

Welland Man Acquitted On Murder Charge

WELLAND, Jan. 14 — (CP) — Lloyd Frank Cross, 34 today was acquitted of murder in the 1949 bludgeoning-slaying of a taxi driver for which his younger brother, James Kelsey, is under sentence of death.

A jury in Ontario Supreme Court which deliberated two hours, freed Cross of the charge of fatally beating cabbie Sam Delibasich, 47, of Welland. Cross was embraced by his weeping mother and sister as he stepped out of the prisoner's box.

Delibasich, Yugoslavian-born taxi man who once lived in Timmins and Kirkland Lake, disappeared Dec. 9, 1949. His disappearance touched off talk in Welland's Yugoslav-Canadian circles of revenge killing in a vendetta carried over the sea. However, such conjecture died down after four rabbit hunters found his body in an oat field near Welland nine days later and his taxicab was recovered in downtown Toronto.

Delibasich, who came to Canada in 1927 but revisited Yugoslavia in 1939, was the brother of a murdered ex-Chetnik who fought Marshal Tito's Communist partisans in Yugoslavia during the second World War. Persons who knew Delibasich said he had helped anti-communist Yugoslavs find haven in Canada and that he held the Yugoslav Government responsible for the death of his brother, dragged from a Belgrade apartment in 1945 and beaten until he died.

For more than two years, police followed a tangled trail pointing to political intrigue and robbery as possible motives before making an arrest.

Then they took Cross into custody at Brockville, N. B., near Saint John, where his British-born wife and three children had been living.

A short time later they announced the arrest of James Kelsey, brother of Cross. A former Welland resident, he changed his name when his mother married a second time.

Kelsey, now 29, was convicted last fall. He has been granted a stay of execution until March 10 to allow the hearing of his appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

At his brother's trial yesterday, Kelsey refused to testify but evidence he gave at the preliminary hearing was read into the record. At his own trial he repudiated what he had said at the preliminary hearing.

A statement read at the Cross trial quoted Cross as telling police then he had nothing to do with the slaying. He stuck to his story even after arresting officers told him Kelsey had given police a signed statement naming him as an accomplice.

"As far as I'm concerned, I had nothing to do with it," Cross was quoted as saying to Inspector Charles Wood of the Ontario Provincial Police. "I don't know why he (Kelsey) would implicate me."

In the statement Cross said he left Welland at New Year's 1950 with the intention of taking his wife, an English war bride, back to England. But he abandoned that plan when his money ran out. He said he worked in Labrador, Moncton and Saint John while his wife and three children lived at Brockville.

Extra Sliver Of Meat For Britons

LONDON, Jan. 14 — (Reuters) — Britons will get an extra sliver of meat on their weekly rations starting Jan. 26, but their bacon will be cut to a quarter of a pound per person per week.

The news came from the Food Ministry tonight along with figures indicating that if estimates pan out 1953 will be Britain's best meat year since the Second World War.

The meat ration will be raised from one shilling and eight pence worth a week to one shilling and nine pence. Bacon goes down from five ounces to four.

The price-based ration amounts to a medium-sized steak, about three lamb chops or—for a family of four—a small pot roast once a week.

The bacon cut is seasonal, likely to be restored within a month.

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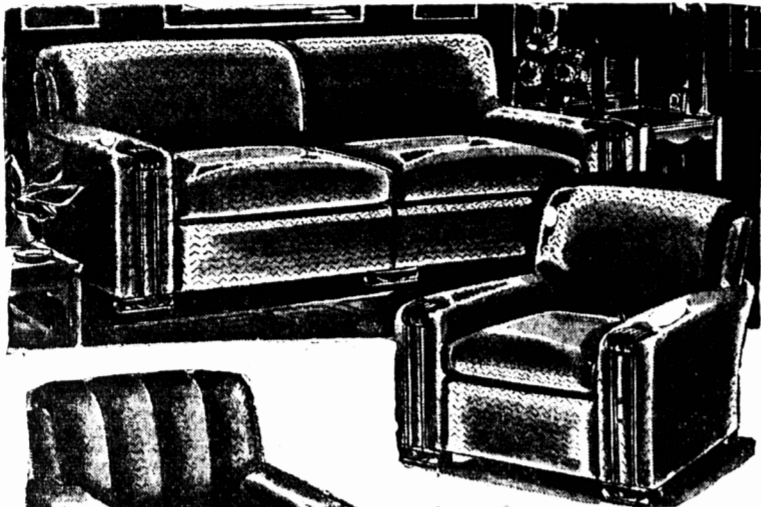
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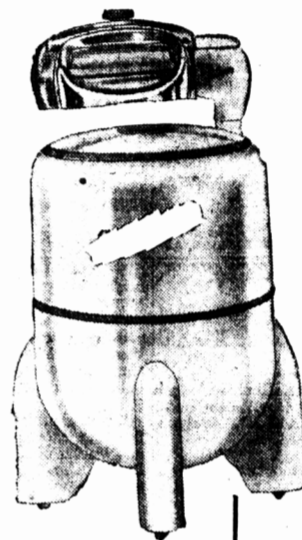


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