



OTTAWA TULIP FESTIVAL OPENS

Labor Minister Nicholson officially opened the Canadian Tulip Festival in the capital Saturday, following a parade led by members of the RCMP Musical Ride to the Garden of the Provinces, near Parliament Hill. The only problem was, the tulips were not cooperating. Enough flowers had been coaxed along to lend trappings to the ceremonies. But some of the coldest spring weather in memory held back blooming of the capital's estimated 1,000 tulips until about next weekend. (CP Wirephoto)

WORLD SPOTLIGHT

American Pilots Protest Dodging Targets At Hanoi

The AP World Spotlight reports this week on the big targets that U.S. bombers haven't hit in North Viet Nam, and on a diamond rush in equatorial Africa.

SAIGON (AP)—They call it "Dodge City." American pilots pin that label on Hanoi in protest against the policy decision that keeps them from attacking the North Vietnamese capital. Since continuous air raids on North Viet Nam began 15 months ago, American flyers have edged towards Hanoi and its port, Haiphong, pouring increasingly larger loads of explosives around them.

The supersonic jets could hardly come any closer without hitting the cities themselves. They've plastered missile sites 14 miles from Haiphong, and highway and railway bridges only a few more miles distant. Such attacks are called stabs at the country's industrial heartland, because most of North Viet Nam's industry lies either in or near the two cities.

POPULATION CENTRES
Hanoi and Haiphong are also the country's chief population centres, sitting astride the fertile Red River delta, the chief rice-growing area. Hanoi has a population of about 700,000, Haiphong 400,000.

The bulk of North Viet Nam's estimated 60 Soviet-built, anti-aircraft missile launchers ring Hanoi and Haiphong. Most of the MiGs of North Viet Nam's 75-plane air force are based at airfields in the area, with the principal base at Phuoc Yen, 20 miles northwest of Hanoi.

U.S. intelligence reports no large troop concentrations in or around Hanoi or Haiphong. However, Communist sources describe both cities as virtually garrison towns, with children evacuated to the countryside and workers at their jobs with guns nearby, ready for use. Appropriately, Haiphong means sea fortress in Vietnamese.

A week ago, a U.S. spokesman announced that nearly three weeks of persistent U.S. air attacks had cut all main supply routes from Hanoi to Haiphong, 60 miles east of the capital, and to China, 100 miles to the northeast at its nearest point. He said Hanoi's virtual isolation was confirmed by aerial photographs, showing destruction to bridges and high-

ways leading to Hanoi from four directions. "All these arteries can be bypassed," the spokesman said, "but I think it will slow down the movement of supplies. They will have to find some other means—by junks or barges."

BANGUI (AP)—Diamond fever has come to the Central African Republic, and the lucky prospectors have beer bottles to show for it. The Central African Republic, formerly part of French Equatorial Africa, just north of the Congo, is one of the world's poorest and least developed areas. Now it is in the grip of a diamond rush that has disrupted normal life in large areas. Tens of thousands of peasants have left their homes, stopped growing food, and abandoned their coffee and cotton plantations to burrow into the gravel of river beds, hoping for a diamond bonanza.

Thousands more have drifted in from as far away as Mauritania, Mali or Libya to dig or join the army of traders and middlemen profiting from the sudden wealth. The heart of the diamond fever is at Carnot, a once peaceful jungle village 200 miles west of Bangui, the capital. The frenzy is spreading to other areas, particularly a virgin forest region along the Sudanese border.

The diamond rush began in a big way two years ago, when the government abandoned an attempt to keep the gemstrade trade under state control.

EXPORTS BOOM
French, American and Israeli companies were authorized to set up purchasing offices. The country's diamond exports have multiplied tenfold since 1961 and last year exceeded \$14,000,000. In addition, millions of dollars worth of diamonds are almost half the total export trade. In addition, millions of dollars worth of diamonds are believed to be exported illegally to escape an 11-per-cent export tax.

In a country where more than 95 per cent of the population is illiterate and lives in primitive mud-brick huts far from any contact with urban civilization, the white man's eagerness for the transparent pebbles has created a new aristocracy. Beer bottle owners.

The diggers received only a small proportion of the value of their finds. But it is enough to make many rich by African standards, and much of their wealth goes on beer. A bottle of beer costs up to \$3 in the Carnot area and diggers proudly pile their empty bottles around their huts as a symbol of wealth and status. Excited prospectors have been known to trade a 10-carat diamond worth \$2,000 for a crate of beer.

Middlemen who buy the diamonds from the prospectors and sell them to the purchasing offices make the biggest profits. They are mostly Moslem traveling merchants from the fringe of the Sahara. Unlike the diggers, they know the value of the gems and sometimes haggle for days before parting with an unusually fine piece.

32 KILLED
QUITO, Ecuador (Reuters)—Fifty-one persons were killed and many injured by a landslide which buried a road workers camp about 30 miles west of Quito Saturday.

PIUSVILLE

Jacqueline Brown is a patient in the Western Hospital.

Yvonne Gallant, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lelore Gallant returned to her home following an appendix operation in the Community Hospital recently.

Mrs. Winston Coreoran and infant son returned home from the Western Hospital.

Mrs. Charles Runn was a patient in the Western Hospital. Jake Hardy, Rosebank, returned home following treatment in the Western Hospital.

Mrs. Delore Gallant and infant daughter returned home from the Community Hospital recently.

Tresa Stephens returned home after being a patient in the Community Hospital.

Angella Coreoran was a patient for a few days in the Charlottetown Hospital.

FIX DATE FOR TALKS

TOKYO (Reuters)—The fourth annual Canada-Japan ministerial consultations will be held in Ottawa Oct. 5 and 6, the foreign ministry announced Friday. It said the agenda and other details of the meeting would be decided after negotiations between the two governments.

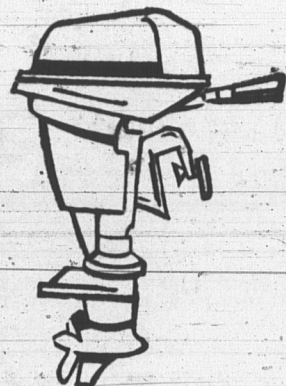


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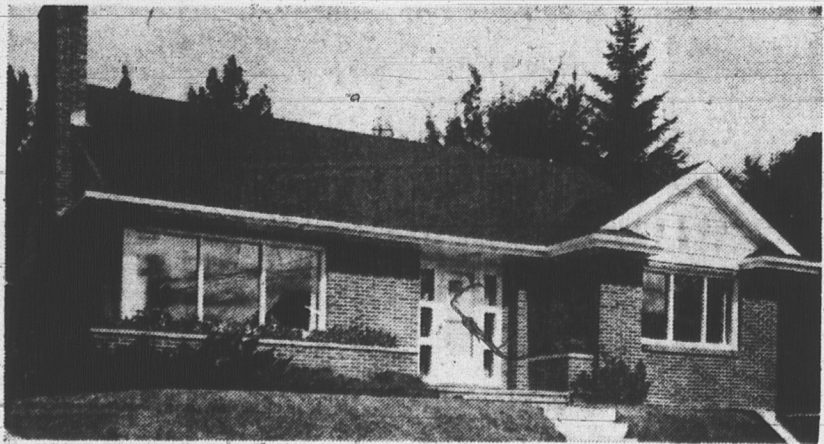
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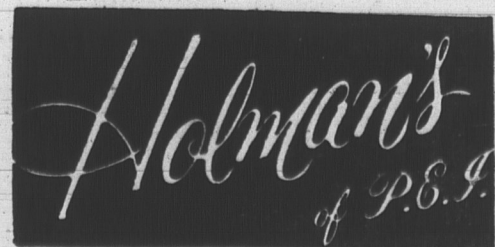
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