

VANCOUVER'S SHAME

'Skid Road - - Street Of Lost Souls'

(Editor's Note: Long a scar on the face of Vancouver —perhaps the city's greatest shame—is the shabby area known as the "skid road." Province Staff Reporter Bill Ryan, in a series of articles beginning today, reveals anew and analyzes the real misery and shame of the district, and why it is an economic, physical and social millstone about the community's neck).

By BILL RYAN

The early Indians had a name for what has now become the "skid road."

A sweep of sandy beach and a handsome grove of maple trees at the foot of what is now Carrall street prompted them to call it Luk Luk Klee . . . "the grove of beautiful trees."

Any Vancouverite who treads its pathetic streets today—flanked by grimy buildings, frequented by men and women who have sunk so low they know no shame—can appreciate the proportions of the crime that this metropolitan city has permitted and, in fact, perpetuated and subsidizes.

These are the facts, gathered from a variety of pub-

lic health, judicial, police, welfare agency, religious and other officials. Today, Vancouver's skid road is:

(1) The place where 90 percent of the city's crime originates.

(2) The heart of the city's drug traffic. (City police can define this "heart" even more sharply . . . a single street corner within the skid road).

School for Delinquency

(3) The core of what prostitution is left in Vancouver and "the place where most venereal disease contacts and associations are made."

(4) The haunt of the ragged, homeless "canned heater" and "alky."

(5) The hangout and training ground of juvenile delinquents, the "school" where they receive their training from criminals, alcoholics, drug addicts and sex perverts.

(6) The "beat" of pickup women and other parasites who prey on seasonal workers who head there to spend their pocketful of pay.

(7) A slum where many old-age pensioners, low-paid workers, racial groups and other decent citizens are compelled to live out their days because rents are low.

(8) The seat of some of the worst squalor and poverty in Canada.

(9) An unsound, unsanitary cauldron into which the city wastefully pours about twice as much money as it receives from the area in tax revenue—which means, in effect, that Vancouver taxpayers are subsidizing and paying to maintain the skid road.

To crown the crime, Vancouver has no plans to do anything about it.

No action to even partially salvage skid road is being entertained by either Town Planning Commission or City

Council. The only recent program of rehabilitation for the area, proposed two years ago by Dr. Leonard Marsh of University of B.C., received an "interested but cool" reception at City Hall. It would have cost \$15,000,000. And even Dr. Marsh's comprehensive plan apparently overlooked the skid road's main street, Cordova and its environs.

A Town Planning Commission spokesman told The Province: "As far as I know, there are no plans for the skid road at present, outside of the Marsh plan."

Ald. Archie Proctor, chairman of civic housing committee, commented: "At present, to my knowledge, there is no plan of action regarding that area. There is provision under the National Housing Act to tackle it as a slum clearance project, and the initiative should be taken by City Council."

'Ugly, Squalid, Depressed'

In any event, the authorities differ on the question of whether the area which Dr. Marsh termed "ugly, squalid and depressed" could be eliminated. Some feel that while most large cities in North America seem to have a skid road, or some variation of it, there is no evidence to show that such an area is a necessary evil; they feel that few cities have attempted conscientious, determined programs to wipe them out.

Yet other authorities, particularly those welfare workers who work closer to the scene, contend "the skid road is here to stay . . . there is nothing you can do to eliminate it."

They concentrate on saving the few skid road inhabitants who are salvageable—the young men and women who are on the way down, the small percentage of alcoholics who have the willpower to beat the enslavement,

Continued on next page (See Skid Road)

Five Africans Slain In Riot

Police, Pelted With Stones, Open Fire On Natives

By Reuters

KIMBERLEY, South Africa — Five Africans were killed and 39 injured today in rioting quelled by police using rifle and sub-machine-gun fire.

The Africans had pelted them with a hail of stones.

Municipal offices and a beer hall were burned by the rioters.

(Kimberley, a diamond town, is in northern Cape Province, 200 miles southwest of Johannesburg).

In South Africa

Malan Plays No Favorites

PRETORIA—(AP)—The South African Government boycotted a Russian reception in Pretoria last night. Diplomatic representatives, believing this formal snub may be a pointer to further developments in South African-Soviet relations, reported the incident to their respective governments.

The reception, given by Soviet Acting Consul-General A. A. Hripunov, was in celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

For the first time since the establishment of the Soviet mission here 10 years ago no government representative attended.

JOHANNESBURG — (Reuters) Prime Minister Daniel Malan said tonight the playing of the British anthem "God Save the Queen" at the end of theatre and radio programs violated South Africa's independent status.

He also condemned the flying of the Union Jack over public buildings.

In another phase of racial strife in Africa, British authorities in Kenya turned to the whip in their fight against the anti-white Mau Mau.

British troops and police arrested 47 more Africans in combined raids on suspected Mau Mau terrorist areas in the Kikuyu tribal reserves.

Four Kikuyu tribesmen in the Fort Hall area of Kenya, convicted of assaulting another African they suspected of informing police about Mau Mau meetings, were ordered lashed and imprisoned.

Three drew a sentence of 24 lashes and two years in jail. The other was sentenced to six lashes and a year.

Eight other Kikuyus were sentenced to terms ranging from three to seven years for attending oath-taking ceremonies of the Mau Mau—blamed for 38 murders in a campaign to drive white men from this equatorial land and reclaim farmland and forests in the cool white-populated highlands.

Twenty-Fifth Traffic Victim

Mrs. Evelyn Ure, 78, of 1233 East Nineteenth, died in Vancouver General Hospital this morning from injuries received when she was hit by a car Oct. 30.

She was Vancouver's twenty-fifth traffic fatality of 1952.

BUILDUP MUST CONTINUE

Conservative Leader Holds Hope Of Peace

Special to The Vancouver Province

TRAIL — Russian communism will collapse of its own weaknesses and there will be no Third World War if the western world continues to build up its strength enough to discourage Russian aggression.

Such a hope was held out to Canadians Friday by Hon. George Drew, national leader of the Progressive Conservative Party when he spoke in Trail.

More than 200 attentive listeners heard Mr. Drew also outline a program of close co-operation with Great Britain that would assure mutual prosperity for the two countries. Mr. Drew compared the hopeless desolation of the Russian section of Berlin with the bustling rehabilitation of the western section in showing why Russian dictatorship cannot hope to prevail against the free world.

He said the Allied part of Germany is already producing 40 percent more than the whole of Germany before World War Two, while the Russian zone is a place of "squalor, utter dejection and great fear."

Recounting his recent trip to Europe, Mr. Drew said present-day Berlin is like a test tube, with two worlds living within the boundaries of one city and the west is living proof of the dynamic forces of freedom. He

said the comparison was so vivid even the favored East German state police are coming over in increasing numbers to give themselves up.

The 11,000,000 East German refugees, with more arriving steadily, are one of the gravest problems of the Bonn government.

Referring to Canada and Britain, the speaker urged closer economic ties, a marriage, of Canadian resources and British technical skills. It is time for Canada to face the facts, to realize that it must conserve its expendable resources and develop its own productive economy, said Mr. Drew.

Canada could support a population of 150,000,000 or 200,000,000 easily and must conserve her resources to support such a number of people, he said.

He also said we must never forget our strong ties with the United States and at the same time must decide whether to conserve our resources for our own use or continue to ship them to the United States.

We must encourage Canadian industry to provide jobs for our youth and keep them in this country, Mr. Drew pointed out.

The importance of spiritual values was stressed by the speaker, who said the brightest day in human history lies shining behind this present period of gloom and tension.



SKIDROAD ROOF with its collection of canned heat, wine, extract and other assorted containers, symbol of

Vancouver's area of shame. No program for alleviation of this evil has ever been developed.

Mechanic Charged In Robbery

A 19-year-old mechanic has been charged with robbery with violence in connection with the three-hour abduction Nov. 1 of Mrs. Vivian Senyk, 429 Campbell.

Samuel Messer, 653 Granville, was arrested Friday.

Mrs. Senyk told police she was seized by three youths as she left the Astoria Hotel beer parlor late at night and forced into their panel truck.

The trio, she said, drove her around the outskirts of town and made improper advances. When she resisted, the driver kept the vehicle moving at high speeds.

The woman finally managed to leap from the truck as it slowed down at Vernon and Hastings, more than three hours after she had been abducted.

During the ride, \$2 in cash was taken from her purse and her wedding and engagement rings stripped from her finger.

Civic Progress Week Opens At Oakridge

Civic Progress Week — the Board of Trade's program to acquaint you with what's been going on in Vancouver and what still needs to be done — opens Sunday at 1 p.m. with a public tour of Oak Ridge Transit Centre.

Monday, 13 city schools and the Red Cross blood donor clinic will be open for inspection.

Full program on Page 25.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS OUTSIDE LONDON 'SIMPLE'

LONDON — (AP) — The Queen today turned down the costly celebrations outside London during her coronation June 2.

A government circular said: "It is Her Majesty's express wish the celebrations should be as simple as possible and that all undue expenditure should be avoided."

It is aimed solely at local government spending, not at private donations or affairs.

Many cities and villages have made elaborate plans for pageants, street-dancing and parades.

U.N. Guns Pound Communist Artillery

By Associated Press

SEOUL — Allied big guns hammered thundering barrages today at Communist artillery strongholds in the Kumhwa ridges and mighty Osong mountain on the central Korean front.

Savage fighting which for more than three weeks marched up and down the shell-blistered slopes of Snipers' Ridge and Triangle Hill had faded to minor thrusts.

Allied gunners were firing nearly 1000 rounds an hour aimed at knocking out the strongest Communist artillery concentration of the Korean war. Many of the Red guns were protected by deep log and earth bunkers or spotted in tunnels.

AIM AT K.O.

Time after time the Red artillery had cut down South Koreans short of the crest of Triangle Hill. Allied commanders finally called a halt this week and asked the artillery to bleed off the Red firepower.

Earlier, A.P. correspondent John Randolph reported Allied artillery firing at a rate of 19,000 to 20,000 rounds of heavy shells daily to less than 1000 for the Reds.

BOMBS DUMPED

In the air war, nine Superforts from Okinawa dumped 90 tons of bombs at a North Korean staff school at Yongpung, on the west coast. Two Communist night fighters attacked One, a jet, was shot down.

Meanwhile, the U.N. prisoner-of-war command reported 21 Communist civilian internees were injured when South Korean guards entered a compound to quell a demonstration.

Ike Aide Dies

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Col. Francis V. Fitz Gerald, 67, veteran army officer and newspaper man who served for a time as information officer for Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in Europe, died here.

60 Ships Tied Up By Storm

LONDON — (Reuters) — Shipping in the English Channel remained at a virtual standstill today as a howling gale continued unabated for the second day.

More than 60 ships were sheltering in the Straits of Dover.

Weather was rough all up the east coast of Britain, but eased somewhat on the west. The liner Franconia berthed at Liverpool with 225 passengers from Canada, nearly two days late because of the storm.

Meanwhile the great Dutch port of Rotterdam lay idle, its traffic cut off by the wreck of the 6379-ton freighter Faustus, which sank in the entrance to the harbor.

H-Bomb Test Denied By Military

HONOLULU — (AP) — Two military public information officers today said they had no knowledge of any hydrogen bomb explosion in the Pacific area.

The Los Angeles Examiner today carries what it terms the "first eyewitness account of a hydrogen bomb explosion at Eniwetok."

It quotes from a letter written to a Los Angeles resident by one who purportedly described the explosion.

Capt. Harry Cross at Pacific Fleet headquarters said he knew nothing of the tests except that they were scheduled for this fall.

Major Douglas Mitchell at the army's Pacific headquarters said if the tests had taken place, "it's complete news to me."

BOARD SAYS YES, POLICE NO

Pelican Pete The Culprit?

Pete the Pelican, missing for weeks from the Stanley Park zoo, made a brief appearance in Kerrisdale today — or at least a bird that looks like him did.

But the sight of policemen was too much for him and he took wing.

He was discovered gobbling down the fish in a fishpond in Mrs. S. M. Morley's garden at 6009 Granville.

"I thought I was seeing



MORNING AFTER on the skidroad

Big 3 Hold Talk On Korea Policy

Foreign Ministers Of U.S., U.K., France To Parley

By Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.—Foreign ministers of the Big Three Western Powers scheduled meetings in New York today and tomorrow for top-level policy discussions on Korea and other major problems facing the United Nations.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden of Britain is due to arrive today to take part in the Korean debate.

The other two ministers — France's Robert Schuman and the United States secretary of state, Dean Acheson — already are on hand. Schuman arrived in New York yesterday and Acheson returned to the U.N. for his first appearance since he went to his Maryland home to vote in the U.S. presidential election.

Eden and Schuman purposely had delayed their arrivals at the U.N. until after the American voting. Now they are confronted with the fact that Acheson is in a "lame duck" position as a result of the Republican victory.

As yet, there were no plans for all three to get together today or tomorrow. American delegation spokesmen said Acheson had scheduled separate meetings with both Eden and Schuman.

Debate on the deadlocked Korean armistice question was suspended over the weekend. Russia's Andrei Y. Vishinsky returns Monday morning as the initial speaker in the political committee.

Schuman is scheduled to speak Monday afternoon in a General Assembly plenary session. Eden hopes to present Britain's policies to the full assembly Tuesday. During his visit to the U.S., he also may seek a meeting with President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower to discuss joint British-American problems.

The Big Three ministers are expected to give top attention today and tomorrow to the Korean debate and the proposals and counter-proposals that have sprung up regarding a settlement of the conflict.

Schuman told reporters on his arrival that he hoped to change the American attitude on French Tunisia and Morocco. The U.S. delegation supported the Asian-Arab bloc move to get both questions debated.

This ALSO Happened

LONDON — (AP) — An M.P. said today he will ask the government to ban toy blackjacks for kids.

Sir Waldron Smithers, Conservative, said the sale of toy coshes (blackjacks) should be stopped "in view of the wave of crime and violent assault."

Labor member G. R. Chetwynd said he will ask the government to ban toy guns and daggers also.



TOM DUNLOP, former president of Street Railwaymen's Union today was appointed to the B.C. Labor Relations Board as the TLC nominee. See story page 25.

Forest Fires Cause Loss In Millions

ATLANTA, Ga. — (AP) — The drought-stricken south grimly counted its losses by millions of dollars today while thousands of unchecked fires roared through its rich timberlands.

All but firefighters were banned from North Georgia when Governor Herman Talmadge declared a state of emergency.

In East Tennessee many fires raged unabated after eating up more than \$30,000,000 worth of timber.

In Washington, forest fires popped up all over the powder-dry elk ranges on the east slope of the Cascades and forest service and game department men said hunters were to blame for every one.

A few minutes later a man called at her house from the Park Board. He thought, from Mrs. Morley's description, that she had seen the pelican. He said it would have been better to call the Park Board than the police.

"I wish I had known," said Mrs. Morley.

things when I looked out my window," said Mrs. Morley, "but when I saw him eating my fish I was sure it was the pelican."

She phoned police and advised them to come in the front way. They did, but also sent a car up the lane.

The bird flew away and the police, from their quick glimpse, called him a crane.

"I'm sure it wasn't a crane,"

Today's Chuckle

When the teacher asked one of his boys in his craft class if his father was handy with tools, he answered: "Of all the things my father ain't, that's his ain'tist."