COUNCIL BRIEFS

Delegation fails to beat down prices of federal building at Ottawa meet

Alderman George Hills reported to council Monday that a delegation had been unable to obtain a cut in the price of $200,000 put forward as the lowest possible purchase figure for the Post Office, planned as a new city hall.

Following discussions with minister of works Hon. Howard Green during a visit to Ottawa by Ald. Hills, city clerk and comptroller R. W. Long and city solicitor J. T. Harvey, Mr. Green wrote council of the government offer.

A suggestion that payment for the building be spread over a number of years was turned down by the federal government, who nevertheless agreed that the city could have until 1961 to complete payments.

Also involved in the transaction is the acquisition by the federal government of provincially-owned property adjoining the Post Office site. It is north of the present building, between Third and Fourth Streets and is the present site of the Skeena Health Unit and the former house of the government agent.

Council passed a motion that a formal letter of acceptance would be forwarded, but no further action taken with respect to purchase of the property until a referendum of the owner-electorate has been held.

In respect to the property transfer, Premier W. A. C. Bennett told the city last July the province would part with the tract for "a nominal fee."

Also in council Monday, a request from School District 52 for an advance of $25,000 from the 1958 requisition was approved. However council learned the city will be assessed interest payments on the loan.

Tag days were granted to three city organizations. Gyro club will hold its annual Apple Day October 17. Women's Auxiliary to the Prince Rupert General Hospital a tag day on June 6 and Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire June 20. IODE will also have use of the council chambers for the day.

Council heard a letter from Canadian National Railways regional manager P. Blanchet, offering to collaborate with the provincial government in order to accommodate the city in efforts to sub-let a site for the establishment of a television antenna and transmitter. Under the Prince Rupert Railway Taxation Act an agreement must be reached between the province, the railway and the party intending to install the station.

In regard to a complaint from residents in the area immediately adjacent to the government elevator that dust from the plant is creating a nuisance, A. E. Jacobsen, general manager, informed council that the firm has not yet found a method of controlling fine dust. He wrote that special considerations would be given the problem and as soon as a solution could be found, it would be applied.

Building inspector J. E. Ewart was granted permission by council to attend the Building Inspectors' Association conference in Vancouver April 6 to 8.

British Columbia Underwriters' Association manager G. R. Turner informed council by letter that their chief engineer, R. M. McLeod, would arrive in the city during the week commencing April 6 to advise the city on fire prevention and fire fighting practices.

Mayor P. J Lester and city clerk R. W. Long were granted permission to attend the conference of Canadian Mayors and Municipalities to be held in North Bay, Ont., May 31 to June 3.

Mayor Lester asked for the inclusion of Mr. Long, as he explained that while mayors come and go, the city clerk remains and should find courses on municipal financing, unemployment, winter works, urban renewal, juvenile delinquency, fire services, civil defence and social welfare offered at the conference, invaluable.

Ald. George Hills cast the only dissenting vote on an amendment to include Mr. Long, but voted in support of the motion to send Mayor Lester.

Owing to tax emeptions granted Church of the Annunciation by the city, taxes paid on the school playground adjacent to the church will be refunded following a motion in council Monday.

A progress payment to Northwest Construction Ltd., for work completed at the new fire hall site was approved in the amount of $10,701.50.

Five parcels of land were approved for sale by council at a total value to the city of $2,500.

Trade licences were granted Paul Lapushinskey, 750 Third Avenue West, auctioneer; John Ewald, 746 Taylor, general contractor; Paul Lapushinskey, 750 Third Avenue West, service station operator; Kinsmen Club, Gayland shows carnival; Robert Franklin, 220 Fourth Avenue East, renting four-room suite.

Secretary treasurer of the Prince Rupert Labor Council will receive notification that enclosure of utility accounts with utility bills will be continued since council considers it a normal business procedure.

The Labor Council had complained to council about enclosure of the accounts.

Utilities committee recommended the purchase of six pay phones at an approximate cost of $1,500. Council approved the recommendation.

Police and traffic committee recommended that the attorney-general be requested to appoint a stipendiary magistrate.

Tenders called for the purchase of four new tires for the Michigan Hi Loader were returned and council accepted a bid of $1,186.67 submitted by McRae Motors Ltd. Two other tenders were higher than the McRae bid.

Board of works committee reported that the stage for the Vancouver Symphony concert at the Navy Drill Hall had been constructed at a cost of $150.

Public hearings will be held March 31, at 8 p.m. on three applications for rezoning.

The areas to be discussed include a commercial site at Third Avenue West and Park Avenue junction where the present owner intends to rebuild the premises for use as a garage and filling station.

This hearing will deal with an area described as Lots 40, 441, 42, 43, block 29, section 1, be rezoned from Zone B apartments to zone C local shopping.

A second hearing will deal with an area 200 feet long between the waterfront and Graham Ave. which will be rezoned from commercial to residential to protect property owners presently resident in the area.

The third hearing will deal an amendment to the zoning bylaw to ensure that only one building can be constructed on a parcel or lot.

Wireless hospital serves seamen

ROME (Reuters)—Sailors in mid-ocean are as near to medical help or advice nowadays as most people who live on dry land, thanks to an Italian doctor with a humanitarian idea and the private means to put it into effect.

One retired coast guardsman was all the help Dr. Guido Guida had when he installed a short-wave radio transmitter on his roof and started his "good samaritan" wireless consultations for Italian sailors in the Mediterranean in 1935.

Today, the staff of his hospital-by-wireless is still modest, but his wards are the major oceans of the world, and in them sick or injured sailors of every nationality can get round-the-clock expert medical attention.

NINETEEN STUDENTS jam into a telephone booth as they join the latest college craze, "togetherness". The students claim to have bettered a mark established by students at Hatfield, England where 18 persons jammed themselves into a phone booth. Above the students at Ryerson Institute in Toronto show a few of the 19 in the booth.

A drink of cold water often cures a temporary attack of hiccups.

Canadian-born doctor wins medal for pioneering work in Manila

COLOMBO, Ceylon (AP)— Last August in Manila, Canadian-born Dr. Mary Rutnam was awarded a special gold medal for her pioneering contribution to medicine, social work and community development in Ceylon over the last 60 years.

At 86, Dr. Rutnam flew from Colombo to the Philippines to become the first winner of the $10,000 Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service in Asia.

Born at Elora, Ont., near Guelph, she is today one of Ceylon's most distinguished residents. Her name and her work are known throughout the island. She was the first doctor to practise orthopedic work in Ceylon, the first voluntary social worker and a founder-member of the first national women's organization.

"I was the first Wavelet," said Dr. Rutnam, interviewed at her apartment in a Colombo suburb. "I was able to show the way and the others took up what I started. It is wonderful to see how the people here have since come ahead."

Dr. Rutnam studied at the Ontario Medical College for Women at the University of Toronto. In her final year she accepted a post with the American board of commissioners for foreign missions to run a hospital in Ceylon, but on her arrival in 1898 discovered the hospital was not built. So she worked with the mission and then went into private medical practice among the Moslem population, which at the time had no doctors.

She married Samuel Christmas K. Rutnam, a Ceylonese Tamil, whom she met in the United States. He founded the Central College in Colombo but died some years ago.

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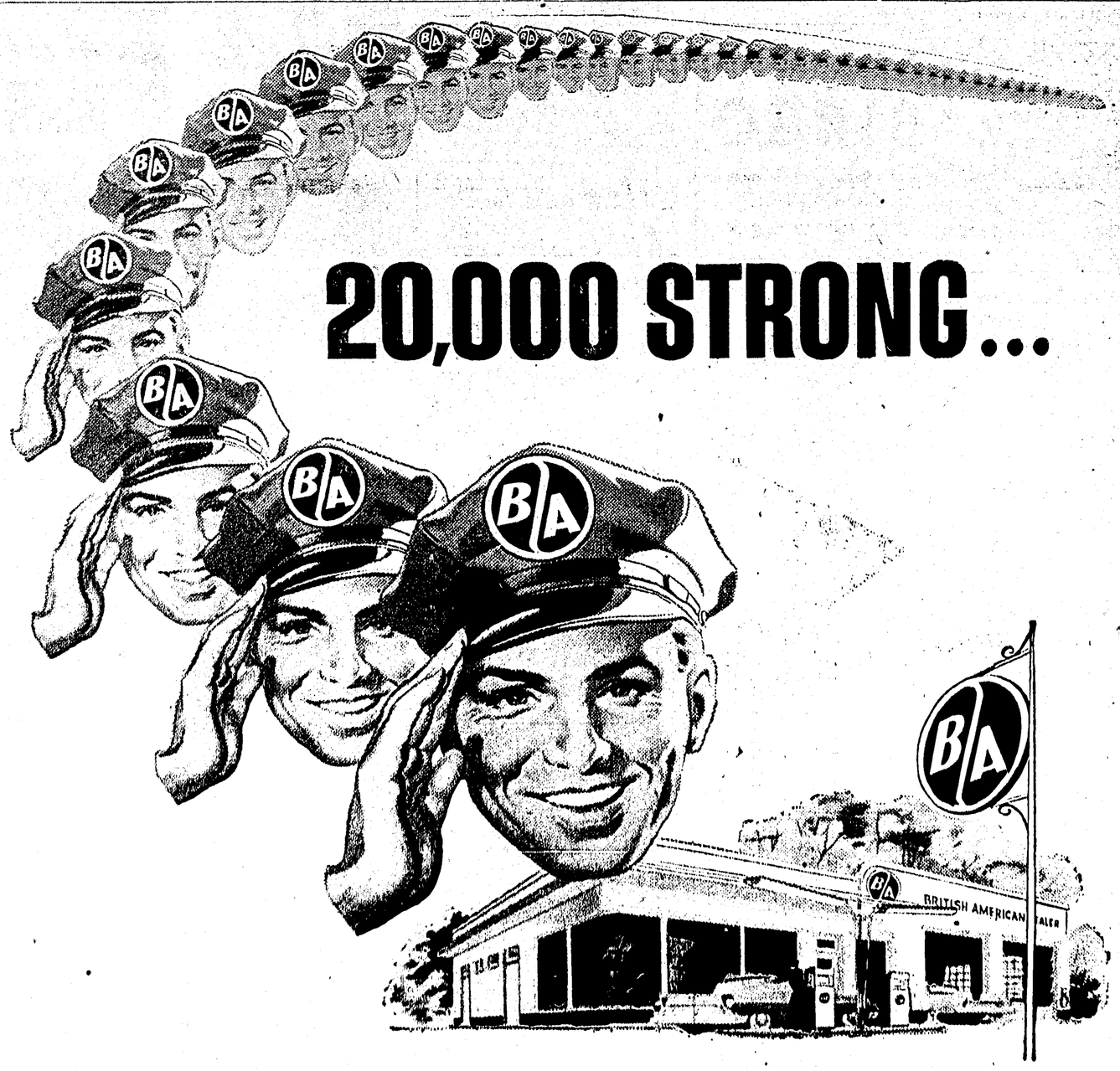

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