

Charge man with non-capital murder

Find body at Acton home early Friday



A STATION WAGON belonging to the Ontario Identification Branch of the Ontario Provincial Police sits in the driveway of the McDonald Boulevard home, where police found the body of Calvin Gordon Peddle, early Friday morning. Charged with non-capital murder is Barry James Stevens of Toronto. —(Staff Photo)

Following discovery of a body in a shed of a McDonald Boulevard home in Acton early Friday morning, a Toronto man, Barry James Stevens, 34, has been charged with non-capital murder.

Stevens was remanded in custody without bail until February 15, when he appeared in County Court in Milton, Monday.

Acting as a result of a call from Toronto police, Constable Bruce McArthur of the Acton OPP detachment, accompanied by Constable Jim Hodgins of Milton OPP went to the home of Mrs. Merie Grant, 247 McDonald Boulevard, about 5.30 Friday morning.

They found the body of Calvin Gordon Peddle, 31, also of Toronto, in the shed attached to the rear of the house.

According to police, Peddle received a single shot in the head from a small calibre firearm. A .22 rifle was seized by police at the scene.

Halton County coroner Dr. I. A. Hunter was called to the house.

Inspector John MacPherson of the Criminal Investigation Branch Toronto, arrived shortly before noon hour to supervise the investigation. Officers from the OPP identification branch also arrived and worked at the house the rest of the day and part of Saturday.

A guard from the local detachment was placed on the house through until Saturday evening. Only OPP and investigating personnel were allowed to enter.

Reinforcements from Milton OPP assisted Acton police on the weekend on a temporary basis, on account of the incident.

Mrs. Grant lived in the white frame house with her seven-year-old son Brian. She is an H. K. Porter employee.

Police said Stevens had resided recently at a Pape Avenue address in Toronto.

The deceased's address was listed as 325 Leslie Street, Toronto. He is survived by his wife Pearl, son Billy, daughter Peggy and mother Hilda.

Funeral service was held in Toronto, yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon with interment in Prospect Cemetery.

Investigation is continuing under Inspector MacPherson.

Ontario competition

Free Press editorial page judged in top three

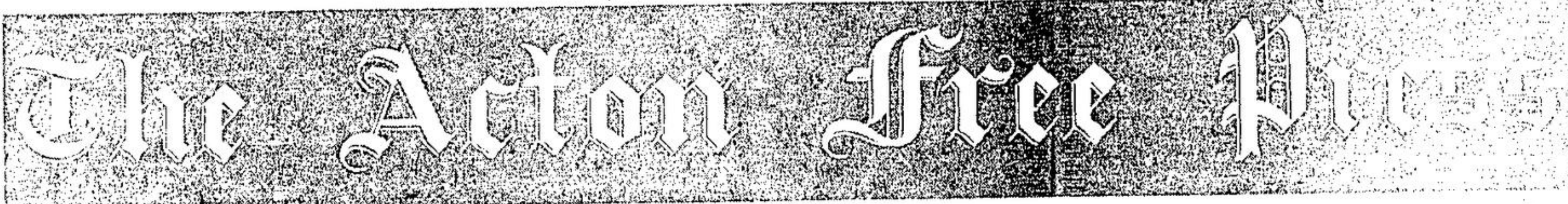
The Free Press received province-wide recognition for the quality of its editorial page in the Better Newspaper Competitions sponsored by the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association.

Third prize certificate went to the Acton paper in the contest, open to all weekly newspapers in Ontario. The award was presented at the annual convention of the O.W.N.A. at Kapuskasing Saturday evening. First in the class was the Dryden Observer while the Mississauga News took second. Both are in higher circulation classes than the Free Press.

The Free Press's sister paper, the Milton Canadian Champion also won awards, winning a third in the general excellence class for class 3 and taking a first place for best news story among all the entries.

Kap birthday
Kapuskasing was chosen for the annual convention this year partly because the town is celebrating its 50th anniversary and newspaper publisher Rene Piche is also mayor. It was the furthest north annual meeting of weekly newspaper people and attracted the largest registration ever. About 200 boarded a special train in Toronto, Thursday morning and returned on the 1200 mile trip Sunday.

Highlights of the convention were a tour of the huge logging operations of the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co., a bush camp meal, and a tour of the company's large paper mill. Guest speaker at the closing banquet was Education Minister Bill Davis who is a candidate for premier of the province.



Ninety-Sixth Year. — No. 33

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1971

Sixteen Pages — Fifteen Cents



CHRIS SWETMAN'S poster on dental health took first prize in a county-wide competition for Grade IV students. Chris attends the Robert Little school, Acton. He received an encyclopedia as his prize in a presentation at

the Georgetown Cable TV building Monday morning. Second was Martin Young, Norval, and Jim Leslie of Pineview school was third. Health Unit dental nurse Mrs. M. Ludzik made the presentation.—(Staff Photo)

Insist on

Underground!

Acton Hydro Commission stuck to its guns Thursday night and insisted on installation of underground wiring for the new 150 home Hulad development on the former Seynuck property, despite pleas by developer Joe Adamick for permission to use overhead backyard servicing.

Mayor Les Duby explained the commission established a program, when they insisted on underground wiring for the final phase of Lakeview subdivision. Commissioner Ted Tyler Sr. went on to say the present trend is to install everything possible underground. "In the long run, it's much safer and less costly, too," he said.

Industries exception

Mayor Duby admitted exceptions are made for new industries because of the return in assessment the town receives, but maintained most municipalities in urban areas are taking down overhead wiring and going underground.

Presenting a letter from Ontario Hydro, Mr. Adamick told the commission he had received a cost figure of \$14,000 he would have to bear for relocating a high tension power line. Coupled with the added cost of installing underground wiring, Mr. Adamick claimed cost of servicing a home could climb as high as \$5,000, when land cost him only about \$2,800 per lot.

"This is my gripe," he told the commission. "The cost of servicing is double the cost of the land to us. This has to be carried by home buyers over a period of time," he continued. Mr. Adamick said he felt sure he could sell homes with overhead wiring. "Putting in overhead wiring won't downgrade the subdivision. I won't get \$500 more for a house," he said.

As a compromise, Mr. Adamick suggested persons buying the homes be given a choice on whether or not they want underground wiring. "Let them take up a petition and pay for it on their taxes over a period of time," he suggested.

Replying to Mr. Adamick's question about why subdividers should be charged for installing hydro, Commissioner Tyler said "if the builder and people buying the houses don't pay for it, why should the rest of the people in town have to?"

Commissioner Tyler predicted the town won't make enough out of the houses to pay the school taxes.

Mayor Duby assured Mr. Adamick his subdivision would be welcome in town, but made it clear costs associated with the development should not be a burden to those in other parts of the town trying to get by on fixed incomes.

"The commission stood firm, but the mayor promised commission and council support if Mr. Adamick approaches Ontario Hydro to question charges for restringing of a line on Queen Street."

Cost of restringing the line estimated at \$7,649 was included in the figure for relocating the high tension line. All members of the commission felt restringing of the line was the responsibility of Ontario Hydro.

Approve fire hall

Ontario Municipal Board approved construction of Esqueping township's new \$20,000 fire hall at a hearing which lasted only five minutes, Monday morning.

Only two objections to construction of the hall were received by mail and neither objector appeared at Monday's hearing. The fire hall is to be built adjacent to the township offices near Stewarttown and will service the Georgetown fire area of the township.

Tomorrow (Thursday) an OMB hearing on the township's controversial agricultural holding by-law will be held in the township council chamber beginning at 10 in the morning.

Firefighters called twice

Overheated pipes on a kitchen coal stove brought Acton firefighters to the home of Paul Wilson, Sixth Line of Esqueping, north of Highway 7, Saturday afternoon about 5. Firefighters quickly doused the fire.

A call about a fire on Poplar Avenue, received Sunday afternoon about 4, sent firefighters on a wild goose chase. The truck proceeded to Poplar Avenue but found no fire.

Council agrees to meet with band

After a lengthy discussion on the need for the entire council to meet with representatives of Acton Citizens' Band, Acton council agreed to set up a meeting for Monday, Feb. 22 if the date was acceptable to the band.

Council band representative Norm Elliott explained the band wanted the meeting to spell out plans over the next three to five years in line with the assessment changes coming and also to explain new programs being developed.

But Councillor Jack Greer couldn't see any reason for the entire council to be involved. He said the band was granted a half mill by plebiscite and it would take another plebiscite to change it. He felt the regular channels of communication were good enough.

Want to explain

"They just want to explain where the money is going," said committee of the whole chairman Earl Masales.

Reeve Oakes thought the band's eagerness to meet with council was the result of some talk before the election. Some ratepayers thought the grant to the band was excessive, others just right.

"They want to prove they have need of a half mill," he said.

Mayor Duby, a trifle annoyed, said he could see every reason for the band's request since individual members of council questioned the band's need in the past. "I think we should be happy to hear them. I'm convinced they are coming to us because the band's position is not clear."

Necessary? "I agree," said the deputy-reeve, G. W. McKenzie, "but is it necessary for the entire council to attend unless just as a good will gesture?"

"They want every member of council to understand their position," the mayor declared. At previous meetings of council the question had been raised about the band grant. Reassessment could raise the value of the mill and the band would receive a larger grant if they continue to receive the half-mill.

Slight damage

No charges were laid following a minor accident in the Station Hotel parking lot Saturday afternoon. Kenneth Dargel, Mississauga, contacted Donald James Hepburn to say the parked Hepburn car had been slightly damaged. Damage to the grill was estimated at \$30.

Acton snow removal second to none Council says

Mayor Les Duby told council Tuesday he was amazed at the impatience of some Acton residents over clearing of streets during the unusual weather conditions of the past few weeks. "People are so upset they don't realize everyone has the problem of snow removal," he said, referring to phone calls he received that morning from people in subdivisions.

People I talked to agree we shouldn't invest in more snow removal equipment, said Councillor Marks, but do we work 24 hours during an emergency? The town crew works a lot of overtime, replied Councillor Masales, but some of them are not available for a lot of overtime.

Draw on Manpower? Do we ever draw on Manpower for extra help? asked Marks — or ever work around the clock? "We couldn't use them under the labor agreement with town employees," said Masales. "At no time," declared the mayor, "does equipment sit idle if it is needed."

"We do hire outside trucks to remove snow," said Reeve Oakes but Masales said the big problem is the lack of trucks available to haul snow.

Can't get trucks "We could have put the snow-blower to use several times but

we couldn't get trucks," the mayor said. "We need seven trucks to operate the snow-blower efficiently."

Masales said he had driven around Guelph and streets in Acton were in much better shape than their larger city neighbor's.

"I'm not critical of the operation — I just wondered," replied Marks.

As far as the mayor was concerned the Acton snow removal program was second to none. Saturday's snowfall saw the business section cleared by eight o'clock and there were other duties for town employees

Ice glazes area Friday

Last week's ice storm was considered the worst in memory by some Actonians as the town and area was glazed in treacherous ice.

For the second week in succession schools were closed Friday. Even the town's public schools closed for a day due to the hazardous conditions.

Boughs and bodies fell in minor accidents but nothing serious was reported.

such as opening graves. In one case it took two hours to get back into the cemetery.

"I think town workmen have done a magnificent job," declared Councillor Elliott. He said if residents saw the amount of work done downtown they wouldn't be so critical when subdivisions are not plowed early.

Deputy-reeve G. W. McKenzie also pointed out the danger to children walking along Main St. N. where sidewalks were covered with snow but was assured by the clerk it was being looked after.

McKenzie said he received a call from Tom Watson pointing out the danger to children who cross the tracks on their way to and from school.

Need underpass "We need an underpass there — it is a very critical area," agreed the mayor.

Councillor Elliott said increased traffic along the road due to a new industry in the industrial park made it doubly important snow was pushed back far enough so children did not have to walk on the travelled portion of the road.

Three minutes : Acton

Start filming here for Ontario Place

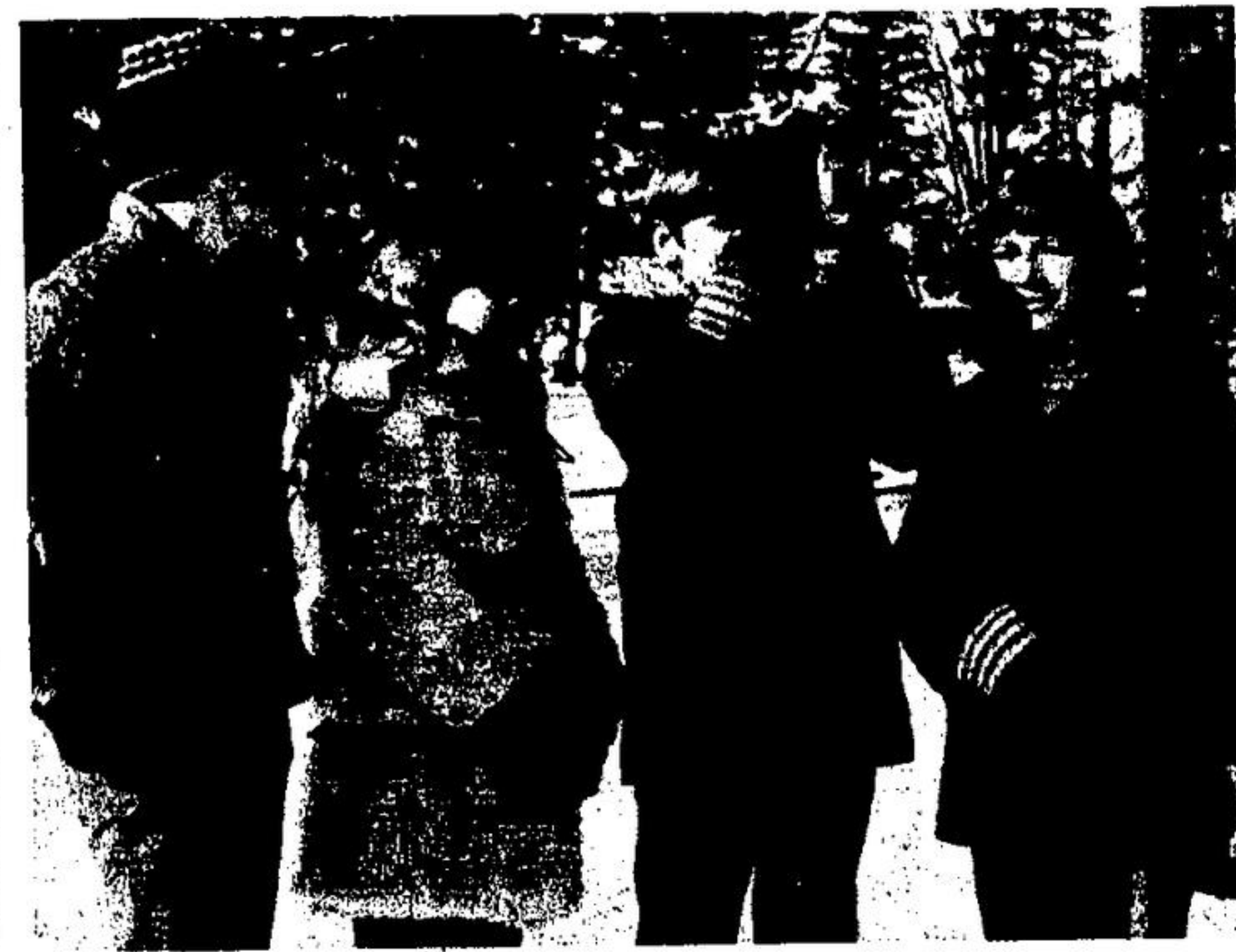
The town's industries, schools, churches, and main street are being photographed this week to be eventually shown to the public at Ontario Place at the Exhibition in Toronto.

With a camera and tripod, Robert Little teacher, Mrs. Ena Gibson has 20 enthusiastic young student volunteers under her direction.

Out in groups She's taking them out in small groups as they snap footage for the short movie. The students will be editing and splicing the film themselves. Finished length

is to be three minutes. Mrs. Gibson provided the camera.

20 in club Taking part in the project are John Pink, Steven Conroy, Helen Robertson, Tina Harvey, Kathy Samson, Steve Bennett, Tineke van der Kooy, Arle Vryenhoek, David Morris, Susan Anker, Karen McDowell, Robin Marshall, Ron Guest, Marilyn de Bruyn, Kim Wood, Dan Webster, Sharon Cunningham, Judy Pink and Brian Larsen. They are the members of the school's camera club.



BUSY THIS WEEK making a film on life in Acton to be shown at Ontario Place in Toronto were Robert Little students 1. to r.

David Morris, Susan Anker, Arle Vryenhoek and Steve Bennett. —(Staff Photo)