

Priest wins prize

The Right Reverend Georges-Henri Levesque, a 79-year-old Dominican priest, was presented with the 1982 Royal Bank Award comprising \$100 000 and a gold medal in a ceremony in Quebec City recently.

Often called one of the fathers of Quebec's "Quiet Revolution", Father Levesque has been a strong fighter for freedom of expression and social justice.

In 1938, Father Levesque founded the Faculty of Social Sciences at Laval University, a first for a French-language Canadian university. Many of Quebec's leading thinkers, politicians, academics and businessmen including a number of the architects of the Quiet Revolution, were educated in the faculty and became interested in social reform in Father Levesque's classes. Among the former students were Senators Maurice Lamontagne, Jean Marchand and Arthur Tremblay.

In 1951 he was co-chairman of the Royal Commission on the Arts with Raymond Massey. Its recommendations led among other things to the foundation of the Canada Council and Father Levesque was its first vice-chairman.

He also founded and was first dean of the National University of Rwanda in Africa.

Father Levesque is currently in retirement at the Dominican Order's Saint-Albert-le-Grand monastery in Montreal and plans to share his winnings with his order, the University of Rwanda and to help finance his memoirs.

Waterton Lakes National Park subject of new stamp issue

Canada Post has issued a new stamp in the National Park definitive stamp series featuring Waterton Lakes National Park. This stamp is the third in a continuing series of high-value definitive stamps that began in 1979.

Waterton Lakes National Park occupies the southwestern corner of Alberta where the mountains rise majestically out of the prairie. Because of the geographical diversity, a wide variety of plants and animals can be found in the park. Sedimentary rocks as old as 1.5 billion years form most of the mountains in the area.

The acrylic painting illustrating the \$1.50 stamp is the work of Brent Laycock, a native of Lethbridge, Alberta. Typographic design is by William Tibbles.



Canoeing to South America

A father and son team from Winnipeg, Manitoba recently completed a two-year canoe trip to Brazil.

Don Starkell, 49, former membership director at the Winnipeg Y.M.C.A. and his son Dana, 21, made the 20 000-kilometre trip in a 6-metre fiberglass canoe. They embarked on the Red River in Manitoba on June 1, 1980 and ended their journey in Belem, Brazil.

The two said there were many moments to savour on pristine white beaches, and especially on the Rio Negro and Amazon Rivers. Among the most memorable occurrences were wave after wave of pelicans, flocks of colourful parrots and porpoises frolicking around the canoe.

While their diet consisted mainly of canned food, tropical fruits offered the Starkells a variety to eat as they feasted on coconuts, mangoes and bananas and breakfasted on the dried root of the yucca plant mixed with fruit and sugar. "I ate everything I saw," Don said, including Panama berries that burned his mouth and left him dizzy and hallucinating for a week.

Getting lost and swamped at sea, having their skin chafed raw by sand and salt water and getting wounds which refused to heal in the salty Caribbean, crawling through jungle swamps and dodging rocks which fell from cliffs around the canoe presented some difficulties on the trip. Their worst encounter with insects, however, was not in the jungle, but with Minnesota's mosquitoes.

Don has numerous other canoe and water experiences including leading the Manitoba team to victory in the cross-Canada canoe race for Montreal's Expo 67 and also swimming 40 kilometres across Lake Winnipeg when he was 40 years old. Currently he is considering a trip with five other experienced canoeists through the Northwest Passage, departing from Churchill, Manitoba.

Dana who had been sick as a teenager, required seven pills a day and various sprays for his asthma, but found they were no longer necessary after six months of paddling. His immediate plans are to become a professional guitarist.

Natives buy fishing fleet

Three Pacific Coast Indian councils will purchase a British Columbia fishing fleet with the support of the federal government.

The Nishga, Northcoast and Gitksan-Carrier tribal councils, operating as the Northern Native Fishing Corporation (NNFC), will buy 243 vessels now owned by British Columbia Packers Limited.

The federal government in a one-time financial commitment will provide \$11.7 million to the venture in the next three years. Additional capital investment through native contributions is expected to amount to more than \$24 million over ten years. The investment plan presented by the NNFC provides for fleet upgrading and vessel replacement as well as for the initial purchase price.

Last year, 185 vessels of the B.C. Packers fleet were leased to native operators and provided about \$1.5 million in income to the native people of British Columbia.

Under the NNFC plan, individual native fishermen will acquire the vessels, while ownership and control of licences will rest with the corporation to ensure that they remain in productive use within the native community.

The acquisition by the native corporation is expected to preserve about 250 jobs directly in fishing operations and more than 1 000 in related shore-based activities.

In making the announcement Indian Affairs Minister John Munro and Minister of State, Senator Jack Austin, expressed confidence in the fleet's ability to be economically self-sustaining beyond the one-time limited infusion of federal funds, based on long-term prospects for the west coast fishery.