

# News of the arts

## Films depict newcomers' experience in a new land

To mark its hundredth anniversary, Imperial Oil Limited has commissioned seven hour-long motion pictures to tell the story of how Canada became a country. These films will describe the experience of inhabiting a new land by faithfully re-creating personal stories of immigrants at various key periods in history.

The series, entitled *The Newcomers: Inhabiting a New Land*, explores the experiences of immigration and settlement.

Over the next three years, shooting for these films will be carried out in virtually every region of Canada. Production of the prologue began in Hazelton, British Columbia, last May. It is the story of the Canadian native peoples' way of life before the coming of the white man.

The Gitksan native tribe has made a strong effort to preserve its traditions through work at 'Ksan Indian Village, northeast of Terrace, British Columbia. The cast of the film consists of the 'Ksan Performing Arts Group and other local talent. Although 'Ksan Village has been the inspiration for the story, the dramatic elements are not specific to the Gitksan but apply to all the Northwest Pacific Indian peoples.

The second and third films are devoted to the French settlement of Canada in the seventeenth century and to the arrival of the English settlers until 1840 — including the landing of the Loyalists and the Scots. The fourth tells of the coming of the Irish during the next two decades. From 1860 until the start of the First World War, Western European immigration predominated. This period is depicted by the fifth of the series. The Ukrainians arrived between the two world wars, and their story is told in the sixth film. The arrival and settlement of the Southern Europeans after the Second World War is described in the final production.

Although specific groups have been chosen to dominate in each of the films, the combination of drama and documentary fact allows for the inclusion of many other immigrant groups within the context of the films. For

example, the mention of Chinese immigration cannot be omitted when describing the construction of the railway in the West — a subject covered in the sixth film.

These motion pictures will be produced in both official languages and telecast as special presentations, simultaneously over the English and French television networks of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, beginning in November 1977. The whole series will be repeated in 1980 to celebrate the centennial of Imperial Oil's founding by a group of Canadian businessmen in 1880.

Following the telecasts, prints of the motion pictures will be made available to educational institutions, together with complementary written material for use in the schools.

J.A. Armstrong, president and chief executive officer of Imperial Oil Limited, stated:

"We hope that this contribution to social history through motion pictures will meet a need in the process of understanding ourselves and our land. We can think of no better way to mark our hundredth birthday."

## Ethnic histories

A history of the Polish community in Canada, written by Henry Radecki and Bendykt Heydenkorn, has been published by McClelland and Stewart. *A Member of a Distinguished Family: The Polish Group in Canada* is the first of a series of 25 ethnic histories commissioned by the Secretary of State. A French version will be published in the spring.

## Canada at recording fair in France

The Canadian popular music industry was well represented at MIDEM, a recording industry trade fair which took place in January in Cannes, France. Under the sponsorship of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Canadian exhibition booth included leading record producers, music publishers, record distributors and Canada's performing rights organizations, BMI and CAPAC.

The object of the exercise was to buy and sell master recordings and publish-

ing rights to tunes. The largest contingents to MIDEM come from the U.S., France, Germany and Britain. The Canadian booth included 12 major recording companies that represented such artists as Louise Forestier, Robert Charlebois, April Wine, Hagood Hardy, Shirley Eikhard, Patsy Gallant, Susan and Terry Jacks, Dan Hill, André Gagnon, Renée Claude, The Canadian Brass, Liona Boyd and Stompin' Tom Connors.

From all reports, the participating Canadian firms found the gathering useful and profitable.



At a reception given by the Canadian Ambassador to France, Mr. Gérard Pelletier, during MIDEM, Mr. Pelletier (centre) chats with Stan Kelles, Special Projects Officer for the magazine RPM (right), and John Mills, General Manager, CAPAC (left).

## Pianists on South American tour

Victor Bouchard and Renée Morisset, a piano duo from Quebec, will tour Mexico, Venezuela and Cuba in May. The pair already have a long career behind them and are now known in America and Europe.

After an outstanding *début* in Paris, Victor Bouchard and Renée Morisset gave some 200 concerts in several European countries. In January 1965 they played at Carnegie Hall in New York. They have also played with the Paris Philharmonic and with the major Canadian orchestras.

Works for two pianos have been specially written for them. A concerto for two pianos was dedicated to them by composer Roger Matton and recorded under the direction of Walter Susskind. The duettists have also recorded for the Club national du disque de Paris, RCA Victor, Capitol and, very recently, for Sélect.