

The National Dream

The building of the Canadian Pacific — tracks across the trackless west — was brought to dramatic life in Pierre Berton's two books, *The National Dream* and *The Last Spike*, and then converted into an eight-part series of one-hour colour television films called *The National Dream*. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation showed the series last spring, breaking all records and attracting three million viewers. Jim Murray was the producer, Eric Till, the director of dramatic sequences, and William Hutt played the first Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald. The series will be rebroadcast in French next year and it has been sold to Britain's BBC and to Irish television. Networks in other countries, including the U.S., are negotiating. If you are in the market for a documentary please contact Mr. A. H. Partridge at CBC, Box 500, Station E, Toronto, Ont. M5W 1E6.

Alberta's Sands of Oil

The tar sands of Alberta, sticky with more oil than you can imagine, already yield 50,000 barrels of synthetic crude a day, of which about 40,000 are

shipped to the U.S. as petroleum feed stock. Great Canadian Oil Sands, Ltd. has put \$300 million in one big sand pile in Fort McMurray in the Athabasca country north of Edmonton, and a consortium called Syncrude has a billion-dollar plant under construction in the same area. Syncrude will have a capacity of 125,000 barrels a day when completed in three or four years. At least two other consortia hope to wring oil from the tar sands. For more information, write the Energy Resources Conservation Board of Alberta, 603 Sixth Avenue S.W., in Calgary.

Knives

When it comes to prize winning, the Russell belt knife made by Grohmann Knives, Ltd. has an edge. It received an award from the National Industrial Design Council of Canada and the New York Museum of Modern Art put it on display. It is hand-honed and designed for trappers and hunters who use it to skin wild animals. It has a sleek look and a four-inch elliptical blade to lessen friction. In carbon it costs \$18; in stainless steel, \$19, and with a wrist thong, \$20.50. The company also makes three other heavy-duty knives: the

smaller trout and bird knife weighs less, has a three and seven-eighths inch blade and costs \$16 in carbon, \$17 in stainless and \$18.50 with a thong; the boat knife in stainless (so it won't rust) and with a thong (so it won't wash overboard) costs \$20; and the newest, a five-and-a-half inch survival knife — a big knife for a big man — has a thong, a scabbard of six-to-eight ounce top-grain cowhide and, for \$30, a carbon blade or, for \$32, a stainless one. All prices include

In 1871 Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John Macdonald, announced his plan for a railroad across the country. The details and the results of the plan have been brought to life in The National Dream, a TV spectacular described in the first column to the left. To the right are some scenes from the epic. Clockwise, beginning top left, three Indians gallop across the trackless prairie; Sir John looks determined in the House of Commons; Seth Huntington, a Member of Parliament, charges government corruption; Major A. B. Rogers finds a mountain pass where no pass was thought to be; the last (golden) spike is driven; and, bottom left, tycoon George Stephens can relax at last.