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VOL. XLVII, No. 242 Telephone 6767 PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1958 Night Calls—Business 6768, Editorial 6769 PRICE TEN CENTS

MHO Hits local sewer system as menace to residents' health

Escaped from car in lake

Special to The Daily News

FRANCOIS LAKE — A car driven by Bruce Snyder plunged into Francois Lake at High Corner, near Colleymount early Sunday morning.

His father Clarence Snyder, Bruce and Mr. and Mrs. Tiny Palmer managed to get out of the window although the water was up to their necks.

Their clothes froze instantly.

Mrs. Palmer lost her shoes in the car, and her feet froze when they started walking.

Two hunters who came along in a car took them to hospital in Burns Lake, where her feet were saved.

Clarency Snyder is also in hospital and reported quite ill.

The party was coming home from a dance at Clemretta at 7 a.m. when it was 20 below zero. The gas pedal is believed to have stuck down in the car at the time. It went out of control and plunged down a bank into the lake.

POLICE URGE DRIVERS TO BE CAREFUL

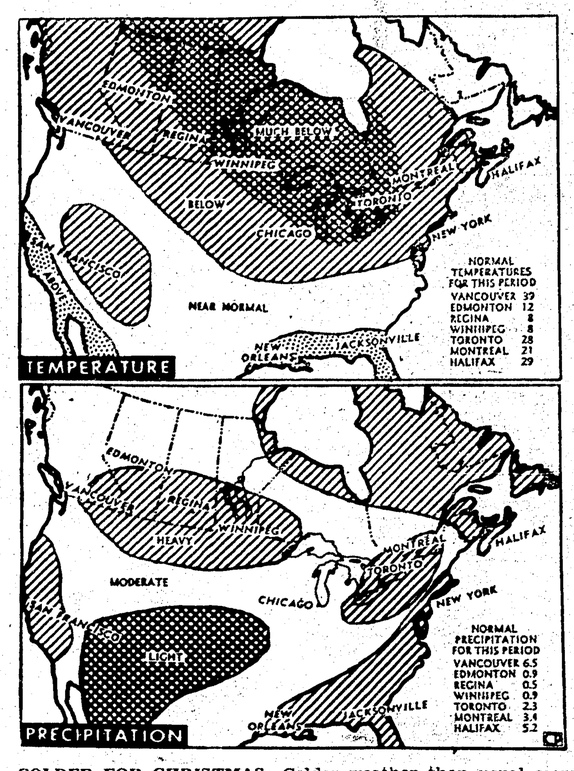
RCMP today urged city motorists to drive with care after last night's light fall of snow.

The slushy snow, with a possibility that it might freeze, has made driving conditions extremely hazardous, police said.

Skating banned on Morse Creek

Skating on Morse Creek has been forbidden, RCMP announced today.

Sgt. J. E. Ruttan, NCO in charge of the City RCMP detachment said that the order prohibiting skating on Morse Creek had been posted by the Department of National Defence, which has jurisdiction over the area.



COLDER FOR CHRISTMAS: Colder weather than usual seems in store for Prince Rupert at Christmas. The 30-day outlook of the U.S. weather bureau forecasts below average temperatures across Canada. Only Vancouver Island, eastern Maritimes and northeastern Quebec are expected to be normal. Precipitation is expected to be heavy.

City council accepts early Christmas gifts

With the approach of Christmas, city council last night accepted a couple of early presents.

One was a $1,317 gift from Associated Engineering Services Ltd. of Vancouver, and the other some 3,000 Japanese cherry trees from former city resident Tom Shimizu, now of Edmonton.

The AES gift was the waiving of the costs of its work on the Prince Rupert swimming pool. The company felt that since the work was being done by volunteers, its own engineering work should be part of the contribution "to this worthwhile undertaking."

The company asked that the work it has done be considered simply as part of its retainer.

Council decided to write to the company thanking them for their generosity.

Mr. Shimizu's offer was made some months ago, and council then agreed to take only 500 of the trees.

However, when Ald. Darrow Gomez returned to the subject last night and said the offer was still open, members accepted.

They agreed that once the arrival date of the trees is known citizens should be asked to state their requirements.

Both trees and transportation are free.

All six candidates asked to public meeting tonight

All six candidates for the three aldermanic seats on City Council in Thursday's civic election will be asked their views on various issues tonight at a public meeting being staged at the Civic Centre.

The meeting, scheduled to start at 8 p.m., is being sponsored by the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union and Local 708 of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers.

Four questions which the sponsors of the meeting wish to pose to aldermanic candidates are:

"(1) How much will the sewer bylaw cost you as a taxpayer?

"(2) Should we first insure an adequate water supply before proceeding with sewers?

"(3 In the event that the sewer bylaw is given approval will work be done by local contractors and will it start immediately to alleviate local unemployment?

"(4) Should the sewer bylaw, water bylaw, new firehall and proposed new city hall bylaw all be undertaken at once thus placing an extremely heavy burden on the taxpayer?"

Expected to attend the meeting are Alderman A. Donald Ritchie, Alderman T. Norton Youngs and Alderman Darrow Gomez, who are all seeking re-election and Michael Krueger, Gordon E. Carlson and James W. Prusky who wish to unseat the three incumbents.

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To set terms

WINNIPEG (CP)—The board of regents of United College today were expected to publish terms of an offer of reinstatement made last weekend to Prof. Harry S. Crowe.

Four missing, thought dead as boat sinks

TOFINO, B.C. (CP)—Three men and a woman are presumed drowned following the sinking of a 40-foot fishboat off the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The 34-foot troller Centennial left Tofino, 130 miles west of Vancouver, Saturday for Ahousat, 14 miles to the north. Sunday searchers found the boat's hatch and other wreckage on a beach six miles north of here.

Boats continued the search Monday but found no sign of the four. One boat hooked onto what was believed the submerged boat but lost it. New attempts were to be made today.

Aboard the craft were MacPherson George, 55, his son Wilfred, 31, David Jacobsen and an unidentified woman.

"Hardest hit"

VANCOUVER (CP)—An executive of the British Columbia Telephone Company told the board of transport commissioners Monday his firm is in "a far more serious position than a lot of other companies."

Vice-President G. A. Kennedy made the statement under cross examination before the board as B.C. Telephone opened an application for a 12½-per-cent increase in its local and long-distance rates. The increase would provide the company with additional revenue of $5,754,000 a year.

Hearings continued today.

Open sewage said disease spreader

The sewage disposal system in Prince Rupert is inadequate and a menace to health, Dr. W. B. Laing, medical health officer and director of the Skeena Health Unit said today.

Dealing with what he termed unpleasant but vital facts about the sewerage system, Dr. Laing said that it was essential that everyone, particularly property owners "be fully aware of some of the health aspects of sewage disposal."

"The most important single source of disease-producing germs is the human intestine, and, if body wastes are not disposed of in a safe manner, disease spread will result."

He said that some disease, typhoid, paratyphoid and dysentry are propogated only by human excreta, and "this is an important source of infection in many other diseases such as polio and infectious jaundice."

Dr. Laing said that household wastes can be disposed of safely by an adequate septic tank only when the soil is sufficiently dry and porous to allow absorbtion of the fluid effluent from the tank.

In Prince Rupert, climatic and soil conditions are such that septic tanks cannot possibly work, he said.

"The result is that the ditches and creeks in the city are little better than open sewers."

Dr. Laing said that as the taxpayers' health officer he can advise that the construction of a new sewer system is a matter of the greatest urgency, since the present system of sewage disposal is inadequate and a menace to health.

It was Dr. Laing's advice plus the report of Associated Engineering Services Ltd., that decided council last spring that a sewer renewal and extension bylaw could wait no longer.

The original sewer plan, well over $2,000,000 which included sewerage lines for areas not yet developed, was modified to take care of immediate needs.

The sewer bylaw to be presented to the taxpayers at Thursday's civic elections is for $1,643,000 of which $1,088,780 is for sanitary sewers and $554,290 for storm sewers and drains.

Under the new Municipal Act, the city must, to receive financial backing of its bonds by the provincial government, place the sanitary sewer project on a utility basis. Instead of a $15 per year sewer rental the taxpayer will pay a $3 per month levy on his telephone and water bill, or $36 a year, an increase of $21 per year to include the cost of the new sanitary sewer project. The $554,290 for storm sewers will be financed out of the general tax rate.

Building permits go down

Building permits issued in the month of November dropped by more than $200,000.00 compared to the same period in 1957, Building Inspector J. C. Ewart reported today.

Mr. Ewart said that he issued 43 building permits in November totalling $93,820.00, a decrease of $228,980.00 compared to last year's Novmeber figure of $322,800.00.

Last year's total was taken up by one building permit issued to the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative Association to the amount of $250,000.00, which would leave a balance of 33 permits valued at $72,800.00.

Comparing the balance with this year's $93,820.00 and placing the one large Co-Op permit aside, there would actually be an increse of $21,020.00 over last years value of permits.

In October there were 42 permits issued totalling $93,155, which is slightly less than this months figure.

Of the $93,820.00 worth of permits issued in November, residential permits accounted for $57,175.00, commercial permits took up $34,145.00, $500.00 was for industrial and $2,000.00 was taken up by other alterations and repairs.

New residential permits issued this November totalled $37,000.00 which is identical to that of 1957.

In the 11 month period this year there were 538 permits issued valued at $1,804,376.00 and in the same period in 1957 there were $465 permits issued totalling $2,103,448.00.

Forty-four new residential permits have been issued this year and 56 last year.

City asks aid to cut unemployed

An application has been made by the City of Prince Rupert to the federal government for some $31,500 of preliminary work on the proposed sewer renewal and extension project, Mayor P. J. Lester, announced today.

The application comes under the jurisdiction of the federal government's winter works aid program.

The mayor said work will start immediately after passage of the $1,643,780 sewer and extension bylaw by the taxpayers and if the federal government approves the project.

The federal government will approve if the work is given to persons who are unemployed.

Did you know?

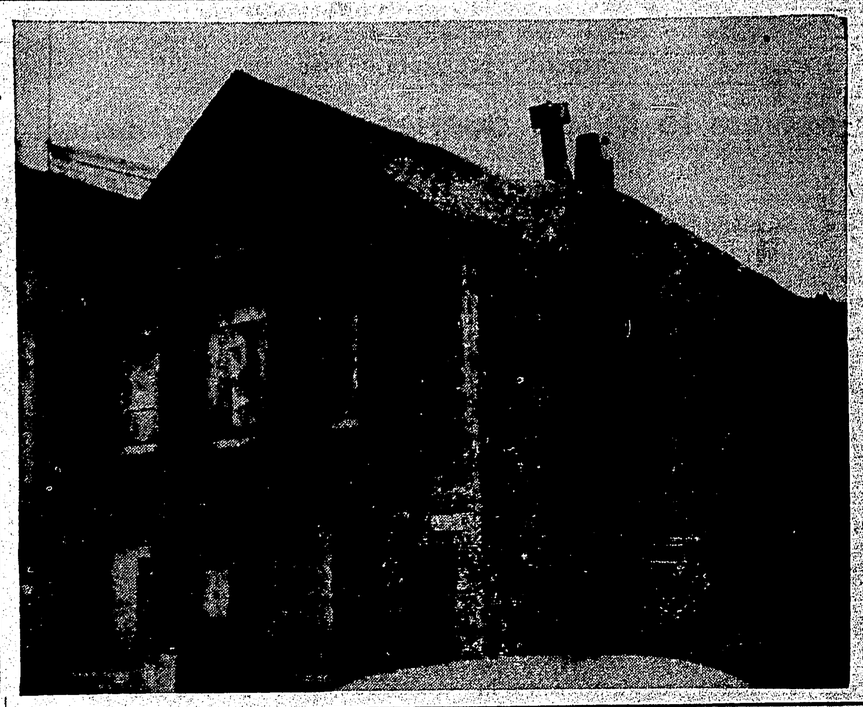
. . . That no person driving or operating any vehicle, except such vehicles as are conveying authorized persons who may have duties to perform in connection with a fire, shall follow closer than within 500 feet of any vehicle of the City Fire Department travelling in response to any fire alarm, or drive or stop any such vehicle within a radius of 500 feet of any fire. (City Traffic By-law)

Poor sale of Crown property

At a public auction of Crown-owned property held in Stewart only 23 lots of a total of 145 were bought, Government Agent at Prince Rupert, H. W. Harding reported today.

Mr. Harding said that the auction was hampered by some two feet of snow.

The lots, mostly of regular town size ranged in prices from $85 to $725 depending on location.



TOTAL OF $8,000 damage, mostly to the interior, was caused to the three-storey building shown above when it was gutted by fire late Friday night. City firemen and auxiliaries fought the blaze in the building owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard A. Petterson in icy weather for some three hours and managed to put it under control before it had a cance o spread to the adjoining Commercial Hotel.

One charge dismissed by judge

One charge of indecent assault upon a male against Joseph Benedict Gerand of Cassiar was dismissed in County Court here this morning by Judge W. A. Schultz.

Gerand still faces three similiar charges, one alleged to have been committed on a 17-year-old Lower Post youth, which continued this afternoon.

Judge Schultz dismissed Gerand on the first charge due to insufficient evidence.

Yesterday, Crown Prosecutor, Frank S. Perry made two applications under the Canada Evidence Act to have the 19-year-old youth brought back on the stand for re-examination.

His first application was turned down, but he was granted permission on the second.

At the start of the trial, Gerand faced three charges of indecent assault. Another was added yesterday by Crown Prosecutor Perry.

James L. King of Whitehorse is defence counsel.

Bingo numbers

Three more numbers were drawn today in the Elks Lodge House Bingo for the Crippled Children's hospital, bringing to 12 the total numbers now drawn.

Due to a typographical error, one of the numbers drawn yesterday appeared wrong, also one was listed wrong Friday.

Today's numbers are: **B-11; B-4 and B-13.**

Numbers drawn previously and taken from the master card at the Daily News editorial office are: **B-3; B-6; I-28; N-42; N-43; O-62; O-63; O-65 and O-67.**

Cards may be obtained at Esquire Shop, Grotto Cigar Store, Manson's Jewellers, Orme's Drug Store, Deeth's Pharmacy and Ben's Newsstand.

COUNCIL, POLICE CRACK DOWN ON FIRE WATCHERS WITH CARS

City council decided last night to crack down on motorists who drive over water hoses at big fires.

Two big fires within a week brought scores of cars to the scene, and firemen's main hoses were constantly squashed in the melee of cars.

It agreed to instruct police to take name and car number of offenders and charge them, and also to crack down on spectators who double- and triple-park, impeding the passage of fire engines and ambulances.

Council itself will try to erect barriers at future fires.

Said Ald. A. Donald Ritchie: "If one of those hoses had been damaged Friday night, possibly $100,000 damage could have been caused."

Canned TV by April 1 planned by city firm

Closed-circuit television in Prince Rupert by April 1 was envisaged last night by A. L. Fletcher, whose firm of A. Fletcher and Associates Ltd., is seeking to pioneer its development in the city.

Mr. Fletcher was asked to speak at the meeting of city council, which recently formed a television committee to push the introduction of television here.

His request to use the city telephone poles for carrying co-axial cable was tabled for two weeks while the committee makes more inquiries into the possibilities of live television.

The committee was instructed to see that Mr. Fletcher's application be given first priority, and to make its inquiries with all possible speed.

Council's hesitation in granting Mr. Fletcher use of the poles lay in its lack of concrete information about the chances of live television coming to the city.

There have been wide variations in the estimates of cost and of the number of stations that would be needed to ransmit programs from Vancouver.

CBC technicians put the date at no earlier than 1965, and estimates of the cost have ranged from $100,000 to $700,000.

Mr. Fletcher said he foresaw the possibility of a second closed-circuit channel if his own worked successfully for, say, five years.

He said part of Vancouver's television service was closed-circuit.

If other municipalities, such as Terrace, Smithers and Prince George could be brought in later, there was no reason why they could not receive the Vancouver closed-circuit service by spreading the cost.

It would simply mean another hookup, Mr. Fletcher said.

Mr. Fletcher's call for speed in decision arises from the impending fishing season. If council left its decision for 60 days, he warned, he would have to concentrate his efforts on his fishing business.

"Either let us be granted permission or not," he said.

"We could install it in 90 days, but we could run into snags," he said. "I would say 90 days from January 1 if everything else is cleared up.

"I am not the only one in this and you can get fogged up by going to committees every time.

"I don't think it will interfere with live TV in this city at all. Live TV will come, and the sooner the better, though I don't think it will come before 1965."

Mr. Fletcher and aldermen then referred to "Mr. X"—the mysterious and unnamed television engineers who first told council members and officials that television for Prince Rupert was possible.

He had told members that the Northwest Telephone Company had VHF stations and circuits along the coast in which equipment for transmission could be installed.

Mr. Fletcher told council that he too had been in communication with Mr. X.

When he did so, Mr. X told him that transmission by microwave towers, such as would be used, resulted in a distorted picture, and CBC would not permit this.

He did not think, therefore, that live television would come before 1965.

"As far as I am concerned, delay will stop me taking any further interest in it," he said.

A motion to table the application for 30 days was amended to two weeks at the suggestion of Ald. A. Donald Ritchie, who urged the need for speed.

Mayor P. J. Lester said he saw no objection to Mr. Fletcher's request provided he understood clearly that closed TV must in no way impede the arrival of live TV.

Ald. R. G. Large said the only real point at issue was whether or not the suggestions of Mr. X were practicable.

The committee should be able to find out in two weeks, he said.

The committee comprises Ald. Large, Ald. Norman Bellis, City Clerk-Comptroller R. W. Long and J. T. Harvey.

Big fire origin unknown

Cause of last week's fire at the Palmer Apartments and the home of T. Prystay, 400 Seventh Avenue West, has not yet been determined, Fire Chief Earl W. Becker reported to city council utilities committee.

Damage of $30,000 was caused

All off-duty firemen were called out, said Chief Becker. The fact that the apartment block had a large number of rooms and a false ceiling made fire fighting extremely difficult, he added.

The fire started, he continued, on the first floor of the Prystay building.

Report of the fire was delayed because there was no one at home except an elderly man who was sleeping. He was assisted out of the front window by neighbours.

Insurance of $13,500 was carried on the Prystay home, and $10,000 on the Palmer Apartments.

Chief Becker disclosed in his report that an auxiliary fireman was temporarily overcome by smoke during the fire.

WEATHER—

Cloudy with rain Wednesday, becoming showery in the afternoon. Snow flurries in mainland inlets today with risk of freezing rain in same areas. A little milder. Winds southeast 24 overnight. Low tonight and high Wednesday 28 and 38.

TIDES—

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1958
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	00:52	20.8 feet
	12:42	24.1 feet
Low	06:38	6.3 feet
	19:20	9.8 feet