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Cam's Corner

Talking with Joni

By Cam McKenzie

A couple of weeks ago I met Joni Mitchell, the Saskatoon singer who has made an international name for herself on records and stage performances, and was featured on the front page of Time magazine in its current issue. She was home in Saskatoon for a few days visiting her parents, Bill and Myrtle Anderson, who live just across the street from us.

During a brief conversation I couldn't help but tell Joni of the rousing party she missed at our house last New Year's Eve in company with such local sports as Pat O'Dwyer, Jim Struthers, Stirling King, Jack Cook, Tommy Campbell, Bob Cruickshank and myself, drinking punch (mostly consisting of fruit juices) and really cutting up.

It so happened Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were coming to the party and Joni was to have accompanied them. But a short while before the big night she phoned her mother and begged off an immediate visit to Saskatoon as something very special had come her way.

Joni had been invited to Peggy Lee's New Year's Eve party. She said she would really like to go and would come to Saskatoon at a later date.

Imagine anyone turning down an invitation to the McKenzie's place in favor of Peggy Lee!

Oh, well, that's the way it goes. You win some and lose some.

On the winning side, the Toronto Dominion Bank really scored with me in its 1975 calendar, which features sketches by Frank Adams of various Toronto and Dominion banks before they were amalgamated.

Since I began writing in the Star-Phoenix, back in 1947 from time to time I have made brief mention of Pelly, a town almost directly east of Saskatoon, near the Manitoba border. Pelly is the place in which I had my youthful fling. I have always referred to it as my home town, although I was born a few miles to the southwest of there, at Fort Pelly.

Anyway, last Wed. when I was in the Marquis Towers branch of the Toronto-Dominion, perhaps trying to get one of my cheques from bouncing too high, Glen Pepler, the manager gave me a 1975 calendar.

I didn't look it over immediately, but when I arrived home I thumbed through month by month admiring the sketches. When I came to the month of June, what a pleasant surprise! There in all its glory was an excellent sketch of the Bank of Toronto, Pelly, Saskatchewan, as it appeared in 1913.

I could hardly believe my eyes to see little old Pelly right in there with sketches of banks in Yellowknife, N.W.T. (1944), Toronto (1912), London, England branch (1911) and the Dominion head office in Toronto (1914).

Seeing this gave an old home town boy a great feeling, and needless to say the month of June 1975, from the TD calendar will be preserved in the McKenzie home.

We may even have it framed in time for Christmas, and concerning this time of year we wish all readers of Cam's Corner and everyone else, too, a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

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