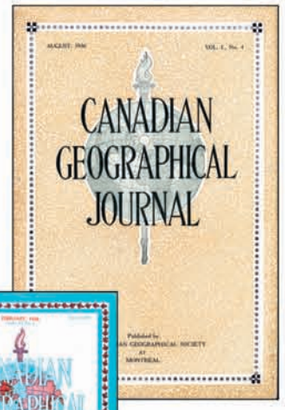
First in a six-part series looking back at 80 years of *Canadian Geographic*

Decades of Discovery 1930s



WE'VE GOT GEOGRAPHY COVERED Throughout the 1930s, the magazine's covers featured traditional cartography and rugged landscapes.

Wanderlust

The 1930s were years of despair. With dust in the air and rising unemployment, no part of Canada was left untouched by the Great Depression. But in the pages of the fledgling *Canadian Geographical Journal*, as this magazine was then known, there was nary a word about hard times.

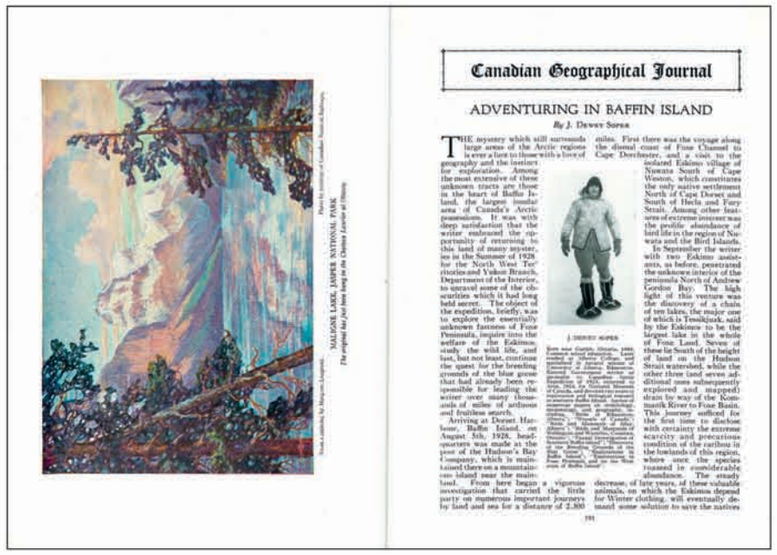
Instead of stories on strikers and squatters, the magazine — first published in May 1930 — focused on travelogues and portraits of places few Canadians had the means to visit. Through photos, maps and paintings, readers caught a glimpse of exotic cultures and landscapes, at home and abroad.

Whether by accident or by design, the *Journal's* pages provided an escape for Depression-weary Canadians. As author Helen Kerr noted in "Motor-Vagabonding on Vancouver Island," published in the July 1930 issue, "When a man wishes to rest from his labours, his thoughts turn to woods and hills and quiet waters, where he may regain the vitality that city life has destroyed."

Mary Vincent

FOUNDING FATHER In March 1936, Charles Camsell wrote about his 4,000-mile plane trip over Western Canada.

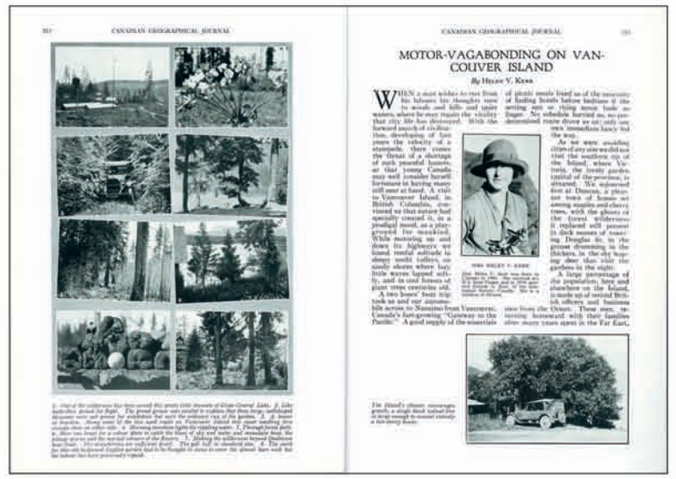
Members of Dr Camsell's 1935 aerial expedition across the Rockies. Left to right: W. Sunderland, C. H. Dickens, A. D. McLean, Dr Camsell.



POLAR PURSUITS Ornithologist J. Dewey Soper (TOP) unfolded "the mystery which still surrounds large areas of the Arctic."

FACES OF THE ARCTIC The magazine provided many Canadians with their first look at life in the North (ABOVE).

TRAVEL-OGRAPHY Prominent Canadians contributed to the magazine from near and far, including ethnologist Marius Barbeau on Quebec's Laurentians (BELOW) and anthropologist Diamond Jenness on the volcanic island of Java.



LADIES OF LETTERS Surprisingly, perhaps, many travel stories in the early 1930s were penned by women. Generally well educated and well off, they reported on their peregrinations, from Vancouver Island (ABOVE) to China.

PROMISES, SWEET PROMISES Enticing and stylish ads tried to persuade readers that the glamorous life — or, at least, a better tomorrow — was within their grasp.