

IRISH ROVERS

By DANIELLE THIBEAULT

They gave us songs to sing along with, they gave us rhythm to clap our hands and stomp our feet to. They gave us the kind of music that made you feel like getting up and dancing. And I never felt so close to a sense of beer.

It would have been so easy to sing the same old songs that everyone knows by heart and I believe that no one would have suffered or griped. But it wouldn't have produced the quality of performance that has been associated with the Irish Rovers for most of their career.

They knew how to stimulate the audience with a hand-clappin', foot-stompin', get off your butt and dance-in-the-aisle type of song. They knew how much of the old songs would quench the thirsty souls and how much new stuff they could feed us and still feel us wanting.

Most of the new material presented proved quite appealing to the audience and included a good chunk of Canadian folk songs including "Something to Sing About", their closing song, and Stompin' Tom's song about gathering "green moss" at Skinner's Pond. The Rovers also introduced several cuts from their new LP "Emigrate, Emigrate" and the best was by far "The Gypsy" which you will probably be hearing on the radio pretty soon if not already. It offers an agreeable blend of folk and rock in pure "Irish Rovers" style and is sure to delight all those of you who couldn't make it down to the Playhouse last Friday night.

A song which was interpreted

quite tastefully and received with much respect was "A Daisy a Day", the song Jud Strunk brought to fame. Presented early in the first portion of the concert, it is probably the song that succeeded the most in warming the audience to the Rovers' new style. They proved they could inject a dose of personal style to a song and still come up with a winner.

Another good piece of entertainment, from a conservationist's point of view, was the melody of Three "whale" songs. A most interesting combination, and interpreted much better than the melody of emigration songs that left the audience (us) on too soft a note.

The Rovers' repertoire was not entirely composed of new songs and styles. It also included some of favorites like "The Orange and The Green", "Lily The Pink" and, to the great pleasure of one impatient soul in the audience, "The Unicorn".

It felt really good to see them in person and to listen to them (again this year). Joe Millar presented a couple of solos, exercised a well developed voice and was certainly well applauded by an appreciative crowd. George "Squeaky Voice" Millar, cousin to the former and brother to Will, well, he played a mean guitar and when he wasn't blowing on his neighbor's hair, he managed to pull a few cracks of his own. Jimmy Ferguson, neighbour to the former and not really related to anybody else in the group, plays no instruments either but his voice and his enthusiasm sure don't let that bother them. You've got to see him clapping his hands and stomping his feet to see the

rythmic vibrations in your arms and legs. Quite an ebullient entertainer Will Millar, the lead singer and spokesman for the group, is a most interesting character. A multi-musician like his cousin Joe, he's the breath in the flute notes that trickle throughout the Irish Rovers' concert. He is also the storyteller. And you must hear his narrations of the "Fiddle Contest" to know how it is and should be done. You must feel the chill at your back and hear the whisper of the wind in your ears. You must listen to the almost audible zinging of the bow across the violin strings, or you will never know how alive a story can become as it rides on the voice of the talented singer. And talent, that's Will Millar's middle name.

Wilcill McDowell doesn't sing, but that's because his fingers are too busy. He's the accordionist in the group and quite an impressive one at that. He can sure make his instrument cry and laugh, sometimes a bit of both. Everybody loves a good accordionist and they didn't keep it a secret last Friday night.

The whole performance lasted close to two hours and left the audience breathless but still eager for more of that ol' brew that fills the soul, exercises the body and blows the mind: genuine Irish Rovers pezzazz!

To those of you who missed the concert: "May you be a half an hour in heaven before the devil knows you're dead."



Photo by Ron Ward

Xmas choice: A yearly exhibition

By ALAN ANNAND

Christmas Choice, an annual exhibition displaying work by local artists and craftsmen, will be showing in the UNB Art Centre at Mem Hall until December 18th. One craft show has been staged already but there will be another on Sunday, December 9th from 2-5 p.m. A great many artists are featured including the Bobaks and Marjory Donaldson, and a large number of UNB students. David

McKay has a couple of small but very good pieces done in a realist manner. Brigid Grant has three excellent watercolours, in particular, her "Seagulls" work. Maxine Hughson has some good watercolours on exhibit, but her better works are to be seen in the Fine Arts room of the library. Her themes are exclusively rural, and with an excellent sense of colour and line she has created a number of perfect little visual poems.

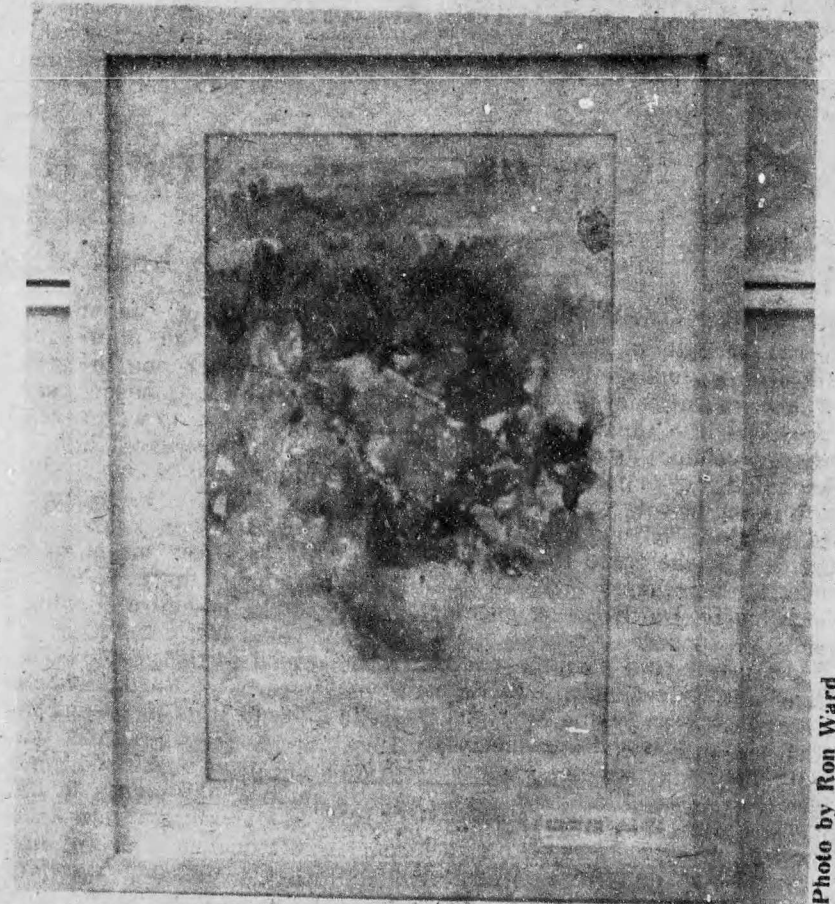
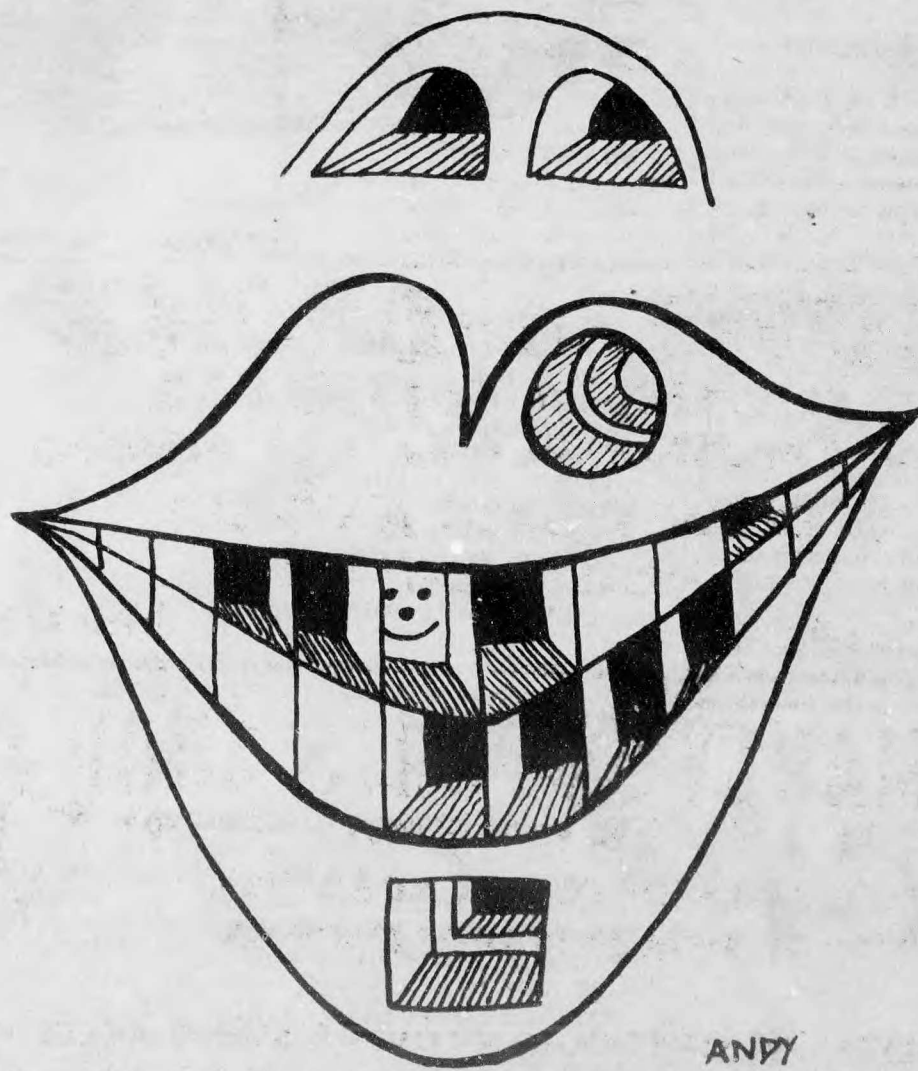


Photo by Ron Ward



ANDY

Free
COFFEE
to all New Year's Eve
DRIVERS

DECEMBER

Mt. Allison rebound.

Dalhousie defeated 56 here which was teams. I game in second game the Raiders record a weekend.

Tiger Bob Blaisdell consistently setting up the ball with points down Tom H. all-round points. K.

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An unfor in the first have turne Referee F wrong call out-of-bour was given six-point lead, where before tha