. Expo staff, bus drivers, and regular citizens on the street were as courteous as one could want.

Some citizens were concerned, and not looking forward to summer traffic as more people came to Vancouver.

Members of the arts community and representatives of the city, region and remote parts of the region, about 25 altogether boarded a flight early Friday morning around 3:13 local time (they had expected to take off at 9:40 Thursday night), arriving in Vancouver about 4:30 a.m. The CP Air crew decided to make up in some way by buying drinks for all.

Thursday evening's delay began when the plane developed mechanical problems in Whitehorse. Members of the group were told mechanics were flown from Vancouver to correct the problems.

Those chosen to go to the ceremonies were flown and housed at the expense of the B.C. Pavilion.

Area media were also flown at the expense of B.C. Pavilion but had to pay for their own rooms in Vancouver.



PREMIER BILL BENNETT addresses thousands at opening ceremony.