WHAT KIND of a woman owns a French club in London? She is half Russian and half English, has a Welsh name — Olwen Vaughan and was raised by a French woman. Here Miss Vaughan stands at the bar of her Petit Club Francais and recalls the days when she opened the club in 1940 to French refugees who had fled Nazi domination.

London's Club Francais Retains Aura Of France

By ALAN WALKER

LONDON (CP)—Bastille Day is a French holiday but there's street-dancing in London too.

It's at its bubbliest outside Le Petit Club Francais which Olwen Vaughan opened in 1940 for bewildered French refugees who had fled Nazi occupation.

Today the little club with its coeur-de-lis signboard preserves the aura of France that Miss Vaughan and her volunteer assistants injected 24 years ago.

A fat cat named Sascha snores softly on the stairs beneath Toulouse-Lautrec posters and impressionist paintings. Bottles with French labels line the bar whose zinc top and wine-barrel supports also come from across the Channel. The food is French too.

Tight rationing rules challenged Miss Vaughan during the war but cunning early-morning skirmishes in Soho produced results and the club managed to provide cheap and tasty cooking along with companionship, reading material and the slot machine.

Bombs fell all around the St. James Place club but there was no direct hit.

In 1942 Americans discovered the club and writers from Canada and the United States make up many of the 1,000 members today.

CELEBRITIES CAME

Miss Vaughan remembers Ernest Hemingway and Dylan Thomas with a permanent cigarette stuck to his lower lip, Elia Kazan, A. J. Liebling, William Saroyan, Arthur Miller, John Steinbeck, James Thurber, Irwin Shaw and Budd Schulberg were there.

"If all our present members come at once, we'll be in trouble," Miss Vaughan said with a hearty chuckle. "On Bastille Day the seams nearly burst."

About 30 people usually show up for lunch and 50 for dinner. Miss Vaughan doesn't do all the cooking any more but she got up at 6 a.m. on the day she was interviewed "because there was a big Scotch salmon to grill and I felt like doing it."

Despite her Welsh name, Miss Vaughan is half Russian and half English. A French woman raised her and made her enthusiastic for all things French.

There is less French spoken in the club now than in the old war days but Miss Vaughan's is still as good as ever. She recalled some trouble with French-Canadians though.

"I couldn't understand them. It seemed as though they were speaking a very old French."

Miss Vaughan makes members work around the club, feeling that hired hands bring unwanted formality. She tends bar herself and enforces rules with an iron hand.

For example, there is a jar on the bar. "Anybody who swears too much has got to put money in there," Miss Vaughan said.

British Electors Given Taste Of Canadian-Style Campaign

By JOSEPH MacSWEEN

LONDON (CP) — Voters are getting a touch of Canadian-style wooing here and there in the campaign for the Oct. 15 British election.

Rafael Herman Tuck, 54, former professor at University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and at McGill in Montreal, is Labor candidate in Watford, a suburban London constituency now held by the Conservatives by a narrow margin.

"I lean a bit on the techniques I picked up in the Saskatchewan election of 1944, when I fought for the CCF," Tuck said in an interview Thursday.

A professor of law and political science, Tuck, who left Canada in 1947, is one of several Canadian-connected candidates in the current campaign. Nominations close Oct. 5.

At least two candidates, both women, were born in Canada—but are fighting on opposing sides.

BORN IN NATAL, B.C.

Veteran campaigner Mrs. Verdun Peri, 48, is once again representing the Liberals in the Berkshire constituency of Abingdon. She was defeated in the last election in 1959. She was born in Natal, B.C.

Miss Joan Lestor, 33, born in Victoria but brought up in Britain, is Labor's hope in West Lewisham, a London riding. Miss Lestor's English parents returned to Britain when she was five years of age.

Two British newspaper men who worked for varying periods in Canada are campaigning on the Tory ticket.

Tom Stacey, 34, formerly with the Montreal Star, is contesting London's Hammersmith North while Neil Jamieson, 34, who spent five years in Canada, is fighting in highly-marginal Liverpool Edge hill. Jamieson was associated with the Rouyn Noranda press as editor and also with the Oshawa Times-Gazette and the Northern News, Kirkland Lake.

Eric Lubbock, 35-year-old star in Liberal ranks since he defeated Tory and Labor opponents in a 1962 byelection, is once again contesting Orpington. Lubbock, who spent his boyhood years in Toronto during the Second World War, said his education at Upper Canada College has proved of "tremendous value."

GRADUATE OF McGILL

Other Liberal candidates of special Canadian interest include Mrs. Agnes Scott, running in Reigate, Surrey. She went to Canada as a child and later was active in Toronto and Hamilton advertising circles.

Dai Rees, candidate in Oswestry, Shropshire, is a graduate of McGill.

Tories in this category include Lady Tweedsmuir, daughter-in-law of a former Canadian governor-general, a candidate in Aberdeen, and Cmdr. E. M. Donaldson, who served in the Canadian navy during the war and lived in Vancouver, contesting Selkirk and Peebles. Toronto - born Sir Edwin Leather, who held Somerset North for the Tories, is not running in this election.

For Labor, Malcolm MacPherson, defending, Stirling and Falkirk, Scotland, served as a major in the war-time Canadian army.

QUEBEC PAYS

MONTREAL (CP)—Jean-Luc Pepin, Liberal member of Parliament for Drummondville-Arthabasca, said Saturday Quebec taxpayers will pay close to two-thirds of the cost of the 1967 Montreal world's fair. "The point that I am making is simply that our fellow-citizens in the other provinces of Canada may not fully realize that their own contribution is not out of proportion with the economic benefits that they will derive from it," Mr. Pepin said.

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