Senior citizens feted at gay banquet

Friendship, happiness keynotes at annual "Over 70 Club" dinner

By GRACE BROWN Daily News Social Editor

It was my "wonderful privilege" once again to receive heart-warming season's greetings with more than 100 members of the "Over Seventy Club", extended by the hard-working Prince Rupert Women's Co-ordinating Council yesterday afternoon at the annual "Christmas Banquet" staged for Prince Rupert's Senior Citizens.

For 18 years the city's oldest members have received this tribute and have been feted in this grand manner by the council, composed of women's organizations, bringing together old and new friends in a festive atmosphere of "Christmas Cheer."

The happiness and gaiety of the occasion was mirrored in the faces of everyone present as "How are you my dear?" "My your looking well" and "Have a Merry Christmas" were the pass words for the gala function.

"My it was a wonderful party, the best yet,' and "How nice to have been here again to see all my friends," were just some of the joyous departing remarks extended by the members to Council President Mrs. J. S. Black, as they left the Canadian Legion auditorium.

In a gala setting of Christmas motif, the tables were decorous with favors, and brilliant Yuletide figurines, enhanced by the novelty party hats worn by the guests.

Topping the banquet-fare of turkey, with all the Christmas trimmings, was the delightful musical program and humorous recitations.

Mrs. Black, following her official welcome, introduced the Very Rev. George T. Pattison, Dean of Caledonia who gave the grace.

Mayor P. J. Lester in his address paid tribute to the senior citizens, who he said had contributed so much to bring about the numerous changes seen in the city's "Golden Jubilee Year."

MLA-elect William H. Murray extended his congratulations to all the members. "The occasion is fitting to honor you who have developed this nation," he said.

"You citizens have paved the road of understanding with vision, faith and courage," Rev. Dr. Elliott, First United Chruch pastor, told the group as he paid tribute to the senior citizens. "Life begins at 70 and everything else is a prelude," he joyfully told the gathering.

Rev. James Tracey, parish priest of the Church of the Annunciation congratulated the members and wished them "God's Blessings" and a "Joyous Season."

Providing wonderful entertainment were vocalists Mrs. Ralph Smith, Mrs. John Clee, and young boy-soprano, Michael Hill, all enthusiastically applauded and accompanied by Mrs. Black, at the piano.

Delightful recitations were rendered by Mrs. Robert Cameron and Mrs. Horace Hale.

To climax the most enjoyable performances was the gay act presented by Dean Pattison in a "one-man show" playing the mouth-organ, ukelele as well as handling a dancing doll and clappers. A thunderous applause of clapping and stamping feet, accompanied his act.

Each member was given a special Christmas gift by members of the council and in a nostalgic mood, everyone joined hands for the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" to conclude the most memorable function highlighting the festive season.

General convener for the great success was Mrs. Freerick Barber.

Mrs. Black also in her thanks, to the many persons who make the banquet possible, paid tribute to Fire Chief Earl Becker and his assistants for transportation.

HAPPY MOOD MIRRORED in the above three pictures shows some of the more than 100 members of the "Over 70 Club" yesterday afternoon in the Canadian Legion auditorium at the annual "Christmas Banquet", staged by the Prince Rupert Women's Co-ordinating council. Gay party hats, Christmas motif, banquet and entertainment composed a social highlight of the festive season for senior citizens.

MRS. HORACE HALE in top picture of group is shown rendering recitation while W. A. Timms listens. Centre picture sees B. J. Bacon on behalf of Over 70 Club, thank Women's Council while long-time residents Mrs. G. W. Rudderham, Mrs. Helen Wilson and Mrs. John Simundson look on.
— Staff photos by Grace Brown

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