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## Former scene of violent gun battle, bank victimized again by armed robber

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**DIXIE** — The scene of Mississauga's wildest shoot-out and most violent bank robbery eight years ago was revisited Monday when an armed bandit held up the Royal Bank at Dixie Rd. and Dundas St. and made off with \$3,000.

About 12.30 p.m. a stocky man, 30 to 35, walked into the bank with a sawed-off, double-barrelled shotgun and ordered six customers up against a wall and told the tellers to step away from their cages. He handed a paper bag to the accountant and told him to fill it with money. He grabbed the bag and without checking the contents, fled in a car bearing licence plates stolen from a Hurontario St. resident Sunday night. Bank employees immediately tripped the alarm.

A witness standing at the intersection waved frantically at a Mississauga cruiser which had been notified by radio and was wheeling out of a nearby car wash. The getaway car was still in sight as it sped east along Dundas St. when the cruiser pulled up at the bank.

By the time witnesses explained what had happened the car had disappeared.

The suspect is described as 5'8" - 5'9", husky build, clean-cut with dark hair and full sideburns. He was wearing a hat, dark trench coat and gold rim colored sunglasses.

The getaway car was variously described as a Mercury Cougar with a black top and bronze bottom while one witness claims it was "definitely" an Oldsmobile Cutlass. The car was bearing 1971 Ont. licence 43-47.

On May 17, 1963 the same bank was hit and the ensuing gun battle and chase were reminiscent of the wild west at its spectacular best.

Sergeant Bernard Oaks surprised two armed bandits inside the bank and in the next 20 minutes the officer was shot through the right arm. He and another officer were disarmed and threatened with death. Two young bank tellers were taken hostage in a stolen police cruiser, about 70 shots were exchanged in a harrowing 100 mph chase up Dixie Rd. and finally, two U.S. gunmen were arrested after their getaway car was rammed twice during the running gun battle.

As they left the bank the bandits herded employees in front of them. They ordered Sgt. Oaks and PC Norman Howard to "drop your guns or we'll shoot these people".

Both men dropped their revolvers and were ordered to kneel down on the grass in front of the bank. One of the bandits held a gun up to Howard's head and said: "OK, Copper, you've had it." He pulled the trigger. The gun misfired.

With more cruisers arriving on the scene the bandits grabbed two tellers, shoved them into Howard's cruiser and sped away.

A wild chase followed with Detectives George Wilson and Mel Simmons in one cruiser and Det. Doug Burrows in another. At one point, Burrows' cruiser, riddled with bullets, rammed the getaway car and did a complete flip ending up on the edge of the highway. Burrows crawled out of the wreckage, jumped into a car owned by citizen Clayton Smith of Whaley Dr. and sped off again.

Burrows and Smith managed to pull alongside the car and forced it off the road. Det. Simmons and Wilson arrived and exchanged gun fire with the bandits.

Simmons finally ran out of ammunition. He ran towards one gunman and slugged him with his empty revolver.

The other man surrendered and police recovered about \$17,000.



NEAR DISASTROUS OIL SPILL

A Halliday Fuels tank truck, loaded with fuel oil overturned on Highway 10 just below the QEW overpass last Friday morning raising the spectre of a giant explosion and fire. Miraculously, driver Delbert G. Williams, of 1312 Minnewaska Trail, Port Credit, escaped with only a minor injury to his left elbow and a small fire which ignited from the truck's exhaust system was quickly extinguished. About 500 gallons of fuel which leaked onto the highway was washed down and then mopped up with sand as police closed the northbound lanes for several hours. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$5,000. The lost fuel was valued at \$200.

## County plans \$3 million roads building program

**BRAMPTON** — County engineer Bob Knight presented a \$6.3 million 1971 roads budget to county roads committee last Thursday with a recommendation that a \$3 million construction program be carried out this year.

Among the projects in Mississauga slated for construction are Fifth Line from Burnhamthorpe Rd. to Base Line, widening Dixie Rd. to four lanes from North Service Rd. to Caterpillar Rd., development of a Malton Four-Corners intersection and reconstruction of Airport Rd.

Knight also recommended the county acquire road widenings on Mississauga Rd. for the diversion around Burnhamthorpe Rd. and Steeles Ave. From McLaughlin Rd. to Mississauga Rd. for construction in 1972.

County Warden Lou Parsons suggested the proposed Mississauga Rd. widenings might be delayed because of "tremendous opposition to the project" and because the county was short of money.

Included among these projects: Queensway from Dixie Rd. to Highway 10; Fifth Line from Highway 5 to Burnhamthorpe Rd.; Mississauga Rd. from Highway 5 to Lower Base Line and from Derry Rd. to Steeles Ave. and from the south limits of Streetsville to Barry Ave.; Britannia Rd. from the west limits of Streetsville to the Halton County boundary; Airport Rd. from Steeles Ave. to Highway 7; Dixie Rd. from Burnhamthorpe Rd. to Steeles Ave. from Highway 10 to Dixie Rd.

## NDP to pick candidate

**LAKEVIEW** — The first Peel South candidate for the provincial election expected this June or early fall will be elected by Peel South New Democrats on Friday, March 19 at 8 p.m. at a public meeting in Lakeview Park Public School, 1239 Lakeshore Rd. E. (just west of Dixie Rd.)

Walter Pitman, Deputy Leader of the Ontario NDP, MPP for Peterborough, and education critic for the NDP in the legislature will launch the party's campaign in Peel South.

"This will be a 'bear pit' meeting," President Frank Piccolotto told the Times. "After a 15-minute policy statement, Pitman and the candidate will invite questions, first from the newsmen present, then from the audience," he said.

At press time he could not state whether there would be a contest for the nomination. "We have been talking with several persons about running," Mr. Piccolotto said. "The date of the meeting is acceptable to all of them and we await their decisions about seeking the nomination," he said.

The official call to the meeting anticipates a contest, puts strict limits on speeches by nominators and nominees.

With the public invited and Pitman the education critic for the NDP in the legislature, questions are expected on what the NDP proposes to do about escalating education costs, the support of separate and denominational schools, and the degree of autonomy to be given school boards.

At the end of the bear pit session, three delegates and three alternates will be elected to represent the Peel South provincial area at the NDP Federal Leadership Convention, April 21-24, in Ottawa, at which five candidates will seek the leadership mantle of Tommy Douglas, who is not standing for re-election.

Two delegates and two alternates are also to be elected from the area of Peel North provincial riding in the Peel South federal riding to fill out the Peel South federal complement of five delegates and five alternates. Representation is based on paid up membership in each federal riding.

## COPS to ask town for \$1.5M to buy Cdn. Arsenal's land

**MISSISSAUGA** — The directors of the Cadet Organization Police School (COPS), will ask town council to purchase the 50-acre site of Canadian Arsenal's Ltd. now up for sale by the federal government, for an estimated \$1.5 million.

The decision was made at a directors' meeting last Friday. Sale of the Crown Corp. to another group would mean the loss of the COPS drill hall now located at 1332 Lakeshore Rd. E.

"This is one of the last big pieces of land with lakefront in the municipality. It is located adjacent to Marie Curtis Park and could also be used for a marina, a park, water sports, recreation and a portion for a town works yard which is needed in Lakeview," said town solicitor Len Stewart, who is also a COPS director.

The land is valued at between \$25-\$30,000 an acre. It is located on the south side of Lakeshore Rd. E. opposite Dixie Rd.

### EXPANDS TO 500

The COPS youth program, established three years ago by Mississauga police Staff Sgt. John Kelly, has now expanded to about 500 boys between 14-18 taking courses in everything from judo and boxing to camping, discipline, first aid and citizenship training.

"It's probably a wider and better program than scouting," said Stewart.

The group also has an active band. The boys have been meeting at the rear of one of the Arsenal's buildings for drill. The Friday meeting turned up no suitable alternative site.

Operated by the police Youth Bureau, COPS now takes in boys from across Mississauga as well as some from Bramalea and Brampton who belong to the Malton crew.

Also discussed at the meeting were tentative plans to include girls in the COPS program.

## 6-year-old killed

**LAKEVIEW** — Six-year-old Colleen Percy of Third Ave., died in Sick Children's Hospital Monday night from injuries suffered after being struck by a car last Friday.

Police said the youngster darted out onto Lakeshore Rd. E. near Caven St. and into the path of an eastbound car driven by Marilyn Longworth, of Beechwood Ave., Mississauga.



THE LIONS PAY OFF

The Clarkson Lions Club handed over a giant \$50,000 cheque to Mississauga's acting mayor Grant Clarkson, on the right, at the Sunday opening of Clarkson Community Centre. The money was promised last year as the Lions' contribution towards the \$450,000 complex. On the left, representing the club, stand Otis Ford and Armin Bruer, president.



THE OLD AND THE NEW

Ontario's new Prime Minister, Bill Davis, talks over old times with retired Prime Minister John Robert's during a private party for the new cabinet Monday night at the Mississauga Golf and Country Club. Davis took over the reins of government earlier that morning. Mrs. Robert's stands on the left with Mrs. Davis in the centre.

## Peel education taxes cut

**MISSISSAUGA** — Education taxes in Peel County will drop by 71 per cent this year, or about \$2 on an average home assessed at \$30,000.

The news came last Tuesday night at the board of education's special budget meeting. The reason for the decrease was the unexpected announcement by the province of a slightly increased grant structure.

The trustees set the 1971 budget at \$55,461,325 after approving cuts of \$2,817,810 from the original budget proposed last November. These cuts were necessitated by provincial per pupil expenditure limitations that must be fully met by 1972.

The boards of education across the prov-

ince were given a year's grace to bring their budgets into line with the new rules — they had to chop their over-expenditure by at least a third this year, then cut the remaining two-thirds by the 1972 budget.

Peel County chose to reduce its over-spending by half to lessen the blow next year. The real limits of \$545 per public school pupil and \$1,060 per secondary school student will be met by next year but this year's per pupil costs will reach \$560 for public schools and \$1,080 for secondary.

"Budget reductions have been made which will least affect the student in the classroom," explained Ten Conover, board chairman. "These cuts, if necessary, will adversely affect many facets of the organization — teachers, maintenance departments and supervisory staff — but, it is hoped, not hamper the program in the schools for the students."

The biggest area of savings was the elimination of overstaffing in some areas, caused by faulty population predictions, the deferral of requests for additional staff, and an increase in the pupil-teacher ratio of half a point. This eliminates \$896,890 from the proposed budget.

However, Conover said "staff reductions at the classroom level were kept to a minimum." The elementary school student-teacher ratio is 25.1 to 1 while the new secondary ratio is 19 to 1 — the trustees voted to leave the vocational school ratio unchanged at 12.25 to 1.

Other major cuts included \$175,000 saved by reverting to the 1970 maintenance allowance rate; \$115,130 by reverting to the 1970 scale of per pupil allowances for supplies; \$80,300 by deferring school trip allowances; \$229,540 by reducing the Data-Processing Service and delaying its proposed expansion; \$561,184 by deferring requests for new or extended programs; \$101,000 by delaying the opening of Cavithra and Chinguacousy Secondary schools until Sept. 1972 and \$100,000 by deferring the special allowance for the replacement of school equipment.

## Little girl out of coma

**PORT CREDIT** — Six-year-old Suzanne Lanois, of 33 Maple Ave. S., who was seriously injured in a car accident Jan. 20 has come out of her coma and is "coming along fine now," a police spokesman said this week.

Suzanne was struck down when she darted off between two parked cars on Lakeshore Rd. W.

She was taken to Mississauga Hospital and later transferred to Toronto Sick Children's Hospital after she lapsed into a coma.

Suzanne has regained consciousness, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jean Robert Lanois expect to see their little daughter home in a few weeks.

## Malton mother of six killed

**TORONTO** — A Malton mother of six young children was killed and her husband seriously injured when a car struck them as they walked on Highway 27 near Hunter College Blvd., early Sunday morning.

Marilyn Lois Ressor, 35, of Goreway Dr., was dead on arrival at Memorial Hospital. Her husband Ronald, 38, was in satisfactory condition with two broken legs, a broken arm and other injuries.

Provincial police said the couple parked and left their car, and were on the highway pavement when struck at 2 a.m. by a car driven by Diane June Reed, 23, of Weston.

Coroner Kuno Ault has ordered an inquest.

## Ken Neeb dies

**MISSISSAUGA** — Ken Neeb, popular Superintendent of Community Centres, lost his battle for life in Toronto Western Hospital Monday night.

Neeb never regained consciousness since suffering a severe stroke less than three weeks ago. He received a setback after showing signs of improvement and suffered another stroke last week.

He came to Mississauga in 1967 as assistant manager at Huron Park. In 1969 he was made Superintendent of Community Centres and people close to him in the recreation field knew him as a tremendously efficient and dedicated person who hadn't a single enemy and who was always willing to help people.

He came to Mississauga from Noranda, Que., where he formed the Northern Ontario Hockey Association which produced such people as Dave Keon, the Plager brothers and Dale Tallon of the National Hockey League. He was a scout with both the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Hamilton Tiger Cats.

Neeb is survived by his wife Lorraine and sons Mark, 15 and Robert, 13 and daughters Elaine, 10, who live at 3615 Anniversary Dr., Erindale Woodlands.

He is resting at the Turner and Porter Funeral Home on Hurontario St. Funeral services will be held Friday, March 5 at 10 a.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Church.

Interment will be at St. Mary's Cemetery, Dickson Rd., off the North Service Rd. in Mississauga.