

These breaking and entering crimes, or shop-breakings, as they are sometimes known, followed the all too familiar pattern which has plagued the efforts of peace officers for generations; premises violently broken into and merchandise stolen, with no immediate clue to lead the investigator to the criminal and his loot. All that remains is to attack the problem on a broad front, looking into every channel which might produce evidence or direct suspicion against any individual. The good policeman knows his local criminals, and is at pains to keep an eye on their movements and activities. In Burnaby, a fast growing metropolis of over 60,000 people, this practice is pursued assiduously by the RCMP which, as in North Vancouver, polices the municipality.

After the initial examination into the Sav-Mor store shop-breaking, investigators cast their eyes over the local scene. Among others, a likely suspect appeared in the person of a young man named Alexander John MacRae, who had served a short sentence for a similar offence some months previously. He had been observed frequently during recent weeks in company with other known local criminals, and although definite evidence was lacking, information had been received that he was implicated in the breaking and entering at the Bainbridge Motors Garage and that he had a contact with a fence in North Vancouver. This information was passed on to North Vancouver Detachment, in the hope that observations there might lead to information which would further the investigation.

When the NCO in charge of North Vancouver Detachment received the teletype message giving him the first definite opening on the Maplewood Motors case, members were detailed to follow up this lead, and at the same time the information was immediately relayed to Burnaby in view of their interest in the activities of MacRae. From then on, Police of the two detachments co-operated closely in joint efforts to press the advantage of

this vital link in the now combined investigation.

Members of the RCMP accompanied by plain-clothes men of the Vancouver City Police, obtained a search warrant and went to MacRae's residence in the city of Vancouver, which municipality lies roughly between those of Burnaby and North Vancouver.

Their knock on the door was answered by MacRae's wife, and the unfortunate young woman betrayed little surprise when she saw who the visitors were, and was told of the reason for their call; her husband's previous brushes with the law had brought her in contact with the local police. MacRae himself was then at his place of employment.

The ensuing search uncovered a large quantity of assorted brands of cigarettes and chewing gum, which were found to tally with those stolen from the Sav-Mor Store. Also found in the house was a portion of the loot from the Maplewood Garage in North Vancouver.



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