

# Haileyburian-Cobalt Post

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## Ville Marie School Destroyed by Fire

VILLE MARIE — Cleaning fluid is blamed for the \$250,000 fire that levelled the Home Economics school here and damaged the Normal School wing of the college.

Although the financial loss is severe, the school authorities are thankful that the 130 girls who board there were absent on the Easter vacation and the 22 nuns, members of the Grey Sisters escaped without difficulty.

The blaze was discovered about 9:30 a.m. Monday, and soon the heavy smoke pillar could be seen as far away as Haileybury.

The home economics building of the school was burned to the ground and nothing of the contents of the building was saved. It was built in 1908.

The Sisters were able to close the fire doors between the two buildings and these for a time confined the fire to the older school.

But as the fire developed into a raging inferno, it reached the roof and roared into the top storey of the Normal School.

Fire Chief Joseph Berube stationed his pumpers on the dock on Lake Temiskaming, and strung fire hose for four blocks.

Helped by fire departments from Guigue and Lorrainville, he was able to control the fire on the roof of the new building, and keep loss there to a minimum.

Residents of the town were out

in force and helped carry equipment and furniture from the threatened Normal School.

The Institut Familiale, where there were 40 students enrolled, housed classrooms, dormitories, kitchen and laundries. The well-known landmark was a total loss within an hour of the outbreak of the blaze.

Firemen say the blaze broke out when naphtha was poured too close to the heating equipment at the institute. However, several sisters blame the fire on other causes.

"We remarked how warm it was all night and wondered what was wrong with the heater," one said.

Another sister stated that for the past two months contractors were rewiring the place and showed the reporter loose wires hanging from a wall at the school. She hinted the cause might have been faulty wiring.

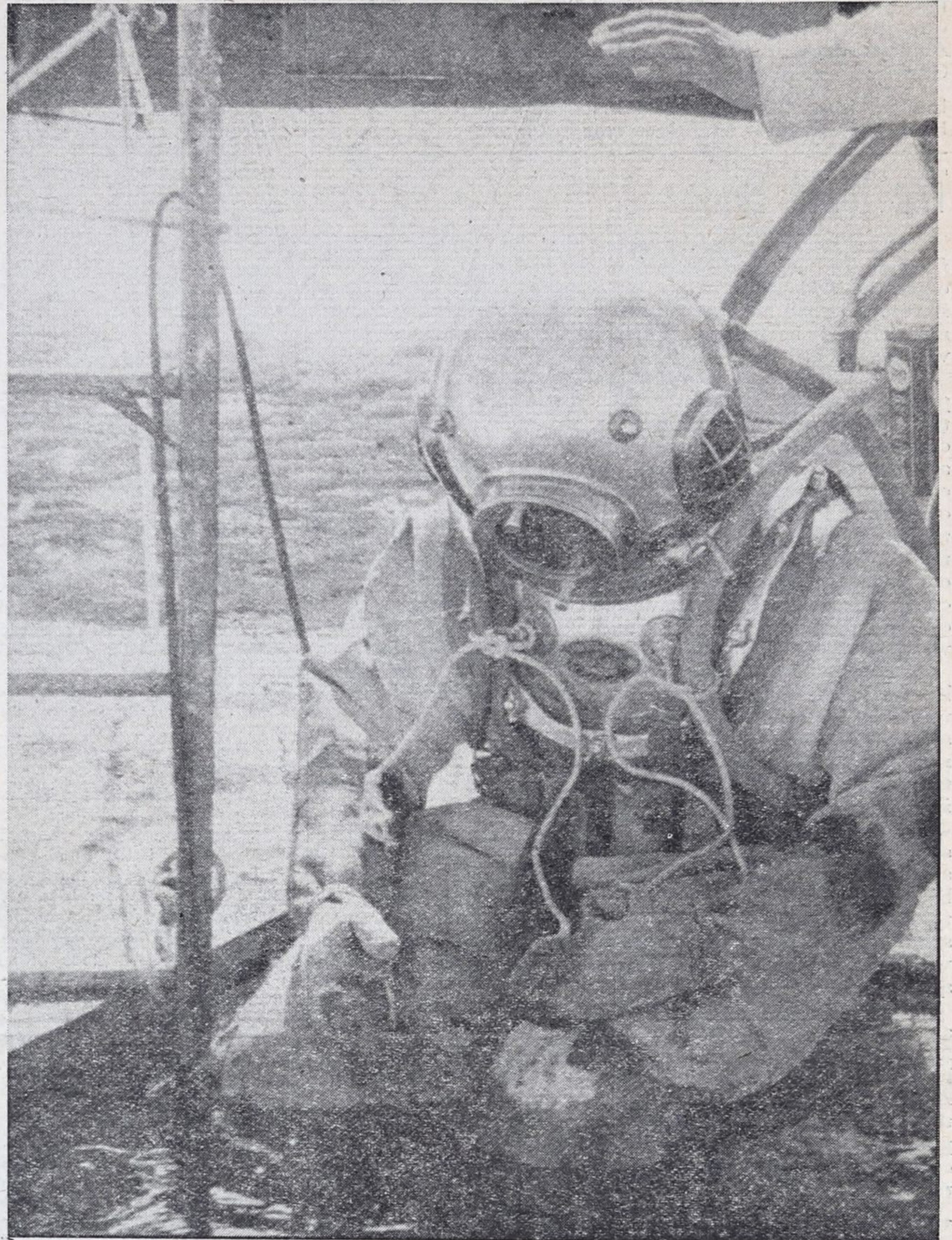
Sister St. Gathien, superior, was away at the mother house of the order at Ottawa yesterday. She was hastily summoned to the scene of the blaze and arrived by car late in the afternoon.

Rev. Alfred Audet, principal, had left on a trip to Kirkland Lake an hour and a half before the fire started. But Sister Therese Madeline, directress, was on the premises at the time.

Nuns say the blaze was so sudden and rapid at the institute they didn't have time to save anything at all." The first, second and third stories of the normal school, however, escaped with little worse than water damage since the flames had leaped from the institute to the fourth floor of the building and were successfully held in check there by firemen.

Total damage to the normal school has been estimated at \$50,000. The schools, set off by themselves, threatened no other buildings. But the nearby caretaker's home, to the north, was ready for evacuation if winds sprang up.

Grey Sisters say they do not know yet what arrangements will be made to carry on school when the pupils return the second week in April. It is believed, however, that temporary quarters will be sought. The pupils come from all over Temiskaming district and 10 are from Rouyn-Noranda.



## Visit Davey Jones

A tap on the helmet is the all clear signal for diver Leo Phillion of Cobalt. Phillion, an employee of the Ontario Hydro, and James Dean, also with the Hydro, roamed the depths of Lake Temiskaming in search of Haileybury's water supply intake. The pipe runs along 1,200 feet of the lake bottom and has a seven foot vertical section at the end. The filter on this section is believed to be either missing or broken. After three days' diving it was decided to wait till the lake clears of ice, then force water through from the pumping station. The men were working in 50 feet of water.

## Guess What?

"The time has come" the Walrus said, "to speak of many things, of shops and sails and sealing wax, and cabbages and kings." And the time has also come to start thinking about when the ice will be all gone from Lake Temiskaming.

So start getting your entries in with the date that YOU think the lake will be clear this year and you may win yourself a year's free reading of the Haileyburian. ONLY ONE ENTRY WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM A FAMILY and all entries must be on a coupon clipped from the Haileyburian. They must be in this office or postmarked no later than April 15 and the decision of Neil Fleming of the Matabanic Hotel regarding the date the lake is clear will be considered final. The contest has been carried on since 1904 and to help you make up your mind regarding the right date we are printing the record for the past 25 years.

Good luck and good guessing!

1933	May 7
1934	May 5
1935	May 9
1936	May 13
1937	May 8
1938	April 22
1939	May 10
1940	May 7
1941	April 29
1942	April 28
1943	May 7
1944	May 6
1945	April 9
1946	April 20
1947	May 18
1948	April 30
1949	April 29
1950	May 14
1951	April 29
1952	May 3
1953	April 26
1954	May 2
1956	April 27
1957	April 30
1958	April 23

### COUPON

My guess is that the ice will be out of Lake Temiskaming

on .....

Name .....

## Cobalt Property Coleman Registry Says Member

Arnold Peters, federal member for this riding celebrated his return from Ottawa by attempting to light a fire under Cobalt Council, but members left the special meeting of Council not even slightly warmed.

Working hard to block the imminent eviction of three Cobalt families who own homes, but are not sure about the land their buildings rest on, Mr. Peters told Council that there is a discrepancy in survey plans of a section of the town owned by Mastermet Mines.

He also told Council that in his search of the Titles at Haileybury, he noted that the Mastermet property is registered under a Coleman Township plan, although it is within the corporate limits of the town of Cobalt.

Council indicated that they did not wish to interfere in a civil action about a matter over which they had no jurisdiction.

## Winter's Last Kick

What (we hope) is winter's last kick hit the area on Wednesday night. About six inches of soft snow, caught some municipalites with their plows down and traffic at the best can travel at a snail's pace.

## Actor, Writer, Producer Adjudicates for Quonta

W. S. Milne, the adjudicator for the Quonta One-Act Play Festival to be held in New Liskeard next week has been well known in the theatrical activities for many years. He was born in Aberdeen, Scotland.

He graduated in Arts at the University of Toronto, attaining a M.A. degree in English.

He lectured in English at the University of Western Ontario for five years and at present, is the head of the English department at Northern Vocational and Collegiate Institute in Toronto.

Mr. Milne likes acting, occasionally acts himself, but is better known as a producer and director. He has produced plays for several Little Theatre groups in London and Toronto, participating with some success in Dominion Drama Festivals.

He has given courses in theatre at Queen's University, has instructed evening classes in Acting, Stage-craft and Play Production at Northern Vocational and Collegiate Institute for a number of years, has spent several years with professional summer stock theatre and has done some radio



and television work.

This coming summer, he will be giving a two-week course in make-up for the University of Saskatchewan Summer School in Qu'Appelle.

Mr. Milne is the author of a number of one-act plays, Editor of "Curtain Rising", a school anthology of Canadian one-act plays.

## First "no below" Since November

The last week of March was the first one since last November that no "below zero" temperatures have been recorded, although the average daily mean temperature for the month of 22.8 is only one degree higher than the lowest, recorded since 1834. During March of 1953, the average was 33.8.

The maximum during the past month was 55 on the 30th, as compared with 52 on the 31st in 1958, and since 1834, with 76 in 1946.

The month's minimum temperature was 15 degrees below on the 15th. Last year during the same month, the minimum was 1 on the third, but back in 1900, it dropped to 33.8 below!

Week ending March 31, 1959.

	Max.	Min.
Wednesday	44	17
Thursday	33	15
Friday	30	7
Saturday	35	—
Sunday	47	19
Monday	55	25
Tuesday	47	31

## Finals Tonight

Finals of the Women's Intertown Bouspiel will be played at the Haileybury Curling Club tonight (Thursday).