

Artisans at Man and His World

Handicraft has long been a way of life in some areas of the province of Quebec and it is much in evidence at La Ronde, the amusement park operated as part of Man and His World on St. Helen's Island, Montreal.

Comfortably at home in their picturesque "village" on the banks of Dolphin Lake, a dozen artisans and craftsmen can be seen daily using their hands and the accumulated knowledge of generations to create the many products endemic to their land.



Mrs. Abel Pelletier makes snowshoes from noon until midnight, seven days a week, her skilled fingers threading cowhide strips into the stout wooden frames that are crafted by her husband. She opened a boutique in "the village" at La Ronde in 1968 to provide work for her four children. "My sons find the work hard at times," she says, "but as a matter of fact so do I...our snowshoes must be perfect." Snowshoeing is a fast-growing sport in Quebec and sales from the family enterprise are brisk.



Eighteen-year-old Yvon Gigault, a sculptor, is the youngest of the dozen artisans working at La Ronde.



Jen-Pier Neveu, "a wizard with wire", fashions intricately-designed men and animals that, he says, "suggest motion".

Canada and earthquakes

One of the oldest and most important projects in the Earth Physics Branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is the study of present and past earthquakes to locate those regions in Canada that are earthquake-prone. Over the past three centuries a dozen very large and destructive earthquakes have periodically rocked areas in Eastern and Western Canada. Where an earthquake is about to occur, the rocks in the earth's crust are slowly distorted — sometimes stretched, sometimes compressed. Finally, the rocks snap and the escaping energy makes the ground tremble. Although more than one million earthquakes occur in the world every year, scientists cannot yet

fully explain exactly how or why the energy builds up inside the earth. In order to get a better understanding of how, when and where an earthquake will be triggered off, a vast amount of seismic data must be collected and analyzed. From the early 1900s this has been done on a world-wide co-operative basis by pooling results from more than 500 seismic observatories that extend across the earth and the ocean floor.

The first regular seismic recording in Canada began in Toronto, Ontario in 1897, Victoria, British Columbia followed in 1899. The network began to expand slowly with more stations and more sensitive instruments, and by 1967 stations were operating at 14 centres across Canada. Today there are 30; one roughly every 500 miles. Four are lo-

cated in the high Arctic, and Alert, 500 miles from the North Pole, is the most northerly station in the world. The reason for such a broad network of instruments is mainly to provide broad national coverage. In 1966, for example, seismologists pinpointed 300 earthquakes in Canada: nearly half of them in the Arctic, and more than a third in Western Canada.

Potentially hazardous areas

The continuous records produced by the seismic stations allow the seismologists to locate the regions of potential earthquake hazard. Both the British Columbia coast and the St. Lawrence Valley are specially susceptible to major earthquake damage. About 20