

Marijuana sentence increased

VANCOUVER (CP) — The B.C. Court of Appeal, saying that a sentence of 150 hours community work and a \$3,000 fine was inadequate for conspiring to traffic in marijuana, sent a former black-smith to jail for 2½ years Thursday.

The court imposed the stiffer sentence on Allan Lloyd Ferguson, 35, of Chase. He is identified as the leader of a marijuana distribution scheme operating in the Kamloops area between May and September, 1981.

The court said the sentence imposed by a provincial court judge was not a fit one given the circumstances of the case.

A younger brother, Norman Bruce Ferguson, also pleaded guilty in provincial court. He was fined \$2,500 and given two years probation.

The Crown did not appeal his sentence, and the court said that while the defence conceded there had been an equal split of profits between the brothers, Norman was less involved than Allan.

A third man, William Charles Lunn, 27, was convicted by a county court jury and sentenced to two years less a day. His appeal of that sentence was denied.

Prior to his involvement in the conspiracy, Lunn had been a school teacher in Kamloops and ran a program described as similar to the Outward Bound School.

After his arrest, but before his imprisonment, he worked as a special program teacher for the Yukon government for three months.

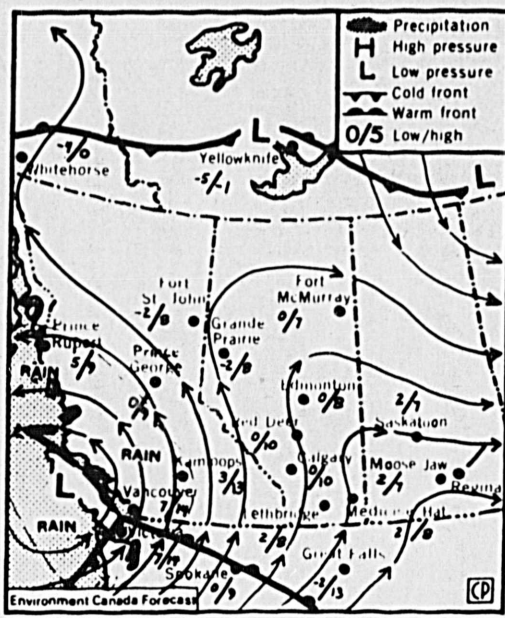
Papers' fate set today?

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) — The fate of the 122-year-old New Westminster Columbian and five weekly newspapers could be decided today at a meeting of a newly appointed board of inspectors representing creditors of the daily newspaper's bankrupt parent company.

The only certainty as of Thursday was that The Columbian will publish today, bankruptcy trustee Don Selman, of Peat Marwick Ltd., said Thursday after a meeting of secured and unsecured creditors of the paper.

The creditors confirmed the company's bankruptcy, as declared in a B.C. Supreme Court action three weeks ago when it was determined the company had failed to attain certain performance targets.

the weather



Synopsis

Central Interior: Today mainly cloudy. A few showers and isolated showers. Highs 6 to 9. Tonight cloudy with clear periods. Lows 1 to -3. Saturday cloudy with sunny periods in the morning. Intermittent rain beginning late in the day. Highs 6 to 9. Probability of precipitation 60 per cent today, 30 tonight and 60 Saturday.

Chilcotin Cariboo: Today cloudy with a few sunny periods. A few showers and isolated thundershowers. Highs 8 to 10. Tonight cloudy with clear periods. Lows 2 to -2. Saturday mainly cloudy. Intermittent rain beginning in the afternoon. Highs 8 to 10. Probability of precipitation 60 per cent today, 30 tonight and 60 Saturday.

Thompson, Okanagan: Today cloudy with sunny periods. A few showers and isolated thundershowers. Highs 12 to 14. Tonight cloudy with a few clear periods. Lows 1 to 4. Saturday mainly cloudy. Intermittent rain beginning in the afternoon. Highs 12 to 14. Probability of precipitation 40 per cent today, 20 tonight and 70 Saturday.

Columbia, Kootenay: Today mostly cloudy with occasional showers. Isolated thundershowers. Highs 8 to 11. Tonight mainly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows 1 to 3. Saturday cloudy with a few sunny periods in the morning. Intermittent rain beginning late in the day. Probability of precipitation 60 per cent today, 30 tonight and 60 Saturday.

Greater Vancouver, lower Fraser Valley: Cloudy today with a few afternoon sunny periods, highs 12 to 14. Mainly cloudy tonight, lows 6 to 8. Cloudy Saturday, highs 13 to 15. Probability of precipitation 60 per cent today, 30 per cent tonight and 90 per cent Saturday.

Greater Victoria, east Vancouver Island: Cloudy today with a few afternoon sunny periods, highs 11 to 13. Mainly cloudy tonight, lows 6 to 8. Rain Saturday, highs 13 to 15. Probability of precipitation 60 per cent today, 30 per cent tonight and 90 per cent Saturday.

13 to 15. Probability of precipitation 60 per cent today, 30 per cent tonight and 90 per cent Saturday.

Howe Sound-Whistler, Sunshine Coast: Cloudy today with a few afternoon sunny periods, highs 11 to 13. Mainly cloudy tonight, lows 5 to 7. Cloudy Saturday, highs 12 to 14. Probability of precipitation 60 per cent today, 30 per cent tonight and 90 per cent Saturday.

West Vancouver Island: Cloudy today with a few sunny periods, highs 10 to 12. Mainly cloudy tonight, lows 6 to 8. Rain Saturday, highs 12 to 14. Probability of precipitation 70 per cent today, 30 per cent tonight and 100 per cent Saturday.

Temperatures
Vancouver 13 9.04.2
Victoria 14 9.05.0
Comox 14 8.03.2
Port Hardy 10 5.03.0
Prince Rupert 11 6.06.4
Stewart 6 4.03.2
Terrace 7 3.02.6
Penticton 14 9.00.2
Kamloops 15 9.00.0
Castlegar 8 6.01.8
Cranbrook 9 7.02.8
Revelstoke 8 4.01.0
Blue River 10 4.01.0
Puntzi Mountain 12 4.00.0
Williams Lake 12 4.02.0
Prince George 12 4.00.0
Mackenzie 12 4.00.0
Fort St. John 8 -11.00.0
Fort Nelson 0 -4.00.0
Dease Lake 12 -4.00.0
Peace River 12 -4.00.0
Whitehorse -1 -4.00.0
Dawson City -4 -6.00.0
Yellowknife -4 -2.01.2
Inuvik -3 -12.05.2
Resolute Bay -16 -19.00.0
Eureka -38 -40.00.0
Alert -27 -31.00.0
Cambridge Bay -3 -5.01.6
Calgary 18 6.00.0
Edmonton 12 1.00.0
Lethbridge 19 8.00.0
Medicine Hat 18 8.00.0
Swift Current 12 6.00.0
Regina 17 6.00.0
Saskatoon 14 7.00.0
Prince Albert 11 3.00.0
North Battleford 13 5.00.0
Winnipeg 6 5.00.0
Brandon 6 3.00.8
Churchill 3 1.00.0
The Pas 5 3.00.7
Kenora 5 -1.00.0
Thunder Bay 2 -9.00.0
North Bay 2 -5.01.8
Toronto 13 -2.00.2
Ottawa 12 0.01.8
Montreal 4 2.00.1
Fredericton 16 3.00.7
Charlottetown 12 5.02.8
Halifax 15 8.00.0
St. John's, Nfld. 12 1.00.0
Seattle 15 11.01.8
Spokane 17 10.04.2
Portland 21 15.00.0
San Francisco 28 16.00.0
Los Angeles 27 11.00.0
Las Vegas 27 7.00.0
Reno 29 19.00.0
Phoenix 14 4.00.2
New York City 26 17.05.8
Miami 26 17.05.8

MURDER OF SIX FAMILY MEMBERS

by DON RAMSDEN
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) — A shocking tale of devil possession combined with an Armageddon preoccupation and bizarre acts was heard Thursday in the B.C. Supreme Court trial of a man accused of killing six members of his family in nearby Coquitlam.

The jury also heard testimony from a Vancouver psychiatrist that he signed committal papers for Bruce Alfred Blackman, 23, one month before the slayings because he believed the accused was in a "psychotic state." But the family resisted the idea.

Dr. Harvey Breen told the court that Blackman's sister, Roberta Davies, phoned breathlessly early Jan. 18, 1983, to say the family wanted Blackman committed and that he had a knife.

Less than two hours later, Blackman was being led away by police from the family home, telling an officer he was "possessed by the devil" and had murdered his family, the court also was told.

Inside the blood-stained house and carport, horrified police were discovering the bullet-riddled and bludgeoned bodies of the six, described in court as an extremely close and loving family.

Dead were Davies, 28, Blackman's mother Irene, 49, father Richard, 50, younger brother

Rick, 16, sister Karen Rhodes, 25, and brother-in-law John Davies, 39.

Much of Thursday's testimony recounted Blackman's drug-taking and his fixation the previous three months with the end of the world, the book of Revelations in the Bible and his belief that he was the anti-Christ, possessed by the devil, and sometimes a female spirit he believed to be God.

Throughout the testimony, Blackman at times shook nervously, occasionally glancing at his psychiatric nurse. Other times he smiled at friends and relatives in the court.

Breen testified he first met Blackman Dec. 16, 1982, when he was called to the Blackman home by Davies, who said the accused had been taking drugs heavily and had been engaged in bizarre rituals with body fluids.

When he arrived, the frightened Blackman was reading the book of Revelations, said Breen. Blackman "appeared to be in a paranoid, schizophrenic state," he said, so he gave him an injection of a long-acting tranquilizer and oral tranquilizers for future use.

One week later, Blackman's father reported his son appeared to have improved but in mid-January the accused was re-experiencing anxiety and was digressing, said the psychiatrist. Blackman failed to turn up for an appointment on Jan. 16, two days before the slayings.

The court was also told by Blackman's

friend, Terry Vermeulen, and brother-in-law Curtis Rhodes, the husband of Karen, that the personality of the outgoing, activity-minded Blackman began to change in late October, 1982.

Vermeulen, who lived most of that year with Blackman in a North Vancouver apartment until early December, told how Blackman began to act irrationally and dwell on the Bible.

Blackman thought he was getting personal messages from television newscasts, repeatedly predicted Armageddon and often became "very depressed or laughed hysterically at things that weren't funny," Vermeulen said.

Rhodes told the jurors Blackman often cited "the big bang theory (in the book of Revelations) when the two heavens collide."

Blackman also took to wearing a headband that he called "the crown of thorns that Jesus wore."

Blackman also once blended a gruesome portion for Karen Rhodes to drink. It included liquids and two pages of the Bible, Rhodes testified, although Karen did not know of its contents when she had a sip and disgustedly spat it out.

Mr. Justice Lloyd McKenzie and the prosecution have said the sole issue in the case is whether Blackman, whom Rhodes said "continues to love his family," was sane at the time of the killings.

The trial is expected to go to the jury today.

VANCOUVER BLOCK

It's Sinclair Centre

VANCOUVER (CP) — A downtown Vancouver block in which four heritage buildings will be rebuilt at a cost of \$40 million will be named Sinclair Centre in honor of former federal fisheries minister and retired industrialist James Sinclair.

Public Works Canada announced Thursday that Sinclair, 75, will attend a ceremony at the site on Nov. 14 at which Senator Jack Austin, minister of state for social development, will officially name the block Sinclair Centre and the project will get under way.

Sinclair is the father of Margaret Trudeau, estranged wife of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Sinclair, of West Vancouver, was an MP for 18 years, from 1940 to 1958. He was fisheries minister from 1952 to 1958.

UBC PROCEDURE

Japan tests cancer test

VANCOUVER (CP) — A test which can detect lung cancer from a blood sample, and was developed at the University of British Columbia, is being tested in Japan.

Quadra Logic Technologies Inc. has signed an agreement with Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. of Tokyo, a diagnostic and pharmaceutical company with sales of \$500 million a year worldwide.

If Chugai finds the detection procedure meets the rigorous medical standards required by the Japanese government, it will market and distribute the tests throughout that country.

The test was developed by Dr. Julia Levy at the University of B.C.

Quadra is a private firm engaged in biotechnological research and development. The five principals are Levy, Dr. John Brown, Dr. James Miller, Dr. Tony Phillips, and Ronald MacKenzie.

Apart from MacKenzie, who is company president, the others are UBC research scientists. MacKenzie is a Victoria management consultant who specializes in public health administration.

MacKenzie said the university will receive a royalty on future sales in return for releasing any claims on the technology, which was developed by the scientists while under contract with the university.

Under the agreement, Chugai would hold exclusive rights to develop, manufacture and market the lung cancer test in Japan, while Quadra will supply Chugai with a stock of antigen, a chemical

keyed to react with fragments of protein shed by lung cancer cells.

MacKenzie said Quadra will net 10 to 12 per cent of total revenues derived from sales of the test. He estimated total sales in Japan at \$3 million to \$5 million a year.

Levy said she has been working on the lung cancer test for 14 years but had been unsuccessful in persuading the university to bring it to market.

Asked why some of the big pharmaceutical companies hadn't developed similar procedures, Levy said that in the commercial field, time is important. "They might not have been prepared to wait so long."

She said the scientists are developing other tests, including one for leukemia, that Quadra hopes to market.

"Eventually, we're hoping QLT will become a research institute," she said.

The two-year-old company originally was financed by money from the five partners. It is currently attempting to issue shares worth \$3.6 million.

Aimhi Prince George Association for Individuals with Mental Handicaps

Sears Correction

Please note the following changes to our "Canada Savings Days" flyer in Tuesday night's paper:

On Page 1 - Blazers sizes 38 to 44 will not be available.

On Page 15 - The regular prices were stated incorrectly. Items G and H should state Reg. \$6.99 not \$7.49. Item K should state Reg. \$5.99 not \$6.49.

Sears apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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