Aussie food festival coming to B.C. soon

VANCOUVER (CP) — A 10-day Australian food festival sweeps into British Columbia next Thursday.

It's a promotion intended to make money and establish a solid B.C. market for Australian products. As a side-effect it is expected to establish a blue-print for similar schemes elsewhere in Canada.

Some care has been taken to conceal the product volume of the festival.

"Many hundreds of thousands of dollars," says Duncan McPhee, Australian commissioner in Vancouver. "Thousands of tons."

It is disclosed, however, that about 20 large Australian exports are involved, based from West Australia through to Queensland. Sixteen importers are handling their products and distributing to 856 retail outlets in the province, which include stores in every food chain.

KEY PRODUCTS

Boomerangs, toy koala bears and toy kangaroos are just part of a vast assortment of at-site come-on material distributed to the outlets.

The key products on sale will be such dried fruits as currants, raisins, sultanas, apricots; such canned meats as corned beef, stew beef and gravy; canned peaches, pears, apricots and pineapple.

Exporters also are sending gelatine, lobster tails, marmalades, chutney, oysters, honey, mustard, turtle soup and fresh grapes, apples and oranges.

Queen Mother touring France

TOURS, France (Reuters) — Britain's Queen Mother Elizabeth left the Chateau d'Artigny today, for the Abbey of Fontevrault where some former kings of England are buried. It was the second full day of her four-day tour of the Loire Chateau-country.

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(AP wirephoto)

OIL FIRE ROARS SKYWARD

Fire from 9,000 gallons of gasoline boils skyward on a Detroit freeway after the truck's cargo burst into flames after a tire failure. The driver spotted the fire in his rear view mirror and jumped to safety. Traffic was delayed for hours and the truck was a total loss.

Bugs Bunny creator now retired in Fraser Valley

HANEY, B.C. (CP) — The father of Bugs Bunny lives in quiet retirement in this Fraser Valley community, still getting an occasional chuckle from watching some of his famous brain-children on television.

Charles Thorson now is 72 and has long since put his cartooning days behind him.

From his fertile imagination came such well-known characters as Little Hiawatha, The Lad yKnown as Loo, Elmer the Elephant, Toughie the Tiger, Sniffles the Mouse and many others. He also was part of the team which created Walt Disney's Seven Dwarfs.

Mr. Thorson's cartooning career started shortly after 1935 when he quit a Winnipeg photo-engraving firm and headed for Hollywood with samples of his cartoon work.

He stopped at the Disney studios where he was offered a two-year contract to create character models for animated cartoons.

The contract began a happy association between Mr. Thorson, Walt Disney and other studios.

Mr. Thorson never attended art school, nor did he take any formal training in art. He says that drawing cartoons seemed to come naturally to him.

One of his brothers is Mr. Justice J. T. Thorson, head of the Exchequer Court of Canada.

IWA planning strike vote

PIRTLAND (AP) — The head of the International Woodworkers of America announced Thursday that a strike vote had been authorized to back up the union's demands for a wage increase.

Earlier this week, negotiators for the 30,000 - member union opened contract talks with west coast United States lumber employers. The union is asking a 40 - cent hourly wage increase spread over three years plus other benefits including travel time for loggers.

B.C. Briefs

$52,000 DAMAGES

VANCOUVER (CP) — John Templeton, 42-year-old shingle mill worker, has been awarded a total of almost $52,000 damages for serious back injuries suffered in identical traffic accidents last year when his car was each time hit from behind by another vehicle.

TO ENLARGE PROGRAM

NANAIMO (CP) — Nanaimo school district trustees are examining plans for increasing facilities for occupational instruction and may also enter the kindergarten field.

STRIKE AVERTED

NORTH VANCOUVER (CP) — An 11th-hour settlement has averted a threatened strike by 51 members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union at a chemical plant here. Under a two-year agreement retroactive to last November the men will get a 20-cent, across-the-board increase on rates ranging from $2.09 to $2.89 an hour.

APPEALS DISMISSED

VANCOUVER (CP) — The B.C. Appeal Court has rejected an appeal by two Vancouver area dairies, Hillside Farm Dairy Limited and Hay Brothers Farms Limited against adjustment payments of almost $36,000 claimed by the B.C. milk board. The Supreme Court made the award to the board.

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