

Detection of muscular dystrophy cause

An important step forward in the search for a gene that causes the most common and severe form of muscular dystrophy has been made at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Researchers have found a way to zero in on the gene, which so far has defied detection despite intense efforts by scientists in many parts of the world. The discovery may provide a better way to determine whether some women who risk having children with the disabling condition are carriers of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Dr. Ronald Worton of the hospital's department of medical genetics said. It may also help detect muscular dystrophy in a fetus.

Over the past two years, Dr. Worton

and co-worker Catherine Duff conducted the laboratory studies that led to the findings. He says interest in their research has been so great among genetic scientists that "it's been like working in a goldfish bowl, so many people have dropped in to see how we're doing".

It is not known how the gene causes muscular dystrophy, but Dr. Worton says it is believed the gene instructs a cell how to make a muscle protein. If the gene is not working, that protein is lacking and muscles weaken and shrivel.

The debilitating disease, which causes sufferers to fall frequently and have difficulty standing and climbing stairs, typically affects boys and often leads to early death.

Sale to China

Northern Telecom International Limited has been awarded a contract for the supply of an SL-1 VLE (very large enhanced) digital private branch exchange (PBX) for the Garden Hotel in Guangzhou, People's Republic of China. The contract is worth approximately \$1 million (Can.).

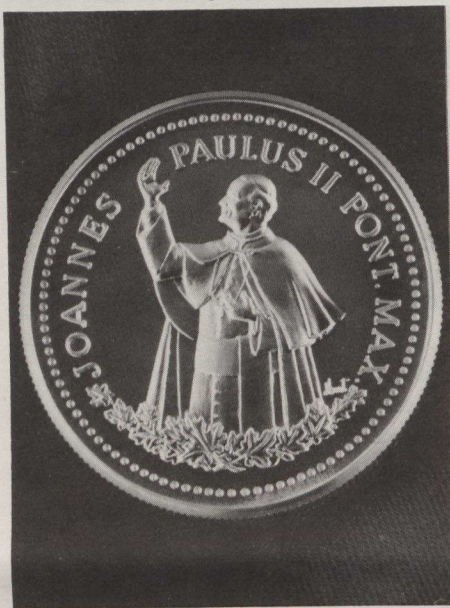
The Garden Hotel, scheduled to open partially in mid-1984 in eastern Guangzhou, formerly Canton, in southern China, is a joint investment of Lee Garden Hotel in Hong Kong and the Chinese government. It comprises a hotel and an office block with a total of 2 500 extensions, all of which will be served by the fully digital SL-1.

This is the third SL-1 sold to China to provide communications for hotels. The others were to the Bai Yuen Hotel, also Guangzhou, and the Beijing Hotel in Beijing, formerly Peking.

The SL-1 is the largest selling digital PBX in the world. More than 9 200 systems, serving an equivalent of more than three million lines, have been sold in 42 countries since it was introduced in 1975.

The SL-1VLE is being manufactured at the Northern Telecom plant in Belleville, Ontario.

Medal marks papal visit to Canada



The official medal commemorating Pope John Paul's visit to Canada is now on sale.

The medal, heavily plated in 23-karat gold, was created, minted and marketed by International Gold Marketing (Canada) Ltd., an Ottawa-based firm that trades in precious metals.

One of the first of the medals, which come in a velvet-lined leather case, was presented to Pope John Paul at a ceremony in Rome on May 19.

The medal, the only one authorized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for the papal visit, costs \$36 until August 15 and \$45 from August 15 until September 30.

Dora de Pédery-Hunt, sculptor of Canada's first \$100 gold coin, was hired to



design the medal and it was minted by Lombardo Mint Inc. of Sherbrooke, Quebec.

On one side is a sculpted profile of the Pope, his right arm raised in greeting.

On the reverse side is the coat of arms of Pope John Paul as well as three doves as symbols of peace.

The first 100 000 coins have been minted and are now on sale in the US and Ireland, as well as Canada.

They can be obtained by sending name and return address, with cheque, money order or charge card number, to I.G.M. International Gold Marketing (Canada) Ltd., P.O. Box 8399, Alta Vista Terminal, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3H8. US - I.G.M. (Canada) Ltd. mailing, shipping centre, 78 Church St., Saratoga Springs, New York, 12866.

New Canadian air routes circle the globe

Using a combination of Air Canada and CP Air flights, some enterprising traveller may lay claim next year to being the first person to circle the world exclusively on Canadian scheduled air carriers, according to *The Globe and Mail*.

He or she will have the choice of travelling east or west. By starting in Montreal, the traveller will be able to fly to London, Frankfurt, Bombay and Singapore on Air Canada, and at that point be almost exactly half way around the world.

He or she can then pick up a CP Air flight in Singapore and touch down in Hong Kong and Tokyo before returning to Canada over the Pacific and landing back in Montreal.

The flight will probably take the best part of two days.

The last links in the chain will begin to fall into place next January when Air Canada launches service to Bombay and Singapore through London.

It will be completed later in the year when CP Air adds Singapore to its Tokyo-Hong Kong service, subject to agreement being reached with Japan and Hong Kong.