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Cover shows artist's impression of solar energy being trapped in the roof of a sun house near Vancouver, see picture opposite for more details.

Catching the sun in a cold climate

By J. M. Greene

Canada with its long cold winters does not seem the most likely place for experiments with solar energy. But with an eye to the future, when the world's expendable energy sources will be scarcer and may even dry up altogether, Canadians are making a serious study of the possibility of harnessing both sun and wind in the service of man. It rather dates the feeling which inspired the song about the "lucky ole sun with nothin' to do" — though taken literally, the song remains true. Sun power really is like Promethean fire stolen from the gods, for the ole sun knows nothin' about it and keeps on roaming about heaven regardless. That of course is its attraction: the source, unlike other energy sources, is inexhaustible.

This is the main point emphasized by Eric Hoffmann, an electrical engineer whose pioneer sun house in Vancouver has done more than any of the scientists' speeches and papers to promote the idea of solar energy in Canada and persuade Government and industry to take it seriously.

Built in 1970 to his own design, incorporating a solar system he constructed himself, Mr. Hoffmann's sun house is primitive by today's standards. But it works perfectly well and records kept since it went into operation are solid evidence of the fact that such a system can go a long way towards replacing other energy sources for domestic heating.

Expensive start

To set up a solar energy system involves high capital expenditure, as Hoffmann emphasized in his report *Four years in a solar house*, delivered last June to a large conference on "The Potential of Solar Energy for Canada." The cost of his system in 1970, not including labour, was approximately C\$2,000. But he was able to keep costs down by doing the work himself. To construct a similar system today, using more sophisticated commercial components and including installation labour, would cost approximately C\$5,000. But once that is done, the money saving begins — and there is no end to it.

Mr. Hoffmann reported the value of heat supplied by the solar collector over the year, deduced by comparison with the cost of oil or electrical heat, as C\$200 for house heat and C\$100 for swimming pool heat (for which there is a special collector). He commented: "Although at today's fuel cost solar heating does not appear to be very economical, it is believed that energy costs will increase more rapidly than the cost

of other products and thus change the economics in favour of solar heating."

His records show that the solar system supplied 87 per cent of the heating requirements from March to October and 62 per cent of energy needs for the entire year. He said: "A subjective measure of performance is the observation that almost 100 per cent of the heating required is supplied by the solar system until the middle of October and from the beginning of March. In November, December and January there is usually a heavy cloud cover in Vancouver which is detrimental to solar heating. In February we have a varying amount of sunshine and in a good year the heat supplied by the solar system will be very significant."

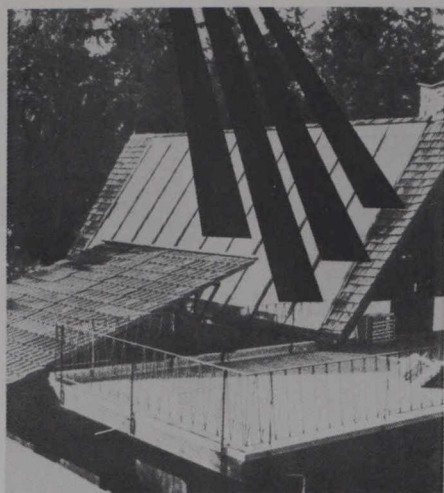
Stored in water

Mr. Hoffmann sited and designed his house specifically for solar heating. By using an A - frame at an angle of 58 degrees from the horizontal, he covered the south facing roof with 460 square feet of collector. The heat from the collector is stored in water tanks in an insulated basement room. To heat the house, the door to this room is simply left open. The floor area heated in this way is 1,500 square feet.

The collector itself is double glazed: the outer glazing is double strength window glass and the inner glazing is single strength. The heat absorbing surface is copper sheet 0.005 inches thick. Water is carried through $\frac{1}{4}$ inch tubes which are soldered along the entire length to the copper sheet. The whole assembly is painted with non-selective dull black paint. A wooden frame supports glass and collector panel. The collector is weathertight and replaces roof shingles, thus saving the cost of roofing.

Perhaps the most annoying thing about solar energy is that this gift of fuel from heaven, as so often happens with free gifts, is distributed most generously exactly in those areas where the need is least — namely, the warm countries. Because of course if you have a lot of sun to warm you, you don't want central heating — and so far that is its main use. Conversely, in a cold country like Canada the elements do their best to snatch precious warmth away as fast as you can collect it. This means that in addition to costly equipment for trapping the often sparsely distributed sun, you need a lot of costly insulation to make sure the warmth doesn't escape.

Canada Today



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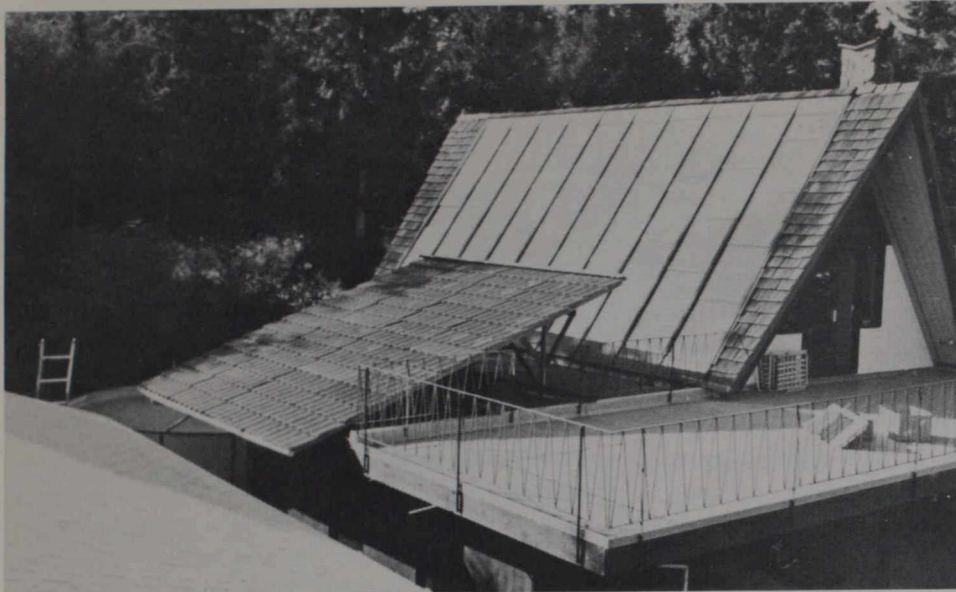
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Eric Hoffmann constructed his own solar collectors for this sun house near Vancouver, where he has been living and recording data since 1970.

Thus in winter when the need is at its peak and the supply is poorest, solar heating has to be supplemented from other power sources — though research is working on methods of storage which may soon succeed in bridging the weather gap. For the same seasonal reasons, the ideal and obvious simple use for solar heat is in swimming pools. A number of Canadian families have been experimenting with this. A Beaconsfield family, for example, heats its pool by pumping water up a pipe along the edge of a south-facing roof to pick up heat from the dark roof surface. The water is then collected in the main gutter system and gravity-fed back into the pool after passing through a filter.

More sophisticated experiments than the Hoffmann house are now going ahead, some of them backed by Government grants under the Canadian Urban Demonstration Programme (CUDP). One in Mississauga, Ontario, recently completed and occupied by its architect Douglas Lorriman and family, is being carefully monitored to determine whether its heating system is efficient enough to warrant mass production.

Another project backed by CUDP is a bungalow at Gananoque, Ontario, with an energy-storage system consisting of two tons of molten paraffin wax. Its designer Gregory Allen says that paraffin is cheaper and more efficient to use for heat storage than water — or indeed rocks, which are used in yet another experimental system. Once the wax is heated to 51 degrees Celsius, he says, it will liberate 45.3 million calories before solidifying. The released energy will be used to warm a water-glycol solution to carry heat through the house. Costs have been kept down by using mounds of earth to insulate the north side of the house and sods to insulate the roof.

A more ambitious experimental house with rather high-powered design and financial support has opted for water storage on a much larger scale than has yet been attempted. Dr. Frank Hooper of Toronto University and architect John Hix, backed up by CUDP and the Ontario

Government, have designed their house to draw energy from a solar-heated water tank the size of three large swimming pools — all this to serve 1,300 square feet of living space. They have incorporated wind power into the system as well: a wind turbine will provide the electricity to power water pumps and fans to draw heat from the 60,000 gallon reservoir.

The main objective of this experiment, which is at King City, north of Toronto, is to determine whether solar energy can economically provide *all* the heat required by a standard size, single family dwelling. It is believed that the large storage tank will be able to store enough heat to last the home through the winter, so that it will not be necessary to use any supplementary heating by gas or oil. The heat will be distributed within the house by circulating hot water through radiators or by a heat-exchanger converting the water's heat into hot air.

Sun power only

Called "Provident House," this will, if it fulfils expectations, be the first dwelling anywhere in northern climates to be fully heated by solar energy. It may be the first anywhere. The Ontario Government are also sponsoring a multiple-unit solar heated building for old people, on which construction will start this coming spring.

Self-sufficiency in terms of harnessing natural resources is being taken to amazing lengths in an experiment on Prince Edward Island by a small organization of scientists and volunteers called the New Alchemy Institute. Also sponsored by CUDP and appropriately named "The Ark," the venture could have been specifically designed to put heart into the doom-criers who foresee human life grinding to a halt in the near future, simultaneously starved and choked by famine, fuel shortage and industrial waste. It is the ultimate product of that instinct which already has city dwellers in Britain growing vegetables and keeping chickens in their erstwhile elegant gardens.

"The Ark" is also a reminder that sun power is in fact nothing new. Our great-grandfathers, of course, used it to ripen the tomatoes and lettuces in their greenhouses. It has been used for more than 2,000 years to distill liquids — from perfume to fresh water — and to dry agricultural products such as hay, raisins and timber.

A greenhouse 1,000 feet square is incorporated in one end of "The Ark" and three sun-heated fish-growing tanks in the other. Powered by three windmills and designed to be self-sustaining, the C\$354,000 building will combine under a house-size roof the functions of generating energy, growing food, recycling wastes and giving shelter.

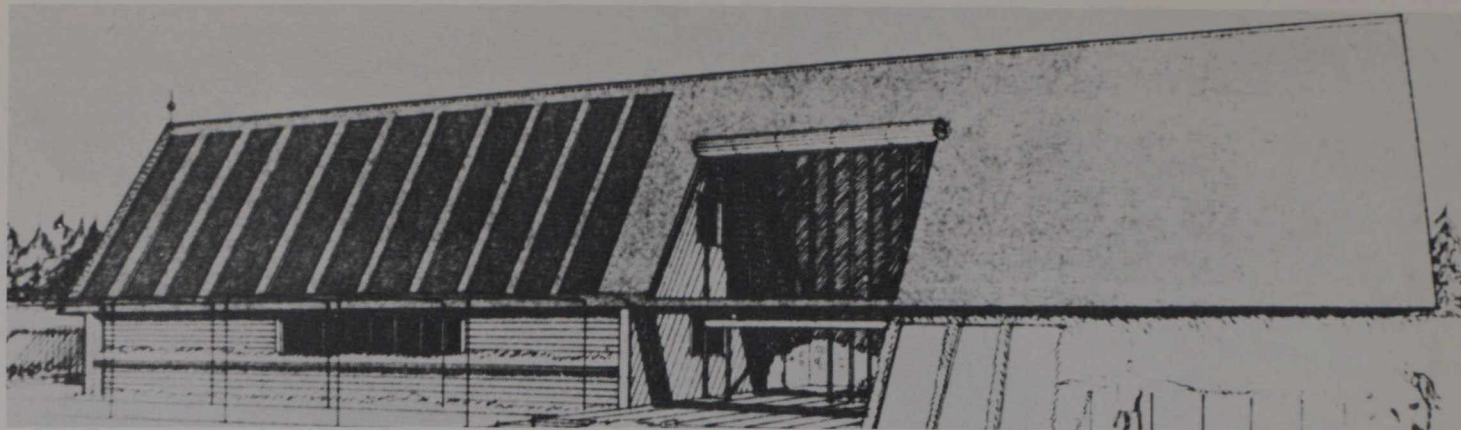
Dr. John Todd, president of New Alchemy, hopes that the programme of tests to be carried out in "The Ark" will result in a greater selection of cheaper home-grown vegetables and widespread use of windmills for electric power. He believes that structures like "The Ark" could in the future provide people in towns and cities with a measure of self-sufficiency which has until now been limited to farmers.

More tomatoes

The difference between modern solar heating and great-grandpa's greenhouse is, of course, one of efficiency — plus the fact that modern systems can store heat, where the old growing-under-glass method can only make more or less instant use of it. Apart from improving methods of collecting heat, buildings must be designed and sited to avoid heat loss — a problem the Université Laval has been studying in the unpropitious climate of Quebec. A structure designed by them to suit the environment, completed in November 1973, has shown excellent results. After the first winter it required 30 to 40 per cent less heating and by early May tomato productivity had increased to three times that of a standard greenhouse.

Until recently the Government attitude to these developments in the use of timeless power sources has been one of encouragement in verbal rather than financial terms — though this is beginning to change. That they take the matter seriously is evidenced by the existence of a Solar Energy Programme, set up in October 1974 under the building research division of the National Research Council. The Canadian Government has a habit of setting up Programmes about the things it wants to encourage, even if it isn't prepared to spend a lot of money on them.

The Solar Energy Programme is designed specifically to study three uses of sun power: the heating and cooling of buildings, the heating of service water and — branching into a field which is still comparatively undeveloped — the direct conversion of solar energy into electricity. To this last end, limited Government funds have been allocated for basic research only on photovoltaic and photochemistry



Artist's impression of "Provident House," an ambitious experiment aiming to achieve year-round heating on solar energy alone.

conversion, but none as yet to the development of economically viable systems.

An interesting section of the solar programme recognizes that "building codes will need to be reviewed to ensure that restrictions are not placed in the way of constructing solar serviced buildings and that sun rights are protected."

Government funds

Government spending on solar energy research is very small compared with that spent on developing non-renewable resources such as nuclear energy and oil. Until last year, virtually all experimentation was done by universities, individuals and small private groups. Last April, however, the federal Government allocated just over C\$1m. to projects sponsored by CUDP under the Ministry of Urban Affairs. Provincial governments, notably Ontario and Manitoba, are also beginning to promote research.

Alongside "The Ark," another federally-sponsored project which could yield interesting results is a native housing project under the auspices of McGill University. The project involves Indian workers in building four demonstration houses — primarily out of local rock, logs and moss — incorporating wind turbines to generate electricity and a system for storing solar heat in water and rocks, to enable the occupants to warm their homes and grow vegetables. Three of the houses under construction are in an experimental village in La Macaza, 100 miles northwest of Montreal; a fourth will be built on the north shore of Lake Mistassini.

Lesson for Indians

The directors of the project want Indians from all over Quebec to visit the houses during construction and once they are occupied, in the hope that they will learn the techniques used in them and realize that by participating in a do-it-yourself programme they can have more control over their own housing problems.

Government research workers are also making a comparative study of the various solar collectors now available with a view to allocating funds for the commercial development of solar hardware.

The biggest single event concentrating and giving a boost to Canada's progress with solar energy was the conference last June. Initiated by the Winnipeg-based Solar Energy Society of Canada, it brought together for the first time the various researchers, experimenters, sponsors and commercial interests in the field. There were 48 speakers and 350 delegates.

Professor J. D. Hay of the University of British Columbia, addressing the conference, pinpointed the development which has made solar heating feasible in northern climates: by simply tilting solar collectors to an angle perpendicular to the sun's rays (about 70 degrees for most of Canada) the energy received is equivalent to that absorbed by horizontal surfaces in the southern United States.

Research institute

Ray E. Chant, director of the industrial research office at Manitoba University, spoke of a need for increased efficiency in solar collection. Researchers, he said, were working on new covers for collectors which would be stronger, cheaper and optically superior to glass.

A Canadian research institute which has been quietly developing sun and wind-powered devices for use in underdeveloped countries has suddenly become a focus of interest in its own land. The Brace Institute, founded in 1959 with funds from the will of a Canadian engineer, Major James H. Brace, has been working away since then to find ways of using simple energy sources to solve irrigation and distillation problems for small, unsophisticated communities. Iran, Turkey, Niger, Haiti and Peru have benefitted from their expertise. Now they are beginning to consider how they can apply their know-how to meet the needs of industrialized countries.

Experiments set up on a small plot of land at Macdonald College, which is open to the public every Friday afternoon, include a solar house, windmills made of

oil drums sliced in half and mounted on platforms for a push-pull effect, and food cookers that use only solar radiation.

Tom Lawland, director of the Brace Institute's field operations, emphasizes the need to consider the elements when we design our houses — paying the maximum attention to both positive and negative influences from them.

Thermal thinking

His remarks reveal all kinds of details that can be turned to thermal advantage. "If you have winds coming primarily from one direction — whether northeast, north or northwest — you might build more solid walls on that side so heat loss will be less and make use of what nature provides from the southern exposure. In winter you can use reflected solar radiation off the snow on the lawn." Such simple measures could mean savings up to 30 per cent a year on present heating bills.

Commenting on past and present building habits, he says: "We have based our house building design on aesthetic considerations with almost complete disregard for the thermal efficiency of the house.

"I'm not saying we have to tear down all the old buildings, but let's at least start thinking 20, 30 or 40 years ahead . . . Why can't we live rationally — that is, within the environmental constraints — with what our planet provides? Let's do away with waste. In other words, let's environmentally design our buildings for the wide spectrum of operations we have to face in this climate."

Solar houses have another keen advocate in Jack Wadsworth of the Government-sponsored Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which encourages home ownership by subsidizing mortgages. When the Mississauga house was being completed in the autumn, he commented that he would like to see 20,000 such houses built in Canada over the year.

The general feeling about it, though optimistic, is more cautious in the short term. Like Ontario's energy minister, Dennis Timbrell, who says: "We're probably looking at 10 or 15 years before solar energy becomes a viable alternative." ♦

People and Places:

De'Ath drops in on Canada

Toronto and Marshall McLuhan, Montreal and Mordecai Richler, the Rockies, Vancouver, Niagara Falls — how do they strike an itinerant English writer, dropping in from London?

An interview with Jenny Pearson

Wilfred De'Ath, freelance journalist and broadcaster, recently went on a three-week tour of Canada sponsored by the Canadian Government. Something of a maverick, known for his personalized and highly idiosyncratic reactions to people and places, it goes without saying that De'Ath's views, as we say in the front of this magazine, "are not necessarily those of the Canadian Government". They are the independent reactions of a British intellectual who has travelled quite extensively in America and Europe and who wanted to see Canada for himself. The interview is published in two

parts; beginning here, it concludes in our March - April issue.

Wilfred De'Ath. Canada is, as I rather expected, a less aggressive version of America. There are great similarities, but Canada lacks the extremism of America. It's less hysterical. Canadians have slightly less drive than Americans. I thought probably I would like this: in fact, I didn't — I don't know whether this means I'm a natural extremist, but I prefer America. I love America.

When I talk about America, I have only been in the cities, — New York, San Francisco, Washington, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Philadelphia, places like that. I like the American get-up-and-go, I like the pulsating feel of the great cities — and this, apart from Toronto, I found missing in Canada.

Toronto

Toronto is the only one of the cities I visited that would compare with the great cities of America. It reminded me of Chicago, or even New York. I remember John Lennon once saying when I interviewed him in New York that if he couldn't live there he would live in Toronto and I can understand why. It's the only Canadian city, for my money, that has real sophistication. It's a place where things are happening. I could live in Toronto.

Jenny Pearson. What sort of things are happening?

W.D. Speaking as a media man, everything's happening there in terms of journalism and broadcasting, in terms of pop music and rock music. For instance, I watched a nationwide radio programme called *As it happens*, which is an hour and a half of instant, telephoned news. A girl sits in front of a telephone in Toronto taking calls from reporters all over Canada. She is called Barbara Fromm, a Canadian Jewess, and she is the best lady interviewer I have ever heard on radio or television anywhere. I think I hit a particularly good night. It was an hour and a half of solid news coming over in a telephone interview form with reporters or with people involved in a news situation. It doesn't let up for a minute, except for very brief snatches of records between the interviews. It's a very fast, pacey programme.

J.P. How does it come over technically?

W.D. That's one of the things that impressed me; technically, it's superb. Not

like telephone interviews in this country, which come over so muffled they sound as if they're being recorded 300 feet under water.

Most of all I was impressed with the polish of the show. It was so very alive. They cover anything that's happening in Canada — like, if there's a murder in some remote hamlet in Saskatchewan, they immediately get telephone lines to the village post mistress or someone who will tell them about it. But coverage is also international: they can speak to Paris or Rome or London. It is a better news programme than anything I've heard in Britain.

Against that, the home-based Canadian television programmes are terrible, just fumbling and amateur. Luckily they can pick up American television stations and everyone seems to watch these.

Marshall McLuhan

The best thing about Toronto is the kind of people one meets there. For example, I spent a day with Marshall McLuhan, probably the most interesting single day in the three weeks I was in Canada. I also met some of the people from his "Centre for Culture and Technology" at the University of Toronto — and they introduced me to other people, the way things happen in a city.

McLuhan has a weekly seminar for PhD students and I sat in on one of these. The people I met there were not only charming and friendly, they were also extremely bright. They were into communications in a way which, again, would leave us far behind. I can't imagine that there is a nucleus of people in Britain who are into this particular subject in the way his group are.

J.P. What is Marshall McLuhan saying and doing now?

W.D. McLuhan is very strange. His reputation is in decline in Europe, he was at his peak about 10 years ago when he was an international celebrity, a guru of our times. There are still parts of Canada where he is, along with Pierre Trudeau, the most well-known Canadian. In other parts disenchantment has set in already, as it has in Europe.

With his immediate group at the University of Toronto he works on very humbly. He was totally different from what I had imagined. I expected a kind of flash

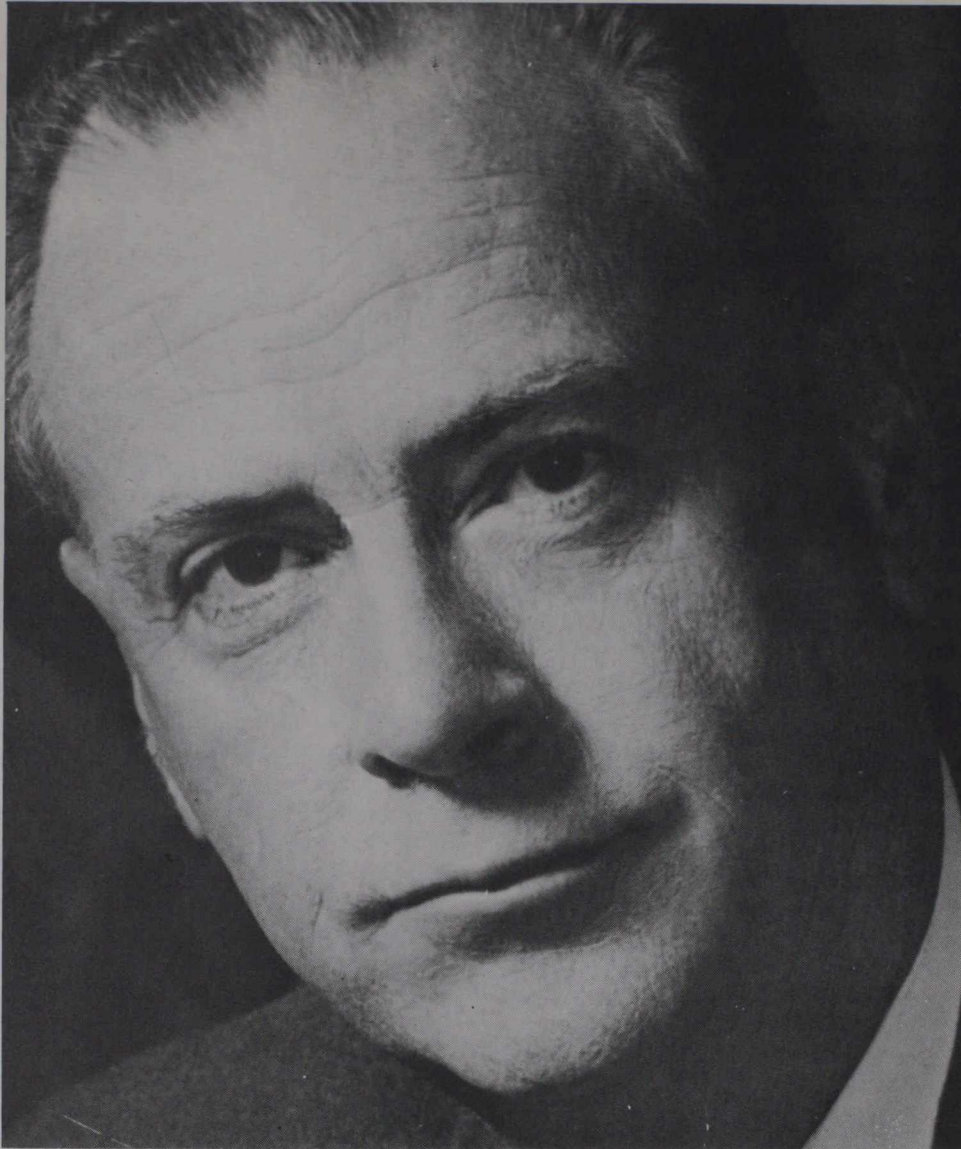
Arctic wind power

An Arctic weather station using wind power to maintain the charge in its batteries has recently been set up in the Beaufort Sea, 400 miles north of the Mackenzie River Delta. The first of its kind, the unmanned station could, if it functions as planned, revolutionize monitoring and power systems in remote areas.

Manufactured by Bristol Aerospace of Winnipeg, the vertical-axis wind turbine is believed to be the first of its kind to be used commercially. Bristol's marketing manager, Bob Bevis, says that larger versions of the turbine could be used to generate power for lighting or radio transmission, but wind power is insufficient to supply heat at reasonable cost.

The Beaufort Sea Turbine, as the system is called, looks like an inverted egg beater thrust through the ice. The blades turn when the wind reaches 10 m.p.h. and emit a sound similar to a helicopter rotor — so perhaps it is as well nobody lives there. When the generator reaches a speed of 90 revolutions a minute, an attached alternator begins charging the bank of batteries.

Bristol designed and made the weather station with a C\$50,000 contract with the federal Atmospheric Environmental Service. Funds came mainly from Arctic petroleum operators, who need up-to-the-minute weather information to ensure safe drilling on rigs located on ships and man-made islands off the Arctic coast.



Marshall McLuhan

mid-Atlantic Canadian, a kind of Robert Mackenzie figure, dapper and bespectacled, but in fact he's a rather bumbly professor type, very much influenced by James Joyce. If you wanted to be unkind you could say that he read far too much James Joyce when he was a young man. He looks like James Joyce, he talks in the same punning way and he has a bumbly, Joycean manner of addressing himself to people. The thing that surprised me most was his humility.

Amateur night

I met a lot of Canadian writers on this trip and some of them were very conceited, but Marshall McLuhan struck me as a humble man.

In a sense he has done it all, he is not concerned any more with reputation or with money, he is now concerned just with enunciating certain truths that he sees. He has set up this thing which is called rather pretentiously the "Centre for Culture and Technology." It sounds rather grand; in fact it works out of a ramshackle office in a converted coach house in a small street on the edge of the University of Toronto. He has a secretary and a strange man called George who is his personal assistant. It isn't grand in any way and it's amateur night when you arrive there.

When I walked in, McLuhan was being interviewed by a French journalist called Nina Sutton who is writing a book about him, a kind of biography and examination of his works. She was approaching it in a heavy, French intellectual way, which is not his way — his approach is intuitive. Although he calls himself a scientist, he is essentially a literary figure who has got interested in communications. He throws out wild jabs and guesses and perceptions — and every now and then he hits one on the button.

Here's one of his new theories which is quite interesting. It concerns violence on television. He says the reason there is so much violence on television, particularly street violence, is because the programme makers put it there deliberately in order that people will be frightened into staying inside and watch more television. He is a great conspiracy theory man; you could argue that he is paranoid.

J.P. Who does he think is actually responsible for the conspiracy?

W.D. The programme makers, influenced by the Neilson Ratings (the equivalent of TAM ratings in Britain).

This is a typically McLuhan concept. When you first hear it you think "That's brilliant!" When you think of it a bit longer, as I have been doing for a few weeks, it begins to sound almost too glib and too clever. He is full of these and his

way of thought is catching. I came out with a McLuhanesque remark myself at the seminar, which just shows we can all be McLuhans if we try.

I got to the seminar rather late — it was the same evening I had seen *As it happens*, at the suggestion of someone in McLuhan's office — and I was actually sitting at the master's feet because the chairs were all filled by PhD students. There were about 40 or 50 earnest, bearded PhD men and a few very pretty girls. I tried to be self-effacing, not get drawn into it, but McLuhan wanted to say, "Mr Wilfred De'Ath has come to see me from the BBC and *The Listener*, all the way from London" — he's got enough ego left to want to say that.

Paradoxical personality

He asked me one or two very difficult questions, like "Mr. De'Ath, do you think the British understand the essentially paradoxical nature of my work?" I gulped and did the old BBC trick of asking him a question quickly while I thought what I was going to say. Eventually I came up with my remark when everyone was talking about Neilson organization, which studies viewing figures all over North America and is immensely powerful, being ultimately responsible for shows going on or being taken off. I said that I thought that probably the American TV viewers were the performers and the Neilson people were the viewers. There was a kind of silence in the room as all the PhD beards earnestly turned to me and McLuhan himself remarked "You know, I wish that I had said that!" I was quite pleased with myself. It just shows what can happen once you start thinking in that particular vein . . .

J.P. What do you think is behind these extraordinary pronouncements of McLuhan's? What is he trying to achieve?

W.D. I think he is trying to draw people's attention to the nature of paradox, among other things. Most of his statements are very paradoxical. His personality is paradoxical. On the one hand he is the "medium is the message" man, the apostle of communications; on the other hand, he is an old fuddy-duddy conservative Roman Catholic who believes in all kinds of preposterous things. Punning and paradox are built deep into his nature and he places a great value on them.

What he is doing now is simply sitting there, sparking off about our life and times — but from a very literary viewpoint. He spent a great deal of time talking to his students and to me about Joyce, Pound, Auden, Eliot, his great heroes in twentieth century literature. He was, after, all a professor of literature for nearly 30 years before he was taken up by the media.

The essential thing about McLuhan was best expressed in the essay which Tom Wolfe wrote, which is called *What if he is right?* There is a terrible fear on the part of media people and large industrial corporations in Canada and America that this

man may actually be right, that he may be able to tell them something about their business. For example, he talked about the electric light bulb as a pure method of communication. Immediately whoever manufactures light bulbs came forward offering to pay him untold sums to lecture to their executives on closed circuit television about the light bulb as a means of communication. In this way the North Americans can be very naïve.

J.P. Why does he take up that kind of invitation?

W.D. He does it partly to make a lot of money. The night of the day I was with him he was flying off to lecture a huge gathering in Mexico City. He still pulls vast audiences. He is, I suppose, the most celebrated person I have ever met, really in the Big League. I think his name will be remembered along with Jung, Freud, Levi Strauss and Marcuse: he has made statements, like "the Global village" or "the medium is the message" which have got through to people and evoked a deep response. It's difficult to explain this. What happens is that he fires a lot of intellectual and communications grapeshot and occasionally one really hits the button.

He's beyond caring

Where I part company with McLuhan is on the idea that there is a conspiracy to put violence on television so that people will be frightened into staying at home — but in effect that is what happens. There is a feeling in our society now that everything's getting so frightening, we'll pull the blinds down and watch more television. But when McLuhan talks about a huge conspiracy which he ties up with Watergate and Nixon as well as Neilson, I think he is unbalanced.

I found it fascinating talking to a mind like that: you pick up some things and others you reject, but you can see why he earned his reputation. He is basically very charming, bumbling professor one would like to have had as one's tutor at Oxford or Cambridge, who was taken up willy-nilly by the communications people because he appeared to be saying interesting and futuristic things about the way they earn their living. That phrase of Tom Wolfe's, "What if he is right?", really says it all.

What I liked about him personally is that he is beyond caring about his reputation. He is a happy man, happily married with five or six children all out in the world and doing well (two of them are writers). He is beyond it all in a way, but he is still saying perceptive things.

McLuhan's Canada

J.P. What does McLuhan have to say about Canada?

W.D. He has a view of Canada which I am inclined to agree with — having been there



The Rockies are so overwhelming, and the engineering feat of this railway going through them . . .

for a mere three weeks! He thinks that Canadians are essentially mediocre and that they are marked with a deep-seated inferiority complex. He has a theory of Canada being circumscribed by boundaries, geographically and culturally. To the south there is the enormously rich, economically developed, threatening presence of the United States. To the east there is the boundary of European culture, which produces a kind of cultural inferiority complex; writers feel a need to leave Canada in order to make their reputations. Mordecai Richler is a good example of this. What is there left? To the north, those terrible Arctic wastes. To the west there is something: the Rocky mountains, British Columbia, ultimately the Far East. He feels that although Canada is geographically huge, it is in character a small country because of its boundaries. The population is small, almost entirely centred on a narrow strip 150 miles wide to the immediate north of the boundary with the United States.

I did notice this inferiority complex among Canadians. They are very open people and bland to an extraordinary degree, rather the way Americans are bland. I got this fantasy that they were all Action Men, like those children's toys that speak in a puppet-like way when you pull a string. I did meet some very interesting writers and people on this trip, but I also met a lot of Canadians who were with the

best will in the world, extremely boring and predictable.

Niagara Falls

The day I went to Niagara Falls, I fell in with a Canadian on the coach and he was a classic Action Man. All his responses were predictable and I knew just what he would say when we got there.

Niagara Falls, incidentally, is the most enormous anti-climax: it's just a very large waterfall with a lot of motels built round it. The Canadian side is much nicer than the American side, where the falls are completely commercialized, but on the Canadian side they have done a better job. I knew this Action Man Canadian, who was a chartered accountant from Victoria, was going to say something like, "Boy that's one helluva lot of water going over there!" and he said exactly that. He added, for good measure, "Boy I wouldn't like to be underneath that!" I suppose it's partly out of social embarrassment that people say such things. But when I go to a place like Niagara Falls, it's such an enormous cliché anyway that I would rather not have verbal clichés thrown at me as well. I must say I suspected the Falls themselves would be a disappointment because the Wonders of the World nearly always are, whether they are man-made or natural. One that isn't, or so I'm told, is the Taj Mahal: that apparently exceeds expectation.



Rocky Mountains

What does exceed expectation in Canada is the Rocky Mountains. Niagara Falls may be a let-down — just a lot of water going over a cliff, what's all the fuss about? — but in terms of an experience that isn't a cliché or an anti-climax, the Rocky Mountains are really something. What I did was to go through the Rockies on a train. I caught the train at Calgary, broke the journey for 24 hours at a place called Banff National Park, — incredible place, about the size of Switzerland — then

I got on the train again through the Rockies. In the observation car was a mixed, merry crowd — a high-class hooker, a dentist from Los Angeles, a very flash couple from Vancouver, a hippy boy, a hippy girl — one could almost do a Canterbury Pilgrims piece about the people on this 24-hour journey (it's 36 hours altogether, unbroken). They were all talking and drinking merrily in the observation car before the mountains came. Then gradually as the mountains got nearer they got quieter and quieter, because the impact of this physical immensity, these huge overpowering snow-

bound mountains that you go into, is really overwhelming. After half an hour or so into the mountains everybody had gone completely quiet.

They defy the cliché. Niagara Falls isn't big enough to defy the cliché: you still get "Boy, that's one helluva lot of water!" The Rockies are so overwhelming, and the engineering feat of this railway going through them, it takes away the capacity to say, "Boy, that's one helluva big..." Well, you just couldn't say it. The words would stick in your throat. It's something really worth doing, to take that journey. ♦

Anti-booze centres use soft-sell techniques

By Michael Jeffries

The man is quite plainly very drunk. He tumbles out of a bar, staggers across the road and almost into the path of a car whose headlights pick up his dark shape just in time to swerve. Finally, he trips on the kerb and collapses; incoherent and quite unable to get up again. Inevitably, the police pick him up. Yet another drunk to appear in court the next morning with a pounding head? But this time it is different. The police drive him a mile or so away from the centre of Ottawa, where they found him, and deposit the staggering figure on a doorstep, ring the bell... and quietly withdraw when their "prisoner" is in safe custody.

It is not a jail. They have taken the man to a recently opened "detox" centre. It is

an exciting new approach to the alcohol problem which is starting to pay dividends in Canada. The drunk is made welcome — not too strong a word — by the friendly, undemanding staff. He is ushered into a brightly decorated lounge furnished with Chesterfields and comfortable armchairs in which perhaps a dozen or so other people in various stages of intoxication are sprawled. Would he like a cup of coffee?

By now the drunk, who could be a truck driver, bank clerk, or even a doctor, is feeling a bit better and is able to gulp down the coffee. "When you feel ready, there is a room with beds and clean linen where you can sleep for the night," says one of the staff. But it is entirely a matter for the drunk whether he takes up the offer.

Like most "guests," he decides to stay. With this decision, the alcoholic — that is what he is — does not realize that he now stands a relatively high chance of beating his drinking problems. The "detox" centre will not necessarily "cure" him. But they will help him to help himself to control his drinking.

Approximately 125,000 people in the province of Ontario where this man lives are alcoholics. Among these, about 10,000 are chronic drunkenness offenders — those convicted of being drunk in public three or more times a year.

Canada's growing drinking problems, like those in Western countries, are a reminder that for some there is a price to

be paid in the life-style of our industrialized, stressed and computerized society. The Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario, which is funded by the provincial government, has an on-going research study into the persons who inhabit "Skid Row." They are also looking at other heavy drinkers. For many with serious problems are holding down responsible and well-paid jobs.

Drink not criminal

ARFO came up with a solution to the problem, which was in sharp contrast to previous ones. Dr. David Archibald, executive director of the Foundation explained: "There has been a considerable growth in recent years of willingness on the part of many to consider alcohol abuse as a public health rather than a criminal matter.

"Society has now reached the point at which steps can be taken to help the offender to break out of his drinking-arrest-jail-drinking cycle by providing an alternative to jail."

The end to what has become known as the Revolving Door Syndrome is now in sight. The foundation has set up a network of 15 detoxification centres in Ontario which handle many cases of drunkenness picked up by the police. They cater for women, too.

"In these a person can recover from the immediate effects of inebriation in a warm and non-punitive atmosphere where he is encouraged to take a hopeful view of his problem and to begin to seek ways of dealing with it," said Dr. Archibald.

In 1971 the Canadian Liquor Control Act was amended to permit a police officer to take a person drunk in a public place to a "detox" centre instead of charging him. Usually the drunk has to agree to go there — the essence of the experiment is that there is no compulsion. For the Foundation had found that the Revolving Door procedure of shunting persistent drunken offenders in and out of jail or courts did not solve the problem, was of no help to the offender — and therefore was a waste of taxpayers' money. Often the general health of the drunks was quite good, so that they were also wasting expensive hospital and medical facilities if taken into the casualty departments.

Following the amendment to the law, a pilot project started up in Ontario. This proved that the "detox" philosophy was effective. Social worker, Mr. William McClure, who works in the Ottawa detoxification centre, summed up the findings. "We found that the centres didn't cost a whole lot of money, they met the crises, people recovered calmly from their intoxication, and only a small percentage needed high-priced medical help."

What is the approach to the drunk who perhaps might be abusive, shouting or singing when he arrives on the doorstep? How, I asked, would I be treated if I arrived drunk at his centre? Mr McClure, explained in the easy, relaxed voice that one of his recovery unit assistants would

use: "You would be invited into a room where there would be other people in varying states of drunkenness, invited to sit down, and offered refreshment. You would be treated like a human being instead of as a drunk.

"Soon you will realise that there is a whole bunch of other guys like you in varying stages of intoxication — some of them will be in bed. You are treated as though you are a person who has an acute illness. "You will be asked: 'How are you feeling?' Gradually, as you come to grow more confident in your new surroundings and enter into the general chat and conversation, one of the staff may come over and talk to you. They are not doctors nor are they social workers. The staff are what you might call trained amateurs — on the paid staff of the centre — who have a cool, calm attitude to crisis and want to help others. They use a 'talk-down' technique to draw out the patients problems which is therapeutic in itself."

In the early "detox" centres doctors and nurses were used to talk out the patients' problems, but they did not get a true response because of their professional relationship.

"I might ask where you were when the police picked you up, how you feel about being brought here, but there would be no detailed questions at this stage. You would be told you were free to leave, but since the police would probably pick you up again, you would be invited to stay the night. We would telephone your wife or a relation to explain where you were — but only if you wanted us to."

The centres have sleeping accommodation, showers, recreation and dining room — residents share in preparing meals, and other chores.

Sobering-up stage

"The next day, even though you are still not feeling right, you will be given breakfast and coffee and other meals with some of the other people who may have been there for two or three days already. This sobering-up stage maybe takes about 48 hours.

"After this a member of the staff might say to you: 'now, you've been here four times in one month. What are you going to do about the problem? Instead of going home and maybe getting drunk again, why not go to one of the half-way houses for four to six months — there will be no cost?' We might even re-train you for another job. Alternatively, we might help you get a room with welfare assistance if you have no accommodation." It might take seven visits to the centre, sometimes, before the person starts to tackle his problem.

The "detox" centres work closely with Alcoholics Anonymous. The sobered-up drunk would be invited, if he really wants to kick the drink habit, to go to an AA meeting. It may be he will go with a couple of the other alcoholics at the centre he has become friendly with in the last few days. They would have been attending meetings

already and have told the man that AA was helping them overcome the illness.

Significantly, this gentle, guiding hand emphasising self-determination and self-help seems to be having a much bigger effect on the province's drink problems than the punitive fist of the law.

"I would say that about 20 per cent of the people do attempt to make a choice in terms of accepting some follow-up help for themselves," said Mr. McClure. A small percentage needed medical help and were admitted to the local general hospital with which every "detox" centre is linked.

Positive results

The pioneers of this approach to drunkenness in the big cities are not approaching the problem so much in terms of curing people of drinking, though that may be useful. Rather, they aim to improve the problem, to enable people to control their drinking excesses that result in them falling into the hands of the law. Of course, not all the clients at the "detox" centres are brought by the police. Some inebriated former residents often find their own way to the centres!

"Although it is difficult to talk about a cure, I think that a lot of people recover from alcoholism among the thousands so far treated in Ontario; exactly how many, is being carefully researched at present," he said.

Costs of the "treatment" are surprisingly low. It costs \$9 — \$13 (£4 — £6) per day for each resident. Although the Ottawa centre has been going for less than a year, already there are signs that it is having an effect on the bottom five per cent of alcohol victims — the hard-core "Skid Row" inhabitants. Three of the worst alcoholics have now been sober for about six months. Others are showing encouraging signs. It is limited but certain progress among the toughest alcoholic group.

In other centres, too, it is early days to assess the long-term results statistically — but there appears to be confirmation that the system is working. Inspector Jack Marks of the Metropolitan Toronto Police, who has co-operated in the Foundation's scheme to set up centres there, says it is essential to get the drunks out of jail and into a rehabilitation programme.

"Even those that aren't helped much can at least be treated in a more humane way," he said. "Who knows? Maybe, after a few trips to the "detox," somebody there will be able to reach even those cases."

Already there is an encouraging bonus from the scheme. In 1971 there were 28 suicide attempts in Toronto — 23 of the people involved were charged with alcohol offences. "Out of thousands of these persons we've taken to "detox" units there's never been an attempted suicide," said Inspector Marks. Police, doctors and social workers agree: detoxification centres represent a better way of handling alcoholics.

Calgary's lovely centennial stamp of cowboys rasslin' down a plunging bronco, designed for issue last year by Bernard Reilander and based on Walt Petrigo's photograph "Untamed," is typical of the fine art reproduction which goes into Canada's special issue stamps. The quality of Canadian stamps has been forging ahead of recent years, making full use of new production methods, and the public in Canada is very much involved — from being invited to submit ideas and designs in the early stages to the consumer reaction that invariably follows a new issue.

Taking up the trail of public reaction to new stamps, journalist Kay Kritzwiser of the *Globe and Mail*, Toronto, found that it led across the Ottawa desk of the Postmaster General and came to rest at the postal and retail products branch in the Sir Alexander Campbell building on Confederation Heights.

(The branch was organised in May 1973 to cater for the increasing demands — and often crotchety whims — of Canadian philatelists.)

More specifically than that, it spills to the desk of Frank G. Flatters, an amiable man, engrossed in stamp lore, who is manager of postage design and development.

"Do we get letters? Of course we get letters! I had one recently where the lady signed herself 'Yours in disgust!' Of course we've taken raps on the knuckles!"

He reached into a folder, pulled out a sheet of stamps and looked at it with something like wistfulness. "There's the Manitoba Centennial stamp. It was the most beautiful graphic design you could ask for anywhere, but there's no way the people of Manitoba will ever make peace on that stamp. Just mention it and they twitch all over again."

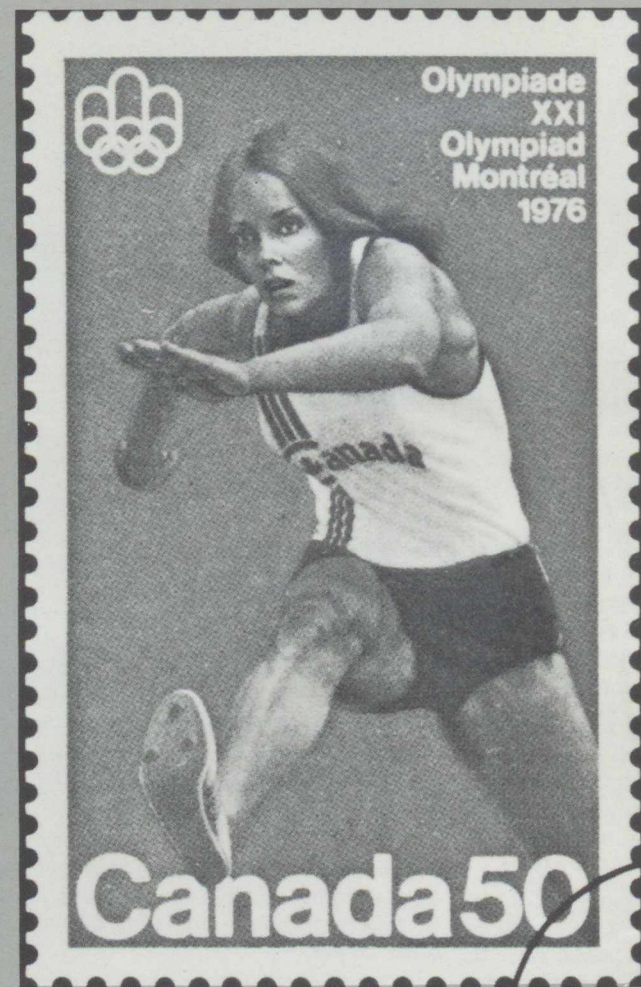
Flatters is a patient listener, which is nice, considering that he is also a frustrated philatelist. "I don't dare be a collector. It would be like a bank clerk collecting money. I have enough hazards in this job without that."

Perhaps that's why he can listen objectively to criticism of the one-, the six- and the eight-cent stamps bearing the face of Queen Elizabeth. Those particular stamps fall into the definitive or regular issue category, as opposed to commemorative and special stamps. They're planned for longer use; as a rule, three to five years. The subject is usually Canadiana, such as the series on Canadian Prime Ministers, not living, and modern skylines of our cities. Queen Elizabeth, being royalty, is the only living person who may come into this stamp category. That's the Canadian postal law.

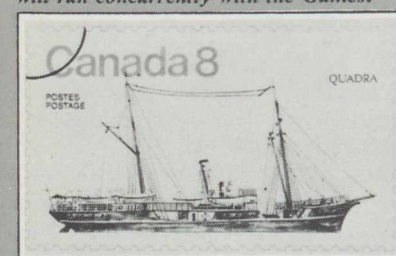
But Queen Elizabeth, handsome woman that she is, is not a philately designer's dream. "Engravers say the Queen is the hardest person to do. It's hard for them to get a natural reproduction. Well, look at the dollar bill."

Flatters defends the eight-cent blue of the Queen and the Prime Ministers series.

The stamp of approval is hard to find



Selection of recent Canadian stamps includes Calgary centennial (bottom, left); Manitoba centennial "Prairie settlers" (to left of Queen); the "Beaver," first steamship in the North Pacific, one of four in last year's "Coastal ships" series, and a few of the stamps issued for this year's Olympics — including one to mark the Arts and Culture programme that will run concurrently with the Games.



"We're trying to break out of the time-honoured engraving tradition to do something in a contemporary way. The Prime Ministers were human beings too, you know. They were not starchy, stodgy people in gold frames. They were homey guys with rumpled hair and their lines showing. We tried to depict them as hardworking men, to give them a feeling of personal warmth.

"Anyway, the Queen was shown the proofs of that stamp when she was here for the Commonwealth Conference. She made no bones about it. She accepted it."

When Flatters uses the word "We" it is very much in a collaborative sense, he makes haste to explain.

In the case of the commemorative stamps, it begins with the public. Anyone can make a suggestion to the Canada Post Office for a future stamp design, and annually some 200 persons do. The 1968 issue to honour the Canadian war poet John McCrae and the 1971 issue to mark the 50th anniversary of the discovery of insulin came from the public.

There are governing rules of course, or the Post Office would be swamped with kooky requests. Subjects must depict the cultural and economic life of Canada, its traditions, history and accomplishments. That does not include particular fraternal or service organizations, religious denominations, particular professions, commercial products, wars and particular battles.

Individuals may be subjects after death only. Anniversaries must be the 50th, 100th or a multiple of these. Ideas should be submitted as early as three years before the stamp is to appear.

Design experts

All these design suggestions regularly go before a design advisory committee which was organized in 1969. Flatters is the permanent chairman of the committee, but its seven members, who meet 10 times a year in Ottawa, are constantly renewed.

On the present committee, making regional representation, are Molly Bobak, Fredericton artist; Carl Mangold, Montreal philatelist; Joan Murray, director of the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa; Sam Nickle, Calgary philatelist; William Rhone, Vancouver architect; Jean-Louis Robillard, Montreal architect and professor of environmental design; and Marion Sherman, Prince Albert radio and television broadcaster.

The final choice of subject matter is made by the Postmaster General, but the committee recommends the artist-designers, assesses the designs submitted, recommends final choice and makes final approval of the artwork and die proofs.

The stamp programme is planned a year ahead. In 1974, 15 commemorative stamps were issued. Lack of time, according to Flatters, is sometimes a serious handicap.

"Time is essential to good stamps. If we don't have enough time, even with the

best people available, we can come up with a pup."

What about size? Why, for example, such a big stamp for the Canada eight-cent commemorative issued to honour Dr. Samuel Dwight Chown? The Canadian minister, who died in 1933, fought to see the merger of Methodists, Congregationalists and some Presbyterians into the United Church of Canada.

"Reduction is a factor in design, just as it is with photography," Flatters explained. "The size of a stamp is dictated by the subject matter."

Canadian stamps have forged ahead on the philatelic scene by taking advantage of the methods of reproduction now available. As is the case with Canadian printmakers, the urge to research new techniques, and adaptations of old, must be recognized.

Three methods — intaglio printing (once used for all Canadian stamps), lithography (which allows for more than one colour) and photogravure, which incorporates both processes — are now used in Canada, to an extent used by very few other countries.

"How are our stamps regarded outside of Canada?" said Flatters. "Very highly. If you take one year's issue and set it up against a year of all the other countries, artistically, esthetically, we belong in the top three or four. Ask Allan Fleming (the internationally recognized graphics designer). He was on our committee for four or five years."

Flatters admitted that Canada has produced some ugly stamps, some duds. "Designs forced on the committee by organizations or circumstances or time have been a choice anything but unanimous with the members. But other countries produce ugly stamps too."

"One of the strengths of our stamps is the wide variety of aesthetics and design styles. British stamps are very highly rated. I wouldn't quarrel with anyone who said so. But they have less style. They're beautiful, but they suffer from uniformity. We do take chances, but we wind up in front."

The stamps of France often held up as the philatelic ideal. "Nonsense," said Flatters. "Set a year of French stamps against a year of our issues — including their pretty reproductions of the Impressionists — and you'd have second thoughts about the quality of their stamps."

Flatters concedes that Canada must bow to the superiority of the stamps of Liechtenstein, that little country nuzzling Switzerland. "They put out consistently beautiful stamps, little gems, but their stamps are a catalogue of their considerable art treasures. Besides, it's a little country and there's little demand for postage within its boundaries. Cost is no object. They're printing for philatelists. We have to tailor our stamps to our budget."

The Canada Post Office produces 2.5 billion stamps a year on a budget of between \$3 - million and \$4 - million. "A budget can go down the drain very quickly," Flatters said.

Urban Profile

Windsor, home of cars and refuge of Uncle Tom

By Alan Harvey



Downtown Windsor and the Detroit skyline across the river.

The Canadian city of Windsor proudly thinks of itself as the automotive capital of the Commonwealth. Strategically set in the industrial heartland of North America, astride the Detroit river which is often called the world's busiest waterway, Windsor is the largest Canadian port of entry from the United States and has well over 400 thriving manufacturing industries in its immediate environs.

It is the southernmost city in Canada. By a geographical quirk it is located one mile south of its American sister-metropolis, Detroit, a friendly rival which overshadows, but does not bedazzle, its Canadian neighbour. Indeed the two cities have advanced in amity, taking full advantage of their strategic location at the crossroads of the most industrialised areas of Canada and the United States.

Their proximity has brought ambivalent moments, gratifying some and annoying others. Once, when the US endured its prohibition era, Windsor slaked the American thirst with illicit supplies; and once, before the freeing of the slaves, many negro workers escaped to freedom in Canada.

The two cities were closely linked by the

Detroit river, described as the world's busiest water thoroughfare whose vessel passages, excluding passenger and sand boats, total up to 20,000 in a season, an average in one recent year of 61 a day.

Marine engine on wheels

When the age of sail declined on the river, a revolution took place that had repercussions round the world. The presence in the Windsor-Detroit area of industries producing marine engines and wagon bodies led to the idea of a fusion. A gasoline engine was fitted into a wagon body, producing an automobile. Commenting on the development, the Windsor Chamber of Commerce remarked in an historical sketch:

"From such simple beginnings grew an industry that was to become the greatest single factor in the world-wide pattern of life in the first half of the 20th century. It was because of the fortunate presence of these two industries in the same area that Detroit led the world in this social upheaval, and Windsor became the automobile capital of the Commonwealth."

The first Canadian-assembled Ford car was produced in August, 1904, in a wagon works. The only heavy tool used was a drill press.

Once Windsor was something of a one-industry city, heavily dependent on the motor car. It was hard-hit by plant closures in the depression years. But it fought back, displaying a booster's spirit and great resilience to become Canada's fifth most important industrial community. With a population in 1974 of 198,086, it produces a wide range of goods including paints, pharmaceuticals, industrial machinery, processed sweet corn and whisky, as well as playing cards and aspirins. Its rock salt mines produce more than all other such Canadian mines combined.

In 1919 Windsor established the first amalgamated health unit in Canada and 30 years later set up the nation's first child guidance clinic.

Greenhouse area

Civic boosters call Windsor the "Sun Parlour of Canada" because of its moderate climate, with an average winter high of 33 above zero and low of 20 above. The soil of Windsor's Essex County is particularly fertile and there is a long growing season averaging 212 days, with some 165 frost-free days permitting farmers to produce peaches, pears, apples, cherries, corn, soya beans, wheat, oats, tobacco, sweet potatoes and asparagus earlier than any other area in Canada. Farms claim the highest per capita production in the nation. Nearly half of the greenhouse area is concentrated around this "Sun Parlour." More than 20 million people cross the border each year between Detroit and Windsor, using railway, vehicular tunnel and bridge.

Historically, it was the area around Detroit that was first opened to white settlement with the arrival in 1701 of Sieur Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, a burly adventurer from Gascony who established a trading post and fort on what was to become the American side of the river. The Canadian side was first settled by French voyageurs, some 50 years later. Various groups — Indians, French, British and Americans — dominated in turn. When the US declared war on Britain in 1812, the Essex County peninsula became a battleground of chequered fortunes.

The French influence is still seen today in the city of Windsor, whose topography in parts recalls the long, narrow French Canadian farms of early pioneer days.

In 1759, the fall of Quebec to the British under General James Wolfe at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham resulted in changes in the administration of Detroit, with British officialdom taking charge of the French Canadian population. Four years later came what was called the "Pontiac Conspiracy" when the Indian chief of that name crossed from his village to try to take over the fort at Detroit to be

met with fire from British flintlock muskets.

Eventually, after fluctuating fortunes, the American Revolution led to the Jay Treaty of 1794 which provided for British withdrawal on June 1, 1796. In that year Detroit's population, almost all French-Canadian, numbered about 2,200 of whom more than three-quarters opted for British rule across the river. The settlement on the Canadian side was named Windsor in 1834 and became a city in 1892. The name of Windsor was chosen, it is said, after a meeting in a pub on the Canadian side; and the hostelry was later christened Windsor Castle in honour of the choice.

There was further scattered fighting through the years, and the communities had little contact with the world beyond their farm homes until the railroad and telegraph came in 1854, enabling the settlers to enjoy some of the benefits brought by the Industrial Revolution of 18th-century England. New waves of settlers arrived, including the "Railway French," as they were called, from Quebec province.

During the American Civil War, Confederate agents operated openly in neutral Canada while a stream of escaped slaves from the southern states of the US trickled

into Canada by the so-called underground railway escape route to Windsor. This led to the establishment of Negro colonies in Essex County, especially around McDougall street in Windsor. One of the fugitives on the "underground railway" was Josiah Henson, later to become famous as the title character in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by the noted abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe. In this period, Windsor's population grew at a rate unequalled before or since.

Side by side with Windsor, two other communities grew up on the Canadian side in Sandwich and Walkerville, but population eventually concentrated in Windsor around the terminus of the first railroad, the Great Western, which ultimately became the Canadian National.

Windsor habitually thinks big. One of its recent mayors, Wilfred John Wheelton, spoke thus as he contemplated the possibilities of the river between Windsor and Detroit. "When I was in the Canadian Navy," he said, "I sailed into many ports of call, from Algiers to Rangoon, but I've never seen a sight to equal Windsor's river.

"Why, compared to what we've got, the Blue Danube is nothing but a mud hole."

The Windsor connection



Few Canadians have as close a connection with Windsor as the Hon. Paul Martin, Canada's High Commissioner in London. He represented Windsor in Canada's federal Parliament for 38 years, including 5½ years as Foreign Minister (Canadians use the term External Affairs Minister). His affection for the city is strong.

"It's a friendly city, a tolerant city, a working man's city" he told *Canada*

Today. "It is one of the most Canadian-minded of all cities, an ecumenical community. We have all the racial and language groups represented in Windsor.

"I like it so much," he added, "that I plan to spend my life there after retirement, if that ever happens."

Paul Martin is a warm, gregarious man with a shrewd sense of public relations. Born in Ottawa, the federal capital, he went to the University of Toronto, then taught and practised law in Windsor. His wife and two children were born there.

He is on first-name terms with nearly everyone in the city. He once bet Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, when they were strolling through the city together, that he would be able to give the first names of the first 10 men they met. Mr. Martin won the bet.

He is delighted to be serving in London, crowning a career that takes in League of Nations days in Geneva. "Like most Canadians, I have always had an abiding interest in Britain," he recently told a Canada Club dinner at London's Savoy Hotel. "I came here as a young student at Trinity College, Cambridge. As a young lawyer and member of parliament in Canada I was conscious of the influence which this country has had on our legal system and on our parliamentary institutions, derived as they are from Westminster. I have worked closely with British representatives at international conferences for many years... I have always been impressed by their wisdom, skill and the important role Britain has played in world affairs."

Testing phoney falcons

A miniature aircraft built to look like a falcon and flown by remote control is being tested by the National Research Council as a possible way of driving birds away from airports, where they are a serious danger to aircraft.

Miles McGibbon, a member of the NRC's associate committee on bird hazards to aircraft, says that live falcons, currently used in England, Scotland, Holland and Spain to disperse flocks of birds in the way of aircraft, are "very effective, a joy to watch." But falcons are on the endangered species list, they are expensive, they won't hunt at night or when moulting and there are few people in Canada who know how to handle them.

The mechanical falcon, designed by DC-8 pilot Robert Randall, is being tested at Vancouver airport to see if birds will learn, through repeated exposure to it, that it is not a real danger to them. Mr. McGibbon explains: "Birds are very smart and they might realize that it is harmless because it isn't killing them. The fact that it doesn't flap its wings may also give the game away."

Storybook fights drugs

A book for six to nine-year-olds which militates against drug abuse is being tried out on Canadian children and reports say it is a "big hit" — though whether it is actually going to prove an opinion-shaper is much too soon to tell.

Called *The Hole in the Fence*, it is a story in which the characters are all vegetables. Cucumber is a bully, Carrot is a show-off and Cauliflower is an old grump. Always in the background is Mushroom, appropriately the character associated with drugs. He comes through the hole in the fence and offers the vegetables a magic potion, claiming that it will help them to feel good and solve their problems — for a slight fee. Drugs are never mentioned directly, but the object is to make children realize that the magic potion, be it alcohol or drugs, doesn't really solve a problem but only postpones it — and at the same time, it costs them something.

The book has been produced by the federal health department. Dr. A. B. Morrison, head of the Health Protection Branch, says it is their belief that the problem of drug abuse "starts much earlier than usually thought."

Continued from page 16

dirt road then," recalls Fran. "Finding the place wasn't easy — now all that's changed and all summer folks head north to visit the place."

It is an unusual experience to visit Barkerville and relive the old Gold Days at what is now the Barkerville Historic Park. To get there you strike towards Prince George and turn east at Quesnel — which is about as much in the middle of BC as you can get. However Fran and Louise have another home in the winter — at Richmond, not far from the US border and south of the sprawl of urban Vancouver. Around is flat farming country, crossed by roads running in every direction — very different from their summers in the interior, as you can judge from the many photographs and posters on the walls of their winter home.

"We have a home in Barkerville too," says Louise. "It took me a time to get used to it — you're surrounded by all sorts of wild animals up there. Not just squirrels and rabbits, but big stuff — bear and moose. It's really wild."

"And you don't just get to see a Gold Rush mining town," puts in Fran. "You also see real country, still unspoiled, and some really beautiful views of lakes and mountains. You only have to look up — and there it is!"

But what of the theatre the two have created in Barkerville, the ringingly named Theatre Royal? On the posters, and on the stereo record *The Best of Barkerville* they have made for Capilano Records, the little theatre in the heart of the Cariboo trumpets out its attractions in true 19th century fashion. "The following Star Artistes," it heralds — and note that 'e' — "Shall appear personally in UNPARALLELED ATTRACTIONS" and off it goes to list songs and dances stirring, nostalgic and naughty. The Theatre Royal is probably the only one on the continent of North America to be presenting real English-style music-hall, adapted for Canadian tastes with many original songs and special acts such as tap dancing, patter-songs, choruses, medleys of Stephen Foster songs and rousing piano solos. There's a chairman of the evening's pleasures who stirs the revels and keeps them going, pausing to tell a tale or bang his gavel when the audience gets out of hand. To get a feeling for it you should try the Player's Theatre under Charing Cross Station where Victorian Music-Hall reigns and where Louise worked for a year before she met Fran. Both she and her husband feature prominently in the entertainment, as does Fran's son Christie, growing up into the business. A company of ten professional entertainers has been carefully chosen by Fran — a stickler for authenticity, whose English forebears had long associations with the world of the theatre.

"We feel," he says "That the Theatre Royal show is the pure gold of music-hall. It follows the main idea in every way — that is, to keep to the overall plan of maintaining historical correctness in

Barkerville. The Government of BC is trying hard to keep the place as authentic a reproduction of a mining town as possible."

"In the Canada Centenary Year," recalls Louise, "the Canada Council was so impressed with Fran's show they sent us off on a tour of the whole country. We even played Eskimo audiences in the far North — up there they don't applaud if they like you — they grunt!"

Should you happen to visit Barkerville this summer season, you'll find a cast of seasoned performers doing the afternoon shows at the Theatre Royal every day. The town is still being restored with care and imagination by the Barkerville Restoration Advisory Committee, which operates a museum with lively displays from Barkerville's highly-coloured past. You can pop into the bar-room of Kelly's Saloon, see a startled customer being shaved at the barber shop of Wellington Moses and be surprised at the range of goods on display on the shelves of the general store. Look at the mine shafts, the grave of that Barkerville character, Cariboo Cameron, and visit the little faded wooden church of St. Saviour's which stands commandingly at the end of the street. You can have a drink at the Barkerville Hotel, watch the stage coming in with its team of horses — ride on the roof if you like — and have a hearty meal at the Wake-Up-Jake Cafe.

A genuine gold-mining town is all around you — together with more ghostly reminders that perhaps serve as the most effective memories of this strange little town — wagon wheels piled against a shed wall, ancient posters, crumbling porches and long faded shop signs. Then, every day along the street come the singers and actors for the show at the Theatre Royal — old-time music-hall, given new vigour in the wilds of British Columbia's Cariboo. ❀

Barkerville's main street looks just as it did in 1860.



Economic Digest

Most of Canada's leading businessmen are hesitant about forecasting any kind of significant recovery for the economy in 1976. They say economic growth — if it comes — will be modest or uneven and will be largely dependent on upswings in the economies of the United States and the affluent western nations. Most of them predict continuing high inflation and high unemployment despite the federal price and wage controls. A bright spot, however, is the housing industry which is expected to improve on last year's minor upsurge.

As 1975 drew to a close, forecasts by the business leaders were further clouded by Prime Minister Trudeau's warning that the free enterprise system had failed and that a new economic order loomed. Most businessmen reacted angrily, charging that Government intervention created economic disruptions, and they were concerned about how the warning would affect their own business and market decisions.

Here is a summary of forecasts for the year from a selection of business spokesmen:—

Harold Corrigan, President, Canadian Manufacturers' Association: "As 1975 ends, there are signs of economic recovery but the movement is hesitant. At the best, the recovery is likely to be a modest and uneven one. For the first time in 30 years, Canadians are subject to a large degree of Government regulation affecting compensation, costs and prices. This has been generally accepted as an essential first step in battling inflation, but structural changes, including further reductions in the level of spending by governments, are an essential aspect of the overall programme."

J. Allan Boyle, President, Canadian Bankers' Association: "Unlike past economic recoveries, Canada is not expected to experience rapid rates of growth in real GNP. Instead, Government policy and other circumstances dictated that the recovery will be moderate as a consequence. Canadians will still be faced with high unemployment rates, even as the pace of activity accelerates... Despite the announced controls on wage and price increases... prices are still expected to rise by more than nine per cent for 1976 as a whole.

"The fact that price moderation will come only slowly points to the likelihood of continuing high rates of interest for some time."

G. E. Pearson, President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, "1976 will see a slight recovery in the Canadian economy but at a rate lower than some of the recent predictions have indicated. Unemployment will rise slightly to 7.75 per cent and capital expenditures by business will increase at a relatively low rate of three per cent reflecting the low rate of corporate profits. The foreign trade situation for Canada will become somewhat brighter during 1976 when Canada should experience a fairly even balance between imports and exports."

R. E. Hatch, Chairman, Canadian Export Association, "Imponderable factors in both the international and domestic environments make it virtually impossible for most exporters to forecast their prospects beyond the short term. In the near term, rising costs of materials, labour and energy threaten a deterioration of the international competitive position of Canadian industry. Two of Canada's most serious national concerns today are the mounting trade and current accounts deficits, and the need for rapid growth of industrial activity and new private job-creating investment. While recognizing the need to control dividends . . . this association takes the view that any move to restrain export profits must work against the interests of all sectors of the Canadian economy."

D. MacCameron, Chairman, Canadian Institute of Steel Construction, "There is optimism that construction volume could pick-up in the latter half of 1976, and continue to build strength throughout 1977 and 1978. Our recovery should be led by consumer spending, some increase in housing starts and increased exports generated by improvement in the world business cycle.

"When the country sees solid evidence that the anti-inflation programme is working to restrain production costs, this will certainly help to restore confidence in the private sector and generate expansion plans."

Housing

The federal target for housing production in 1975 was surpassed and the outlook is bright for several months at least, say Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) officials. Despite some gloomy predictions last year, CMHC have released some preliminary year-end figures showing the building industry began construction of more than 230,000 housing units, well above the Government's minimum goal of 210,000.

This goal was achieved after a strong upsurge in construction in the last half of the year. CMHC officials said they expect this trend to continue for several months as mortgage lending activity is heavy. The main question facing the building industry this year is the reaction of potential home buyers to the federal anti-inflation programme. One official said it was still unclear how the anti-inflation measures would affect demand for new homes.

Employment

Unemployment dropped slightly in December, but the average rate for 1975 equalled the post-war record high and a new unemployment record is expected this year. In December 7.1 per cent of the labour force was unemployed compared with 7.3 per cent in November. The rate declined in all provinces measured except Ontario — where it rose slightly — and Quebec, where it remained steady.

It was the tenth consecutive month the rate has hovered above seven per cent and produced an average jobless rate for 1975 of 7.1 per cent, the same average rate as the 1961 post-war record. Although the monthly rate went as high as 7.9 per cent in June, 1958, 7.1 per cent is the worst annual rate since Statistics Canada began regularly collecting unemployment statistics in 1946, officials said.

The Conference Board in Canada predicts the 1976 average rate will be 7.7 per cent, with the monthly rates gradually rising to 7.9 per cent in the final quarter. The Board is a private economic research organization supported by business, labour and government.

Arthur Smith, Conference Board President, said in an interview that the slight December decline did not alter the Board's predictions. However, he noted that the Board had predicted a 7.2 per cent annual rate for 1975, which proved high. He said the weakness of the current recovery from the 1974-75 recession will probably mean lay-offs in goods-producing industries as accumulated inventory is sold. The Government's anti-inflation programme is likely to contribute to this as new investment is reduced or postponed due to business uncertainty.

The Canadian Labour Congress, a strident opponent of the selective pay and price control programme predicts unemployment will rise above eight per cent in some months of 1976.

The December rate in Ontario rose to 6.1 per cent from six per cent in November. The level in Quebec remained steady at 9.2 per cent. The figures are adjusted to account for seasonal variation, which economists consider a more accurate measure of the performance of the economy. On an actual basis, a national total of 697,000 persons were officially unemployed in December.

The jobless rate in December, 1974, was six per cent of the labour force on a seasonally adjusted basis. On an actual basis, there were 597,000 persons officially unemployed at that time.

Car sales

Canada's big four auto manufacturers had another banner year in 1975 and industry officials look for car sales this year to pass the one-million mark for the first time.

Figures show that the companies sold 1.13 million vehicles in 1975, surpassing the record of 1.06 million set in 1974.

Ford Motor company of Canada was the only company to report a drop in 1975 sales. Ford vehicle sales totaled 324,178 in 1975, down 2.2 per cent from a year earlier. However, William Hawkins, Ford Vice-President and General Manager, said sales for December increased more than 50 per cent, the company's best December ever.

Money and people needed

Canada may need more foreign investment and immigrants in the early 1980's to sustain the rates of growth in output and wealth to which the country has become accustomed, according to the Economic Council of Canada.

Forecasting possible trends during the first half of the next decade in its 12th annual review, the federal advisory body concludes that without a radical improvement in industrial efficiency "It may be increasingly difficult to maintain the recent high-output growth rates."

"There are reasons to expect that we may be confronted with the need to accept very large amounts of foreign capital and large inflows of foreign workers if we are to achieve satisfactory growth in the years ahead," says the Council, a 28-member group representing various economic interest groups.

The reasons for needing more investment and immigration are that Canadians are unlikely to generate sufficient savings to finance all the needed industrial development, while growth of the labour force is expected to slow because of the recently declining birth rate.

In the same review, the Economic Council of Canada warns that even if the government's anti-inflation programme works in the short run, some kind of permanent controls may be needed to keep a lid on inflation.

It says that the problem will be to avoid an explosion of inflationary wage and price demands when controls are lifted. The selected wage and price controls introduced October 13 are scheduled to expire at the end of 1978. Finance Minister Donald MacDonald has said he hopes they can be removed earlier.

One of the things the report singles out is the contribution of higher government spending to inflation. The share of government expenditures in GNP has risen during the last 10 years to close to 40 per cent from 30 per cent. "Expenditures of all levels of government increased by 23 per cent in 1974, after several years of increases of about 12 to 13 per cent," the report says. Controlling inflation in the longer run will only be successful "if governments begin to exercise restraint in their expenditures and consequently the rate of revenue collection." ♦

Wilderness theatre preserves 'pure gold' of music hall

By Michael Leech

The Cariboo — it has the ring of a magic word. A wild, untouched world, sparkling blue and green in hot summer, snow blanketed and still in winter. Mountains, lakes, cloud-piled skies — and gold. Yes, most of all gold, for in the 19th century the word 'Cariboo' ran like a yellow flame among men hungry for riches, and in their thousands they trundled north to the inhospitable hills where solid stone enclosed the hoped-for millions. Few of them made it, and many came back with only tales to tell of their time in British Columbia's interior. Yet some people made money without prospecting or panning the chill mountain streams. Miners, many of them amateurs, needed food and equipment, so all along the wild country of the West wherever the bright gold was found, little towns sprang into being to service the hordes of new customers. Some of them became big centres in no time at all, swollen in a few short months with thousands of new citizens, but only a few maintained their position once the greed for gold ran out, after the seams declined and a few sharp-minded men had bought up the worthwhile claims.

Most of the new settlements tumbled into decay. By the end of the 19th century the Cariboo, and the Yukon further North, were filled with timber frame towns falling into the forest, rotting and empty, almost dead. Fire destroyed many, for the buildings were of wood from the plentiful pine forests, and were an invitation to conflagration. Others simply faded away, crumbling into the ghost towns of the present century. With them went a whole way of life that Western movies can only approximate — to get the flavour of the mining towns of the West of Canada (and of the US too) one has to see films like those made by Pierre Berton, clipped together from contemporary prints, photographs and posters, old film and occasional live reminiscences — very valuable these, for the Gold Rush days are slipping away from human memory and old timers must be very old indeed now to recall those crowded, exciting times.

Berton's film relives the toil and despair, the excitement and eroded hopes of city men looking for a fortune, the sleazy saloon scenes and the camp followers in their over-decorated cots behind Main Street. A life that's gone — and yet a life one can still glimpse in such towns as Barkerville, British Columbia — which

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The cast aboard their stage coach, outside the Theatre Royal, with Louise Glennie (top, left) and Fran Dowie (standing,) in white top hat.

before 1885 was a hurly-burly of a place, a one-street town ballooning with citizens crowded into more than 120 new buildings — shops and saloons, bars and rooming houses. For a time, life in Barkerville was fever-pitched. Then the collapse came and the place dwindled away. In 1958 only 15 buildings were still lived in, amazingly, by a tiny population. Unlike many other towns, Barkerville never quite died.

During the last decade Barkerville has made a recovery as a tourist spot. Two people who helped to make it the popular place it is today are Fran Dowie and his wife Louise Glennie. They did so by importing an unusual, and yet very fitting entertainment into the town — music-hall. In its time, the town attracted some leading vaudeville lights. Fran, a theatrical entrepreneur and actor with a flair for history and old-time music-hall, thought up the idea of making it ring again with Cariboo lustiness by presenting the

songs and dances of the last century.

Louise, one of Canada's leading comedien-nes and indeed one of the funniest women to be seen onstage anywhere, designed the show as well as writing material and working in it. Fran produced and directed, also wrote material, and acted as jovial ringmaster to the whole caboodle. Together they worked with the British Columbia Parks Branch of the Department of Recreation and Conservation in bringing to life this miniature capital of the Cariboo.

"I remember the first time I went to Barkerville," says red-haired Louise, wrinkling her nose in pleasure at the memory. "There was a bakery that still made the old original sourdough bread and you could smell it all along Main Street. Somehow it evoked the place and you could feel history living and breathing around you."

"You could only get to Barkerville on a

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