

Sets Span World, Even Antarctic

Plates Fascinated Child Who Kept on Collecting

By JEAN MacGREGOR

LAKE COWICHAN — Len Garrison, of Lake Cowichan, has been collecting licence plates since he was four years old. He now has a collection of more than 12,000.

"It was my interest in numbers and colors which started me collecting my father's licence plates when I was four."

Mr. Garrison is presently employed at the Toronto Dominion Bank in Lake Cowichan.

In 1952 and again in 1963, he entered his collection in Vancouver's Pacific National Exhibition.

"I won first prize for my collection in 1963," he said, "and I also won a bronze medal."

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By 1955, the young man had 1,500 licence plates—mostly from North America and two or three from Great Britain.

In 1962 he joined the Auto Licence Plate Collection Association, a worldwide organization with headquarters in Ohio. The association has about 600 members.

Mr. Garrison's present collection of 12,000 includes plates from every continent, including Antarctica.

"Most of the plates from outside North America are issued on a permanent or semi-permanent basis—they're very difficult to obtain."

He obtains most of them from cars which have been junked, or from vehicles brought into North America when the owners get new licence plates for the state or province in which they will live.

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In his collection of Canadian licence plates, Mr. Garrison has a complete set of British Columbia plates from 1910 to 1968, as well as almost complete sets for six other provinces back to 1920.

"Many of my United States runs are almost complete," he said. "For example, I have all the licence plates issued for the state of Pennsylvania back to 1914."

The plates he has collected are made out of various materials including leather, steel, cast aluminum, cardboard, zinc, soya-bean board and various base metals.

Mr. Garrison explained, "during the Second World War, due to a shortage of metals, several states and provinces issued fibreboard plates or refrained from issuing new plates."



—Jean MacGregor

Some unusual plates in collection include personal one from Maine; others from New Hampshire, Wash-

ington, D.C., Virginia, Illinois, and B.C. in 1956, 1967 and 1917, latter which included coat of arms.

Cyclist, Car Collide

Fatality Brings Conviction

SHAWNIGAN LAKE — Robert Charles Nagel, 18, of 2943 Bridge Street, Victoria, was convicted on a charge of driving without due care and attention when he appeared in Magistrate's Court Wednesday.

Nagel, who had previously pleaded not guilty to the charge,

was the driver of a car which struck and killed Robert Charles Sworder, 14, of Shawnigan Lake.

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The boy was riding his bicycle at the time of the accident. Nagel was fined \$300 and his driver's licence was suspended for two years.

Meanwhile, several people

escaped injury Wednesday afternoon when four cars were involved in a rear-end collision on the Trans-Canada Highway at the Chemainus River bridge.

Police said traffic was being conducted through a single lane on the bridge while highways department crews were painting the structure.