'March of Dimes' Reaches $46,000

Donation of $437 From Hope Board Of Trade One of Largest in Drive

British Columbians have contributed $46,000 to date to The Vancouver Sun's first annual March of Dimes for Children's Hospital.

A donation of $437 came today from Hope Board of Trade, which put on a whirlwind campaign with co-operation of other district organizations interested in helping sick and crippled children.

The contribution is one of the largest received at headquarters, 1103 Sun Building.

Joyonne Couturiers gave $51.05, proceeds of a fashion show; Chilliwack Women's Institute, $25; and Reforestation Division, Forest Branch of B.C., $15.

The United Church at Ocean Falls sent along $10, while the hotel and laundry staff at the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel passed the hat to raise $24 for the fund.

The Maple Ridge Board of Trade sent a cheque for $27.14, and Sir Richard McBride School P-TA donated $3. Grade eighters in Division 18 of the Kamloops Junior High School donated $3.

Teen Towns reporting in this week: White Rock, $35.24; Club 41, $4.43; Chinese Y, $6.68; Fanny Bay, $11.60.

The Grosvenor Singers contributed $20, and the P.E.O. Sisterhood $10 through Secretary Dorothy Davidson.

MEETINGS

Vancouver Real Estate Exchange, Wednesday, 12:15 p.m., York Room, Hotel Georgia.

★ ★ ★

Canadian Authors' Association, Vancouver and Mainland Branch, Edith Adams' Cottage, Friday, 8 p.m.

United Commercial Travellers, Vancouver Council No. 284, Moose Hall, 1021 West Hastings, Wednesday, 8 p.m.

★ ★ ★

American Foundrymen's Association, 8:15 p.m. today, Medical Dental Auditorium.

★ ★ ★

Division 1, Vancouver South Progressive Conservative Association, whist drive at Masonic Hall, Tenth and Trimble, 8 p.m. Wednesday.

★ ★ ★

Life Underwriters' Association, Wednesday, Georgia Hotel, 12:15 p.m.

Arson Suspect Tells Of $1 Million Fires

Continued from Page 1

trap a suspected arsonist, and of accused's technique in circumventing police arrangements.

Pickard related how on one occasion all employees were called in and their hands examined by police, who expected to find telltale green dye on the fingers of one of them.

Accused related tersely in the statement that he had used a handkerchief to turn in the fire alarm, and had later burned the handkerchief in the furnace.

'JUST HAD URGE'

He told of damaging milking machinery and throwing parts in the river; of turning in false fire alarms.

"I just had the urge to set these fires for excitement," the statement read.

"I wanted a better job. I felt I was being held down. I felt I was no good," the statement continued.

He added that he had started four fires at the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. dairy farm at Marysville, near Kimberley—"one in the house, one in the barn, one at the bridge and one in the bush.

"I set a fire once in our chicken coop at our home on Fourth street in Medicine Hat, and once in a trunk in the basement, and rang three four-alarms," the statement said.

The statement read by T. Selkirk, crown prosecutor, following careful examination of Assistant Fire Marshal R. J. Holliday and Detective Fred Saunders, provincial police, as to how the statement was obtained, contained such terse sentences as:

"I started the arena fire on December 10, 1946. I lit some straw and went back to the bunkhouse. Then I set fire to the barn on July 20. I set fire to straw and waited in my room until Bob Moore came and told me about the fire. I helped get stock out and fought the fire."

SET BED ABLAZE

"I lit a fire in the cellar in the bunkhouse. I lit a fire in Bill Jones' room on the bed. I set the fire with lighter fluid. Then I went to Dan Egglestone's room and lit two fires there."

The next fire I set was under a table.

I turned in a false alarm two days later.

I went out with the boys and went to see where the fire was. Later I took a magazine, set it afire at foot of the bed. Then I went to supper. Then I fought fire. I started a fire in the horse barn. I slipped into the dairy and set fire to cardboard boxes. I heard shouts of fire, helped put it out and went back to work."

He told also of setting fire to binder twine and a sweater belonging to one of the workers (Francis Stevens) in the bunkhouse attic and then going to supper. The fire went out before any damage was done.

He said he "lit a fire in the horse barn and saw horses in the barn"; later noticed "a glow and smoke and we hollered fire."

Throughout the hearing Pickard declined to take advantage of his right to cross-examine witnesses, but before the statement was read, he asked that Detective Saunders be recalled to the stand.

He asked Saunders, who had sworn that no threat or promise was made to induce him to make the statement: "At the courthouse did you not ask me if I would wilfully take a truth injection?"

Saunders replied: "Yes, I asked you if you would submit to an injection of truth serum."

Most remarkable testimony was that of Deputy Fire Chief A. Lowry, Easondale, who testified that Pickard had assisted him in his investigation.

Chief Lowry said that when the men became disturbed over a series of fires in the bunkhouse he had investigated an abortive blaze in the bunkhouse attic.

Pickard had led him to the door leading to the attic and loaned him his flashlight to find his way.

Lowry said that at the majority of the fires he had seen Pickard.

On every occasion Pickard had helped move out livestock and fight the fires.

ALL LOOKED SET

In this, witness said Pickard was no exception.

"Witness told of eight fires between October 9 and December 8, all of which "looked as if they had been set by someone."

Fire Marshal Holliday told of investigating several fires at the farm starting in December, 1946, but said that because in the December, 1946, and July, 1947, fires, buildings were totally destroyed, it was difficult to ascertain whether they were accidental or incendiary.

But when three fires occurred in the bunkhouse in one night, followed by other blazes, arson was suspected and intensive investigation began. While investigating incendiary fires in the Doukhobor settlement in the interior he was recalled to Colony Farm and was assisted in his investigations by Detective Saunders.

Investigation led the two to Medicine Hat, Pickard's home town and to Kimberley where he worked before coming to Colony Farm.

On February 2 Pickard was picked up for questioning and after being given the usual warning made a voluntary statement at the courthouse in New Westminster, the Fire Marshal said.

Student Vets To Get $10 Pension Boost

OTTAWA, Feb. 17 — (CP) — Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced Monday in the Commons that married student veterans will be given an extra $10 a month and large rallowances for their children.

Under the new schedule for veteran students attending universities and vocational schools, a married veteran will receive $90 a month instead of $80.

In addition, there will be payable on behalf of the first child $18 instead of $12, and for the second child $14, with proportionate increases for succeeding children, so that a married veteran with three children will receive $134 a month instead of $114. Tuition fees will continue to be paid.

Mr. King also announced.

1—The basic scale of pensions for total disability and death will be increased and, for all ranks up to and including that of captain, the compensation will be at a rate in excess of that at present being paid on behalf of captains.

2—The additional pension being paid on behalf of the wives and children of disability pensioners, and the children of pensioned widows, will be substantially increased, as will be awards to orphan children.

3—The maximum award to the eligible parent or parents of a member of the forces who has died will be correspondingly increased.

Veterans Minister Gregg, VC, replying to Maj. Gen. G. R. Pearkes, VC (PC, Nanaimo), said the increases did not provide for increases under the War Veterans Allowance Act. Changes to that act still were under study and changes likely would be made known before the end of February.

Prices Seen 'Unfair' On 9 Commodities

Continued from Page 1

the committee when it deals with bread.

Mr. McGregor was reluctant to divulge information regarding specific commodities, stating that it might complicate some inquiries now under way.

Hughes Cleaver (L—Halton) entered the suggestion that Mr. McGregor give this information at a private session.

Mr. Fleming opposed this and said the committee could be accused of the "grosest kind of discrimination" if it held sessions in private.

Mr. Fleming asked Mr. McGregor about milk and when the witness hedged slightly again, Angus MacInnis (CCF—Vancouver) declared:

"It is rather strange that parliament would set up a committee with unlimited power and yet we cannot get any facts from another department of government whose sole business is to get those facts."

Earlier, Mr. McGregor told the committee that as far back as two years ago some baking companies were planning to co-operate in advancing bread prices when the wheat subsidy was removed.

He said the bakers did not get unanimous agreement on price boosts.

But retail bread dealers in several important centres apparently are complying to requests by large baking corporations to sell bread in their stores at the higher price charged by bakers when they deliver to homes, Mr. McGregor stated.

Some chain stores were selling bread under their own labels at prices three and four cents below the bakers' delivered prices. Others baked their own bread and were not dependent on the large bakeries for supplies.

"If those who bake their own are selling bread below cost, as a loss leader, there is an element of unfairness," he added.

"I have no current information on this subject; I do know, however, that the Prices Board examined one firm's costs in the early war years, when complaints of selling below cost were made, and was satisfied that it was not selling bread below cost or at cost.

"The chain stores that do not bake their own bread are selling their private brands at the same price as their competitors who bake their own. Mostly they buy from the large baking companies, and it is cost which enables them to sell at a profit."

MUZZLE URGED FOR 'WINCHELLS'

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 17 —(BUP)—Mississippi legislators sought a law today holding radio commentators responsible for "insulting" broadcasts about the state.

A bill, introduced by Sen. Houston Evans of Gulfport, would broaden present libel and slander laws by defining statements "commonly accepted as insulting" or those "calculated to lead to a breach of the peace" as sufficient ground for suit.

Capitol Hill New School Estimate 'Out'

By an Staff Reporter

BURNABY, Feb. 17. — School board estimates totalling $853,535.94 for 1948 were received by council here Monday.

Extraordinary estimates of $99,010 were rejected.

Ordinary estimates were: Maintenance budget, $639,233.40; finance budget, $80,225.19; health, recreation and supply, $72,654.07; buildings and grounds, $61,423.28.

Deducted from the ordinary estimates are estimated receipts of $397,081.01 and the 1947 surplus of $7477.34.

★ ★ ★

A Capitol Hill P-TA delegation condemned the shift system in crowded Burnaby schools and asked construction of a new school.

A new school for Capitol Hill headed the extraordinary estimates rejected by council because of lack of money, the delegation was told.

Meeting of a joint council and school board committee is set for Friday.

★ ★ ★

Control of funds for Griffiths Memorial Park collected by North Burnaby Community Centre Association will be given to council.

NEWS THROUGHOUT B.C.

Japanese Claims for $5500 Life Insurance

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VERNON, Feb. 17.—Claim of a Japanese for $5500 life insurance benefits, which he said would have been due him had the Custodian of Alien Property paid premiums as requested, highlighted opening of Japanese Property Claims Commission hearings here Monday.

Mr. Justine H. I. Bird heard nine claims totalling $39,881, seven of them concerning property sold at the time of the evacuation of Japanese from the coastal zone.

The insurance claimant declared he asked the custodian that the premiums be paid out of assets from his property. The policy was made out in the name of a woman who went back to Japan and died in 1947.

★ ★ ★

PRINCE RUPERT.—Following conferences with Provincial Police Commissioner John Shirras, civic police committee will recommend to city council that the police contract with the provincial force be renewed this year at a cost of $24,945, which is $4000 more than last year.

★ ★ ★

VERNON.—Council has agreed to give city hall employees a full Saturday off every two weeks rather than a half-day off weekly as at present.

Spring! Bears Gambol

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 17—(BUP)—It was so warm here yesterday that bears in the zoo awoke from their winter's hibernation and began playing out of doors.

Fred G. Todd Dies in East

MONTREAL, Feb. 17—(CP)—Frederick G. Todd, 71, ranked as one of the outstanding landscape architects of the North American continent, died in hospital here.

His services were used by several provincial governments in Canada and many parks and grounds in the Dominion were laid out by him.

He supervised laying out of Point Grey for the British Columbia government, the Shaughnessy Heights Development in Vancouver and Port Mann, B.C.

Speed Saves Gassed Man

Quick action of a fellow worker saved Robert Thompson, 22, 638 West Eighth, from asphyxiation in a gasoline tank car near the CNR shed, 700 Terminal, at 3 p.m., Monday.

Thompson was inspecting the car when fumes from the gasoline overwhelmed him. He collapsed.

A fellow worker who saw him fall, dragged him clear of the deadly fumes and then called the inhalator squad. The crew worked 15 minutes in an effort to revive him.

He was taken to General Hospital by Exclusive Ambulance, was treated and discharged.

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Vehicle Hard on Railway Tracks

DUNCAN, Feb. 17.—A Chinese motorist from Victoria established something new in level crossing incidents here Monday.

He cut the road corner near the crossing at the E. and N. Railway water tank and his vehicle hit the rails with such force as to put the steel out of position.

Damage amounting to $600 was reported to have resulted to the engine bed and framework of the car, in addition to considerable shock to the car's driver.

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