

Drug Bust in Newfoundland

by David C. Day, QC

Sixteen years ago, David C. Day prosecuted on behalf of the Attorney General of Canada, a charge *contra* Section 5(1) of the Narcotic Control Act (importing of narcotics into Canada), investigated primarily by ex-Sgt. W.H. Orser, "B" Division Headquarters, Newfoundland, then a corporal, and Cpl. W.B. Parker, "H" Division Drug Enforcement, Nova Scotia, then a constable in St John's Sub-Division Drug Section, Newfoundland.

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Late in 1973, Arthur Michael Carr, a doctor of British origin practising medicine in the village of Catalina, on the northeast coast of Newfoundland since 1961, met a group of young Newfoundlanders from St John's, about 250 miles south. Their acquaintance developed to the point that, on occasion, Carr would leave his clinic crowded with patients, and drive to St John's after receiving a telephone call from them. One of the Newfoundlanders started a pub in St John's, and Carr was invited to attend the opening night. It is not known exactly what they discussed, but what occurred subsequently was quite unusual.

In spring 1974, Carr left Catalina on a trip to the Canadian mainland and the United States, during which he sent a cable addressed to himself in Catalina through a Western Union office. When he returned, his wife presented him with the sealed cable. It purported to be from an American organization soliciting medical doctors in the West to take sabbaticals from practice and serve in third world countries.

Carr informed his wife of the cable's contents, settled his affairs in Catalina and negotiated his investments, which he converted into an international bank draft. He then left Newfoundland for his native England, where Miss Angelita Penelope Rothwell, whom he had met on a trip to England the previous year, was waiting for him. Also awaiting him was the *Carrero*, his 53-foot Gallant sailing yacht, anchored on England's South Coast at Poole, Dorset County. Carr's trip to England had not been uneventful. He had intended to travel on Air Canada from Gander, Newfoundland, to London, via Prestwick, Scotland, and drive to his yacht. He allegedly talked to a seatmate about pistols, on the Gander to Prestwick leg of the trip. In any event, he was put off the airplane at Prestwick and had to travel by land from Scotland to his yacht in the south of England. There, he was met briefly by his accomplices from St John's. He was also met in Poole by an Australian and an Englishman who set sail with him and Rothwell. Their voyage aboard *Carrero* ultimately took them to Colombia, via Antigua, where Carr again established contact with his accomplices from St John's.

When he arrived in Colombia, Carr travelled by air on a circuitous route to Miami and Grand Cayman, where he deposited his international bank draft. He withdrew a portion of it in cash and returned to Colombia. He then set sail for Newfoundland with Rothwell and one of his accomplices from Newfoundland, a man named Sexton.

On June 1, off the coast of Colombia, they met a boat from South America, and