

AUSTRALIAN JOURNEY

Melbourne Prepares for First Olympics In Southern Hemisphere

Third of four articles written by CWNRA editorial representative and Quebec weekly editor John Freeman, who recently returned from a five-week trip to Australia.

My arrival at Sydney airport via Canadian Pacific's "Empress of Amsterdam" had been accompanied by the popping of flashbulbs. I was distinguished only because I had carried a pair of skis all the way across Canada in the summer, and then by aircraft over some 8,500 miles of Pacific Ocean.

I parried, successfully, I thought, numerous questions on skiing (I have been on them twice in my life), the skis were for an "Aussie" air force pal who wanted something particularly Canadian to remind him of happy days spent in Canada while a trainee under the Empire Training scheme.

My eventual destination was Melbourne, and through excellent facilities available at the airport found myself aboard a Trans Australian DC6 bound for Victoria's state capital with in an hour of my arrival at Sydney. With its fine climate, Australia is one of the most air-minded countries in the world.

My fare for the 450-mile trip from Sydney to Melbourne, about the same distance as from Montreal to New York) came to approximately \$20 and flying conditions, described in the latest Aussie vernacular were "migh-ty".

"We'll Show the World"

I was particularly fortunate in meeting and becoming friendly with press and publicity officers in charge of arrangements for the 16th Olympic Games being held in Melbourne next year from November 22nd to December 8th.

The foreboding of gloomy prophets that this city will "boch the games" is vigorously denied by citizens of all walks of life as well as officials who know that the games are too important to permit of anything but success.

It's not a question of "will they be a success?" but rather "how big a success will they be?"

John Laughlin, press officer who will have the unenviable chore of looking after the needs of an estimated 1,000 press members expected at the Olympics is a very quiet, unassuming man who has the God-given quality of being able to make visitors and strangers feel at home from the moment he greets them.

He'll need something to look after this gang of sports writers and photographers from some 50 countries!

Stadium Will Hold 104,000

Major features of Olympic Games preparations are the enlargement of the Melbourne Cricket Ground to accommodate 104,000 which will make it bigger than any stadium provided for past Olympics, construction of Olympic Park into a first class all purpose sporting centre to include a football field, velodrome and hockey field, an athletics and soccer field, as well as a new and most modern swimming stadium.

To house the thousands of athletes a brand new "Olympic Village" is being erected at a cost of some four million with the attention to detail including such items as the provision of oversize beds to house seven foot tall basketball players!

According to press officer Laughlin, "prominent individuals as well as civic groups are out to boost Australian hospitality to the skies and visitors can be sure they will be made comfortable and most welcome."

No Olympic city has yet been able to provide hotel accommodation for all visitors and guests, and to overcome this problem Melbourne is conducting a campaign which has already made provision for 10,000 visitors in specially selected private homes.

These will be inspected by female hostesses (they're more fussy than men) before being OK'd as up to the required standard.

As part of the plan to make visitors feel at ease lawyers, for instance will be billeted with lawyers, printers with printers, and so on, so that a common ground for discussion and mutual enjoyment may be found.

"Dim View"

It's a matter of record that the adverse publicity Australia has received over the games was in part due to the fact that a labour strike was in progress during a visit made by International Olympic Committee chairman Avery Brundage who, quite naturally took a "dim view" when he saw two lone workmen on the "Can" site.

Actually the organizing committee's June "progress report" showed all the work to be either ahead of, or else on, schedule.

Bet on Aussie Swimmers

The Australians expect their own athletes to do well under "home conditions" and I was told to "put a couple of dollars on the Aussies to clean up the swimming events" — this is the "good bet" from the most sports-conscious people on the globe.

With a mere ten million people they won no less than six gold medals at the last Olympics held at Helsinki in 1952!

Overseas visitors may book tickets to the various events, in advance, from travel agents and airlines.

Tourist Attractions Galore

It was not until 1788 — some thirty years after Wolfe took Quebec that the first boatload of settlers and convicts arrived in Australia.

Yet in this country so much younger than Canada there is a great awareness of the importance of the tourist trade, and Canadians are welcomed like long-lost cousins by the Austral-

hospitality showered upon their own airmen when they were in Canada during the war days.

Sydney, the second largest "white city" in the Commonwealth, (Montreal is third), is a modern metropolis with a wonderful climate, and boasts more hours' sunshine than any other capital city in the country.

For a visitor, Sydney is an excellent base for operations until he becomes accustomed to the laud and climate, and there he is within easy distance of many excellent holiday resorts and tourist attractions.

The newest and currently most popular of these is "Surfers Paradise" on the coast north of Sydney. As the name implies visitors can enjoy a beach and surfing second to none with modern accommodation and facilities at a price which gives added value and a bright new look to the Canadian dollar.

For example, rooms at various hotels and guest houses vary from \$3 to \$6 a day (including breakfast), and apartments are also available from \$6 per day per person.

Don't do what I did — book in at a Sydney hotel and then take my breakfast at a cafe — being unaware that I was paying for same with my room!

Another one of the newer resort spots is Hayman Island lying off the Queensland coast. Here, modern twin bed suites, somewhat similar to the latest American motel, can be obtained for \$5 per day per person.

Take a Ferry Ride!

Sydney is world famous, and so is its fine and beautiful harbour which is criss-crossed by ferries taking commuters to and from work.

To fill in an hour or two I caught the ferry from downtown Sydney to Manly (of Beach fame) — a thirty five minute run each way at a cost of about 25c return.

While in Sydney I was fortunate in being the guest of Norman Ellison, Canadian Pacific Airlines public relations representative, well known journalist and generally considered to be the dean of Australian aeronautical writers.

Ellison is a member of the fabulous Jattersalls' Club in Sydney which has a turf background and is world famous. Wonders to be seen there include its swimming pool on the third floor and the "Settlement Room" where once every week on "Settlement Day" race wagers are paid off and don't think the Aussie is a piker when it comes to betting.

I met Ken Ranger, well known Sydney bookmaker, who may carryover fifty thousand pounds on a single race. If you can wangle a visit to this club I guarantee you'll enjoy the experience.

And one more thought — when in Sydney don't miss trying the local crayfish. A medium size one tips the scales at two pounds and the white flesh is a gourmet's delight — but the local oysters, while delicious are babies to what we get here in Eastern Canada.

Waltzin' Matilda

There is nothing more Australian, better known overseas, than the title of the country's unofficial national anthem "Waltzin' Matilda". The origin of the title is in keeping with the feelings in the hearts of this land's sons, wherever they may be.

A "swagman" who roamed the state of New South Wales became married

SUNDAY OPENING FOR PEEL COUNTY MANOR

Dedication and official opening of Peel County Manor in Brampton took place on Sunday afternoon. Guest speaker on this occasion was Hon. Kelso Roberts.

The Peel Home has been completely renovated and a beautiful new "apartment" wing added during the past year. The original home was built in 1898. In 1909 Peel County entered into a partnership which was dissolved in 1952 and in 1954 the contract was let to R. Timms Construction of Welland for the new home.

to a girl (against her parents' wishes) by the name of Matilda and took her with him on his wanderings in the Australian bush. According to the story the couple were perfectly happy for many years in this strange existence until the wife became ill and eventually died.

The widowed swagman in his sorrow and loneliness would prop his swag (rolled blanket and small belongings) against a tree and talk to it as he used to his wife, all the time addressing the swag as "Matilda."

Hence when you are carrying your swag you're always "Waltzin' Matilda."

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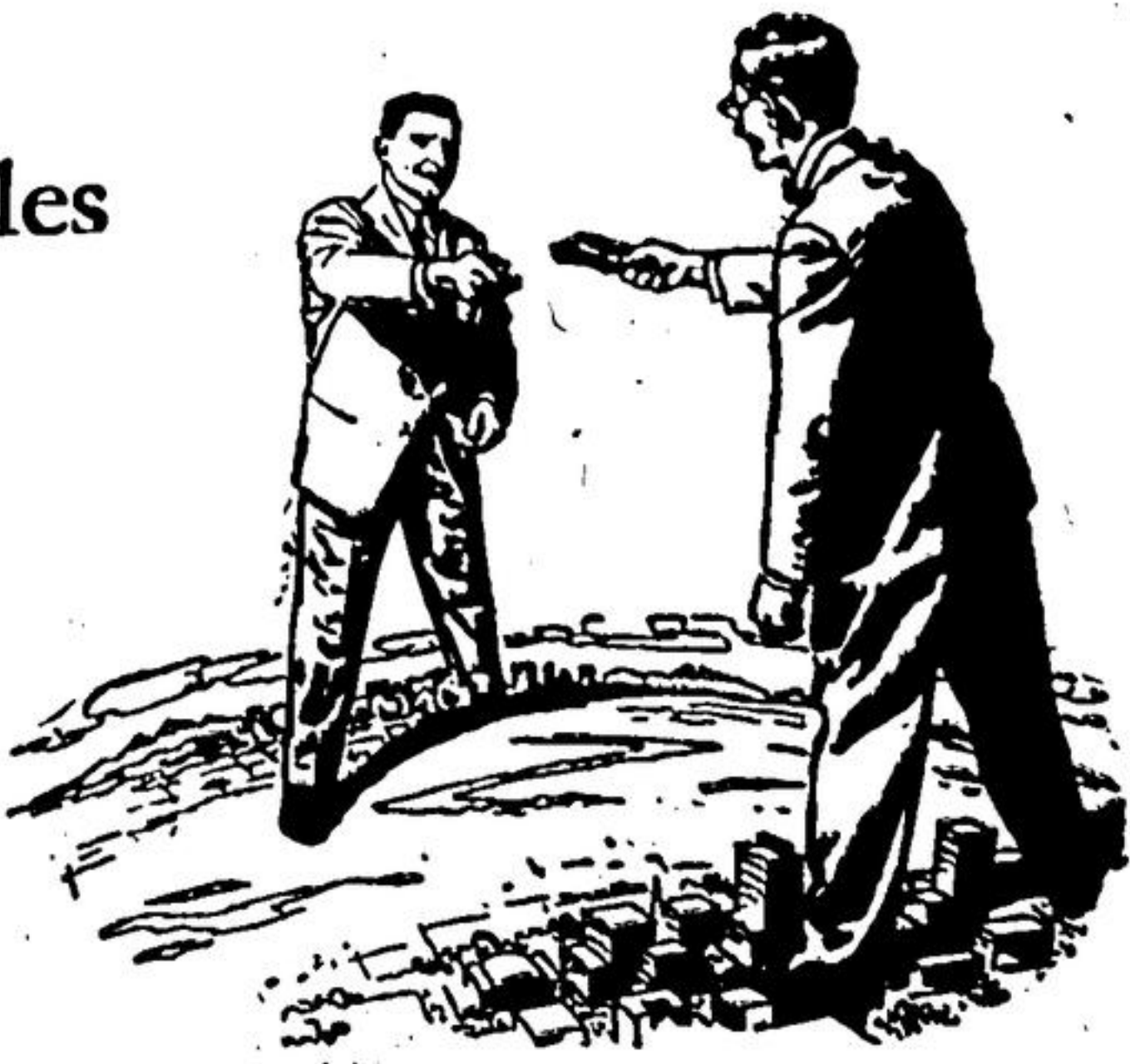
Money across the miles

A chartered bank makes it a simple matter for you to send money almost anywhere, inside or outside Canada.

You may want to get money to a certain city as a gift on somebody's birthday; or to settle a business account; or to set up a fund which can be drawn upon by a company salesman, branch office or supplier.

It works the other way, too. If you are far from home and short of cash, you can advise your "home" branch to telegraph your money to a point where you can pick it up. Many situations and needs can arise — and a chartered bank has many ways of taking care of them, including the sale of travellers cheques.

This service is one of the many advantages you enjoy as a customer of a chartered bank. Your local branch is an all-round banking service-centre that can be helpful to you in many ways.



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