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12 youngsters burned to death as fire razes Indian hospital

TOTAL WRECK — Demolished car pictured above suspended from wrecker was towed into Prince Rupert Tuesday after it burned out completely in an accident on Highway 16 near Khyex River bridge Monday night. Port Edward RCMP report fire started after car went out of control and into ditch. Driver A. J. Robertson, of Digby Island, was unable to lift the hood and extinguish the blaze, RCMP said. Mr. Robertson was treated in Prince Rupert General Hospital for facial lacerations. Passenger Robert Hannah, Digby Island, escaped with bruises. —Staff photo

Nun braves flames to save 13th child

WILLIAMS LAKE, B.C. (CP)—An unexplained fire flashed through a two-storey frame hospital at the remote Anaham Indian Reserve Thursday, killing 12 children as they lay in their beds.

Among the dead were three children of one family and two of another.

First reports placed the death toll at 13. However, it was later learned that a nun, member of the Quebec Roman Catholic order which operated the hospital, struggled through sheets of flame to rescue the 13th child.

The nun, Sister Mary of the Cross, who supervised the hospital, suffered severe burns and was flown 60 miles east to hospital at Williams Lake. The reserve is in the heart of the Cariboo country about 200 miles north of Vancouver.

Nuns at the Anahan hospital said the children probably died within minutes of the start of the fire, which broke out at 5:30 p.m. and continued smouldering far into the night.

The nine nuns at the hospital, joined by men on the reserve, tried to tear down portions of the building to get to the children but were driven back by intense heat.

Cause of the fire, which spread rapidly through the dry structure, was not determined. Bob Les, local Indian agent at the reserve, said there were two explosions in the building shortly after the blaze started. The hospital was destroyed.

NO ESCAPE

There were conflicting reports from the area. One said an Indian school also was demolished. Another said the convent may have been damaged.

Other unconfirmed reports said there were patients in the hospital beside the children and that some were injured.

RCMP said Sister Mary could rescue only one child. She was forced back after suffering severe burns to the hands and face.

The mother superior of the Anaham community, Rev. Mother Mary Immaculata, said the hospital building was a wall of flames from which there could be no escape.

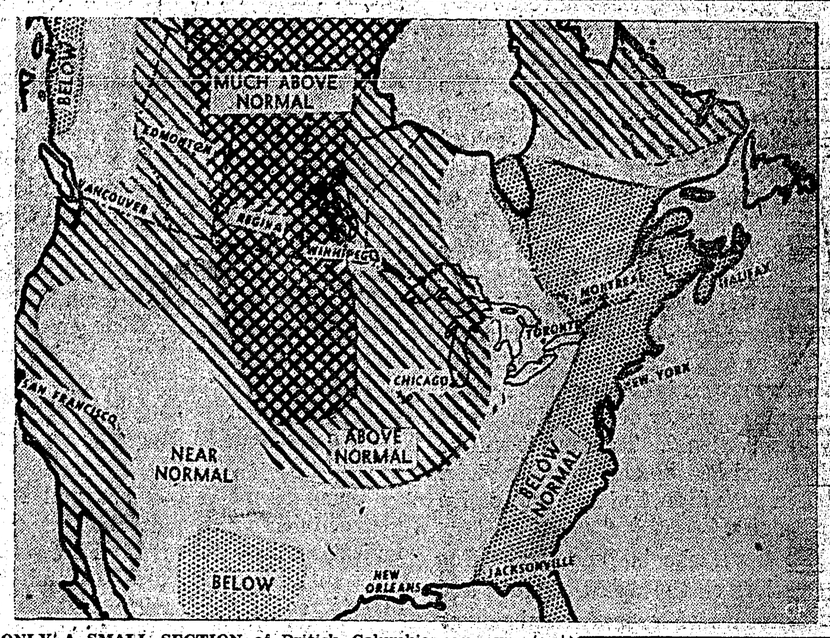
The rescued child, identified as Wendy Char, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ubil Char of the Redstone Reserve near Anaham, was not burned. Two other children of the Char family perished in the flames. They had been in a car accident earlier in the week and were being treated for minor injuries.

The dead included three children of the Henry Case family from Redstone, two unidentified babies and Aileen Moyers. Susie Maot and Roy Quilt of Riske Creek and Ronnie Jim and Susie Billieboy of Anaham.

The reserve, one of the largest in Canada, is inhabited by members of the Anaham band of Chilcotin Indians.

The hospital, named the Sacred Heart Nursing Home, was operated for the Indian affairs department by the Missionary Sisters of Christ the King, whose mother house is in Montreal.

The order was founded in 1926 at Gaspe, Que., and has been teaching and providing medical attention to Indians at the reserve since 1944.



ONLY A SMALL SECTION of British Columbia can expect above normal temperatures from now until mid-June, according to a United States weather bureau prediction. The long range forecast shows that Prince Rupert will have below normal temperatures and the rest of the province below and near normal temperatures. A big section of Canada stretching from the Rockie to the eastern end of Lake Superior will enjoy much above normal temperature readings. (CP Newsmap)

"STRIKE CREATING HAVOC"

Wicks, Laing seeking federal intervention

VANCOUVER (CP)—Spokesman for both the Social Credit government and the Liberal Opposition in British Columbia have called for federal intervention in the week-old Canadian Pacific Steamships strike.

B.C. Labor Minister Lyle Wicks Thursday sent a telegram to federal Labor Minister Starr urging him to intervene in the strike to "avoid disaster on our coast."

Liberal leader Arthur Laing also sent a telegram to Ottawa urging Mr. Starr to fly to Vancouver for on-the-spot action.

Mr. Starr was reported to have replied that he has told both company and union his department is "ready to assist," but has no power to stop the strike.

On Vancouver Island, which draws three-quarters of its food from the mainland, a meeting of business and municipal groups called for establishment of a board to "recommend" a fair solution.

Earlier, Victoria Mayor Percy Scurrah called for compulsory arbitration.

The Seafarers International Union (CLC) went on strike against the CPR a week ago demanding wage increases averaging 37 per cent. The union says average pay is about $230 a month; the company says it is more.

CPR vessels service the island, Washington State, upcoast B.C. and Alaska from Vancouver.

The union is holding a strike vote against Black Ball Ferries Limited which also serves the island from Washington and the B.C. mainland.

If Black Ball is struck, the Anacortes, Wash., to Sidney, B.C. run of Washington State Ferries will be the only regular boat link between the island and the mainland.

Mr. Wicks in his telegram said the steamships tie-up is "creating havoc to our ports . . . The work stoppage also creating severe distress upon our people and the entire economy of the province."

Medium halibut up again

Price for medium halibut equalled the season high of 19.8 cents set May 16 when the "Kaare 2" sold her 40,000 pound catch at Prince Rupert Halibut Exchange this morning.

Successful bidder Pacific Fisheries paid 19.8 cents for both medium and large fish, and 12 cents for chicks. It was the only landing of halibut this morning.

Tracking dog used in hunt for lost boy

MONTREAL (CP) — An RCMP police dog has entered the hunt for Andrew Brown, 11, who disappeared Monday in a marshy Laurentian forest, but police feared possible trails have been wiped out by searchers' footprints and a heavy, steady rainfall.

The tracking dog, a German shepherd, was flown into Montreal Thursday from Moncton, N.B., and was taken to the cliff-covered area near Joliette, about 65 miles north of here.

The dog was given the scent from a pair of Andrew's shoes and roamed the heavily treed area near L'Assomption River, where the boy was last seen.

Andrew was on a fishing trip with his father, two brothers, a friend of the father and another boy when he disappeared. They are from Verdun, a Montreal suburb.

Hit-run charge dismissed against driver

Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite yesterday afternoon dismissed a hit-and-run driving charge on the grounds that the accused was incapable of forming the intent to escape the consequences of an automobile collision.

The dismissal came several hours after the accused, Joseph George Roch Beauchemin, of 817 Ninth Avenue West, was convicted on a drunk driving charge arising from the same incident, a two-car collision on Fulton Street May 6. He was acquitted of a charge of leaving the scene of an accident.

Willa Ray conducted Beauchemin's defence.

REVOLUTIONISTS ORGANIZE

Pflimlin moves to fight challenge to authority

PARIS (Reuters)—Premier Pierre Pflimlin's government, spurred by the challenge to its authority in Algeria, today prepared to call on parliament for swift action to strengthen the government by constitutional reform.

It will ask the National Assembly to vote for the adoption of a resolution agreeing in principle to modify the constitution—the first step needed before a bill amending the constitution can be debated.

If parliament agrees, the government will then be in a position to rush through the reform bill in the course of next week. The bill would give the president more power and cut down the strength of the assembly.

The aim is to give the government enough strength to cope with the Algerian problem without recourse to Gen. Charles de Gaulle and a "committee of public safety."

Meanwhile in Algiers an all-Algeria committee of public safety"—in effect a revolutionary government—was formally set up in Algiers today.

The new military-civilian junta for France's North African territory is pledged to stay in office until Gen. Charles de Gaulle replace Premier Pierre Pflimlin as head of the government.

The committee named two co-chairmen — paratrooper Brig. Jacques Massu, who took control in Algiers after the first riots again Pflimlin May 13, and Cherif Sidcara, a Moslem who held a high position in the previous Paris government of Premier Felix Gaillard.

Cider price twice that of local beer

VANCOUVER (CP) — B.C. made cider went on sale in liquor stores here and in Victoria Thursday at $4.50 for a case of a dozen 12-ounce bottles.

It has the same alcoholic content as B.C. beer—eight per cent—and is bottled by Princeton Brewery.

At $4.50 a dozen, the cider is selling 20 cents a dozen above imported McEwen's Ale, bottled in Scotland, which sells here for $4.30. The cider is almost double the $2.52 a dozen price of local beers.

The liquor control board said there is only a moderate mark-up from the price paid B.C. Fruit Processors Ltd., makers of the cider.

R. P. Walrod, general manager of B.C. Tree Fruit Association, sales agency of the processing company, refused to disclose the price at which the cider is sold to the government.

When advised that the liquor board has termed the mark-up moderate, Mr. Walrod said, "Well, everyone has his own opinion."

Jury ponders youth's fate in killing

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—A jury of eight women and four men deliberated the fate of accused mass killer Charles Starkweather for three hours Thursday night, then were locked up to resume their discussions today.

Starkweather, who has admitted involvement in 11 killings, is being tried for the shooting of Robert Jensen, 17, high school junior.

Alternatives confronting jurors are findings of not guilty, not guilty by reason of insanity, guilty of first-degree murder, second-degree murder or manslaughter.

In first-degree convictions the jury sets the penalty—either life imprisonment or death in the electric chair.

The prosecution seeks the death penalty.

The defence pleaded Starkweather not guilty by reason of insanity.

$50 fine levied for speeding in school zone

George Edward Grant, 22, of 340 Fourth Avenue East, was fined $50 or in default of payment sentenced to 30 days in jail by Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite in city police court this morning on a charge of speeding in a school zone. Willa Ray had entered a plea of not guilty for Grant.

Grant was clocked by a police car at speeds up to 27 miles per hour in the Sixth Avenue East 15 mph school zone at 9:30 this morning, RCMP said.

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Six Canadian vessels to study salmon range

OTTAWA (CP) — Canada will send six vessels into the North Pacific this year to study salmon movements, Fisheries Minister McLean said Wednesday.

Replying in the Commons to Frank Howard, MP Skeena, Mr. McLean said Canada will carry out its studies in conjunction with Japan and the United States.

Canada's main interest would be in whether salmon from Canadian rivers range as far west as the 175th north-south meridian, about 2,000 miles off the west coast.

He said that existing knowledge indicates that only a negligible number of Canadian salmon range that far.

Two fishing vessels, "Key West 2" and "Fort Ross", chartered by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, are already on their way to begin Canada's third Pacific ocean survey, as part of the program of scientific research under the International North Pacific Fisheries convention between Canada, United States and Japan.

Both boats were fitted out at the Board's biological station at Nanaimo. While at sea the vessels will fish for salmon and other species to build up knowledge already gained on the racial characteristics and migratory patterns of salmon.

On the "Key West 2" skipper Randy Thompson will have Research Board scientific personnel: George Taylor and Tony Pletcher. Captain Colin Wilson on the "Fort Ross" will have with him research men Robin LeBrasseur and David Stevenson.

PANAMA (AP)—National Guard troops ruled Panama city today as President Ernesto de la Guardia grappled with a general strike called by rebellious students.

PORT ALBERNI TO MAKE GRANT DESPITE PROTESTS BY UNION

PORT ALBERNI (CP)—The city council will make a grant of $400 to the Chamber of Commerce despite protests of two labor groups that public funds should not be used to support an organization which they claim is anti-labor.

In authorizing the payment, council stipulated the money should be used only for advertising and promotion of tourist trade and industrial opportunities.

"We're not interested in how the Chamber feels about organized labor, but we are interested in the development of the Alberni Valley," Mayor Loran Jordan said.

Locals of the IWA and carpenters unions had protested the grant on the grounds that the Chamber at its annual meeting had expressed itself as anti-labor.

City motorist fined $175 after mishap

A city motorist lost his transportation plus $125 in police court fines as result of an accident early this morning at which his car went over a 25-foot embankment off Eighth Street near Third Avenue and was completely demolished.

Lyle Nuite, of Prince Rupert, was fined in police court $100 on a charge of driving while his ability was impaired by alcohol and $25 for driving without a licence. He pleaded guilty to both counts.

Police told Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite the car swerved from one side of the road to the other before it dropped over the embankment, landing upside down. A recommendation will also be sent to the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles prohibiting Nuite from driving for three months.

Cargo of grain leaves for U.K.

The Monrovian - registered freighter MV Dona Katerina sailed at noon today after taking on a cargo of 13,883 tons of No. 1 and No. 2 feed barley at the Canadian government elevator. The ship arrived here May 16 from the Orient.

Eversfield may be asked to relate full story

VANCOUVER (CP)—Charles W. Eversfield, 46-year-old accountant, may be asked today to tell his full story in the Sommers bribery-conspiracy trial before an assize court jury.

Eversfield, chief Crown witness in the case involving former lands and forests minister Robert Sommers and others, appeared in the witness box Thursday.

Beyond identifying the accused individuals Thursday and recognizing documents submitted by the Crown, Eversfield was not asked for details of his part in the case. But he did testify to taking the documents to Los Angeles in a trunk and of bringing them back to Canada where they finally fell into RCMP hands.

He identified more than 50 documents in his first day in the box and may complete identification of his file today. Then will come Crown examination as to his part in the case, followed by defence cross-examination.

One of the documents was a note regarding Church Sawmills Limited.

Eversfield testified that about the time of the Lord commission on forest management licences early in 1955 officials of the Pacific and Schultz firms became concerned about possible investigation.

He said they held a meeting—which he attended—but nothing was decided. The next day, he said, Gray gave him the handwritten document regarding the Church firm and told him to keep it in his files and should he be called he could say it had been there all the time.

Donald Pt. light reported out

The Donald Point light (No. 2350.9 on the list of lights) and situated in Return Channel has been reported not burning, N. A. Boketov, district marine agent of the Department of Transport said this morning.

The light will be attended to at the first opportunity, Mr. Boketov said.

WEATHER—

A few clouds today and Saturday not much change in temperature. Winds northwest 20 over open water today otherwise light. Low tonight and high Saturday at Prince Rupert 45 and 65.

TIDES—

Saturday, May 24, 1958
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	4:36	10.0 feet
	17:43	18.1 feet
Low	11:17	4.3 feet
	23:42	6.2 feet

WORK ON POOL SPEEDED UP

24 students sign pledges for 1,200 work hours

Latest drive to speed up construction of the Civic Centre swimming pool by volunteer labor has resulted in 24 Booth Memorial High school students signing pledges for 50 hours of labor each.

The students represent most of a group of 30 who worked for two hours Tuesday, it was reported today by W. A. Gordon, member of the swimming pool publicity committee.

With the help of the students, it is expected that the next big phase in construction — placing and tying of re-enforcing steel for walkways, sides and bottom of the pool—will be completed by June 15.

This job will be tackled as soon as forms for the walkways are put in which will be either tonight or tomorrow, Mr. Gordon said.

Turnout of volunteers appeared slack after the holiday weekend, but picked up during the week. Last night, about 20 men worked on completion of the walkway forms, Mr. Gordon said.

Pipefitters will install an eight-inch drain pipe under the pool tonight. It is expected that the pool will be connected with power supply sometime next week.

Mr. Gordon lauded the work of the high school students and expressed his gratitude to Booth Memorial high school teacher Aubrey McTaggart who sparked the student contribution.

He was joined in his praise by Donald Gaitens, supervising engineer on the pool project.

"They worked like beavers, Mr. Gaitens said.

It is hoped that the pool will be completed by September 1.