

## FRUITFUL PURSUITS

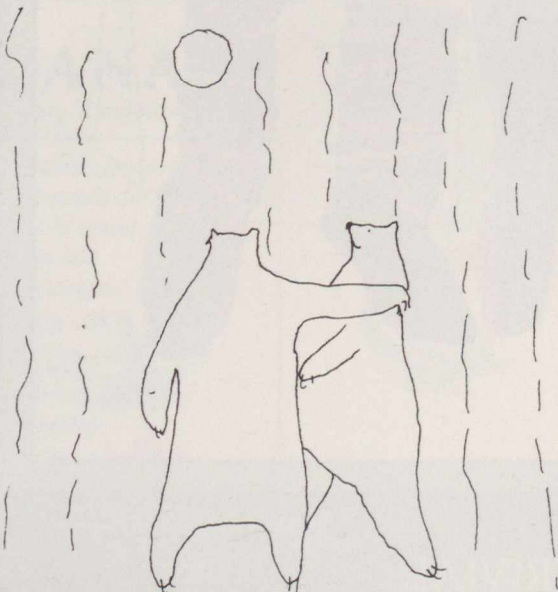
*One man's trivia is another man's life.*

One December evening in 1979 Chris Haney, photo editor of the **Montreal Gazette** and Scott Abbott, a sportswriter for the **Canadian Press**, were playing Scrabble and drinking Carlsberg when they began to wonder if they could invent a game as good. Within forty-five minutes they had devised the basic rules and board design of Trivial Pursuit. They enlisted the services of Chris's brother, John, former house manager for the Shaw Festival Theatre, and Edward Werner, a lawyer. After many a setback they test-marketed 1,200 sets in the fall of 1981. It sold out in three weeks and they went on to bigger risks and bigger setbacks. By the summer of

### What, besides a Queen, do Canada and Australia have that Florida and Louisiana lack?

Multicoloured curtains of shimmering lights in the sky. In Canada they are called the Aurora Borealis, in Australia the Aurora Australis.

They rise and fall in eleven-year cycles and occur most vividly during solar storms. Exploding electrons and protons strike the earth and those hitting around the equator bounce back, while those nearer the poles hit at a slant. The latter enter the earth's atmosphere below the Van Allen belts and are channeled toward the poles by the earth's magnetic fields.



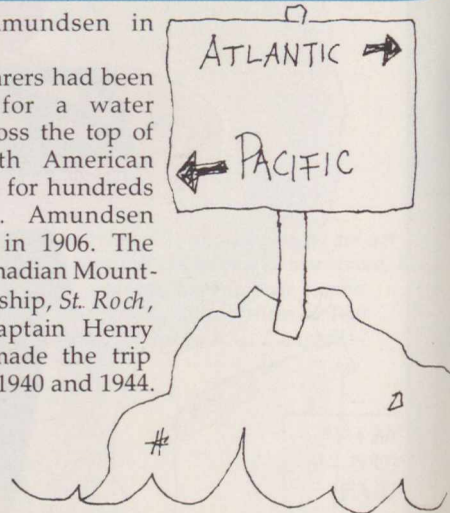
1982 the game was a full-scale phenomenon in Toronto. By Christmas, 1983, it was sweeping the United States. This Spring Chris Haney was forecasting world-wide retail sales of \$1 billion for 1984.

In this issue of **CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI** we offer our own small question-and-answer entertainment. Most of the information has been gleaned from our back issues, so the valued few who have read **CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI** for thirteen years will have a certain advantage. So will those with a facility in French. If you get the basic facts, consider your answer correct. The added details are included for your further enlightenment.

### Who finally found the Northwest Passage?

Roald Amundsen in 1906.

Seafarers had been looking for a water route across the top of the North American mainland for hundreds of years. Amundsen found it in 1906. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police ship, *St. Roch*, under Captain Henry Larsen, made the trip twice, in 1940 and 1944.



### Who was Amor De Cosmos?

A Premier of British Columbia.

William Alexander Smith, born in Nova Scotia in 1825, went to California and in 1854 persuaded the California legislature to change his name by Act to Amor De Cosmos, which he translated as "lover of the universe." When gold was discovered on the Fraser River in 1858 he went north to Victoria where he founded a newspaper, the *Victoria Colonist*. He became, successively, a member of the British Columbia legislature, a member of the Canadian House of Commons and Premier of B.C. He later resigned the Premiership so he could continue as a member of the Commons. He died in 1882.