

DONATIONS TO HELP VIETNAMESE HERE

Residents pitch in to help 'boat people'

by HAZEL ALLAN
Citizen Staff Reporter

Prince George residents have opened their hearts to five families of Vietnamese "boat people" now living here. And this has caused problems of a different kind. Instead of wondering how to provide enough clothing and furniture for the refugees, the problem is now where to store the mountains of goods arriving daily.

"I've been swamped, my phone rings constantly," said Helen Fowler, employment councillor with the Canada Employment Commission, responsible for the health and welfare of the 15 refugees who recently arrived from refugee camps in Malaysia.

They fled South Vietnam earlier this year, to avoid labor camps and enforced relocation under the Communist government.

They set sail in small boats, with little or no knowledge of sailing, and crossed the 1,000-km stretch of the South China Sea before landing in Malaysia.

After spending up to six months in the crowded and unsanitary refugee camps, they were accepted as immigrants by the

Canadian government and arrived in Prince George in May and June.

The donations are a result of an appeal in Thursday's Citizen, requesting clothing, toys and a sewing machine for the refugees.

"I have everything from 25 dozen eggs to a houseful of furniture and including three sewing machines," Fowler said. "I can't fit anything else into my basement. My main concern now is to find a warehouse to store all the stuff."

People began phoning Fowler Friday morning and offers of assistance have been pouring in. Most people have been asked to hold onto their possessions until space can be found.

"A truck is arriving from the BCR Industrial site where a collection was made. Entire neighborhoods have pitched in as units. We have every toy you can imagine, cribs, and tons of baby clothes — some items are practically new," she said.

Nothing will be wasted, what cannot be used for the five families already here, will be utilized for the remaining 26 families due to arrive in Prince George before winter.

"And what cannot be used for the Vietnamese, I shall be

giving to other charitable organizations in town," Fowler said.

She said that she was "surprised at the response." "I didn't expect as much response as did occur — and it's not over. People are still phoning."

The Canadian government has agreed to accept 8,000 refugees, and Prince George's quota will be 31 families. The latest developments concerning the refugees are:

- An umbrella group has been formed in Vancouver to coordinate help for the refugees. B.C. Cares was formed after meetings between individuals and groups active in helping the boat people.

- The City of Vancouver announced a campaign Friday to prepare for 5,000 Vietnamese refugees. Mayor Jack Volrich said a civic committee will organize facilities, investigate potential housing and launch a drive to collect \$250,000. City council set the drive in motion with a \$25,000 grant.

- Immigration minister Ronald Atkey says he will announce a revised Canadian program by next week to help refugees in their life-and-death boat exodus from Vietnam.



'Boat people' here look at photo of exodus from Vietnam.

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Forest industry situation remains unstable

Citizen news services
The Victoria local of the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) has accepted a new two-year contract with the forest industry.

The 1,300 IWA members voted 70 per cent to accept the contract.

Meanwhile, the executive of Local 1092 of the Canadian Paperworkers Union (CPU) is recommending to its members that they return to work, ending a nine-day shutdown at the British Columbia Forest Products pulp mill and sawmill in Mackenzie.

A union spokesman said the company gave some concessions on remote living allowances, the issue which sparked the strike.

On Saturday, the 130-member Local 7 of the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada (PPWC) walked off the job at the Mayo Forest Products sawmill at Nanaimo on Vancouver Island following a breakdown in talks over the final contract clause.

A union official said the strike began after company officials refused to negotiate a protection clause to provide work at Mayo's nearly-finished new mill for employees losing their jobs at the existing operation which may be closed by the company.

Also on Saturday, the B.C. Labor Relations Board ruled that the PPWC must remove pickets from a MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. construction site at Powell River.

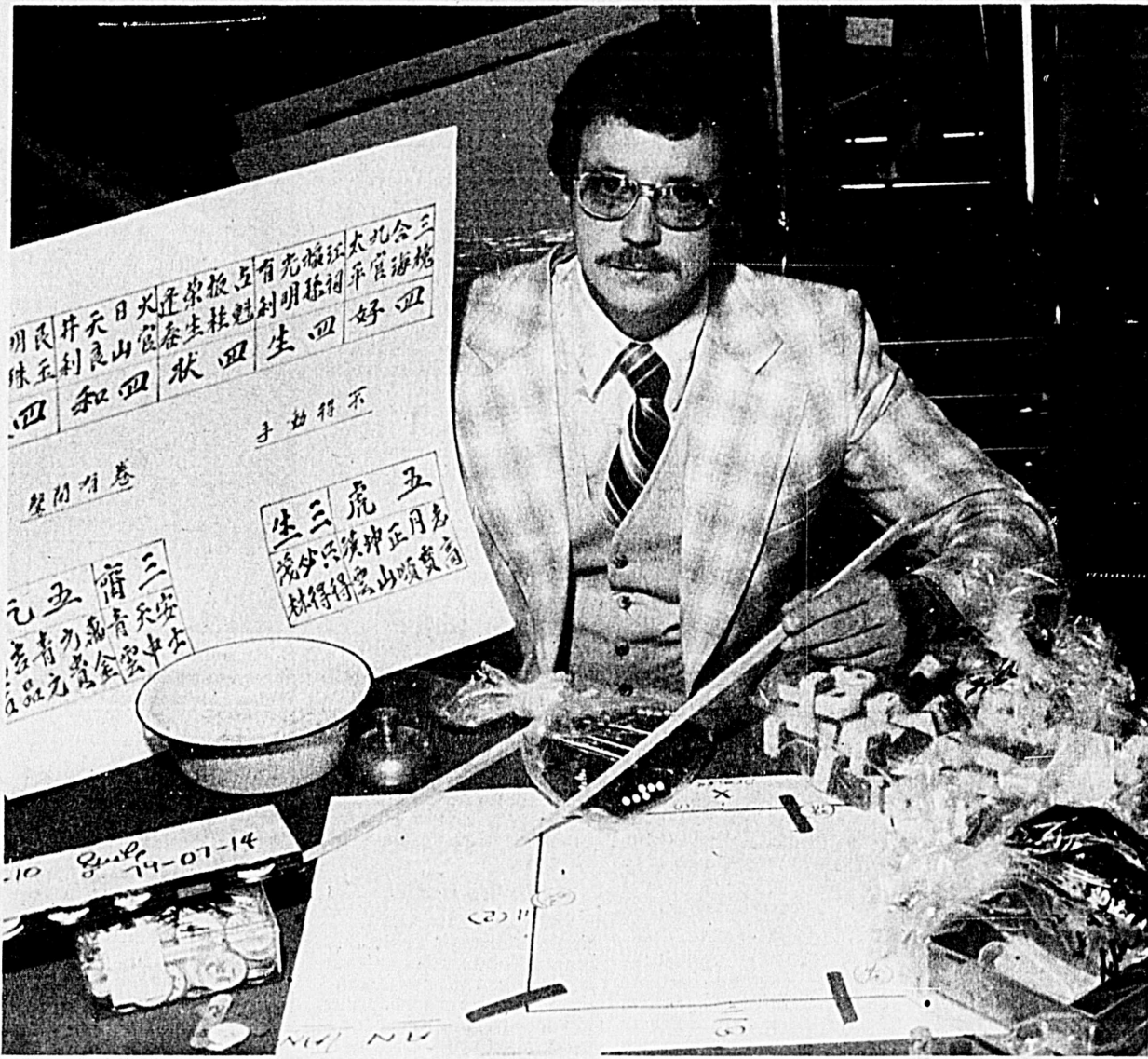
The cease-and-desist order will allow Dillingham Construction to continue work on a new MacMillan Bloedel facility in the community about 130 kilometres northwest of Vancouver.

On Friday, the board had ordered the PPWC to remove picket lines that were keeping hundreds of IWA members off the job at three MacMillan Bloedel operations in Vancouver.

Cosmonauts set record

MOSCOW (AP) — Two Soviet cosmonauts set a space endurance record early Sunday on the longest and loneliest space flight in history.

Commander Vladimir Lyakhov, 37, and flight engineer Valery Rymyn, 39, passed the previous mark of 139 days, 14 hours, 48 minutes and continued orbiting the Earth aboard the Salyut 6 space station they boarded almost five months ago.



RCMP Constable Joe Schalk shows some of the gambling material seized Friday.

PART OF B.C. CRACKDOWN

Gambling raids conducted here

by JOHN POPE
Citizen Staff Reporter

Prince George RCMP raided two Chinese social clubs and a private residence here Friday which are believed to have been involved in a \$1.5 million gambling operation during the past year.

The raid, part of a province-wide crackdown on suspected illegal gambling operations believed to involve "millions of dollars" in profits, resulted in charges against 11 persons for keeping a common gaming house.

About 60 people are expected to be charged this week in connection with illegal gambling practices or other activities after raids here and in Vancouver that climaxed a six-month investigation by the Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit.

"They had an undercover operator involved in the games," said a local RCMP spokesman during an interview today.

As a result of information, the police raided a private residence and two Quebec street clubs — the Chee Duck Tong club and the Chinese Free Masons.

CLEU spokesman Stan Shillington said the charges of keeping a common gaming house will stem from the way police believe the games are conducted.

He said that, while gambling itself is not illegal, the Crown will allege that the clubs violated the Criminal Code by collecting a two-to-five per cent "rakeoff" from all bets made in the clubs.

Social clubs licensed under the Societies Act are allowed to collect no more than \$1 per half hour from each player.

Gambling equipment seized

here and in Vancouver included that used for Fan Tan Pie Gow and Dow Gnow.

It is believed that Fan Tan was the main game played here. This Chinese game involves a pile of buttons thrown on the table then pulled off four at a time. Bets are placed on the number of buttons (between one and four) that will be left.

A police spokesman here said the "rake-off" taken from money used in the gambling "pot" is believed to have been as high as seven per cent.

Police believe there were usually three games going each day at 3 p.m., 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. The raids occurred here at 9:15 p.m.

The games involved at private residences and different Chinatown clubs in Vancouver are believed to have been Ma Jong, and Pie Gow and Dow Gnow.

The 11 city people have been summoned to appear in provincial court Aug. 14.

NINE KILLED

Driver blamed

QUESNEL — An inquest jury ruled here Saturday that a 20-year-old man was negligent in a fiery two-vehicle crash May 12 that killed nine people.

The six-member jury ruled that Danny McCall of Alexandria, B.C., driver of the car, was negligent because he had been drinking and was driving at an excessive speed.

The inquest was told that

McCall, who was killed, had a blood-alcohol level of .22 — nearly three times the legal impairment level of .08.

The head-on collision between a car carrying five persons and a pickup truck carrying six persons occurred about 41 kilometres south of here in central British Columbia. There were no survivors.

PLEA FOR HELP

Carter launches energy crusade

WASHINGTON (AP) — In one of the most sombre peacetime speeches by any U.S. president, Jimmy Carter linked his political fortunes to achievement of an energy plan he says will combat a "crisis of the American spirit."

Although Carter never referred to his assumed quest for re-election in 1980, the president is known to hope his televised address Sunday night will prove to be a turning point for his troubled presidency.

"I need your help," Carter said as he conceded past shortcomings in his national leadership.

He pledged to "continue to travel the country."

"I will listen. And I will act." "I will do my best," he said, "but I will not do it alone."

Even before Carter spelled out additional details of his proposals in another broadcast speech today to the National Association of Counties in Kansas City, Mo., his Sunday night address brought pledges of swift congressional action on energy legislation.

"I am confident the American people will respond with the necessary sacrifices and that Congress will pull together in this time of crisis," said Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives.

Former Texas governor John Connally, a Republican seeking Carter's job, said the crisis in confidence the president spoke of "has been brought about by the president's own inaction."

The president's Sunday night speech came one day after he returned from Camp David, where he held 10 days of meetings with a variety of U.S. leaders. He ended the meetings by flying to Carnegie, Pa., and Martinsburg, W.Va., to meet with small



U.S. President Carter makes a point during televised speech.

groups of "average Americans."

Instead of the bombshell some had expected in his speech, the president spoke of an erosion of confidence "threatening to destroy the social and political fabric of America."

Carter originally was scheduled to address the U.S. July 5. He said Sunday night he cancelled that speech because:

"I began to ask myself the same question that I know has been troubling many of you: Why have we not been able to get together as a nation to resolve our serious energy problem?"

Carter saw solving the energy crisis as a way to "help us conquer the crisis of the spirit in our country."

"It can rekindle our sense of confidence in the future."

To win on the "battlefield of energy," the president:

— Promised that "growth in our dependence on foreign oil

will be stopped in its tracks, right now." He announced an import quota of 8.2 million barrels a day and a goal of cutting imports in half by 1980.

— Proposed an Energy Security Corporation to lead an effort to develop alternative fuels and issue \$5 billion of small-denomination energy bonds.

— Asked Congress to require utilities to buy by half their use of oil by 1980 through conversion to coal and other fuels.

— Called on Congress to create an Energy Mobilization Board "to cut through the red tape, the delays and the endless roadblocks to completing key energy projects."

— Proposed an extra \$10 billion during 10 years for public transport and asked Congress "to give me authority for mandatory conservation, and for standby gasoline rationing."

Carter also pledged to "increase aid to needy Americans to cope with rising energy prices."

Canada likes the message

OTTAWA (CP) — A spokesman for Energy Minister Ray Hnatyshyn said today Canada agrees with the thrust of U.S. President Jimmy Carter's proposals to combat the growing energy crisis.

The president's Sunday night speech was "in line with the kind of thinking going on here," the spokesman said after conferring with the vacationing Hnatyshyn.

Federal energy planners are in the midst of "an intense review" of Canadian energy policy and are hoping to unveil their proposals aimed at achieving energy self-sufficiency by 1990 in the coming weeks, the spokesman said.

There were no surprises in Carter's speech on alternatives to that country's dependence on imported oil that are

not being reviewed by Ottawa, he said.

Hnatyshyn plans to present his proposals to cabinet sometime in August after consulting the producing and consuming provinces.

Approval of the measures would clear the way for announcements in the early fall and for the introduction of legislation in the new session of Parliament beginning in October.

TODAY

FEATURED INSIDE

THE WEATHER

NOW HEAR THIS



Bon Wicks

He could be lucky . . .

A 17-year-old Australian who hoped to collect \$10,000 for delivering pieces of Skylab to San Francisco could eventually earn 10 times that much. Page 5.

Women tee off here . . .

Most of the top women golfers in B.C. began play here today in the five-day B.C. Ladies' Open. Page 13.

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The forecast for tonight and Tuesday calls for mainly clear skies. The expected high today was 27, the low tonight 9. Tuesday's forecast high is 27. The high Sunday was 25, the low 7. On this date last year the high was 20, the low 13.



Details page 2

● For those still wishing to donate clothing, toys and furniture to the Vietnamese "boat people" now living in Prince George, but who have lost the number to phone — here it is again: 562-4181. This is the number for Helen Fowler, Canada Employment Centre councillor, responsible for the health and welfare of the refugees.

● Who says the famous are unreachable. A local resident thought he would write U.K. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher a letter of congratulations following her recent election victory and two weeks later received a hand written reply from the PM herself.



Got a news tip? Call The Citizen's 24-hour news line at 562-2441.