Gun-Toting Storekeeper Shoots One, Foils Break

By CARMAN SMITH
S'side Bureau, The Guardian

Three men have pleaded guilty—one from his hospital bed—and a fourth has elected trial by judge and jury as a result of the foiling of a break, entry and theft at Albany yesterday morning by a gun-toting storekeeper.

The man who pleaded guilty in hospital, Francis (Peanut) Arsenault, Summerside was wounded in a leg when he attempted to rush the storekeeper, Allistair MacLeod, with a pitchfork.

MacLeod said the pitchfork-armed man rushed at him yelling "You haven't got the guts to shoot!" so he shot him in the leg.

Arsenault, Wayne (Flat Top) Clow and Richard Aitken, all of Summerside pleaded guilty to breaking and entering and were remanded for sentence until Jan. 7 by Magistrate W. Chester S. MacDonald.

The fourth accused, Ralph Sonier, Summerside, will appear for preliminary hearing on the same charge on the same date. He offered no plea.

Four men were surprised in the Albany store by the owner, Allistair MacLeod sometime between 1.30 and 2 a.m., and one of them was shot when he attacked Mr. MacLeod with a pitchfork from inside the store.

In relating the incident to The Guardian yesterday, Mr. MacLeod said, "I had been planning to retire at about one o'clock when my wife looked out the window and saw the lights on the Christmas tree in front of the store were out. She immediately came and told me and I decided to go down and investigate.

"I dressed up", he continued, "and got my revolver and went down. When I arrived, I saw someone in the store. I went to the back door and ordered whoever was in there to come out. I emptied the revolver into the upper windows of the back door and then went behind the car to reload. I then proceeded towards the front of the store.

PITCHFORK IN HAND

"Again I ordered them to come out", he said, "and one fellow came out with a pitchfork in his hands. I ordered him to stop and he did and dropped the pitchfork. Then the other fellow picked up the pitch fork and came at me. I ordered him to stop or I would shoot but he kept coming, yelling 'You haven't got the guts', 'You haven't got the guts'. I had no alternative".

Two men were arrested at the scene by Cpl. W.J.R. MacDonald, NCO in charge of the Borden RCMP detachment and Cnst. Shears, also of Borden.

Two more were arrested at North Bedeque later in the morning. Making the arrest were Cpl. Calvin Bungay and Cnst. McKenna of Summerside, Const. Oland and Currie of Charlottetown and Const. Shears.

This was the second break in two months in Mr. MacLeod's store and the third in "about three years". No one was arrested in the two previous breaks, Mr. MacLeod said.

Mr. MacLeod said that one of his neighbors had notified the police. "Two of Wilfred MacCormack's boys, Donnie and Alan, were at the store with me later" he said. "Donnie had just returned from Charlottetown and when he pulled his car into the driveway he saw some goods on the ground".

CALLED POLICE

"He went into the house." Mr. MacLeod continued, "and called the police. He then got his brother to go down to his father's store, thinking that was where the goods came from. When they saw that their store had not been broken into, they came over to my store".

The Albany store owner was unable to give an estimate of what was taken but said that some cigarettes, money and other merchandise had been taken. He mentioned that merchandise had been found in a couple of the neighbors' yards.

The suspects, who had driven to Albany in a car belonging to one of them, put in a phone call to a Summerside taxi stand for a cab when their car broke down. The taxi driver is reported to have left for Albany not knowing who his passengers were but he was stopped en route by the RCMP, who, by this time, were carrying out the investigation and who knew that the telephone call had been made.

DRAGNET ORDERED

A dragnet, involving members of the Charlottetown, Borden and Summerside detachments of the RCMP combed the area for some 2½ hours. It was also believed that town police were called for assistance. Cpl. Roderick MacKenzie from Charlottetown's RCMP identification bureau also was on hand during the investigation.

Dr. Daniel L. Stewart of Bedeque treated the wounded suspect at the scene and then accompanied him in an RCMP vehicle to the hospital.

United Fund Returns Prove Disappointing

Glen Hancock of Halifax will direct a public relations clinic to be held in conjunction with the Prince Edward Island United Fund annual general meeting on Jan. 28, 1964 it was announced yesterday.

Mr. Hancock will be here through the courtesy of the Imperial Oil Ltd., and its local manager, Jim Cerry. Mr. Hancock also will be the guest speaker at the meeting and will bring along two other specialists in the field of public relations, from Halifax, who will assist in the sessions of the clinic.

All United Fund agencies are expected to have representatives attend the clinic, which will be a day-long session, along with a United Fund volunteers. Details of the sessions will be going out to all volunteers and agencies shortly, Frank Curtis, president of the United Fund, stated.

In making the announcement, Mr Curtis said: "The United Fund Board is very disappointed at the slowness of returns to this year's campaign, and this public relations workshop is the first step in an attempt to speed up future campaigns by making the United Fund and its responsibilities better known to the citizens of Prince Edward Island".

He said the men who have agreed to come to Charlottetown to assist in this workshop are the best in their field in Eastern Canada. "They are coming at no expense to the United Fund and for this we are very grateful to Imperial Oil Limited."

The sessions, which will be held in the Canadian Legion, Charlottetown, will be the first of their kind ever held in Prince Edward Island and it is hoped as many as possible will attend.

Civil Servants Lodge Appeal

As a result of the Payne-Ross Limited survey made during the past year, about one per cent of the estimated 1,200 provincial civil servants are appealing their new job classification in which they have been placed.

The appeals are being made to Joint Council, a body set up by the Legislature to handle civil service matters. On the council are three cabinet ministers and three representatives of the Civil Servants Association.

One member of joint council said yesterday that "about 11 or 12 appeals are to be heard by council," which sat yesterday morning.

It is expected that when the appeals are disposed of, a new wage scale will be drawn up for the civil service in time for consideration at the next session of the Legislature.

The majority of the appeals were disposed of yesterday. Some of those appealing were unable to attend the meeting because of sickness. A council spokesman said these persons will be given the opportunity for a hearing at a later date.

Southern Teams Are Doing Well

An 18-year-old Southport youth, William Wood, Jr., was rushed to Prince Edward Island Hospital early yesterday afternoon after being overcome by carbon monoxide fumes.

Dr. Malcolm Putnam, who attended the youth at hospital, said yesterday he appeared to be in satisfactory condition but would be kept in hospital overnight for observation.

The youth was reported to have been sitting in his father's snowmobile, which was idling, when he was overcome by fumes from the engine. Cuciliffe's ambulance was called and on the way to hospital, the youth was administered oxygen by Sinclair Cutcliffe.

The youth is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wood.

Ford Develops Competition Car

DETROIT (AP)—The Ford Motor Company has disclosed it is developing a GT competition car to challenge foreign car supremacy at leading road-racing courses in the U.S and abroad.

Frank E. Zimmerman, Jr., Ford division special vehicles manager, said the Ford Grand Touring (GT) category sports car is a low, sleek, closed two-seater, powered by the Ford Indianapolis racing engine which is positioned amidships behind the driver and forward of the rear axle.

The new car will have speeds up to 200 miles an hour, he said. It will be 40.5 inches high with an over-all length of 159 inches and a wheelbase of 95 inches.

MICROSCOPE CAMERA

A camera attachment for microscopes which produces positive prints in 10 seconds has been developed in Britain.

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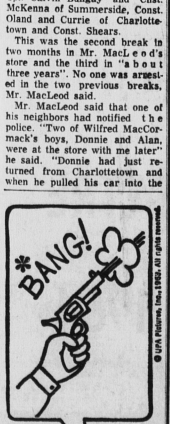

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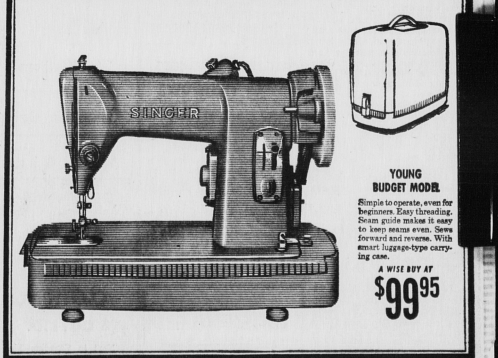

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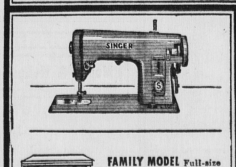

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