

Local committees press hard to make success of festival

About this time last year it was final festival week in the city. The committee reports that local stores as well as individuals have been most cooperative in lending these items.

Like Miss McQuaid, the other members of her committee—George Arnold, Miss Barbara Rogers, Mrs. J.P. Miller, and Mrs. Fred Ransman, are members of the Charlottetown Little Theatre Guild.

MEANWHILE, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hennessey and other members of their committee have been arranging a dazzling program of entertainment for final festival week.

Serving on this committee are: Mrs. J.A. MacMillan, Mrs. Harold Palmer, Art McInnis, Claude Maurice, and Sterling Walker.

They weren't there solely for the purpose of watching plays. They were there to learn how to run a final festival week. They did see the plays of course, but they also talked a lot about the festival.

They talked to the actors, learned that for them the festival is a holiday time and that they enjoyed it most if their troupe was quartered in one hotel. They made a note to look after this in Charlottetown.

Some DDF committees are having their busiest time right now. Such a group is the registration committee, headed up by Mrs. Frank MacKinnon, who describes its task as "a fair amount of ordinary but detailed work."

PLASTIC CARDS This rather large committee types and assembles plastic cards for the visitors to wear and stuffs envelopes with tourist and centennial information for them.

EARLY STARTER The executive chairman Randolph Manning, secretary William Hancock, and treasurer Lillian Duchemin, had been appointed the executive committee by the sponsoring body, the P.E.I. Centennial Committee.

Ten subcommittee chairmen were appointed by the executive, and the work of some committees got underway last May.

The publicity and public relations committee was one of these early starters. It is made up of Mrs. Robert Large, Mrs. Wilfred A. Farrell, Mrs. M.G. Hogg, Roland G. Taylor, all of Charlottetown, and C. Rose MacKenzie and Robert Schurman of Summerside, with Mrs. Large as chairman.

Working with Mrs. MacKinnon are: Mrs. D. Brehaut, Mrs. J. Chandler, Mrs. F. Coffin, Mrs. J. J. Coyle, Miss M. Donahue, Miss C. Fraser, Mrs. Kent Irwin, Mrs. Jan MacLeod, Mrs. J. A. Lawson, Mrs. George Rogers, Jr., Mrs. D. Samson, Miss Helen Wakeford, Mrs. G. Wellner, and Miss B. Worth.

For Malcolm Reeves' transportation committee, most of the work lies ahead. He and his assistant, Brian Scott, are responsible for arranging bus tours and transporting contestants from

press kits containing maps, information on the theatre and the DDF itself will be distributed to these people.

Since last spring, Mrs. Large has been keeping a scrapbook of DDF clippings. A glance at this shows that she has been far from idle.

Mrs. Fichaud, chairman of the ticket committee, organized her attack on the buying public last fall. No hard salesmanship, really, just the suggestion that vouchers to be exchanged later for tickets to the DDF would make ideal Christmas presents.

She had things in her favour—the approval of the new theatre, the donation of an office by I.M. Simpson and Harry Bartlett, a good committee—but her own ideas and methods of organizing them were her main assets.

It must have been confusing. Five different prices, six seats over 9,000 seats in the theatre, single tickets, series tickets, theatre parties.

TICKET COMMITTEE Serving on the ticket committee were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pease, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon White, Dr. and Mrs. Don Drysdale, Mr. and Mrs. George Buntan, Sgt. and Mrs. Eric Tefford, Mr. and Mrs. Manning Beagall, Miss Iphigene Arsenault and Guy Fichaud.

Among the particularly active "agents" in other committees were Mrs. George Dewar, O'Leary, and Mrs. Ruth MacLeod, Montserrat.

Besides the committee members, there were numerous volunteers who staffed the DDF on ticket-selling days. These included: Mrs. Malcolm Putnam, Mrs. John (Ian) Craig, Mrs. Sterling MacNeill, Mrs. Lloyd Cox, Mrs. Frank MacKinnon, Mrs. J.A. MacMillan, Mrs. Harry Bartlett, Mrs. Reginald Boyne, Mrs. James Gerry, Mrs. William Hancock, Mrs. J.R. Davies, and Mrs. Harold Palmer.

Thomas Lothian, consulting occasionally with provincial drama director Rex Irvine, has compiled this two-language final festival program.

A block print design with an Island theme, done by Mrs. Malcolm Putnam, was chosen from about a dozen contest entries for the cover.

WORK IN BARRIS On April 12, the final festival competitors were announced, and work began in earnest on several committees, notably the one handling accommodations.

Allister MacLeod is in charge of this rather difficult task. The committee wanted to house all the players in the Charlottetown Hotel, and was able to squeeze everyone in except the cast of "Inherit the Wind," which will stay at the nearby Dundee.

This committee's work involved a great deal of correspondence, as Mr. MacLeod's secretary can tell you.

In fact, several secretaries in the city are probably the real unsung heroes of the final festival, for executive committee members such as Randolph Manning and William Hancock have accumulated thick files of DDF correspondence in recent months.

Mrs. Mary McQuaid's property committee has spent the past two weeks building up props requested by the companies. These run the gamut

from brass beds to an aspidochelone to a baby grand piano. The committee reports that local stores as well as individuals have been most cooperative in lending these items.

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The executive chairman, Mr. Manning, has reported that the entire DDF committee met roughly once a month throughout the winter.

Proceedings of such meetings were duly recorded by Mrs. Duchemin and reports made to the lead office in Ottawa.

(Miss Duchemin served also as vice-chairman of the pre-festival theatre conference.)

The books were kept by Jack Cooke, who took over the position of treasurer when Bey Cook moved to Ontario in February.

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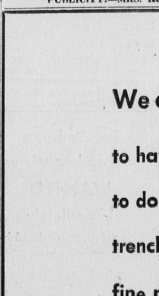
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MRS. DOUGLAS MCGOWAN

Mrs. McGowan, Final Festival chairman, resides in Montague, P.E.I. She was born in Toronto and educated at St. Joseph's Convent and Dominion College. As a child performer on stage and radio she studied ballet, music and drama. She twice toured Canada as a professional entertainer and was given the Army rank as honorary lieutenant.

She will probably have to press costumes for the casts, and act in an advisory capacity.

As stage director, Gordon White has spent the winter working about construction progress on the theatre and making inquiries about same.

In the past few weeks his mailbox has been filled with scripts, lighting directions, and stage plans, and he has been funneling this information to stage manager Michael Spence.

Then there's Mrs. Douglas McGowan, the chairman of the entire committee. Her job is to override all phases of the operation.

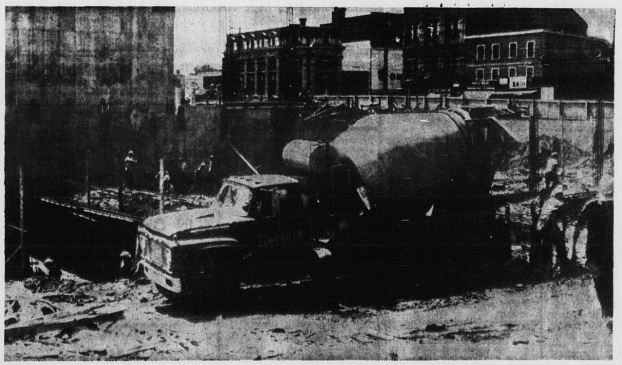
The festival plans are almost here. It's taken a year of work. Hats off to the local committee.



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