

A portrait of Wilder Penfield

Wilder Penfield, a pioneer in the field of brain surgery who some have called "the greatest living Canadian", is the subject of a new film produced by the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

The hour-long film entitled, *Something Hidden: A Portrait of Wilder Penfield*, was broadcast on CBC television recently and traced the long and illustrious career of the Montreal neurosurgeon.

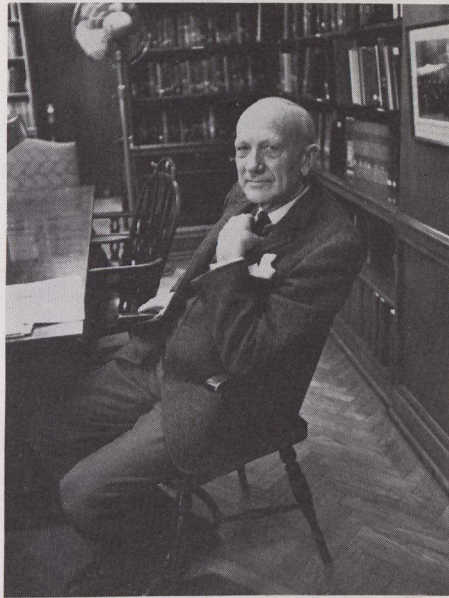
Penfield began his medical career in New York in the early Twenties, at a time when little was known about brain surgery. In 1928, he came to Montreal as that city's first neurosurgeon and developed a technique for the treatment of epilepsy that would become famous as "the Montreal procedure". The film opens with archival footage of early operations, as Penfield probed and charted the brain centres.

Led to building of MNI

His achievements led, in 1934, to the building of the Montreal Neurological Institute, every detail of which Penfield supervised personally. The institute became a mecca for surgeons and scientists from all over the world. For 40 years and through more than 1,000 operations, he carried on his investigations, carefully recording his findings in notes and diaries.

In his later years, Penfield turned his attention to writing. He published a biography, two successful novels and several collections of essays. As his reputation increased, he travelled the world, visiting the U.S.S.R., China and Pakistan on goodwill missions. During these years, he tirelessly promoted the Vanier Institute of the Family, an organization which he co-founded in the Sixties with Governor General Georges P. Vanier. On his eightieth birthday, Penfield retired from public life to write his memoirs. He died in 1976, shortly after the publication of his book *The Mystery of the Mind*.

The film traces the complex life of this brilliant, energetic and inquisitive man through both historical and contemporary footage. Insights are provided through interviews with members of Penfield's family and with his contemporaries, including his lifelong friend and colleague Herbert Jasper, novelist Hugh MacLennan and Pauline Vanier, wife of former Governor General Vanier.



Dr. Wilder Penfield

The film *Something Hidden* was directed and edited by Bob Lower. The script and commentary are by associate producer Jefferson Lewis, a grandson of Penfield and author of the book *Something Hidden: A Biography of Wilder Penfield*. Executive producers of the film are Vincent Tovell (for the CBC) and Michael Scott (for the NFB).

Pollution accord ratified

Canada has become one of ten countries to ratify the first international convention on transboundary air pollution.

The Canadian government has deposited with the United Nations in New York its instrument of ratification of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. The convention, which was negotiated under the auspices of the ECE, of which Canada is a member, was signed by 33 member states at a meeting in Geneva in November 1979. It will officially enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification of 24 states. Ten countries have ratified to date.

It is the first international convention on transboundary air pollution and is considered a positive step in the development of environmental law. The convention is expected to provide impetus to achieve politically and economically acceptable solutions to transboundary air pollution both in Europe and North America.

The contracting parties to the accord

agree to limit air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution, and to develop policies to combat the discharge of air pollutants. The agreement also provides for co-operation in research and in the development of air pollution control technology as well as for an exchange of information and consultations.

Canadian Minister of Environment John Roberts said he hoped that the convention "will serve to provide useful direction in the development of an agreement between Canada and the United States".

Faster data across border

The major telephone companies of Canada and the United States will soon join efforts to offer business customers North America's first high-speed, reliable network for sending computerized information across Canada and the United States.

The new international service will allow companies in the United States to send computerized information (data) to its Canadian branches using a digital network, considered to be more reliable, faster and cheaper than the current cross-border technology.

It will join two existing digital networks — the Dataroute system now operated by the TransCanada Telephone System (TCTS) and Dataphone, its U.S. counterpart run by American Telephone and Telegraph.

At present, all data transmission travelling from Canada to the United States start out on a digital system and are converted to analog signals as they cross the border, then are converted back to digital.

With digital technology, information is transmitted by on-off pulses down the line. The older analog method sends information in waves and is less reliable at high speeds and long distances, requiring many messages to be retransmitted.

The TransCanada Telephone System, an organization of all the major phone companies in Canada, will spend between \$13 million and \$15 million on the new link over the next ten years.

More than 500 Canadian business customers now use the TCTS Dataroute network, which was introduced in 1973. A typical user, for instance, would be a bank which plugs all its computer terminals into the network for constant updating of accounts from any of its branches.