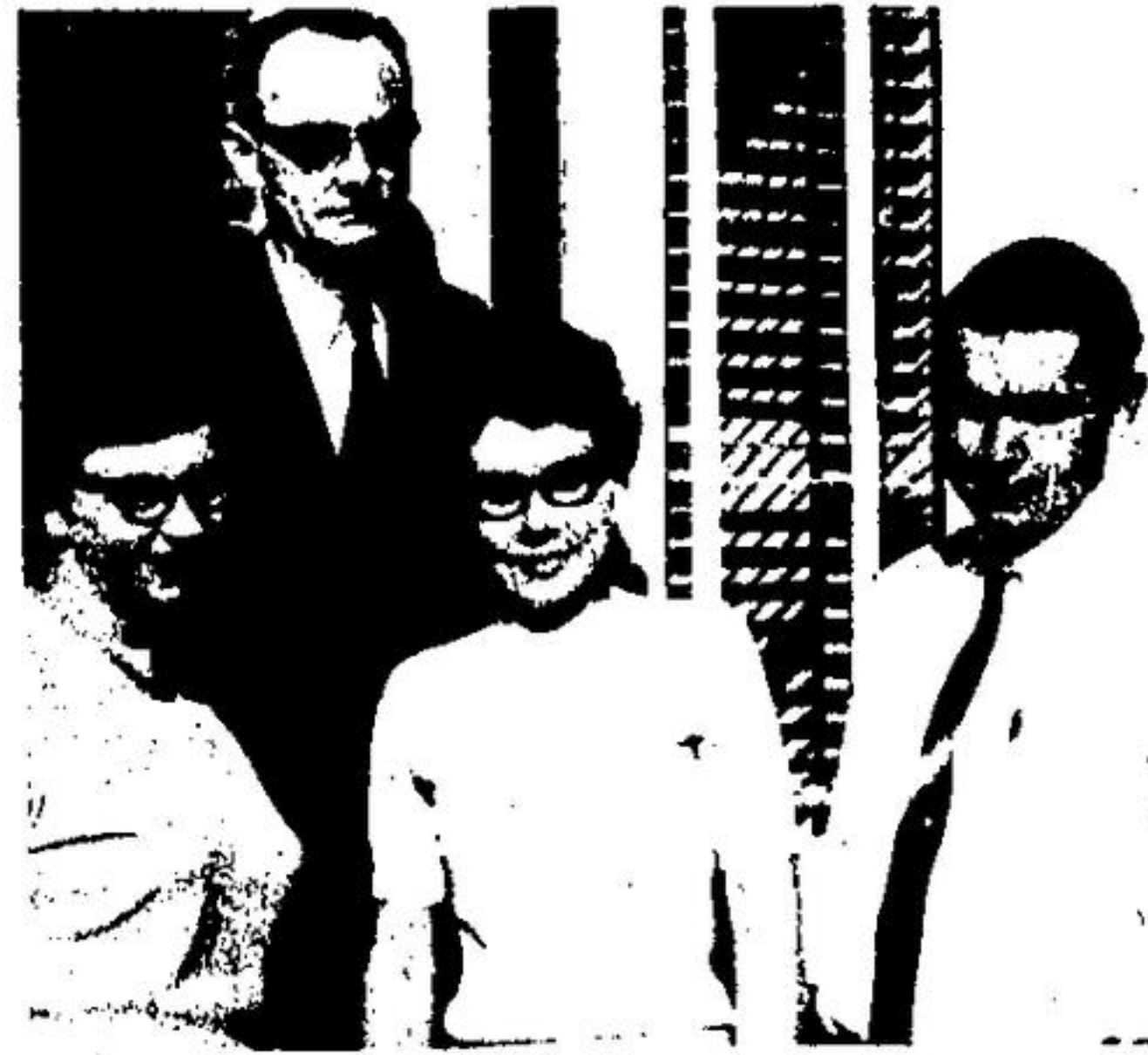


SCENE OF THREE robberies in the last 25 years, the Hillsburg branch of the Royal Bank of Canada which was rifled again Monday of this week. The bank is on the main street in the village, alongside the community centre.—(Staff Photo)



MANAGER HUGH OXLEY and accountant Iolla Roszell were working at the bank the last time it was robbed in April, 1960. This photo was taken then of the staff with Iolla Roszell, Isabel McDonald, Laverne Swift and the manager.—(Staff Photo)

Four callers give tips Ballentine dog found

Bewildered and frightened, the Ballentine family dog was located four days after running from an accident in which his owners were injured on Highway 25 north of Acton. While Mr. and Mrs. Ross Ballentine were in hospital, their dog Tiny was lost. An appeal was put in last week's Free Press and four replies came promptly to friend Ken McIsaac.

A neighbor on Highway 25 was the one who gave Mr. McIsaac the right tip. He had seen a dog fitting Tiny's description in the area. He had tried to catch it and couldn't.

Reunited Friday

Mr. McIsaac went out Thursday and recognized Tiny in a deserted barn near the accident location. He didn't have an easy time, either, catching the missing

pet. Finally Tiny became a little more trusting and was taken away. By the next day, Friday, Mr. Ballentine was released from hospital with his arm in a sling, and the dog was re-united with his owner.

A couple of other callers also tried to help Mr. McIsaac in his search. One woman phoned to mention a stray dog downtown, which proved not to be Tiny. A call from the park reported a dead dog there - it wasn't Tiny, either. A Ballinad caller described two strays.

Mrs. Ballentine is still in hospital, both legs in heavy casts, and recovered from bruises. Their six-year-old passenger Robin Moore is also reported recovering from fractures and cuts.

"No hanky panky"

Decide salary adjustments

Chairman of Halton County Board of Education Doug Wood reports there is "no hanky panky" with the Board business. "Trustees hide nothing," he said. His comments came in reply to an editorial attack by an Oakville newspaper.

The newspaper criticized the board for not revealing details concerning salary adjustments for administration staff after the salary adjustments were dealt with in a closed committee July 16.

Salary adjustment

Mr. Wood said the board did make some decisions concerning salary adjustments. He said the details of the adjustments would be made public at the next board meeting Aug. 20.

Mr. Wood said there were two reasons why it couldn't be released before then. "There are

two factors. One is, we want our employees to know where they stand before they read about it and secondly the board has to approve the intent of the motion.

He explained all administration staff were excused from the room and only trustees remained for the discussion. Wood said he took notes and later formed the notes into motions he hoped would reflect the intent of the board.

Best interests

He said the trustees handled the matter in what they believed to be the best interests of the employees and of the public. "If the public thinks there is any hanky panky, it is just hog wash," said Wood.

He said if anyone wanted to see where the tax dollars are going they could go through the ledger and see the fine details.

Daring daylight robbery at Hillsburg

Wigged trio makes get-away

HILLSBURG—This quiet village lay sweltering in Monday's humid heat when three revolver-carrying thieves in long wigs and coveralls robbed the Royal Bank of Canada of an amount estimated to be as high as \$25,000.

In a daring daylight robbery after 1 o'clock, the men took about five minutes to rifle the tills and the vault and make a get-away, while two customers stood with hands up against the wall and the staff was powerless to act.

Bert Price of Cedar Valley and another customer from the U.S., in to change bills, were the only ones in the bank besides the staff of manager Hugh Oxley, and tellers Eileen Cheyne, Jennie Lynn and Iolla Roszell.

One of the bandits shoved past Mr. Price and brandished a revolver in the teller's wicket and said it was a hold-up, announcing no one would get hurt if they did what they were told.

Another of the men stepped into the manager's office and ordered Mr. Oxley to come out, forced him to open the vault which they cleaned out as well as cash

drawers. Then they ordered the two customers to lie on the floor while they left.

The trio met Mrs. Mae Henning as she entered the bank from the Henning drug store across the street. One man showed his revolver and ordered her to keep quiet and they made a quick get-away in a car believed to be a '63 model.

Mrs. Henning went back to the store and phoned police.

Two members of the township road crew were working on a road in Hillsburg that afternoon when they saw three men rush out of the bank dressed in identical disguises complete with wigs and drive away in the car they believed to be a '63 Mercury. They did not realize there was a robbery until they heard the news later.

Several people in the area said they believe the police suspected there would be a hold-up at the bank. The thieves seemed to be familiar with bank routine and they made a get-away despite a dragnet which included O.P.P. Detachments from the entire area.

Acton O.P.P. said they were

alerted and posted a cruiser along Hwy 25 North. Somehow the bandits eluded the search. It is believed the get-away car left Hillsburg south along the Seventh Line toward Highway 24.

Employees remained calm during the robbery. The manager who has just returned to work after an illness, closed the bank after the robbery. Guelph O.P.P. are investigating assisted by officers from the Mount Forest detachment of the O.P.P.

Mr. Price estimated the ages of the men who committed the robbery to be in the 20s. However, he also admitted the presence of the wigs made it very difficult to pinpoint their age.

They stuffed the loot into a plastic bag and made off along the tree-lined streets past people out on their verandahs and lawns in this prim, neat village of homes. Some people in Hillsburg noted there had been an O.P.P. cruiser watching the bank for the last 10 days which led them to conclude police suspected an attempted hold-up. A cruiser had just left the area when the hold-up occurred.

It was the second robbery at the bank in the last 10 years. On April 12, 1960, two men robbed the bank of \$4,056 and were arrested in a little more than an hour after the robbery. There was another robbery in 1944 when the manager was held at gunpoint by thieves who were unable to open the vault.

Both Mr. Oxley and Iolla Roszell were on the staff 10 years ago when the two men escaped for an hour with the \$4,056. The pair got stuck on a back road and were later spotted by O.P.P. after a local farmer pulled them out.

The loot in 1944 for the three men was a mere \$25 taken from the bank manager of the day Cecil Hilton and his wife. Mr. Hilton refused to open the safe. The men were never found.

Monday afternoon, Hillsburg usually a quiet country village, was like a scene from the movie Bonnie and Clyde, complete with disguises and gun-carrying bandits.

Residents prefer the orderly, quiet life.

The amount taken from the bank in Monday's hold-up of \$25,000 is an estimate

New owners at Silvercreek

New owners of the Cedar Springs Motel on Highway 7 near Silvercreek are former Sudbury residents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lavigne. This is their first venture into the motel business.

Mr. Lavigne is a graphoanalyst, which is the study of the individual strokes of handwriting to determine character and personality of the writer. He is also manager of Superior Emblems of Hamilton, where they lived until they purchased the motel in June from Mr. and Mrs. Keith Lucas.

Mr. Lavigne told the Free Press he is also very interested in psycho-bionics, somnotherapy and psychology and he has an impressive array of certificates to show he graduated in courses relating to the subjects. He is also affiliated with the International Association of Hypnotists and has studied applied hypnology.

As well as these qualifications he has a certificate certifying he is a first aid instructor for the St. John Ambulance.

The Lavignes purchased the motel realizing Highway 7 between Acton and Georgetown was in a state of upheaval with reconstruction but they are confident of a business upturn when traffic functions normally again. "The worst is over now," says Mr. Lavigne.

He says the motel will also provide a base for his work in graphoanalysis. The couple, who prefer to be called Chuck and Marg, like this district although they have only lived here for a few weeks.

Unfortunately, only a few days after they moved here they lost their two year old German Shepherd dog, Hobo. A two-year-old, Hobo is black and brown with white markings. He is wearing a collar and Hamilton dog tag. If anyone has seen or know of his whereabouts, the Lavignes would appreciate knowing. They can be contacted at 877-9030.

O.P.P. Police busy report blame heat?

General occurrences in town during our reporting week of July 19 to July 26, 1970 saw a sharp increase over the past few weeks. The occurrences were varied and ranged from an investigation under the Mental Hospitals Act to children shooting air rifles in the town. Domestic disputes and an assault on a child were investigated and a charge was laid under the Liquor Control Act.

And so it went on. If the warm weather was the cause for it all, then roll on winter.

It was an accident free week, this being the second in a row for the town, I am glad to report. Four charges and six warnings were issued under the highway traffic act.

Prov. Const. B. Kressler is back on duty after spending a

week's holiday in the U.S.A. and Cpl. R. Mason starts a well-earned two weeks vacation this week.

School's out

Perhaps no phrase excites children and worries police officers to a greater degree than the words "School's Out". For our youngsters, it means several weeks of outdoor play, and children at play are not apt to be thinking about the rules of safety as much as when they are in school where they are constantly being reminded. Parents, too, have additional responsibilities. During these summer months, it is vital that children are reminded of the basic rules of safe walking and safe bicycling.

(Continued on Page 5)

No planning behind doors

The Ontario Municipal board has told municipalities that they have an obligation to property buyers who want to ensure what they are facing when they buy a building lot or a new home.

The directive was issued after complaints in a city subdivision by residents who had thought they were locating in a community of single family dwelling only to find later that high rise apartments were projected nearby.

Many residents had checked with municipal authorities before buying, but had not been told of this.

The O.M.B. says that when a person enquires, he should be directed to a responsible official and provided with accurate information. Planning should not be done in a vacuum behind closed doors, it warns.

County office building tabled for future study

It appears there will be no new county building, or at least not in the immediate future. County Council on the recommendation of the property committee has tabled proposals from architects for possible consideration later. The county put a stop to plans to commence with new accommodations when it learned Halton Children's Aid Society would not use accommodations in the proposed new building.

"Foolish"

Warden Allan Day said CAS would have been the prime tenant in the new building and "it would be foolish to proceed with the new building if we don't have to," he said. The property committee met to discuss the problem Monday.

Acton Deputy-Reeve Ted Tyler, Jr. urged his colleagues on the committee not to wash their hands of the plans but to continue with a thorough needs study that is now in progress to determine what facilities are needed now and projections for future requirements.

Seek architect

The county was in the process of hiring an architect for the new building when CAS officials said they would not move to the new building. Without CAS there, members feel there isn't suf-

ficient need to go ahead with the building as planned.

The needs study will be continued and the proposals may be reactivated in the future. There is some consideration to selling the present county building to the province as many of the provincial departments work from the building. However members felt they would be in a

better bargaining position if they waited for the province to come to them asking for the building.

Several department heads under provincial authority have requested additional space but no request from provincial officials in Toronto have been received by the county to date the committee learned.

Emergency main, road bylaws passed

A council meeting was called about 10 o'clock Tuesday evening, after the regular committee meetings, to pass three resolutions.

First was a standard resolution that the council certify to the Ontario Municipal Board that by-law 70-1480 (dealing with the Orr property proposed for apartments) is in conformity to the approved official plan of the town.

R. V. Anderson and Associates were authorized to call invitation bids on the installation of an additional water supply main on Churchill Rd. N. in order to improve the reliability of the

town's system. In the event of a future break in the main line from the reservoir, as happened last year, the second line could be used.

R. V. Anderson was also authorized to proceed with engineering estimates on the road reconstruction on Mill St. W. from Park Ave. to Victoria St. and the road reconstruction and installation of storm sewers on Bower Ave. The work has already been approved by the Department of Highways which pays 50 per cent of the costs. Council must still pass on construction by-law which must have the approval of the O.M.B.



NEW OWNERS of the Cedar Springs motel at Silvercreek are Mr. and Mrs. Lavigne, who moved to this area from Hamilton. Mr. Lavigne, shown here in front of the motel, is a graphoanalyst.—(Staff Photo)

Seek detailed arena costs

More detailed estimates of repair work at the arena will be provided by engineers before council makes a decision on work to be done there.

Tuesday night at a works committee meeting of

council the two engineers were present, Harry Shaw of Dalton Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd., the contractors, and Art Johns of Morrison, Hershfield, Millman and Huggins, the engineering firm.

The original estimate of the cost of repairs was about \$27,000. The engineers agreed to have a detailed break-down of costs in the various areas ready for the regular council meeting next Tuesday.