

MacRae, whose fingerprints found on the fragments of glass at the Maplewood Garage had brought on this new phase of the case. One important feature about these impressions had been noted by the Vancouver Identification Section; the fingers which made them had grasped *both* sides of the glass, establishing beyond doubt that the owner of the fingers had held the fragments by their edges. Confronted by the damaging evidence now available against him, MacRae gave a voluntary statement to the Police admitting his part in the offences at the Maplewood Garage in North Vancouver and the Sav-Mor Purity Store and Bainbridge Motors in Burnaby. He admitted also to being one of the three who visited the house in Burnaby with the deliberate intention of stealing the three pistols, and that he still had one in his possession.

It was necessary to interview MacRae's wife again and also his parents, about the whereabouts of this weapon. Here the Police found some reluctance to co-operate, and it was not until the seriousness of her position had been pointed out to Mrs. MacRae, junior, that she consented to remove the gun, a .45 Smith & Wesson, from its hiding place and hand it to the investigators.

A second search was also made at the Lilburn home and a fully loaded automatic pistol, a .22 revolver and a hunting knife were found concealed in a hole in the wall behind a china cabinet, together with a small amount of cash which Lilburn had admitted was part of the loot from the Sav-Mor Purity Store. Confirmation of this came later from the complainant, who was able to identify a roll of pennies among the money.

With sufficient evidence now available to support their prosecution, all five miscreants were brought before the Court to answer to the criminal charges which were laid against them. The juvenile appeared in front of a juvenile Court judge, the four older offenders being arraigned in magistrate's Court at Burnaby and North Vancouver respectively.

With the exception of the youngest member of the crime-bent coterie, who was only 16 years old, all had previously found themselves at odds with the law. MacRae, 20, had derived little benefit from such meagre education as he had received during his youth—he was almost completely illiterate. He made his first appearance before the bench in February 1951, when sentence was suspended on an automobile theft charge; a conviction for shop-breaking and theft followed in 1952 and one for theft early in 1953. Yeates, 20, received leniency on his first offence in December 1952, when he received a suspended sentence on a shop-breaking and theft charge. Davidson, 19, had started his career of crime three years previously with a sentence for retaining stolen property, followed six months later by an automobile theft conviction. Automobile theft was the first venture into crime for Lilburn, who was convicted of that offence in 1951.

In this current chapter of crime, forms of information and complaint were sworn to covering 16 offences committed jointly or severally by one or other of the accused. These included the crimes committed on the two garages and the grocery store, the thefts of pistols, and the narcotic offences of Davidson and Lilburn.

Pleading guilty to the three shop-breaking offences and the theft from dwelling house (pistol), MacRae was sentenced to concurrent terms involving two years' imprisonment.

Yeates, in making his appearance in answer to the two shop-breaking charges and the one of theft from dwelling (pistol), pleaded guilty and received concurrent sentences which in all involved a term of nine months determinate and 18 months indeterminate in the Young Offenders Unit of Oakalla Prison Farm.

Davidson was the only one of the group to assert his innocence. He pleaded not guilty in Burnaby Police Court to the charge of possession of heroin, but was found guilty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment with a \$200 fine or