

News of the arts

University buys 1684 journal

A handwritten journal describing some of the earliest charting work along the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick coasts, carried out by a French expedition almost 300 years ago, has been purchased by the Dalhousie University library from an American dealer.

A government grant and a year of negotiations led to the purchase of the 34-page account by the mapmaker on the ship *Marianne* during a voyage from July 19 to September 14, 1684.

Nothing in the document identifies the author, but there is a crew list and Dalhousie authorities believe that a Mr. Challe, mentioned in the list, may be the author.

The rare document, whose main value is as a record of the maps made by the French, showing in detail how they charted the coastline, also contains some anecdotes, such as an account of the ship putting men ashore at one point after a member of the crew attempted to desert.

Blind city folk encounter nature

Jean-Paul Denis, a sociologist who decided to become an interpreter of nature a few years ago, has succeeded in designing a trail about 450 metres long, near Ottawa, laid out especially for the blind.

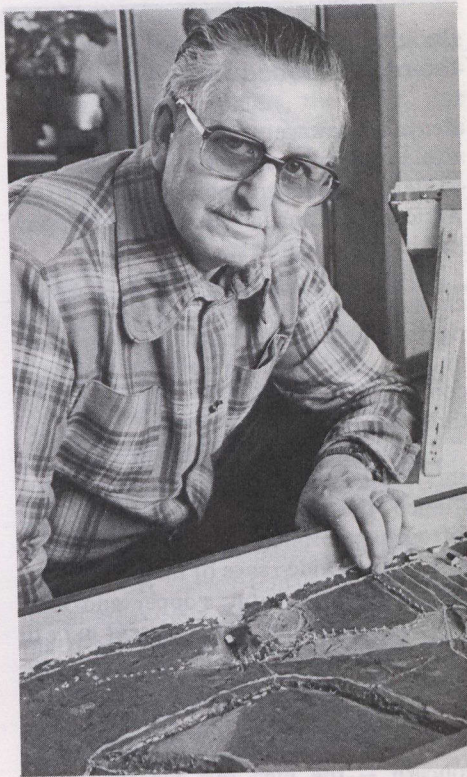
Mr. Denis has developed, among other things, a sign into whose frame slides a board on which all the characteristics of a plant or a tree are described in Braille. The board is connected to the plant by a string, so that blind visitors get a complete impression of the plant by feeling it.

"For these people who very often live in the city, walking down the trail is a real adventure. They make contact with nature and learn to know it and love it," says Mr. Denis.

"We may know that there are more than 300 species and sub-species in an area, but this does not tell us much. However, if we know why such and such a kind of violet grows profusely in a given environment, we are beginning to understand the important things."

Mr. Denis works in close co-operation with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Before venturing out on the grassy trail, the blind visitors usually run their



Jean-Paul Denis displays model of the nature trail he designed.

fingers along a model. The guide-rope they will hold onto along the trail is indicated on the model by a series of small nails. While guiding their fingers along the model, Mr. Denis describes the type of terrain they will encounter. For those who do not know how to read Braille, he has recorded explanatory cassette tapes.

Three named to Hall of Fame

Three Canadian hockey players, the most notable, Bobby Orr, have been named to the Hockey Hall of Fame. The other selections were former star rear-guard Harry Howell and centre Henri Richard.

Mr. Orr was chosen by the selection committee ahead of schedule. Usually, a player must be retired three years before being nominated. Mr. Orr attempted a comeback with Chicago Black Hawks of the National Hockey League (NHL) last season before succumbing to chronic knee problems.

Mr. Orr, a native of Parry Sound, Ontario, was the NHL rookie of the year in 1966-67 after an outstanding junior career during which he was heralded as the future saviour of the Boston Bruins. He won many trophies during his career,

including the award for best defenceman for eight consecutive years and the most valuable player trophy three times. Mr. Orr was the first defenceman to win the NHL scoring championship, which he accomplished twice.

Harry Howell, a native of Hamilton, appeared in more games than any other defenceman in the history of major league hockey. He played 1,581 games, all but 170 in the NHL. His 1,160 games and 17 seasons with the New York Rangers are club records.

Henri Richard, from Montreal, played on 11 Stanley Cup-winning teams, and won the Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy for perseverance and dedication to hockey in 1973-74.

Farming trout in salt water

About 12,000 freshwater rainbow trout are learning to live in salt water in New Brunswick's first commercial-scale fish farm.

"The salt water, because it's colder, seems to produce a fatter, better-tasting fish than fresh water does," said Art McKay, owner of the farm in Lord's Cove and president of Marine Research Associates, a marine biology consulting firm.

Rainbow trout go to sea naturally in British Columbia, where they are known as steelheads, but Mr. McKay's fish, brought to Lord's Cove by truck from Ontario, needed to be acclimatized.

The process takes a few weeks. The fish are kept in tanks of fresh water, which is gradually reduced and replaced with salt water until it reaches the level of sea water.

Mr. McKay's four cages — nets strung between octagonal catwalks — each hold about 5,000 fish. Besides the rainbow trout, Mr. McKay plans to raise Atlantic salmon and British Columbia pink salmon.

The trout are kept from spring until autumn, when they are sent to market. Salmon must be kept over the winter for marketing the following autumn. (Fresh salmon sells for \$5.99 in nearby Saint John. Trout from Cape Breton, where the Nova Scotia government finances a fish farm, sells for \$3.15 a pound.)

A fisherman could make a profit with 40,000 fish in cages, but Mr. McKay hopes to see farms of about 100,000. One person could feed that many in a busy day, he said, and earn \$5,000 to \$15,000 a year.

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