

ATTENTION

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Theatre Aurora's production of A Christmas Carol has been postponed.

The new dates are December 4-5-6; December 10-11-12 with evening performances at 8:15 p.m. and December 6 matinee at 2 p.m. December 13 matinee ONLY 2 p.m. No evening performance.

All ticket holders are requested to call 727-5469 or 727-9313.

Folk Night at the Factory, originally scheduled for December 12 has been rescheduled to November 28.

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Talk of prime-time show for comedian Billy Van



Billy Van
Featured at Summit

By Pat Belfry

Billy Van was the main attraction at Thursday's grand opening of the new Summit View Gardens, Richmond Hill's new dining and dancing spot. Billy was acting as guest disc jockey for his good friend, Denny Karstovsky, new owner of the Summit View. I had a chance to talk to Billy Van (officially, William Van Evera) before the show began. Born in Toronto, Billy has been in show business for 21 years, and sadly, most of those years he has been forced to work south of the border.

He started his career, not as a comic, but singing tenor in a quartet, on a talent show called "Pick the Stars". They won the prize, which struck Billy funny, and he's been laughing ever since. After touring England and the States, singing with several groups, he came back to Canada, where he starred on a late-night show, "Nightcap", which was very successful for a time. However, Billy moans: "We got 400 fan letters per show from Americans, and only 25 from Canadians!"

When the show was cancelled, Canadian apathy allowed it to go without a struggle. Billy wanted to stay and work in Canada, but found he couldn't buy a job here. Not wishing to return to his former job as a milk-truck driver, he came to the sad conclusion that to make money doing what he was good at, he would have to follow the trail of hundreds of other Canadian talents, and make his name in the States. Sonny and Cher He did very well there, making regular appearances on the Sonny and Cher Show, the Bobby

Vinton show, guest spots on other shows, and doing commercials. The money was good and the lifestyle luxurious. But he wants to return to Toronto. His reasons are many, with violence being near the top of his list (He was mugged in his motel room one night at gunpoint; he swears that that is one thing he'll never joke about). He also dislikes the constant ego-tripping and image-holding that is necessary for survival in Los Angeles. He wants to

make money, but not at the expense of his mind. So, Billy's back in town. He's not sure just what the future holds for him here, but there's talk of a prime-time show with an entirely new format, he hopes sometime in the near future. He wants to stay, as long as it is economically feasible for him. He is hoping that Canadians are changing in their ways, and that he will receive some support in his new ventures.

If the money is not forthcoming from Canadian supporters, no doubt America will be more than happy to have him back, and to keep all the other Canadian talent that has drained southward. But it is hoped that his venture back in Canada will be permanent as well as successful, and the United States then will just have to make do with its own.

Change date Christmas Carol

A business conflict with one of the cast leads has forced Theatre Aurora to change the dates in its next offering, Christmas Carol. The latter was to have opened at the Factory Theatre November 27 and continue November 28

and 29, with four more performances in December. However, that first week has been cancelled and the show will open December 4, with additional performances December 5 and 6, with both a matinee and evening performance on the 6th. The second week will feature showings on December 10, 11 and 12. There will also be a matinee performance

December 13, but not evening performance that day. The change in dates has also meant rescheduling of a Factory Folk Night, slated for December 12. The latter will now be held November 28 instead. Anyone holding tickets to Christmas Carol for the first three days is asked to contact the theatre at 727-6683, or 727-9313 to get them changed.

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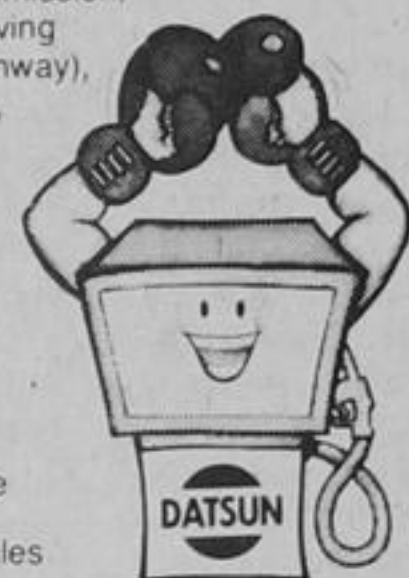
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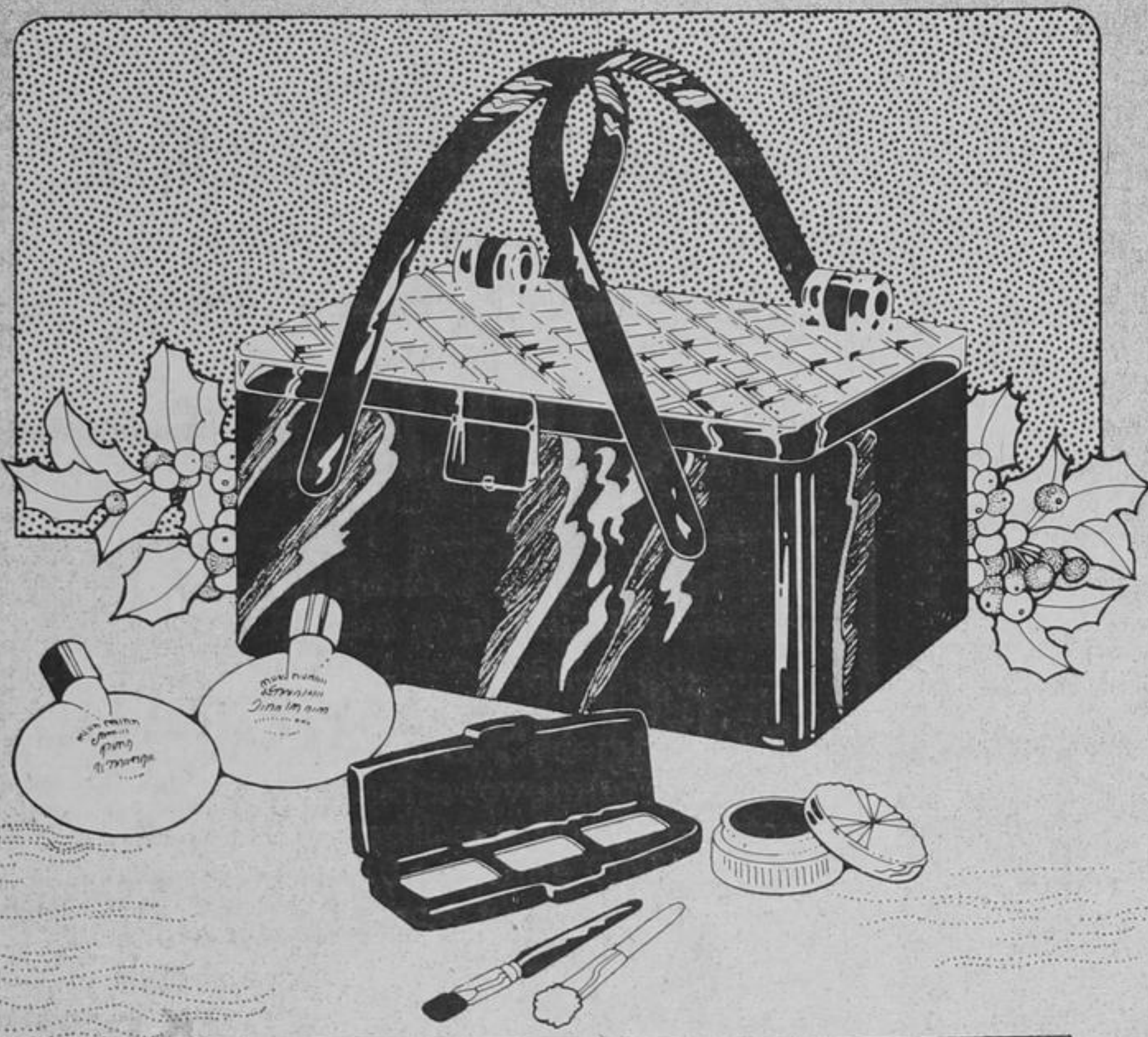
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