

All in the family

Every ten years the Reesor family has a little get-together. This year, about 1,650 showed up and packed the fairground in Markham, Ontario, northeast of Toronto, for the eighth family reunion since 1901.

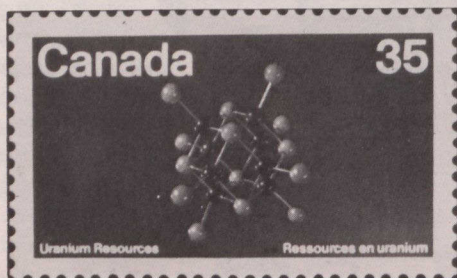
Reesors by birth, marriage or association came from all over North America and as far away as the Netherlands and Cyprus to sit down together, eat, listen to speeches, retell family history and renew old acquaintances.

A few had been to all the reunions since the first, held at Locust Hill, Ontario, in 1901 when the family had been settled in Markham for several generations.

Christian Reesor, his wife and six children settled in what is now Markham Township in 1804. He was a Pennsylvania Mennonite who refused to renounce his oath of allegiance to the British Crown after the American Revolution and made the dangerous trek to what then was Upper Canada with his family and belongings in a Conestoga wagon. The Reesor family originally came to the United States from Switzerland to escape religious persecution.

The first reunion was held to maintain family relationships. Since then — in 1904, 1928, 1934, 1950, 1960 and 1970 — the tradition has stuck, with a permanent organizing committee responsible for tracking down family members and sending thousands of invitations.

Role of uranium recognized



Canada Post issued a special 35-cent commemorative stamp on September 3 to mark the key role played by Canada in the field of nuclear energy.

The uranium resources stamp was designed by graphic designer Jacques Charrette of Ottawa, and is based on a photograph by Hans Blohm. The red, black and silver molecular structure model floats against a deep blue-black background.

Edmonton gets baseball series

The 1981 Intercontinental Cup series of amateur baseball will be played in Edmonton, Alberta.

Ron Hayter, chairman of the Alberta Baseball Association's Intercontinental Cup committee, said that Edmonton's bid had been accepted "enthusiastically" by all 36 member countries at a meeting of the International Association of Amateur Baseball in Tokyo.

The eight-team competition will feature the winners of the past Intercontinental Cup and the past world championship series, along with teams from countries holding the next cup and championship series.

Games are scheduled for August 6-16 in Edmonton, with the possibility still open for games to be played elsewhere in Alberta.

Mr. Hayter said entries might include teams from Italy, Puerto Rico, Japan, the United States, Korea and Cuba.

Clue to heart attack puzzle

Why does a man who feels perfectly well on Monday drop dead of a heart attack on Tuesday?

Even more puzzling, why does it happen a few days after blood tests showed no abnormally high cholesterol levels?

Dr. Allan Sniderman, a Montreal heart specialist, may have found a vital piece in this medical jigsaw puzzle, but at present he will only say cautiously that the work must be repeated and confirmed by other scientists, writes Joan Hollobon in the *Globe and Mail*, June 4.

He and his co-workers have shown that measurement of the protein constituent in one of the "packages" in the blood that carry cholesterol — low-density lipoprotein (LDL) — is a better indicator of hardening of the coronary arteries than cholesterol levels. (Lipoprotein is a term meaning that a substance is made up of fat and protein.)

Dr. Sniderman and his collaborators also have shown that levels of the fatty constituents in the various lipoproteins can change, making them inaccurate predictors. For example, blood cholesterol levels can drop by half after a heart attack.

Dr. Sniderman is head of the cardiovascular research unit at the Royal Vic-

toria Hospital and Edwards professor of cardiology and an associate professor of medicine at McGill University.

Blood samples were collected over a three-month period from 100 patients undergoing heart tests at the Royal Victoria. Some of the lipid samples were analyzed at the lipid research clinic in the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore.

The studies (published in the *Proceedings of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences*) showed a marked difference in the blood levels of LDL B (the protein part of LDL) between patients with known coronary artery disease and normal people or patients with other heart conditions (diseased valves, for example) whose coronary arteries are relatively healthy. The difference in LDL B between the groups was substantially greater than the difference in cholesterol levels.

Sailor school opens

Although it's located on *terra firma*, Canada's first school for sailors is promising a tough shakedown cruise for its 24 charter students.

"Here is where they'll find out if they can take it," says Gerry Beaulieu, administrator of the Seafarers Training Institute which opened recently.

For nine weeks, the trainees — many from high schools and colleges across the country — must make do without liquor, money, status jewelry and unauthorized trips off the school's 131-acre grounds in Morrisburg, Ontario, half way between Montreal and Kingston.

Instead, they will be learning the skills required of a sailor, from splicing ropes and reading engine gauges to lifeboat drills and galley cooking.

While there is no guarantee of a job upon completion of the course, Mr. Beaulieu says a graduate "would be preferred over a non-union person" and stands to earn as much as \$20,000 during a full season as a deckhand on the Great Lakes.

The institute, a joint venture of Canadian shipping companies and the Seafarers International Union, operates on a \$800,000 budget.

The institute's \$4-million building has its own nursing station, auditorium, gymnasium, library, recreation centre and a galley, which resembles a modern hotel kitchen. Outside are three lifeboats. Plans include acquiring a stationary ship for practice purposes.