

Play on 1870's not exaggerated

"The Ottawa Man" may be an extremely talented people in the force, but it's no exaggeration according to the man who wrote it. Mavor Moore says the Canadian west in the 1870's was wild in every way — "a very tough place".

"Almost everyone who went out there had to live by his wits. There was not much social conscience."

Mr. Moore was talking about his comedy during the early stages of its rehearsals. As director as well as writer, he was saving a good time putting the play together, for he had freedom to make line changes if he so wished. Besides it's a funny play, and there are funny and



ERIC HOUSE is Mayor Axel Axelson in "The Ottawa Man". Sanderson in "The Adventures of Private Turvey".

Mr. Moore said he rewrote the play for the Festival with three leads. Kate Reid, Donald Harron and Eric House, definitely in mind. And the fact that he had "two genuine French Canadian actors" in the cast meant he could write two short scenes in French.

"The Ottawa Man", based on Gogol's "The Inspector General", is a comedy of situation and mistaken identity, but character plays a big part. Moore has described it as a play "about scoundrels fleeing scoundrels".

Central figures in the gang of scoundrels are Axel Axelson, the mayor, and his wife, Anna, played by Eric House and Kate Reid.

"The clue to her," says Moore, "is that she's never forgotten she was born in London six blocks from Buckingham Palace — in the wrong direction, but she never says that. She's a terrible social climber. Even though they managed to squeeze money out of the locals, she very much resents having to live in a one-horse town."

The author describes the mayor in one of the cameo sketches of his script as follows: "A Scandinavian, he has done well for himself and considers himself a smart man. But like all bullies, he is at heart a coward."

Miss Reid and Mr. House both attest to enjoying the play very much. So does Don Harron, who plays Roland, and he agrees with Mavor about the early Canadian West.

"It makes the Mafia look like a tea party," is his comment.

SELLING CLASS: "He's somebody I saw many times in England ... a gentleman in a country where there are no gentle-

men always getting not say. The role of Marie, the mayor's daughter, she's dumb and she's selfish and she fights with her family all the time. She's trying to emulate her mother. It's a kind of a young vamp," says Diane. "She's absolutely stricken with Roland, always being pushed out of the room all ways in the way ... clumsy, very noisy girl."

Arno Gotthardt describes his character as "a country doctor in the worst sense", adds "of course he is also of the worst German extraction — of gentle birth way way back, and he must have lost all his good manners. He's more like a medicine man in the pioneer days ... no relation to present day doctors."

Jean Cavall plays Napoleon, an excitable comical little French Canadian from the province of Quebec — one of the administration gang". Forget, playing the sheriff in "Ottawa

Donald Ewer plays Burrows, "a gentleman's gentleman who is the perfect butler under all adversity", adopting "a cut-class accent" he describes as "a sort of a posh Cockney".

Diane Drewes has the joy of an occasional good scream in



KATE REID is Anna Axelson, the mayor's wife in "The Ottawa Man" and Capt. Crashaw, MD, Phd., RCAMC, CWAC in "The Adven-

Premier extends warm welcome

On behalf of the people of Prince Edward Island may I extend the warmest of welcomes to all visitors to "the Island" and to the Charlottetown Summer Festival.



PREMIER SHAW

We would like to think that the mood of hospitality set by Islanders in 1964 contributed much to the success of the Founding Fathers in their deliberations here, and I am pleased to note that the Charlottetown Summer Festival carries on that tradition of good times with its "festival of music and laughter".

The Festival is a new enterprise for Charlottetown and for Prince Edward Island, but one which Islanders wholeheartedly support. It has accomplished much artistically in its short lifetime, but perhaps its most important and enduring effect has been the opportunity it provides to bring Islanders closer to Canadians and visitors from other countries.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy the productions presented at the Festival this summer, and that you will take time

to visit the other attractions we have to offer on Prince Edward Island.

WALTER R. SHAW
PREMIER

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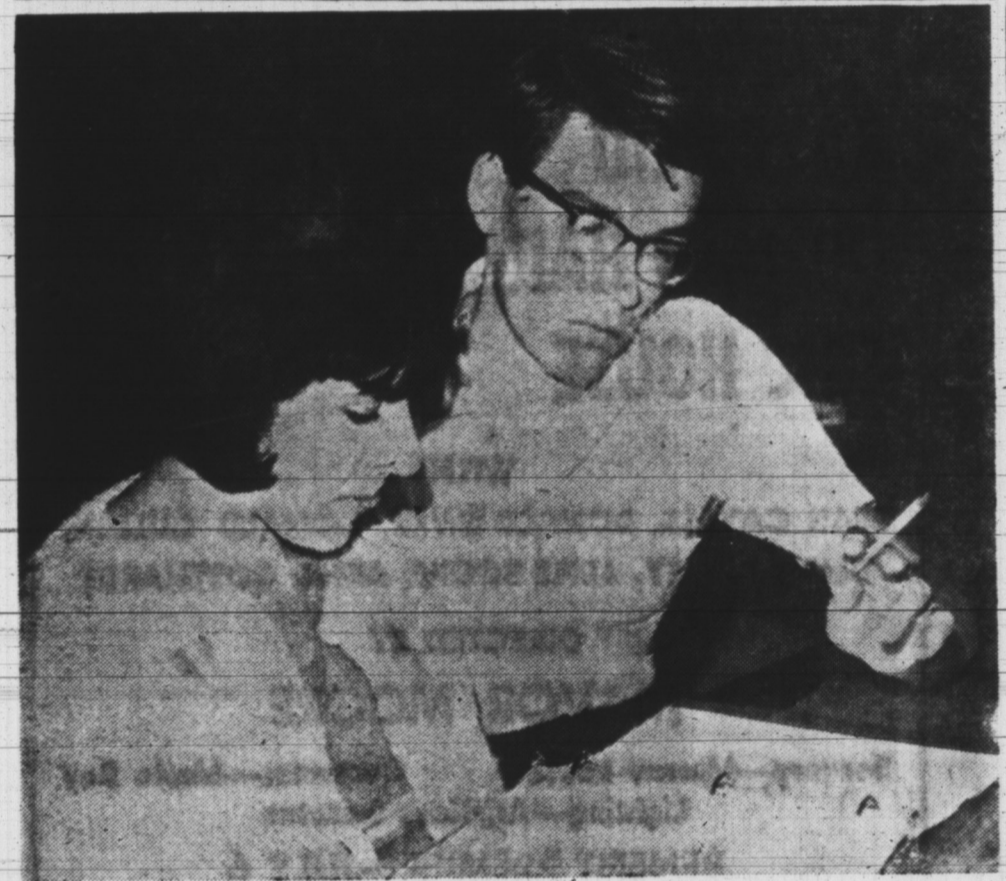


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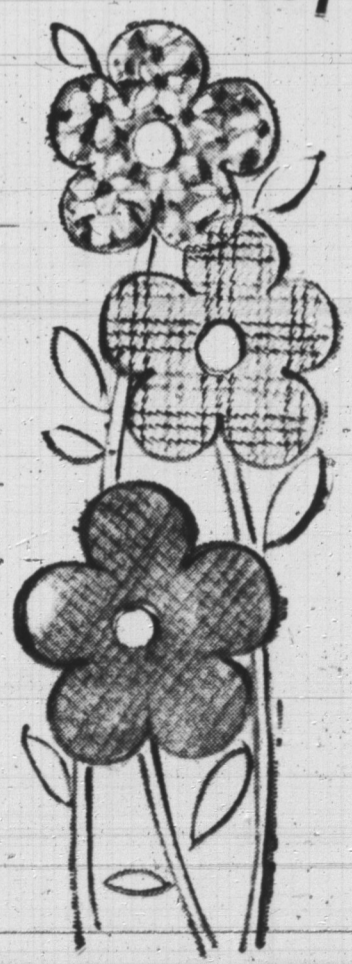
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