

ALDÉ COLLIN He Made us all Smile by Ernie Bies October 2016

Hearst lost one of its most beloved characters on October 13, 2016 when our good friend Aldé Collin was called to join the cast of entertainers in the sky. Born in 1937, he was an all around sportsman, entertainer, clown, haberdasher and good guy. Everyone has an Aldé story or two to tell. I've taken the liberty to share a few of my memories from long ago and borrowed photos from Alan Jansson's Old Hearst collection to honour Aldé. This account is just about the public Aldé and I will leave the personal details for his family to share.



Funeral details are shown below for your convenience

and then let's get story telling.

Date of Death: Thursday, October 13th, 2016

Date of Visitation: Monday, October 17th, 2016

Time of Visitation: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. & Tuesday October 18th at 2 p.m.

Location of Visitation: Lafrance Funeral Home

The family would appreciate donations to: Notre Dame Hospital Foundation <https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/7093>

Date of Service: Tuesday, October 18th, 2016

Time of Service: 4:15 p.m.

Funeral Service: Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Cathedral, 815 Kitchener, Hearst

Cemetery: Mgr. Pierre Grenier Cemetery, Hearst

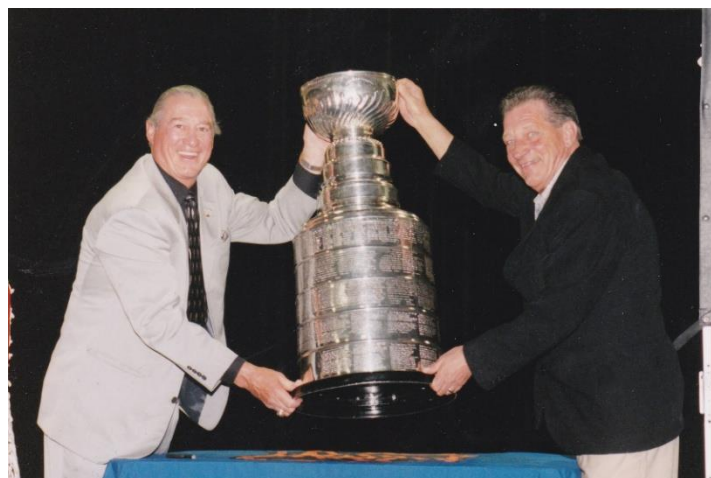
Photo on left is dated 1978 and shows Master of Ceremonies Aldé Collin at the Hearst Variety Show. Photo courtesy of the Hearst Ecomusée.

Aldé starred in a play at the College de Hearst along with songstress Rose Veilleux, as well as Felix Mallette and Colette Blier. Photo courtesy of Therese Henry via Rose Veilleux.





Aldé got to raise the Stanley Cup with six time winner Claude Larose in April 2002 on the occasion of the naming of the Hearst Recreation Centre in Claude's honor.



Aldé played some hockey of his own on the 1953 Hearst Juvenile "Canadiens" hockey team which was sponsored by the Montreal Canadiens.



Back row L-R:
Aldé Collin, Garry Sharpe, Conrad Begin, Steve Terefenko, Claude Comeau, Noel Camire, Noel Begin, and Lloyd Rouse

Middle row L-R:
Gus Lang, Jackie MacMillan, Vic Veilleux, J.P. Roger, King Begin, Gerard Cloutier, Florian Gaudreau,

Front row L-R: Pat Philbin, Murdoch "Musk" Martin, Pat Briere, & George Dufton. Photo courtesy of Garry Martin.

His real sporting passion was fastball where he was a standout third baseman with the Hearst Lumberkings. Baseball skills aside, his true value was that of the ultimate pest as he drove the other teams nuts with his antics. At times he would stand closer to home plate than to third base and chatter at the opposing batters as Ray Lafleur delivered his pitches. The batters would be more focussed on trying to bat the ball down his throat than getting a base hit and would usually mess it up.

He played on his share of championship teams.

1962 Hearst Lumberking NFC "C" championship fastball team.

Back L-R: Roger Hebert, Jean Gagné, Ray Lafleur, Bob Labrosse, Jean Doré, Barry Fraser. King Begin. Front row: Yvon Brochu, Marcel Brochu, Albert "Snuffy" Wills. Aldé Collin,



Ted Wilson, Rene Fontaine, Roger Paquin and Raymond Roy. Photo courtesy David Fontaine.

The 1966 Lumberkings advanced to the All-Ontario Intermediate 'B' Fastball Finals by defeating Garson: front row: Aldé Collin & Rene Fontaine..Second row: L-R Ray Comeau, Pit Hébert, Al Etmanski, Ray Lafleur, Ray Roy, Jean Gagné & Roger Comeau. Back row: L-R Gaetan Simard, Albert "Snuffy" Wills, Steve Matko, Gaston Grondin, Gilles Bray and Gilles Archambeault. Photo courtesy Pit Hebert. They lost to Newmarket in the finals. The opposing pitcher was Dale Pegg, son in law of Drs. Bill and Margaret Arkinstall.



Aldé worked at Ted Wilson's Men's Wear on George St. For years and could fit you by just looking at you.



"I have fond memories. I learned a lot from Aldé about selling men's clothing in the years that I worked part time at Ted's. He had a great sense of humour and was sincerely focused on customer service. And they kept coming back." - Jean Tanguay

He also worked in sales at the CINN radio, the local station.

Aldé was also very community oriented with his volunteer service such as with the Lions Club and playing Santa on the local radio station where he read the children's letters to Santa. This Dinty Garnett photo, circa 1970, shows Lion's Club member Aldé in action at a July 1st Gala Day Event



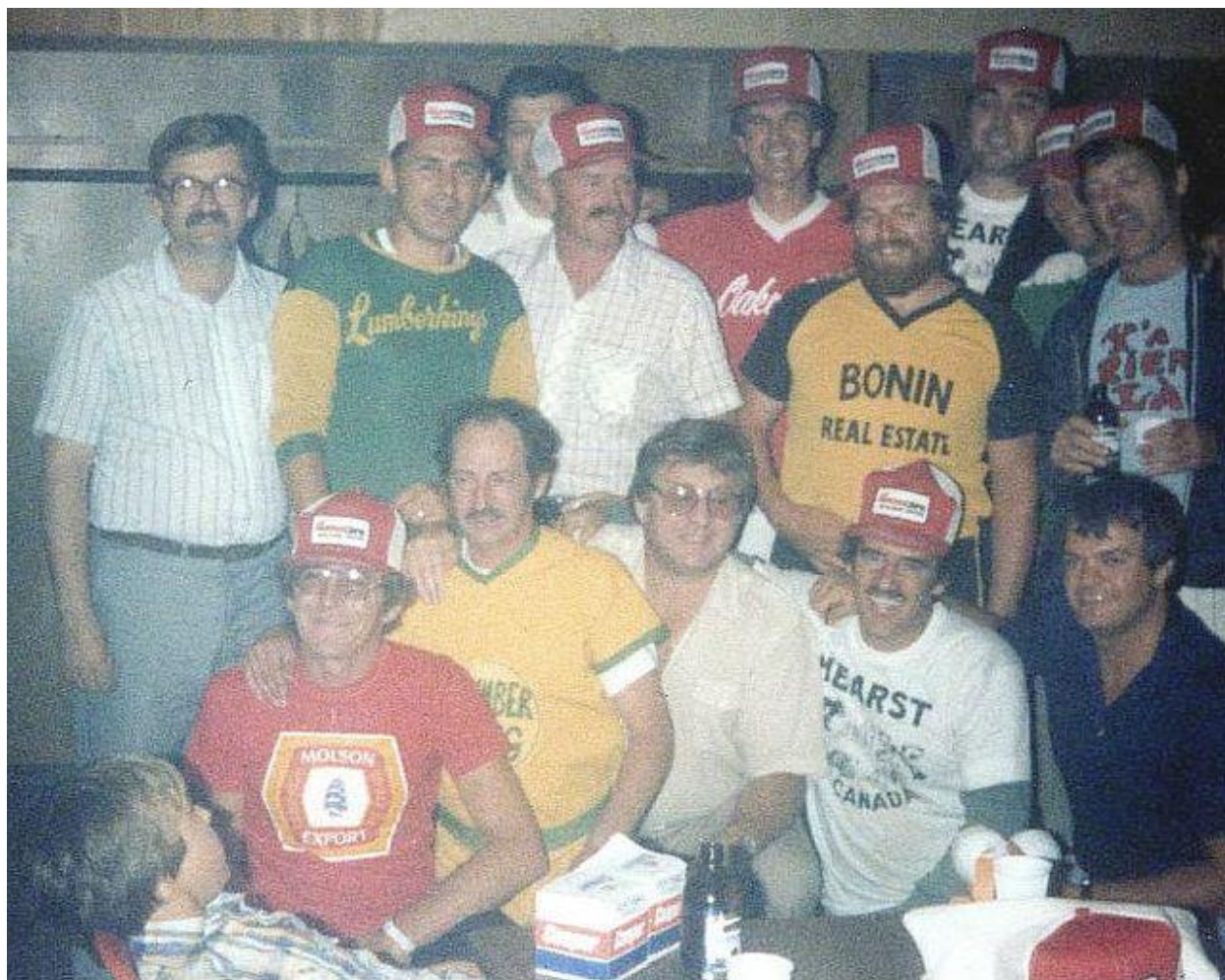
Another Dinty Garnett photo from the mid-1970s shows Aldé and Mme. Rita Levesque during a visit to the Quebec Hydro Electric project that was under construction at the time



This group photo courtesy of Dinty Garnett shows a tour group visiting the LG4 Hydro Electric Project in Northern Quebec in the mid 70s. Some folks from Hearst included: Ray, Jean Guy and Réjean Alary, Aldé Collin, Jacques Hince, Donald & Helene Lemaire, Luc Coté, Donald Roger, Raoul Vaillancourt, Claude Villeneuve, Dinty Garnett, André Plourde, Ben Morin, Rachel Catellier, Laurianne Joanis, Rita Levesque, and many others....

Aldé was always ready with a joke to ease the tension. I remember when his sister Cecile invited me for coffee with her mom. Aldé walked in and asked if my coffee was hot enough and proceeded to check it by shoving his whole hand into my cup much to his mother's horror.

But he could be serious too. At a New Year's Eve dance at the arena some of the boys got a bit unruly. Billy Lussier and I had just separated two would be combatants and we thought things had calmed down. Apparently not. A few minutes later I saw Aldé leading one of them to the trainer's room for repairs. This hapless fellow made the mistake of challenging Aldé when he told him to settle down only to get a right cross in the eye that required stitches. Aldé sewed him up and let him come back to the dance. A party wasn't a party in Hearst without a few fights.



Lumberking fastball players photo circa 1976/77. Back Row: L-R Ray Lafleur, King Begin, Gaston Grondin (behind) Albert Wills, Pete Pomfrett, Gil Archambeault, Gaston Gamache, Aldé Collin, & Fern Grondin..Front Row: Steve Matko, Pit Hébert, Rene Fontaine, Jean Gagné, & Roger Comeau. Photo courtesy of Roger Hébert.



Hearst Lumberking fastball players reunion circa 1979/ 80. photo courtesy of Roger Hébert....
 back row L-R Gilles Gagnon, Marcel Leger, Ray Vermette, Fern Grondin, Albert Wills, Gaston Gamache, Claude Larose, Pete Pomfrett, Gilles Bray, Barry Fraser, unknown ??, Ray Comeau, Marcel Marchand, Gaston Grondin, Claude Gagnon, Romeo Laflamme, Don Banks, Maurice Bray, Gaetan Defossés, front row L-R Omer Cantin, Gerry Defossés, Roger Comeau, Yves Picard, Ray Lafleur, Marc Gagnon, Rene Fontaine, Gilles St. Pierre, Jean Gagné, Don Roger, Aldé Collin, Jean Doré, King Begin, Steve Matko, and Roger Hébert