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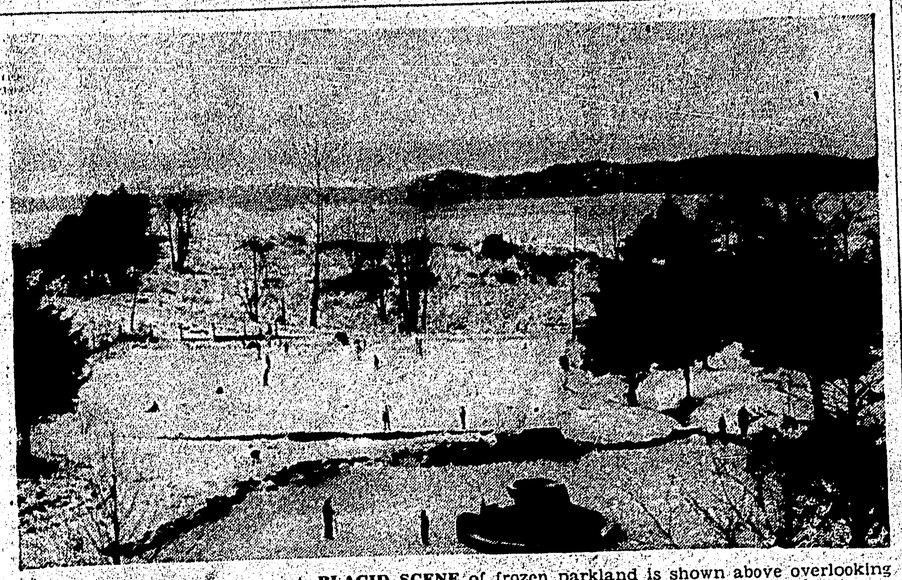
RCMP investigate possibility of arson in City Hall outbreak



PLACID SCENE of frozen parkland is shown above overlooking Canadian National Railways Park and Prince Rupert harbor. City Parks Commission obtained permission from CNR to flood old bowling green to provide skating rink for youngsters. City firemen took care of flooding and spraying rink.
—Staff photo by Charles E. Giordano.

Skaters make most of rinks

Although there is no truth to the rumor that the mercury dropped to 20 below zero in the city early this morning, temperatures stayed cold enough over the weekend to allow skating at two locations in the city and one on highway 16.

More than 800 city children, teenagers and adults flocked to Oliver Lake to take part in the winter sport while skating in the city at Algoma Park and the bowling green at the Canadian National Railways park was enjoyed by several hundreds.

Temperature in the city early this morning was 18.7, and Kitimat reported that the mercury droped to 11 below zero overnight.

Digby Island Radio Station reported today that temperatures dropped to 15.7 on January 2 and 13.8 on January 3.

The two rinks were erected by the Parks Comission and have now been floodlighted for night-time skating.

RCMP at Port Edward said today that motorists wishing to skate at Oliver Lake will not be permitted to park their cars on the left hand side of highway 16 heading to Port Edward.

Motorists may park on the right hand side going out but are advised to angle park to allow more room for other vehicles.

RCMP said that it is contrary to the Motor Vehicle Act for motorists to park any part of their car on the travelled portion of the highway.

Britannia mine reopening soon

VANCOUVER (CP)—The Sun says the Britannia Copper Mine at Britannia Beach on Howe Sound will reopen soon, providing employment for 350 men.

The newspaper quotes A. G. Kirkland, general manager of mines for the Howe Sound Company as saying in a telephone interview from Salt Lake City that the mine will be in operation again "as soon as possible."

The paper says Mr. Kirkland estimated it would take the rest of January to replace all the equipment taken out when the mine closed last March.

Closure of the mine made a ghost town of Britannia Beach, 30 miles by water from Vancouver on the edge of Howe Sound, as it threw 400 persons out of work and left the population of 2,000 without its basic source of income.

The Britannia mine, once one of the biggest copper operations in the Comonwealth, turned out some $350,000,000 in copper, lead, zinc, silver and gold from miles of underground levels in its 55 years as a producer. The work force once totalled 800, but it was cut to 400 by skidding copper prices before the closure.

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Rocket to be first artificial planet

By HAROLD K. MILKS

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's cosmic rocket hurtled farther into outer space today at more than 5,000 miles an hour and the Russians say they expect it to go into orbit around the sun Wednesday or Thursday.

An announcement at 6 p.m. MST Sunday said the 1½-ton rocket was 343,750 miles from earth and 146,875 miles from the moon.

Tass said today that radio contact with the rocket was lost.

Moscow Radio announced the missile—called Lunik, from sputnik and luna, or moon—was travelling at a maximum speed of 2.45 kilometres (1.52 miles) a second when it passed near the moon Sunday.

This speed, equivalent to 5,472 miles an hour, corresponded approximately with the speed of 9,000 kilometres (5,592 miles) an hour announced by the Russians Saturday night.

Tass news agency said the rocket would enter its orbit around the sun Jan. 7 or 8 and thus become the first artificial planet.

Tass said the rocket's radio equipment still is sending data. But contact will fade out gradually because of distance and weakening of the batteries aboard.

The result of radio transmissions between the missile and ground stations will be published as soon as it has been analyzed by computers and scientists, Tass said.

Tass said the missile is gradually entering an elliptical orbit around the sun.

The Russians calculate this orbit will have a maximum diameter of 214,250,000 miles. The closest it will get to the sun will be about 91,500,000 miles. This point would be reached Jan. 14.

The Russians estimate it will take 15 months for the rocket to complete a trip around the sun.

The earth has an elliptical orbit around the sun, the same as the rocket will have, but it is tighter. It takes the earth only 12 months to make the full swing.

The nearest point of the earth's orbit to the sun is about 91,250,000 miles, the farthest 94,500,000 miles. The earth now is travelling away from the sun, having reached its closest point Jan. 1.

On a Moscow Radio broadcast, Prof. Boris Kukarkin, deputy chairman of the Soviet astronomical council, mentioned the possibility of a space ship soaring outside the entire solar system.

In Nuernberg, Germany, Prof. Hermann Oberth, resigned recently from a post as adviser to the U.S. Army's missile program, said the Russians possibly wanted to hit the moon with their rocket but "slyly covered up" an error in calculation when they established that it would bypass the moon and continue its travel in space.

But in London, Prof. H. S. W. Massey, who directed British rocket research for the International Geophysical Year, said he thought the Russians intended all along to shoot past the moon and put the missile in orbit around the sun.

Council members to take oath of office tonight

Three aldermen-elect will be sworn in tonight when City Council holds a statutory meeting in the City Council chambers.

Oath of office will be taken by George E. Hills, for a one-year term and by Alderman A. Donald Ritchie and Alderman T. Norton Youngs for two-year terms. Alderman-elect Gordon E. Carlson is in hospital and will be unable to be present.

City Clerk-Comptroller R. W. Long will preside at the swearing-in ceremony.

Mrs. E. Denning funeral held

Funeral service for Mrs. Esther Denning was held Saturday afternoon in St. Andrew's Anglican cathedral with the Very Rev. A. E. Hendy, cDan of Caledonia officiating.

Mrs. Denning, a widow, died December 31, at the age of 69.

Hymns sung during the service were "Abide With Me" and "Rock of Ages."

Interment was at Fairview cemtery with Frederick Barber, Joseph Zabudney, George J. Brown, Robert Tough, Ervin Lindstrom and Adolf Pootsik as pallbearers.

Winter training program at Royal Canadian Navy reserve division HMCS Chatham will resume tonight at 8 o'clock, Lt. Ronald Orton, staff officer said today. He said that young men between the ages of 17 and 28 and young women between the ages of 18 and 28 will be welcomed.

Wiring fault now thought unlikely

City RCMP detachment were investigating the possibility of arson today in a fire that broke out at the City Hall last night.

The fire, which filled the ancient building with smoke, and caused damage to part of the jail and the city court room, broke out at about 8:45 p.m.

Five prisoners, in the lock-up at the time have been moved to Port Edward.

After the fire department, which responded to the call in seconds, had completed dousing the blaze, Electrical Inspector, T. C. Morris was called to the scene for investigation.

It was first thought the cause was due to faulty wiring.

It has been estimated that about $200 damage was caused to the ceiling of a washroom in the jail and the floor of the courtroom.

Mayor P. J. Lester said today that he instructed Electrical Inspector Morris to investigate the possibility of faulty wiring, and that the wiring was found to be in good order.

Fire Chief E. A. Becker said that he suspected arson as the fire is believed to have started in the jail.

He said that a person could have stuffed pieces of paper in a hole in the ceiling of the jail and set fire to it.

Temporarily trapped by the smoke in the building were Mayor P. J. Lester and City Clerk-Comptroller R. W. Long, who were working in the mayor's office.

Ice maroons fishermen out on lake

EDMONTON (CP) — Seventeen fishermen are reported stranded far out on Great Slave Lake, their return to shore apparently blocked by ice cracks and a subarctic blizzard.

RCAF and civilian planes today were to continue searching near the centre of the 11,170-square-mile lake for some sign of the men, who have not been heard from or seen since New Year's Eve.

Temperatures since then have remained around 30 below zero and the blizzard, backed up 30-mile-an-hour winds, has been sweeping southward across the lake for a week.

The missing men are employees of two commercial fishing companies based at Hay River, N.W.T., a town of about 1,000 on the southern shore of the lake 500 miles north of Edmonton.

When last reported, the missing men were about 60 miles north of Hay River and 45 miles northwest of Fort Resolution, on the southeast side of the lake.

1,101 sunshine hours recorded during 1958

The weatherman treated Prince Rupert kindly in 1958 giving the city 1101.7 sunshine hours last year, the same as in 1956. In 1941 sunshine hours totalled 1168.0.

The coldest day of the year was December 6 when the mercury dropped to 14 degrees, the lowest since 1951.

The highest temperature was on June 6 when it was 89.0 degrees.

On December 14 the mercury rose to 57 degrees, three and a half degrees higher than in 1954. The low of 14 on December 6 is only three degrees higher than in 1951.

In July of 1958 there were 107.1 hours of sunshine, which is the highest recorded in that month since 1942 when there were 146.7 hours.

In December of last year there were 2.6 hours of sunshine, 3.0 in December of 1957 and in December of 1956 there were 17.0 hours of sunshine. The mean temperature for the month of December was 36.6.

Percipitation totalled 96.802 in 1958, of which 12.64 inches are for December. There were 23 days of measurable precipitation in December.

The 1957 precipitation total was 76.34. There were 7.30 inches of snow in December of last year and 11.01 inches of rain, the Digby Island Radio station reported today.

The wettest month in 1958 was October with 17.20 inches of rain which is the highest since October, 1953 when there was 20.66 inches.

Krushchev jubilant at success

By ROBERT ELPHICK

MOSCOW (Reuters) — The first feeling of jubilation at the success of Russia's cosmic rocket was giving way in Moscow Sunday to a more sober political assessment of exactly what this means in terms of international prestige and authority.

The central committee of the Soviet Communist party in a message of congratulations to all those who have worked to produce the rocket, has already said the achievement demonstrates to all humanity the creative genius of the Soviet people.

Premier Nikita Khrushchev said he "felt like hugging the man who had produced this, the first cosmic rocket, a new victory of the Soviet Union."

GLOWING REPORTS

Sunday's Moscow newspapers contained full and glowing reports from such centres as New York, London, Paris, and New Delhi paying tribute to the lunar probe. Papers reproduced with great gusto western comments that the United States has nothing comparable to the Russian rocket.

President Eisenhower's message of congratulation was printed prominently at the top of a column in Pravda, the Soviet Communist party newspaper.

Prof. Aanatoly Blagonravov, head of the technical science section of the Soviet Academy, told readers of the Moscow youth newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda that it would be "incorrect to minimize and be derogatory about the work of American scientists and engineers."

APPROACH ERRONEOUS

"But their approach to the problem of interplanetary flight and its problems seems to me to be erroneous.

"In the Soviet Union, any cosmic experiment is first and foremost a scientific experiment. In the United States, it seems to me, there is a chase after the sensational, and the foreground is occupied by aims having nothing in common with science."

Balloon's crew reaches Barbados

Bridgetown, Barbados (CP)—Four Britons who tried to make a balloon flight across the Atlantic were found floating at sea today in the gondola of their craft, the Small World. They were rescued by a fishing vessel and brought to this island, their original target.

The four left the Canary Islands 3,000 miles away December 12. They had not been heard from for 10 days.

The four, including a woman—Mrs. Rosemarie Mudie, 30-year-old co-pilot and cook told the fishermen they had cut the balloon loose from the gondola, designed as a lifeboat and heavily stocked with food and water. They declined to give further details, saying the story "has been sold."

The trip was sponsored by the London Daily Mail.

Prince Rupert has now gone 356 days without a fatal traffic accident.

HUNDREDS OF CITY CHILDREN, teenagers and adults enjoyed skating at the rink above in the Little League Baseball diamond at Algoma Park, erected by the Parks Commission. The rink 180 by 90 feet has been floodlighted for night time skating and has been the scene of many scrub hockey games.
—Staff photo by Charles E. Giordano.

Alaska celebrates inauguration as 49th — and biggest — state

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—Alaskans observed quietly the 49th state's formal admission into the United States Saturday. "We accept the proud challenge of statehood," said newly-inaugurated Governor William A. Egan, "and will seek to enhance the radiance of America's 49th star."

No spontaneous celebrations followed word that President Eisenhower had signed at the White House the proclamation admitting Alaska as the 49th state.

Alaskans had done their riotous and joyous noisemaking last June when the U.S. Senate voted to approve admission of the big northland territory. That was the action that set in motion the procedures of admission that were completed by the president's proclamation Saturday.

IKE SIGNED

Eisenhower signed the historic document and unveiled the new 49-star American flag at a five-minute White House ceremony beginning at noon.

The time coincided with the expiration of the 85th congress which approved Alaskan statehood after a 42-year struggle.

By one stroke of the pen, the president extended the U.S. boundaries 1,500 miles to the west, to within sight of the Russian mainland. Czarist Russia sold the territory of Alaska to the U.S. for $7,200,000 in 1867.

The new state is more than twice the size of Texas, now the second biggest, and has a vast store of untapped mineral, timber and other natural resources.

Two hours after the entry of the new state, Egan was sworn in as the first elected governor.

Two minutes after Egan was sworn in by Judge Raymond Kelly, Kelly administered the oath of office to Hugh J. Wade, who became Alaska's first elected secretary of state. Egan and Wade both are Democrats.

A few minutes later as bright sun-shine bathed Juneau's crisp six-degree weather, Egan took the stage at a downtown theatre and spoke briefly on the meanings of statehood.

APPRENTICESHIP DONE

Egan, born 44 years ago in the little Alaska town of Valdez where he later operated a general store, said:

"On this day a great gift has been granted us—self-government . . . our apprenticeship now is done. We have full membership in that great union of states."

Some 1,000 capital city residents gathered for the half-hour ceremony.

In Alaska's largest city, Anchorage, a similar observance was held at the municipal library.

Horns and sirens of Anchorage blasted as a signal to the start of the ceremony, and sounding of automobile horns marked the birth of the new state.

Generally business was as usual although the post office was jammed by persons buying the new seven-cent air mail stamp commemorating Alaskan statehood.

Monday Governor Egan was in hospital under treatment for a jaundice condition. He was taken to hospital after delivering the inaugural speech Saturday. Doctors said it would be a day or more before he can assume his duties.

James Burnett, Stewart, dies in hospital

James Burnett, formerly a lineman at the Stewart mine, died yesterday at the General Hospital. He was 63, and his home was at Stewart.

He came to Canada from Peterhead, Scotland, 40 years ago and had been in B.C. for 33 years. He is survived by his wife, Marie; sons Bruce and Raymond, of Stewart, and James of Fruitvale, B.C.; and his mother, Mrs. Jessie Gamble of Haney, B.C.

Funeral is Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at Ferguson Funeral Home, the Rev. Ivan S. Gamble officiating. A veteran of the First World War, he will be buried in the Veterans' Plot at Fairview Cemetery.

Many relatives, friends at Mrs. J. R. Carr funeral

A large crowd of relatives and friends gathered in St. Andrew's Anglican cathedral Friday afternoon to pay their last respects to Mrs. J. R. Carr, longtime Prince Rupert resident.

The funeral services for Mrs. Carr, who died December 28 at the age of 66, were conducted by the Very Rev. A. E. Hendy, Dean of Caledonia.

Hymns sung at the service were "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Abide With Me."

Honorary pallbearers were Richard Wilson, Alex Ritchie, Ian McRae, Douglas Little, Frederick Ramsay and Charles Barker.

Active pallbearers were Robert McBride, Thomas McBride, John Flewin, Harry Paulson, Victor Morrison and Frederick Wilson.

Interment was in the Moose plot at Fairview cemetery.

Mrs. Carr is survived by her mother Mrs. Henry Brentzen at Port Simpson; two brothers Arthur and Edward at Port Simpson; two daughters Mrs. N. G. Cornish of Prince Rupert; Mrs. A. H. Percival of Trinidad; and four grandsons.

Born in Port Simpson, Mrs. Carr also lived at Anyox and took up residence in Prince Rupert in 1936. She was an ardent church worker in both First United church and St. Andrew's cathedral. She was also a most active worker in the following community organizations:

Life member and organist of the First United church Women's Missionary Society; honorary president and past regent of the Queen Mary chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire; vice-president, educational and corresponding secretary of the Municipal chapter of the IODE; past worthy mistress and pianist of the Ladies Orange Benevolent association; pianist for the Women of the Moose for a number of years; member of the Afternoon branch of St. Andrew's Anglican cathedral Women's auxiliary; member of the Prince Rupert General hospital WA; member of the board of directors of the Museum of Northern British Columbia; member of the Order of the Royal Purple.

WEATHER—

Mostly cloudy today and Tuesday. A few snow flurries this morning changing to continuous snow this afternoon and becoming snow flurries again overnight. Partial clearing Tuesday forenoon. Little change in temperature. Winds northeast 15 backing to southeast 35 in exposed areas this afternoon and decreasing to northeasterly 25 Tuesday morning. Low tonight and high Tuesday 20 and 25.

TIDES—

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 1959
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	10:48	21.8 feet
	23:54	10.0 feet
Low	04:32	7.0 feet
	17:35	2.9 feet