



A scene from "The Immense Journey"

a remarkable list of the uses the Plains Indians made of this animal. Tails were fashioned into fly-swatters; inner skins were used as winding-sheets for the dead; dung was burned for fuel; the stomach became a water-bag; ribs were crafted into sled runners; and even the aorta was severed and used as a baby-teether.

In the hall of the Iroquois is a wall of backlit transparencies – coloured glimpses of the Iroquois world. Beyond this wall a rising mural depicts the Three Sisters: Iroquois goddesses of their vegetable staples – beans, squash and corn – and symbolic of their shift from a hunting society to an agrarian one. An Iroquois thanksgiving prayer, printed on a wall, has a gentle, touching rhythm. Further on is a diorama of an open Iroquois longhouse – family apartments in which each daughter would bring her husband to live – and the visitor learns how the house would be extended as the family grew.

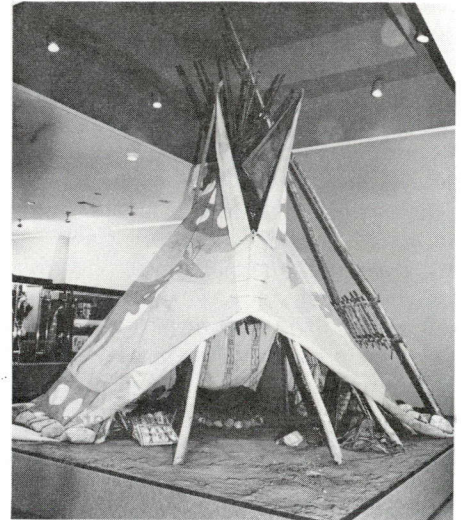
In the Inuit hall is a display of Eskimo seal-hunting gear, including a dog-toggle, a snow-probe, an indicator, and harpooning equipment beside a sealing tableau.

The purpose of these halls is to enable the visitor to experience a cul-

ture rather than simply see some of its tools and clothes and works of art. The sense of a culture as something whole, something with a character and distinctive form all its own, becomes inescapable to anyone who spends time in any of these halls.

These five halls occupy the first two floors of the new Museum. On the third floor a temporary exhibit hall houses special periodic exhibits. Opening with the Museum is an exhibit of crafts from Arctic Canada, prepared by the Canadian Eskimo Arts Council and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. New exhibits will be mounted every several months.

The reopened National Museum of Man will concentrate on more than exhibits as it has in the past. Its auditorium will be used for films and special programs, and later the Museum will introduce a number of programs to extend the premise inherent in its halls: an understanding of Canadian cultures and early history. The Museum will be sponsoring and organizing such activities as specially designed aural-tactile exhibitions for the blind; unique thematic tours through the building; crafts of older cultures, using tools and methods and materials of Inuit or Iroquois craftsmen.



Large tipi in the "Buffalo Hunters" Hall depicts the nomadic Prairie Indians' home with elegant household furnishings.

The Museum will also continue its program of travelling exhibits – 28 separate exhibits in the last three years alone to more than 200 communities. And it continues its highly-developed scientific activities: research, collecting and publishing in archaeology, ethnology, folk cultures and history.

Photos National Museums of Canada



Faces of the Forest: false-face masks in "People of the Longhouse" Hall