

A few lines ago one of the guest writers who improve this spot occasionally was making unhappy sounds because Chinatown isn't homogeneous with mysterious underground goings-on.

I for one was never much impressed by the thought of Chinatown's charms—even when I was quite young—just as I am not now. But I vaguely suspected the existence of rich Chinese ancestors, not walking in the streets, and, indeed, there were some dancing girls in the background.

But those lovely dreams just dropped in for tea. But how wrong I was! The innocent elegance, with its serene serenity, was the most striking part of it, the whole setup. Instead were just a few cheap tables and several half-dozen of little pearl-fan-but-

So there was one beautiful picture shattered—and it was even worse when I found no one wanted to fight with me. As the law calls them, they just waited patiently till the party was over to carry them off.

King's Quarters Not so Hot

His office was off the lane just behind the old city hall in the olden Building and it was there that I met the illustrious of the secret grandeur of Chinatown. For the office of the King—potato or gambling at a table—was a brightly lit room, equipped with a battered couch, a few chairs, a round table with a white cloth, a clock, a phone, a calendar and an inexhaustible stock of Black Cat cigarettes.

We used to lounge around in the old office of the high price of groceries and liquor, what Hitler was up to, whether a strike would be shorter or longer. Maybe Chu was a gambling king and maybe he wasn't, but I do know he was a very fine old Chinese gentleman and a first-rate host.

SPCA to Destroy Animals By Electrocuting Cabinet

New equipment has been ordered from England by the Vancouver SPCA for the destruction of dogs, cats and other animals under the most humane method yet devised.

Salvation Army Pioneer Dies In Royal City

Special to The Daily Province NEW WESTMINSTER—Mrs. Helen Elizabeth Grier, 86, one of the founders of the Salvation Army in Vancouver 60 years ago, died in the city here.

Fog-Bogged Golfer Gets Hole-in-One At Fraser View

Donnell and Ray MacDonnell were putting on the 18th green at Fraser View Golf Course Sunday, when a fog rolled in and he scored 18 in the last three minutes. In other games at Port Alberni, the hole-in-one was the first contest and won the second, 19-8 from Powell River.

Theatre Fire Started in Shop

Fire which destroyed the old Chinese theatre at Fraser View started in a shop in the rear of the building. This was established today by Chief Fire Warden Arthur Kirkwood, who stated that exact cause of the fire could not be determined.

Powell River Wins Over Port Alberni

Port Alberni—A late rally by Powell River earned them a 36-47 decision over Port Alberni in a weekend basketball game here. Behind 43-41 at last quarter, the Powell River team scored 23 points in the last three minutes. In other games at Port Alberni, the hole-in-one was the first contest and won the second, 19-8 from Powell River.

JAPANESE FILE \$3,000,000 CLAIMS

Property Hearings in City. Property-loss claims totaling over \$3,000,000 against the Canadian Government have been filed by "at least 1000" Japanese-Canadian, including about 500 in British Columbia.

Fifty to 100 more claims are coming in every day. The total may reach 3000. Those who are estimates given today by Alexander Watson, retired Victoria bank manager now acting as secretary of the Japanese Property Claims Commission which opens hearings in Vancouver's Court House Jan. 19, 20 and 21.

The investigation is expected to be completed in about 18 months. It is an official inquiry into claims of loss by Japanese who were evacuated from coastal areas after Pearl Harbor. No evidence on individual claims will be taken at the opening Vancouver session, but to last one or two days. It will be devoted to discussion of procedure and the hearing of claims.

Mr. Watson said the commission has notified 30 claimants in Kamloops area their claims will be heard at sessions likely to start in Kamloops Monday, Dec. 10, and Jan. 19, 20 and 21 at other points where large numbers of Japanese now live. These will include Vancouver, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal, though not necessarily in that order. Final sessions will return to Vancouver.

Except for Japanese who served in the Canadian armed forces, all Japanese are still banned from B.C.'s coastal area.

Long counsel used to appear at the hearings including Col. John W. G. Hunter of Toronto, Canadian Commissioner, and Andrew Brewin of Toronto and R. J. McMaster of Vancouver, for the Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy, and T. G. Norris, K.C., of Vancouver, representing many of the claimants.

Citizens Frustrated Gunmen

Two discerning bandits, two generous gunmen and five faint-hearted gang members were being sought today by city police. All were in action at the weekend but in the three hold-up attempts reported to police officers, the only loot was \$36 taken from John Dalezar, 836 Bute.

He told police he was walking on Thurlow near Barclay at 11 a. Sunday when an auto pulled up and one of two men asked driver to get out of the car. The man beside the driver put a nickel-plated gun to his stomach and demanded "Hand it over." Dalezar handed over his billfold, the gunman received the money it contained and politely handed back the empty wallet.

Five youths who tried to rob M. Christiano, 2106 Charles, at Charles and Renfrew at 11:35 p.m. Saturday, found the victim more than their match. "THIS IS A STICKUP" the gang approached Christiano, as he waited for a bus. The leader announced "This is a stickup," Christiano replied "beat it," but the leading youth edged closer and made a movement with what looked like a toy gun.

When Christiano whistled for help, another youth grabbed Christiano's suitcase and the five fled with Christiano at their heels. After half a block they dropped the bag and their intended victim abandoned the scene. He described them as being about 16 years of age and wearing rough cloth clothing.

Police Seek Hit-Run Driver

Five persons were injured in Vancouver traffic accidents over the weekend, and police are searching for a hit-and-run auto which struck down 43-year-old George Stevens, 1211 Pendrell, last Saturday at Fourth and Granville.

Stevens was taken to General Hospital with a head cut. Police said the car was an old model.

Bad Fuse Darkens South Kerrisdale

Thick fog, which hampered "trouble-shooters," and a faulty fuse in BCER substation at Forty-first and Boulevard, caused a "black out" homes in South Kerrisdale from 7:13 to 8:55 p.m. Saturday.

Police Seek Man Wearing Coat Only

A "nude" man was object of a police search at 3 a.m. Sunday at Broadway and St. Catherine. Prowler Officers

Theft Charge Brings \$50 Fine

Leo Markovitch, 21, of 829 Main was fined \$50 and two months by Magistrate Mackenzie Matheson for stealing \$30 from Stanley Park, 602 Keefer.

November Cooler Than Average But City Sunshine Normal

November was slightly cooler and slightly drier than the 41-year average for Vancouver but the hours of sunshine were normal.

The Dominion weather station reported the month's mean temperature was 49.7 degrees compared with the average of 43.7 degrees. Precipitation was 5.22 inches.

By Harry Hanan

READ THE CHUCKLE CONTEST IN THE CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE Province Classified PA 4211

Death Charge Laid

James Boyd Miller, 32-year-old laborer, Austin Hill, has been charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of George Bell, 33, Colonial Rooms, in a Saturday night street assault in 200 block Abbott.

Miller was held after three witnesses showed police the direction a suspect had taken.

He appeared in Police Court and was remanded one week on bail of \$5000.

Witnesses said there had been a fight and Bell was hit by a brick from his face wounds, bleeding from facial injuries and a cut on the side of his head.

Constables C. W. Pleasant and R. Lounsbury ordered Bell sent to Kingsway Ambulance to General Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Autopsy by Dr. S. A. Creighton, coroner's pathologist, Sunday, revealed that Bell was asphyxiated by blood from his face wounds.

Papers in the dead man's pockets indicated he was a native of Sutherland.

Police found a letter in which he stated he owned a small farm at Marysville, B.C. He worked recently for Kelch Construction Co., Industrial, Ltd. at Blodet, Stewart & Welch Ltd.'s Camp 9 at Great Central Lake, B.C.

Public Pays New High Fares Quietly, Calmly

Vancouver is paying more for streetcars and bus rides today. Higher fares started Sunday, and the new system went into operation without incident. The new rates: single class fare is 10 cents.

Weekly \$125 passes and 10-cent "blacks" will be accepted this week. If an additional 10 cents is deposited with each ticket, more than \$600 of old tickets have been turned in, 85 strips of "blacks."

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Meetings

American Institute of Electrical Engineers—Tonight, 7 o'clock, Murray Hall, 1011 B. St.

Narayan Narayana and Company—Tonight, 8 o'clock, 3140 Broadway, 31st Floor, 3140 Broadway, 31st Floor.

Richmond Kiwanis—Tonight, 7:30 o'clock, 1011 B. St., Canadian Education.

Canadian Pacific Railway—Tonight, 8 o'clock, 1011 B. St., Canadian Education.

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CHAMPIONS OF THEIR OWN COURSE, these two lads each battled Saturday night to win international table tennis honors. Left is Ernie Ylourchuk of Tacoma Boys' Club; right, Jimmie Robson, 840 East Sixth, member of Vancouver Kimount Boys' Club. The match marked an inter-club visit in Vancouver.

\$5 Million Bridges Advocated

City council is studying a recommendation of a special committee of a series of miller of technical experts for bridges across the Fraser at an estimated cost of five million dollars.

In the meantime, Alderman Charles Thompson's special bridge committee was authorized by council today to take up with the Provincial Government and Richmond Municipality rehabilitation of the present Marpole bridge, raising of Vancouver bridge 10 feet and repair of approaches and roadways leading to it.

Alderman Thompson told council it probably would be five years before construction of the proposed new bridges would get under way.

He expressed doubt that a new high level bridge, as recommended by the technical experts, would be needed. He received authorization from council to hire and equip to settle the question.

The project would require several million dollars in dredging and the technical experts would be needed. He received authorization from city to hire and equip to settle the question.

A new high level bridge across the north arm at Oak Street. Provision would be made for two traffic lanes, each 12 feet in width, in each direction, and for pedestrian and bicycle accommodation.

The experts recommendations include: 1. A new high level bridge across the north arm at Oak Street. Provision would be made for two traffic lanes, each 12 feet in width, in each direction, and for pedestrian and bicycle accommodation.

2. Heaving the railway interlocks join the city and senior government in erection of a combined double-deck bridge with highway on the upper deck, and railway on the lower, to replace the existing railway crossing.

3. The upper deck would provide a high level highway crossing with vertical clearance above high water of 75 feet and a distance between main piers of 300 feet. The lower deck would have a movable swing span and clearance of 30 feet above high water.

Two Boys Charged With Auto Theft

Two boys, 13 and 15, are in Juvenile Detention Home charged with auto theft following their arrest Sunday morning by Constables O. Johnson and W. G. Reid.

The car, owned by J. Eby, 643 East Twenty-fourth, was stolen from a service station at Twenty-fourth and Main.

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