

NEWSPAPERMEN GUESTS OF C.N.E. ON PRESS DAY

Carnival of Sport Offered
as Entertainment at
Exhibition Park

PLANE THRILLS CROWDS

EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE.

	1937	1936
Friday	45,000	42,000
Saturday	165,000	187,000
Monday	114,000	192,000
Tuesday	69,000	80,000
Wednesday....	76,000	72,000
Thursday	74,000	108,000
Totals	543,000	681,000
decrease on day		34,000
Decrease on year		138,000

It was "Press Day" at the Canadian National Exhibition yesterday, and perhaps because a host of Ontario newspapermen were special guests, the Directors of the Big Fair, knowing well the proverbial weakness of "the press" for sport, served the biggest feast to date of professional and amateur highlights in athletics and skill.

Of course, the arrival of the Empire flying boat, Cambria, overshadowed all other events. As the graceful giant of the transatlantic skies soared over these 350 acres and settled to its waterfront anchorage, few eyes of Exhibition sight-seers had room for anything else.

Press Has Good Time.

Unfortunately, the crowd, most of which lined the lake front for the late afternoon thrill, was the smallest in this year of unusually small crowds. Later at night a few thousand more drifted through the gates, but no official figures were needed to prove the attendance one of the shortest in recent C.N.E. history.

But the newspaper "boy," many of them grizzled by long years of wrestling with not only their own woes but the problems of the Ontario communities in which are their roots, didn't care. They were out to have a good time. Their faces showed they did not fail.

Old journalists' achievements, and merrymaking, generally with a political tinge, were retold, old acquaintanceships revived. A favorite meeting-place was the spacious Press Building.

A few of the old-time scribes took

the occasion to relate how the Exhibition was "covered" in the days before 1905 when the reporters had no luxuries like a well-equipped office in which to centralize their activities.

The matched swim between Ralph Flanagan, Miami, and Bob Pirie and Gordon Devlin of Toronto; the track events in front of the Grandstand and the race between a team of Arctic huskies and track stars were followed with rapt attention.

The big sports menu also included model yacht tests, junior track events, motor-boat races, tugs-of-war, softball, waterskiing and aquaplaning, high diving and the opening of the horse show.

Rain threatened from time to time during the day, but the hoped-for relief from this quarter failed.

Another outstanding sports program is scheduled for today, which will be impressively known as "Manufacturers', Athletic and Floral Day." Monday is Labor Day, at the C.N.E. as elsewhere, when some of the lost attendance possibly may be picked up, given cooler weather.

Harness Racing Tuesday.

Harness racing starts Tuesday afternoon and the International Dog Show opens Monday. One event that is being awaited impatiently by thousands of fans—the 2:25 motorboat races, will start on Thursday, Sept. 9.

Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians replace the Horace Heidt troupe in the ballroom next week.

Crowds, due to the excessive heat, have been exceptionally good at the evening performances of the United States Navy Band. The last few evenings, the entrancing lighting effects, harmonizing with the music, and the cool breezes off Lake Ontario have combined to make the band shell one of the most appealing centres on the grounds.

At noon today, General Manager Elwood Hughes will be made an honorary chief at ceremonies in Eskimo Village.