

Farmer's death was suicide, jury says

The mysterious July 10 death of 32-year-old Roger Joseph Lapointe, an Acton area farmer, was caused by a self-inflicted .22 calibre bullet wound in the head, a coroner's jury decided in Milton yesterday (Tuesday).

The five man jury reached the verdict, after hearing testimony from 29 witnesses and examining 25 different exhibits at a four hour inquest, at which Halton County coroner Dr. Ivan Hunter presided.

Acton firefighters recovered Lapointe's body from the front bedroom of the burning Spanish-style bungalow, he rented on Highway 25 south of Acton, sometime after 5 a.m. the morning of July 10. An autopsy performed by regional pathologist Dr. V. Waldorf later revealed Lapointe died as the result of a bullet wound in the

head. Police said the bullet was from a small calibre firearm. Yesterday's inquest was held to determine when, where and how Lapointe met his death.

A barn and small shed on the same property were levelled in what now appears was a separate blaze from the one in the bungalow.

First witness, Dr. Waldorf, who performed the autopsy on Lapointe's body, testified the deceased suffered extensive fracture of the skull from the bullet, which made entry above the corner of the right eyebrow, and passed through the skull and came to rest at the other side of the skull.

He said the head of the deceased also showed a soft area of bruising over the right posterior, which could have been

caused by the gunshot wound or from striking a blunt object. Blood coming from the ears of the head was quite normal in the case of a skull fracture he said. He added the skull fracture was due entirely to the gunshot wound. The body showed only slight signs of burning on the outside and had a few minor skin scrapes, which he said could have occurred, when firefighters were attempting to remove it from the house. Dr. Waldorf said a check on the carbon monoxide content of the blood proved negative, which led him to assume Lapointe had not been breathing in the fire area. Alcohol content test of the blood also proved negative, he said.

A qualified toxicologist with the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto, R. McCauley testified

an analysis of a blood sample, found on the floor near the body showed no alcohol or carbon dioxide content. An alcohol test on a urine sample proved negative, as did an analysis of 150 cc. of stomach contents.

Robert Monument, a firearms expert with the Centre of Forensic Sciences, testified a .22 calibre rifle, which police found in the same bedroom Lapointe's body was discovered had a cracked stock. He presented as evidence one fired cartridge case and two long range mushroom cartridges, which he said had been removed from the rifle. Several other cartridges suitable for use in the rifle were also discovered in a dresser in the room. Monument said examination of a piece of tissue from the body showed that the

muzzle of the rifle was very close to the skull.

Brian Jay, a blood analyst with the Centre of Forensic Sciences, said he found a blood stain on a bed sheet and on the front of a drawer, which police had taken from the bedroom. There were also two blood stains on the rifle.

Gasoline tests

Fourth witness from the Centre, Kathleen Gillespie gave evidence on gasoline tests she performed on objects taken from the house. She said she detected gasoline on paper taken from the kitchen, floor moulding, a cardboard box and a pair of high boots, worn by the deceased. A rubber hose, which police found outside the house, showed signs of gasoline, she said, but another hose which matched the first one

physically, but was found in the sink of the garage, did not.

Con. D. Hewitt, District 3 OPP identification officer, who was called July 10 following the discovery of the body, said no traces of fingerprints could be found on the rifle. However, he added suitable fingerprints can seldom be found in conditions where extreme heat and water exist. While he was taking photographs of the inside of the house, he said an alarm clock went off in Lapointe's bedroom. Investigating officer Con. James Hodson of North Halton OPP later testified it was 5:05 a.m., when the alarm went off. Con. Hewitt said he observed most of the burning inside the house had been in the kitchen.

Next on the stand was 32 year

old Robert Jackson of Burlington, who testified he and his wife and children had lived with Lapointe at the Highway 25 residence from January until June 1 of this year. He said Lapointe had agreed to have him live there in turn for helping on the farm. In May, Jackson said he got a job in Burlington and moved there with his family June 1. He said he last saw Lapointe May 31.

Jackson said he and his family got along well with Lapointe. "I thought he was a great guy I didn't find he treated anybody with any distaste. He was very much an extrovert," he said. However, Jackson went on to say Lapointe changed moods quickly.

"He could go from happiness to dejection in a short time," he said.

He testified he and Lapointe had joked about insurance fires, but said he never once heard Lapointe talk about setting fire to the property.

Jackson identified the rifle, found by police, as his own. He said he had left it at the house after he moved, but said there was not a crack in the stock at that time.

Jackson said Lapointe always seemed unhappy about operation of the farm. He also said he knew Lapointe was "in quite deeply" financially with the Bank of Montreal in Acton.

He said he had had angry words with Lapointe only once and that was more of a discussion about how people treated one another around the house.

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MARRIED 69 years last Friday, Mr. and Mrs. William Mino of Eden Mills received congratulations from many friends and neighbors who called.—(Staff Photo)

Sentimental value

Instruments stolen from music centre

Three old band instruments, used as decoration in the Music Centre, were stolen last week. One had belonged to former bandmaster the late Charles Mason, and another to former player the late Dr. W. G. C. Kenney.

They were unplayable now, and their value was estimated as \$50. But the sentimental value is what matters.

Broke drum

A back window at the Music Centre was broken to gain entry.

Money stolen bus depot

Len Adams on Thanksgiving Day reported to police entry had been gained to the bus depot by the back door, and \$615 was taken. He reported the incident to police at 7:15 a.m.

On Sunday, a 12-year-old boy reported the theft of a tape recorder which he had been holding in his hand. Two men in a car drove up, stopped, and snatched it from him, he said. The incident happened on Main St. S.

A fire extinguisher was reported stolen from an apartment building on Mill St.

Loner

A lone goose found friendship at Fairy Lake on Thanksgiving weekend. The loner flew in to join the resident geese at the waterfowl sanctuary, and it seems as if he intends to stay.

The instruments had been wired to nails on the wall above the back windows. To reach that high, the thief or thieves stood on a drum, breaking the drumhead for another \$6 loss.

The mouthpiece for one of the instruments was found outside the band hall.

The theft was discovered October 9 just after midnight, and Cons. Farrion is investigating.

Ask help

The night before, three windows were reported broken in acts of wilful damage. Rocks were thrown through windows at the home of Edward Norton, Mill St., and Mary Debenham,

Wellington St., and the liquor store.

Police have requested that anyone who might have seen the youths who broke these windows to contact them.

Impaired

Also on October 8, police made a liquor seizure and charged two Acton youths and one Georgetown youth.

An impaired driver was stopped, and a midnight disturbance reported.

Another impaired driver was stopped at 3:15 a.m. October 9. Later that day a car, stolen in Milton, was located in the parking lot of the Winston Apts.



FIRST MISS Erin Fair, chosen Saturday, is a district girl, Carol Thomson of R.R.1, Rockwood. Runners-up seen with her in a convertible Thanksgiving Day, are Brenda Burt, Hillsburgh, and Kathy Curran, Erin Story on Rockwood page.—(Photo by Wendy Thomson)

Twp. seeks quarry option to develop industrial park

Nassagaweya Council last night agreed to seek an option on 305 acres of land owned by Campbellville Gravel Supply, following a recommendation from the township's finance committee tabled at a special meeting.

The land is located adjacent to Highway 401 and the Guelph Line.

If purchased, the land would be used, in part, for an industrial basin. Township councillors felt the industrial land was needed to help maintain a reasonable

Council gives \$400 to Rams

A donation of \$400 will be made to Acton Rams to toward purchase of jackets, council agreed Tuesday night.

The donation in recognition of the team's winning the Ontario Junior C lacrosse championship, will cover about half the expected cost of jackets.

The presentation will be made

at the team's banquet Saturday, October 23.

Howard Dwyer and Alan Hall had attended a council committee meeting to discuss the matter and explained the team's desire to have jackets.

Over 30 jackets are required, including team members and officials.

Election Oct. 21

Seven in race in two ridings

All seven candidates in Halton East and West ridings have officially declared their nomination in the provincial election next Thursday. In Halton East Jim Snow will run for re-election on the Conservative ticket, Bob Blake on the Liberal ticket and Ken Gelok will represent the NDP. Richard McGrath will run as an independent.

In Halton West P.C. George Kerr will seek re-election, Bob McNutt will run as the Liberal candidate and Walter Mulkewich as the NDP candidate.

"The 'official' nomination meetings were held on Thursday. In Halton East riding there are 50,000 eligible voters and 159 polling stations. The riding includes Oakville, Milton, Georgetown and the lower 20 lots

in Esqueving. In Halton West an estimated 55,000 persons are eligible to vote at 214 polls. That riding includes Burlington, Acton, Nassagaweya and the northern part of Esqueving.

Collisions Saturday

Two collisions were investigated by Acton police this week, one of them a hit-and-run.

Allan Jones, Main St. S., discovered \$100 damage to his parked car. Another car apparently came out of a private drive and struck his vehicle.

Damage totalled an estimated \$1600 when two cars were in collision, driven by Dugald Dick, Longfield Rd., and John Shannon, R.R. 4, Acton. The collision was at Eastern and Young St.

Cons. Jordan investigated both collisions, Saturday.

assessment balance. Approximately 130 acres of the parcel are suitable for industrial development.

If the offer is considered, a public meeting will be held to allow the ratepayers to voice their opinion on the possible acquisition which would require a debenture issue. Council is seeking a six month option.

Council suggested the parcel was too large for its own use but agreed Halton Region Conservation Authority may be interested in taking out sub options on parts of the land which

adjoin some of their existing holdings.

It was emphasized the profit on the land was not the prime motive for the purchase but rather the long-range tax benefit which was uppermost in their minds. Members suggested special financing may be available from the province and agreed to investigate that possibility. A portion of the land may be utilized by the township to withdraw granular material during rehabilitation.

Councillor Art Gibson said it was the first chance the council

had to do something really tangible for the ratepayers. He noted three businesses had been lost during his term on council because of a lack of industrial lands. He indicated one was lost very recently and would have been a credit to the municipality. Members agreed adequate housing was available in Milton and Burlington to supply the labor force.

If negotiations on the option are successful and a debenture issue is required, members pointed out it would be the township's only outstanding debenture.



FIFTY YEAR jewel, for half a century Rognavaldson (right). W. Bro. Wes Beatty membership in Walker Lodge A.F. and A.M., (left) was in charge of past masters' night.—(Staff Photo) Tuesday evening by W. M. Clarence

Better dog control service expected, three year term

Council Tuesday amended the contract for dog control with George Herrington to state it is for a period of three years. The contract with Mr. Herrington was re-negotiated earlier this year.

He is also dog control officer for the township of Esqueving. Mr. Herrington had assured council his service would be improved. He is planning new kennels and will have an answering service.

His contract calls for two full tours of the town twice a week, and emergency service.

Compare services

A letter from the Ontario Humane Society, received by the clerk this week, also offered dog

control for Acton. They are beginning this service for Georgetown.

Councillors discussed differences. Councillor Coats said, "I feel our service is equal to anything we'd get from the Humane Society."

Councillor Greer also expressed satisfaction with Acton's service from Mr. Herrington. Dr. Oakes pointed out "We get good value for the money we're spending."

Garbage patrol

Councillor Orval Chapman suggested the dog control officer be asked to make patrols when the garbage is out ready for

pickup.

But the dogs get canny and know when he's coming, so times must vary, council agreed.

Lottery authority

Authority was given to town lottery officer Ron McKnight to endorse all lotteries under provincial licenses, except in special instances which in his opinion should be referred to council. Two more applications had been received and council felt their approval was automatic and didn't require council consideration.

Partial payment

Partial payment was approved (Continued on Page 3)

\$1,400 damage to two vehicles

An Eden Mills man suffered a bleeding nose following a two car collision at the corner of 25 Sideroad and Sixth Line Nassagaweya, over the holiday weekend.

Nineteen-year-old Dennis Abram of Eden Mills was the injured driver. The other automobile involved in the mishap was driven by Ken Smith, 31, of Acton.

Damage to the Abram car was estimated at \$1,200. The Smith auto sustained \$200 in damages.

Excavating

Excavations have started for the new sidewalk on Cobblehill Road. The sidewalk will extend from the O.H.C. housing units to Main St.