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# The Daily News

Published at Canada's Most Strategic Pacific Port—"Prince Rupert, the Key to the Great Northwest"  
VOL. XXXVI, No. 127. PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1947 PRICE FIVE CENTS

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## WORST AIRCRAFT DISASTER YET

### Other Plane Accident Fifty-Three Lives

So Badly Mutilated That  
Funeral May Be Necessary

DEPOSIT, Maryland (CP)—The mutilated but one of 53 victims of the worst commercial disaster in United States history today to the Rainbridge naval training base, nine passengers, one of them a babe in arms, and four crew members died last night when an Eastern Airlines DC-4, south-bound from Newark to Miami, crashed three miles from Port Deposit.

The big ship of the air plummeted nose-first into a forest and burst into flames. The explosion shook buildings miles away. The fire burned for three hours and prevented rescuers from approaching.

There was one Canadian passenger among the victims, Miss Nora Gilberry of Toronto. The bodies were so badly mutilated and confused that it was thought a mass funeral might be necessary.



PRODIGAL SON—Behind bars in Detroit, Joseph Lukas, alias Lukasiewicz, strikes a remorseful pose after his arrest on a charge of having stolen \$15,000 from his mother in Pontiac, Mich.—an act which drove the woman to attempt suicide. When arrested with two companions, Lukas had spent all but \$3,500 of the money in 29 days of high living in Milwaukee and Chicago. They were headed for Florida when picked up. The companions were identified as Rudy Forslund, of Alpha, Mich., and Nick Poulos, of Milwaukee.

### MORE U.B.C. RESULTS OUT

Further local Students Succeed In Examinations

VANCOUVER—Following is a further partial list of University of British Columbia examination results for 1946-47 semester.

**Applied Science**  
First Year, Class Two—Peter H. North, Robert L. Peachey.  
Passed with Supplementals—Helge P. Holkestad.  
Second Year, Passed with Supplementals—L. Gwynn G. Holtby.

**Civil Engineering**  
Third Year, Class One—Raymond A. Pullman (Sointula).

**Agriculture**  
Third Year, Class One—C. Daniel Taper.

**Faculty of Law**  
First Year—Passed with supplementals—James D. Fisher.

**Nursing**  
First Year—Passed with Supplementals—Betty P. Pullen.

**NO SCHOOL FOR THEM**  
OTTAWA—Nine hundred Saskatchewan Indian children live in regions where there are no schools. J. P. B. Ostrander, inspector of Indian agencies for the province, told a joint Senate-Commons committee here recently.

**Local Tides**  
June 1, 1947  
12:16 18.0 feet  
6:03 3.8 feet  
18:00 6.9 feet

### BIG NARCOTIC HAUL IS MADE

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.—One of the largest recoveries of narcotics in recent years here took place Friday night when two bottles, containing one hundred tablets each of cocaine, codeine, morphine and nebutol were seized by police in a downtown hotel. Two men have been arrested, charged with possession of narcotics.

### Skeena River Is Still Rising

Watchful Eye Being Kept on Railway and Motorists Chary About Setting Out

NO ROAD WASHOUTS

Provincial Public Works department office here has "no information" on reported washouts along the Skeena River Highway between Tyee and Terrace. The Daily News learned this afternoon tracking down rumors that high flood waters had made the artery impassable.

"We know that there is water on the highway in certain places, but we have no information on the road being washed out," a Public Works spokesman said. "As far as we know, cars are still running between here and Terrace, although in some places the water is almost up to the running boards."

Little or no apprehension is felt by C.N.R. authorities that the river will damage their tracks in the Kwinitsa area where the worst flood condition is being felt. So far train service has not been affected by the high water which has covered the rails.

The water covers the railway, which is adjacent to the highway, only when the tide is high, backing up the current.

Tonight's train, scheduled to arrive from the east at 10:45, was reported to be running three hours late after it had been held up by a rock slide near Mount Robson.

With the Skeena River continuing to rise rapidly, a watchful eye is being kept on its level in relation to the line of the Canadian National Railways. At the same time, with reports of some bridges being shaky and some parts of the road being under water, some motorists pause until the situation becomes somewhat stabilized before starting to drive over the highway.

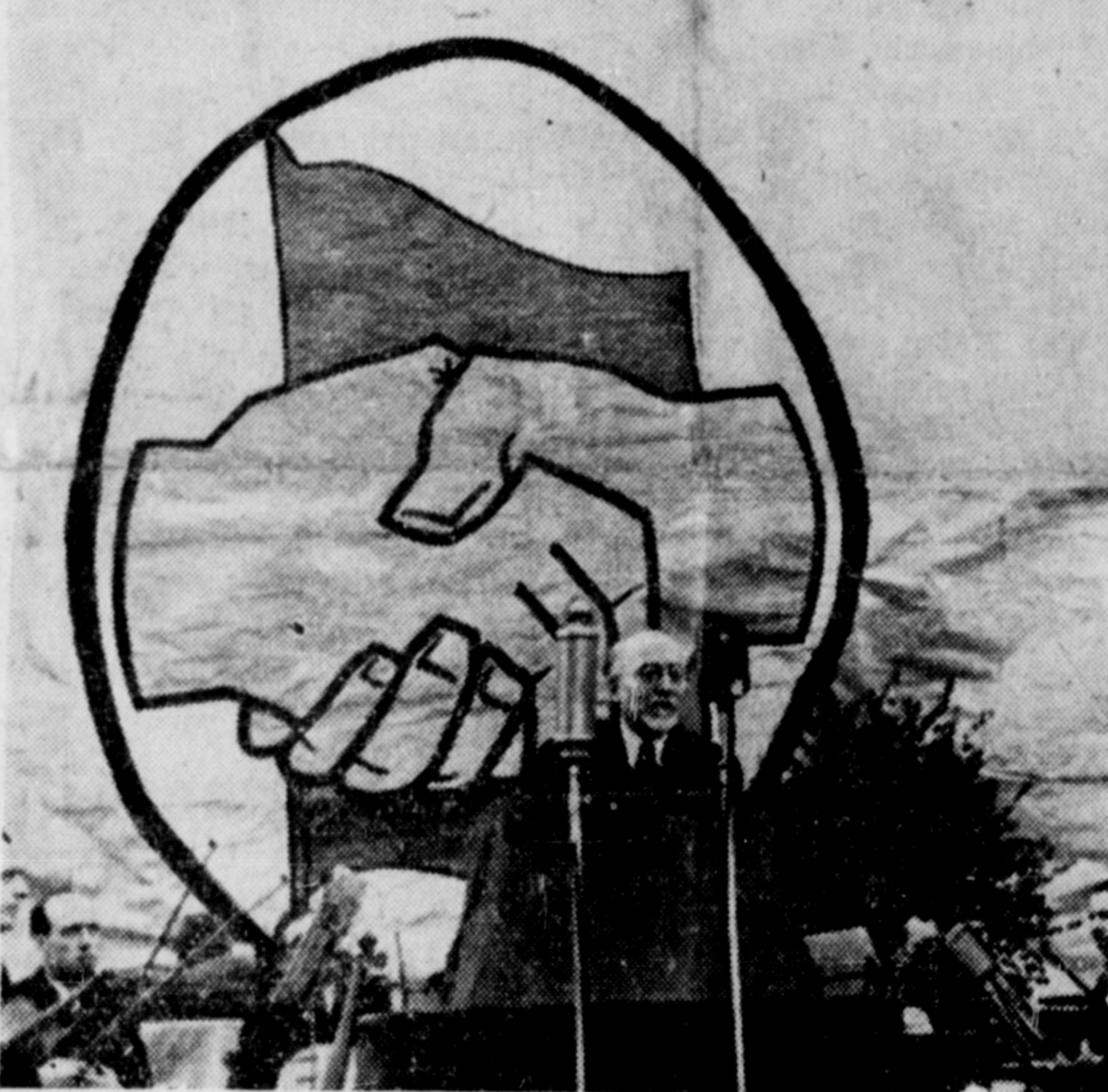
Yesterday afternoon the level of the river at Kwinitsa was a mere one foot six inches below top of the rail, having risen from 2 feet 8 inches in 24 hours. At Ambury the river was 7 feet 11 inches below rail from 8 feet 3 inches the day previous. At Shames the rise had been from 6 feet 6 inches to 6 feet 5 inches. Pacific reported 8 feet 2 inches, compared with 8 feet 6 inches. At one time yesterday water was two feet over the tracks at Kwinitsa but this was at high tide.

Railway people have been keeping their fingers crossed and are welcoming the cooler weather which there has been the past couple of days. The level of the Skeena River is higher now than it has been for three or four years. There had been no washouts on the railway up to this morning.

### PEOPLE OF GERMANY MIXING BEER AND POLITICS TOGETHER AGAIN



### NUN DIE HÄI



In the per-war days the Germans used to concentrate in their beer gardens to discuss the affairs of the nation over their sudsy steins. The custom apparently has returned. Recently about 5,000 persons gathered in the Frankfurt zoo beer garden to hear speakers from the Russian zone. At top is a section of the crowd. At bottom is one of the speakers, August Froelich, president of the Thuringian parliament. The poster in background reads: "Brothers, join hands now," the slogan of the Communist party.

### HALIBUT SALES

Canadian	Booth
Oldfield, 20,000, 17.40 and 14.	
Covenant, 36,000, Co-op.	
Arctic I, 17,000, Co-op.	
Neptune II, 17,000, Co-op.	
Toedie, 14,000, Co-op.	
Northern Breeze, 33,000, Co-op.	
Prosperity A., 32,000, 17.30 and 14, Pacific.	
Osbyorg, 6,000, 17.20 and 14, Atlin.	
Sonja I, 42,000, 17.40 and 14, Royal.	

### REMOVE MEAL CEILINGS

OTTAWA—Ceiling prices on meals on restaurants, hotels and public eating places will likely be removed shortly, it was learned today. It is understood that the Prices Board first considered raising the ceiling but, after further investigation, decided it was best to remove controls altogether.

### "SOAKING RICH" IS NOT ENOUGH

To Obtain Revenues Needed to Meet Expenditures, Says Minister of Finance

OTTAWA—The Minister of Finance, Hon. Douglas Abbott, said in the House of Commons on Friday that, no matter how hard he "soaked the rich," he could not obtain the revenues from them needed to meet current expenditures.

Mr. Abbott made this statement after A. M. Nicholson (C.C.F.-Mackenzie) had suggested that no one be left more than \$25,000 annually after having paid income taxes.

Mr. Abbott stated there were not sufficient wealthy people from whom to obtain the money.

### CANADIANS ARE LUCKY

Forty-Five Draw Horses in Irish Hospitals Sweepstake

DUBLIN, E.—A lucky Canadian holder of an Irish sweepstake ticket drew Tudor Minstrel, odds-on-favorite in the Derby to be run at Epsom Downs June 7, as the sweepstakes drawings went on today. Four Canadians held tickets on Mighty Maaharatta, Pseudonymo and ticket numbers have not been disclosed.

A ticket-holder may get \$100,000 if his horse wins. Forty-five Canadians drew winning tickets.

### MONTREAL BOY SCOUTS COMING

Preliminary plans are being made by the Prince Rupert District Boy Scouts Association for the entertainment of a group of twenty Montreal Boy Scouts and leaders who will visit Prince Rupert August 23. Arriving by steamer from Vancouver, the party will proceed east by train in the evening. While here members of the party will be taken to the Skeena River to see the salmon fishing, to local fishery plants and to the celanese mill site at Port Edward.

### ELECTION FOR HUNGARY SOON

Resignation of Present Prime Minister Has Been Forced

BUDAPEST—Lajos Dinnyes, 46-year-old former Minister of War, was asked today to form a new Hungarian government after the previous government had resigned following an all-night cabinet meeting.

A statement came from the cabinet to the effect that the new national elections will be held in September.

Meanwhile reports are circulating that the Communists, having forced Premier Nagy from office, are continuing a determined move to force Hungary into a police state.

### THE WEATHER

Synopsis

A southerly flow of cool moist air over the British Columbia coast will cause extensive cloudiness and widely scattered rain showers across the province for the week end. Cold air from northern Canada is moving into central and southern British Columbia and temperatures in these areas are expected to be 10 to 15 degrees below normal for the next two days.

Forecast

Prince Rupert, Queen Charlottes and north coast—Overcast with rain showers today and Sunday. Light winds, little change in temperature. Minimum tonight—Port Hardy, 45. Maximum tomorrow 58. Minimum tonight, Massett, 58. Minimum tonight Prince Rupert 35.

### TO PROBE SALE OF JAP LANDS

Public Accounts Committee Accepts Proposal of Conservative Member

OTTAWA—The House of Commons public accounts committee Friday accepted a proposal by Karl Homouth (Progressive-Conservative, Waterloo South), that the committee recommend to Parliament the appointment of a commission to investigate the disposal of evacuated Japanese lands in British Columbia. The committee would study the sale of Japanese property by the custodian of enemy property.

### Coroner's Jury Urges Outside Vents on Boat Fuel Tanks

Deaths of Robert Houston and Stan Orvik In Explosion of Lorna H. Is Investigated

A recommendation that the fuel tanks of boats have their air vents placed above decks resulted from an inquest last night into the deaths of Robert Houston and Stanley Orvik, victims of the explosion of the halibut boat Lorna H. while she was moored at the Home Oil Co. dock here on May 23.

The jury, convened by Coroner M. M. Stephens, added the recommendation to their verdict after Hans Knutsen, owner of the boat who survived the blast, informed the court that the two spare tanks at the stern of his vessel had their vents below the after deck.

The main tanks near the engine, he said, were vented above decks, thereby allowing the fumes from within the tanks to escape into the open air.

The jury found that Houston and Orvik came to their deaths as a result of injuries received during the explosion at the Home Oil Co. dock.

### FUMES BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED BLAST

The rider to the verdict was suggested by Coroner Stephens after the conclusion of testimony when he said that a possible cause of the explosion might have been that fumes from the after tanks dissipated into the hold of the boat when oil dock attendants filled them about an hour and a half before the blast occurred.

Limping badly because of an injury to his right leg received when he was blown out of the pilot house of the Lorna H., Capt. Knutsen took his seat before the jury and recounted the precautions he had taken to clear his boat of gasoline fumes before starting the engine to return to the halibut grounds on the afternoon of May 23.

He left the boat at noon, he said, leaving orders to have the fuel tanks filled during his absence. He returned at 1 p.m. and went below to inspect the engine. While below, he opened the sky light and doors and, smelling the presence of gasoline, inspected the engine and tank connections for leakage.

Capt. Knutsen said that he used a water hose line to flush out the engine room and under the tanks and then pumped the water out of the boat. The boat, he said, carried 480 gallons of gasoline, 120 in the two spare tanks at.

Vent outlets to the main tanks were on the side of the pilot house, but the vent outlets to the spare tanks were below decks.

"I had Bobby Houston in the fo'c'sle a few minutes before and asked him if he could smell fumes and he said that he could not," Mr. Knutsen said.

He declared that he felt reasonably sure that there was no danger from fumes after he had washed out the engine room and ventilated the fo'c'sle.

When he went to the pilot house and pressed the starter button, the engine ran for about a minute, then stopped. He pressed the button again and then the explosion came.

"There could have been something wrong with the muffler, because it didn't sound right. A faulty muffler could have caused flames."

The engine, he said was in "first class" shape previously, having been recently overhauled.

He declared that he thought it was the spare tanks in the after hold that "blew."

All the men were sitting on a railing on the after deck when the explosion came, except Orvik, who was sitting on the baiting table.

Dr. R. E. Coleman, hospital pathologist, explained the in-

### MEDOS TO BE HANGED

Death Sentence Passed by Mr. Justice Manson on Killer of Vancouver Police Officer

VANCOUVER—At the completion of a five-day trial, Harry Medos, 22, was convicted by a jury at the Supreme Court Assizes here late yesterday afternoon of the murder of Police Officer Charles Boyes during a gun battle on False Creek flats February 26 last. He was sentenced to be hanged Wednesday July 30. The jury was out only 37 minutes. Immediately after its return with the verdict of guilty, Medos was asked if there was any reason why sentence should not be imposed upon him. He replied "No." Thereupon Mr. Justice A. M. Manson passed the death sentence.

Trial of William Henderson, 17, similarly charged, will start Monday.

Henderson is allegedly the third member of a bank hold-up gang following the exploits of which Constables G. O. Ledingham and Boyes, with Gunman Douglas Carter, were killed. The encounter followed an alleged frustrated bank hold-up.

Detective Hoare, credited with killing Carter, was wounded three times in the battle and Medos was also wounded.

### CHINESE TRAIN MINE-BLASTED

TIENSIN, C.—A land mine exploded today beneath a fourteen car passenger train at Lutal on the Peiping-Mukden Railway. Later reports said that hundreds of persons were believed killed in the wreck with many others injured. Cars were telescoped. The line is subject to frequent attacks by Communists. A series of explosions occurred and the locomotive was destroyed.

juries which had caused the two men's deaths.

### DOCK ATTENDANTS GIVE EVIDENCE

James Irvine, oil dock attendant, said that he heard the engine of the Lorna H. start as he was standing on the dock.

"It sounded as though the muffler was blown, then it all went up in front of us."

Irvine ran to the oil company office to take cover from falling debris. He ran down to the floats and onto the troller Beau which was moored in front of the Lorna H. Knutsen, he said, was climbing aboard the Beau at that time.

Irvine said that he did not believe that the faulty muffler above the pilot house of the Lorna H. could have had anything to do with the explosion.

Witness Ole Slatta said that he had fuelled the Lorna H., putting 138 gallons into her tanks. The job, he said, had been completed before 12:20, an hour and 20 minutes before the explosion. He assisted in carrying the body of Bobby Houston from the wharf after the blast.

Neil Stromdal, John Finley and Swint White, oil dock attendants, recounted their stories of events immediately preceding and after the explosion.