

## Can Historical Calendar must for nationalists

*The Canadian Historical Calendar & Day Book* by Peter Martin, \$3.95.

It might be a little late to purchase a calendar for 1975 since the year has already begun but if you don't own one yet and if you are a history student or interested in Canadian history, Peter Martin's *The Canadian Historical Calendar & Day Book* might still represent a worthwhile investment.

In addition to providing space for a personal appointment record this little booklet recalls an event in Canadian history for every day of the year.

The Calendar is supposed to serve as "a kind of daily celebration for Canadians - three hundred and sixty-five reminders that this is a remarkable country created by extraordinary people who have done incredible things." In other words, it represents a must for all true Canadian nationalists.

To compile and collect this compendium was a considerable task especially since only few days of the 'Canadian year' qualify under what might be considered

'great historical events'. Less significant events had to be included, sometimes of little interest sometimes providing an interesting and frequently humorous look at aspects of Canada which are often overlooked in the university's history courses.

Did you know, for example, that Safeway stores were selling sirloin steak for 29 cents a pound in Edmonton in 1941. Or do you remember Pierre Trudeau's announcement on December 23, 1970 that his government had beaten inflation. "I hope you're congratulating us for it," he said.

Cartoons by Isaac Bickerstaff add humour to the booklet but don't strike as outstanding. The calendar is rounded off by a selection from Colombo's Canadian Quotations.

*The Canadian Historical Calendar & Day Book* provides for some interesting reading and serves to refresh your knowledge of Canadian history. And, of course, it's useful. The space to record appointments should make sure (if used) that you will not miss your next history exam.

Harold Kuckertz

## Drawings

The Edmonton Art Gallery at Sir Winston Churchill Square currently presents *Jules Olitzky: Life drawings*.

This exhibition consists of 24 drawings done in a variety of media including graphite, pencil, pastel and crayon, dating from 1961 to 1971, by the distinguished painter, Jules Olitzky. The Exhibition, organized by Andrew Hudson, is circulated by the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

## Meet the Au-Pair Man

For its fourth play of the season, the Citadel will present the Western Canadian premiere of Hugh Leonard's *The Au-Pair Man* opening on January 11th.

The play, which was first performed in Canada at the St. Lawrence Centre last year, features a cast of two, and has been described by critics as one of the few 'two-handlers' to be outstanding in recent years. It features Moya Fenwick as Elizabeth Rogers, a lady of splendid sophistication living in a mouldering, baroque London flat, and a gauche young man, played by Brent Carver, who calls as a debt collector and stays on in the droll occupation indicated by the title.

*The Au-Pair Man* has been designed by Larry Miller, a new comer to Edmonton, currently with the Design Faculty of the University of Alberta's Drama Department. The show is directed by Citadel Theatre Director John Neville, and is known as one of Hugh Leonard's best plays.

The cut-and-thrust of the dialogue coupled with witty symbolism provides comedy on many levels, with Elizabeth Rogers representing society, the Tory lady and the ultimate

## Wohlfarth exhibition

*Classified and Unclassified Works* is the title of the Harry Wohlfarth exhibition currently shown at Latitude Gallery 53 (10048-101 A Ave).

Wohlfarth, a professor of the Department of Extension at the University of Alberta

received a gold medal from the Tiberian Academy of Rome in 1970 "for Outstanding Achievements in the Field of Fine Arts". The artist was only the fifth to receive the gold medal in this field in the 150 year history of The Academy Tiberina.

Other distinctions to his credit include the Alberta Government Awards for outstanding achievements in fine art, the Gold Medal of The International Academy Leonardo da Vinci and the Gold Medal of the International Academy of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Wohlfarth's activities in recent years have focused on etching and lithography. His work has been described by E.W. Kemp as "a visual analog not merely for the tensions of the 'human condition' but for the struggle to maintain personality in a depersonalizing society."

*Classified and Unclassified Works* will be featured at the Gallery until January 18. *The Gateway* will review the exhibition next week.

symbol of all these, royalty. Eugene Hartigan is the social climber, the Irish emigrant polishing his accent, the outsider looking for his way in.

There will be two previews of the play on Thursday, January 9th and Friday, January 10th at 8:30 p.m.

## The Best Years of Our Lives

*The Best Years of Our Lives* (Edmonton Film Society, Jan. 13, Tory Lecture Theatre, 8 p.m.)

Season tickets available at the door (\$5 students).

*Best Years of our Lives* is an engrossing drama about the return of servicemen to civilian life. Three men phase out their war-conditioned thinking and try to go back to standard peacetime frames of mind. The men are of different ages and social backgrounds: a graying Army sergeant who had been a successful banker, a much-decorated Air Force captain who had been a mere drugstore soda-jerk, and a former high school student who has lost both hands in an explosion.

Director William Wyler had been a colonel in the Air Force and had discovered an actual amputee named Harold Russell who, though not a professional actor, was so right in appearance for the role of Homer, and so eager to take it that the director persuaded the scriptwriter, Robert Sherwood and the producer, Sam Goldwyn, to let him sign Russell.

The move was providential, for a major climactic scene is one in which the troubled amputee demonstrates in literal detail to his girl, the high school sweetheart whose reaction to his injury he most profoundly dreads, how he has to get out of his harness every night when he goes to bed and thus be rendered helpless and perhaps physically repulsive to her. This scene, with its

accumulated tension of uncertainty between the boy and girl and its simply stated realization of their mutual discomfort, is one of the most affecting and compelling moments in the film.

The film's constant refrain is the reluctance of the servicemen to take up where they left off, to resume their previous status and function in their environment. All three feel their experiences have changed their outlook and their privileges - one has lost motivation and isn't interested in looking for a job; another

resists the urging of the bank president to return to his old job. ("Last year it was 'kill Japs', this year it's 'make money!'"), and the third feels his experiences and his service as a warrior qualify him for something better than his old demeaning job.

Academy Awards won by this film include Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Screenplay, Best Editing and Best Musical Score. The film also won the New York Film Critics Award, the British Academy Award and France's Victorie Award.

R. Horak & J. Charles



An amputee (Harold Russell), newly returned from the war, tries to convince his fiancée (Cathy O'Donnell) to call off their marriage. The film is *THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES*, the famed multiple Academy Award winner of 1946. Edmonton Film Society shows it in Tory Lecture Theatre, Jan. 13, 8 p.m. as part of the Classic Series. Season tickets available at the door.

## Violence in Last Years Nest

*The Bird in Last Year's Nest*, by Shaun Herron. M. Evans and Company, 300 pages, \$7.95.

*The Bird in Last Year's Nest* is about violence. It is about violence both on a personal level and on a national one. It is a story about people and how they can be destroyed by violence; from secret police, from tyrannical government and from within themselves.

Irish born Shaun Herron has experienced this violence in both the Spanish Civil War and World War II. He portrays it well.

The scene is Spain, the time, the present. The characters: a doctor and his family trying to

live normal lives in a country where the police are everywhere and know everything. Dr. Ugalde, a former rebel and his wife, daughter of a rebel leader are living a quiet life, attempting to protect their son from the past. They even make friends with Basa, a loyal member of the dreaded Civil Guard. Their quiet explodes when their son is jailed as a rebel member of the underground Fifth Assembly.

The message is that violence and rebellion under tyrannical rule is in the blood, but Herron does not stop there. He shows that the tyranny of such a system destroys. It destroys not

only the gentle doctor who all but conquered his violent past, but the loyal Basa as well. Basa, is the last section of the book becomes a convincing and almost pathetic human being and that proves fatal.

But, Herron seems to say the destruction does not end there, and neither does the violence. The reader is left to conclude that the hate and vengeance instilled in the remaining characters will perpetuate it. This is the terrifying message of *The Bird in Last Year's Nest*, and Shaun Herron brings it across well.

Maria Nemeth

## rock notes

### Rolling Stone Awards

Stevie Wonder and Joni Mitchell were named artists of the year in Rolling Stone magazine's 1974 music awards.

The magazine awarded Bob Dylan's tour as the "event of the year" and labelled The Beach Boys band of the year.

George McCrae's "Rock Your Baby" was named single of the year. The albums of the year included Randy Newman's "Good Old Boys", the Rolling Stones' "It's Only Rock 'n Roll, Gladys Knight & The Pips' "Imagination," Stelly Dan's "Pretzel Logic," Jackson Browne's "Late for the Sky," Bruce Springsteen's "The Wild, the Innocent and the E Street Shuffle," and the Raspberries'

"Starting Over."

Among the Stone's more esoteric awards are "Comeback of the Year" - Eric Clapton; "Couple of the Year" - Fay Dunaway & Peter Wolf of the J. Geils Band, and "Adult Fan of the Year" - Liz Taylor. The magazine also predicted a "Pick to Click" for 1975. That award went to Richard Nixon for his tape collection.

Ben Fong-Torres, who coordinates the magazine's music section, notes that 1974, "was a very good year, but for a very few people..." He says, "The economy and such industry problems as the vinyl shortage made things tough for

the so-called 'marginal' artists...and for new and

middle-level artists."

But Fong-Torres adds, "The big got bigger. Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Elton John; Joni Mitchell, and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young all did extremely well."

### Guess Who's latest

Burton Cummings, who co-wrote the Guess Who's new album "Flavors" with newest member Dom Troiano, says it will be their "best album" ever. "No two tunes even sound remotely alike," says Cummings, who adds that he and Dom wrote the L.P. in six nights.