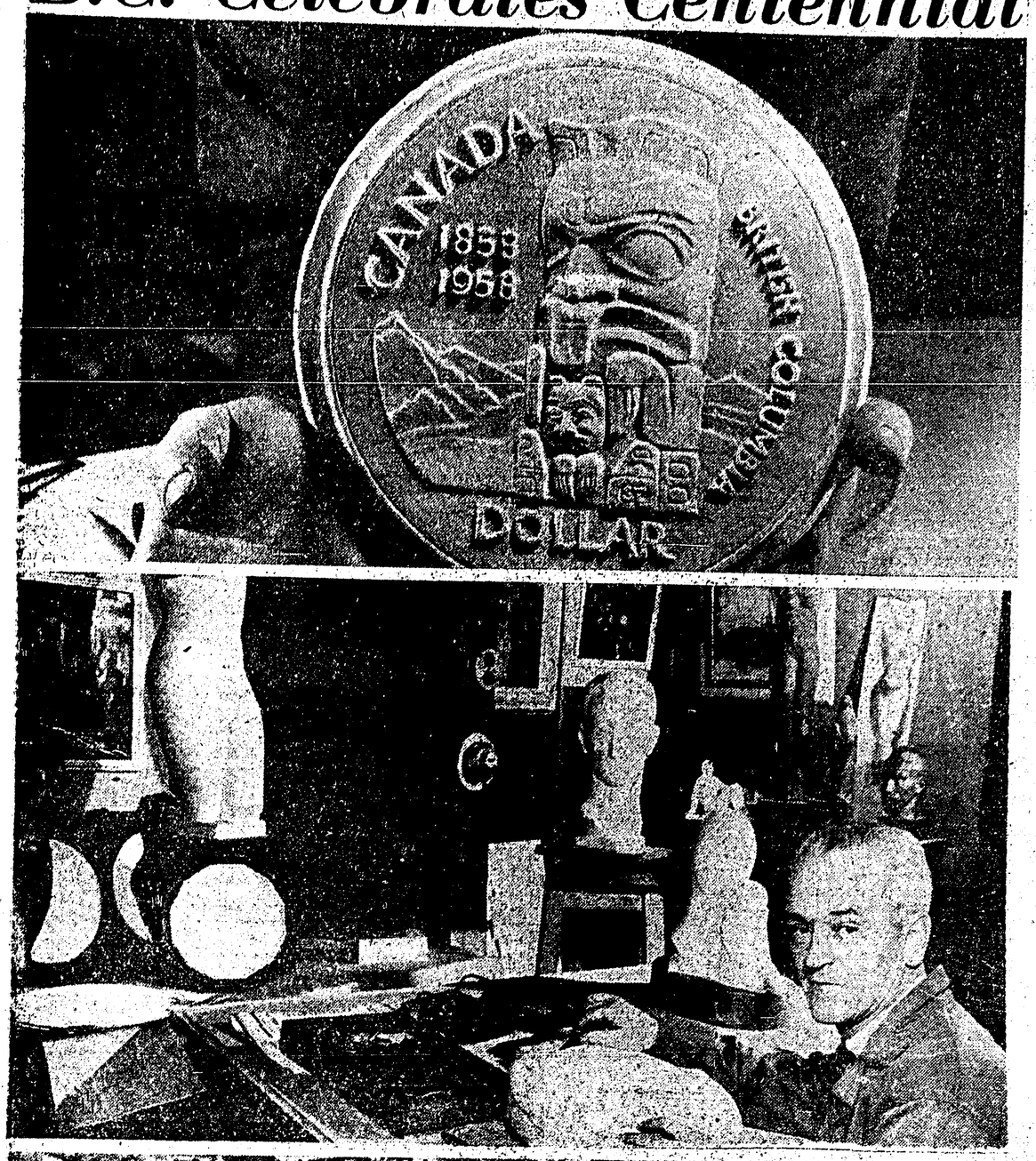
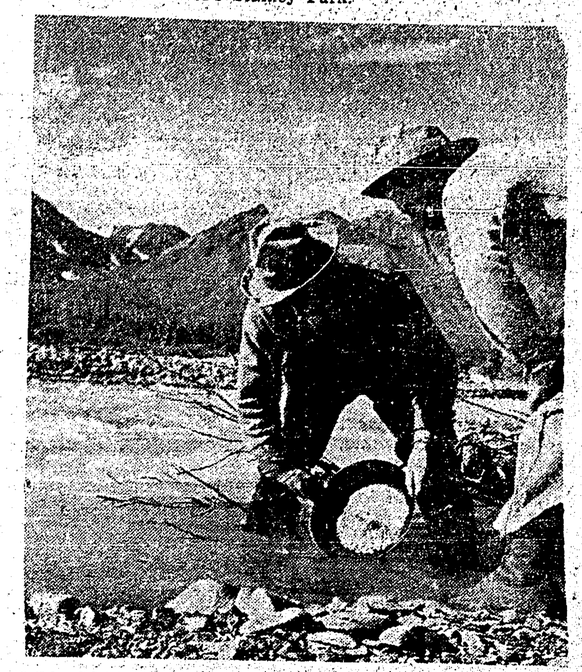
100 Years Old and Still Growing!

B.C. Celebrates Centennial



BRITISH COLUMBIA'S Centennial celebrations are well under way and silver dollars of the type shown above were issued by the Canadian Mint to commemorate the 100th birthday of the province. Prince Rupert's B.C. Centennial committee will present pioneers of this city with silver dollars on "Home-Coming Day" during the city's Centennial Potlatch July 25 to August 2. Plaster mould of award-winning design in top photo features a totem pole against a stylized background of B.C.'s mountains. The design of the silver dollar was the work of Stephen Trenka, of Thornhill, Ont., and was chosen from 150 entries. Mr. Trenka, shown in middle picture, above, was born in Budapest. He came to Canada in 1929 and since he completed his studies at the Ontario College of Art, his works have won acclaim at many national and international exhibitions. Bottom photo shows Victoria, B.C.'s capital city which 100 years ago was the busy hub for activities of miners setting out on the feverish quest for gold. Its natural harbor, easily accessible and ice-free the year round, made the town, in those days, a popular point of entry for prospectors. The town previously had depended largely on the fur trade. —National Film Board of Canada photos.

THE TOTEM MOTIF was a logical choice for B.C.'s commemorative dollar, for these carvings by British Columbia's Indians have become synonymous with Canada's West Coast. Above, tourists in Vancouver's Stanley Park.



B.C.'s COLORFUL Gold Rush of '58, which started in the Cariboo area of the Fraser river, attracted prospectors by the thousands and first opened the interior of the country to settlement. Placer gold is still mined today.

B.C.'s naturalization laws pre-dated Conference

VICTORIA—British Columbia had its own naturalization laws in the years before Confederation.

Before Vancouver Island became united with the mainland colony in 1866, a naturalized citizen on the Island was still an alien in British Columbia and vice versa.

This situation is one of the interesting aspects of B.C. history, presented in "The Story of Citizenship in British Columbia"—a dramatization for Citizenship Day on July 1, 1958.

The script has been published by the B.C. Centennial Committee, in co-operation with the Provincial Archives.

Written by Poppy McKenzie of West Vancouver, "The Story of Citizenship in British Columbia" was based on research conducted by A. J. Arnold, chairman for the Centennial Ethnic Groups and provincial organization sub-committee.

It is a documentary based on events in B.C. history, surrounding the introduction of the first naturalization laws and the first people to become naturalized citizens.

The script has been distributed to committees throughout the province for suggested use as the highlights of Citizenship Day programs next July 1.

Leading characters in the script are the first governor of British Columbia, Sir James Douglas, and the colorful Amor de Cosmos.

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Royal engineers' descendants invited to RCSME museum rites

VICTORIA— Descendants of the Royal Engineers, who were among the architects of British Columbia's birth, will be guests of honor at the time of opening the Royal Engineers' Centennial Museum at RCSMS Camp Chilliwack in June.

The original Royal Engineers were a picked body of 165 officers and men, selected from volunteers of every trade, profession and calling. Thy were sent here to aid Governor Sir James Douglas in 1858 when the Fraser Gold Rush suddenly brought more than 30,000 people to the area. He needed them for strictly military duties only twice—a trivial affair at Yale and action in the San Juan Island dispute.

But the group, under Col. Richard Clement Moody, did much more.

They laid out all the main roads, pioneering all the main routes into the interior—like the road from Hope into the Similkameen and the Cariboo road, made necessary by gold discoveries.

About 130 of the engineers chose to stay in the colony when recall orders were issued from London in 1863. They settled down to farm and practise their building trades in B.C. and a few drifted down to Washington and California.

The Royal Engineers Museum is located at Camp Chilliwack in the village of Vedder Crossing, four and one-half miles south of the City of Chilliwack.

History on view

VICTORIA—A full history of the art of British Columbia, from earliest paintings and carvings to contemporary work, will be exhibited by the Vancouver Art Gallery from June 10 to August 31.

The exhibition will be the Art Gallery's major part in the celebrations of British Columbia's 100th birthday.

Gallery officials said the show, on the entire main floor of the building, will be divided into six sections.

This month merriest May ever marked in history of 100-year old province

Special to The Daily News

VICTORIA—This is the merriest month of May British Columbia has ever had.

Never in the past 100 years has there been a May so shock full of opportunities to play—well over 200 centennial celebrations across the province.

The month started and will end with large scale productions, and a lot of meat is sandwiched between.

The big B.C. International Trade Fair started in Vancouver May 1 and ends Saturday. Some 45 countries are exhibiting the products they make best, from sports cars to women's fashions.

At the tail end of the month, the Fraser Brigade, probably the biggest spectacular of the year begins at Prince George. This will be May 28, when men in three Indian canoes start a six-week trip down the historic, and turbulent Fraser River, in a faithful re-enactment, accompanied by great welcoming celebrations at points along the way, of explorer Simon Fraser's first trip down it in 1808.

The historic caravans started on four May 1. They are two big vans bearing historical treasures and exhibits from the provincial archives.

Another celebrations event in the grand scale, the stage coach run from Victoria to storied Barkerville, started yesterday. Victoria riding clubs banded together for a massive torchlight parade and stage coach ball Wednesday. Yesterday the stage left after a colorful send-off from the Legislative Building steps.

Welcoming celebrations—including mock holdups, shootings and hangings and very authentic beef barbecues—will be held at points along the way to the ghost town that once was the flourishing, brawling centre of the gold rush.

Ancient gas buggies will chug away from Fernie May 16 on a 700-mile, six-day vintage car run to Victoria. Awards for condition, performance, best-of-class and successful completion of the route will be at stake in the run, one of the longest and most difficult attempted anywhere by such aging cars.

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra will visit various centres in the Okanagan and interior, bringing many of them their first live classical music.

Schools and community groups are staging centennial pageants, mainly the "From Wilderness to Wonderland" pageant provided by the B.C. Centennial Committee. May Queens will be crowned at scores of centres and Victoria Day celebrations are many and varied.

One of the most colorful will be the big Vancouver Island Indian Festival at Maple Bank Park on the Songhees Reserve near Victoria, where sports of all sorts will be mixed with tons of barbecued beef and salmon and Indian games.

Nanaimo had a memorial service May 3 and a playette recalling the 1887 mine explosion disaster. The National Ballet of Canada played in Trail last night. Port Alberni plans a Indian Potlatch May 18 and Clinton celebrates its 90th anniversary May 29 and 30.

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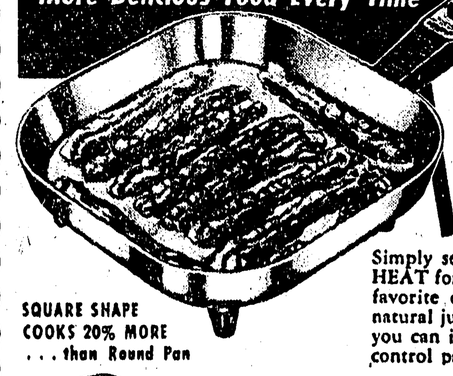

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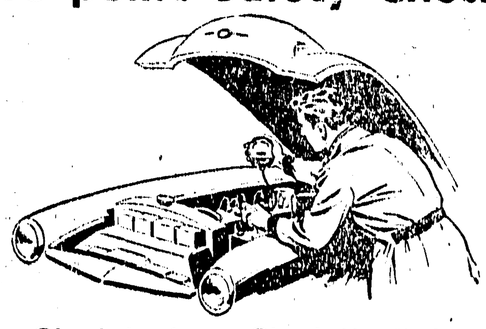

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