

## News briefs

An international automated teller banking service, believed to be the first in Canada, started in British Columbia this month. Customers will have instant access to their bank accounts from 1 000 locations in British Columbia and 29 US states. The service marks the first time an automated banking network has been programmed to dispense different currencies in different countries.

CN Rail and CP Rail chalked up record months in August and September, as rising volumes pushed the western Canadian rail system almost to capacity. CN public relations officer Alex Rennie said: "In terms of the total traffic handled, those are the highest months we have ever recorded in this region".

Three astronomers working in Canada have claimed their second discovery within a year of a black hole in the nearest galaxy to the solar system. John Hutchings of the Dominion Observatory near Victoria, British Columbia said the second find was also in the Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy. Called LMC-X1, the collapsed star has about a million times the energy of the sun, but is only detectable by the X-rays it is sending out into space. Last January, he, David Crampton and Anne Cowley, a visiting astronomer from the University of Michigan, were credited with discovering LMC-X3, an invisible collapsed star.

The National Energy Board, introducing a major study on energy demands and supply, assumes that the world oil high price will rise from \$28.30 (US) a barrel this year, to \$40 in 1990 and \$46 in 2005. The low price assumption is \$26.50 a barrel in 1990 and in 2005. Industry, government and major energy users are being asked to base their assessments of supply and demand on these prices, and those of a wide range of other fuels.

The federal government will spend \$10 million to design and build a deep-sea fishing trawler in the provincially-owned Marystown, Newfoundland shipyard as part of a federal-provincial cost-sharing program. The new trawler will serve as a prototype for at least 15 others, to be built during the next four to six years.

The latest census shows that 62 per cent of dwellings in Canada in 1981 were owned by the occupants, a 2 per cent increase from the decade earlier. Ownership ranges widely, from 81 per cent in



Canada's Orford String Quartet recently completed a successful tour of the Far East, giving concerts in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Japan. (Above) members of the Quartet in front of the Sydney Opera House during their stay in Australia.

Newfoundland to 53 per cent in Quebec. Three-quarters of the 8.3 million private dwellings were built after the Second World War, and one-third in the 1970s. Oil heating dropped to 34 per cent from 57 per cent, gas heating rose to 38 per cent from 32 per cent, and electrical heating up to 24 per cent from 6 per cent.

Canadian newsprint production increased 13 per cent in August to 726 000 tonnes from 642 000 a year earlier. Shipments totalled 696 000 tonnes, up 16.5 per cent from the 598 000 in the previous August. Exports to the US were 492 000 tonnes, 16.8 per cent more than the previous 421 000 tonnes. Newsprint mills operated at 86 per cent of capacity versus 75 per cent the year earlier.

Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) has awarded a contract valued at \$2 435 610 (US) to Computing Devices Company, Ottawa, Ontario for the supply of map display units. This contract brings the total sales of this product to approximately \$70 million. The units will be obtained by the CCC under the US-Canada Defence Production Sharing Arrangement. Delivery will begin in May 1984 and be completed in October 1986.

Sigma Security Inc. of Toronto has entered into a joint venture with a French consortium to market Sigma's anti-shoplifting system in France. Sales are expected to total \$65 million in France

during a five-year period and the net profit before taxes will be \$35 million.

The Canadian auto manufacturing industry grossed \$3.92 billion in the first seven months of 1983, according to Statistics Canada. This compares with \$2.99 billion in the same period in 1982, a gain of 31.2 per cent in dollar volume, compared with a rise of 24.1 per cent in unit sales. In the same period, Canadian car buyers spent 4.2 per cent more on imported cars, although unit sales dropped 3.5 per cent. However, imported truck sales rose 32.1 per cent in that period, and dollar value was up 36.4 per cent. Sales of domestic commercial vehicles dropped 1.9 per cent.

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