

FAMED AIR TROPHY RETIRED

The Trans-Canada (McKee) Trophy, Canada's highest aviation award, has been retired after being won by 36 Canadians since 1927. The Trophy has been awarded annually for outstanding achievements by an individual in Canadian aviation. However, since the awarding committee felt that team efforts, rather than individual contributions, today accounted for most aviation advances in Canada, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Paul Hellyer recently decided that the trophy should be enshrined at the National Aviation Museum, Ottawa.

The famous award was donated by Mr. James Daizell McKee of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., who flew with Squadron Leader Earl Godfrey of the Royal Canadian Air Force on the first cross-Canada seaplane flight in September 1926.

HISTORIC FLIGHT

The two men took nine days to make the flight, logging 35 hours and eight minutes of air-time against strong headwinds and dense smoke from forest fires over parts of British Columbia. They took off from Montreal and flew by way of Ottawa, Sudbury, Sioux Lookout, Grand Rapids, the North Saskatchewan River, Fort Albert, Edmonton and the Yellowhead Pass to Jericho Beach, Vancouver.

On his return to Pittsburg, Mr. McKee had the Trans-Canada Trophy designed. He presented it in 1927 to the Minister of National Defence, setting out the terms under which it was to be awarded.

Among those to win the McKee Trophy were famous early bush-pilots like H.A. (Doc) Oakes, the first winner; C.H. (Punch) Dickens; and W.R. (Pop) May. The late Honourable J.A.D. McCurdy, first man to fly in Canada, was a Trans-Canada winner, as was Jan Zurakowski, famed test pilot of A.V. Roe, the man who first flew the Avro "Arrow".

CITIZENSHIP IN CANADA

Out of a total of 2,844,263 foreign-born persons in Canada at the time of the 1961 census, 1,788,445, or 63 per cent, reported Canadian citizenship. Residents of Canada owing allegiance to other countries numbered 1,055,818 and constituted just over 5 per cent of the total population and 37 per cent of the foreign-born. It is worth noting that 602,377, or roughly three-fifths, of the non-Canadian citizens of Canada at the last census were persons who had immigrated during the previous five years. Only a few of these would have acquired the necessary period of residence in Canada to have applied for Canadian citizenship by the date of the 1961 census.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Among the non-Canadian citizens, 306,690, or 30 per cent, were citizens of other Commonwealth countries, mostly from the British Isles, 173,337, or 16 per cent, were Italian nationals, 126,241, or 12 per cent, citizens of Germany, 88,312, or over 8

per cent, U.S. citizens, and 80,096, or 8 per cent, had come from the Netherlands. European countries as a group, excluding the British Isles, accounted for 603,195, or 57 per cent, of all non-Canadian citizens in Canada in June 1961.

Since a little over half the post-war immigrants at the last census were resident in Ontario, it was not unexpected to learn that 562,994, or 53 per cent, of all non-Canadian citizens in Canada on June 1, 1961, were living in this province, followed by 17.2 per cent in Quebec and 12.4 per cent in British Columbia. Similarly, since post-war immigrants were largely urban dwellers, 86.4 per cent of non-Canadians were resident in urban areas, and about 70 per cent in metropolitan areas of 100,000 population and over alone.

NEW TYPE OF PARK EXHIBIT

The first of a series of "nature centres" designed to add to the enjoyment of visitors in Canada's national parks will be built this year in Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, Resources Minister Arthur Laing announced recently. "These centres will open the visitor's eye to the many natural wonders in the parks," Mr. Laing said.

He added that the nature centres would be radically different from the old-fashioned nature museums. "These used to be merely large collections of stuffed and labelled specimens" he recalled. "In our nature centres, nothing will be displayed indoors that you can see outside in its natural setting. But maps, charts, photographs and models will help you understand what you see outside."

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS

Some exhibits will show how natural forces shaped the physical features of the parks - the cliffs and beaches, lakes and mountains. Others will explain why certain plants and animals are found there, and how they live together in natural balance.

Some nature centres may be staffed all year round by one or more naturalists, with seasonal assistants each summer. These will answer visitors' questions, conduct hikes, present evening film programmes and give special talks on the natural history of the parks. "We hope that schools will take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity," Mr. Laing said.

POINT PELEE PARK

Point Pelee national Park, jutting into Lake Erie, a favorite haunt of naturalists, is on the main "flyway" of myriad migrating birds and butterflies. It is the home of many species of plants and wildlife rare elsewhere in Canada. Among these are the blue-tailed skink (a lizard), the yellow-breasted chat (a songbird) and the prickly-pear cactus.

The Point Pelee centre will be located beside a nature trail in the southern part of the park. Opening off a glass-walled rotunda will be an exhibition hall and another wing housing a library, office and workshop. A theatre will be added later.