

**FESTIVAL DATES:** Benjamin Britten's "The Turn of the Screw", which will be receiving its North American Première, will be presented on August 20, 23, 27, 28, 30, and September 3, 4, and 6 during the Stratford Music Festival next summer.

As previously announced, the CBC Symphony will also be featured during the third annual Music Festival. Jazz artists presenting concerts will be Count Basie and his orchestra, singer Billie Holiday, Toronto's Ron Collier Quintet, the Gerry Mulligan quartet and pianist Teddy Wilson.

The Music Festival will run for five weeks July 31 to September 6 in conjunction with the fifth annual season of drama.

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**SEALS CONVENTION:** After 14 months of negotiation Canada, the United States, the U.S.S.R. and Japan have reached agreement on a new convention for the management of the fur seals of the North Pacific. This convention was signed in Washington, where the lengthy conference took place.

Since 1942 Canada and the United States have been the only countries sharing in the annual catch taken on the Pribilof Islands, which are in the Bering Sea, north of the Aleutians and about 300 miles west of Alaska. Canada's share has been one-fifth, which represented a gross annual income to this country of about \$1,000,000.

The Canadian Delegation to the conference was headed by George R. Clark, federal Deputy Minister of Fisheries, who, with Hon. A.D.P. Heeney, Canadian Ambassador to the United States signed on behalf of Canada.

The first North Pacific fur seals agreement was signed in 1911 by the same four countries which have just re-negotiated the treaty. Prior to that date pelagic sealing--or the killing of seals at sea--had been carried out by the nationals of many countries and the depletion of the herds showed the need for conservation. The 1911 convention prohibited pelagic sealing and provided for a selective and controlled kill on the Pribilof islands, to which the fur seals return each year to breed. Russian participation in the convention ended in 1924 and Japan abrogated the treaty in 1940. In 1942 a provisional agreement between the United States and Canada replaced the 1911 convention.

During recent years Japan and the U.S.S.R. again showed interest in the conservation of the seal herds by controls on pelagic hunting, and the conference which resulted in the proposed new agreement was opened in Washington on November 28, 1955. There will be controlled catches on the Pribilof Islands, which harbour the main herds estimated at 2,000,000 seals during the breeding season, and on Commander and Robben Islands, each of which have estimated populations of 100,000 seals.

**BORDER CROSSINGS-1956:** A record volume of highway traffic crossed the border between Canada and the United States during 1956, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Aggregate crossings into Canada during the year amounted to 17,341,800 vehicles, an increase of 1,473,600 crossings or 9 per cent over the former record of 15,868,200 established in 1955. The greater part of the rise was in the number of Canadian vehicles returning from the United States where the increase amounted to 1,001,100 or nearly 14 per cent to 8,295,000. The gain recorded in the number of foreign vehicle crossings was 472,500 or between 5 per cent and 6 per cent to 9,046,400.

Incoming foreign traffic was comprised of 2,484,400 vehicles entering on travellers' vehicle permits, 6,111,100 were non-permit or local entries and 450,900 were commercial vehicles. Travel permit entries declined 1.6 per cent from the record established in 1955, but the non-permit category increased between 7 and 8 per cent. Re-entries of vehicles registered in Canada were comprised of 1,346,600 units abroad more than 24 hours, 6,309,500 vehicles absent for 24 hours or less and 639,300 commercial vehicles. Re-entries of vehicles returning after visits lasting more than 24 hours increased between 8 and 9 per cent over 1955, and short-term traffic advanced nearly 15 per cent.

Several factors may have contributed to the decline in the number of visits to Canada by residents of the United States using travellers' vehicle permits. During the summer months there were no heat waves in the United States which under normal conditions stimulates travel north to Canada. The steel strike coming at the time when many persons were planning their vacations may have created an atmosphere of uncertainty for many, with reluctance to travel far from home. The presidential conventions may also have had their effect in keeping many persons closer to home for their vacation. Of all factors influencing the number of United States residents visiting Canada perhaps the unfavourable weather in the spring and summer months was foremost in deterring persons from spending their vacation in Canada.

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**APPOINTED CHAIRMAN:** Mr. T.J. Blachut, head of photogrammetric research at the National Research Council of Canada, has been appointed by the International Society of Photogrammetry as Chairman of their Committee on Mapping Experiments.

The aim of this special study Committee is to establish and carry out a research programme on basic mapping procedures. Leading American and European countries will contribute to this programme. For example, various countries will attack a selected problem but each country will use its own methods for the same test area. Useful comparisons can then be made.