

# Women Drivers Placed on Convention Agenda

By FORBES RUDE  
 Canadian Press Business Editor

"Women at the wheel" will be the subject of a panel session at the annual convention of the Canadian Good Roads Association in Quebec, Oct. 25.

Advance material on the convention, issued from the association's headquarters in Ottawa says the objective of this panel will be to give women prominent in the field of highway safety an opportunity to report on what is being done to assist safety campaigns.

On the panel will be Senator Joale Quartz; Constable Jessie Melickich, Hamilton police department; Ethel McLellan, director of women's activities, Canadian Highway Safety Council; and as interrogators, two men—J. R. Humphrey, vice-president, All Canada Insurance Federation, and S. P. Swallow, director of service, Ford Motor Company of Canada.

**EXAMINE CITY PROBLEM**

Another panel topic with an intriguing title will be "The City: Automobile or Inmobility", which will examine what may be done to relieve congestion and shape the environment of Canadian cities.

The annual "roads roundup" will consist of a survey of road construction across Canada, given mostly by provincial deputy highway ministers.

Another full session will hear a report on a \$27,000,000 road rest completed in Quebec, United States, which experimented with flexible and rigid pavements.

A further session will hear from representatives of provincial roadbuilders' associations on construction developments and the problems of contractors.

Technical discussion will cover a wide range of matters of interest to road builders, including construction, maintenance, automatic signal systems, soils and materials, design, bridges and many others.

John Thompson, Manitoba's minister of municipal affairs and the association's president, will give the president's annual report at the opening session Oct. 2. Premier Lesage of Quebec will address the closing annual dinner Oct. 5.

Committee meetings will be held Oct. 1 and, preceding the convention, thirty-three senior representatives of federal, provincial and municipal governments will attend the second Canadian highway management seminar at Montmorency House near Quebec, Sept. 23-28. The first seminar was held last year at Banff.

During the convention there will be a display of Quebec handicrafts including hand-blown materials and ceramics.

# Fly-By-Night Operators Hit Home Owners In Canada

OTTAWA (CP)—Fly-by-night operators in the lucrative home improvement field are making a killing at the expense of unsuspecting Canadian home owners, says Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Vice-President P.S. Secord said the Crown-owned housing

agency has evidence suggesting that numerous Canadians are victimized every year.

Recently, however, the "sharp practices" appear to be on the increase, he said.

The total cost of home owners in dollars and inferior workmanship and materials could conservatively run into millions.

Reports filed a ring back to CMHC concern home repairs carried out under government-guaranteed bank loans. However, these loans represented only about 10 per cent of the total bill for residential repair, improvement and maintenance, which last year reached nearly \$500,000,000.

To the end of July this year CMHC asked the RCMP to investigate 300 home improvement loans—mostly on the assumption that slick operators seeking exorbitant profits were involved in the repairs.

Sharp operators are usually new to a community, said Mr. Secord.

"When they have 'milked' one town or a neighborhood of a large city they move to another, ranging from coast to coast. They operate anywhere they can make a fast buck.

"Usually the materials they use are inferior quality and the price is heavily marked up over that of regular suppliers in the community. They provide contract forms that appear to be fair and reasonable and offer terms that seem to be most attractive, at least on the surface.

The first rule to be followed by a home owner undertaking repairs or improvements should be: "Know the person or company with whom you plan to deal."

New local enterprises in the field should be investigated more carefully than established ones.

Another rule: Check the price asked for materials and labor on separate items, getting quotations from other businesses for comparison.

"Unusually attractive terms and profit-sharing arrangements should be suspect," said Mr. Secord.

Avoid oral agreement on anything affecting the work, advised the CMHC official, adding: "Get it in writing."



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# FAKE BOMB IS SHRUGGED OFF

STIRLING, Scotland (Reuters)—The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a crack Scottish regiment, has shrugged off a fake bomb incident in its headquarters in Stirling Castle.

Someone from a rival army unit hurled a paper-wrapped brick into an office in the heart of the fortress last week and escaped undetected.

Army cook Johnny Hardcastle, 34, was assigned the job as a test of "initiative" by the local engineers, his unit based at Marchwood in southern England, and he hitchhiked several hundred miles to throw the "bomb" into the pay sergeant's office.

A spokesman for the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders said Monday: "We were rather wrapped up in organizing our duties at the time and we could not give him as much attention. It's not difficult to get in. The castle gets many visitors. You pay your shilling and walk in."

Officers erroneously reported Monday that Stirling Castle is the headquarters of The Black Watch—another Scottish regiment which also trains in the castle—and that the "bomb" was thrown into the office of the commanding officer.

# Bounty Likely To Be Returned To Nova Scotia

HALIFAX (CP)—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has indicated the reproduction of the British warship Bounty will be returned to Nova Scotia once the studio is through with it, Victor Olund said here.

However, the situation has not progressed beyond this stage, said Mr. Olund, president of the brewery which has offered to underwrite the costs of returning the Bounty and operating it in Nova Scotia. The studio has indicated its plans but so far has not given a complete assurance.

The Bounty, built in Lunenburg, N.S., two years ago and used in the South Seas in the movie Mutiny on the Bounty, currently is in the midst of a North American publicity tour.

It is expected it will go to Europe and then return to New York later this fall for the film's premiere. At that time MGM will decide what to do with the vessel.

A committee of Nova Scotians has expressed interest in bringing the vessel to the province. Among their plans for it would be to use it as a floating restaurant.

Mr. Olund's brewery announced Monday it plans to build a reproduction of the racing schooner Bluenose for advertising and commercial purposes.

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