

ARTS CENTRE FESTIVAL OPENING

Canada's National Arts Centre in Ottawa will open on June 2 with a two-week festival that will be essentially Canadian.

The 2,300-seat opera house, which has the largest stage in Canada, will open with a performance by the National Ballet of Canada of a new work entitled *Kraanerg*, which was commissioned from the French choreographer Roland Petit, with music by the Romanian-born composer Iannis Xenakis. Other ballets that will be performed by the National Ballet during the festival include *Romeo and Juliet* and *Swan Lake*.

On June 3, Le Theatre du Nouveau Monde of Montreal will present a new adaptation of Aristophane's *Lysistrata* on the "thrust" stage of the 900-seat theatre in the Centre. This musical drama, subtitled *Make Love, Not War*, with music provided by electronic effects recorded on tape, will include film and slide projections.

The following night a new play, *Party Day*, by Jack Winter of Toronto, will be presented in the 300-seat experimental studio, to be followed from

June 10 to 14 by *Orphee*, an experimental opera by Montreal composer Gabriel Charpentier, which will be dedicated to the architect of the National Arts Centre, Fred Lebensold.

Other items in the opening festival will include concerts by the Toronto and Montreal Symphony Orchestras, each presenting works by a Canadian composer; two performances by Gordon Lightfoot; a production by the Playhouse Theatre Company of Vancouver and chamber music by the Manitoba University Consort, the Oxford Quartet, the Duo Pach and the Cassenti Players of Vancouver.

On May 31, a few days before its official inauguration, the National Arts Centre will be opened to members of the public who may wish to tour its three theatres.

G. Hamilton Southam, director of the Centre, says that the national capital will never be the same again after the opening. "It will make the city an even more fascinating place to live in than it is now," he declared. (See also *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 23, No. 16, dated April 17, 1968, P. 3.)

SKIERS TRIUMPH IN SWEDEN

A team of young Canadian skiers has cracked the Scandinavian cross-country monopoly by taking top honours in the Swedish National Nordic Championships at Hassala, Sweden.

Paced by twin sisters, Sharen and Shirley Firth, the nine-member band of Yukon and Northwest Territories Metis, Indians and Eskimo youngsters established Canada as a growing power in Nordic ski competition and as a potential competitor for a gold medal in the 1972 Winter Olympic Games.

The 15-year-old Firth sisters placed first and second as they won the five-kilometre junior girls' title by a minute and a half over their nearest rivals. Team-mate Roseanne Allan ranked fifth.

The Canadian youngsters are representing Canada in a series of Nordic events throughout Europe. They are products of Territorial Experimental Ski Training (TEST), a cross-country ski-training programme financed through grants from the Fitness and Amateur Sport Programme of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

While the spotlight centred on the twin sisters, the TEST boys weren't far behind. Fred "Express" Kelly, a 17-year-old Indian from Fort Good Hope, NWT, who startled the Canadian ski world last spring by winning the national junior cross-country title, figured prominently in two Swedish competitions. He won the seven-and-a-half-kilometre international Brgsjo race with a minute and a half to spare, and then placed fourth behind team-mate Roger Allen in the seven-kilometre Swedish national

junior title event, a mere six seconds behind the winner. John Truro, 19, also of Fort Good Hope, was third in the Brgsjo event.

TEST, an idea of Father John Mouchet, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, of Old Crow in the Yukon, has been sanctioned by the Canadian Amateur Ski Association, is backed by Fitness and Amateur Sports grants of \$50,000 over the past two years and is rapidly proving its worth.

Classified as an action research by the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport, to evaluate the effectiveness of competitive sports in motivating Indian, Metis and Eskimo students to higher achievement, TEST has nine teams and 170 participants operating from Inuvik and three teams and 25 participants at Old Crow.

The team will compete in Oslo, Norway; Stockholm, Sweden, Lillehammer and Trondheim, Norway; Vaggeryd and Falun, Sweden; and Helsinki, Finland, before returning to Prince George, British Columbia, for the Canadian Junior Championships from February 10 to 16.

RECORD YEAR FOR EXPORTS

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry and Trade and Commerce, stated recently that the growth of Canadian exports in 1968 was, in absolute terms, by far the largest ever achieved, and in percentage terms the largest of the past 17 years. He was commenting on preliminary statistics issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which indicated