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Apartment blaze kills waiter; wife, son escape from window

Cigarette butt thought cause

A mother and five-year-old son were saved early this morning from an apartment fire on Third Avenue West which took the life of her 27-year old husband.

Dead is **Roy Little** who was found unconscious under a bed in the four-room suite above Nobles Radio service store.

Escaping the blaze which completely destroyed the living room of the apartment were **Mrs. Ann Little** and their small boy **Kerry.**

Both the mother and son were taken to Prince Rupert General Hospital and are reported to be in good condition. Mrs. Little is suffering from shock.

Fire Chief Earl Becker said that Mrs. Little dropped the boy from a bedroom window to the ground 12 feet below and then jumped herself.

It is believed that Mr. Little was overcome with smoke and was unable to follow her out.

The fire broke out at 5:15 a.m. and was under control within minutes.

Firemen who were on the scene within minutes of the alarm found the small suite full of smoke but located Mr. Little under the bed in the bedroom. He was rushed to hospital by city taxi owner Franklin Stewart, but was pronounced dead by Dr. R. B. Smith shortly after arrival.

Mrs. Little and the boy were taken to hospital by a passing motorist.

Chief Becker said today that the fire possibly started by a lighted cigarette butt in a chesterfield chair which was located in the corner of the living room.

Two unidentified men who were passing the scene at the time of the fire applied artificial respiration until Mr. Little was taken to hospital.

Both bedrooms were untouched by the fire but the kitchen, pantry and bathroom were damaged by smoke and water.

The radio store, which is owned by W. S. Noble, received only minor water damage. Total damage has not yet been estimated.

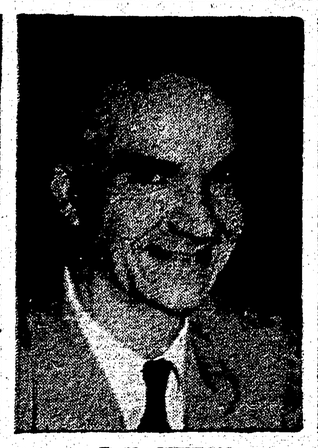
Mr. Little, well known in the city, was employed as a waiter and tapman at the Savoy Hotel beer parlor.

He had lived in Prince Rupert for about seven years and was the recording secretary of the Bartenders' Local 818. He is believed to have relatives in Nova Scotia.

An inquest was called by Coroner George J. Dawes for 2:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Jurors are: Ronald Iveson, Carl Sauer, Stanley Saville, Charles Love, John Fitzgerald, Eric Christison and Harold Hansen.

R. F. LUCAS
. . . Senior high principal



F. N. SUTTON
. . . Senior vice-principal

FREDERICK DUNFORD
. . . Junior high principal

IAN H. CURRIE
. . . New vice-principal

ROBERT R. WILSON
. . . Heads English department

LUCAS, DUNFORD PRINCIPALS

New appointments made for two high schools

Five administrative appointments to become effective when the new senior high school on Ninth Avenue West opens next September were announced today by District 52 School Board.

Ronald F. Lucas, 42, currently principal of Booth Memorial Junior-Senior High school and **Frank N. Sutton,** 40, vice-principal of Booth will assume similar positions at the new senior high school.

Frederick Dunford, 36, vice-principal of Booth Memorial high school at present, has been appointed principal of the junior high school which will accommodate Grades 7, 8 and 9 in September.

Ian H. Currie, 33, vice-principal of King Edward Elementary school, has been named vice-principal of the new junior high school.

Appointed as head of the English and Social Studies departments at the new senior high school is **Robert R. Wilson,** 31, teacher in these subjects at Booth high school for the past year.

Mr. Lucas who received his early education at Magee High school in Vancouver, began his teacher training at Vancouver Normal school and obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of British Columbia.

He began teaching in 1935 at a one-room school at Sunrise Valley in the Peace River block. In 1940, after teaching in various one- and two-room schools he became principal of Cloverdale Elementary school.

From 1941 until 1946 he served in the Royal Canadian Artillery and after his overseas service returned to the University of B.C. to complete his BA and B.Ed degrees between 1946 and 1947.

Between 1947 and 1951 he was a teacher on the staff of Southern Okanagan High school at Oliver and between 1951 and 1954 was vice-principal of Fort St. John elementary-senior high school.

After serving as principal of McBride elementary senior high school between 1954 and 1956, Mr. Lucas came here to be principal of Booth Memorial Junior-Senior High school. He is married and has two children, both girls.

Frank N. Sutton, was born in Cardiff, Wales and came to Canada to settle with his parents in the Cumberland district of Vancouver Island. He received his elementary and secondary education in Comox and later graduated from the University of British Columbia, majoring in chemistry and mathematics. A teacher for 12 years, he was principal of McBride High school for four years before coming to Prince Rupert five years ago. He is married with two children.

Mr. Dunford was born in London, England and was educated both there and in Toronto, Ont., and Vancouver.

He obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees at the University of B.C. and took his teacher-training

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—See "NEW"

Sommers appeal begins

VICTORIA (CP)— An appeal against conviction and sentence for bribery and conspiracy by former British Columbia forest minister Robert E. Sommers will hinge on one involved point of law.

Angelo Branca, Vancouver criminal lawyer representing the 48-year-old ex-minister, told the three-man British Columbia Court of Appeal he was in effect discarding all other arguments.

Mr. Branca will argue that a two-year limitation section in the old criminal code under which Sommers was convicted ruled out prosecution of his client because of the time element.

Mr. Branca reviewed Monday how the Crown had changed indictments four times, the last switched the indictment from the new Criminal Code—which became effective April, 1955—to the old code midway through the trial. The trial judge—Mr. Justice J. O. Wilson—ruled this necessary because the alleged offences occurred prior to April 1955.

SAYS PERIOD EXPIRED

Sommers' counsel will argue that by the time the final indictment was filed the limitation period under the old code had expired.

The section precludes prosecution on bribery charges more than two years old and Mr. Branca said that with no basis for bribery prosecution there was no basis for prosecution on conspiracy.

Sommers—who sat as a spectator in the public gallery in the tiny courtroom—was charged and convicted at Vancouver of accepting thousands of dollars in bribes in return for use of his cabinet influence in obtaining government timber licences for certain firms willing to pay.

He is under five one-year consecutive sentences for bribery and one year concurrent term for conspiracy. Sommers is out on $34,000 bail.

Mr. Branca said he still will rely on some of the arguments to be made by J. R. Nicholson, appeal counsel for Sommers' convicted co-conspirator, H. W. Gray, Vancouver timber executive, and Gray's companies — Pacific Coast Services Ltd., and Evergreen Lumber Sales.

Mr. Nicholson will argue that the former forestry minister was not an official of the Crown as ruled during the trial by Mr. Justice Wilson. If this is upheld then all convictions should go by the board.

Special Crown prosecutor Victor Dryer will follow Mr. Nicholson. He will argue that Sommers' sentence should have been five years on conspiracy alone.

Prince Rupert has now gone 33 days without a fatal traffic accident.

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ROY LITTLE
. . . Popular figure

Unions give $25,000 to loggers

VANCOUVER (CP)—British Columbia unions have donated $25,000 to the strike fund of Newfoundland's loggers, and the figure will probably be increased.

E. P. O'Neal, secretary of the B.C. Federation of Labor, said today he has called an emergency meeting of all trade union representatives for Tuesday at which further ways and means of providing loggers with "financial and moral aid" will be discussed.

"O'Neal released the text of a telegram which the B.C. Federation sent to Newfoundland premier Joseph Smallwood. It read: "The B.C. Federation of Labor abhors your abominable tactics in the International Woodworkers of America strike.

"Your actions are a demonstration of what organized labor may expect from Liberal administrations. We support to the fullest possible extent the struggle of the IWA to establish free trade unions as opposed to the government-controlled captive type of organization which you advocate."

Premier Smallwood Thursday told Newfoundland loggers to "kick out" the IWA and offered his help in setting up an independent union for them.

In Grand Falls, 1,200 loggers are striking for a 17-cent hourly pay increase over two years and a 54-hour work week. They now receive $1.06 an hour and work a 60-hour week.

Navy in big air-sea exercise

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP)—Canadian surface ships and planes joined ships of the United States 1st Fleet Monday in a four-day exercise in anti-submarine warfare described as the most formidable task facing North America's navies.

The exercise, termed Skynet, will pit a force of ships and planes against submarines trying to penetrate a 600-mile barrier off southern California.

Canada's 407th Maritime Squadron of anti-submarine planes and three frigates of the Canadian navy are participating in the exercise.

CITY RCMP HANDLE 2,258 CASES IN 1958; FINES TOTAL $25,610

Prince Rupert RCMP detachment handled 2,258 cases last year and the court collected a total of $25,610.50 in fines, Sgt. J. E. Ruttan, NCO in charge, reported today.

Sgt. Ruttan said the detachment investigated a total of 2,746 complaints.

Of the total cases handled, 321 were under the criminal code, 713 under Federal statutes, 719 under provincial statutes, 49 under municipal bylaws; there were 236 general investigations.

Of the total fines collected, bylaws and parking infractions took up $3,930.50 and court cases amounted to $1,872. The rest was for general fines.

CANADIAN ON ROYAL STAFF —Petty Officer Rosalee Auger of the Canadian navy walks past a sentry outside Buckingham Palace en route to take up duties on the royal staff. She was named secretary to Esmond Butler, also a Canadian and assistant press secretary to the Queen. Miss Auger, 25, will travel with the Queen and Prince Philip when they visit Canada this summer. —CP photo from UKIO.

Certification for mechanics urged by MLA

VICTORIA (CP)—A system of certification for garage mechanics was suggested for British Columbia Monday by Harold E. Roche, Social Credit member of the legislature for North Peace River.

"It is time this province had legislation . . . for the control of mechanics in garages," Mr. Roche said during debate on the budget.

"I know of many of these boys who are hardly able to find the motor in a car . . . yet they are able to charge $5 an hour for their services."

Mr. Roche suggested some system such as those used to accredit plumbers, electricians, barbers and other tradesmen, and said the people of the province should have the right to demand to see a person's certification before being forced to pay high rates for mechanical work on autos.

Boeing 707s reach Vancouver in Aug.

VANCOUVER (AP)—Qantas Airways will start operating Boeing 707 jet aircraft into Vancouver Aug. 14. By that date, the Australian air line will be flying round-the-world service in 51 hours and 45 minutes flying time. The 90-passenger airliners will fly from Vancouver to San Francisco in one hour and 55 minutes.

CCF plans cancellation of Wenner-Gren scheme

VICTORIA (CP)—CCF leader Robert Strachan of British Columbia said Monday night that if his party was elected to power in B.C. it would cancel the Wenner-Gren agreement for possible development of 40,000 square miles in the Rocky Mountain Trench area of northern B.C.

Mr. Strachan said he believed the vast power potential of the Peace river should be developed publicly and not by private enterprise.

In 1957 Alex Wenner-Gren, Swedish financier, signed an agreement with the B.C. government to develop the 40,000 square miles of wilderness. He posted a $500,000 good faith bond.

The Rocky Mountain trench area is a huge geological fault, 10 to 20 miles wide, which runs from the United States northwestward through B.C. into the Yukon.

Mr. Strachan made his comments on a weekly television program Press Conference on CHEK, Victoria.

He also said the CCF would consider nationalizing the B.C. Electric and B.C. Telephone companies, both now privately owned.

Sought screen role

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A London model says she was intimate with movie producer Otto Preminger in hopes of landing a motion picture role. Miss Pat Williams, 27, testified in a deposition filed Monday by lawyers for Mr. Preminger, 53. She and her 30-year-old husband, engaged in a divorce suit, have accused each other of misconduct.

ATTACK TERMED "VICIOUS"

O'Neal says B.C. labor critic wants to see "climate of hate"

VANCOUVER (CP)—British Columbia labor leaders Monday night termed vicious and without foundation an attack on unions made in the British Columbia legislature by works minister W. N. Chant.

The minister, in a harsh indictment against the labor movement in B.C., said the unions "in some quarters have engaged boodlegging, racketts and gambling as the recognized domain of the hoodlum and gangster."

Union leaders challenged him to produce proof.

"If he has any facts let him put them on the record," said Bill Black, president of the B.C. Federation of Labor.

"If he sincerely believes there is corruption in the B.C. labor movement why doesn't he put the evidence before the attorney-general for action?"

E. P. O'Neal, secretary of the Federation, said "Mr. Chant must have been under extreme emotional stress or else he has a complete disregard for facts to make such vicious and degenerate statements while he enjoys parliamentary immunity."

"However, the real reason behind the attacks of Mr. Chant may be an effort to divert attention from the labor movement in B.C. and their program that was for the restrictive legislation which employers' groups have been demanding."

Mr. O'Neal said that to the best of his knowledge "no labor leader in B.C. and no responsible union official has been charged or convicted of any criminal offence."

Joe Morris, president of the International Woodworkers of America, B.C. district, said "Canada and B.C. in particular have been and are singularly free of any corruption in the labor movement."

Mr. Morris said Mr. Chant "must not attempt to substantiate his charges under any form of judicial inquiry.

"He has merely parroted the business charges of employers in their organized attack to secure restrictive legislation against labor."

WEATHER—

Gale warning in effect. Mostly sunny Wednesday with cloudy periods over southern sections. Little change in temperature. Winds northeasterly 30 over the open water and northeasterly 40 down some mainland inlets. Low tonight and high Wednesday 30 and 45.

TIDES—

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1959
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	08:28	17.0 feet
	22:40	16.0 feet
Low	03:10	21.4 feet
	16:22	6.7 feet