

Crowd Of Happy Children Means Alex Is Near-By

If you see a big crowd of singing kids on a beach these days, chances are good it's surrounding Alex Eftimoff, a university student - singer - guitarist - teacher - puppeteer who's a member of the Canadian Puppet Theatre troupe that entertains six days a week at Confederation Centre.

Alex likes singing with children and although it's his job this summer, he does it in his spare time too. "I'm a bit of a ham," he said in a recent interview. "And kids are nice to work with. They're very unsophisticated; they look at you and take you for exactly what you are."

Singing on the beach gives him a chance to try out new songs in front of an audience, and the audience reacts the same way as in the theatre, he finds. "And for the benefit of anyone who hasn't had the privilege of seeing the puppet show yet, the reaction is enthusiastic and giddy."

"I enjoy it almost as much if not more than singing with adults," said Alex. But the singer-puppeteer has been singing for almost every age group since he got his guitar at the age of 12. Alex, the son of Russian parents, was born in Montreal but went to school in the Toronto area. In those days his singing was confined mainly to high school rock and roll bands and private parties.

"I sang in a coffeehouse in Toronto for a while but I didn't last long—it was exam time and I was going out of my mind," he recalled.

ENGLISH TO FRENCH
After graduating from University of Toronto with a BA in history and modern languages, he took his guitar to Europe and spent two years teaching English in French hotels.

Alex tells wonderful stories about touring Europe by guitar—it's a hitchhiker's best prop, he maintains. "When I was travelling I'm sure I must have saved hundreds of dollars on room and board," he said.

Most amusing adventures took place in Turkey where the buses are so crowded Alex shared a seat with a sheep at one point. He'd stand by the highway waiting for a car to stop and instead a well-stuffed bus would pull up and the passengers insist he come along.

They would demand to be sung to, he'd protest he couldn't be heard in the bus bumping over rugged roads, so they'd sing to him instead.

At the destination, usually a village, the favor had to be returned in a local inn, and while Alex sang for them (most requested music was "I'm a Little American Jazz"), they'd treat him with tea and watermelon and persuade him to stay over as a guest.

when practically the whole town would follow him to the outskirts and wait for a bus to come along. Poor bus! The Turks would form a human barrier to stop the vehicle, haggle with the driver, and Alex would soon be swept off with another crowd to another village and another night of singing.

CLEVER CHILD
In the Montmartre section of Paris a friend's enterprising 10-year-old brother quietly circulated a hat in the crowd while Alex was singing.

The clever child netted five dollars in French money (and kept it!). Alex was embarrassed. He was teaching school and not at all broke, and the next night, singing in the same place, he broke off in one number to explain this to the crowd and say he'd appreciate it if, when the little boy passed the hat, they didn't put anything in it.

That night the enfant terrible collected \$10! **FRENCH TO ENGLISH**
After two years teaching English to French students, Alex went back to Ontario in 1961 to teach French to English students in a high school in Ajax.

Principal of the school was the father of puppeteer John Rapsey, who is also here this summer with the puppet theatre.

Mr. Rapsey introduced Alex to John and Linda Keogh who were running a puppet theatre on their farm outside Toronto. Alex was soon doing voices for them and singing in intermissions, and "it's been a going concern ever since."

Working with the Keoghs has obviously been fascinating in itself, and has brought Alex extra musical fun, like singing with the New Christie Minstrels (the Christies and the Keoghs were in adjoining booths at the Michigan State Fair late last summer) and entertaining a company of Russian puppeteers at a party.

VODKA AND MEATBALLS
The Canadian puppeteers met the Russian counterparts at the Keogh home over vodka and meatballs. (The Russian troupe was on a North American visit that included an appearance on the Ed Sullivan show and a show at the Royal Alex in Toronto.)

Naturally, after an exchange of information on puppeteering in Canada and Russia (it's a big field over there), Alex put the visitors at ease by starting a bilingual singsong that lasted until three a.m. because the Russians simply wouldn't allow him to stop playing. Alex was thrilled.

"I was proud," he said. "They had entertained 60 million Americans on Ed Sullivan and I had the privilege of entertaining them in return."

STUDIES VS MUSIC
Alex returned to university last fall, enrolling at the State University of Iowa for an MA in French.

"Last year I was going to do nothing but academic work," he sighed. But he got involved in the university's "International House" show, starting out as the M.C. and ending up directing the entire production. He learned, he said, to handle each nationality differently.

The French, German, Columbian and Philippine students work "completely different people in temperament." Last year's academic work was music aspect is symbolic of Alex's problem in planning what to do after he gets his MA in the spring.

By then he'll be qualified to teach French at the graduate level, but he can't stay out of show business. "I like acting. I like to look into the possibilities of a PhD in dramatics but it depends on what courses they're giving," he said.

Whatever he decides to do, it's quite likely he'll take a trip to Russia, if the Keogh troupe makes the tour it's planning now. Meanwhile he's enjoying his summer here. He and the John Rapseys are staying in a Langley summer cottage.

And in his spare time he sings just like in his working time. On beaches.

Island News Page

Western and Central Districts
The Guardian, Charlottetown, Mon., July 26, 1965. 3

Chansonnier Imparts Candle Light & Wine

By MARIAN BRUCE
Overheard at Confederation Centre Theatre last night: "Felix Leclerc's voice sounds like mine—after it's been aged in wood."

It was an apt description of the voice of Quebec's favorite "chansonnier," who last night gave the third in the theatre's Sunday concert series. It's a voice that suggests wine, a dim cafe and squat candles dripping wax on checkered tablecloths. But it can also convey a picture of sun-baked fields and tree-lined streams.

It's a vibrant voice, a deep baritone that glows with warmth and color and injects beauty into the tribulations, joys and everyday events of the people about which Leclerc sings.

Leclerc sings the poetry of his people; but you get the feeling, listening to that dark velvet voice, that he could make a completely mundane phrase like "hot enough for you?" an expression of poignant beauty.

POET AND COMPOSER
And Leclerc is a poet—a writer and composer in addition to being a singer. Many of his own songs were included in last night's concert. They were songs that undoubtedly helped make him the darling of the Paris folk music circuit and win a national reputation here as the greatest of the French-Canadian folksingers.

He has created the sketches, songs and materials for a new revue and is considered the dynamic force behind the current revival of interest in Canadian folk music.

He sings almost as naturally as many people breathe and as effortlessly as most people talk. He has an unusual guitar technique and he plays with an unobtrusive ease that compliments fully his singing style. The instrument seems so much a part of him, it comes almost as a surprise to see him without it.

Of course, a concert by Felix Leclerc is much more than a combination of voice and guitar. For Leclerc is Gallic charm personified: a dark, handsome face topped by a crop of thick gray hair and wry smile that suggests of some secret amusement.

A SECRET EVEN
Unfortunately for some of the 200 or more persons at last night's concert, the material of the French-Canadian singer's program was indeed a secret. A mystery is much more than a combination of voice and guitar. For Leclerc is Gallic charm personified: a dark, handsome face topped by a crop of thick gray hair and wry smile that suggests of some secret amusement.

Every song was in French; the introductions were in French. And there were no explanatory programs to help those from the read-it-but-can't-speak-it school. Leclerc's voice and expressions helped convey the meaning of his songs, but there were times when one felt, hearing scattered chuckles of appreciation from the predominantly French-speaking audience, one was failing to grasp the point somewhat.

But despite minor inconveniences for the non-bilingual, the performance was a delight to hear. And watch.



ROUND UP VIET CONG

Robert M. Fuehrt of Tionesta, Pa., a U.S. adviser in a Vietnamese ranger battalion, is followed by a comrade as they approach two captured Viet Cong guerrillas during an operation along the Reds at Phong Hiep, a Mekong Delta village about 100 miles south of Saigon. (AP Wirephoto via radio from Saigon).

Man Injured At Stock Races In Montague
MONTAGUE — Robert Ross was taken to Kings County Memorial Hospital yesterday after his racing car overturned at the Lower Montague speedway.

It is expected that Ross will be kept under observation for about 48 hours. He is thought to have received concussion. Ross was taking part in the sixth event of the weekly stock car race card at the speedway when he spun out of control and the vehicle up-ended. The car rolled twice but came to rest on its wheels.

Reports from the track said his protective helmet came off when the car turned over. Officials said he was wearing a "regulation" helmet. He was taken to hospital by the track ambulance.

Following are results of races: 1st. Race won by Eric MacDonal (six cylinders). 2nd. Race Robert Ross 8 cyl. 3rd. Race Joe Donovan 8 cyl. 4th. Race Fred Landring 6 cyl. 5th. Race Lorne Power 8 cyl. 6. Donald Ross 8 cyl.

Free for all Joe Donovan. Powder puff derby won by Peggy MacLeod.

years as a missionary in the Dominican Republic. In 1962 he went to Brazil.

IS PRELATE NULLUS
VATICAN CITY (Reuters)—Pope Paul has named Canadian Rev. Francis Paul McHugh as prelate nullius of the New Brazilian prelate Nullius of Itacatiara, it was announced Friday.

Father McHugh was born at Woodville Ont., in 1924, and became a Roman Catholic priest in 1954. He spent three

N.B. French-Language Paper Under New Management

MONCTON (CP)—New ownership and a \$100,000 grant from the Quebec government has given new life to the 78-year-old Moncton L'Evangeline, the only French-language daily newspaper in the Atlantic provinces.

L'Evangeline, plagued by financial problems since it became a daily here in 1949, received financial support from the Quebec government Friday in the form of a \$100,000 grant. The government will pay \$50,000 to the newspaper immediately, and the remainder will be paid as required for specific needs over the next three years.

The grant was followed by an announcement here Saturday that the newspaper, has been purchased by La Compagnie de Gestion Atlantique Limitee, a subsidiary of La Societe L'Assomption, a Moncton insurance company. Company president is Gilbert Finn of Moncton.

Financial drives have been held over the last 10 years to help the 11,000-circulation daily in publication.

STUDIED FINANCES
In March, 1964, a five-man commission was appointed by Most Rev. Norbert Robichaud, Roman Catholic archbishop of Moncton, to study the financial problems of the publication.

The commission found L'Evangeline was having difficulties in competing with two English-language newspapers in Moncton, a city of 50,000. L'Evangeline, however, had good possibilities in increasing sales in northern New Brunswick.

A 95-page report released by the commission recommended the newspaper be maintained in Moncton, and that it be of Catholic inspiration rather than of Catholic obedience.

MAULDING FAVORED FOR LEADER
By GEOFFREY WHITEHEAD
LONDON (Reuters)—Reginald Maulding, 48-year-old former finance minister, edged ahead Sunday in the struggle for leadership of Britain's Opposition Conservative party.

But authoritative party sources said he faces the danger of a last-minute wave of support for Edward Heath, 49, his only serious rival and best known for his work in connection with Britain's unsuccessful effort to join the European Common Market.

Political correspondents

Some 440 Are Attending Kensington Swim Classes

Some 440 youngsters arrive by bus each day at Sutherland Montgomery's private waterfront, where the Kensington regional day camp is in operation giving instruction in swimming and water safety for the Red Cross.

Dr. Benson Riehl and Mr. Frank MacNutt, co-chairmen of the regional water safety committee, have organized this summer project and are assisted daily by volunteer Red Cross workers from the 21 school districts included.

Red Cross water safety supervisors Patsy Judson and Blair Darrach are in charge of the program.

The water safety instructors are Isabel MacNutt, Patsy Sinclair, Anita Gallant, Carol Hickey, Norma Craig, Alan Picketts, John Webb, Mike Richard, Tom Bradshaw, Larry Henry and Carol Herman.

DEATH NOTICES
CULLEN — Suddenly at his home, 193 Weymouth Street, July 23, Joseph H. Cullen, aged 46 years. Resting at the Hennessey Funeral Home from where the funeral will take place this morning at 10:15 to St. Dunstan's Basilica for Requiem High Mass at 10:30. Interment will be in the Catholic cemetery.

MacPHEE — At Charlottetown July 25, 1965, John W. MacPhee of Mount Hope in his 86th year. Resting at the Montague Funeral Home. Funeral from Dunstons United Church, Tuesday, July 27, at 2 o'clock. Interment in the United Church cemetery.

GERALD REGAN
(Continued from page 1)
candidates—former agriculture and lands and forests minister Colin H. Chisholm—was forced to withdraw Saturday morning after collapsing Friday night in his hotel suite.

Mr. Chisholm was stricken while entertaining delegates and it was reported he suffered complete exhaustion. Of the other two candidates, Halifax Alderman G. Robert Matheson polled 201 votes and Arthur Yates of Greenwood picked up eight ballots.

The third leadership convention for the party in 11 years was made necessary by the resignation of Mr. Urquhart, elected to succeed Opposition Leader Henry D. Hicks in 1962 and defeated a year later in his own riding in the general election.

Mr. Hicks, now president of Dalhousie University here, was the Liberal premier when Mr. Standfield's administration came to power in 1955. The government has won two elections since then.

Night-time Showers Ease Drought

While the province enjoyed days of warm, sunny weather over the weekend, the weatherman sent night-time showers to help ease drought conditions.

Charlottetown radio range reported 1/8 of an inch of rain, fall in a four-hour period, beginning around 4 o'clock Sunday morning. In addition, 1/4 of an inch of rain fell Friday night.

A Charlottetown man sleeping in a tent at St. Peter's said there were a couple of very heavy showers in that area Sunday morning. At times the rain was driving through the canvas and forming a mist inside.

In some areas, however, the rainfall was light. Temperatures ranged between 59 and 76 degrees Saturday, and between 61 and 77 Sunday, and sunbathers took to the outdoors under sunny skies.

THOMSON BUYS PAPER
HERKIMER, N.Y. (AP)—The Evening Telegram, a daily newspaper founded in 1898, has been sold to Thomson Newspapers Inc. of Chicago, the American division of the Thomson Newspaper Group. It was announced Sunday.

Arriving this evening at the Bonness Funeral Home. Committal service Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. to St. Paul's cemetery, Summerside.

STEWART FUNERAL — The funeral for Mrs. Douglas M. Stewart was held Friday afternoon, July 23, from the Gillis Funeral Home to Wood Islands Presbyterian Church. Rev. Donald Nicholson conducted service at the church and grave. The organist was Mrs. Arthur MacMillan. Hymns sung were: The Lord Is My Shepherd and Sweet Hour of Prayer. Pallbearers were: Chester Hancock, L.B. MacMillan, Malcolm Bell, Waldron Taylor, Arthur MacMillan and George Ferguson, M.A. Flower bearers were: Lorne Lea, Ronnie Stewart, Eric Stewart, Alexander Stewart, Robert MacKenzie, Edward MacLeod, Monty Emery, Peter Emery. Interment took place in Wood Islands cemetery.

EASTERN FUNERALS
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FLYING BUNKHOUSES
A Calgary-based firm, Aco Industries Ltd., has announced it has produced self-contained housing units for oil well drilling camps that can be carried into rugged areas by helicopter. Here a Bell 205B hoists a 3,100 pound bunkhouse into the air during a demonstration at the head office of Aco in northeast Calgary. (CP Wirephoto)

LEADERS RE-APPEAR
MOSCOW (AP)—Two Soviet leaders who had been absent from the public scene for more than a month reappeared Saturday. Nikolai V. Podgorny, the second man to Communist party chief Leonid Brezhnev in the party secretariat, arrived in Sevastopol, Moscow radio reported. Genady I. Voronov, a member of the presidium that runs the party, appeared at a Kremlin reception.

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