School for Frogmen

Top of the Crop Goes Under

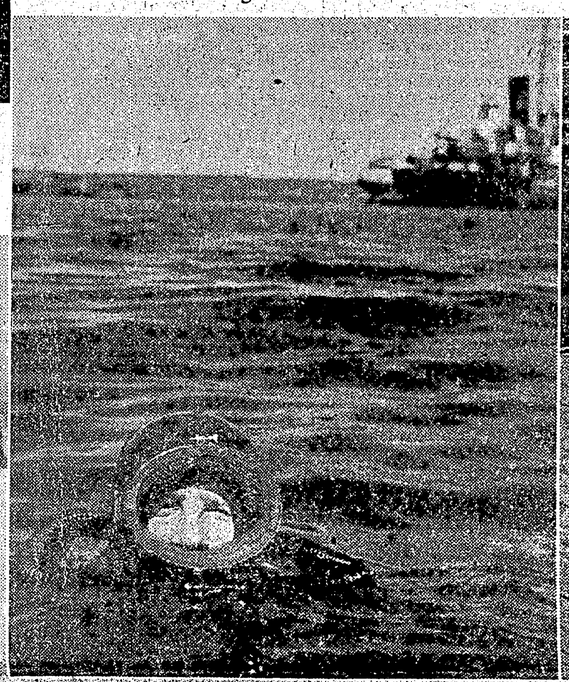
A small but active unit of the Canadian Navy has established an enviable reputation for itself during its brief 5-year history. Officially formed in February 1954 as the RCN Clearance Diving Branch, its beginnings go back to 1949 when the growing need for a mine disposal organization was recognized. Today the unit consists of a small peacetime nucleus geared to expand as needed in time of emergency. Above, an instructor takes 3 trainees on a "dry dive" in a recompression chamber; their physical and psychological reactions are carefully noted.

Trainees are recruited from naval personnel on a voluntary basis. They must be 25 years of age or under, able to pass a strict medical and mental examination, before qualifying for the 62-week training course.

Men who show no signs of claustrophobia in the recompression chamber sometimes revolt at being sealed in a diving suit. By the end of the course, only the best in the class are graduated as qualified divers.

A wide variety of duties have taken Canada's underwater sailors to chilly Arctic waters and to many inland lakes and rivers. At Lake Winnipeg, near Gimli, Manitoba, frogmen cut through 4 feet of ice to dive for the wreckage of a jet aircraft. Working underwater for 2½ hours at a stretch, divers recovered 2,000 pounds of the plane in a two-week operation.

National Film Board of Canada Photos by Chris Lund.



The diver's routine duties include inspection, maintenance and repairs to ships' hulls and jetties, salvage operations and underwater demolition jobs as well as dealing with any mines that may be washed ashore.

This year's well-dressed diver will wear a rubber swim suit, tight fitting hood and face mask, fins, a weighted belt, aqua-lung breathing apparatus which contains pure air, and angora wool underwear.

MOVIE COLUMN

Jules Verne outstrips authors for filming

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Want to know the most popular author in the movies today? It's not Tennessee Williams or Grace Metalious, but a long-dead Frenchman, Jules Verne.

And no wonder. According to Variety's latest figures, Verne's Around the World in 80 Days has grossed $22,000,000 in the United States and Canada alone. His 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea has accounted for $8,000,000 domestically. Currently, Journey to the Centre of the Earth is a big money-maker for 20th Century-Fox, ending a box office drought for that company.

DAVID NIVEN
. . . Jules Verne star.

The Verne popularity is shown by the fact that four different producers have announced plans to film one of his books published variously as The Castaways, In Search of the Castaways and Captain Grant's Children. Walt Disney claims victory.

"We have registered all three titles with the Johnston office," he declared. "We also own the rights to world-wide release, having bought them from the Verne estate after four years of negotiation. The book is in public domain in this country, but it's protected abroad."

Disney's admiration for Verne goes back to his youthful days as a reader. As a producer, he had long sought the rights to 20,000 Leagues.

"It was hard work to plow through the Verne book again, because so much of it is tedious. I put paper clips on the parts that were exciting so I could reer to them immediately."

The result was an adventurous film that brought Verne back into vogue. He had long been neglected by Hollywood, Disney said, because producers didn't know what to make of him—"the scripts always tried to introduce women into the story, which wasn't Verne's intent at all."

Modern events have also vindicated Verne's fantastic imagination. Such things as space travel and atomic submarines were the stuff his dreams were made of. Even the United States Navy has seen fit to study 20,000 Leagues for clues to help future developments, Disney said.

Television licencee 'incredulous'

VANCOUVER (CP)—The successful applicant for Vancouver's first private television licence was incredulous Friday at winning over what he considered almost impossible odds.

Youthful Art Jones, 34, president of Vantel Broadcasting Company Ltd., at first couldn't believe his company had been recommended for the licence.

"Are you kidding?" he kept asking the reporter who gave him the news.

"The one thing that really pleases me is of being able to apply against seemingly impossible odds—and winning.

"It's fabulous. I think it is a pretty good country that we live in.

"It's a fantastic relief. This has been the longest week of my life."

NO CONFIRMATION FOR AUTHORITY

Redshank sighting excites birdwatchers

By GERALD L'ANGE
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Birdwatcher Dr. Lloyd Macpherson could hardly believe his eyes when he spotted a redshank near Halifax recently.

"This is the most exciting bird I have seen in the whole of my life," he said.

If his identification is correct, it is the first time a redshank has been sighted in North America. A common European shore bird, the redshank had never been seen farther west than Greenland and is a rarity there.

Dr. Macpherson said he wanted to shoot the redshank for official confirmation but didn't see it again.

BLOWN BY WINDS

"I have been expecting one for some time as foreign birds are often blown here by freak winds."

Jim Baillie, assistant in the department of birds at Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum, also found the redshank sighting "very exciting" but wished it could have been confirmed. "Everybody's going to question it," he said.

The redshank was the Canadian highlight of the annual Christmas bird census sponsored throughout North America by the National Audubon Society. But there were other unusual birds seen.

In Newfoundland cowbirds and cedar waxwings were reported for the first time. Another rare bird was a turkey vulture seen near Vancouver. Montreal spotters saw an uncommon brown thrasher in the city centre and a Baltimore oriole in the suburbs. Both normally winter in Central America.

Robins that missed the flight south were seen near Regina, Winnipeg and Saint John, N.B. Rare finds around Edmonton were a pileated woodpecker, an American merganser duck and mallards. Nearly 2,000 ducks were attempting to winter near Calgary and winter shooting was approved to protect crops. Mr. Baillie believes adequate food supply tempted them to remain. Food is as important as weather in dictating migratory habits, he said.

STARLINGS RETURN

Startled birdwatchers counted more than 39,000 starlings in Vancouver where they were unknown 10 years ago. In the Toronto area three new species were noted—a mockingbird, a brant and a red-bellied woodpecker. Near St. Thomas, Ont., a record count was made of ruffed grouse. New species sighted included catbird, brown thrasher and hermit thrush.

The Toronto count produced 79 species compared with the 10-year average of 74. The total of 18,146 was below average, however. Rarities included green-winged teal, rusty blackbirds and yellow-shafted flickers.

Ottawa reported 45 species, 10 more than the previous year when weather was bad. Strangely, only one glaucous gull was seen and Icelandic or black-backed gulls were totally absent.

About 2,000 birds of 22 species were counted near Quebec City but no rare ones were reported. The count of 3,000 in Montreal was about average. Watchers identified 36 varieties.

Apart from the redshank, Halifax spotters counted a low 36 species in high winds and poor visibility. The previous year count was 48. St. John's, Nfld., made a record count of 31 species although the bird total of 2,646 was about 1,000 below the two previous years due to a scarcity of dogberries. Pigeonhawks made a comeback around the Newfoundland capital, the only place in Canada where these birds winter.

FEWER OLD SQUAW

Prince Edward Island reported fewer species due to extensive freezing of water areas. Old Squaw were down in numbers but American mergansers were up. Poor visibility in the Saint John area of New Brunswick reduced the total to 33 species and 2,653 birds. Usually more than 5,000 gulls are seen. In the Fredericton area watchers saw 1,018 birds of 30 species.

Edmonton reported 4,239 birds and 34 species. Conspicuous by their absence were the short-eared owl, snowy owl, snow bunting and northern shrike. More than half the birds seen were bohemian waxwings. Heavy snow cut Saskatoon's count to 1,581. In the Craven area 23 miles south of Regina 17 species were noted among 672 birds, mostly house sparrows and common redpolls. Three redwing blackbirds, three great horned owls, a blue jay and a starling apparently decided not to migrate. Considerable grain was left in Prairie fields because of early snow last fall.

The Manitoba census, conducted mostly around Winnipeg, turned up 1,440 birds of 37 types, included pileated woodpeckers, a pigeon hawk and a richardson owl.

In a 15-mile radius of Vancouver 104 species were noted among the 112,485 birds counted.

ONTARIO MUSEUM'S JIM BAILIE
. . . Redshank causing controversy.

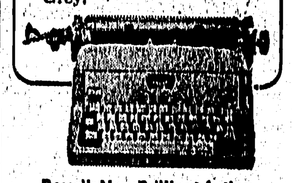
Changes post

VICTORIA (CP)—Neil McCallum, former chief engineer of the B.C. highways department, is leaving an Edmonton firm to become associated with a group of paving consultants here.

Mr. McCallum resigned his position with the highways department in 1954 and became manager of General Construction Co. (Alberta) Limited. He joins the firm of Willis and Cunliffe engineering Limited.

DID YOU KNOW?
MANY OF THE BEST PARTIES ENJOY OUR DELICIOUS CHINESE FOOD!
Just Phone 3329
MELROSE CHOP SUEY

ONLY THE NEW ROYAL* GIVES YOU
Twin-Pak Ribbon Changer — comes rolled in 2 cases. Nothing to wind or thread. Lift out old Twin-Pak, drop in new one.
Two-Tone Colours: Cameo Pink, Sea Blue, Willow Green, Sandstone, Pearl Grey.



Royal's New Brilliant Action makes all typing easier. Lightning carriage return, fast, comfortable keys. Easy Out Cylinder.
Call Us for Free Trial in Your Office.
*Reg'd Trade Mark
PRINCE RUPERT DAILY NEWS
Phone 6767

BINGO TONIGHT AT THE CIVIC CENTRE

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Traffic Patrol Officer Will Be On Patrol Effective Saturday, February 6th, 1960, To Enforce Parking Regulations As Outlined By City Of Prince Rupert Bylaw No. 1342 And Amendments Thereto. Copies Of The Bylaw Are Available At The City Clerk's Office, City Hall.

CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT