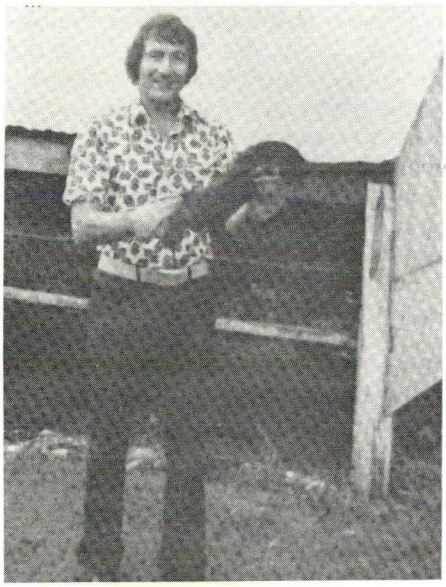
Manitoba mink rivals sable

The most exciting recent event in the fur industry was the birth of a new fur, "Natural Royal Samink". This fur is so rare that in 1972 there were only 15 coats in existence. In 1973 there were another 150.



Raymond Couture, discoverer and producer of Samink at his mink farm at Carman, Manitoba.

It began in 1965 when Raymond Couture noticed an animal completely different from all the others in the herd at his St. Pierre Fur Bearers, Ltd. mink farm at Carman, Manitoba. The little male mink had fur two to three times as deep as a fine ranch mink with all the appearance of sable, the "queen" of furs.

Mr. Couture consulted Maynard Johnson, a prominent geneticist, owner of the Black Diamond Fur Farm at Two Harbors, Minnesota, United States, and Alvin Jenson, who has, it is claimed, one of the finest breeding herds at Oklee, Minnesota.

After five years of breeding, selecting and culling, the three partners produced a special mutation that occurs once in probably ten million times, making it the rarest of all minks. This was the founding of the Natural Royal Samink dynasty. It has a fur that provides the appearance and luxury of sable with the sheen and durability of mink.

Once they had developed a herd of this unique type of mink, the three producers formed Furmillion Corporation, a Manitoba registered company.

Samink garments retail in a range comparable to sable. A full length coat commands a price of about $11,000.

Natural Royal Samink coat designed by I. Wasserman Incorporated for Furmillion Corporation of Manitoba.

This year 15,000 pelts will be produced – about ten times the initial crop.

Whereas sable is restricted to two colours, Samink can be bred to a wide range of shades and it is available in black, sable brown, sterling, olive beige and white.

McGill University successful experiments in plastic sealants prevent tooth decay in children

The December issue of *Research McGill* reports that Dr. John Stamm, a professor in McGill's Faculty of Dentistry, Montreal, recently carried out tests using plastic fissure sealants to prevent tooth decay. If these substances are applied to the fissures of a child's first permanent molar teeth before decay has set in, they successfully prevent caries in those teeth as long as the substance adheres – this is usually at least one year, at which time the sealant can be reapplied.

Dr. Stamm's experiments involved coating the biting surface of teeth with "plastics" like polyurethanes and acrylics. These were perfected in the United States by a team of researchers at Rochester, New York, and are now being tested in clinical trials. The technique is based on the theory that if the fissures of the molar are "sealed", one of the tooth's most vulnerable surfaces is rendered resistant to decay. These fissure sealants, once applied, are transparent and therefore invisible, nor do they in any way interfere with the bite of the teeth.

Method of application

The application of the sealant to the tooth does not result in any kind of chemical bonding but produces what can be called "mechanical" bonding in the spaces between the prism-like structures at the surface of the enamel. This mechanical bonding allows the material to adhere securely where other dental materials, like cement, would not last. The success of the sealant does not depend on the plastic filling in the fissure but rather by sealing over the fissure, thereby reducing or completely preventing interaction between the microorganisms of the oral environment and the fissure. The technique can be carried out very rapidly; the dentist, having ensured that the tooth is completely free from decay, dries the tooth, conditions the enamel with a mild acid to open up the pores between the prisms, and then applies the sealant. After allowing the liquid to flow into the inter-prismatic regions of the enamel for some 15 seconds it is then "cured" or hardened under ultra-violet light for 30 seconds; the chewing surface of the tooth then has resistance equal to that of the enamel it covers.

In the experiments carried out by Dr. Stamm at McGill the material stayed on for one year in 89 per cent of the cases and was highly successful in preventing decay. The sealants currently used do not adhere to the tooth indefinitely but the material can simply be reapplied at any time. If the sealant does come loose it falls off as one chunk, so that there is no possibility for seepage underneath the material which could cause decay.

There are certain limitations to the use of fissure sealants on a wide scale. The period of time during which a