

Chief Dan George dies

Chief Dan George, internationally acclaimed actor, author, lecturer and singer died recently in Vancouver, at the age of 82.

Best known for his role as Old Lodge Skins in the 1970 movie *Little Big Man*, George was born in 1899 on the Burrard reserve near Vancouver, the descendant of six generations of Tse-lall-watt chiefs.

He left the reserve missionary school when he was 16 to work, first as a logger, then for 27 years as a longshoreman on the Vancouver waterfront until a load of timber crushed several muscles in his arms, hips and back.

George was chief of the Burrard band for 12 years and retained the honorary title after he left.

Began at 65

He became an actor at 65 by chance. His oldest son, Robert, who worked on the set of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) television series *Cariboo Country*, promised to find a replacement after the actor who played the role of an old Indian became ill.

George played the character Old Antoine in seven chapters of the series, written by Paul St. Pierre. A year later, he appeared in the 1965 CBC production of St. Pierre's book *Breaking Smith's Quarter Horse* and then in the Walt Disney movie version, *Smith*, with Glen Ford in the title role.

George was then chosen for the role in *Little Big Man*, in which he appeared with Dustin Hoffman. His portrayal of Old

Lodge Skins, a Cheyenne who adopts Hoffman as his grandson in the era of Custer's last stand, led to an Academy Award for best supporting actor.

"If you think deeply on the relationship of the white boy and his Indian grandfather," he said, "it shows the worth of integration — that is what we're doing today and what I've dedicated my life to, the integration of Indians with the white man."

In 1971, he starred in the original production of George Ryga's *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* and then narrated the ballet choreographed by Norbert Vesak at its Canadian *première* at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

George wrote *My Heart Soars*, a collection of poems, essays and reminiscences focused on the plight of his people. He received several honorary degrees and a Human Relations Award by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

New cartoon method developed

A Vancouver producer-director has invented a new animation process that is attracting world-wide interest.

Aniscope, as the process is called, was developed by Wayne Sterloff. It involves shooting footage of live actors and separating it into individual frames which are then blown up, photocopied in colour and fed into an image synthesizer. It differs from other animation processes in that it does not require laborious hand-painting of live-action frames.

Aniscope's product with its graphic colour-dot images, is close to the comic book but the characters can be made to conform to natural laws.

A year ago, Sterloff and artist Neil Wedman produced an 18-minute surreal science-fiction short called *Buzz Wray and His Telephone*. Last April, it was entered in the International Film Festival at Lille, France, where it won a special recommendation. It has attracted attention from Melbourne, Australia, at an Ottawa animation festival and in Los Angeles from United Artists.

The first project using aniscope will be a 90-minute film called *Mars Needs Helen*, written by Wedman. The technology for the \$2.5-million project is being designed by Vancouver technicians. Sterloff said the Japanese media are interested in the process and he sees potential for aniscope in feature films, children's shows, commercials and special effects for conventional films.

Purchase of art aided

The Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto and two other Canadian museums have been given funds by the federal government towards the purchase price of nine late nineteenth-century Canadian maritime pictures in a U.S. collection.

The paintings, done by European artists, depict ships of Canadian manufacture and registry. The ROM, which is acting as the purchasing agent for Montreal's McCord Museum and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax, will pay a total of \$42,500 (U.S.) for the works. Each of the three participating museums has contributed \$1,000 (U.S.) to the fund and each will receive three works for its permanent collection.

The arrangement has been co-ordinated by Peter Winkworth, honorary curator of prints and drawings at the McCord Museum.

The federal grant totalling \$39,500 was approved by Communications Minister Francis Fox under a program to enable Canadian institutions to buy art objects of Canadian interest that are currently abroad, and objects for which the government has refused an export permit.

Public provides gallery's display

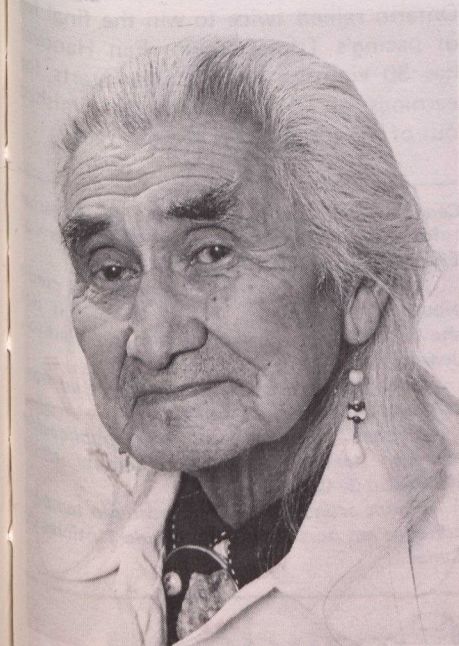
Ten years ago, eight Saskatoon, Saskatchewan photographers formed their own gallery, with an aim to exhibiting high-quality photographs and giving provincial photographers an opportunity to display their work.

The Photographers Gallery is currently celebrating its anniversary by sponsoring an unusual show, entitled *Public Reaction*. It is an exhibit in which public response could really make or break the show: gallery-goers will be encouraged to use the Polaroid cameras provided to create their own, on-the-spot photographs for display.

In part, the idea for the show is a reaction to the formal exhibitions the gallery has been presenting, said curator Daniel Thorburn. "How formal should we be all the time, in what we're presenting, and in response to photography?"

Beginning with blank walls, the show offers would-be exhibitors *carte blanche* to take photographs in the gallery setting, and to hang the resulting work themselves.

Thorburn emphasizes that anyone, even amateurs who barely know an f-stop from a bus-stop, can join in the show.



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