

by GERARD COURTIN and LORNE CRAWFORD

"In the winter when the swamps and muskegs and barrens harden in the cold, and the lakes congeal into ice, and the ground is covered with a thick mantle of snow, then the Wendigo, the cannibal frost-fiend, holds sway, and he skims swiftly over the surface of the snow on his fleet snowshoes carrying cold and terror wherever he goes" . . . Thus runs an old Indian legend. However, this winter not only the Wendigo will rely on snowshoes for transportation but also many foresters and surveyors whose lot it is to work in the Canadian North during the long winter months. Even in this age of machines there is still a place for this simple but efficient piece of footwear.

Where did the snowshoe come from? How is it made? Why the varying sizes and shapes?

The first records about snowshoes date back only as far as the loans total \$820,000 and of the first white settlers but there is no doubt that they have formed a 2,335 loans made only one has part of the Indians' way of life for hundreds of years. The evolution had to be written off-due to the to the present day snowshoe is a long one for some of the earlier and death of the borrower. more primitive efforts were very crude indeed.

Snowshoes consist of three parts: the frame, the crossbars, standing, applicants for loans and the netting. The frame is usually made from ash which is are required to pass a "means steamed into shape. The crossbars, also of ash, help to keep the test" - taking into account famframe in shape and form an anchorage for the netting. The netting ily income, number of children consists of long strips of nide (cow, moose, deer or elk) which in the family, the prospective borare woven into the frame while wet. On drying the thonging shrinks rower's summer and part time forming a hard but resilient mesh.

As made by the Indians, snowshoes come in a host of shapes and sizes; these being dictated by the conditions of travel, the ma- requirements, Students' Loans terials available and the customs of various tribes. Four basic shapes has given financial assistance to are used by the white. The bear-paw which is either round or oval is used largely in mountainous areas where the slopes are steep and on the heavy, crusty snow of early spring. The Ojibwa which is large, round and has a tail or point at the rear is suited to open country and where the snow is light. The Algonkian which is narrow and pointed at both ends, the front end being turned up, is an ideal shoe for dense bush. The last is the modern club snowshoe which is similar to the Ojibwa but much narrower. The origin of this shoe is not known but it was developed for racing which was popular in the 1920's.

Thus, snowshoes still form part of Northern Canadian life and in fact it is only through their use that the more remote communities are kept from total isolation during the winter months.



Do You Know?...

## You're A Good

remarks of parents and profes- sue postgraduate studies. sors, wonder if they are anything else but a risk.

The Students' Loan of Hon- further help. our is a French Canadian organistudents. Most of its funds are this scheme: obtained from the general public in annual drives.

To date the organization's

Besides having good academic earnings, etc.

In addition to meeting ordinary

A recent article in the Finan- students already on scholarships, cial Post stated that student bor- has loaned money for dental stu- (\$520,000) because beneficiarrowers are good risks. This state- dents to purchase instruments and ies are completing studies. ment may come as a shock to has helped applicants to go to This fund is open to students most students — who after being Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, attending Montreal institutions of brow-beaten by the derogatory MIT and the Sorbonne to pur-learning.

academic standing or be denied

zation whose purpose is to give end of the 1959-60 year is sig- these quite often are not suffifinancial aid to poor but gifted nificant proof of the success of cient to meet a student's expenses.

being refunded)

The question for us is: Why Students must maintain a good can't we, too, have a similar loan plan available to students of New Brunswick. Admittedly there The repayment record to the are scholarships available — but The Loan Fund at UNB is lim-285 loans (\$100,000 refunded ited. Post graduate scholarships could and should definitely be 720 loans (in the process of supplemented by the establishment of such an organization.

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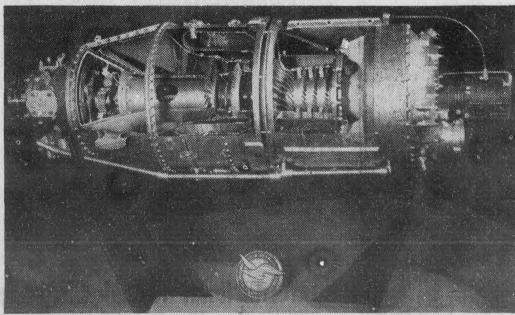
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