1. ‘A tall slim man stepped into view, a lock of blonde hair tumbling over his forehead, a smile that revealed dazzling movie-star teeth’.

2) ‘Good morning,’ he said. ‘My name is Larry LaSalle.’

‘Is that his real name?’ Joey LaBlanc asked in a whisper that carried over the crowd.

‘That’s right – it’s real,’ Larry LaSalle said. And for some reason, the crowd applauded.

3) Larry LaSalle had the broad shoulders of an athlete and the narrow hips of a dancer. He was both. He swung the bat with authority as he hit home runs in games at the sandlot next door and later led us through vigorous exercises and callisthenics. He was also a dancer, with a touch of Fred Astaire in his walk, his feet barely touching the floor. He could tap dance with machine gun speed and make daring leaps across the stage. But he was most of all a teacher, leading classes in dancing, arts and crafts, organising a choral group, directing musical shows.