Haron and Campbell - creators of musical "Anne"

Brian McCullough

Don Harron and Norman Campbell are author and composer of the musical version of "Anne of Green Gables", now ten years old and one of the most famous shows in the history of Canadian theatre. Harron and Campbell have written three musicals, "Anne" and "Private Turley's War" for the Charlottetown Festival, and "The Wonder of It All", based on the life of Emily Carr, as a CBC-TV special.

Don Harron, best known these days for his alter ego, Charlie Farquharson, read L.M. Montgomery's classic children's book when he noticed it after one of his daughters had read it. He didn't put it down until he finished it and he felt "Anne" would make a great musical.

He talked it over with Norman Campbell and they produced it for TV. They were then commissioned to adapt it for the Charlottetown Festival. It has been a great success ever since.

Don Harron is a jack-of-all-trades in North American show business. As an actor he has appeared in six Broadway plays and in major films and television programs. In Canada, he has toured with the perennial revue, "Spring Thaw", and as a guest star at the Charlottetown Festival. As a writer, he had a best seller last year in "Charlie Farquharson's History of Canada", and has collaborated in three musicals.

Norman Campbell is the well-known producer of TV ballet, winning two Emmy awards for his efforts -- for "Cinderella" in 1970 and for "Sleeping Beauty" in 1973. He has also composed music for radio programs in Canada and produced almost every kind of TV special.

Don Harron and Norman Campbell talked about Harron's idea for L.M. Montgomery's book. They started a show that, after the premiere of July 27, 1965, had one reviewer saying, "We had the feeling we were in on the ground floor of something destined for great things." And he was right. That was ten years ago, and "Anne" is still going strong. This year at Charlottetown all the performances were almost completely sold out months ahead of time.

Tickets for the Edmonton Production of "Anne" may be purchased separately from seasons subscriptions and are going fast with most of the main floor and first balcony sold out. Show dates are Tuesday the 24th of September and Wednesday the 25th of September, with curtain times being 8:00 p.m. both nights with an extra matinee on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are $6.50, $5.50, $4.50, and $3.50 with ½ price for children 12 and under.

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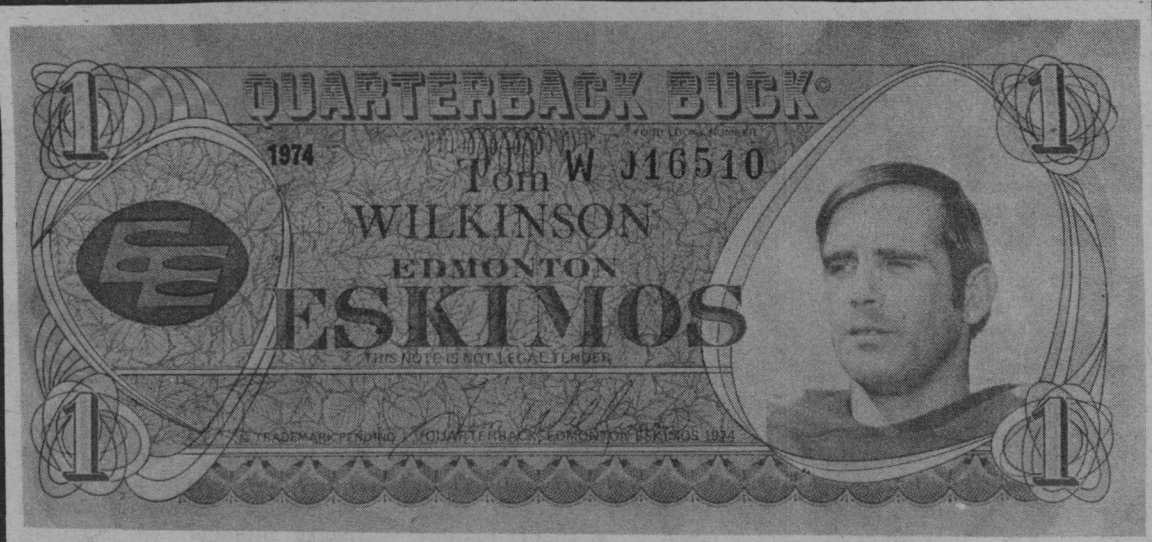

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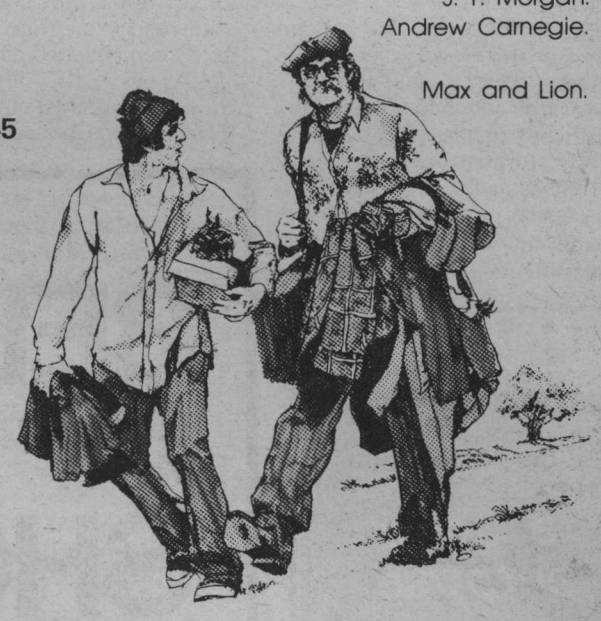

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