

opening production of the 1984-85 season, Giuseppe Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. The broadcasts continued on subsequent Saturday afternoons with Georges Bizet's *Carmen*; Franz Lehar's *The Merry Widow*; Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*; Benjamin Britten's *Death in Venice*; and Gaetano Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*.

Among the many outstanding singers heard in the series were mezzo sopranos Judith Forst and Janet Stubbs, tenor Ermanno Mauro and baritone Allan Monk from Canada; soprano Johanna Meier and tenor Kenneth Riegel from the US; tenor Giorgio Lamberti from Italy; soprano Margarita Castro-Alberty from Puerto Rico; soprano Livia Budai from Hungary; and Dame Joan Sutherland from Australia.

News briefs

Minister of Agriculture John Wise and Minister for International Trade James Kelleher have announced that the government will impose restrictions on the quantity of beef and veal that will be permitted entry into Canada during 1985. Under the Meat Import Act, a global import quota is being established at a level of 66.5 million kilograms which is equivalent to Canada's Global Minimum Access Commitment under the GATT. The government's decision to invoke the Meat Import Act was considered necessary in view of the surge in imports of beef which took place in 1984 and the anticipated high level of imports in 1985.

Air Canada will become the world's first carrier company to place a twin engine civil airliner in scheduled passenger service on the North Atlantic, when its twin-engine *Boeing 767* aircraft starts operating on the over-water flights in May. The 200-seat aircraft will fly from Halifax, Nova Scotia to London and Prestwick, Scotland and eventually, will be used to fly to other European destinations from other points in Canada. The introduction of the new generation "twins", such as the *Boeing 767* and the *Airbus A-300* and *A-310*, is expected to help the airlines to make money, by not only cutting costs but also adding frequency.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced the signing of a \$340 000 (US) allocation under a line of credit agreement with Magyar Nemzeti Bank of Hungary to support a sale by Phoenix Geophysics Limited of Willowdale, Ontario of a magnetotelluric geophysical system to Chemokomplex of Budapest, Hungary. The equipment will be used for the determination of natural earth resistivity.

Nordair Limited of Montreal, Quebec has installed experimental self-ticketing

machines at Dorval Airport in Montreal. The system enables travellers to make flight reservations and buy their tickets 24 hours a day with their credit cards in much the same way as automatic banking is carried out.

A Chinese consulate opened recently in Toronto to help process visa and passport applications and provide details on trade and cultural affairs. Quing Hou, the consul general, said that Toronto was chosen as the site for the consulate because of its large Chinese-Canadian population. The consulate is expected to foster closer cultural bonds with Toronto's 200 000 Chinese Canadians.

A Multicultural Services Centre is being planned for Vancouver, British Columbia and it is hoped the Centre will open by May 1986, in time for Expo '86 and the city's one-hundredth birthday. The Centre will be a focal point for Vancouver's many cultural groups allowing them to share resources, ideas and social times.

The 1984 shipping season on the St. Lawrence Seaway, which ended New Year's Day, was the longest on record. The 3 768-kilometre waterway, which links the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean, usually closes for the winter December 15, but the closure was postponed by a jammed lift-bridge near Valleyfield, Quebec that blocked navigation for three weeks. The previous seaway closure record was December 25, set five years ago.

A manufacturing-assembly plant is being located at Steinbach, Manitoba by Toro Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota through the assistance of a \$625 000 loan provided by the Manitoba Jobs Fund. The five-year loan, plus a \$96 000 grant from the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion, will allow Toro, described as the world's largest independent manufacturer and marketer of outdoor maintenance products, to move into the building being constructed by a Steinbach firm. In exchange for the loan, Toro guarantees employment of at least 25 persons at the Steinbach plant, that it will implement an equal employment opportunity program and that it will use Manitoba goods and services wherever possible. Toro is the first company to sign a development agreement with the provincial government under a program announced earlier this year.

Silvia Ruegger of Newcastle, Ontario won the women's competition of the 35-kilometre Houston Marathon in 2:28.36 and established a Canadian record. Jacqueline Gareau of Montreal finished second in 2:29.32. In the men's division Dave Edge of Ancaster, Ontario, placed thirteenth with Marty Froelich of Houston and Sam Ngatia of Kenya placing first and second respectively.

Model payment for surgery

Identical twins Chong Min and Hyun Min recently made their *débuts* as fashion models to help raise money for an Ottawa organization, Heal the Children, which brings children to the city for operations that hospitals in their own countries are not equipped to perform.



Identical twins Chong Min and Hyun Min as models after successful heart surgery.

Heal the Children had brought the twins from South Korea for identical operations to close ducts in their hearts which should have closed naturally at birth.

To date, Heal the Children has brought 21 children to Ottawa for surgery. The children are looked after by Ottawa-area families, doctors donate their services, and private donations pay the costs of surgery and hospital stays.

The twins came with five other children, and Heal the Children founder Naomi Bronstein will take them all home together. Ms. Bronstein will return from Asia with six more children in need of surgery.

Canada Weekly is published by the Cultural and Public Information Bureau, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.

Canada

ISSN 0384-2312