

Louis Applebaum, Director of Music for the Festival and Conference Director for the League of Composers, said that he hoped soon to be able to announce the names of the conductors and soloists for all these events. The regular season of Festival concerts will feature the resident artists, Glenn Gould, Oscar Shumsky and Leonard Rose, who will perform with the National Festival Orchestra. Tyrone Guthrie will stage the popular Gilbert and Sullivan "HMS Pinafore", which will run in the Avon Theatre from July 15 to August 6.

The International Conference of Composers is being sponsored by the Canadian League of Composers and the Stratford Shakespearean Festival.

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AIR SERVICES SCHOOL

The Transport Department's recently-established Air Services School in the new Ottawa Airport terminal had its first graduates recently. Having undergone an intensive 12-week theoretical course of training in air-traffic control, sixteen students--nine from the Montreal area and seven from Toronto--were presented with certificates marking the successful completion of this part of their training.

The new school is the Transport Department's Air Services training centre for all Canada and was established to train radio operators, meteorological technicians and observers, as well as air-traffic controllers, to meet the growing requirements in these fields. In addition, departmental radio technicians will receive training in the operation of new and advanced radio and electronics equipment.

Unique in this course was training on an ICAO-developed synthetic traffic-control trainer, which provides primary training in this field. Canada was the first country to adopt the trainer, using it for the first time in the course just completed.

The equipment is comprised of two main units. One projects a picture of an airport or other area, with all its air navigation facilities, on the ceiling of the classroom. On this, a group of "pilots" reproduce the movement of their aircraft, each man having a controllable unit that projects a dot of light on the ceiling picture.

This scene, complete with moving "aircraft", is transmitted by closed-circuit television to radar screens in an adjoining room, at which sit the student controllers. Watching their screens, they direct the "pilots" in the other room by means of two-way communication, thus being able to simulate the actual operation in a real airport control-centre or tower. All members of the student group take turns being "pilot" and "controller". The operation is monitored from an instructor console, which is the focal point of all communications circuits.

Before becoming full-fledged Department of Transport air-traffic controllers, the students will receive three months "on the job" training at various airport traffic control towers, at the end of which they will be required to pass practical tests.

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FIRE LOSSES LOWER IN 1959

Five hundred and twenty people lost their lives as the result of fires in Canada in 1959, according to preliminary figures available at the end of the year. This is a reduction of 12 from the 1958 figure, and 1959 is the second successive year that fire fatalities have been reduced. The number of fire deaths for 1957 was 638. The figures, which cover all categories except forest fires, are based on information received from the Provincial Fire Marshals compiled by the office of the Dominion Fire Commissioner, Fire Prevention Branch, Department of Public Works.

The estimated number of fires occurring in 1959 was 85,000, which is likewise a reduction from the 86,919 outbreaks reported in 1958. However, it is higher than the figure for 1957, which was 82,088.

The preliminary figure for financial loss through fire in 1959 is \$188 million, a reduction of more than \$2 million from the \$120,258,696 loss in 1958 and above \$15 million less than the figure for 1957.

Minister of Public Works David J. Walker pointed out that the reduction of Canada's fire losses had taken place in spite of the fact that the population and capital assets had greatly expanded during the period concerned. Among the main reasons believed responsible for the improvement are an increase in inspections and other fire prevention activities by provincial and municipal fire authorities, and the adoption in recent years by more Canadian communities of building codes for new construction with better provisions for fire safety.

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MARINE COMMISSARY COURSE

A special seven-week training course in supply management, for Department of Transport ship's stewards and cooks, is under way at Montreal.

Fourteen men from departmental vessels in the various Canadian maritime areas are being trained at the Royal Canadian Navy supply depot at HMCS "Hochelaga". Instructors are Navy personnel who have been carrying out similar training for Navy cooks and stewards.

The course is the first of a series to be carried out to promote economy and efficiency in the buying, storing and preparation of ships' foodstuffs and to ensure the provision of meals of high quality for ships' crews at all times.