

AG104

R CZBZGTCZCUIV

236

AM-DUTCH-CANADIANS; BGT; 0662

BUDGET

BY GARY KINGSTON

VANCOUVER (CP) - HERMAN BERGINK HAS CLIMBED THE 85 STEPS OF THE CARILLON TOWER IN VICTORIA THOUSANDS OF TIMES OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES TO PLAY THE MELODIC BELLS FOR TOURISTS TO THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CAPITAL. IT IS A LABOR OF LOVE FOR THE AMIABLE PROVINCIAL CARILLONEUR. BUT IT WILL BE DONE WITH EXTRA FEELING MONDAY WHEN THE DUTCH IMMIGRANT SETTLES IN TO PLAY AN AFTERNOON RECITAL OF NATIONAL FOLK SONGS TO MARK THE VISIT TO VICTORIA OF QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE NETHERLANDS.

"OH; IT IS A GREAT HONOR;" SAYS THE PAUNCHY; GREY-HAIRED BERGINK; WHO TALKS WITH PARENTAL-LIKE PRIDE OF THE 62-BELL CARILLON THAT WAS DONATED TO THE PROVINCE ON ITS 1967 CENTENNIAL BY THE PROVINCE'S DUTCH COMMUNITY.

"I HAVE PLAYED FOR ROYALTY BEFORE - QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PRINCE CHARLES - BUT SEEING AS I WAS BORN IN THE NETHERLANDS; THIS WILL BE EXTRA SPECIAL FOR EMOTIONAL REASONS."

A NON-STOP TALKER; BERGINK; WHO CAN RECOUNT HIS FLIGHT TO CANADA IN 1957 AND THE IMMIGRATION INTERVIEW THAT FOLLOWED LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY; IS IMMENSELY PROUD OF HIS DUTCH HERITAGE.

"WE HAVE A VERY HAPPY FAMILY; VERY CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY - FIVE CHILDREN IN SIX YEARS - AND WE INSISTED THAT THEY SPEAK DUTCH AT THE DINNER TABLE. ALL THE CHILDREN READ IT AND SPEAK IT FLUENTLY."

15