$1,200,000 addition planned for hospital

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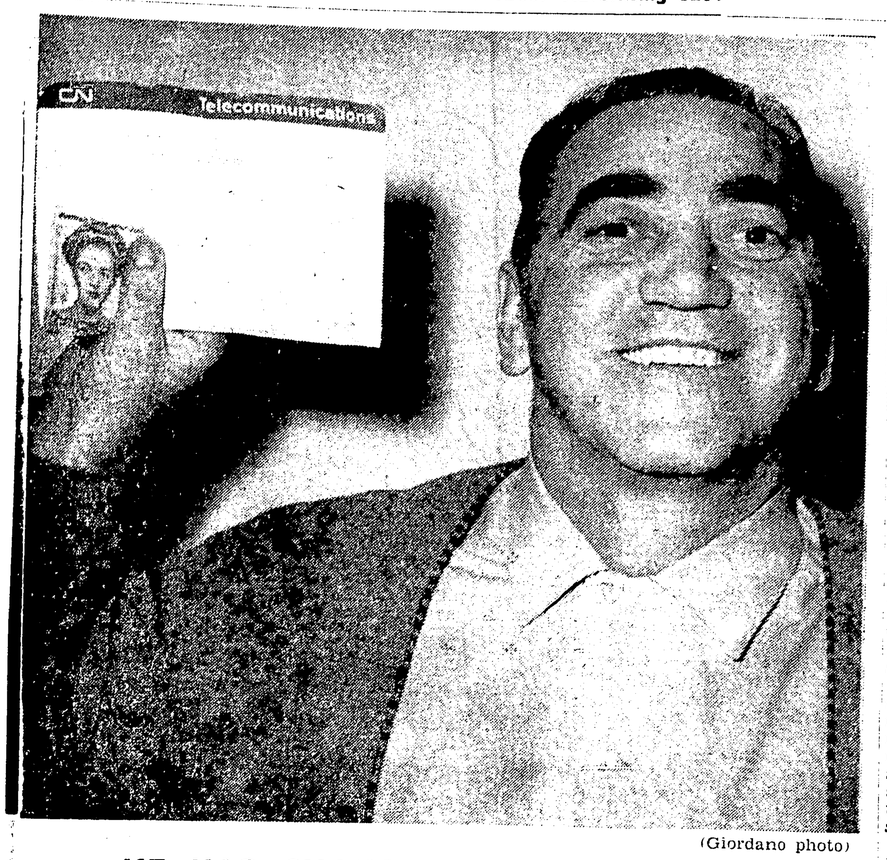

(Giordano photo)

HE HAS CHANCE TO WIN FORTUNE

Keeping his fingers crossed for luck in tomorrow's running of the Grand National steeplechase at Aintree, England, is Norman Cronk, above, of Prince Rupert, who holds an Irish sweepstakes ticket on Dandy Tim. He holds telegram announcing his ticket had been drawn, for first time in 30 years he has bought tickets. About 45 horses are expected to go to the post. There will be 22 first prizes of 50,000 pounds, 22 second-place prizes of 20,000 pounds and 22 prizes of 10,000 pounds for third place.

Four ships chartered to search for natural gas, oil off coast

To work north to Rupert area

A four-month search for natural gas and oil off the coast of British Columbia including the Prince Rupert area was announced Thursday by William L. Grossman, exploration manager for Shell Oil Company of Canada Limited, The Canadian Press reported today.

In a statement in Calgary, Mr. Grossman said the hunt, "for possible oil or gas-bearing structures," will be carried out by a fleet of four chartered ships.

The search will begin at the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, near the United States border, in April, and will move northward up the west coast of Vancouver Island, through Hecate Strait and on up the coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands, ending next August off Prince Rupert.

The search will cover a 40-mile-wide band and will take in 11,500,000 underwater acres on which Shell has acquired exploration parmits.

"Any future program will largely be based on the company's findings this summer," the announcement said.

There will be 30 to 35 Shell technicians, in addition to the crews aboard the 100-foot vessels.

A large part of the off-shore program will involve the use of a "gas-exploder" technique to provide a record of subsea formations. In areas where more detailed exploration work is indicated, the basic program will be supplemented by conventional seismic work with explosives.

The company statement said the gas technique makes use of a contained explosion which will not affect fish.

Department observers will accompany the operation with authority to alter the program or impose further restrictios "if it is felt such action is necessary to protect marine life."

"The gas exploder method, which involves the explosion of oxygen and acetylene in a closed rubber tube, provides a limited source of signal energy and records to only a limited depth.

"To get information from deeper levels, uncontained explosives will be lowered about four feet into the water and detonated to provide a stronger energy source."

Double-corridor wing slated for hospital

Plans are in the making for a $1,200,000 building addition and renovation program to the Prince Rupert General Hospital.

Board Chairman E. A. Williamson told the 53rd annual association meeting Thursday night that proposed plans call for the construction of a new wing at the west end of the hosp tal, of double corridor design.

The new wing, Mr. Williamson said, will contain new operating rooms, delivery rooms, nursery, maternity beds, surgical beds, recovery room, central sterile supply, morgue and autopsy area, emergency room, administration, elevators and central stores.

Mr. Williamson said in his annual report that what is now the doctor's parking area will be used for a proposed building to contain new dietary department, laundry and maintenance shop.

He said the existing building will be devoted to enlarged medical and pediatric units, x-ray, laboratry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, medical records and library, doctor's room, lecture and demonstration room and cafeteria.

The proposed plan would result in an increase from 88 rated beds and 12 bassinets to 137 beds and 16 bassinets plus an unfinished area for further accommodation.

"Preliminary architect's estimates place the cost at approximately $1,200,000, indeed a substantial amount, but you will agree I am sure that such a program to bring the residents of Prince Rupert and area a modern and adequate sized hospital is overdue," said the chairman.

Mr. Williamson, who was again elected chairman of the board at last night's meeting, said financing of the scheme will be largely through government grants, both provincial and federal, "but quite rightly in the interests of local autonomy, these levels of senior government have left a portion of the financing of hospital construction a community responsibility.

"When the plans have been approved by the responsible authorities in Victoria and Ottawa and more definite estimates of costs and available grants are determined and prior to the commencement of any construction, it will be our responsibility to enlist the financial support of our community."

PLANE MISSING EN ROUTE HERE

VANCOUVER (CP) — Three RCAF planes today began a search for a small plane missing since Thursday night on a flight from Vancouver to Bella Coola and Prince Rupert.

Richard Hanson of Vancouver was believed the only person aboard the aircraft when it left here at 2:50 p.m.

The air-sea search operations are being conducted in the area between Vancouver and Bella Coola.

Coalition idea refuted by Pearson

By The Canadian Press

A new flurry of statements revolving around the possibility of another minority government being elected April 8 blew out of the election campaign Thursday.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker said at Port Credit, Ont., that the other three parties have lost hope of forming a majority administration and that his Progressive Conservative party now is the only one determined to win.

He cited published report—he did not identify it—that Liberal Leader Pearson was thinking privately of coalition with the Conservatives if neither party won a majority.

He made the assertion after Mr. Pearson had issued a statement at Edmonton saying:

"There is absolutely no truth that the Liberal party or I, as its leader, would support or even contemplate a coalition with the Conservative party.

"These reports appear to be a last-ditch move to confuse the electorate and thereby save the Conservative party from total defeat."

Japan decries "delay" over halibut issue

TOKYO (AP)—Japan made a formal protest to Canada today decrying the delay in approving a recommendation to allow Japan to take halibut in the East Bering Sea, it was reported. The Japanese press quoted foreign office sources as saying the protest note was handed the Canadian government through Japanese ambassador Nobuhiko Ushiba at Ottawa.

The reports said the Japanese government made the protest because Canada failed to accept by March 25 the North Pacific Fisheries Commission's recommendation that the Japanese be permitted to take halibut in the East Bering Sea, which has been reserved exclusively for Canada and the United States. The fishing season opened March 25.

The United States has aleady approved the Commission's recommendation but Prime Minister Diefenbaker has said Canada will not give its approval until a "full investigation" is made.

Japan's note expressed regret that Canada failed to respect the spirit of the International North Pacific Fishery Convention which binds Canada, the United States and Japan to conserve fishery resources on an equal footing, the reports said.

VANCOUVER (CP)—A spokesman for The United Fishermen and Allied Workers (Ind.) said Thursday External Affairs Minister Green has promised Canada will not sign immediately the North Pacific Fisheries Commission recommendation extending Japanese fishing rights.

Later UFAWU secretary Homer Stevens accused the U.S. state department of putting pressure on the Canadian government to immediately ratify the recommendation giving the Japanese the right to fish halibut in the Eastern Bering Sea.

Taku to take place of Malaspina in preparation for inaugural run

Second ship to go into service on the new Alaska Marine Highway between Prince Rupert and southeastern Alaska ports will go into service April 11.

This was revealed today by Richard A. Berg of Juneau, transportation specialist with the state of Alaska's department of economic development and planning, who breezed into town to lay the way for preparations for the system's inaugural voyage April 27.

Malaspina will be taken off service when Taku glides into her place, and will be spruced up for the inaugural voyage.

Berg arrived on the Malaspina this morning in a trip delayed six hours because of stormy weather in the north. He left before noon for Seattle, after talks with city officials on Prince Rupert's plans for celebrations in connection with the official inaugural run.

"All the cities along the Marine Highway route are enthusiastic, and taking a lot of trouble to see that people are shown around on the inaugural cruise," he said.

Major news syndicates, film producers such as those of Movietone News, Time, Life, the National Geographic, all big newspapers across the United States and Canada, are being invited to have representatives aboard.

Also invited to join Alaska Governor William Egan and his party are Premier W. A. C. Bennett and his cabinet, the Commissioner of the Yukon, and other government officials.

"We hope to acquaint people with what the ferry system is all about, and of course, Prince Rupert, as the treminus city, will have a large share in that," Berg said.

Marine Highway travellers, he said, will be spending more time in Prince Rupert than in any other port of call on the route.

PUBLICITY

He predicted that a lot of words about Prince Rupert will appear in newspapers and magazines as a result of the trip. "The writers will be expressing their opinions in many ways and media," he said, commenting on the chance the inauguration will give Rupert in publicity.

This city, he pointed out, has one of the "nicest settings" of all the Marine Highway towns.

Type of celebration will depend partly on how long Malaspina will be here before leaving at 9 a.m. April 27. The city has authorized spending of up to $1,000 on the big fete locally.

Shooting adds to tension over Cuba

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Kennedy called the executive committee of the National Security Council into session today amid a new wave of tension over Cuba.

The inner strategy group, formed during last fall's Cuban crisis, was faced with these developments:

1. Thursday night's report by a U.S. vessel that two Russian-built MiGs shot at it in international waters off Cuba's north coast. The 4,600-ton ship, the Floridian, unhit, sailed on toward Miami under air escort.

2. The withdrawal of Soviet soldiers from Cuba, which the United States deems disappointingly slow. Latest U.S. estimates place 13,000 to 14,000 Russian military personnel still on the island.

3. Hit-and-run raids by anti-Castro exiles, which Washington fears could make the Carribbean situation worse.

The United States asked Cuba today for a full report on the MiGs firing shots across the bow and stern of the merchant ship Floridian. It was the second incident of its kind reported in a month.

BUDGET CUT

VANCOUVE (CP)—An estimated $1,500,000 has been slashed from Vancouver's 1963 budget, reducing anticipated tax increases to about nine from 15 per cent.

Crash victim in hospital at Fairbanks

WHITEHORSE, Y.T. (CP) — The story of Helen Klaben and Ralph Flores began its last chapter today as Miss Klaben rested in a Fairbanks hospital and Flores recounted his experiences to his wife, Theresa, who arrived Thursday.

Miss Klaben was reunited with her brother, Arthur, and his wife here Thursday. All flew to Fairbanks, where doctors said the girl would not have to undergo immediate surgery on her injured right foot.

Dr. John Weston said that if the frost-bitten toes of her right foot are amputated, surgery will take place at the Columbia Medical Centre in New York.

Miss Klaben, a 21-year-old office worker from Brooklyn who survived seven weeks in dense northern bushland following a plane crash, left here in a wheel chair, her foot swathed in bandages.

Saturn booster holds U.S. hopes

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — The United State's Saturn booster may soon overtake the Russian lead in rocket power in a move which have a significant bearing on the race to the moon.

Although Saturn still is in the experimental stage, it may within six months score a great propellant breakthrough and at the same time toss a 33,000-pound sattelite into orbit - more than doubling the weight of the largest Russian satellite sent up to date.

Daily smile

There's a new car for women drivers. The fenders are on the inside.

4 dead in fire

BOSTON (AP) — A general alarm fire swept through upper floors of the Sherry Biltmore Hotel early today. There were four known dead, two men and two women, all unidentified. Firemen carried some 75 persons down ladders set up on three sides of the 350 - room building.

Indian guide with eyes "like hawk's" saw SOS

WHITEHORSE, Y.T. (CP) — An Indian guide and trapper with "eyes like a hawk" still doesn't know he was responsible for saving the lives of Helen Klaben and Ralph Flores.

And he probably won't know for several months.

Frank George, 32, used his hawk-like eyes in spotting an "SOS" tramped out in the snow by Flores near a crashed plane in northern B.C., it was disclosed today.

Don Taylor, Yukon district legislature member for Watson Lake, said in an interview here that George was the first person to spot the SOS.

Now somewhere in rugged mountain country south of the area where Miss Klaben and Flores were rescued from their crashed plane, George was a passenger in a plane piloted by Chuck Hamilton last Sunday.

"George has eyes like a hawk . . . He can spot the ear of a moose half a mile off," said Mr. Taylor.

Rupert Rambles

Beware this Monday, for it's **April Fool's Day**, when it's considered proper to play harmless jokes on one's friends. All Fools Day, according to those who know about such things, can be traced to an old custom in France of paying formal calls on April 1 one week after New Year's Day, according to the Julian calendar. In 1562 when the old calendar was replaced by the Gregorian, mock calls continued to be paid on April 1 as a joke.

✤ ✤ ✤

Part of the entertainment during the banquet of the women's bonspiel is a beatnik routine. At one point, **Betty Dahl** will recite a poem while **Donna Sylvester** is performing a ballet routine at the back of the stage. Thespian Dahl profferred the following advice to thespian Sylvester: "Donna, please don't do your **ballistics** while I'm reciting my poem."

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Satellite sightings at 9:40 and 11:40 last night were reported today by **Pat Rogers** of Port Edward. "It was a clear night," he says, "and you could see the satellite very well." It appeared to be travelling north to south.

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PROPOSED EXTENSION WILL INCREASE HOSPITAL BEDS

Here is architect's drawing of the $1,200,000 addition and renovation program for Prince Rupert General Hospital, including envisaged construction of a new wing at the west end of the hospital viewed from Fifth Avenue. Birley and Wagg of Victoria are architects. The plan would increase hospital rated accommodation from 88 beds and 12 bassinets to 137 beds and 16 bassinets plus an unfinished area.

PC candidate here tomorrow

Ron Jephson, Progressive Conservative party candidate for Skeena riding in the April 8 federal general election, will be in Prince Rupert all day tomorrow on campaign business.

Besides visiting residents, he will be available for discussions tomorrow afternoon from 2 to 5 at the Civic Centre common lounge. Coffee will be served.

WEATHER

Cloudy with rain or snow showers today and Saturday. Not much change in temperature. Winds southerly 15 at times 25, gusty in showers. Low tonight and high Saturday 32 and 42.

Daily News Readings

Temperature at noon 64
Barometer, ... 29.03 steady

TIDES

Saturday, March 30, 1963
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	04:41	21.1 feet
	17:35	18.0 feet
Low	11:58	3.5 feet
	23:26	7.4 feet