

CANADA

TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

Canada has a lot of breadth (it is five time zones wide) and so do creative Canadians. In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we report on a variety of Canadian products, from lightweight snowshoes to the Trojan Hoist (which picks up pickup trucks), a computer that plays 128 musical instruments at once and push-button toothpaste.

Chips Off the Old Bach

The McLeyvier has two keyboards and a computer. It is a new musical instrument, the most revolutionary since the pianoforte.

It consists of a 61- or 88-key piano style keyboard, a typewriter terminal, a video screen, a printer, assorted optional controls such as foot pedals, an independent housing for the computer and voice cards.

It can produce the sound of any conventional musical instrument, and these can be combined in practically an infinite number of ways. It can also produce a publishable score.

Here's how a composer can use the McLeyvier:

He writes a score. How will it sound when played by, say a trumpet? He punches out WRI CH (for Write Channel) 1, USE TRT on the typewriter and plays the melody on the piano keys.



He then hits the RET(urn) key and types GO. The McLeyvier trumpets the melody back with the same dynamics with which he played it on the keyboard. If he likes what he hears he gives his composition a name, say MELODY, and writes SAVE MELODY. The melody is now in the computer's memory. How would it sound with a full orchestra? He copies the score in two other channels and orchestrates it for twenty different instruments. He hits RET and writes GO and hears the whole works.

If he hears a clash between instruments, he isolates the offenders and prints their scores on the screen, spots the problem and corrects it.

If he is now satisfied he types SCO-P MELODY, and the McLeyvier prints the complete conductor's score as well as all the instrumental parts, each with the title, his name, the copyright notice and the tempo, dynamic phrasing and metronome markings he needs. He can then transmit the entire score to his publisher over the telephone if the publisher is properly equipped.

This amazing device was composed by David McLey, a 35-year-old Toronto musician and inventor. It sells for \$25,000 to \$50,000, depending on the options. In Hollywood and New York, composers can rent them for the day. The deluxe model can reproduce 4,000 sounds, imitate the sound of 128 instruments at once and store up to 15 million notes. David says that if Franz Schubert had had a McLeyvier, the *Unfinished Symphony* might have had a happy ending.

U.S. sales are being handled by David Wilson, Vice President, Hazelcom Industries Inc., 218-04 40th Avenue, Bayside, N.Y. 11361, (212) 224-6660.

As Simple as Rolling Out a Log



Pan-Abode Buildings of British Columbia sells pre-cut, 3" by 6" and 4" by 6" logs which you can stack up into a handsome, quiet and long-lasting house.

The cost works out to about \$25 a square foot—from \$7,429 for the simplest one-room recreation cabin with bath but no kitchen; to \$71,192 for a U-shaped house and garage, measuring 58' 5" and 63' 9" on its longest sides, which has a living room, dining room, family room, kitchen, utility room, two baths and three

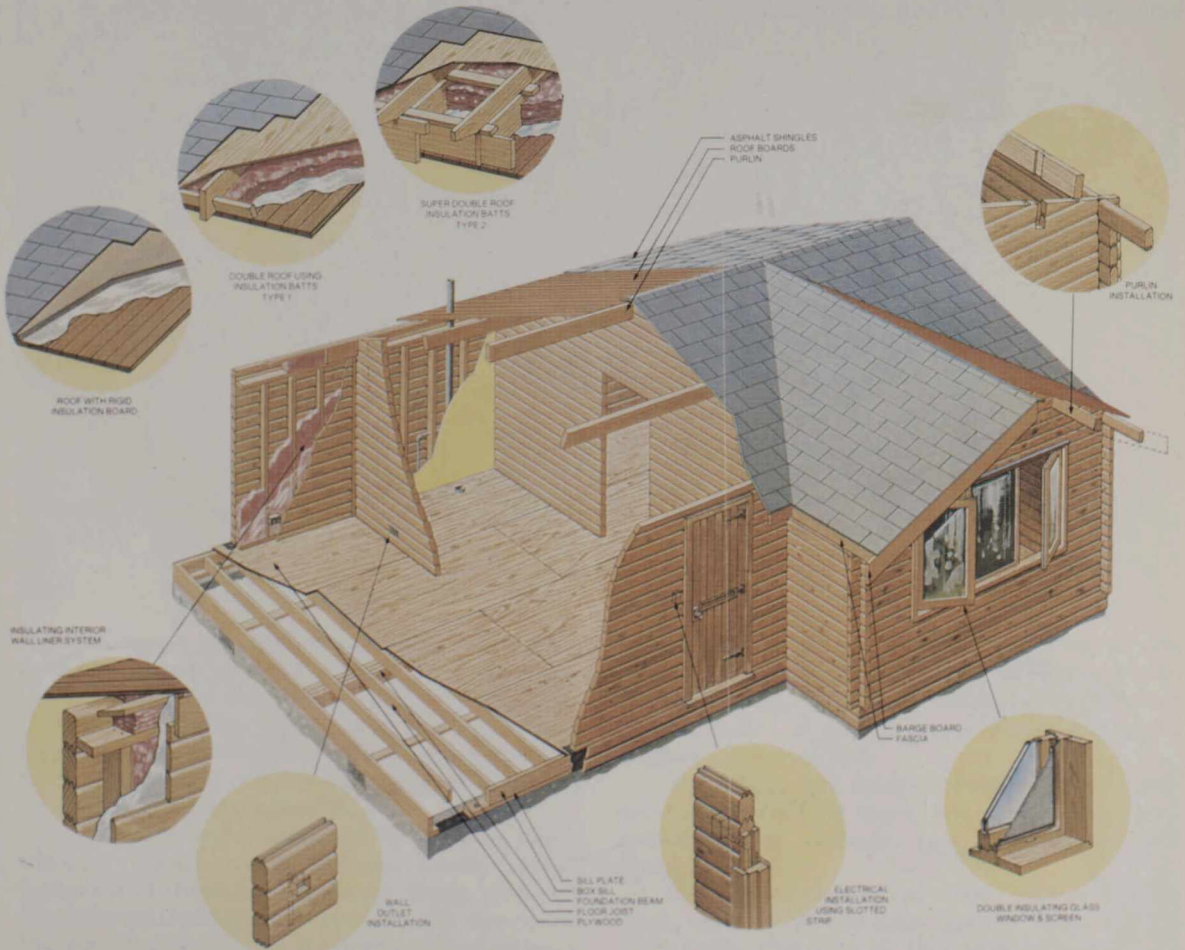
bedrooms. The buyer can put it together with a sledge hammer and the help of a few friends. A crew of three can assemble a home at the rate of 195 square feet a day. That means that three can put up the one-room cabin in a day-and-a-half and, as the company says, "With lots of help and organization you can build your cottage in a weekend."

Every cedar log is cut to the exact length required, stamped with a code number showing its location and notched to form a specially patented, completely hidden, lock joint.

The logs are attached to form walls. No nails are needed. Doors and windows are pre-assembled and need only be inserted in pre-cut openings.

Pan-Abode built its first cabin in 1947. It now sells homes in all sizes all over the world, and it recently sold 100 to the Nagara Furusato Mura village outside Tokyo.

For more information write or call Pan-Abode Buildings Canada, 20900 Westminster Highway, Richmond, British Columbia V6V 1V5, (604) 270-7891.



Two Little Pig Stories

1) Did you know the Japanese eat lots of choice, lean pork, especially during O-Shogatsu, the winter celebration, and O-Chugen, the mid-summer vacation? Did you know that Canada's pig farms supply the biggest slice of the 10,000 tons of pork Japan imports each year?

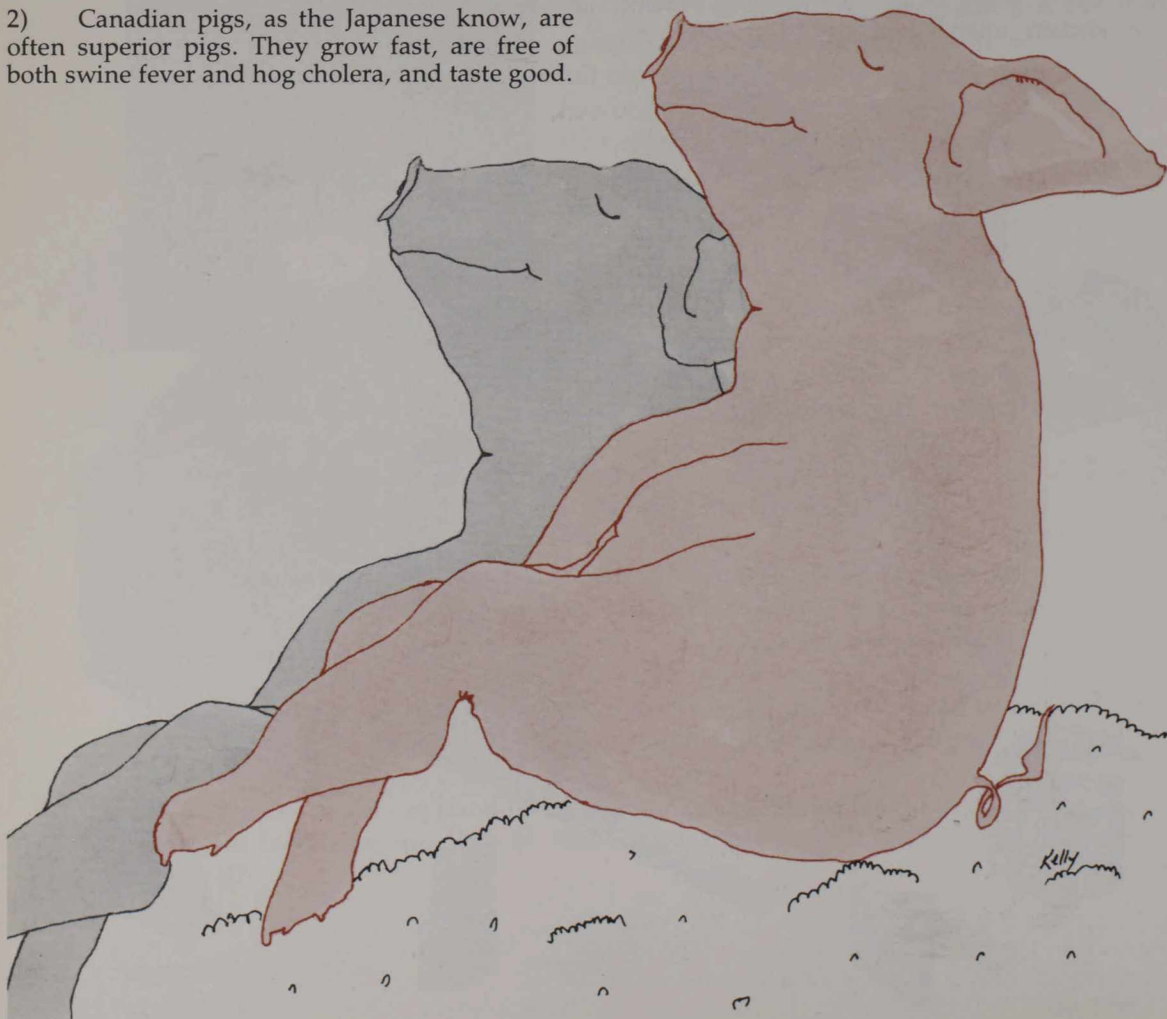
Canada Packers Ltd. opened the door in 1968 by sending over sample boxes in time for the holidays. Since then Japanese pork consumption has gone up from 3.6 pounds per capita to 21. This is the kind of up-to-the-minute pig information you get from *Playboar Magazine*, published quarterly by Pigskin Productions Ltd. of Guelph, Ontario. It is an odd mixture of serious information about commodity prices and scientific developments, and cartoons, comic poems ("Sow Be It") and a colour centerfold of a prize pig, usually stretched out on a chaise longue.

A subscription costs \$10 a year, single issues cost \$3, including postage and handling. Write Pigskin Productions Ltd., P.O. Box 1838, Guelph, Ontario M1H 7A1.

2) Canadian pigs, as the Japanese know, are often superior pigs. They grow fast, are free of both swine fever and hog cholera, and taste good.

Some 2,000 head, valued at \$700,000, are exported annually. Canada also has three boar studs which ship high quality semen around the world in commercial-sized lots.

Since fresh semen remains viable for only forty-eight hours, most of the exported is frozen. It is difficult to freeze, but the Ontario Swine A.I. Association has found a way. Information on stock breeders and exporters can be obtained by writing provincial departments of agriculture. The Ontario association (OSAIA) at Woodstock, Ontario, handles both fresh and frozen semen. The Alberta Department of Agriculture's Swine Breeding Centre at Leduc, near Edmonton, and the Quebec Department of Agriculture's Swine A.I. unit at St. Lambert de Lévis, both have fresh for sale. Semex, an exporter based in Guelph, Ontario (RR 5, Guelph N1H 6J2), can arrange export shipments.



Raku



Agnes Olive, a ceramist of increasing reputation, lives appropriately in the town of Terra Cotta, in the Caledon Hills outside Toronto.

She makes pots, baskets and bowls in raku, a Japanese word which means happiness and an art form that, among other things, reflects nature in its asymmetry and roughness.

Ms. Olive finds inspiration during long walks through woods, along railroad tracks, across bridges and through abandoned farms. She also finds material along the way. One day she found the sun-bleached bones of a deer and carried them

home. They could not stand up to firing so she smoked them to a darkness that harmonized with the black raku. "Basket" (1980) (above) has a deer bone handle, a glazed interior and a rough, unglazed outer surface.

No two of her pieces are alike. She experiments in reduction times and materials, using, among others, sawdust, pine needles and cow dung.

For more information about Agnes Olive's work, write or call her at her gallery: Forge Studio, Terra Cotta, Ontario L0P 1N0, (416) 877-5872.

Pull Up a Chair

How would you like to pop into a nice steel bed? Amisco of L'Islet, Quebec, has beds for poppers of all lengths and ages, cradles, bunk beds and queen-size. It also has chairs, tables, bookcases and other furniture, all made of metal tubing (some steel, some brass) and canvas, all handsome and long-lasting. Everything comes in a variety of Quebec colors, including vert, bleu, rouge, brun,

jaune, sometimes with pois (polka dots). They are sold at a great many places in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Bed prices range from \$70 (U.S.) for a single bed to \$240 for a queen-size canopy. For more information write or call Amisco Industries Ltd., BP 250, L'Islet, Quebec G0R 2C0, (418) 247-5025.



The Trojan Hoist

The company says it's the Ultimate Portable Hoist and it probably is. It can lift up a car or truck six-and-a-half feet in the air and tilt it 25 degrees.

This allows a six-foot mechanic to work without straining his neck. It has been tested up to 20,000 pounds, more than three times its recommended capacity.

It can pick up a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck without even trying.

It is powered by a twelve-volt battery and can be moved easily, which means it can be set up indoors or out, as long as there's an available space at least 12 feet wide, 15 feet long and 13 feet high.

It has a single, totally enclosed, self-lubricating cylinder and, despite its name, nothing to hide.

You can buy one for \$4995.00 from your nearest dealer or from Antec International Equip-

ment Inc., P.O. Box 3687, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3N8.



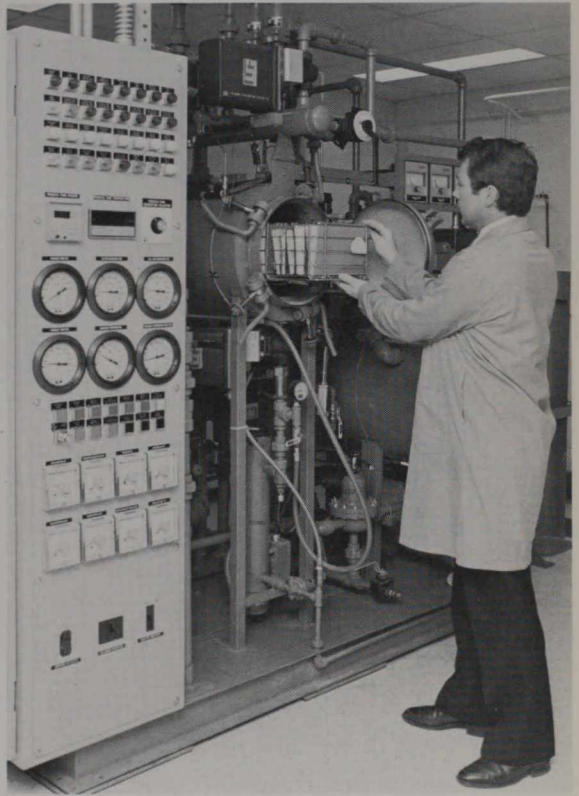
How to Sweeten Up Your Library

Richard D. Smith, Ph.D., is President of Wei T'o Associates Inc. Wei T'o is an ancient Chinese god, protector of books from destruction by fire, worms, insects and robbers. Mr. Smith and his associates are actually more concerned with acid. Until about 1850 the paper in books had a high rag content and posed no problems. Then publishers began using wood pulp paper and the books began deteriorating.

As a book gets older its acid content goes up. Heavy deterioration begins when it is around 56 years old. At 90 to 100 years its pages will crack when they are turned.

Dr. Smith is the inventor of a deacidification process that can restore books to their youthful vigour at a cost of about \$4 each. The process (which was refined by the York division of Borg-Warner) has been installed at Canada's Public Archives and National Library where it is used to process 150 books in eight hours, day after day after day. It liquifies and de-liquifies gas, back and forth—somewhat as in the cycle of a refrigerator. The books are placed in a wire basket and shoved into a pressurized tank. There they are flooded with a solution supplied by Wei T'o. After they're soaked, the excess liquid is drained into a storage tank. The pressure is reduced and the process tank is emptied. The books are then flash-dried in a few minutes. They look exactly as they looked before the treatment, but they will now survive uncracked for centuries.

The Canadian Public Archives was the central force in putting the process together, and they are



interested in having other libraries adopt it. Those wishing more information may write to Records Conservation, Public Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3.

Burn Your Own Smoke



The Dorwood Futura furnace has a catalytic combustor. It burns all kinds of wood and it burns the creosote that causes smoke and gases too.

The catalytic combustor is a pyroceramic honeycomb, five-and-a-half inches in diameter and one-and-a-half inches thick, coated with a catalyst made mostly of palladium.

It sits in a chamber on top of the stove and reduces the ignition point of smoke from 500°F (260°C) to about 300°F (75°C). This causes the smoke to burn before it goes up the chimney.

The Dorwood Futura heats up to 2,000 square feet. It is 33 inches high, 24 inches wide and 21.5 inches deep. It can burn seventeen-inch logs and it can, with adjustments, burn coal. It is made of heavy steel plate and has a ceramic glass door. It costs \$850 to \$900 Canadian.

The more creosote or air pollutants the wood produces, the better it burns—which means that wet pine burns as cleanly as dry birch.

For more information write or call Dorwood Industries Ltd., 2901 Sturgeon Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2Y 0L4, (204) 837-7857.

Newfoundland Quilts

Ruth Matthews makes beautiful quilts at home in St. John's, Newfoundland. Each is custom-made and takes a long time, and she is booked two years ahead.

Her "Newfoundland Summer" (below) won the Premier's Award of Excellence this year, which surprised no one, and she is now putting together

a quilt to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's arrival in Newfoundland. Prices, which are remarkably low, depend on the time required. Quilt lovers with high standards and a good deal of patience may write Mrs. Matthews at 163 Canada Drive, St. John's, Newfoundland A1E 2N2.



What's Up? — Docks



If you have a boat and a place to float it, you probably need a dock. Insto Dock is about the most convenient dock you can get. It is made of aluminum and it can be picked up by anyone in reasonably good shape. It can be put out in the spring and taken in in the fall. It is made of aluminum and wood, of pre-formed parts with pre-punched holes, and it comes with clear instructions in a lightweight box.

A person with almost no mechanical skill can put it together with ease. (So, of course, can a graduate engineer.) The basic dock pack has a span sixteen feet long. There are also extension packs, ramp packs and deck packs, each of which has a single eight-foot section. Using one or all or combinations you can assemble a variety of configurations, from a single, straight walkway to a

triple dock shaped like the letter E, with the long side attached to the shore by a ramp.

The basic decking is made of 2" by 6" boards specially milled to fit the frame. Each span can hold one ton.

The dock can be floated on 45-gallon drums or grounded solidly in shallow or deep water. If the water is particularly deep, extra long legs are available. It is suggested, however, that if it is REALLY deep, a permanent base be laid, using 45-gallon drums that have been filled with stones.

The basic pack costs \$553 Canadian. The eight-foot extension and ramp packs cost \$213 each.

For more information write or call Capital Fence and Wire Ltd., 1196 Rainbow, Ottawa, Ontario K1J 6X9, (613) 745-6252.

Push-Button Toothpaste



Robert Goulet is trying to get rid of toothpaste tube jokes. Actually he may get rid of toothpaste tubes. M. Goulet is the inventor and manufacturer of PRESSDENT, a dentifrice that comes in a push-button bottle. It was introduced in Canada last January and in the United States in March and is selling well, particularly in California.

M. Goulet says the advantage is that PRESSDENT eliminates mess and waste and is cheaper since a bottle gives about 365 brushings. Once-a-day brushers can set aside one day a year for buying it. The bottle costs \$3.59 so a brushing costs .09 cents, compared with 1.7 cents for regular toothpaste. PRESSDENT is described as creamier than the regular stuff, and the brusher need not wet his brush. For more information write Certalab International Inc., Place Val des Arbres, 1600 boul. St.-Martin est, Tour B, Suite 655, Laval, Quebec H7G 4S7, or telephone their Montreal office: (514) 384-6165.

Silent Taxis

Taxicab passengers in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Hamilton and Edmonton are no longer serenaded by radio dispatchers.

Cab drivers in those cities are dispatched (and their fares are metred) by digital computers. The information is flashed on small video screens. The system also has advantages for the cab companies. It can handle 500 cabs on a channel (instead of 150).

It works like this: The driver pushes a button on a keyboard, and his screen shows a list of cab zones and the number of empty cabs in each. He then signals to the computer the zone he's headed for. When he gets a call a buzzer sounds and the fare's location flashes on the screen. No other driver gets the message.

For more information write or call Canada Systems Group Ltd., Advanced Technology Systems Division, 1736 Courtwood Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 2B5, (613) 225-1171, which markets the mobile terminals made by Gandalf Technologies Inc. of Ottawa.



A Trec on the Ocean's Floor

TREC stands for Tethered Remote Camera. It is a square box without walls, jammed with cameras, floodlights and sophisticated electronic equipment. It can send video pictures from the ocean's floor to a ship on the surface.

It is made by International Submarine Engineering Ltd. (ISE) of Port Moody, British Columbia, whose cinder block buildings look more like a big village auto repair shop than the headquarters of an international high-tech company that has pioneered the design and manufacture of unmanned submarines. There are about 150 such submersibles in use around the world, costing between \$135,000 and \$1,000,000, and ISE built half of them.

TREC is 45" by 35" by 38", weighs 450 pounds and can dive to 1,200 feet. When the Ixtoc 1 oil well blew out in the Gulf of Mexico in 1979, it was a TREC that found the wellhead.

TREC has several sisters:

TROV (Tethered Remotely Operated Vehicle) has a crab-like mechanical arm which can close valves, recover torpedoes or carry sonar. A TROV found the sunken ship in the North Atlantic that for a few exciting days last summer was assumed

to be the *Titanic*.

DART (Deep Access Reconnaissance Television) is more compact, 40" by 18" by 12", weighing 100 pounds, and it can slip into underwater pipes and other narrow places.

Sea MARC (Sea Mapping and Remote Characterization) scans and maps the bottom of the sea, discovering and depicting geological hazards to shipping. The United States Geological Survey used Sea MARC to map 1,200 square miles along the slope of the eastern continental shelf in seventeen days.

The company was put together by its president, Jim McFarlane, who retired from the Canadian Navy in 1971 and began building manned submersibles. He formed ISE in 1974 when high-density integrated circuitry became available. Less than a year later he had the first TROV. He sold a dressed-up model to the Canadian Environment Department for \$100,000.

For more information write or call International Submarine Engineering Ltd., 2601 Murray Street, Port Moody, British Columbia V3H 1X1, (604) 937-3421.



Sprung Sprung

When the great wooden theatre at Wolf Trap, Virginia, burned down last spring, Sprung Instant Structures Inc. of Calgary came to the rescue. In practically no time the U.S. Department of the Interior's magnificent showplace was back in business.

A structure of fabric panels, tensioned between aluminum arches, had replaced the lost building. Inside were 2,000 seats and a stage 65 feet wide and 45 feet deep with a 25-foot proscenium.

The name "Sprung" is not intended to be descriptive. The company was founded by Philip Davis Sprung, a tent, awning and mattress maker, in 1887.

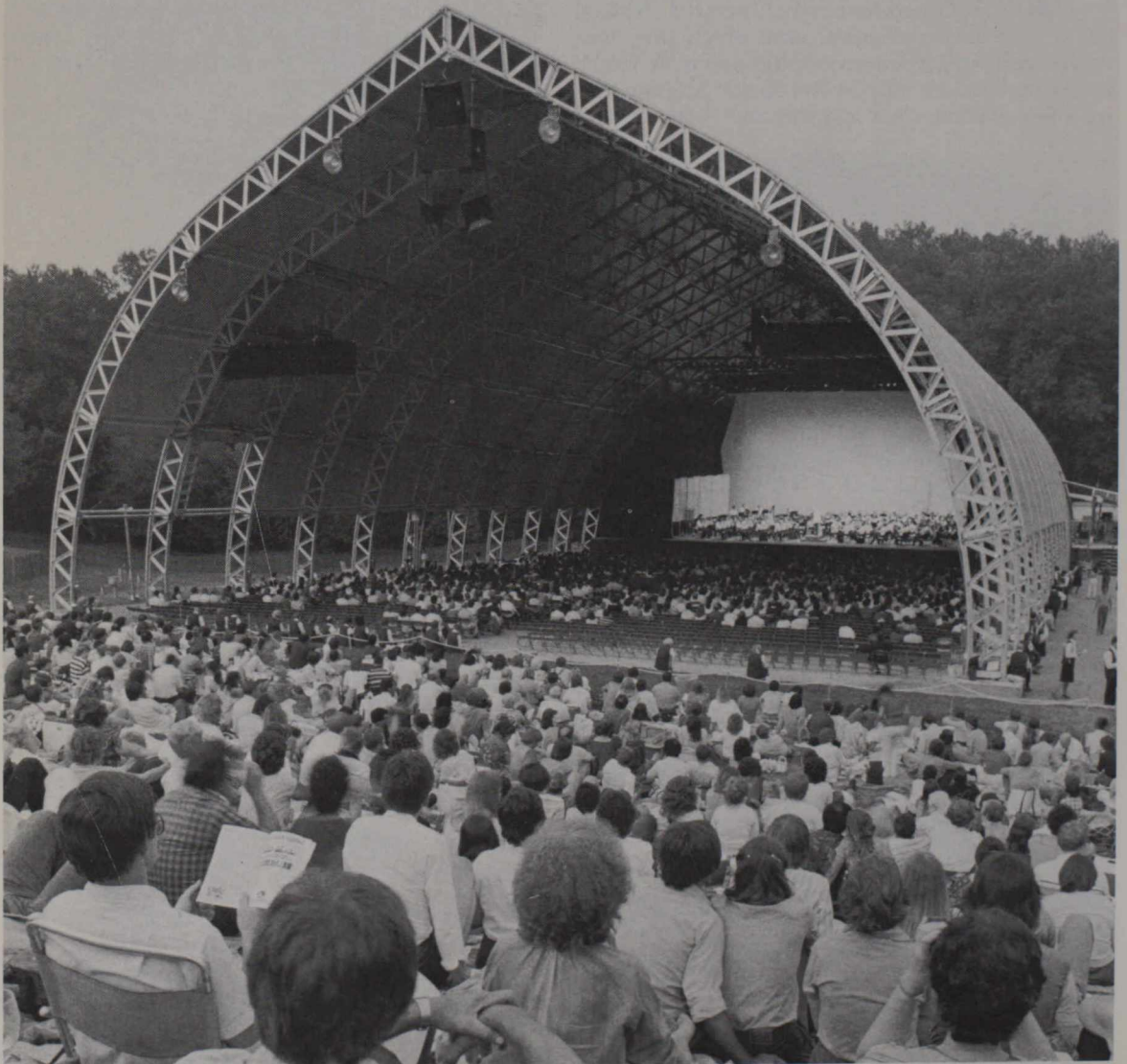
In 1969 it developed its "membrane stress" process and began building instant structures in a great variety of lengths, widths and shapes. Most are shaped like circus tents and gaily striped, and

they have been used all over the world, to house swimming pools, hockey rinks, trade shows, bus depots, storage facilities, portable factories, dry docks, bandstands, greenhouses and a good many other things.

They will hold up under snowfalls weighing as much as sixty pounds to the square foot and withstand winds up to 140 miles an hour. The fabric, P.V.C.-coated polyester scrim, is waterproof, fire-resistant (self-extinguishing) and highly resistant to mildew, insects, inorganic salts and weak acids.

Prices are based on the number of square feet. The smaller structures, sixty feet or less in width, are \$9.90 per square foot. The larger ones, such as the one at Wolf Trap, are \$16.90 per square foot.

For more information write or call Sprung Instant Structures Ltd., 1001 10th Avenue, S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2R 0B7, (403) 245-3371.



Photocopiers Foiled

What should you do if non-subscribers keep photocopying your newsletter? Get Polymark Management Ltd. of Montreal to coat your paper stock with a substance that will make it copy-proof. Then put the newsletter in the copier and the copy comes out blank. The service is called NOCOPI and it costs 5 to 7 cents a page, depending on volume. It is spreading all over the newsletter industry and it is also being used by lawyers, accountants and government offices with secrets.

Write or call Norman Gardner, Polymark Management Ltd., Suite 10, 3465 Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal, Quebec H3H 1T7, (514) 931-2416.



Blades

In 1975 Roger Baikie, a Montreal bottler of Coca Cola and Canada Dry, gave his brother Hugh, a natural-born tinkerer, \$60,000 and told him to find a way to make a better ice-skate blade.

Hugh spent \$500,000 and came up with the Tuuk, which rhymes with book and is the Inuit word for ice chisel. The Tuuk was made of plastic with a Swedish surgical steel runner. The blade could be bolted to any leather or plastic boot.

The plastic top was merlon polycarbonate, molded in hollow, lopsided cups at heel and toe. The shape was designed to distribute the weight evenly on the outside of the foot. The most remarkable thing about the blade was the runner — traditional carbon steel ones needed to be sharpened frequently, often after every game. The Tuuk needed sharpening only five or six times a season. The Tuuk was also cheaper to build, rustproof, and 40 per cent lighter.

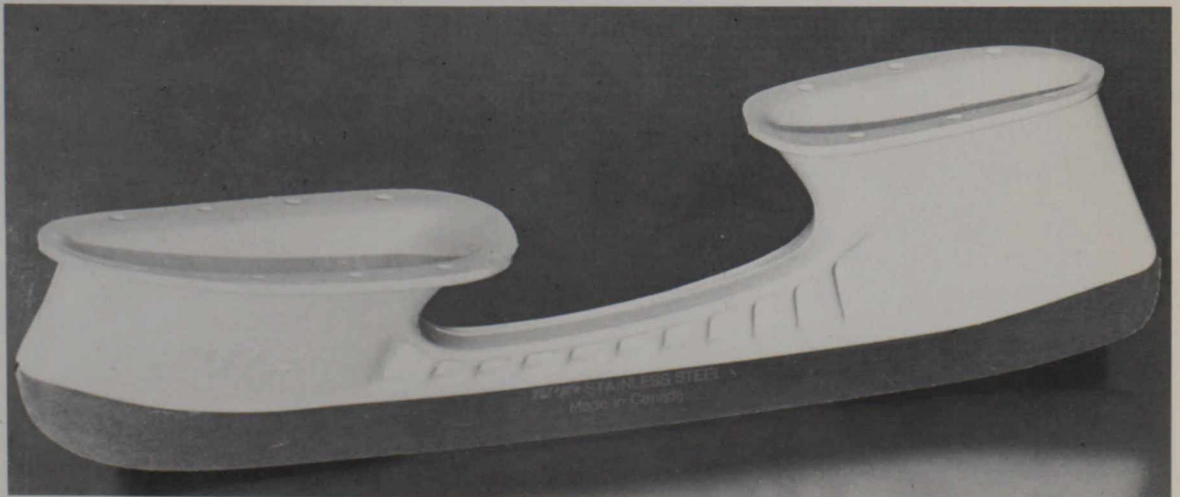
The Tuuk caught on with the Montreal Canadiens first and then with the rest of the National

Hockey League teams. Soon all the principal skate manufacturers were putting Tuuk blades on their best skates, but in 1977 disaster struck. The factory got a defective shipment of polycarbonate which shattered when hit by a puck. The company replaced 60,000 blades at a cost of three-quarters of a million dollars. Sales Manager Dave Johnson says the only thing that saved the company was the fact that by that time the NHL players were so hooked on Tuuks they were willing to give them another chance.

In 1979-80 Tuuk turned out 570,000 pairs of blades itself and Bauer, a skate manufacturer which it had authorized to manufacture Tuuks, added another million.

Tuuks come in a rich variety of types, including figure blades and blades for goalies, at prices up to \$50.

For more information write or call CANPRO Sports Inc., 5790 Ferrier, Montreal, Quebec H4P 1M7, (514) 735-2277.



Snowshoes for the Upper Crust

Magline of Canada Ltd. sells magnesium snowshoes to North American backpackers and the Canadian, British, Norwegian and U.S. Armies. It would like to sell them to the Chinese Army as well.

The big advantages of a magnesium shoe are its weight—it is light enough to be used as a two-handed tennis racket—and the fact that it does not pick up clumps of snow. Traditional wood and rawhide shoes do. Magline gets its magnesium right from a neighbourhood mine in Renfrew, Ontario, and the shoes are hand-strung with nylon-covered cable by 300 Algonquin Indians at two local reserves. The webbing was designed by Mary Commanda, an Algonquin,

using traditional tribal patterns. The U.S. Army got interested when it noticed how light-footed Canadian soldiers were. It recently bought 16,500 pairs.

The shoes have many other advantages. Rats don't eat them, they have turned-up tips which make it easier to walk on powder snow, they grip on ice, and they have a camber which gives a spring to the step and reduces the strain on the calves and lower back. A pair of them costs \$179.50. More information can be gotten by writing Magline of Canada Ltd., P.O. Box 219, Renfrew, Ontario K7V 4A3, to the attention of Andy Fraser, or call him at (613) 432-5848.



The Luck of the Iris



When potter Harlan House needed a name for his gallery it took him no time at all. Mr. House makes one-of-a-kind vases and plates, many of which have iris motifs and all of which are striking. His work is always on display at his gallery in Lonsdale, Ontario, halfway between Ottawa and Toronto, and frequently at exhibitions in Canada's major cities. The Canadian Consulate in Atlanta, Georgia, arranged a show of his pieces last Sep-

tember, and his work is for sale at the Form and Function Gallery there. Since each of his works is unique, Mr. House does not have a catalogue, but he does send interested parties polaroid pictures and contact sheets. His prices for iris vases begin at \$500 U.S., for other vases at \$200 and for plates at \$300. Potential purchasers may write him at Harlan House Inc., Lonsdale, RRI Marysville, Ontario K0K 2N0.



When Ms. Micheline Beauchemin, O.C., R.C.A., of Les Grondines, Quebec, gets a curtain call she is preoccupied for years. For example she designed the curtain at the Opera Theatre in Ottawa's National Arts Centre (above). It is of tufted wool, so delicate it must be hoisted straight up—not rolled—and so vivid and shimmering, with splashes of colour against background threads of gold, that the Opera's first audience gave it a standing ovation.

Ms. Beauchemin produces tapestries in various forms. Among her most recent was "Le Fils des Etoiles," lacy panels strung like sails and measuring 40' x 20' x 12', which she completed last year. She has won many awards, including the 1982 Bronfman, which includes a \$15,000 gift.

She may be contacted at 22 Chemin-du-Roi, Grondines, Quebec COA 1W0.

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