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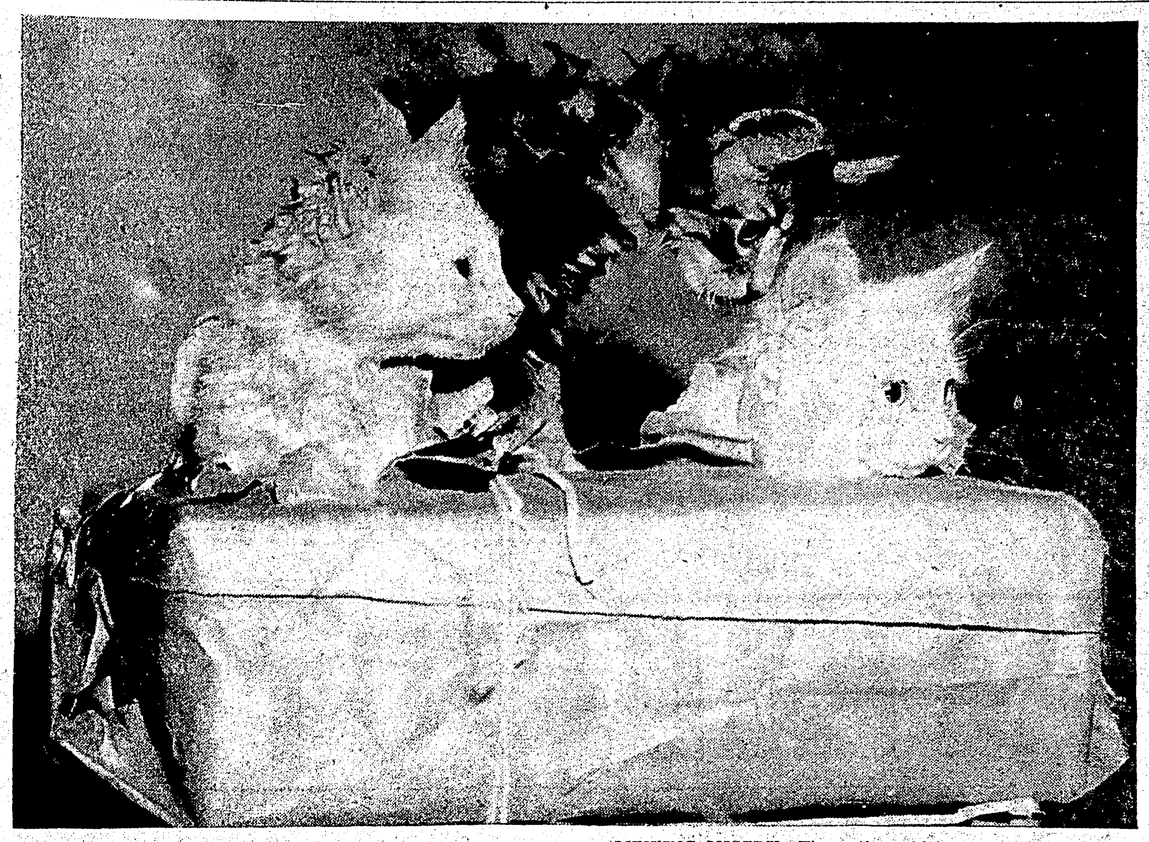
Four children among seven killed as fire sweeps St. John's tenement



MEWING MISERY—These three kittens were put in a tied-up parcel and left at the main Edmonton Post Office Thursday. When post office workers heard sounds, they poked holes in the parcel so the kittens could get some air. Then the parcelled pussies poke out their heads to peer at the posties. —CP photo.

Frame apartments rocked by blast

By JOE DUPUIS
Canadian Press Staff Writer

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—Seven persons were burned to death early today when fire roared through a two-storey duplex tenement building in the city's sparsely populated west end. Four were children ranging from two to nine years.

Firemen recovered the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph White, their children, Paul, Michael, Madonna and Robert and Mrs. White's sister, 13-year-old Lorraine Woolridge. All lived in one section of the multi-family tenement that housed 21 persons.

Witnesses said the frame dwelling was rocked by an explosion about 6:30 a.m. The victims were trapped before aid could be summoned.

Fire chief Fred Vivian said the fire started when an oil stove exploded. Only the portion of the building that the Whites occupied was damaged.

HYSTERICAL CROWD

RCMP roped off the fire area as screaming women and children, in near hysterics, attempted to re-enter the building.

Mrs. Ethel Daye, a neighbor, summoned firemen after being awakened by the explosion. "It sounded just like a shot," she said. Mrs. Daye aroused three other families in the tenement.

Mr. White, a bricklayer, had moved his family into the house just four months ago. It is in the same area where a young child was fatally bitten by a rat last month.

Firemen had difficulty getting enough water to fight the blaze. After their 800-gallon supply was used, they were forced to pump water from a nearby pond.

Herring jobs near end for 1,300

VANCOUVER (CP)—Thirteen hundred fishermen and shore workers have been advised that their jobs in the British Columbia herring industry will end for an indefinite period after the return of the B.C. herring fleet Thursday.

James Sinclair, president of the B.C. Fisheries Association, said the closure will remain in effect until prices improve and the companies can sell their supplies of herring oil and meal.

"We cannot compete on the world market at our present prices," said Mr. Sinclair.

Homer Stevens, secretary of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union (Ind.), said he has been notified by four of the largest companies of the closure. Mr. Sinclair said all eight companies in the fisheries association will close down.

The herring fleet is due to start home from fishing grounds Wednesday and had been scheduled to end the Christmas lay-up Jan. 15. The announcement kills the prospect of an immediate end to the layup.

Mr. Stevens said the union has called an emergency meeting for next Tuesday.

Two-year term cut 18 months

A two-year jail sentence handed James McIntosh of Kitwancool on a charge of theft under $50 was yesterday reduced to six months, by the British Columbia Court of Appeal it was learned here today.

Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite sentenced McIntosh to the two-year term on November 3 after McIntosh pleaded guilty to stealing socks from Universal Stores Ltd. W. N. Poole, counsel for the Kitwancool man, said the six-month sentence would date from November 3.

Union backs labor pair

B. J. Fortune, secretary of Local 708 of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, said today that the only political action his union had taken in connection with tomorrow's civic election, was to endorse the Prince Rupert Labor Council's aldermanic candidates John West and James W. Prusky and to contribute funds to the Labor Council's political action committee.

Bingo draw

Numbers I-18; B-7; I-20 and O-68 were drawn today in the Elks "March of Dimes" house bingo for the B.C. Children's hospital.

Others numbers drawn to date were B-13; B-6; B-11; G-50; G-48; I-28; O-61; N-32; O-74; I-21; B-8; N-31; N-36; G-52; N-43; I-19; N-37; G-51; I-27; N-42; I-29; G-50; O-75; I-25; N-34 and O-69.

Bingo cards are still available at downtown stores, an Elks spokesman said today.

Four new numbers will be published tomorrow in the Daily News.

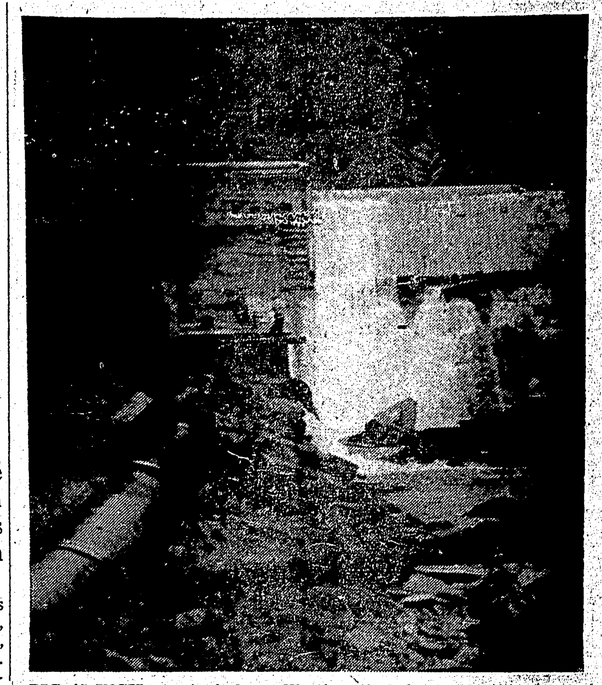
WEATHER—

Overcast this evening with rain beginning about midnight, changing to showers Thursday morning. Little change in temperature. Winds southeast 30 in exposed areas tonight shifting to westerly 25 Thursday forenoon. Low tonight and high Thursday 38 and 42.

TIDES—

Thursday, Dec. 17, 1959
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	02:46	10.5 feet
	14:23	21.1 feet
Low	08:26	8.1 feet
	20:58	3.4 feet



BIG 45-INCH penstock from Woodworth Lake to Northern B.C. Power Company power house is shown at left. City of Prince Rupert 18-inch line cuts into penstock above power house and when power company takes maximum water needed for peak power load, head of water to city and pressure within city, is reduced to dangerous proportions. —Staff photo by Dick Ayres.

ON-SPOT REPORT

Gravity system shot, pumping plan logical

By DICK AYRES
Editor of The Daily News

If anyone doubts for a moment that Prince Rupert's gravity system of water supply is in poor shape, they should go see for themselves.

I did one stormy weekend, about three weeks ago, when I would have rather stayed home. However, so much talk has been bandied about, over the previous $980,000 water supply and distribution bylaw and the present modified one, that I thought I'd better got to see for myself.

I did. I went with City Works Superintendent C. J. Gustafson, a man who has worked on and known the water system of this city since he was a young man.

He isn't a young man any more and many of the headaches he gets are from the city's water system.

SAW WHOLE SYSTEM

Despite the rain, sleet and driving wind I was able to see the pipeline from the old garbage dump where it enters the city across Fern Passage, right up to Woodworth Lake.

From Fern Passage over a hump to the standby pump just below Shawatlan Lake the pipe line, which varies in size, is in pretty good shape. The pipe under the passage was well repaired after the slide two years ago, when the city was without proper water for nearly a week.

CONSTANT THREAT to pipeline from Northern B.C. Power Company power house to Fern Passage are rocky cliffs to left. Battered and bent line has been taken out several times in past. Pipe is also riddled with pin-holes. Mayor P. J. Lester is shown examining group of more than 193 clamps necessary to stem leaks.

Along Shawatlan Lake, the battered, 40-year old, pipe, all 12,542 feet of it, winds and bends as it sits on rotting supports. Cement has been placed under some parts of it but in others I could see where it had been pushed off its footings altogether.

I examined places where clamps had been installed to stop leaks, I saw bent sections where slides have occurred, I could see, lying in the bush, old sections left where previous slides had pushed them.

There are a total of 193 clamps in the 12,542 foot section.

I followed the pipeline up along the wooded and rocky shore, amazed that in the winter it had held up so long.

At the Northern B.C. Power Company power house I saw how the 18-inch line joined the 45-inch penstock where the city loses its pressure when a drive for power is on.

DAM IN POOR SHAPE

After seeing the deteriorating dam at Woodworth Lake, I could agree that while the dam site is perfect, the dam itself needs thousands of dollars spending on it.

Returning to the site where it is hoped the pump house and pumps will be placed if the water bylaw passes, I could see how much more practical and less costly the pumping system would be.

Apart from a matter of dollars and cents, ($900,000 against $1,382,000 for the gravity to be renovated) it was not hard to see that the pumping plan would be less likely to suffer from emergencies.

There will be a standby diesel in the pumphouse which will go into action the moment there is a power failure. The increased pressure will fill a new high-level reservoir at Montreal Circle and the main along the waterfront will ensure the city centre and the west end of the town an ample supply of water at all times.

PUMPING PLAN BEST

To me there appeared no problem. The less costly pumping plan is good, it has been recommended by the city's consultants and it means a less heavy tax burden for the taxpayers.

The engineers consultants have no axe to grind, City Council approved the pumping plan unanimously, the pumping plan appears without a doubt as the best.

If anyone should ask me, and even if they don't, I'd say vote "Yes" for the water bylaw tomorrow.

MORE RAIN ON WAY

Little respite seen for lower mainland

VANCOUVER (CP)—The sun today was expected to warm the sodden lower mainland and Vancouver Island areas of British Columbia for the first time in five days, but more rain is on the way.

Weather officials report a new storm is travelling in from the Pacific and it will bring cloudy skies in the afternoon and a steady rain by late evening.

Rain-hardened west-coasters may feel the clouds appear to be doing a record job this month, but the weather bureau here says it's not so.

Vancouver's normal December rainfall is 6.53 inches and the record is 8.95. So far this month 4.1 inches have fallen.

But the news is little comfort to Fraser Valley farmers, some of whom have as much as three-quarters of their land under water.

MOPPING UP

Most municipalities have mopped up after the deluge which poured 2.16 inches of rain on most of the area during the last three days. However, low-lying areas still report flood conditions.

In western Washington state, mild weather melted snow in the Cascade Mountains and in some places brought six inches of rain in a 24-hour period. Danger of further flooding remained.

Families fled their homes for the second time within a month as water lapped over their porches and helicopters whirled into action to aid evacuation.

Sally Ann kettle back on job

Donations to the Salvation Army's Yuletide Kettle will provide many families with Christmas dinner hampers, Salvation Army District Commander, Major Aubrey Rideout said today.

Starting tomorrow, the plastic kettle will be manned on Third Avenue West.

Proceeds go toward providing needy families with "Christmas all-year-round," Major Rideout said.

Last year more than $800 was donated by city residents, an average of $100 each day.

The kettle will be attended until Christmas Eve.

Persons knowing of anyone in need are asked to get in touch with the Salvation Army as soon as possible.

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Metlakatla man missing

The Indian Affairs branch are searching for a Metlakatla man who has been missing from his home for a week.

George Edwin Leighton, 41, of short height, dark complexion and weighing 155 pounds, was reported to have left his home in Metlakatla December 9 by boat, Indian Agent R. H. S. Sampson said today.

Mr. Leighton has one son Edwin Vincent, age 11, who is staying with relatives.

Mr. Sampson said the missing man was last seen in Prince Rupert on the night of December 10.

Anyone knowing of Mr. Leighton's whereabouts is asked to get in touch with the Indian Affairs branch.

Prince Rupert has now gone 334 days without a fatal traffic accident.

CAR POOL SET

Record vote tomorrow expected by Jaycees

With the largest number of voters eligible to vote in tomorrow's civic election, a total of 4,269, the Junior Chamber of Commerce hopes to help as many as possible get to the polls.

In conjunction with its annual "Get Out the Vote" campaign the Junior Chamber will operate its car pool between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The polls will be open in the Civic Centre from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Numbers to phone if transportation to the polls is needed, are 4192 and 4193, Jaycee Get Out the Vote campaign chairman William Symington said.

"We don't care who people vote for as long as they exercise their franchise to go to the polls," Mr. Symington said.

He added that with a three-way mayoralty race and a five-man aldermanic contest a record vote for Prince Rupert should be assured.

Seeking the chief magistrate's post are **Mayor P. J. Lester**, incumbent for the past two years; **Alderman George E. Hills**, former mayor and a veteran of 10 years on City Council and **Arthur Murray**, ex-parks commission chairman and longtime parks board member.

The five men seeking the three aldermanic seats are **Alderman Norman Bellis**, plan production manager; **Darrow Gomez**, maintenance man; **Michael W. H. Krueger**, chemist manager; **James Walter Prusky**, port engineer and **John West**, carpenter.

Also seeking the approval of the 3,234 property owners of the city is the **"Water Supply and Distribution Bylaw,"** to authorize the borrowing of $900,000 to put the city's waterworks in shape.

Returning officer for the election is R. W. Long, with David Wilson as deputy returning officer.

Up to press time today 5 voters had cast ballots in the advance poll.

Trail traffic fatality-free for five years

TRAIL, B.C. (CP)—"No fatal accidents for 5 years—Trail thanks you."

Bright green and white stickers bearing this simple message bloomed like flowers during a day-long downpour of rain here Tuesday as this city of 12,000 quietly celebrated its 1,826th fatality-free day of motoring.

There was no organized celebration. Most expressed a proud word of approval for a job well-done—and added the reminder that tomorrow is equally important as the years behind.

The last person killed in a city traffic accident was four-year-old Janet Hurlbert who was hit by a truck five years and one day ago.

World News Briefs

LONDON (CP)—The Commonwealth prime ministers have set a date and place for their next meeting but an element of uncertainty remains as to just who will be there. They will meet in London May 3, Prime Minister Macmillan told the House of Commons Tuesday.

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TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese Supreme Court ruled today that the "no-war" clause in Japan's constitution does not prevent the stationing of American troops here. The court also said Japan's own armed forces are constitutional.

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HAVANA (AP)—With his military courts again in full swing, Premier Fidel Castro expressed belief today that there will be an invasion of Cuba in 1960. "Next year we will have to defend the revolution with weapons in hand," Castro declared in a televised, 4½-hour speech.

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PARIS (AP)—Western leaders trying to patch up their unity in the face of Russia's growing might were told today the Soviet Union has 100 missile bases and has had intercontinental rockets in service for 17 months.

✣ ✣ ✣

PARIS (CP)—Canada, continuing to emphasize the importance it places on international disarmament, Tuesday urged NATO ministers to draw up proposals for consideration at forthcoming East-West negotiations.

✱ Vote as you wish in tomorrow's civic election but vote! ✱