



Escuminac memorial statue, New Brunswick. Bronze plaques bear names of 35 fishermen who lost their lives and 16 names of survivors singled out for acts of bravery in the disaster.

ESCUMINAC REMEMBERS

In a small fishing village at the easternmost point of the New Brunswick coast, thousands of people paid tribute recently to 35 fishermen who lost their lives in a sudden storm ten years ago. The ceremony took place at Escuminac, at the entrance of Miramichi Bay, with the unveiling by Lieutenant-Governor Wallace S. Bird of New Brunswick of a seven-foot limestone statue commemorating the fishermen of that village who had drowned during that fatal night in mid-June 1959.

The Atlantic salmon were running through the Gulf of St. Lawrence that month, heading for such spawning rivers as the Miramichi and Restigouche. To the commercial salmon fishermen of Escuminac it was the best salmon year in a decade, and on the morning of June 19 the village fleet put to sea. Most of the boats measured from 40 to 50 feet in length. Although the sky that evening appeared a little threatening, the fishing was so good most of the fishermen decided to spend the night on the fishing grounds. Suddenly, late in the evening, after the crews had set their drift nets, the wind came up in gusts that soon turned into a violent gale. Before dawn a savage storm had torn fishing vessels from their nets, ripped off sails and rigging and crushed or capsized 22 boats in giant waves.

With the coming of daylight, the terrible toll became known - 35 men lost, leaving 26 widows and 83 children.

The Escuminac sculptural group, the creation of Claude Roussel, director of visual arts at the University of Moncton, shows the stylized forms of three fishermen, shoulder to shoulder, wearing sou'westers.

AID TO GUYANA

Canada will help support a project to upgrade 78 miles of coastal highways west of Georgetown, Guyana. The Canadian International Development Agency has announced a \$300,000-grant for an engineering and economic feasibility study of the proposed improvements.

The grant will also contain an allocation to cover final engineering designs should the project's feasibility be confirmed.

The new highways will strengthen ties with the western region and link its communities more efficiently with Guyana's major population center.

NEW PARK FOR NEW BRUNSWICK

An agreement providing for the establishment of a new national park on New Brunswick's east coast was signed recently by Mr. Jean Chrétien, Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister, and New Brunswick's Premier Louis J. Robichaud. Kouchibouguac Park, named after the bay on Northumberland Strait on which it is situated, has an area of about 90 square miles in a region located some 55 miles north of the city of Moncton.

It is estimated that the Federal Government will spend about \$3.2 million on capital development by 1975, and that the park's staff will by then consist of 14 full-time and 30 seasonal employees. Development of the park will also provide employment for contractors and their staffs, and will help stimulate the growth of the tourist industry and the general economy of the region.