

VICTORIA CROSS HOLDERS HONOURED

Mr. Roger Teillet, Minister of Veterans Affairs, announced recently that Canadian holders of the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration in the Commonwealth, and holders of the George Cross, which ranks second, would be invited to a dinner in their honour at Government House on June 16, during National Veterans Week.

Mr. Teillet added that the medal holders and their wives would also be special guests at the Governor-General's annual garden-party the following afternoon.

Of the 94 Canadians who have been awarded the Victoria Cross since it was instituted in 1856, only 22 are still alive. Only three of the eight Canadians survive who have been awarded the George Cross. Thomas Dinesen, one of the VCs, lives in Denmark, and John Patton, one of the George Cross winners, lives in Bermuda. Handley B. Geary, V.C., won his decoration for service in the British Army but is now a Canadian citizen.

FIRST MEETING IN OTTAWA

This will be the first time the Government of Canada has brought together in Ottawa all Victoria Cross and George Cross winners, though in 1956 most of Canadian VCs were sent to Britain to attend the Victoria Cross centennial ceremonies.

While in Ottawa, this group of veterans will also take part in other events forming part of the National Veterans Week programme for the Ottawa-Hull area.

National Veterans Week, a part of Canada's centennial programme, begins with Memorial Sunday, June 11, when the dead of all wars since Confederation will be commemorated throughout the country. It will be formally ended by Mr. Teillet with a brief speech on Parliament Hill in the late evening on June 17.

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TRADING POST UNEARTHED

Excavations carried out for the Canadian Historic Sites Division on the north shore of the Saskatchewan River have unearthed the foundations of four buildings and the remains of palisades and bastions near the village of Rocky Mountain House. The site is the second to bear the name of Rocky Mountain House. The first post by that name, half a mile upstream, was built in 1799 by the Northwest Company and became the property of the Hudson's Bay Company when the two merged in 1821.

Archaeologists were able to verify the accuracy of a sketch of the buildings made in 1873 by the artist Jean L'Heureux. The excavated site included a barracks 40 feet wide by 100 feet long, the factor's house, a dwelling known simply as the smithy's house, workshops and storehouses. A garbage dump

discovered near the northeast corner yielded pottery shards, bottles, animal bones, wood and nails.

One artifact of unusual interest discovered in the main house was a medal bearing the inscription *Maria protège la France - Spes nostra salus*. And on the reverse side *Archiconfrérie de Notre-Dame d'Espérance - A.B. Boiguy, Bretagne*. The medal, which shows the Virgin and Child bending over an anchor, may have belonged originally to a Breton sailor and somehow found its way west.

Trading at the new post began about 1866; in 1875 the place was abandoned in favour of Calgary; and in 1882 a forest fire razed it to the ground. A photograph taken four years later shows only two bastions and a few chimneys left standing.

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STUDY OF CANADIAN HOUSING

On June 5, 34 housing experts from Britain and Ireland assembled in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to begin an 18-day study of building methods and materials in use in Canada. This mission, which is sponsored by the Department of Trade and Commerce, is part of a programme launched in 1963 to show British housing authorities the merits of Canadian timber-frame construction. The programme is to be extended to Ireland, where building requirements are similar to those of Britain.

British housing missions in 1963 and 1965 produced marked increases in Canadian lumber and plywood exports to the British market, which suggested a growing acceptance of timber-frame construction.

Britain now requires 500,000 new dwellings a year, a number which requires a system of rapid construction. Following the 1963 mission, Canada constructed demonstration homes in Britain to show the merits and speed of timber-frame construction. This led to the Harlow Development Project, a British-sponsored programme now under way, involving the construction of 173 Canadian-designed housing units.

The visiting housing experts, who include representatives of government and industry, will hear lectures, meet housing officials and study Canadian building systems, particularly the speed of erection, flexibility of design and durability of the timber-frame house. They will be shown logging operations, sawmills, plywood plants, plants manufacturing laminated beams and industrialized housing operations, as well as "on-site" construction in new housing areas.

The group will visit Halifax, Saint John, Quebec City, Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Calgary and Ottawa. In the capital, the mission will hold talks with officials of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the National Research Council, and the Department of Trade and Commerce.

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