

THE SPIRIT of the occasion at the recent air... and son banquet here were the Pedersen and... who were represented by three members apiece. ... (seated left) came with his two boys, Roy and

Robert, and Tony Toth accompanied his sons, Steve and Tony. Roy Pedersen is senior cadet of the squadron. The dinner was held to commemorate the 13th year of air cadet activities in Canada, and the 30th anniversary of the RCAF.

Labor Code Nearing Approval in Principle

The government's universal labor relations bill, which has been passed in principle, is now being considered by the House of Commons. The bill, which is expected to be passed in the next few days, will give the government the power to regulate labor relations in the public sector. The bill is expected to be passed in the next few days, and will give the government the power to regulate labor relations in the public sector.

Group at Allen

All available information... the proposed sale of... the city's... committee will... next week with Ber... representative... Mr. Allen... April 14... announcement... chairman... reported that sub... responsible for fin... planning and... meanwhile hold... plan a line of ac...

John on Prince Rupert's Early History Georgina Mitchell Trip to Ottawa

She won out over Patricia Lemmon in the final. Six students took part in the contest here. Eliminated in speeches made two weeks ago before other high school students were: Barbara Doumont, Madeleine Sklasky, Elsa Insulander and George Henry. With the exception of Miss Insulander, all were guests of the Rotary club at yesterday's luncheon. In announcing the winner, Mrs. H. G. Watts, one of the judges, said "both girls were so good, we had great difficulty making a choice, however we were unanimous in our final decision." Other judges were Rev. F. Antrobus and Fred Aston.

GOVERNMENT ALLOTS \$39,000 FOR ROADS ON CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

A total of \$39,000 has been allocated by the B.C. government for improvement of roads on the Queen Charlotte Islands, it is reported by Bruce Brown, MLA for Prince Rupert. The largest part of this will be for construction work on the road between Masset and Port Clements, for which \$20,000 has been allocated. To improve and maintain the Port Clements-Dunro road, the sum of \$9,000 has been set aside. The balance of \$10,000 will be spent on the road between Masset and Tow Hill. This road is used almost exclusively by the cannery at Masset in connection with its clam operations.

Theft, Forgery Charges Bring 3-Year Jail Term

A 30-year-old former partner of a cafe in Smithers, Robert Gawn McCullough, left here by plane under police escort today for the B.C. Penitentiary for a three-year stay. He was sentenced by magistrate W. D. Vance in police court here yesterday to one year for stealing a car owned by Fred Meyers, three years on a forgery charge and one year on a charge of false pretences. The sentences were in addition to a two-year term meted out against him in Nanaimo, Ontario, last October following his conviction on six charges of false pretences. Evidence yesterday disclosed that McCullough was convicted on three charges of false pretences. He was sentenced to three years for forgery in Kamloops and was given a one-year term after he pleaded guilty to a charge of false pretences in Kimberley. Sentences are concurrent. In another case yesterday, Rex W. Rebeck was fined \$150 and costs, or two months in jail, after he was convicted on a charge of supplying liquor to a native.

Kitsumkalum Indian Shot

FORT ST. JAMES — Larry Bennett, a Kitsumkalum Indian of Port Essington, was reported by RCMP Thursday to have been shot through the lung at his new home on the Necosli Indian reserve near here.

Bennett is reported in good condition in hospital at Vanderhoof. Details of the shooting were not disclosed by the police. Born at Port Essington, Bennett was married recently and moved to Necosli a month ago.

B.C. To Quit Rent Control

VICTORIA — The British Columbia government is going out of the rent control business next year. A bill which would repeal provincial rent control legislation as of March 31, 1955 and provide machinery for municipalities to take over rent control was introduced in the legislature yesterday. The province took over rent controls when the federal government dropped them after the Second World War.

WEATHER

North coast region: Variable cloudiness with occasional showers of snow or mixed rain and snow today and Saturday. Continuing cold. Winds westerly 20 in exposed areas both afternoons otherwise westerly 15. Low tonight and high Saturday at Port Hardy 28 and 45, Sandspit and Prince Rupert 28 and 40.

VANCOUVER (CP)—John Rawston, 63, an unemployed carpenter, has been charged with attempted murder in the abduction of his wife Isabella, about 60.

Britain Grounds Comets As 21 Killed In Jetliner

French Fort Again Faces Hot Barrage

New Assault Seen Imminent

HANOI (AP)—The Communist-led Vietminh opened a "violent" artillery barrage today on the French Union fortress of Dien Bien Phu in what may be a prelude to a new mass assault on the Indo-China bastion.

A French communique said the defenders answered back with tremendous barrages as the rebels rained down thousands of shells from their 105- and 75-millimetre artillery and heavy mortars in the hills encircling the French-held plain on which the fortress stands.

REPEATED ATTACKS

Such artillery step-ups have heralded the Vietminh's two previous attempts to overrun the fortress. There was a two-day wave of assaults beginning March 13, then six days of repeated attacks on various corners of the plain's defenses which ended Monday.

Some French Army sources, however, said today that they believe the Vietminh renewal will not come for another "four or five days."

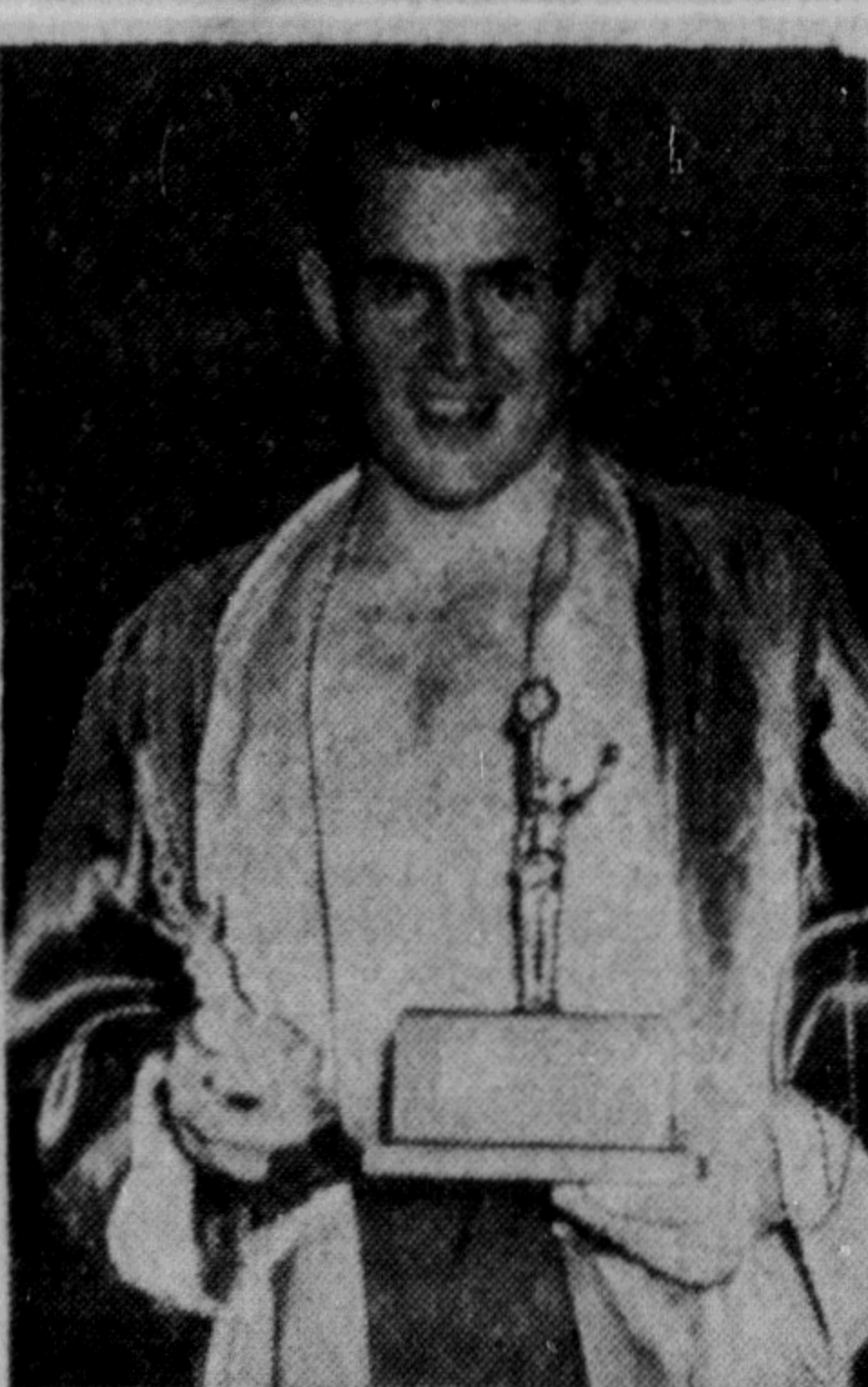
ENDS LONG LULL

The artillery duel started after the French had reported that the lull in the Dien Bien Phu area had continued through its fourth successive night.

The French defenders and their rebel besiegers were utilizing the "calm" to intensify their feverish build-up of men and supplies for the expected showdown "battle of Geneva."

It is clear that the Vietminh must strike soon, however, if they hope to win a big victory before the East-West conference on Asia opens in Geneva April 26.

Further south in Indo-China, King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia today ordered general mobilization and announced he would appeal to the United Nations against Vietminh aggression there.



—Photo by Chandler's Studio
Canadian amateur middleweight champion Trent Ketcheson of the RCN is shown above with the two trophies he won Saturday night in the Elks Lodge fight card. Ketcheson, the Navy's British Empire Games nominee, was awarded the smaller trophy for defeating Andy Marshall, Prince Rupert's 1954 Golden Gloves champion, and the large trophy for being the best boxer of the night.

Target Date Set July 1

KITIMAT—July 1 has been set by the Aluminum Company of Canada as "target date" for completion of smelter construction here and the start of production of aluminum ingots. George T. Malby, resident engineer, said the first stage of the plant containing two pot lines is expected to be ready then to receive first power over the 50-mile transmission lines from Kemano.

Ultimate plan for the smelter calls for 12 pot lines, six times the size of the present construction which covers an area 1500 feet long and 1200 feet wide.

Total area covered by the smelter to present construction including the 700-foot concrete dock and conveyor belt is about three-quarters of a mile square.

Major plant work at present is concentrated on installation of the 350 smelting pots. Recently installed on the dock is a giant crane for loading and unloading deep-sea ships, and a pneumatic unloader for pipping alumina from ships to the conveyor belt.

A 600-foot wide channel, 30 feet deep, has been dredged to the approach of the dock.

Planes Find Wreck In Mediterranean

ROME (CP)—Bodies and scattered wreckage were reported sighted in the Mediterranean today by planes searching for a comet jet airliner missing since last night with 21 persons aboard on a flight from Rome to Cairo.

It was feared the traces mark the graveyard of the second of the jet-age transport to crash in the Mediterranean this year. Britain immediately grounded all her Comets, pride of her air transport industry, for the second time since January, when another of the same type crashed off the island of Elba.

Sir Miles Thomas, chairman of British Overseas Airways Corporation, which owned the craft, which disappeared Thursday night, said today:

"Until the manufacturers can tell us that they have discovered and rectified the cause of these tragedies we certainly cannot carry any passengers in Comets."

THIRD TRAGEDY

He said BOAC had given the Comet "all the support, encouragement and promotion that any operator can expect to give any new aircraft. We have had three inexplicable tragedies which all follow up a certain pattern on reaching or approaching maximum altitude at full power."

The disaster caused postponement of a scheduled flight to Ottawa tonight by Transport Minister Alan Lennox-Boyd, who went to the House of Commons to announce the tragedy—second in the Commonwealth Thursday—and the grounding of the sleek jets. The minister said he hopes to leave for Canada Saturday or Sunday for an

aviation meeting with Canadian authorities.

An armada of planes and ships scoured the Mediterranean area on the Comet's route to Cairo during the night and intensified the search at first light of dawn.

First sighted was a huge oil slick about 50 miles south of the Isle of Capri. Surface craft took samples for a check on whether it was aviation oil.

The Reuters news agency reported that the air-sea rescue centre here had received a radio message from a searching plane that wreckage had been sighted.

The follow-up report said bodies had been discovered in the same area.

The Comet, owned by BOAC and chartered to South African Airways for a joint service between London and Johannesburg, took off Thursday evening from Rome's Ciampino airport. It was due in Cairo at 9:20 p.m.

The plane carried a crew of seven South Africans and 14 passengers, three Americans, two South Africans, seven Britons, an Egyptian and a Swiss.

Half an hour out of Rome, the plane radioed: "We are making altitude." That was the last heard from it.

In Paris the French minister of civil aviation, Paul Devinat, ordered the airline Union Aeronautique des Transports to ground its three Comet jet airliners.

Full-Scale Inquiry Underway Into Moose Jaw Plane Crash

MOOSE JAW, Sask. (CP)—A full-scale inquiry by Trans-Canada Airlines, the RCAF and the Department of Transport into the crash yesterday of a North Star airliner and an RCAF Harvard trainer which took 37 lives, is under way today.

The single-engine RCAF Harvard struck the westbound Trans-Canada Air Lines North Star 6,000 feet above this city of 25,000 residents at 10 a.m. Thursday. A wing of the big, four-engine aircraft was sheered off and the stricken aircraft twisted crazily earthward to destruction.

Under way, too, was the grisly task of identification of bodies. Late Thursday night, only 17 of the 37 victims had been identified.

Eleven bodies were taken from the remains of the North Star. That of Mrs. Martha Hadwen, the cleaning woman, was taken from the red-hot embers of the destroyed house. That of the NATO student pilot was found in the unburned wreckage of the Harvard. The others were strewn over an area of seven square miles.

The greatest previous loss of life in the crash of a scheduled airliner was 23 dead in the time-

bombing of a Canadian Pacific Airlines plane at Sault au Cochon, Que., in 1949.

The names of all victims but that of the RAF pilot were announced Thursday night.

The name of the NATO pilot, a young Englishman, was not disclosed pending notification of his next-of-kin.

The victims included Mr. and Mrs. George Sweny of Vancouver, married last December and returning home for the first time since Mr. Sweny, president of Vancouver Iron Works, was injured in a Quebec train wreck in February.

Harry McLean, 22, was to have met Doug Harper, Canadian light-heavyweight champion, in the ring at Calgary Tuesday.

Aboard the plane, too, was Oscar Blanck who built a hamburger stand into one of Vancouver's largest restaurants, "Oscars."

Pat Reid, 59, who began his flying in 1915 and won the DFM in the First World War, had become aviation sales manager for Imperial Oil Ltd.

The North Star's stewardess, Marjorie Quinney, was killed.

The crash was TCA's first fatal accident in nearly seven years.

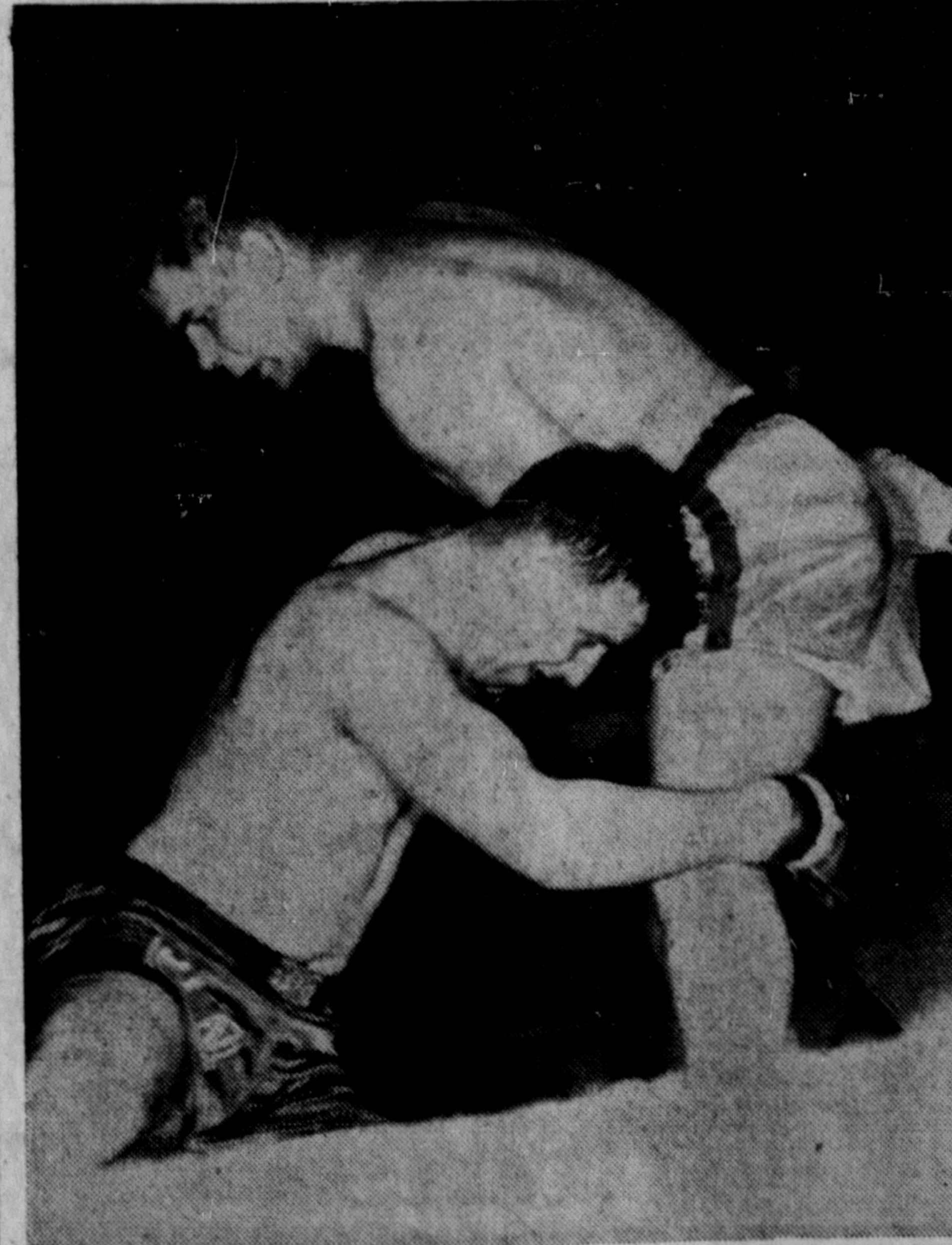
Manson's Take on High School In Cage Series For City Title

Bill McChesney's Manson's Omegas and Jack Evans' Bo-Me-Hi Rainmakers take the Civic Centre floor tonight in the first of a two-game total point series for the unofficial city basketball championship.

Evans, confident that his squad would take the series on total points, said today that his lineup would consist of Fred Kristmanson, Dick Nickerson, Ron Ciccone, Bill Morrison, Rod Tait, Gary Morrison, Rey McKay, Doug Sankey and Art Hellin.

McChesney, dapper Omega coach, not given to pre-game forecasting for his Senior B league champions and playoff winners, will probably field Dan-

ny Bill, Ray Spring, Art Olsen, Mickey Webster, Don Hartwig, Joe Walsh and George Dumas. Liniment and bandages will be on hand in liberal quantities for the prelude to the Manson-High school fixture when a team of Northern European descent takes on one of Southern European extraction. The former, coached by Irishman Art Murray, consists of Angus McPhee, Jack Lindsay, Bob Armstrong, Mella and Herb Morgan. Fred Calderoni, coach of the Southern team, will play Sev Dominato, Vern Ciccone, Boyo Gurvich, Nick Pavlikis, Nick Mazzoni, Jerry Petteuzzo, Joe and Charlie Giordano.



—Photo by Chandler's Studio
BILL MORRISON, right, is shown standing above his sagging opponent, Doug Kerr, after an exchange of blows in the heavy-weight fight on the Elks Lodge fight card Saturday. Kerr, RCN fighter, was unable to take pouncing from Morrison in infighting and is shown, eyes closed, as he slid to canvas with arms draped around the victorious Prince Rupert boxer.