

## ALEXANDER MACKENZIE STAMP

The Canada Post Office will issue a six-cent commemorative stamp on June 25 honouring Sir Alexander MacKenzie, the fur trader and explorer who, in 1793, was the first to cross the North American continent north of Mexico.

Born in the Outer Hebrides in 1764, MacKenzie emigrated to North America with his father in 1774. He entered the service of a fur-trading company in Montreal in 1779. When the firm was later absorbed by the North West Company in 1787, MacKenzie became a partner in the larger concern and was stationed in Athabasca.

It was during his employ there that MacKenzie embarked on his now famous explorations toward the Pacific Ocean. The first of his two journeys, which began on June 3, 1789, took him by way of the Slave River and Great Slave Lake to the Arctic Ocean and the mouth of the river that now bears his name. His second journey began at the forks of the Peace and Smoky rivers on May 9, 1793. Following a route along the rivers now known as the Peace, Parsnip, Fraser, Blackwater and Bella Coola, MacKenzie reached the tidewaters of the Pacific in July. There, on a large rock in Dean Channel, he left an inscription reading: "Alex MacKenzie from Canada by land 22<sup>d</sup> July 1793".

The design for the MacKenzie stamp was taken from a Government Archives photo of the rock bearing this inscription. The brown, steel-engraved stamp measures 24 mm. by 40 mm. Thirty-four million stamps will be issued, printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company Limited of Ottawa.

## NATIVE CULTURAL MAGAZINE

A Cree word, *Tawow*, meaning welcome, is the name of a new quarterly publication produced by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as a forum for Indian writers and poets.

In announcing the appearance of the first issue of the magazine, Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien said that the Indian people now had an opportunity to express themselves through the creation of *Tawow*. Few people of Indian ancestry were acclaimed as authors, he said, and there was need to give these people a medium to express their ideas and share some of their cultural background with their fellow Canadians.

The publication is expected to help uncover the work of many talented native Canadians, to promote it and, at the same time, bring to all Canadians glimpses of Indian culture, both past and present.

In the first issue, there are articles of interest to Indian women, contributions by well known artists and by many young people. The articles cover such varied subjects as the origin of Indian place names in Cape Breton, Tahahsheena rugs in Sioux country, a dance troupe in Paris and Indian children in Ontario.

## STAR-STUDY GRANT

A grant of \$538,600 has been awarded to the University of British Columbia by the National Research Council of Canada to help finance the university's newly-formed Interdepartmental Institute of Astronomy and Space Science to initiate a major research program in astronomy and astrophysics.

Subject to the availability of funds, the Vancouver institution will receive \$315,800 in 1970-71, \$144,800 in 1971-72 and \$78,000 in 1972-73. The funds will be made available under NRC's program of negotiated development grants, a type of assistance initiated by the Council in 1967 to assist universities in developing new or interdisciplinary research centers, particularly in fields relevant to the scientific, economic and resource development of Canada.

UBC scientists will work in close collaboration with the Astrophysics Branch of NRC's Radio and Electrical Engineering Division. This Branch was made responsible for the operation of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Penticton, B.C., two of the major astronomical installations in Canada.

It is expected that, at the end of the three-year grant period, the funds will have provided the impetus to make the Institute a center of an integrated program of research in astrophysics and astronomy. The funds will be used primarily to engage additional research scientists and to buy special equipment.

## ALBERTA ON THE MAP

*The Atlas of Alberta*, a joint project of the Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta, is now available after five years of preparation. The publication was designated a Canadian centennial project by the two organizations in 1967, but work was of such magnitude that it was recognized that it would not be completed that year.

The new atlas, 13 inches by 17 inches, is no mere collection of maps and is not limited to the courses of rivers, the locations of lakes and the heights of mountains. It covers natural history to meteorology, sociological considerations to natural resources inventories and industries and services to agriculture and administrative patterns.

There are 158 pages of maps - 582 single maps, 188 graphs and diagrams and eight profiles.