

Pierre Berton

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Pierre Berton, who has published 25 books, did not publish one in 1979. The break is probably not significant (he will write 25 more, no doubt, before he is through), but it is disconcerting, for Berton — like Saturday Night Hockey, the question period in the House of Commons and other national institutions — is expected to keep on schedule.

He is the best popular historian in the country (*The National Dream*, *The Last Spike*, *The Dionne Years*), a dazzlingly successful TV personality and producer (also "The National Dream", "The Last Spike", "The Dionne Quintuplets"), a basically simple, articulate son of the North (*Klondike*, *I Married the Klondike*, *Drifting Home*) and the father of seven children.

He works systematically (his permanent researcher Barbara Sears receives a third of the royalties) and makes a great deal of money. "I wouldn't be writing this stuff if there weren't a market for it," he told Judith Timson of *Maclean's*.

In *Drifting Home* he described a raft trip down the Yukon with his wife and children, following the paths taken by his father decades before.

"My father must have known that his chances of finding any gold were slight. But in the spring of 1898 everybody was going to the Klondike, as everybody goes off to war. Half of New Brunswick seemed to be heading northwest, taking advantage of a railway freight car to cross the continent cheaply. There were five hundred and fifty men on the train with him and most of them had never seen a mountain before. Neither had he and he was entranced. 'The scenery was magnificent,' he wrote to his mother in Saint John, from the Oriental Hotel in Vancouver. 'Mountains rising from all sides sheer up, apparently, from the track and towering above our heads as if to fall and crush us. . . .'

"He believed he was going to the Yukon for a two-year stay but those two years lengthened into forty. . . .



Pierre Berton and father Francis Berton.

"'It's weird,' Peter [Berton's oldest son] says. 'I mean, to think that he was on this lake. I wonder if he ever figured us kids would be doing it?'"

Aba Bayefsky

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Aba Bayefsky still sketches the subjects he drew as a child — pictures of fish mongers and their customers, shop fronts and peddlers. He has always been enthralled by the daily lives of working people and has drawn market places in India, Japan and Toronto. "They contain the human element. Art and life are indivisible."

Bayefsky grew up in Toronto (and went to the Kensington Market as a boy), studied art at Central Technical School and became an official war artist with the RCAF in World War II. After the war he studied at l'Académie Julien in Paris on a French government scholarship. In 1949 he dis-

played his paintings at Hart House, University of Toronto, and since then he has had more than 30 one-man shows in Canada, the United States and India. He has touched many ethnic bases along the way — in India in 1959, in Japan in 1962 — and in 1972 his portrait of the Scottish poet Hugh MacDiarmid was used as a stamp by the Scottish Philatelic Society. He works in ink, watercolour, pastel and even concrete, and his works hang in major Canadian galleries as well as in the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the Smithsonian in Washington and Hebrew University in Jerusalem.