

New air agreement between France and Canada

Canada and France have concluded a new air transport agreement that will be signed on June 14 during the course of a visit to France by the Minister of Transport, Otto Lang.

France will gain access to Toronto as well as intransit rights beyond to Los Angeles, U.S.A., with frequency restrictions. France will also retain its traffic rights between Montreal and Chicago. Furthermore, the airlines have agreed to maintain adequate services between Montreal and France.

The new agreement, which replaces one signed in 1950, also incorporates the rights outlined in an exchange of notes signed in Ottawa last September concerning the route between Montreal and the French Antilles. Services were started on this route by Air Canada in November 1975 on behalf of both airlines.

In exchange, Canada will gain access to two points in addition to Paris within Metropolitan France to be named by Canada. Additional rights for Canada include points beyond France, three in Europe to be named by Canada, four in Africa and five in Asia subject to certain conditions regarding selection.

The agreement also provides for the exchange of rights between Vancouver and Papeete, the capital of Tahiti, subject to a prior commercial agreement between the two airlines, CP Air and UTA.

Puppets on overseas tour

Lampoon Puppettheatre of Toronto, a company that has been operating in Canada for some four years, recently participated in the seventh Festival of Puppet Shows in Bielsko-Biala, Poland, under the cultural relations program of the Department of External Affairs.

The Polish festival, which attracts puppet companies from many parts of the world, was one of several locations where Lampoon Puppettheatre performed their production of *Clowning Around* — a series of vignettes about circus clowns. They also performed for local school children and played a

Top honour for fire victim

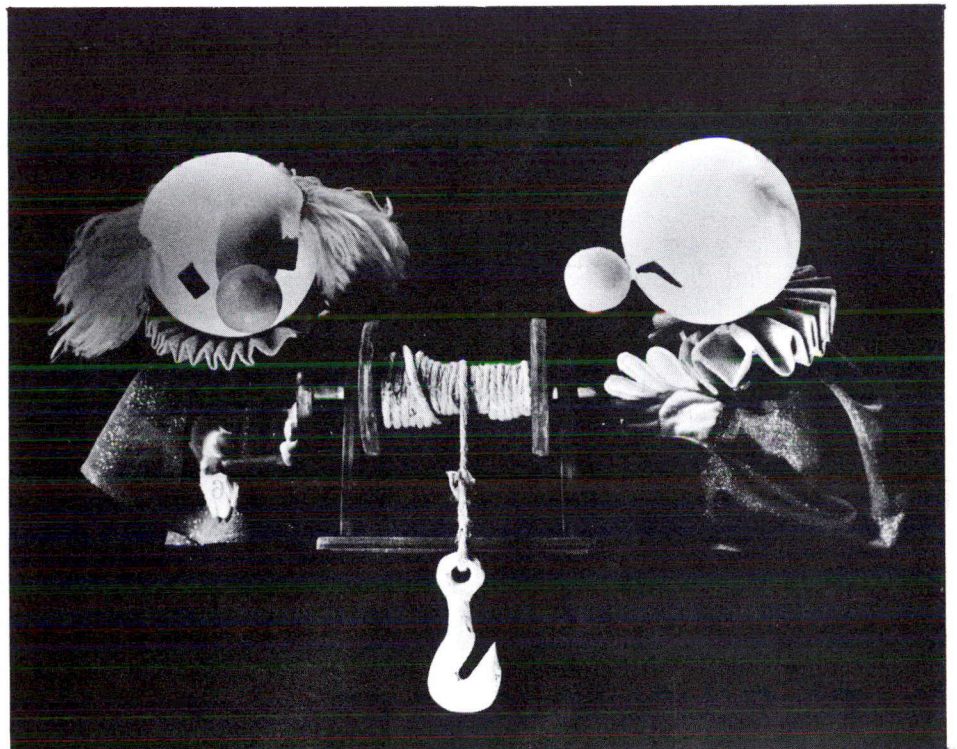
The Cross of Valour, Canada's highest decoration for bravery, has been awarded posthumously to Mrs. Jean Swedberg, of Merritt, British Columbia.

Mrs. Swedberg who was employed as a switchboard operator at the Valnicola Hotel in Merritt, B.C., completely disregarding her own safety left her post to alert guests during a fire which razed the hotel and claimed her own life in September 1974. The fire, which started on the ground floor of the frame structure, spread quickly. Mrs. Swedberg raced through heat and smoke, and alerted the guests in the dining room and those who were still in their rooms on the second floor. She knocked on every door to assure herself that all

the guests were aware of the fire and it was at that moment, as she reached the last few rooms, that fire shot up the stairwell, sealing off all means of escape. The hotel was a mass of flames in a matter of minutes and there was no hope of saving Mrs. Swedberg. With her aid all but one of the guests were saved.

Mrs. Swedberg is among a list of 12 persons who have been awarded decorations for bravery. Four recipients have been awarded the Star of Courage — one posthumously. The Medal of Bravery has been awarded to seven persons.

The three Canadian decorations for bravery were created in 1972. Mrs. Swedberg is the fifth person to be awarded the Cross of Valour since 1972. Three of the Crosses of Valour were awarded posthumously.



Lampoon Puppettheatre perform their production of *Clowning Around*.

special engagement at the Grotoska Theatre in Krakow.

From Poland, the company travelled to the Netherlands and then to Moscow to attend the congress of the International Union of Puppetry at the end of May. The tour winds up in mid-June in Helsinki, Finland, where they will perform at the International Theatre Institute.

Lampoon Puppettheatre, under the direction of Johan and Alison Vandergun, presents some 250 performances a year in Canada. Mr. Vandergun is a native of the Netherlands, who came to Canada in 1967.

In 1975, the company received a Citation of Excellence at the Festival of Puppeteers of America in St. Louis, Missouri.