

# News Diary

## Flights to Saskatoon

Eight years before Charles Lindberg soloed the Atlantic, a young Regina pilot was already making Canadian aviation history. But like many pioneers and visionaries, he was considered slightly crazy and many ridiculing fingers pointed to foreheads: "It's the war, you know."

But Lieutenant Roland J. Groome was undeterred. He firmly believed that Canada's future was in commercial aviation and, on a few acres of ground on the outskirts of Regina, he made his plans. He purchased two Curtiss aircraft and on May 26, 1919, flew the 48-mile stretch between Regina and Moose Jaw carrying specially printed editions of the Regina Leader.

Commercial flying in Canada was born.

Groome had to wait another year before he was granted Canada's first commercial pilot's licence, which arrived just in time. For two days later a second licence was issued to his rival, Sam McClelland, in Saskatoon.

Though Saskatchewan pilots paved the way to commercial flying in Canada, it's ironic that the province has waited so long for a place on the international air map.

But now the long wait is over.

On June 19, an Air Canada Lockheed 1011 will wing its way from Heathrow on the first of a once-weekly direct schedule between the U.K. and Saskatoon, linking Saskatchewan's Hub City with Prestwick and London via Winnipeg.

Today Saskatoon is one of the fastest-growing air markets on the prairies and a direct Transatlantic service has been the aim of the community for several years. The flight coincides with the city's 75th official anniversary year.

Saskatoon was established as a colony in 1882, but it was not until July 1, 1903 that town status was granted by the Territorial Government. And from the humble beginnings of 35 Ontario settlers, Saskatoon is now a thriving city with a population close on 140,000.

Situated on the South Saskatchewan River, it is one of the most beautiful cities on the prairies and the gateway to a northern paradise and thousands of square miles of unspoiled forests, lakes and waterways.

It is a proud city, where community spirit is second to none; where its citizens claim to be

among the fittest and healthiest in the world; where modern business and amenities blend perfectly with the great outdoors; and where recreation facilities keep pace with the growing population. In short, Saskatoon is a lesson to town planners everywhere.

Saskatoon is also the education centre of the province and the University of Saskatchewan has become world renowned for its work in agriculture and medicine. It has many 'firsts' to its credit, including the installation of the world's first beatron for the treatment of deep-rooted cancer.

Saskatoon's Indian name is Mis-sask-quahrtoo-min which, roughly translated, means 'a carpet of flowers' and civic leaders are promising that the carpet will be truly laid in time for the inaugural flight on June 19.

Though Saskatoon is basking in this moment of glory, tomorrow could be the turn of Regina. Already hopes are high that the Queen City will be included on the Transatlantic run by 1979 — almost 60 years to the day when and where it all began.

The dedication plaque to Roland Groome, which now hangs in the lounge of Regina Airport, has every right to break into a big smile.

## New anti-bomb device



Members of the Quebec Provincial Police and Montreal Police bomb squads feel safer in their work these days, thanks to a new invention which allows them to neutralise bombs by remote control. The device, called a Neutrex and invented by local resident Josef Elsener, dismantles bombs simply by activating the trigger.

The Neutrex, which looks like a small cannon, sits on a tripod. The operator simply aims it at the package containing the bomb, fires it, and the device pierces a small hole in the package. Sgt. Andrew Theodoses of the Montreal bomb squad explains that a miniature, controlled explosion takes place. "Vapour and gas then push everything outwards and throw everything apart."

No one is letting on what is actually discharged from the device. "If that information leaked out to the terrorist milieu, it would defeat the whole purpose," the inventor says.

## Protecting wildlife from pipeline

Yukon and Alaskan Government wildlife experts have met in Whitehorse to prepare a common policy when construction work starts on the Alaska-Canada natural gas pipeline.

Alaska officials explained that during construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipe there were frequent violations of fish and wildlife protection legislation. During the heaviest construction year there were 700 violations in the state including the poaching of more than 100 moose.

Mark Hoffman, the Yukon Government's chief conservation officer, said this was the first of a series of meetings and discussed such subjects as harassment of wildlife by aircraft, the problem of bears and wolves attacking construction camps and the protection of endangered species.

## Science in space

When the US space shuttle makes its first operational flight in 1980 it will carry an experiment to be conducted by two Canadian scientists. R. C. Tennyson and J. S. Hansen of Toronto University will be attempting to determine the effect of space exposure on the mechanical properties of lightweight materials, such as graphite and boron. Tests from space on thermal stress and degradation will be correlated with tests conducted in a vacuum chamber.

The Canadian experiment is among 23 selected by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for a long-duration exposure facility mission. The space shuttle — a reusable, unmanned, free-flying structure — will be in circular orbit between six months and a year while its experiments are exposed to the environment of space. At the end of its mission it will be retrieved by orbiter and returned to Earth.

Lynn Koskela is only 22 years old, but already is planning to open her own ballet school in North Bay. Lynn, who started ballet dancing at the age of five, has performed with the National Ballet School of Canada, is a former member of the Contemporary Dancers of Winnipeg and has conducted classes in Ukrainian folk dance.

