

May Not Return At All, Tom Lamb Warns Canada

BY HUBERT BEYER

"I may not come back at all, unless they bust the dam at Grand Rapids," bellowed Tom Lamb, who left Winnipeg Wednesday morning for a trip around the world, including Red China.

"You tell 'em that," he said and grinned.

Mr. Lamb was referring to his 1,500-acre cattle ranch, flooded last year when the flood gates closed on the Grand Rapids power site.

"It just breaks my heart to see the land under three feet of water. Only two years ago it was a pasture for more than 600 head of cattle."

"What do you mean, sold the land?" he asked. "They took it away from me. And I wasn't even adequately compensated for it. But I haven't given up yet. I have launched an appeal which will come up in court next April."

"And what about the 1,000 Indians who lost their trapping rights in the area? They are on welfare now for the next 300 years."

Mr. Lamb left his headquarters in Moose Lake, 50 miles west of The Pas, Monday, staying in Winnipeg two days, before leaving on his world trip.

From Winnipeg he will go to Honolulu, Tokyo and Hong Kong.

"I am looking forward to the trip," he said. "I'll do my bookings as I go along. In Hong Kong I will apply for a visa to Red China, which, I'm told, will take about four days."

Mr. Lamb is probably one of the most colorful personalities in Canada. He is from pioneer

stock. Son of a pioneer trader at Moose Lake, he carries on the family business with the help of his six sons.

Mr. Lamb became known by such names as The Flying Trapper, The Muskrat King of the North and The Northern Empire Builder.

There is hardly anything, he hasn't tried. From freighting river and air cargo to building houses and airstrips. From blazing a road out of the wilderness to operating a cattle ranch.

His main business now is Lamb Airways, which operates 15 airplanes and transports anybody and anything anywhere in the North.

"There is one thing I don't like about my trip around the world," he said. "I won't be in The Pas for the Trapper's festival next month."

Before he boarded the plane he said, "See you in the middle of April . . . if they bust the dam at Grand Rapids, that is." And grinning he waved goodbye.

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