

A P R I L

[SHORT STOP]

1 STOL services began between Montréal and Ottawa, just a year ago today. STOL stands for short-take-off-and-landing and the turbo-prop planes do just that, flying from near the centre of one city to near the centre of the next, and saving a lot of travel time. The special STOLports have 2000 foot runways.

[NATIONAL DREAM]

3 On this day in 1875 the first spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway was driven at Thunder Bay, Ontario. The last spike — a golden one — would be driven ten years later at Craigellachie, British Columbia. Between times lots of momentous things would happen. The arrival of the railroad men in Manitoba rekindled Louis Riel's rebellion and Riel was hanged. Charges of bribery by railroad tycoons brought down Sir John Macdonald's government and Major A. B. Rogers, the young man who found a vital pass through the Rockies, became a national hero.

On this day in 1946 Canada acquired another basic road — the Alaska Highway — for \$108 million, from the U.S.A.



[ASSASSINATION]

7 Fenian gunmen assassinated Thomas D'Arcy McGee, an Irish-Canadian statesman, on the steps of his rooming house in Ottawa, in 1868. McGee had been outspokenly opposed to the Fenians, Irish immigrants who had fought on the Union side in the American Civil War. When that cruel war was over they decided to foment another in Canada to settle past grievances with Great Britain. The U.S. government did little to discourage the idea, but after a strikingly unsuccessful attempt at invasion, the Fenian dream faded away.

[SWEETHEART]

8 Gladys Mary Smith was born in Toronto in 1893. She would become

Mary Pickford and "America's Sweetheart."

[THE FIRST HEBERT]

11 On this day in 1617, Canada's first permanent settler, Louis Hébert, arrived with Champlain. Ten years later Canada's first doctor, Louis Hébert, died. Was it the same Louis? It seems likely. A great many Héberts would, in time, emigrate to Louisiana where they remain in profusion today.

[DUTCH TREAT]

14 Andrew M. Holland, of Ottawa, rented a hall in New York and showed the first commercial movie, starting a business which would feed the dreams of millions, including Gladys Smith's.

[BEAVER]

25 The first Canadian postage stamp, the three-penny beaver, appeared in 1856.

[PLANTING]

27 Wheat was sown in Canada for the first time in 1644. It may have been the most significant event in Canadian history.

[EXPO]

28 Expo '67 opened in Montréal, marking the Centennial of Confederation, and, as it turned out, the vibrant rebirth of Montréal. In anticipation the city laid the first spurs of its magnificent, rubber-tired Métro and built the first of its downtown *Places*, huge complexes of hotels, office buildings, enclosed promenades and shopping arcades, above and below ground.

[DISASTER]

29 On this day in 1902, the face of Turtle Mountain slid down on the town of Frank, Alberta, killing 876 people.

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