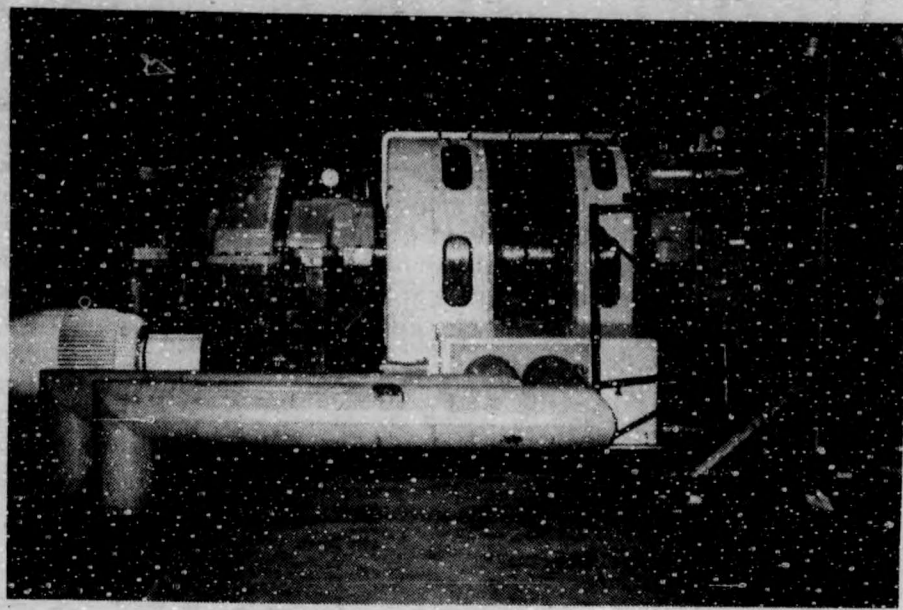
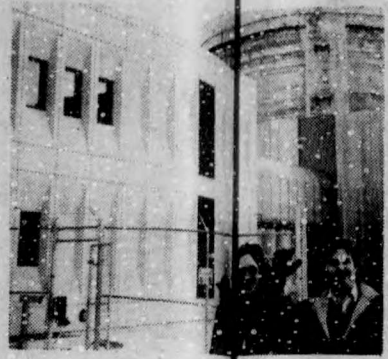


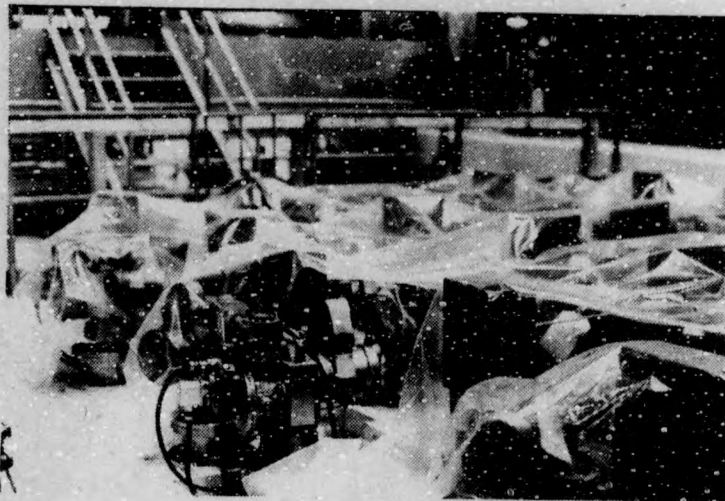
Generating Station:

Feature by Kim Matthews

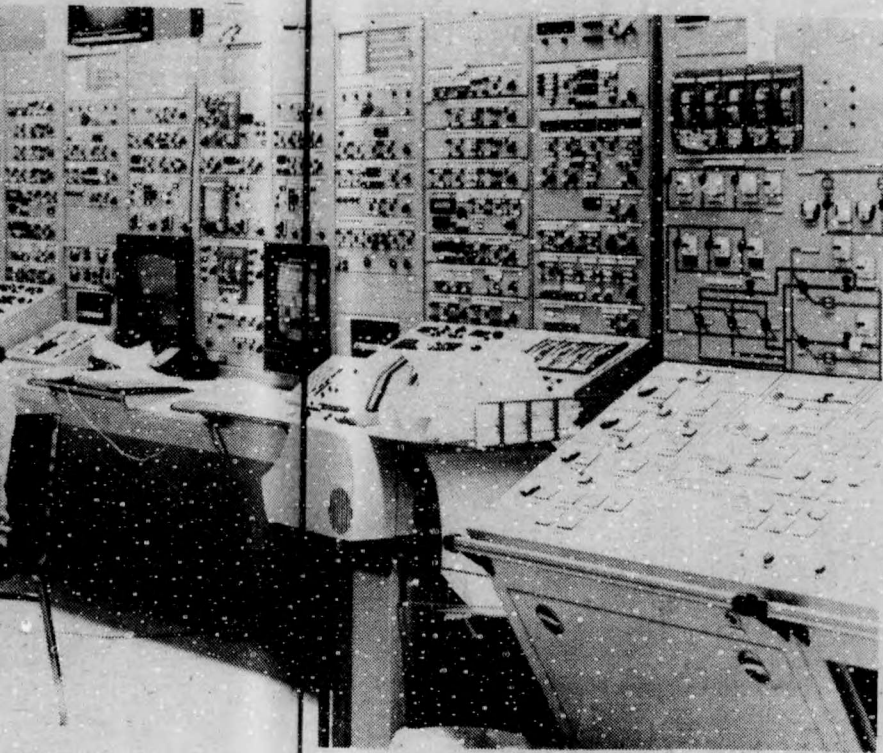
New Brunswick Enters the Nuclear Age



one of The Generators



The Head of the CANDU Reactor



Photos by Christopher Chan and Rick Wightman

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tions occur during operation. A dual computer system assists in maintaining station control.

This information is found in the New Brunswick Power Commission's pamphlet on *Power from the Atom*. However, accidents can happen, machines can break down and computers can be wrong and thus, we have to be prepared for the worst possible break-down. The Emergency Measures Organization says they have a full proof plan. The EMO has gone into great detail to make sure they are notified if any accident happens. A trial run test was made last fall on the ground site. The EMO director, Mr. Henry Irwin, explained in detail the plans and measures that would be taken in the event of such a break-down.

The responsibility of reporting an accident rests with the shift supervisor and he reports the accident, whether serious or not, to a 24-hour crisis center in Marysville, which in turn notifies the EMO and then J Division of the RCMP, and so on down the list of people that should be notified until the accident is verified and the nature of the accident is assessed. Then if people need to be evacuated to the specified check points, sirens will be sounded so that people will know they should listen to their radio. The EMO has made lengthy research in order that they know specifically who the handicapped people are and where they live in order to provide emergency transportation. They have also stored on computer the occupa-

tions of people, the names of heads of household, etc. as a precaution to contact people in the event of a crisis. The Department of Health, the Department of Fisheries, and the Department of Agriculture are involved in the aftermath of any crisis which involves radio-active leakage and they would perform numerous tests to ensure safety. For example, those products which were grown in New Brunswick would be inspected for radiation poisoning.

Irwin also says that in about 4-6 weeks packages will be distributed to people by hand which will contain information on what to do in a crisis and also pills containing potassium (these are called iodide pills). The pills are a protective device for people to take in the event of a crisis, and they have the effect of filling the thyroid gland.

However, I don't want to sound morbid, a break-down may never happen, Point Lepreau may be a huge success, and N.B. may pay off all the debts incurred during the construction of the plant. At least, people are becoming more aware of what is happening at Point Lepreau generating station—it is time to sit up in our seats and take note.

During a tour held in January at the Point Lepreau plant the pictures in this feature were taken. At that time, anyone could go to these guided tours and ask questions. The tours are still available at the plant. However, the part of the plant where tests and fuel loading takes place is closed. This means that most of the plant can be viewed if you want to take one of the tours.

My opinion of the plant is that I'm not sure \$1.2 billion plus is really worth it, and I am not convinced it is safe for New Brunswickers. But we are approaching a nuclear age and we have to be aware of the effects.