



CENTENNIAL Commissioner John Fisher sights a replica of Samuel de Champlain's astrolabe. Mr. Fisher is a supporter of efforts to have the original given to Canada by the New York Historical Library. Champlain lost his astrolabe at Muskrat Lake, on the Ottawa River, in 1613. It was found by loggers in 1867 and sold to a United States collector about 1913 for \$10. Efforts are being made to get it back by 1967, the centennial of Canadian Confederation. (CP Photo)

Champlain's Astrolabe Will Be Centennial Gift

By GERARD McNEIL
OTTAWA (CP)—An electronics firm here is trying to repatriate an old navigation device—the astrolabe Samuel de Champlain used in exploring Canada. It would be the company's gift to the country for the 1967 centennial year.

Computing Devices of Canada Ltd., which makes navigational and other instruments, adopted the Champlain astrolabe as its signature several years ago.

It is one of the 500 firms that belong to the Canadian Centennial Council, a private group carrying out a number of projects for 1967.

One of them is an attempt to have the astrolabe returned to Canada by the privately-owned New York Historical Library. The astrolabe, a crude forerunner of today's sextant, had a circular scale marked off into 360 degrees and a rotating arm. When suspended from a tree or steady object on a ship, the navigator sighted the North Star to determine his latitude then sighted two or more other known stars along the movable arm to determine his longitude.

REMARKABLY ACCURATE
Sightings had to be made either at dawn or dusk when the horizon was visible. The astrolabe also could be sighted on the sun during the day with readings taken at fixed time intervals but this did not give as accurate figures.

Champlain's astrolabe was made in 1603. After using it to make maps that were incredibly accurate—even by today's standards—he apparently lost it at Muskrat Lake June 7, 1613, while exploring the Ottawa River.

It was found by a woodsman in 1867, the year of Confederation. About 50 years later it was sold to a private collector in the United States for \$10 and eventually wound up in the New York library.

Shortly after Computing Devices was established in 1958, William MacRae, a student and

admirer of Champlain, got the firm interested in the explorer. Mr. MacRae now is with the Centennial Council.

The astrolabe was adopted as the firm's symbol. Computing Devices also found itself owner of Champlain's birthplace in Brouage, France. The village turned the site over to the company in 1959 and it has been helping with restoration.

FOUNDED QUEBEC
A coin found there is believed to have been lost by Champlain in 1633, Mr. MacRae says, and has been given to Canada. It is hoped that the birthplace also can be given to Canada by 1967.

Champlain made 12 voyages to Canada from Brouage. He arrived when he was 42, came within an ace of establishing the first permanent settlement in North America at Port Royal (in what now is Nova Scotia) in 1603 and founded Quebec City in 1608.

He died in Quebec City Dec. 25, 1635, at 68. Archeologists are still trying to establish his burial place, believed near historic Place d'Armes on Cape Diamond.

Computing Devices has made a replica of the scarred astrolabe found at Muskrat Lake and John Fisher, commissioner of the government's Centennial Commission, recently sighted it the sun at North Bay, Ont., after canoeists headed for Kingston, Ont., on one of Champlain's old routes.

Mr. Fisher is also a supporter of efforts to have the original returned to Canada, perhaps as a trade for two brass cannon from the Battle of Bunker Hill now in a Quebec museum.

APPOINT JUDGE
OTTAWA (CP)—Mr. Justice Meredith Milner McFarlane of the British Columbia Supreme Court will fill the vacancy on the province's Appeal Court, Justice Minister Cardin announced Friday. Mr. Justice McFarlane replaces Harry J. Sullivan who died last month. John Gould, a Vancouver lawyer, will fill the vacancy in the Supreme Court.

ARAB ENVOY DEAD
BUENOS AIRES (AP)—Gen. Essam Helmy El Masry, the Arab League representative in South America, died in this Argentine capital Sunday night. He was 48. The cause of death was not disclosed.

MONTAGUE
Mr. and Mrs. Sid Hilliard and three children of Orimocto and Jennifer Annear of Fredericton, N.B. were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Martin, New Perth, Mr. and Mrs. Hilliard have returned home while the children remained for a two week holiday.

Mrs. John MacPhee and daughter of Chatham, N.B., are visiting at Heatherside, guests of her sister, Mrs. Martin MacDonald.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Monroe, Whim Road, opened their home, for a surprise party for their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Orpin of Brighton, Mass., who are visiting here for the first time since their marriage in 1964. An address was read by Mrs. Richard Campbell. Jessie Clarey presented a gift and a purse on behalf of their friends and neighbors.

Mrs. Fred Aitken, owner Montague, underwent surgery recently in the Kings County Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. John Clarey and sons, Douglas, John and James have arrived from Toronto to spend their holidays at Miltown Cross, guests of her parents Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholson.

Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Cooper, Eldon, Mrs. Roddy MacPherson, Bellevue, and Edith MacLure were recent visitors to Halifax, guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Alex MacPherson.

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POPE COMFORTS POLIO VICTIM

Pope Paul VI comforts a little polio stricken girl, strapped to inclined table, on his visit to the Pediatric Institute at Ariccia, near Rome, Monday night. (AP Wirephoto)