NILE RIVER SIREN, Cleopatra, (left) is one of the major figures in the Royal London Wax Museum in Victoria, recently opened by John Steele, ex-Prince Rupert school principal. Centre is Julius Caesar, the first of Cleopatra's Roman suitors, and on the right an Egyptian serving maid. The Queen of Egypt is more noted for her boating trips with Marc Antony, who succeeded the Caesar in her affections. — Photo by Gladys Blyth

ROYAL LONDON WAX MUSEUM

Historic figures live again in colorful Tussaud tableaux

By GLADYS BLYTH

A ship's wheel, coils of rope, decking and even a small water barrel have been lifted from the pages of present day British Columbia shipping history to be fashioned as an integral link in a portrayal of those "Heroes of the Sea" associated with the discovery of America, one of the many cleverly arranged grouping in the Royal London Wax Museum of Victoria.

The scene, using the ship's wheel from the former Union Steamship Company's passenger vessel SS Cardena as its centrepiece has the figures of Captain George Vancouver, a man who figures prominently in British Columbia's earliest history; Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of America; John Cabot who was rewarded 10 pounds for his discovery of North America in 1497, and Captain James Cook, Britain's greatest maritime explorer and the first white visitor to Vancouver Island. With them is Admiral Viscount Nelson of British naval fame.

The Royal London Wax Museum, an arresting venture containing 60 notable figures, both ancient and modern, is being promoted by former Port Edward and Prince Rupert school principal John Steele. In a partnership with William P. Enman, a retired Lethbridge and Calgary lumberman, Mr. Steele is the operating manager and Enman president of the company.

Four scenes of royalty are displayed. King Henry VIII, George III and Queen Elizabeth I are classified under Great British Monarchs. Adjacent is the figure of Charles I and his court painter, Sir Anthony Van Dyck, at the latter's studio in Blackfriars, London. The present British Royal Family in a setting of scarlet brilliance is arranged in simple grace with the Queen seated, while the others are positioned standing singly or in pairs. On the Queen's right is the Queen Mother Elizabeth, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and aside is the Duke of Windsor. On her left is Prince Philip in naval attire, and Princess Margaret with her husband Antony Armstrong-Jones. The fourth scene is of Queen Victoria at Balmoral with Prime Minister Disraeli.

Other notables in single tableau, are David Crockett of American folk lore wearing his coonskin cap; Adolf Hitler behind bars; Pope John XXIII; Joan of Arc who burned at the stake in the market-place of Rouen in 1412; and Babe Ruth, forever the "Sultan of Swat," to every hopeful in any amateur league.

There is Napoleon Bonaparte, looking startingly small of stature, with his wife, Josephine; Julius Caesar presenting a ring to Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, under the watchful eye of a servant girl; Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing on the summit of the world's highest mountain.

The display of Great Architects portrays George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Sir James Douglas, Leonardo de Vinci, Madame Tussaud, Johann Sebastian Bach and Mohandas K. Gandhi, each one an architect in the field in history he represents.

An inspiring scene is the Garden of Literature. Seven great writers who have entertained the world by the magic of their pens are positioned in a rose garden. Charles Dickens looking very real; Hans Christian Anderson, the King of Fairy Tale; Robert Burns with a mouse in hand; Kipling, Mark Twain, G. B. Shaw, and the controversial Voltaire.

The leaders of the United Nations are grouped in a setting of ruins from the Second World War. Winston Churchill, King George VI, Montgomery of Alamein, de Gaulle, Roosevelt and Stalin, they are all there together, a poignant reminder of those grim times.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker, Harold Macmillan, President Kennedy, Eisenhower, Nasser and Premier Khrushchev, the world's present leaders, are shown together as if posing for a photographer.

One scene stands alone, quite aside from the others. It shows a dungeon torture used before the days of Christ and is called the Algerian Hook. The victim is suspended by a large hook through his abdomen and left to die. It is said that some recovered from it.

Long searchings for authentic articles of furniture and equipment were spent by Mr. Steele and his wife Ruby, in their attempt to make each presentation fit into its period. Mrs. Steele, who is the only one on the staff trained in the handling of wax figures, designed and made the cushions in the Cleopatra scene as well as the medieval fourteenth century page boy costumes worn by the page girls on the staff at the museum.

The SS Cardena from which the ship's wheel, ropes and decking were taken to give detail to the naval scene in the museum, was retired from her years of long colorful service on the B.C. coast in 1959. She was towed to Victoria where she is presently being scrapped.

Anti-freeze cocktail thought cause of north power failure

By ARCH MacKENZIE
Canadian Press Staff Writer

NORMAN WELLS, N.W.T. (CP)—Who drank the antifreeze from the school's heating system?

Perhaps no one. But suspicions rise easily in this frontier land.

The facts are that when the power failed in this oil-refinery camp on the MacKenzie River, the new school's heating system froze up and buckled. Investigation showed the anti - freeze liquid in the pipes was well diluted. Officials immediately figured that someone had drawn off a cocktail or two.

It would be the basest canard to imply that everybody north of the 60th parallel — southern boundary of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon — hits the bottle. But there are signs that the traditional affinity of alcohol for new frontiers persists here.

MINISTER'S JEST

It was Northern Affairs Minister Dinsdale, a teetotaller, who jested on a recent trip along the MacKenzie that new schools and new liquor stores seemed to be community features.

There are also four cocktail lounges—one at Fort Smith on the Alberta boundary, two at Yellowknife and one—the most northerly in Canada—at Inuvik on the Mackenzie delta, 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Liquor remains the largest single source of income for the Northwest Territories government, but figures can be misleading. For one thing, the territorial government has few sources of revenue, and that makes liquor bulk larger. For another, both handling costs and prices run high — 70 cents a pint for beer and 95 cents for a shot of over-proof rum at the neat little Inuvik bar.

Gross take from sales, licences and liquor permits in the fiscal year 1959-60 was $1,601,000, or $73 for every man, woman and child in the total population of 22,000. The net income was less than half that, $642,000.

Then there are the unofficial sources of supply, aside from the brews that people in various regions concoct. There are reports of whole cases of liquor which contained nothing but water on arrival.

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This advertisement is not published or displayed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Stars funeral to be held today

HOLLYWOOD — Gary Cooper will be buried today, and many a movie fan throughout the world will feel like shedding a tear — they always do when the goods guys go.

More than 100 policemen were assigned to handle a crowd expected in the thousands. The public will not be admitted to the Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills.

The 505 - seat church won't even hold all of Cooper's personal friends. No man was a stranger to "Coop."

His wife, fearful of riotous Hollywood funerals of the past, asked the public to grant the 60-year-old star a dignified funeral.

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HELSINKI — Foreign Minister Ralf Toerngren, died Monday night in Turku, western Finland. He was 62 and had suffered for years from high blood pressure.

Toerngren had been a member of the Finnish Parliament since 1936. He had taken part in most Finnish governments since the Second World War, serving as foreign minister, minister for social affairs and once as premier.

✣ ✣ ✣

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Portuguese Gen. Humberto Delgado said Monday a government in exile soon will be set up in Europe or Africa with the aim of toppling Premier Antonio Salazar. Delgado, who is in exile himself, declined to give details during an interview.

✣ ✣ ✣

SYDNEY, Australia—The parents of an Australian electrician who claims he was fired from his job in the Canadian Arctic for "fraternizing" with an Eskimo girl said today they would welcome her into the family.

The mother of 28 - year -old Terrence Whitfield said he had written that he wanted to marry the girl, Ann Witaltuk, 25.

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BUFFALO — George W. Cornell of The Associated Press, the first national wire service reporter to specialize in religious news, has won the James O. Supple Memorial award for religious news reporting. The Supple award is named for the Chicago-Sun-Times religion writer who was killed in a plane crash near Hong Kong in 1950 while en route to Korea as a war correspondent.

NEW STAMP — A special five-cent stamp will be issued in June to mark the 10th anniversary of the Colombo Plan. The design, blue on a background of light brown, shows two men looking towards a hydro dam. One is in western garb and the other is in a turban and tropical clothing and holding a blueprint. — CP Photo

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