

# Oklahoma ok

Most of the people who turned up at the North Peace Secondary School on Friday and Saturday nights, expected to see a good show. Few of them realized when they went in however, just how good it was going to be. "Marvellous, great and Gee, I really enjoyed that," were just some of the favorable comments to be heard as people left the auditorium.

One other thing that was said was, "I didn't know we had so much talent in Fort St John." Well, the people who were saying that, know now. All it takes is somebody to bring it out. There is a widely held outlook that if you want to take in a good show you have to head south and not stop till you get to Vancouver.

It may be true that there are a lot of good shows down there, and they happen a lot more often than they do up here. But when folks complain about

the lack of "cultural facilities" in the city, there is often the implicit suggestion that that's about what you get in a town full of farmers, loggers and truckers, and that we just don't harbor that sort of talent.

The cast of Oklahoma, none of them over Grade 12, certainly gave the lie to that old story. There were some very clever youngsters on that stage, and some very able people directing them.

If a city of 10,000 people can put out a show like that, it has no need to look south enviously.

So here's our congratulations to the director, Sue Popesku for putting on some fine entertainment and showing the people of this city the way to put on a musical. And also for recognizing the abilities of our young people.



COWMEN AND FARMERS should be friends, goes one of the songs in the show Oklahoma. This particular cowman is not in a mood to be friendly with anybody however. The shotgun is not a toy either, by the way.

The North Peace Seco School's production "Oklahoma" sold out all time a week before the performances, thereby setting an enviable box office record in 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 to be an enormous success. The singing was clear, and some of the young people have "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 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 Hollen, 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.