

The cast of Theatre Royal leads the way down main street Barkerville.

BARKERVILLE

Gold-rush town blooms again

Prince George - Thursday, June 29, 1978

At the end of the long, winding road, 104 km east of Quesnel, sits an oasis amidst a forest wilderness:

Barkerville.
Every year, for the past 20 years, this little town, surrounded by dark forest and deep river canyons, has come alive in a burst of old-fashioned spirit and song.

Last year, 178,000 people from all over the world, travelled the road following Cottonwood River, Lightning Creek and Devil's Canyon to visit B.C.'s restored gold rush town.

The personalities of the town, which is "re-born" every July and August for the Barkerville season, rival the liveliness of their

summer residence.
Inside Wake-Up Jake's cafe, Fred Bass, piano player for the local Theatre Royal, talks about his 66 years in show business years in show business.

'I've just celebrated my 82nd birthday and I'm still writing words and music and playing piano for

"I've played with other

Theatre in Dawson City. This year's show at the Theatre Royal here is cal-

led Miner's Delight and it's a vaudeville-style show with lots of comedy and dancing. We believe in making people laugh." Inside the saloon, a pot-

boiler stove in the middle of the room keeps the place warm while waitresses in checkered, gingham dresses and white dust caps bustle about serving steaming plates of stew and bowls of homemade soup.

It's raining outside and the fog is spreading across the bleak sky.

But the weather doesn't mar the enthusiasm of a paratus, dominates the

Follies at the Palace Grand discovered an old, wooden cabin outside the saloon.

The Citizen

Along the street, numerous foreign accents are heard from Germany, Scot-land, England and the U.S. Judy Mooring, clerk at the Hudson's Bay Store,

talks about the wares she sells inside the store which is an exact replica of the original one built in the

"We sell candy pebbles, derby hats, Prince Albert top hats and freshly ground coffee from a grinder made in the 1890s. It takes 10 minutes to grind a pound but the grinder works fine." The red grinder, a four-

foot-high cumbersome apgroup of boys who've just room with the 20-foot high

ceiling and wooden floors.

The rain has stopped now and "Gentleman John" Pearson has stopped to talk with some hurdy gurdy or dance hall girls outside the

Pearson, a 21-year-old actor from Vancouver, is another member of the

and it's great dressing up in

Kerry, 18, also performs with John in the Miner's De-

light Revue.

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working on stage and wear-

Karen's outfit is designed

ing these clothes.'

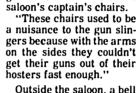
hosters fast enough.' Outside the saloon, a bell suddenly rings through the

"That's to announce the

In the street, children and

The Barkerville season built in 1865 to see, a bakery sure to remind the visitor of a romantic time when men were dashing and women

checkered vest and watch chain covers an ample girth. He sits in one of the



start of the show at the Theatre Royal," says the saloon keeper.



Saloon keeper, Murray Brown, stands at the doorway of the saloon.



Story by Leslie Perry Photos by Tim Swanky



Susanna MacLellan and Ernie Prentice of Theatre Royal promenade.



Actor Richard Lucas assists actress Mary Bracht off Barnard's Express