

Credit card speeds fill ups for commercial clients

Claude Essiambre tries out a new credit card system that allows a fill-up of gasoline in just 30 seconds. The card, when inserted, opens the pump and bills the purchase, showing how much gas was pumped, how much it cost and the date and time of purchase. Creditcard gas is only available from ten "card-lock" commercial gasoline stations operated by Chevron Canada Ltd. throughout British Columbia. So far Chevron operates the stations for commercial clients only. It is expected to be up to two years before the service is available for consumers other than commercial accounts.



Canapress

the sale is for western red spring wheat, but Egypt will take a minimum of 125 000 tonnes of soft white western wheat. Credit was offered at commercial rates and the loan was guaranteed by the federal government.

Canadian General Electric (CGE) is leaving the housewares business and Black and Decker is bidding to take over. The CGE plant in Barrie, Ontario and GE plants in Brazil, Mexico, Singapore and the United States are going as a package for a reported \$300 million (US). Group sales were estimated at \$470 million (US) for 1983. CGE's Barrie plant employs 600 and produces skillets, kettles, lawn mowers and heaters, all marketed internationally. The acquisition does not include CGE's audio-electronic line or major appliances and lighting products.

The Soviet Union is buying 32 Husky 8G tracked transport vehicles, spares and related parts from Foremost Industries, Calgary, Alberta. The vehicles will be used in gas pipeline work. The sale was supported by a \$14.025-million agreement with the Export Development Corp.

For a baby with a sense of occasion, Cheryl Moss has just the thing — a tuxedo bib, complete with bow tie. Mrs. Moss began sewing two-and-a-half years ago while expecting her third child. She started by producing a few appliquéd and quilted bibs that proved so popular her cottage industry soon was booming. Today Cheryl Moss runs a factory employing 14 part- and full-time staff to keep up with orders for the washable bibs with the Bib Lady tag. She has more than 500 accounts and sells her line in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, California and Hawaii.

News briefs

Housing starts are expected to rise to 171 000 in 1984, from 160 000 in 1983, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing, based on continuing economic growth and a strong likelihood of mortgage rates dropping one or two points. Another boost for continued strength is the improvement in Registered Home Ownership Savings Plans, which now allow contributors who buy newly-built homes in 1984 to deduct \$10 000 from their taxable incomes, even though their contributions were below that level.

Lumber output is at a three-year high, according to the Canadian Lumbermen's Association. After three years of falling production and inventories, total lumber production rose in 1983 to about 18.5 billion FBM (thousand board feet). Growth in consumer demand for housing, furniture and renovation materials was responsible.

Samanda Office Communications Ltd. of Markham, Ontario is offering a line of products that turn an electronic typewriter into a word processor. The *Iris*, which includes a single-line, 40-character liquid crystal display, has many characteristics of a word processor when connected. The *Ivy* allows a typewriter to be used as an electronic mail unit; the

Lily converts a machine to a word-processing keyboard; the *Lilac* converts the typewriter into a printer for a computer or word processor. Northern Telecom Ltd. of Mississauga, Ontario designed and developed the *Iris* unit.

Mayor Jean Drapeau has been named a Commander of France's Legion of Honour. Jean Bellard, the French ambassador to Canada, will present the award in Ottawa in the spring. Mr. Drapeau is the fourth Quebecker to be named to the order which was created by Napoleon Bonaparte to honour military and civil merit. The others recipients are Quebec Premier René Lévesque, Jean Chapdelaine, the province's delegate to France in the 1960s, and Yves Michaud, the current delegate.

Six Ontario firms involved in the electronics and electricity fields took part in an Ontario trade exhibition held in Kuwait, January 15 to 19. The exhibit was sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the mission was lead by the Minister of Labour Russell H. Ramsay.

Egypt has agreed to purchase 625 000 tonnes of prairie wheat, worth about \$125 million at current prices. The sale is the largest that has been negotiated between the Canadian Wheat Board and the Egyptian government. The bulk of

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