

J A N U A R Y

[ROCKY ROADS]

1 On this day in 1743, the sons of Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de La Verendrye, discovered the Rockies while looking for the Pacific Ocean. The news delighted their father, who had been exploring the great West for a quarter of a century, and it electrified Paris, which rewarded Verendrye with the Order of St. Louis, a command of troops and full financial backing. He was ready to push all the way to the great salt sea but he died in Montréal the night before the march was to begin.

In 1952, exactly 209 years after the Sieur found his new security, Canada passed its Old Age Security Act for ordinary folks.

[UNCLE TOM]

3 Slavery was outlawed in Canada in 1793. Thirty-seven years later Josiah Henson, a Maryland slave, made his way to Ontario and freedom. He was Harriet Beecher Stowe's inspiration for Uncle Tom.

[BREAD]

6 Canada's first flour mill began grinding in Manitoba in 1877. Seventy-five years later, alas, the first

loaf of "vitamin-enriched" bread went on sale in Toronto.

[SIGNIFICANT DELIVERIES]

8 John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, was born in Glasgow in 1815.

In 1954 the world's longest pipeline brought the first barrel of crude oil from Alberta to Sarnia, Ontario, 1770 miles.

[COURTLY EXIT]

13 The British Privy Council gratefully stopped being Canada's regular last court of appeal in 1947 (though a

technical link remained in Constitutional matters).

[FREE TOSS]

20 The Sons of Freedom Doukhobors arrived in Halifax in 1899. Some of the Sons (and daughters) threw off their clothes when moved by religious emotions. This upset the Confederation's more conservative dressers. The custom continued, nevertheless, and when Prime Minister John Diefenbaker went to visit them more than half a century later, they did it again.

In 1892, Dr. James A. Naismith, a Canadian YMCA activist, invented

basketball in a gym in Springfield, Mass., using a peach basket.

[EARLY HAVEN]

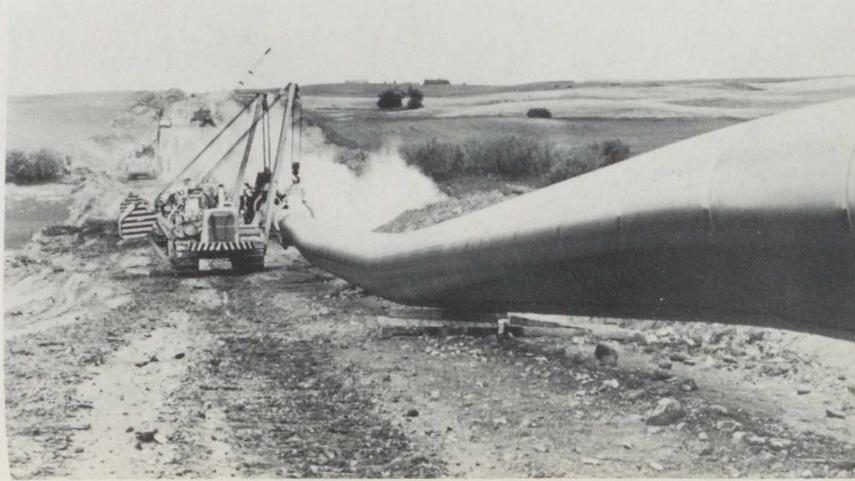
23 The Lower Canada Assembly voted full rights for Jews in 1831 and Québec became a haven for those fleeing persecution. This was a remote reason that the film, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, was shot in Montréal. Mordecai Richler, the author, grew up in a Jewish neighborhood on St. Urbain St.

[GRAND PA KETTLE]

25 Capt. Wilson Kettle, of Port aux Basques, Newfoundland, died in 1963 at the age of 102, leaving 582 direct descendants.

[VICTORIA CROSS]

29 Queen Victoria announced in 1856 that she was instituting a new medal to be awarded for acts of the highest heroism and that it would be called the Victoria Cross. Ten years later Timothy O'Hea was given one when he put out a fire on a munitions train at Danville, Québec, saving the lives of eight hundred passengers. It was the only VC ever won on Canadian soil and the only one ever given for heroism in a time of peace.



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