

Poet still going strong

When Dorothy Livesay was a teenager, she wrote in her diary that she would never be considered an important writer in Canada. She was a young woman, she wrote to herself, and the world belonged to men.

Almost six decades separate that Winnipeg-born teenager — who was already a published poet — from the stalwart, white-haired woman who sits in the loft of her bungalow on Galiano Island, British Columbia writing her memoirs. More than 1 000 poems have been written and she has received two Governor General's Awards for literature.

She has had careers as a journalist, editor, social worker and university professor. She has worked in Zambia as an English specialist with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. She was one of the founders of Amnesty International in Canada.

Livesay said critic George Woodcock is the best poet in Canada today. At 73 she is giving no indication that she is considering putting aside her pen.

"Other elderly senior citizens say to me, 'this is the period when we can do the most because we don't have the burden of having to look after a family,'" said Livesay.

"Very often we're single. The husband is dead. I don't mean that crudely, but we don't have the same family responsibilities any more. We can be free to let go."

Livesay, interviewed in her cluttered cabin (which, because it used to be a chicken coop, has been christened The Chicken Hilton by island residents), is not going to sit back, stare out at Georgia Strait and squander that freedom.

She recently returned from a world peace conference in Bulgaria, attended by about 130 writers from 56 countries. This year she will spend four months as writer-in-residence at the University of Toronto.

Her latest interest was a Galiano Island referendum on nuclear disarmament.

"That indeed has been a main interest for many years," Livesay said slowly, evenly, shifting the focus of the discussion to a painting hanging in the living room. The watercolour portrayal of the Galiano shoreline, painted by a friend from Winnipeg, was the prize for a raffle the island committee held to finance the referendum.

(Article by Barbara Gunn in the Canadian Press.)

Three Canadian films win Oscar awards



Quest for Fire, a majority Canadian co-production with France won for best make-up.

Canadian productions won three Oscars at the fifty-fifth Academy awards ceremony held recently in Los Angeles.

The award for documentary short subject went to the controversial, *If You Love This Planet* produced by the National Film Board of Canada. The film is a warning against the evils of nuclear war.

Just Another Missing Kid made for

the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's public affairs program *The Fifth Estate* won in the documentary feature category.

Quest for Fire, a majority Canadian co-production with France won for best make-up. Make-up artists Sarah Monzani and Michele Burke won the award for a series of complicated techniques to remodel actors' and actresses' faces to look like prehistoric people.

Museum piece finds its toes

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' magnificent wooden *Calvary*, which dominates one of the three galleries of Canadian art, has recently been reunited with a part of its own foot, lost over 17 years ago.

In addition, exhaustive research by Monique Lanthier, an art history student taking an internship in museology at the museum, has succeeded in identifying the artist, the probable date, and where the work was created.

The beautiful, four-metre-high *Calvary* in polychromed wood is a road cross, a type of marker which existed in great numbers throughout pious rural Quebec in the last century. It was acquired by the museum in 1965 from an American antique dealer, and was always assumed to have come from the Gaspé. Mrs. Lanthier was assigned the job of discovering date, attribution and location, and

like a true detective, she followed her slender lead until she located the Quebec dealer who first put the cross on the market.

He very well remembered finding it in a barn, and even took Mrs. Lanthier to the spot the cross had occupied on a rural route near Sainte-Victoire de Sorel, where subsequent research confirmed it had stood until 1945. People still living in the area all said the cross had been made by Pierre Plante, born in Sainte-Victoire in 1853, who sculpted religious works, hunting decoys, toys and furniture in the area. Even more exciting than all this was the discovery that the original dealer still had the missing piece of the Christ's foot in his possession, which he had kept when the sculpture was sent to the US.

Ron McKenzie of the museum's restoration department was given the delicate task of reattaching the missing toes, and the *Calvary* is now on display, in its totality.