

New museum final word on forestry

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By KEANE LIPINSKI

Want an instant education in forestry? Go to the new MacMillan Bloedel Place tucked away in the northeast corner of VanDusen Garden.

In the museum, which opened officially today, can be found displays on almost every aspect of forestry in an indoor setting of running creeks with native and semi-tropical plants.

The centre is designed to blend into its surroundings on a 3.5-acre site. Set into a hillside, its roof is covered with plants.

A 12-foot waterfall at its doorstep feeds the lake that borders its glass front wall.

Although billed as a "walk in the forest," the building is actually an ultra-modern science museum with design and fabrication of the exhibits by Exhibitgroup Los Angeles Inc. — the same group which designed the Jacques Cousteau Living Sea

display on board the Queen Mary-in-Long Beach, Calif.

"We asked them to design a museum with things people can do," said Jim Peacock, project manager.

And there's lots to do. Visitors can press buttons and see slide presentations explaining dozens of aspects of plant growth and forest regeneration.

There are quizzes to test visitors on what they have learned about plant identification during the tour.

Peacock said the museum is designed to appeal to the public of all ages, but that he expects many of them to be students.

"We've got things we think will occupy young children," he said, pointing out a display where model birds and bees demonstrate pollination.

Some displays will appeal to forestry students, like one that consists of photo-

graphs of various forest soil types with technical names attached.

Then there is the theatre. Peacock said it seats 50 and has a library of nature films by Tommy Tomkins.

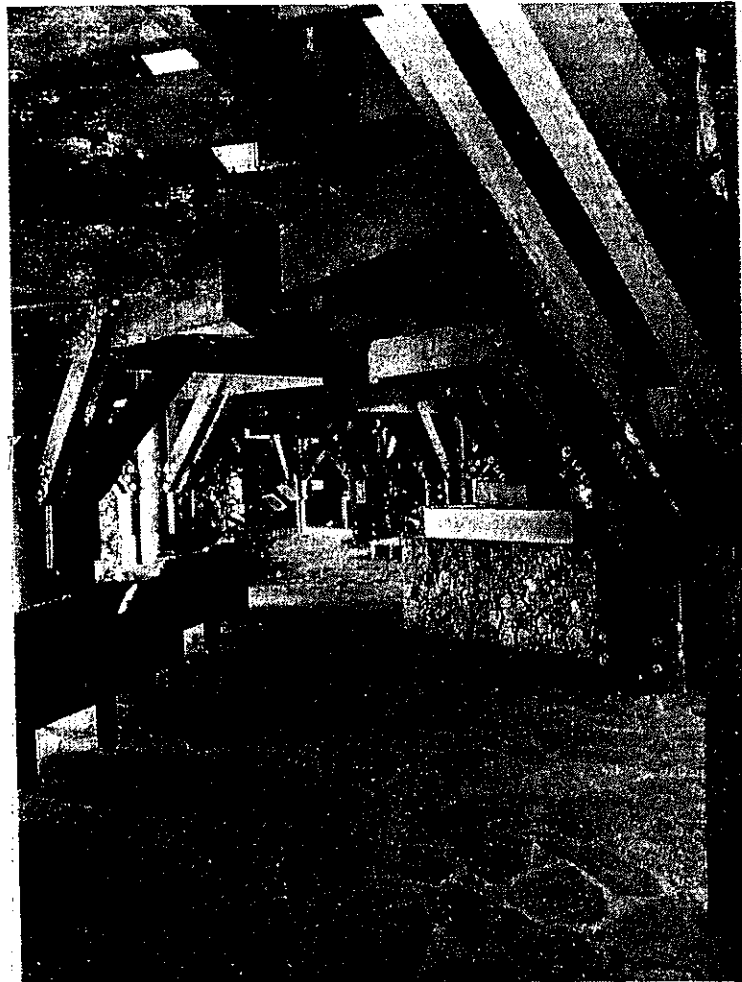
One of the more academic displays is a map of the biogeoclimatic zones in British Columbia, designed by Dr. Vladimir Krajina, an oratory professor of botany at University of British Columbia.

The staff of the museum will provide facilities for the poor student who wishes to use the facilities but can't pay the cover charge to get into the gardens.

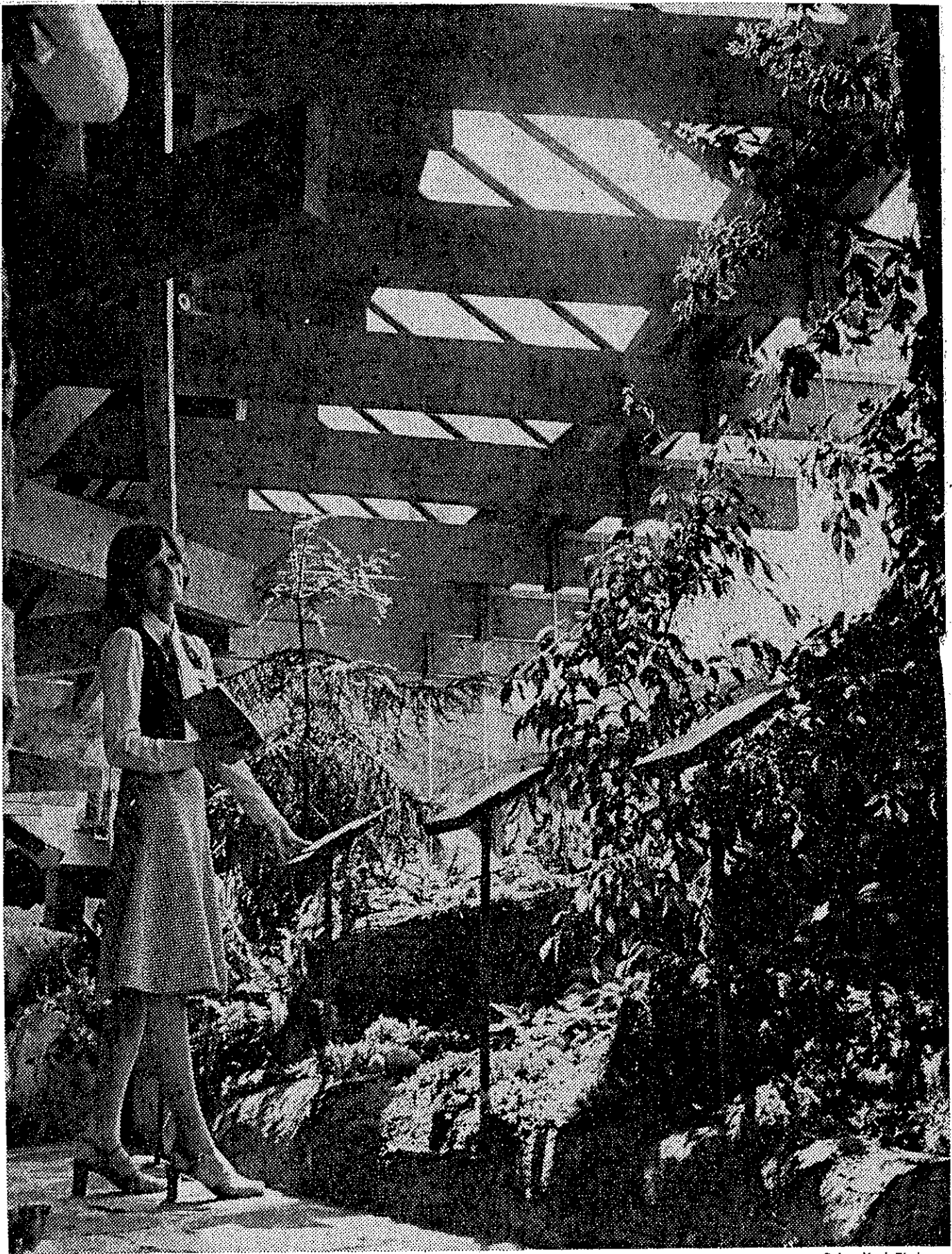
"I think he can make a phone call there'll be no trouble getting him in," Peacock said.

MacMillan Bloedel spent about \$1 million on the project which entered the planning stages in May, 1973, he said.

The museum employs four persons including naturalist John Clark.



A WALK through the forest



—Brian Kent Photo

WALK THROUGH THE WOODS . . . manager Nicola Gillies shows off museum exhibit

VAN DUSEN GARDENS

VanDusen Botanical Gardens & MacMillan Bloedel "Walk in the forest", 37th & Oak free admission today & Sunday 10-8.



UNIQUE POST and beam construction suggests tree forms.

t's 100 million for MacMillan

MacMillan Bloedel planted its 100 million seedling this week as part of its reforestation program.

A symbolic Douglas fir seedling was planted at VanDusen Botanical Gardens by former MB executive and now an honorary director, W. J. VanDusen.

J. Ernest Richardson, MB chairman and acting president, told the gathering that "the B.C. forest industry is not just converting trees into lumber, pulp and paper, but is managing a resource that is harvested, renewed and improved. We are the tree farmers who harvest our crop and then plant for the next."

