

A NEW LOOK AT THE GROUP OF SEVEN

Governor-General Roland Michener opened an exhibition of the MacCallum and Jackman gift collections of paintings by Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven at the National Gallery of Canada on January 23. The display will be on view until February 23.

Neither the MacCallum nor Jackman collection has been shown before as a whole. The bequest of Dr. James M. MacCallum of Toronto was made to the Gallery in 1943.

The gift of Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Jackman of Toronto, of the panels from West Wind Cottage in Georgian Bay, complements the MacCallum bequest. The murals, by Tom Thomson and members of the Group of Seven, were commissioned by Dr. MacCallum and installed in the cottage in 1916 as a birthday surprise for his wife. Mr. Jackman bought the cottage in 1945 and completed its original owner's project with panels painted by A.Y. Jackson in 1953. When Mr. Jackman became concerned about the condition of the panels, which could freeze in winter and became damp in summer, he approached Miss Jean Sutherland Boggs, Director of the National Gallery, about presenting them to the national collection. Last summer they were dismantled from the cottage; 21 of them are included in the exhibition.

By exhibiting as a collection the 134 paintings comprising the bequest, the Gallery is fulfilling a longstanding promise, although some individual works such as Tom Thomson's "Pine Island", have been on view and are well-known. Others, such as the Jackman murals, are being displayed publicly for the first time.

BIRTH OF THE GROUP

In the exhibition catalogue, Dr. MacCallum, the patron of Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven, is described as the son of a Methodist minister who developed an early love of art and a love of the North, spending his summers in Muskoka and Georgian Bay. He met Lawren Harris, Arthur Lismer and

J.E.H. MacDonald through the newly formed Arts & Letter Club in Toronto. F.H. Varley, and later A.Y. Jackson, also lived in Toronto. It wasn't until 1912 that Dr. MacCallum met Tom Thomson, by whom he was much impressed. Dr. MacCallum and Lawren Harris conceived the idea of building a studio, which was completed in 1914 and soon filled with busy painters, one of them Thomson, whom Dr. MacCallum had persuaded to give up his job and paint full-time. The doctor offered Thomson, as he had offered Jackson, guaranteed sales for a year and space in the new studio building.

The First World War dispersed members of the group, who were never to meet again as a group. Thomson was found drowned in Algonquin Park in 1917. The following year Harris, MacDonald and Johnston went on the first of their famous box-car sketching trips to the north shore of Lake Superior, in which Dr. MacCallum joined them. In May 1920, the first Group of Seven exhibition was held.

ROLE OF DR. MACCALLUM

The catalogue says of Dr. MacCallum's role with the Group of Seven: "The doctor's interest in art was of a particularly personal sort, and his support was in the nature of a patron rather than of a collector....His particular attachment to the members of the Group of Seven and Tom Thomson grew from his great love of the North and particularly of the Georgian Bay region, and his desire to find someone who would share that love and be able to express its nature. He obviously felt great sympathy for their anti-establishment stance, and, particularly with someone like Thomson, their complete disavowal of all meaningless social forms and consequent appearance of rough but deep and true naturalness. The doctor wished to identify with this quality and with this social stand, and though he couldn't paint (he once tried to learn) he was evidently very involved in the thrill of creation through his camaraderies with the painters....There was no question in his mind that Thomson was the natural and lasting talent."

ROCKET PROBE OF 1970 ECLIPSE

Canadian scientists will launch a series of high-altitude sounding rockets from a temporary launching-site on the southeast coast of Nova Scotia during the 1970 total eclipse of the sun.

This will be the first time that sounding rockets have been fired into the upper atmosphere from a site in Eastern Canada. All other rockets for upper-atmosphere research have been launched from the National Research Council's Churchill Research Range at Churchill, Manitoba, from Cold Lake, Alberta, or from a site at Resolute on Cornwallis Island in the Arctic.

The eclipse of the sun, which will occur during the early afternoon of March 7, 1970, will travel along the east coast of Nova Scotia, across Cape Breton Island and on to Newfoundland. The path of totality will be about 75 miles wide, will cover about half the province and will extend well out to sea.

Scientists from the National Research Council and the Defence Research Telecommunications Establishment will fire four Canadian-built *Black Brant III* rockets into the upper atmosphere prior to and during the eclipse. The rockets will carry scientific instruments to an altitude of 100 miles to measure changes that occur in the ionization of the