

Soldier, lawyer, parliamentarian and diplomat – the passing of George Drew

On January 4, four days after the state funeral of the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, Canadians learnt of the death of another public figure of the first rank – the Honourable George Drew, who had been in succession soldier, lawyer, statesman and diplomat. The following tribute was paid to Colonel Drew by Prime Minister Trudeau:

Canadians have been saddened by the death of the Honourable George Drew. His service to Canada and to Parliament was outstanding. Mr. Drew came to the House of Commons from the legislature of Ontario, where he had served as member and Premier. His record as Leader of the Opposition was an outstanding one, for he brought to the debates in the House experience gained in a number of areas – as soldier, as an author and as a barrister.

His public service career did not conclude with his resignation as leader of his party but was furthered during his term in office as Canadian High Commissioner in London and through his immense contribution to the Geneva Law of the Sea Conferences.

Mr. Drew's sense of honour and his devotion to Canada were matched only by the warmth of his personality and the courtesy which he exhibited in his relations with all who were fortunate enough to know him. His loss is a great one, and I extend condolences to his family.

Wheat sale to Brazil

The sale of 600,000 metric tons (approximately 22 million bushels) of Canadian wheat has been negotiated by the Canadian Wheat Board with the Brazilian Wheat Board, Mr. Otto Lang, Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, announced recently. "I am happy to announce the completion of this second long-term wheat agreement with Brazil and look forward to Canada's continuing to be a factor in the South American market," Mr. Lang said.

The first contract under the new agreement provides for the sale of 200,000 metric tons (7,340,000 bushels) of No. 1 and No. 2 CW Red Spring Wheat. Shipments through St. Lawrence ports will start in June and continue until October.

The previous long-term agreement was signed by Mr. Lang when he visited Brazil in June 1970. It involved 900,000 metric tons (some 33 million bushels). Shipments under this agreement were completed in October.

Financing of the agreement will be handled by the Export Development Corporation and is made possible through the revised and expanded credit facilities the Government has made available to improve the competitive position of Canadian wheat in developing countries, Mr. Lang said.

Father saves sons after ordeal by cold

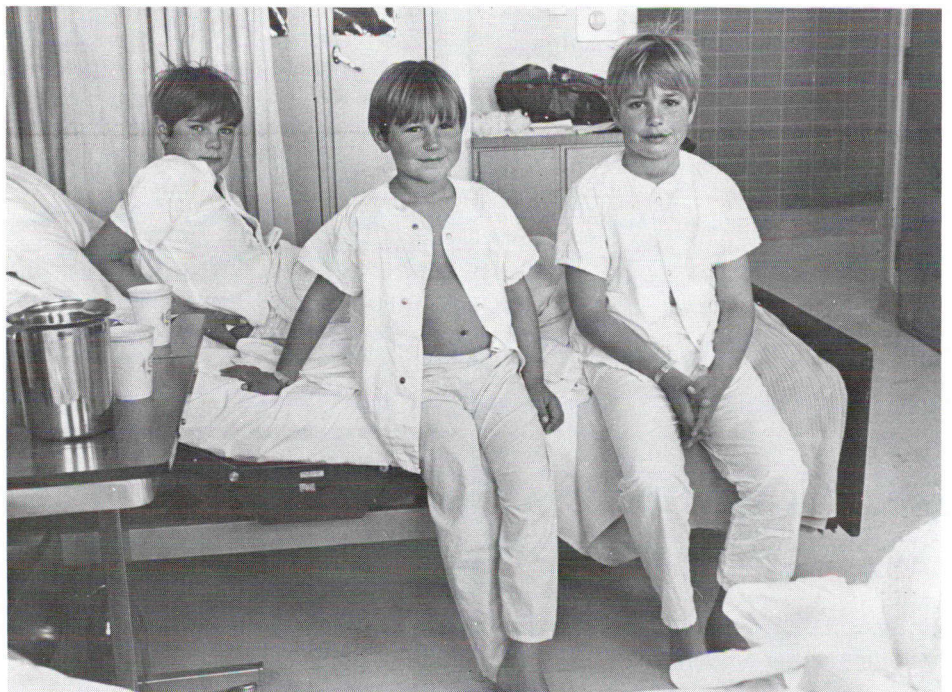
The three young sons of Fred Kopmann, a 39-year-old paper-hanger, are alive today thanks to their father's fierce determination to endure freezing temperatures and bring them help after his truck became stuck in deep snow in the Rocky Mountains 45 miles southwest of Calgary, Alberta. Kopmann

tramped 40 miles in 15 hours in the sub-zero cold before finding a telephone.

More than four hours later, Kopmann's children – Rolf aged 11, Michael 9 and Frank 6 – were rushed in a Royal Canadian Mounted Police truck to hospital in Calgary, where they were treated for frostbite and exposure.

The boys and their father had spent the night in their stranded vehicle, where the fuel finally ran out and the heater stopped working. "All night, myself and the three boys squeezed under one blanket," Kopmann said. "I knew I had to keep the children awake because the cold would creep up on them if they slept. So I kept talking to them all night until I got sick of the sound of my own voice. I would call their names repeatedly and if one of them didn't answer I'd shake him awake." The temperature was about 35 degrees below zero, he continued, and he "kept rubbing their feet and hands to keep the circulation going".

When the sun rose in the morning, Kopmann, clad in a sweater, trousers and light jacket, set out on foot for help. In an effort to keep his feet from freezing, he tied strips of blanket around his light overshoes. He "headed north" thinking that Highway 11 was just a few miles away. "I was way out," he said. Highway 11 was 80 miles away.



Calgary Herald photo

The Kopmann boys relax in a Calgary hospital. They had never given up hope.