THE VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE

SECTION TWO — VANCOUVER, B.C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1947 — 25

This Column

By JEAN HOWARTH

The woman I rode down with on the streetcar yesterday was going to buy some prizes for her fourteen-year-old son's Christmas party.

She was a nice little woman, kind of fragile and sweet and civilized with the look about her of a picture-book mother.

She was in a blind panic about the party.

"The last time," she said drearily, "they painted mustaches on all the little girls with my mother-in-law's nail polish, and got it on the little girls' dresses and on my mother-in-law's dresses' cloth. And made the little girls cry. And they put one of the boys under the shower, in his good suit and everything. He was the only one in a good suit. That was why. And they played Nazis and British all through the kitchen and the dining room and the sitting room and up and down stairs and under the beds and all through my clothes closets. And they smashed my vacuum-cleaner using it for a machine-gun.

Then why in the name of goodness," I asked, "are you having another party?"

She looked shocked.

"But I couldn't let Teddy down," she protested. "All the kids in his crowd have parties. You see," she explained with humility, it really isn't his fault. It's mine. I can't organize good parties. Lots of mothers have parties and don't get anything smashed except some cups or a plate or a chair or something."

She smiled bravely and got up for her stop, and her face as it vanished past the car windows was rather like a Christian martyr's, just after sighting the dinner guests.

A Couple of Amateurs

I can remember a party like that during my childhood. The hosts were a couple of inexperienced parents who didn't know how many games a bunch of kids could get through in one evening. Besides they were the wrong kind of games.

They put a glass coffee-pot filled with beans in front of us, for instance, and gave us twenty minutes to guess how many there were. Of course long before the twenty minutes were up the beans were being used as ammunition in a pitched battle between our side of the room and the other side, and the coffee-pot had been broken.

We broke a chair, too, that time, after my brother sat down in it and announced to the rest of the room, "I'm the king of the castle, and you're the dirty rascals."

We weren't ever invited back there again.

We had lots of other parties, though, which were highly successful and during which the damage was practically negligible. The secret of these affairs was the frenzied tempo at which they were conducted. We were never allowed a moment to think about getting into mischief, and we were allowed to make all the racket we liked.

And Six for a Leg

Our most popular game was called Cootie. There would be four kids at each table, four pencils, a single dice and four pieces of paper. The winner was the one who drew the first cootie. You threw the dice in turn. A one gave you a body—you had to get a body before you got anything else—a two added a head, two threes two eyes, a four a tail, five fives the feelers and six sixes the legs.

Not really half as complicated as it sounds; and the first person to complete the animal screamed "Cootie!" at the top of his lungs. There was a lot more screaming before and after, too. All in all very satisfactory sort of game for youthful lungs.

We threw darts in the basement, also; held a bonspiel on the floor with checkers—this is a swell game if you don't mind drawing circles on your polished hardwood floor with red and black ink; played ping-pong on the kitchen table; crokinole, consequences and coffee-pot in the living room, and ended the evening with an uproarious sing-song around the piano.

We would leave for home around eleven, blissfully weary, with our throats aching from yelling and our stomachs jam-packed with fitting youthful fodder.

Those were the parties.

Of course, in those days we had our parents properly trained.

Street Corners

By JOHN GRAHAM

It all started quite innocently. One day I casually happened to mention an old rhyme I liked once upon a time, and I've been kept busy ever since trying to dig up poems and stories which other people remember.

Lots are pretty easy, of course, especially if I can pick up a clue from any standard book of quotations. But others stymie me—after all I'm not John Kiernan. So that's why I have to leave my troubles on the Library's doorstep occasionally—they know everything.

The first one to arrive this week was a cinch. Mrs. Frances Clarke of 1923 Waterloo wanted the poem which contained a verse starting "That orbed maiden, with white fire laden." Nothing to it! That's from The Cloud, by Shelley, and it's in all his collected works—lots of anthologies besides.

But I'm afraid I can't help Mrs. Clarke in her second request: she wants an 1895 Ontario Fourth Reader — I've heard of an 1896 Fifth Reader —but not a Fourth.

Here Comes Rebecca Again

Then there was a note from Mrs. G. F. Connor of 4039 Sophia. She's been looking all over for Mother Carey's Chickens. That's not so hard, either. It's one of the Library's Wiggin's stories, and there's a copy in the children's branch of the Library — it must have been out when Mrs. Connor looked for it there. Mrs. Wiggin wrote lots of books: Penelope's Progress, the Birds' Christmas Carol, and Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm. Remember, Mary Pickford?

The next one was tougher—a letter from Mrs. J. W. Forgeat of Sardis, who has been trying everywhere to find a story which she read in school back in New Brunswick. It was called The Mouse and the Moonbeam.

I knew the story, all right. It was in our readers, too—a story about a mauve mouse and an old clock listening to the moonbeam tell it's story of one of the first Christmases. A nice tale, too.

The trouble is that you can't pick up old Third Readers very easily; there seems to be hardly any left. But there are three books at the Library which contain the story.

Find It Lots of Places

One is called Merry Christmas to You, compiled by Wilhemina Harper and published by Dutton. Another is More Story - Hour Favorites, also compiled by Miss Harper and published by Appleton - Century. The third is The Book of Christmas Stories for Children by Maude Owen Walters and published by Dodd, Mead. Better check up in the Library first if you're going to buy the book, for one of the books had an adaptation of the story — they tried it out and I couldn't look them over.

There's one other letter I'd like to tell you about, although the reference to books is only incidental. It was a note from a man who said he had once thought I was quite young. Or, as he quoted,

"A steady and stolidy, jolly Bank-holiday
Every-day young man!"

But he changed his mind. Saw my picture and now he's convinced I'm not a day under sixty.

Is that so? Well, I recognize the handwriting, sir, and I'm going right to the same source — Gilbert & Sullivan's Patience — for a line or two to throw back at you.

"Sing 'Boob to you —
Pooh, pooh to you' —
And that's what I shall say!"

Sixty years old indeed!

Christmas Holiday for Postie

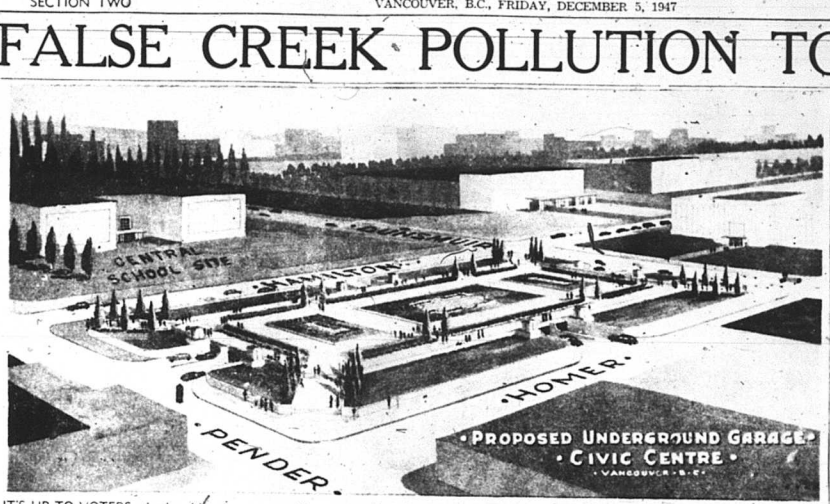
Christmas Day is one holiday when the weary postman can relax, rest his tired feet, and enjoy the Yuletide dinner and festivities just like the rest of us. There will be no city mail delivery Dec. 25.

Post offices in Vancouver will be closed to the public. Some unlucky postal clerks, however, will work Christmas Day receiving, sorting and dispatching mail where 24-hour shifts are maintained.

Whether the mailman will be able to recuperate on New Year's day from traditional night-before celebrations has not yet been decided.

The Postal Department at Ottawa is expected to announce whether January 1 will be a holiday, shortly.

FALSE CREEK POLLUTION TO END



IT'S UP TO VOTERS whether Vancouver gets this mammoth civic centre and underground parking garage for 2000 cars. Civic officials say construction of a four-level parking area under the proposed centre will begin next year if ratepayers approve expenditure of $2,500,000 for the site when they go to the polls next Wednesday. It would take a year to build. Its cost—estimated at —4,000,000—would be financed by issuing bonds bearing not more than 3 per cent., and a public company would handle construction, financing and operation of th park until it is debt-free. Then the city would take over.

Waters In Bay Benefit

English Bay's grey waters will be sparkling and clear for bathers next summer, and False Creek will be free of sewage.

Announcement that three sewage pumping stations will be in operation in the area within six months was made Thursday night by Acting Mayor Charles Jones at a Non-Partisan meeting in Renfrew Community Hall.

The acting mayor, candidate for the one-year term left vacant by the death of Mayor McGeer, said contracts for the work, totalling $250,000, will be let by City Council Monday.

The old election-time rivalry between Vancouver's east and west ends got an airing at the meeting, which heard two aldermanic "running mates" disagree on the amount of city time and money spent on road work east of Main Street.

BROADWAY BAD

Said Alfred R. Higgins, who has not served on City Council before:

"Broadway is in bad condition, and nothing has been done to the section between Commercial Drive and Main in 30 years.

"East of Main there are no north to south streets."

He felt it would be "a good thing" to have "another East Ender" on Council to reinforce that area's representation, which already includes Acting Mayor Jones.

But Alderman Alex Fisher, running for re-election on the same ticket, declared 60 per cent of the money spent on sewer and water mains this year went to the East End.

He said a paving plant will be operating in early spring to speed up road improvement.

Mr. Higgins urged construction of a cross-town arterial road east of Main, to enable UBC students and visitors to General Hospital or the City Hall to reach their destinations without traversing "a maze of streets."

FIRE TRUCKS NEEDED

Alderman Fisher, chairman this year of council's fire, police and traffic committee, said the fire and police departments need substantially larger budgets this year for new equipment and personnel.

He declared himself in favor of abolishing the poll tax, provided the Provincial Government makes up the difference in revenue to the city.

E. A. Jamieson, NPA candidate for alderman, advocated a high level bridge from foot of Robson to Broadway, and supported plans to establish the proposed civic centre on the Central School site.

Other speakers were Park Commissioner Bert Emery and School Trustee Ada Crump, both up for re-election.

Jap Property Claims Board to Tour Valley

The fertile farmlands of British Columbia's Fraser Valley will be viewed tomorrow by lawyers and a judge who, for the next year or more, will discuss Japanese-Canadians' claims for property compensation from the Dominion Government.

Adjourned until Monday, when at Kamloops, the first claims will be heard, the Japanese Property Claims Commission's tour is at the suggestion of the commissioner, Mr. Justice Henry I. Bird of the British Columbia Court of Appeal.

Just before adjourning the opening session Wednesday, Mr. Justice Bird suggested that as many of the B.C. claims concern farms in the Fraser Valley or similar properties elsewhere in the province, the trip would be helpful.

Meanwhile claims continue to pour in on the commission's Vancouver offices. Now almost 1500, they are expected to reach 300 before the Jan. 15 deadline for filing is over, and to involve more than $9,000,000.

They are from Japanese-Canadians forced to evacuate during the war. Many of their holdings have been liquidated. The claims all allege they were disposed of at prices below the fair market value.

Hearings in British Columbia alone are expected to take up the first two months of 1948, after which the commission will sit in Lethbridge, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg, possibly Fort William, Toronto and Montreal.

The commission's final sitting will be in Vancouver, where the government's argument will be presented, after which the report will be written and submitted to the secretary of state in Ottawa.

'Job Salesman' Mulcts Prairie Youth of $24

The well-worn "job salesman" trick cost an 18-year-old prairie youth $24 in Vancouver Thursday.

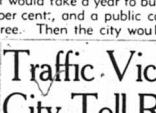
Anthony Dyck, West Hotel, who got in from Winkler, Man., Wednesday, was waiting at National Employment Service, Pender and Hamilton, when a man offered him a truck-driving job.

Dyck gave the man $10 for a chauffeur's license, $19 for boots and lent him $4. Then the "job broker" accompanied his victim to his hotel room, asked directions to the washroom and disappeared.

Traffic Victim Dies; City Toll Reaches 43

Thomas Thomas, 66, of 1201 Pendrell, died in General Hospital at 9 a.m. Thursday from injuries received the night before in a Bute and Davie traffic accident.

His death was Vancouver's



forty-third traffic fatality of the year.

An inquest will be held at 1 p.m. Monday.

Mr. Thomas suffered head injuries when struck by a car reportedly driven by Allen C. Nugent, 29, of 523 Drake.

The accident occurred at 6:35 p.m. Wednesday as Thomas, who had just alighted from a streetcar, attempted to cross the intersection.

Bakery Union To Take Vote On Walkout

A strike vote will be taken Saturday among employees of Disher Specialties, 1656 West Fourth, members of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' Union, Local 468.

If an agreement with the company is not signed by Saturday midnight, and the employees agree to strike, the walkout would be staged Sunday morning, M. Kemmis, secretary of the union, stated.

The vote is the first government-supervised poll undertaken by the union under the new industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

In the dispute between workers and management, negotiations went through arbitration. A unanimous decision handed down was refused by the company, which referred the matter back to the board.

The union did not request representation on the board the second time, and the same decision was handed down again.

Vancouver in Tabloid

URGENT — Blood is urgently needed by Red Cross blood transfusion service during the next few weeks as holiday routine slows up volume of donors and clinics. If you are a donor, please keep your appointment. Someone's life may depend on it. If not yet registered, make it your Christmas contribution. Telephone MA 1452 or MA 2221.

PSYCHOLOGY — Citizens must decide whether they want to build prisons or playgrounds, pay judges and jailors or psychologists, said Hilda Kristiansen, CCF candidate for School Board, at campaign meeting Thursday. "The child's world as well as the adult's is becoming more complex," she said.

RESHUFFLE—Urging return of the "ward system" when they addressed members of Civic Improvement Group Thursday night, Halford D. Wilson, Willard Greyell and Angelo Branca, candidates in Dec. 10 civic elections, claimed that "a machine is gaining control of government in Vancouver," due to disinterest on part of voters. Mr. Wilson said the public is not properly informed on many important issues which arise.

RADIO PLAY — "One of Us," the story of a courageous minister who dare to practice what he preached, will be broadcast tonight over CJOR at 8:30. Presented by the Dominion Network of the CBC, it stars Berry Kroeger. It is recommended by United Nations Association, Vancouver branch.

ILL—Fred Howlett, former City Clerk who was admitted to General Hospital two weeks ago, is reported in "only fair" condition. He retired in 1945 after 34 years service with the city.

LIKES B.C.—George D. Andrews, new consul with the U.S. Consulate-General, is thrilled at his appointment because he likes fishing. He's served in Cuba, Tokyo, Panama, Chile, and Warsaw since 1927, considers B.C. "the fisherman's paradise."

POOR SANTA — Santa Singh's plans to build a mill on Fraser River at foot of Manitoba were delayed Thursday by theft of 15 iron rods, three cast rollers and a steel drum. Singh, who lives at 8250 St. George, said the equipment is worth $200.

PROSECUTION —Election posters must come off telephone poles "at once" or prosecution will follow, warns Chief Constable Walter Mulligan. A civic bylaw prohibiting the "free advertising" will be rigidly enforced.

MYSTERY—Recent theft of $171 from Shaughnessy Hospital is being investigated by City Police and RCMP. The money disappeared in a five-day period from lockers in men's restrooms and a canteen wagon.

INSURANCE—A province-wide survey will be conducted by Canadian Restaurant Association to check experience of cafes during their first year under compulsory Workmen's Compensation Board insurance. This was decided at the annual meeting of the Vancouver branch Wednesday night.

CHRISTMAS MAIL — Sending Christmas parcels by mail? The Post Office urges you to watch these deadlines: United States, December 10; Maritimes, December 13; Ontario, Quebec, December 15; Manitoba, December 16; Saskatchewan and Alberta, December 16; B.C., December 18, and local, December 19.

DELINQUENCY — Development of a sense of pride in citizenship among school children, as a partial solution to juvenile delinquency, was advocated in a campaign address over CKMO Thursday night by John G. Gould, Non-Partisan School Board candidate.

PAST PERFORMANCE—School Trustee Elmore Meredith, seeking re-election on the Non-Partisan ticket, told CKMO radio listeners Thursday night the 1947 board had "teed up" a $4,000,000 school construction program for 1948.

Icy Roads Cause Crash, One Hurt

An icy road surface early today sent an auto skidding into a tree at Eton and Cassiar, injuring a passenger, P. Smith, 315 East Tenth, North Vancouver.

Smith suffered a lacerated face but declined to go to hospital.

Hurt in Thursday night traffic:

John Brown, 19, of Prince Rupert, whose left foot was bruised when an auto ran over it at Gore and Alexander.

Ken Burke, 17, of 1112 Hornby, cut when his bike ran into the tailgate of a stationary truck at Howe and Robson.

Harold Lee Gilkson, 55, of 1171 Nelson, knocked down by an auto at Hornby and Nelson.

R. A. Kirkwood, 60, of 2022 Granville, struck by a truck at Hornby and Hastings. A 48-year-old man is expected to be charged with failure to give right-of-way to Kirkwood.

Mutual Help Aids Oldsters Gain Security

When 95-year-old Mrs. E. Billington sits down to a monster Christmas dinner, it will be because she and other old people alone in the world got together to make their twilight days a lot happier.

The aged woman today was "happy as can be" because of the lavender sachets she had made for the annual bazaar of the Happier Old Age Club, proceeds from which help the club prove its claim that its members are "self-supporting."

Proceeds of the bazaar will provide a huge Christmas party for the members and friends. Booths were doing a land office business. Mrs. R. Barker was in charge of one stall. She is the "sick visitor" and makes as many as 100 visits a month to homes and hospitals. Refreshments were in charge of social convener, Mrs. T. T. Wallace.

Also helping at the bazaar was Mrs. Anne E. Ramage, resident of Vancouver for 62 years, who still remembers the first train that pulled in here 61 years ago. It brought her a bouquet of flowers.

Chamber Backs New Span Plan

Marpole Chamber of Commerce has indorsed plans for a new high level bridge across the Fraser at Oak Street. The indorsement came at a meeting Thursday.

The group went on record with a resolution that "the plan is of advantage to Greater Vancouver as a whole" and does not just benefit a particular community. It will also support "future development of trade and commerce," D. S. McDiarmid, chairman, said.

Lumbermen's Sweep Helps Crippled Tots

B.C. crippled children's hospitals will receive a $320 donation because 800 sawmill workers did not have an accident in November.

The B.C. Lumber Manufacturers' Association pays two cents per day per man into a "Crippled Children's Hospital sweepstakes" when a plant works a full month without an accident on which compensation is paid. The $320 donation comes as a result of an accident-free month at the Port Alberni sawmill, shingle mill and chipper plant division, and the sawmill division at Great Central Lake of Bloedel, Stewart and Welch, Ltd.

The accident-free period was a record. Not since the sweepstakes were inaugurated has such a large group of men gone so long without an accident.

Pard Miles, company safety director, said the record was achieved through constant vigilance by the men.

THE Weather

Synopsis: High barometric pressures in the Gulf of Alaska are acting as a barrier to Pacific storms and there is a northwesterly flow of cold and moderately dry air over the province. Little change is forecast.

Vancouver and vicinity, Strait of Georgia, Lower Fraser Valley, Victoria and vicinity, west coast Vancouver Island — Saturday overcast with fog patches over low areas, becoming clear by noon. Light winds. Cold.

Charlottes, north coast—Saturday cloudy. Winds southerly 20 m.p.h. Cold.

Okanagan, Lillooet, South Thompson — Saturday clear. Light winds. Cold.

Cariboo, Prince George, Bulkley Valley, northern B.C. — Saturday clear with fog over low areas. Light winds. Cold.

Montreal	1	32
Ottawa	1	29
North Bay	4	14
Kamloops	7	15
Winnipeg	2	9
Prince Rupert	3	16
Regina	3	21
Saskatoon	1	18
Lethbridge	7	24
Calgary	10	22
Edmonton	10	22
Kamloops	13	35
Penticton	14	42
Vancouver	17	48
Victoria	17	48
Cranbrook	9	31
Crescent Valley	29	40
Prince Rupert	31	40
Prince George	17	34
Seattle	30	48
Portland	27	50
Spokane	26	43
Chicago	37	43
San Francisco	40	52
Los Angeles	45	58
New York	30	56

Sweeney, Mad at Ottawa, Scores Customs Searchers

By CLYDE GILMOUR

Leo Sweeney, Vancouver's No. 1 tourist-booster, today stuck his neck out an extra four inches — and every inch was flaming red with rage.

Said Mr. Sweeney, president of the International Evergreen Playground Association, in a turbulent interview:

1. Ottawa is "likely to do more harm than good" by its decision, announced Thursday, to hire 300 female customs inspectors with authority to search women suspected of smuggling banned goods from the United States into Canada.

2. This will cause such widespread ill-will it may launch a "stay-away-from-Canada" movement in the U.S., "doing enormous damage to our vital tourist industry."

3. The plan is silly anyway because "men are better judges of character than women any day of the week."

4. Also, women with a little authority "often become obnoxious and officious, especially to other women."

Mr. Sweeney then took a deep, hoarse breath and announced he will propose "an official protest" about all this when his association holds its annual meeting here Saturday morning.

(The association is a group of tourist-minded businessmen in B.C., Washington and Oregon).

Mr. Sweeney admitted Canada must do all it can to save American dollars.

"But employing a bunch of female 'strippers' is one method they could leave out. What are they trying to do at Ottawa — kill off the tourist trade entirely?"

The barrel - chested barrel-maker said he has a healthy respect for the shrewdness of male customs officials, but very little for either the shrewdness or the good manners of their female counterparts.

"They had some women inspectors at Blaine a few years ago and boy, did they eyes get a lot of people burned up! Officious? Snippy? Rude? You never saw anything like it!

"How are they going to tell if a woman is 'likely' to be trying a bit of smuggling, anyway? By some guilty gleam in her eye? Or maybe by some unusual bulge somewhere? Don't make me laugh!"

Mr. Sweeney's advice to Ottawa: "Go easy, fellows. Nobody is trying to stop you in what you've got to do, but don't go about it the wrong way."

VALUES

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