



STRIKE INCIDENT

Police charge Montreal trio

MONTREAL (CP) — Three security guards accused of firing on strikers demonstrating at the Robin Hood Multifoods Ltd. flour mill Friday were arraigned in court on Saturday.

Roger Rousseau, 34, Marc Levesque, 24, and Antonio Roland, 42, pleaded not guilty to discharging a firearm with intent to maim or wound. The offence carries a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

The men were released by sessions court Judge Marcel Allard on \$1,000 bail and told to appear for preliminary hearing Aug. 12.

Judge Allard also barred the men from getting in touch with any of the eight injured demonstrators or their families. He also said the three are not to carry firearms and must not return to the Robin Hood mill until their case is decided.

Defence counsel Clement Bluteau had argued heatedly for their release, saying the men were responsible citizens in good standing with their employer, the Bureau des Detectives Industriels, Inc.

Crown Prosecutor Rene Duval, who asked that a preliminary hearing be held as early as next Tuesday, had recommended the accused spend the weekend in jail.

After hearing a statement by Sgt. Jacques Hogue of the

Montreal police force, Judge Allard said the men were not a threat to the general public and decided on their conditional release.

The violence began when demonstrators forced their way through the main gate at the Robin Hood mill. About 200 workers had converged on the mill to protest against a strike by more than 500 flour mill workers.

Sgt. Hogue said the shooting began four minutes after demonstrators crashed the gate. Eight strikers were wounded, two of them seriously. All were listed in stable condition in two city hospitals.

Police, who seized four shot-guns and a cache of anti-riot gadgets from the security force at the plant, said a fourth guard taken into custody after the shooting was later released.

Quebec Labor Minister Pierre-Marc Johnson said late Friday that Justice Minister Marc-Andre Beaudin had ordered an "in-depth" investigation into the entire affair.

Workers at four area flour mills have been off the job since Feb. 2 to protest a wage rollback by the federal anti-inflation board, but two of the mills—Ogilvie Mills Ltd. and Phenix Flour Ltd.—reached a settlement with their employees July 15.

Workers at those mills were to return Monday, but union officials say the men may meet again to decide whether to remain out in support of the Robin Hood workers who are not part of the back-to-work agreement.

A fourth mill, Maple Leaf Mills, has not been negotiating with its workers, but indicated it may match the terms offered by Ogilvie and Phenix.

Robin Hood obtained a court injunction in March to try to end the walkout. When that was ignored, the company fired the strikers and began hiring new employees and protecting them with private security guards.

See photos page 7

Fires claim two

Two persons died in fires during the weekend in the North Central Interior.

In Prince George Phyllis Evelyn Clement, 54, was found dead at 282 Harper St. in a smoke-filled room Sunday, while Abraham Jake Fehr, 24, died in a house fire Saturday in Vanderhoof.

Prince George fire chief Harold Dornbierer said the cause of the Clement death is believed to be careless use of smoking materials.

"The fire started in a sofa," he said.

In Vanderhoof RCMP said no foul play is suspected in the Fehr death, but an inquest will be held. No date has been set.

Clement was Prince George's second fire victim of 1977. On May 31, Katherine Michalchyschyn, 79, died in a fire at the senior citizens' home on Laurier Cresc. Fehr was Vanderhoof's first fire fatality of the year.



Anna Mellos of Penny, is helped off the last way freight by conductor John Hopson.

McBRIDE RUN

End of an era in rail service

by AL IRWIN
Citizen Staff Reporter

A colorful chapter in local Canadian National Railways history ended almost unnoticed in Prince George Saturday.

CN's mixed freight, or way freight arrived here from McBride for the last time after 57 years of service.

For CNR, the discontinuation of the thrice-weekly freight and passenger service was an economy move.

For isolated residents along the 146-mile line, it was a further erosion of what they say is already an inadequate service.

The way freight picked up and delivered boxcar loads of lumber and other freight along the line, and also carried passengers, one of the last mixed freights in B.C.

For residents of Penny a community of about 60 people 60 miles east of Prince George, the railway is the only direct link to the outside. And though the CN will continue to offer a passenger service, Penny residents say the end of the way freight may force many older people out of the area.

A rough two-mile road leads from Highway 16 to the Fraser River. There is

no bridge to Penny on the other side.

Residents use boats when the river is clear. They build an ice bridge for cars during the winter. But for about one-and-one-half months during spring breakup, the river is impassable.

Longworth, a community of about 50 residents 10 miles west of Prince George, and other smaller places, are similarly isolated.

At 6:30 a.m. Saturday, David Kinnon is waiting at the river to take Herb Badey and me across the river to Penny in his canoe. Badey is filming the last way freight for CBC.

Way freight operators know all the residents along the line, and often stop right at their homes, rather than at designated stations, especially if there are groceries to be carried.

Shopping trips to Prince George will take longer and cost more now, says Kinnon.

The passenger train from McBride reaches Prince George at 11 p.m., and returns at 7 a.m. the next day. Without a two-night stay in Prince George, a shopping trip or visit to the doctor or dentist is impossible.

Round-trip service

The way freight arrived about 11 a.m. at Prince George, returning the next morning.

And although the passenger train runs daily during summer, it is cut back to thrice-weekly trips during winter. In winter, the way freight operated on alternate days to McBride, offering six day-a-week access to the outside.

Kinnon directs me to the home of Anna Mellos, who has lived in Penny for more than 40 years.

She lives in a large two-storey house she once operated as a stopping place. Her husband ran a grocery store in Penny for 20 years.

A short energetic lady in her late sixties, Mrs. Mellos is rattling around in her back porch.

She welcomes me into her kitchen, apologizing for not offering me coffee. She is leaving on the way freight to visit relatives in Prince George and Calgary.

She remembers when Penny was a bustling community of 500, boasting a two-room school to Grade 8, a church, movies every week and a dance hall attended by people all along the line.

The mill, the heart of Penny, closed in the late sixties, as did many others along the line, when timber rights were bought up by a larger company.

Many of the residents, like Kinnon, earn their living now planting trees, or burning slash for the company, Northwood Pulp and Timber.

Mrs. Mellos keeps an immense yard neatly trimmed, tends a small garden, packs water from a nearby creek, and splits

much of her own wood. She likes the life and doesn't want to leave. But she says it will be hard in winter to leave her house unattended for two nights, and the added cost of a two-night stay in Prince George will be hard on her pension.

She is also afraid the passenger train will not have room for her groceries, and expensive freight rates will be charged in the baggage car.

Way freight crews took passengers and groceries for the price of a passenger ticket.

Mrs. Mellos is not bitter. "It's progress, I guess. CN has been good to us, but we need the local. We are really one of the most isolated places in Canada."

She doesn't relish the thought of moving to Prince George.

"We have nice clean air and water here. When you get to Airport Hill (in Prince George) the smell starts."

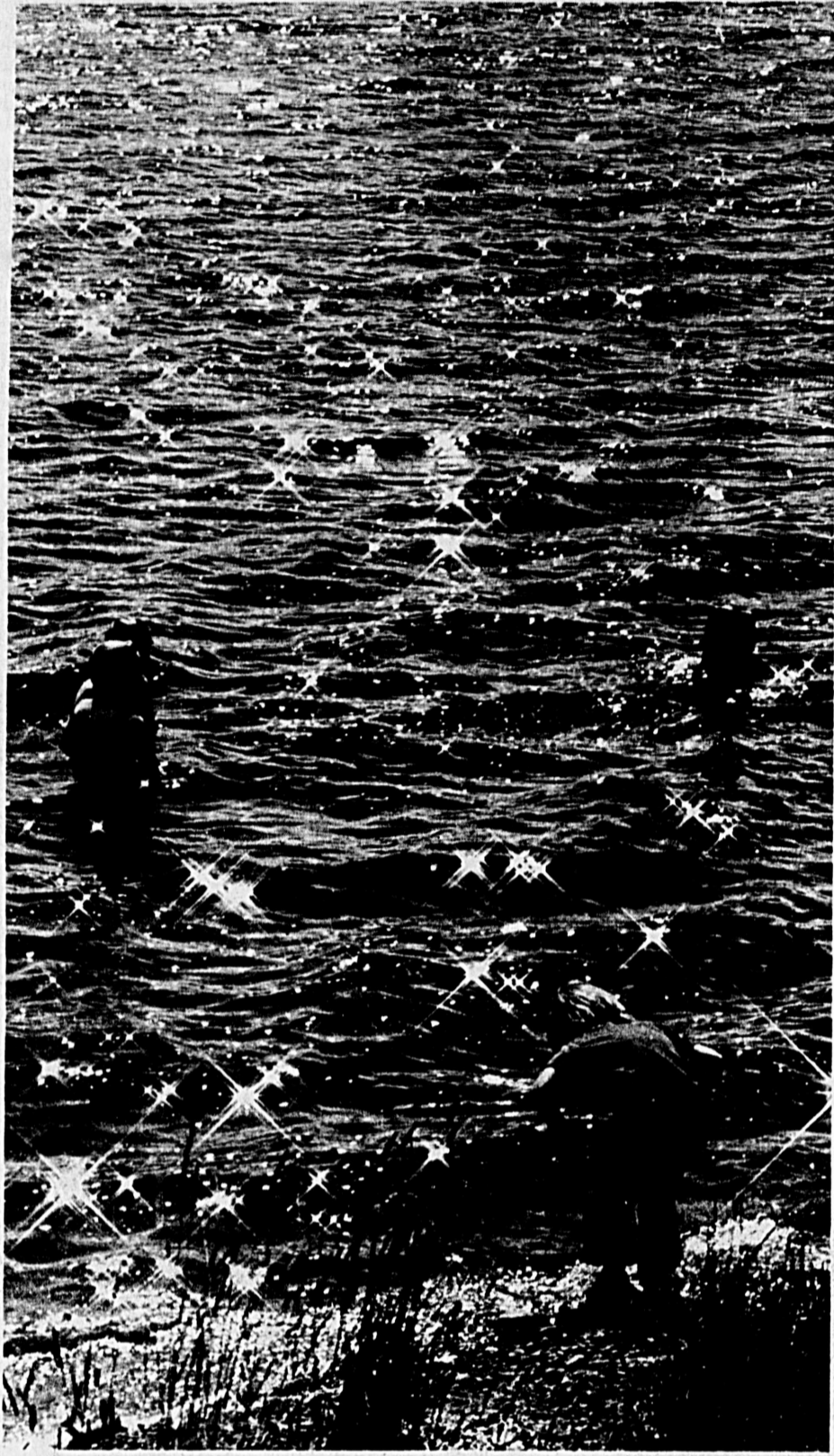
"Eventually we have to move, but we hate it. We bought our homes here years ago and we are sort of stuck with our places."

She is also worried about the high rent in Prince George.

Later at the CN station that looks like part of the set for the Waltons, Mrs. Mellos, Badey and I buy tickets from operator Sue Kinnon, David's wife.

Residents are also disturbed the CN intends to remove the station and the agent. The Canadian Transport Commission will hold a public hearing in Prince George Aug. 10 and 11

See FREIGHT page 24



Inviting, but cool

The sun's slanting rays transform Buckhorn Lake. Temperature of the bejeweled water however is still chilly and prompts one youngster to remain fully clothed while gingerly wading. His more hardy companions remain close to shore.

U.S. MASSACRE

Canadian under arrest

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — A former convict accused of slaying his foster brother's family in Connecticut's worst mass killing stood silently through a brief court hearing today at which his arraignment was delayed until Aug. 2.

Lorne Acquin, a native of Quebec, wore dungarees and a T-shirt at the proceedings before Superior Court Judge Francis O'Brien.

Acquin, 27, is charged with the slaying of Frederick Beaudoin's wife, seven children and a niece. He also is charged with arson in a fire that destroyed the family's home in nearby Prospect.

Lawyer John Williams, who said he wants to be appointed to represent Acquin, asked O'Brien for the continuance because he had not seen the arrest warrant.

The judge rejected a request by Assistant State Attorney Walter Scanlon for an increase in the bond to \$1 million from \$250,000.

Williams, who has accused police of "gross misbehavior"



ACQUIN

in the investigation, said Acquin probably will remain in custody because he will be unable to raise the bond.

Police have refused comment on Williams's allegations or on a published report that Acquin told them he bludgeoned his victims with a tire iron and then set their home on fire with gasoline early Friday.

A report in the New Haven Register quotes sources as saying Acquin, who had lived

several years ago with the Beaudoin family, told state police he arrived at the Beaudoin home between 2:30 and 3:30 a.m. Friday.

The Register quotes the sources as saying that Acquin told police he talked in the kitchen with Beaudoin's wife, Cheryl, 29. Beaudoin was at work on the night shift at Pratt and Whitney aerospace plant in New Haven.

After the fire, investigators found her body in the kitchen.

An autopsy indicated that she died of head injuries and a stab wound to the chest. Chief State Medical Examiner Elliot Gross said Sunday.

Six of the Beaudoin children, ranging from four to 12 years, died from smoke inhalation and head injuries from a "blunt force," while the seventh died of head injuries, the autopsy report said.

An autopsy was to be performed today on the ninth victim, Jennifer Santoro, 6, a Beaudoin niece who was spending the night at their home.

FERRY DISTURBANCE

Bikers plead not guilty

SAINT JOHN, N.B. (CP) — Six members of the Ontario-based Vagabonds motorcycle club and two Saint John area residents pleaded not guilty in provincial court today to a total of 12 charges resulting from a disturbance aboard the CN ferry Princess of Acadia during the weekend.

Riot-equipped police arrested 17 men and one woman early Sunday after complaints that members of two motorcycle gangs had terrorized passengers on the ferry, danced in the nude and used obscene language.

One of the defendants wore a motorcycle jacket with the name Odin's Wrath MC, a

Saint John motorcycle club, written on it. Several others wore T-shirts with Vagabonds MC written on them.

Harry Restmage, 27, who gave his address as Ontario was charged with assaulting a police officer. Restmage was also charged with the misdemeanor of theft of liquor valued at under \$200 from the ship's bar.

Samuel Irvine Hull of Ontario was charged with two counts of common assault and one charge of causing a disturbance.

Beverley Bowe of Grand Bay, N.B. was charged with causing a disturbance on the wharf by using obscene lan-

guage and with resisting arrest.

David Francis Gilles, 28, of Saint John was charged with indecent exposure.

Gilles and Miss Bowe were released on their own recognizance. All the others were remanded to jail pending bail hearings Wednesday and Thursday.

Wayne Richard Fernley, 28, of Toronto was charged with possession of a stolen wallet containing less than \$200.

Stephen Paul Clark of Toronto; Richard Kliski, 27, of Ontario; and John Wayne Brown, 28, of Ontario were charged with resisting a police officer.

TODAY

FEATURED INSIDE

Don Wicks

"When I said there was nothing wrong with a pipeline in an area I was not speaking about our area, Johnson!"



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THE WEATHER

A solid ridge of high pressure covering most of the province is expected to bring Prince George sunny skies today and Tuesday. The forecast high today is 26, the low 9. The high Sunday was 24, the low 10 with no precipitation. On this date last year the high was 22, the low 4.



SW

NOW HEAR THIS

Two American tourists think Prince George residents have gone too far in extending hospitality to their pet. The couple from Denver, Colorado, let their four-month-old female Samoyed pup out of their vehicle on Fifth Avenue while they washed their vehicle on the weekend at a car wash. A car drove up, and someone picked up the pup and drove away. The owners are hoping that those Prince George residents taking care of the pup will phone them at 562-1603.

'Radar detects 'beast'

POHENEAGAMOOK, Que. (CP) — Three Toronto divers searching for Lake Poheneagamook's fabled monster, Ponik, say their marine radar has detected "something big and long."

Bob Murray, Josef Vykudal and Don McPhee said Sunday they haven't succeeded in photographing the "beast" but have detected a mass 25 feet long which passed under their boat last week.

"I don't know what there is here, but there's something big and long," Murray said.

Murray discounted theories it could have been a sturgeon, "or it would have been the biggest one ever seen."

The three, who have put up \$5,000 each for the search for the "monster" allegedly seen by several persons, are equipped with a motorized rubber raft, non-directional marine radar, an underwater movie camera and a 35-mm camera that can be submerged.

Elzear Siross, 63-year-old native of the region 100 miles northeast of Quebec City, said the story of Ponik has been told for generations. "The witnesses all talk about something resembling a water cow."

The Torontonians said they came to the six-mile-long lake to look for Ponik after reading about it in magazines.

Dief stable, says hospital

OTTAWA (CP) — Former prime minister John Diefenbaker was reported in good spirits and in stable condition today after being admitted to Civic Hospital on Saturday suffering from internal bleeding.

Diefenbaker, 81, first elected to the Commons in 1940 and prime minister between June, 1957 and April, 1963, is believed to be suffering from recurrence of a problem caused by an injury during army training in 1916 in England.