

MURDER STALKS TEXACO PLANT

Seven Poisoning Attempts

By JAMES BAILEY
© The Mississauga Times 1974.
Police are investigating the attempted murders of seven employees of the Texaco Refinery in Port Credit by a "mentally-deranged person" who put poison in their tea. The

Times has learned. No suspect has been apprehended, but "it appears there's a mentally-deranged person down there capable of committing homicide," said Inspector Lew Lawson of Peel Regional Police.

The poisonings began April 1 when six employees who worked in the refinery laboratory were suddenly stricken with severe pains after their 9:30 a.m. tea break. The men — Rupert Taylor of Islington, William Payne of

Acton, Charlie Ross, of Mimico, Harvey Barber of Mississauga, Ronald Bednarz of Port Credit, and Daniel Mason, of Port Credit — were rushed by ambulance to Mississauga Hospital for treatment. Taylor and Payne Continued on Page 2



Who cares about inflation, rotten June weather or election campaigns? Certainly not three-year-old Brent Case who

found lots of reasons to be gleeful at Sunday's Erin Mills Art Festival. (Times photo by Ray Saitz.)

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Building Appalling Co-op probe called

By SID RODAWAY

Alleged bookkeeping irregularities and the rapidly declining condition of the Ashworth Square Co-operative in Cooksville have sparked both a provincial government audit of the co-op books and the decision by at least a dozen tenants to withhold their July rent until the situation is stabilized. Without a full time superintendent since January, the three year old co-operative experiment on Kerwin Avenue is in danger of faltering. Already the rent collection is upwards of \$15,000 in arrears, garbage litters the garage and the tenants are dividing into two fiercely opposed camps.

The 153 unit apartment tower and stacked townhouse co-op is run by a seven man board, all but one chosen by the member tenants in yearly elections. Provincial statutes require co-operatives to file a financial statement each year. Not only has Ashworth Square failed to file but her books have never been audited and a Toronto accounting firm hired to do so

this spring sent the books back because they were undecipherable.

The massive rent in arrears, missing cheques and unexplained payments was enough for two of the board members to resign in protest last month. Ted White and Charles Maxwell decided they couldn't continue to sit on a board that refused to recognize the gravity of the situation — their motion of non-confidence in both the treasurer and deputy treasurer had been defeated by a three to two vote.

Bill Laidlaw, a former board chairman, and Dick Mahoney are two co-op activists leading the fight to clean up Ashworth Square. It was their 26 name petition sent to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations that brought the provincial government into the picture.

A formal response to the petition was mailed out Tuesday and although the ministry's companies Division Director Charles Salter refused to reveal the contents of the letter, informants claim the government has decided to appoint an auditor to go over Ashworth Square's books.

"The building is in terrible shape," Mahoney claimed in an interview. "It hasn't been cleaned properly in months."

As frustrated as he is with conditions, Mahoney can't afford to move out. After making a \$1,055 down payment on moving in, he pays only \$200 a month for a three bedroom stacked townhouse.

Bill Laidlaw is a former board chairman who claims he was removed from office last year because he wanted to stick to the rules and come down hard on tenants with delinquent accounts.

"Seventeen sections of the Co-operatives Corporation Act have already been broken," Laidlaw insisted. "Nobody involved on that board has the faintest idea of balancing books or keeping accounts." He said some of the irregularities bordered on fraud.

"If the government does

not appoint an inspector there's going to be hell to pay," he promised. Laidlaw organized a small meeting Monday night to convince a dozen other tenants to join him in withholding the July rent in protest.

He reasons that the prime mortgage holder, the Canadian Mortgage and

Housing Corporation, will launch its own probe when the monthly payments fail to come through.

"The state of this building is appalling. The fire alarm system has been on and off, the garage is cluttered with garbage and the public recreation rooms in the

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Old Bill wants a tricycle

By KRYSZYNA JONES

So many material goods people want in life — two cars, fancy homes with pools, expensive wardrobes — the list goes on and on. But here's Bill Conklin, an 89-year-old gentleman and he would like a bicycle.

"One of those adult tricycles you know" he explains. "So I can install a basket on it to make my shopping expeditions easier."

Mr. Conklin, a resident of Meadowvale Village-On-The-Credit for the past 24 years, lives with his wife Anne in their modest white frame dwelling on Second Line. Two years ago, the couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Everyday the vibrant gent strolls two miles to keep in shape and hitchhikes three miles to Streetsville, winter and summer, to purchase his groceries. He says he has no difficulties in obtaining lifts at all.

"Frequently the first person that drives by picks me up" he laughs. "I have no problems in getting a ride."

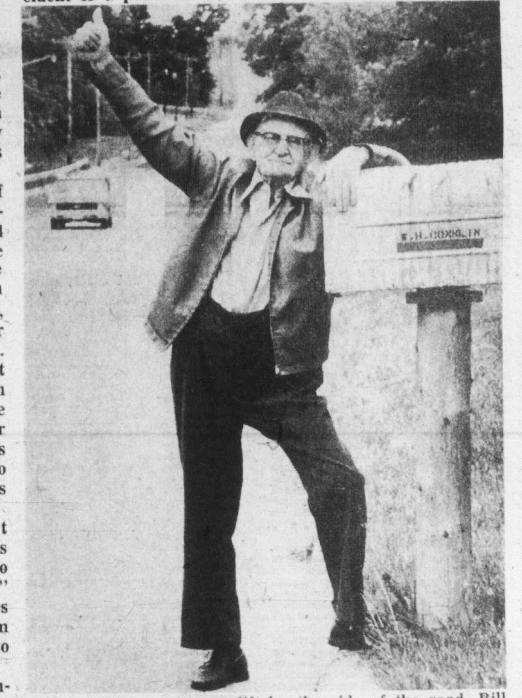
"I've seen these bicycles in Brampton, the kind I'm looking for but they're so expensive" he adds.

"By the way" he interrupts, "Have you seen my garden? Just tell me who else in Meadowvale has one foot tall onions. Come out and take a look."

In answer to why he'd really wish to own a bicycle Mr. Conklin states firmly but with a twinkle in his eye, "because if there's an accident or a problem on the

road, all I have to do is zoom right into the ditch. It's much safer than a car."

Anybody out there have a good, used adult tricycle.



Nonchalantly awaiting a lift by the side of the road, Bill Conklin of Meadowvale thumbs a lift to Streetsville to do his grocery shopping. One of these days he hopes to acquire an adult tricycle to make his trips less arduous. (Times photo by Ron Pozzer.)

Funds Run Out

Growth pains hit separate board

By SID RODAWAY

At least 41 new portables are desperately needed for the September opening of separate school classes but the system has run out of capital funds and the Ministry of Education has yet to indicate it will help.

If the funds do come through, 18 per cent of the system's estimated 17,000 students will take all of their lessons in 100 portable classrooms.

If the funds are not granted or are granted too late to complete construction

of the portables by September then the long feared doubling up situation with classes in libraries and gymnasiums will become a reality.

The problem is growth. The Dufferin Peel Roman Catholic Separate School

system is simply growing faster than the Ministry of Education is willing to fund.

Despite applications for far more 1974 capital construction funds, the board only received approval for \$3.6 million. That money will build five projects to open in

the fall of 1975.

Last Wednesday the board telegraphed the ministry, pleading for an extra \$3.5 million in allocations so that three to four extra new schools can be opened in 18 months.

Both applications, for the portables and for the extra schools, require virtually instant approval if they are to be completed on time.

Portables require eight to 10 weeks to build and get into place while new schools take about 18 months. Both deadlines are in the critical stage already.

In an interview with The Times the board's business administrator Ed Lemay revealed that the Dufferin Peel Separate Board's schools are operating at 105 per cent of capacity already.

Lemay holds out high hopes for the future after hearing of last week's announcement in the provincial legislature by Housing Minister Stanley Handelman that upwards of \$50 million in capital allocations would be made available for new schools in Peel to meet the demands of his Housing Action Program.

So far there has been no actual classroom overcrowding according to school superintendent Joseph Hugel but most classes are at their maximum 30 pupils to one teacher ratio already and the extra 41 portables in September are crucial.

Without them officials describe the resulting situation as "ridiculous."

But where are all the kids coming from? Some are being generated by new Junior Kindergarten and Grades 9 and 10 programs but the majority are the result of Catholic families moving into the classical growth areas of Erin Mills, Meadowvale, Mississauga Valleys, and Malton.

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City threatens budget exodus

By JOHN STEWART

City council stood together Thursday — even threatening a mass exodus that would have ended talks — as it fought to have the burden of the \$45 million proposed regional budget reduced for Mississauga ratepayers.

The discussions were reduced in short order to the implications of the budget for the average Mississauga homeowner, just as a Brampton councillor predicted last week.

City representatives told the regional council they wanted the increase in the regional levy to leave them within the 10 per cent total hike in taxes on an average city home which they are aiming for this year.

After several hours of give and take the meeting was adjourned when a discrepancy in figures between the region and Mississauga's calculations of figures was discovered.

Mayor Martin Dobkin moved immediately for adjournment when the difference was found but was supported only by the five other members of city council. Regional chairman Lou Parsons broke the tie vote on the non-debatable motion and the meeting continued.

Noting Mississauga's "militant support" of regionalism in the past and the complete opposition of its entire delegation Councillor Ron Searle suggested that

the meeting would not have a quorum if Mississauga's representatives left.

"If they did leave, they would be irresponsible," remarked chairman Lou Parsons.

"If this council refuses to give Mississauga reasonable consideration it is being in-

considerate," came back Searle's reply.

Mississauga has less than half the representation on regional council but contains 70 per cent of the population of the region and pays 70 per cent of the costs.

"There's only one group we have to worry about,"

suggested Mrs. Hazel McCallion, "and that's the ratepayers of Mississauga."

Chairman Parsons and members of Caledon and Brampton councils reminded the city delegates that they were sitting to consider the budget of the

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Happiness is . . . not losing your little grey kitten after all! (Times photo by Ray Saitz.)

Paddler pushes Rumanian

By MIKE TOTH

NOTTINGHAM, ENG. — John Wood, Canada's single blade champion paddler who served the aquatic world with a happy surprise not too many days ago in Ottawa as he extended Hungarian world titlist Damas Wichmann to the upper limits, has once again provided solid proof that he has indeed earned a place among the world's top canoeists.

The 23-year-old Mississauga competitor turned in a series of supreme performances to become the

silver boy of the 1974 British International Canoe-Kayak Regatta over the weekend.

The two day extravaganza on the splendid course of the Nottingham Home Pierford Sports Centre attracted 340 paddlers from Denmark, Belgium, West Germany, Holland, Ireland and Great Britain.

"It is our biggest event of the season" said meet Commodore and British Canoe Association Secretary Roland Jones. He had 830 entries in 140 races including the British schoolboy

championships. Canada has an eight member crew here including Wood and his youthful Missy

club partner Greg Smith. Wood, a member of Canada's Olympic con-

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