



LADY BANTING ATTENDS OPENING—When the "Three Artists of Ontario" exhibition opened Friday evening at the Tom Thomson Memorial Gallery and Museum of Fine Art in Owen Sound one of the guests in attendance was Lady Henrietta Banting, widow of Sir Frederick Banting. She is pictured above

talking to the gallery curator, John Taylor, in front of the painting given by her to the gallery's permanent collection. The scene "Mary Lake, Canadian Rockies" was painted by her late husband. The "Three Artists" exhibition will continue until May 18.

—(Sun-Times Staff Photo)

Gave the world insulin, Sir Frederick Banting picture in Art Gallery

Sir Frederick Banting, who gave to the world insulin, was, like many other doctors, a prolific worker and keen scientist. There is, however, another, less known side to his character, that being Banting the artist. In this capacity he travelled the north country with his friend, A. Y. Jackson and spent his holidays with the "Group of Seven" in the 30's.

An oil painting entitled, "Mary Lake, Canadian Rockies" has been presented to the permanent collection of the Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery by his widow, Lady Henrietta Banting, who lives in Toronto, and was in attendance at the "Three Artist's Exhibition, which opened Friday evening at the Gallery.

Banting was born in Alliston, Ontario, late in the 19th century when it was considered a "rural community north of Toronto." He had a robust physique and an inquiring mind which was taxed continuously as he pursued his relentless quest for something to effectively combat diabetes. Following his attendance at the rural school in the community he moved on to high school in Alliston. Appropriately a school was eventually to be named Banting Memorial High School.

Banting had a very strong attachment to his native Canada which, coupled with his shy nature, probably accounts for the fact that he turned down many offers to leave the country. He loved travel particularly in the north where, on exploratory trips, he indulged himself in hunting and fishing. His paintings reflect his love of the outdoor life, his enthusiasm for Canada.

While people normally associate the work of Banting and Best with diabetes and insulin, Banting did a valuable work on silicosis and cancer. His last days were spent devoted to problems produced by the war. Some study was made of poison gases and methods of resuscitation. Understandably, Banting was singled out as the recipient of many medals and prizes. He was singled out by the King for knighthood in 1934.

At the outbreak of the Second World War Banting volunteered a second time for service with the medical corps. He was flying to Great Britain on a "mission of high national and scientific importance" when his plane crashed in making a forced landing in a remote region of eastern Newfoundland on a bleak winter day in February. Although mortally wounded himself, Banting worked feverishly to save the life of a fel-

low passenger. Appropriately the R.C.A.F. has erected a memorial in Newfoundland near the scene of the fatal plane crash which took Sir Frederick Banting's life so prematurely.

Banting's first experiment with insulin on a human was with a personal friend who was dying of diabetes. The friend's health was eventually restored to the point that he was able to work along with Banting and Best in future experiments.

A Prime Minister of Canada once said that, "Sir Frederick died, not only for his country but in the service of all mankind." Owen Sound is indeed fortunate that his memory lives on, not only through his discovery of insulin, but also in his love of art, a sample of his work permanently exhibited at the Tom Thomson Memorial Gallery.