

# CHARLOTTETOWN BUSINESS REVIEW 1810 - 1957

## 25 Years Ago The Lindberg Baby Was Kidnapped, Killed

By SAMUEL G. BLACKMAN

HOPEWELL, N.J. (AP) — The night of March 1, 1932 was cold and raw.

The wind whistled through the trees high in the Sourland Mountains where a newcomer, Charles A. Lindbergh, had built a home. Here he thought he had found privacy.

On the first floor of the 2½-story whitewashed house Lindbergh and his wife, the former Anne Morrow, were talking. Up stairs in his crib in the nursery was the couple's only child, Charles Jr.

At 9:10 there was a strange noise which Lindbergh said later sounded like "the top slats of an orange box falling off a chair."

"What's that?" he asked his wife. But he let the incident pass without further thought.

**BABY GONE**

At 10 o'clock the nursemaid, Betty Gow, found the baby gone. His own search of the nursery failed. Lindbergh grabbed a rifle from a closet, ran into Mrs. Lindbergh's room and said "Anne, they have stolen our baby."

Lindbergh himself notified police and then went out, bareheaded, into the night in a forlorn search for his son.

For two hectic months he searched by land, by sea and by air. He was on a small yacht off the Virginia capes searching for a phantom ship when word came on May 12 that his son was dead. A workman had stumbled over the body in a shallow grave five miles from the Lindbergh home.

Two years and four months later—on Sept. 19, 1934—a 35-year-old Bronx carpenter was arrested. His name was Bruno Richard Hauptmann.

Hauptmann died for the crime, on April 3, 1936, in the electric chair. He had been convicted of murder in a trial where the evidence was largely circumstantial.

**NEVER DISPUTED**

Now, 25 years after the Lindbergh kidnaping, that circumstantial evidence has stood up.

Nothing has been brought to light that would dispute the contention that Hauptmann—and Hauptmann alone—committed the crime.

The Lindbergh kidnapper had left a crudely written note on the windmill of the baby's nursery, demanding \$50,000 ransom.

Lindbergh paid that ransom the night of April 2, 1932 in a Bronx cemetery. With him was John F. Condon, an intermediary.

"Hey, doctor, doctor, over here!" came a voice from behind the hedge. Condon paid over the \$50,000 and got in return a note which said "the boy is on board."

Lindbergh, at the trial, said the voice was that of Hauptmann.

**LED TO ARREST**

The ransom payment failed of its purpose—return of the child. But it led to Hauptmann's arrest. The government distributed 250,000 circulars bearing the serial numbers of the money—\$35,000 in gold certificates, \$15,000 in other paper currency.

And then the government called in its gold—a measure born of the depression. President Roosevelt set May 1, 1933 as the deadline for conversion of gold certificates.

On Sept. 15, 1934, a man drove up to Walter Lyle's filling station, bought five gallons of gas, and gave Lyle a \$10 gold note. Lyle wrote the auto license number on the bill. Four days later Hauptmann was arrested. On his person they found one of the \$20 ransom bills.

And in Hauptmann's garage police found \$14,600 of the ransom money.

**MATCHED LADDER**

The money was not the only incriminating thing found in Hauptmann's house. An expert on wood discovered that a piece of the attic flooring had been used as a rail of the kidnap ladder. The ladder was found near the Lindbergh home the night the child was stolen.

The handwriting on 14 ransom notes was identified by seven handwriting experts as Hauptmann's.

## To Discuss Reduction Of Troops In Europe

LONDON (CP) — Ministers of the seven-nation Western European alliance today began a day conference re British plans to reduce her troop strength in Europe.

West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano urged that the British reductions, planned to start in the second half of this year, be delayed.

The WEU council session had before it a report from Gen. Lauris Norstad, supreme Allied commander in Europe. The report is understood to criticize the British plan to pull out 27,000 of the 77,000 troops she has stationed on the Continent.

WEU comprises Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg.

**ALSO PLAN AIR CUTS**

The British also plan substantial cuts in the tactical air force in West Germany and the naval units patrolling the Rhine and Elbe.

Brentano said he does not think WEU is competent to carry out the study he recommended — it should be done by NATO.

He said he does not believe that Russia at present "is seriously prepared to hold discussions on the reunification of Germany which would have any prospects of success."

The WEU members actually will not be asked to say yes or no to the British plan. Britain will only request them not to oppose the cuts. Observers expect the meeting will result in no concrete decisions since the WEU members want the whole question discussed in the NATO council.

Canada's high commissioner in London, Norman Robertson, was present as an observer.

**WILL END PAYMENTS**

From Bonn came a report that the West German government has decided not to contribute to the costs of British, U.S. and French troops stationed in West Germany after 1958.

Informed sources said the Bundestag defence committee was advised the next year will be "absolutely the last" for German contributions. The West German government has offered to pay about \$175,000,000 to Britain, France and the U.S. for the fiscal year beginning in May.

The West German move to end the payments is certain to generate pressure from the Allies for speedier German rearmament as the Germans can do more toward defending themselves and Western Europe.

## Says Fiscal Proposals To Ontario Were Generous

TORONTO (CP) — Finance Minister Harris said Monday night Ontario would have received an increase of about \$40,000,000 this year over the amount paid in 1956-57 had Premier Frost's government elected to renew fiscal arrangements with Ottawa.

"However, Ontario preferred to impose certain taxes and have us collect certain taxes."

Mr. Harris was guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities.

He said the federal government has just finished negotiating new provincial fiscal arrangements "on much more generous terms."

He estimated that payments would be about \$140,000,000 higher and said Ontario would have shared substantially in the increase.

The finance minister said that although federal, provincial and municipal financial burdens have changed since Confederation "there is no point in changing the

Constitution." There was danger in accepting "bald figures" advanced in favor of revising the British North America Act to draw it into line with contemporary problems.

"We are constantly being told that (federal) Canada is taking as much as 75 per cent of total revenues available, leaving provinces and municipalities to struggle along on the balance as best they may."

"On the basis of 1953-54 the percentage amount actually reached by each level of government was: federal 71, provincial 16, municipal 13."

"This, however, ignores net transfers from the federal government to provincial governments of \$420,000,000 in the year and transfer by provincial governments to municipalities of 230,000,000. Using these corrected figures we get the following result: federal 64, provincial 19, municipal 17."

## To Survey Prospects Of Exporting Polio Vaccine

OTTAWA (CP) — Health Minister Martin said Monday federal and provincial health authorities are conducting a survey to determine when Canada will be in a position to export polio vaccine.

He also said in a return tabled in the Commons for Dr. W. H. McMillan, L.Welland that about 2,800,000 Canadian children will have received salk vaccine injections by March 31 of this year.

The return said the total number of vaccinated children should rise to about 4,000,000 by March 31, 1958.

Mr. Martin said no exports will be permitted until a supply to meet the Canadian demand was assured.

The return said some 1,800,000 children had received vaccine shots by the summer of 1956. The total would be to about 2,800,000 at March 31, with a substantial portion having two or more doses.

Preliminary figures indicate that there were only 602 cases of polio in Canada in 1956, including 263 paralytic cases. This compares with 1,021 cases in 1955 of which 551 were paralytic.

**FORCED OUT BY FIRE**

MONTREAL (CP) — Fire forces 20 priests and novices from their beds early Saturday, burning out their Montreal North retreat.

Firemen said the fire apparently started in the kitchen. The three-storey building is owned by the Societe des Saints Apotres and is known as the Maison St. Pascale Baylon.

**HISTORIC CITY**

Frankfort in West Germany is mentioned as a town in record as early as AD 752.

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**FASHION SHOPPE**  
FOUNDED 1940

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ESTABLISHED IN CH'TOWN  
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**FIRESTONE HOME & AUTO CO. Ltd.**  
FOUNDED 1951

SERVING PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOR 6 YEARS  
**BARTER'S FILM LAB.**  
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY MARKET BUILDING  
FOUNDED 1951

SERVING PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOR 5 YEARS  
**STEAD'S PHARMACY**  
FOUNDED 1952

SERVING PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOR 3 YEARS  
**WESTERN TIRE & AUTO CORP.**  
FOUNDED 1954

SERVING PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOR 3 YEARS  
**FRED SMITH BOYS' WEAR**  
FOUNDED 1954

SERVING PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOR 2 YEARS  
**MARITIME MOTOR SUPPLY Co. Ltd.**  
FOUNDED 1955

SERVING PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOR 1 YEAR  
**ROSS BURNER & ELECTRIC LTD.**  
FOUNDED 1956

SERVING PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOR 1 YEAR  
**BRYANT ELECTRIC CO. LTD.**  
FOUNDED 1956