



Sam Kula, Director of National Film Archives, and Mike Gates, Curator of Collections for Parks Canada in Dawson, inspect unearthed film.

help the miners get through the long winter. Because of the shipping costs Dawson City was the last stop in the distribution system, and the exchanges (distributors) arranged for the Dawson City Branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce to assume responsibility for the films after their run at the DAAA.

Dumped into tank

Clifford Thompson, who was employed by the Bank from 1928 to 1932, recalls that a substantial quantity of film had accumulated by 1929. It was stored in the Carnegie Library building, now restored, and the storage space was filled to capacity. Thompson was also treasurer of the hockey association, which operated a rink on the site next to the DAAA. There was also an open air swimming tank on the site which was covered with boards when the rink was flooded each winter. According to Thompson, who now lives in Chilliwack, British Columbia, the boards covering the tank used to sag under the weight of the ice, and when the DAAA decided to fill in the tank he suggested it would provide an ideal means of disposal for the nitrate film in the custody of the Bank. In the summer of 1929 all the nitrate film in store was dumped in

the tank and covered with earth. Although highly flammable and inherently unstable – nitrocellulose eventually and inevitably disintegrates over time – nitrate film is remarkably tough and long wearing, which is why the industry continued to use it until 1950. The base stock itself survived the burial for half a century with little damage, but the emulsion bearing the image was in many cases bleached out or washed away by ground water seepage and the action of minerals in the soil. “Our job now,” reports Kula, “after arranging transport to Ottawa, is to identify those films which can be salvaged and to transfer them to safety stock, conserving as much of the image with as much fidelity to the surviving original as we can. It is slow work, since most of the film will be substandard in size due to shrinkage and damage to the sprocket holes and will probably have to be accomplished on a step-printer, literally duplicating the film one frame at a time. If we are successful, copies will be added to the National Film Archives collection and will be made available, assuming there are no copyright restrictions, to the Dawson City Museum and to Klondike National Historic Sites for use in their exhibition and interpretive programs.”

Canada represented at Pope John Paul's funeral

The official Canadian delegation to the funeral of His Holiness Pope John Paul I comprised André Ouellet, Minister of State for Urban Affairs, and Mrs. Ouellet; Norman A. Cafik, Minister of State (Multiculturalism), and Mrs. Cafik; Camille Laurin, Minister of State for Cultural Affairs, and Mrs. Laurin; Mr. W. Dychuck, Member of Alberta's Legislative Assembly; and Laureano Leone, President of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau issued the following statement on the occasion of the death of Pope John Paul:

“The sudden death of His Holiness Pope John Paul I has cut short what seemed to be a most promising era in the life of the Catholic Church, and in its influence throughout the world.

“Because of his humanity, the warmth of his smile, and the humble wisdom of his words, he had already won the hearts of Catholics and of all people of good will.

“The joy and hope which surrounded his installation in Rome a few short weeks ago are still fresh in our minds, deepening the sense of loss felt by men and women everywhere. All of us today feel somewhat like spiritual orphans.”

Concern about Lebanon

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, expressed, on behalf of the Canadian Government and people, his deep concern at the escalation of violence in Lebanon. Canadians are greatly perturbed by the massive and indiscriminate destruction and extensive loss of innocent life resulting from the armed conflict in and around Lebanon's capital city and at the lack of progress towards a political solution of the Lebanese crisis.

The Canadian Government appeals to all parties concerned to work towards an immediate and lasting ceasefire during which the political future of Lebanon can be determined by representatives of all factions. A solution that will preserve the integrity and independence of Lebanon, and put an end to the periodic eruptions of violence that have so horrified the world, can only be found if all parties show restraint and goodwill.