

# Lapointe death suicide coroner's jury decides

(Continued from Page 1)

"I never saw him violent. If an animal made him mad he might give it a couple of shots," he said.

Ted Pratt, manager of the Acton branch of the Bank of Montreal, testified Lapointe's total indebtedness to the bank was \$10,900. Pratt said he approved a loan to Lapointe, since he felt his plans for a successful weaner operation were good. Lapointe obtained a personal loan January 28, 1971 and borrowed another 1,650 on June 16, 1971 to purchase farm implements.

However, Pratt went on to say Lapointe's payments on the loans were what he would call up to date.

"I wouldn't say he was in arrears," he said. "There appeared to be a disease amongst the pigs that just about wiped him out. We weren't pressuring, because he had been so honest with us," he said.

A Guelph chartered accountant, Lloyd Young, testified his office received a call from a man who identified himself as Lapointe at noon hour Friday July 9. Young said he returned the call at 2 p.m. and Lapointe told him over the phone he had been in financial difficulty for some time.

Three alternatives  
Young said Lapointe told him "I have three alternatives, I can shoot myself or kill myself or I can run away or come and see you and go into bankruptcy."

Young then said Lapointe made an appointment to see him the following Monday afternoon.

"I asked him if he wanted to see me that afternoon, but he said no Monday would be fine," Young testified. Young said he told Lapointe he would require a \$500 retainer.

Questioned by crown attorney Doug Lattimer on the early events of July 10, Jack Tatton, who resides on the east side of the highway, just south of the Lapointe residence, testified he was awakened early by the huge glare in the sky. He said he placed two calls to Acton firefighters.

"The barn was a complete mass of orange and red flames," he said. "It appeared the whole side of the house was in flames."

Floyd Foster, who lives right beside Mr. Tatton, said he was awakened by the blowing of a car horn outside the house. Later, after arriving at the burning house, Foster said he rushed up to the window of the bedroom, where he knew Lapointe slept and yelled through the window. He said he heard or saw nothing but smoke. When he returned to the window a second time he said he saw the body.

Foster also testified he had talked to the deceased at an Acton service station, Friday, July 9 about 2 in the afternoon. Foster

said Lapointe asked him for some mechanical help.

"He said he was going bankrupt and needed one of the vehicles so he could go away," Foster said. "He also said a truck and was to come and pick up the pigs and take them away to the auction."

Borrow truck  
Frank Pachnowski, a farmer who lives at R.R. 3, Streetsville, testified Lapointe had asked to borrow a truck from him to take cattle to an auction. Pachnowski said Lapointe told him he was going to declare bankruptcy.

Pachnowski's nephew William Hannah testified he had driven the truck with the cattle in it to the Dufferin County Livestock Exchange, north of Orangeville, Friday, July 9 and that Lapointe followed in his own truck. At the end of the day Hannah said he told Lapointe "See you later" and Lapointe replied "If you're lucky."

Hannah said he had known Lapointe for about a year and a half and often sat and listened to him talk about his problems. "90 percent of the time it was about sickness of the animals or financial trouble," Hannah said.

Con. Hodson later identified a bill of sale from the Dufferin County Livestock Exchange, which he said had been found in Lapointe's wallet. Lapointe was paid \$274.38. He received \$85 cash and a cheque for \$189.38.

Gordon Garland, an employee of the exchange, testified payments are sometimes split into cash and a cheque if requested by the vendor.

"Possibly he asked for all cash, but at that time of the day we wouldn't have it," he said.

Cook testifies

Mary Couture, a cook at Reliable Snack Bar in Acton, testified she had seen Lapointe in the snack bar some time after midnight the night of Friday, July 9. She said she made a pizza for him, but did not speak to him except to thank him, when he purchased cigarettes. Mrs. Couture said Lapointe came into the snack bar mostly every night, but didn't discuss his troubles. Referring to that particular night, she said, "He ate slowly and read the paper while eating," she estimated he left the snack bar somewhere around 1.30 a.m.

Acton resident James Hibbard, an employee at the Ford plant in Oakville, said he and Frank Jones, a Ford employee also from Acton, were heading east on the sidewalk above the location of the house, after dropping off another man, when they saw a huge ball of fire in the sky.

After arriving at the burning house, Hibbard said he ran up to the front door and yelled, but heard no answer. He then broke the glass on the front door, but

saw nobody. "Fire was coming out of the house like a blow torch," he said.

Hibbard said he subsequently broke two other windows in the house, then attempted to guide a truck which was sitting near the house away from the fire. He said somewhere along the line he cut his arm on some glass. Jones estimated it was sometime between 4.30 and 4.45, when he saw the fire.

Acton firefighter Norm Price testified he was in the first fire truck to arrive at the scene. "We figured the barn was leaked, so we just ignored it," he said. He said the house was burning badly around the kitchen window area.

Later, after being boosted in through the front window of Lapointe's bedroom, Price said he saw the body. He said he tried to lift him on to the bed, but was unsuccessful. When the heat became too much for him, Price said he came out and his son Robert, also an Acton firefighter went in.

Recover body  
Robert Price said he managed to get the body up partially on the bed, then rolled it towards the window, where it was taken out through the window feet first. He said he stumbled over something on the floor. Later he saw the rifle.

Questioned by coroner Dr. Ivan Hunter, Robert Price said the body was limp and did not appear to be breathing.

Kenneth Coverdale of R.R. 3, Milton said Lapointe let him keep pigs at his farm, but had called him to say a veterinarian had said one of them had symptoms of disease.

"He told me if I didn't get them out of the barn within four hours, he was going to shoot them," Coverdale testified. Coverdale said he then picked up his pigs and took them to a slaughterhouse in Kitchener.

North Halton OPP Corporal Jack Froese, one of the first officers at the scene, said he first went to the window, which was open, but couldn't see anything for smoke. He said the body was discovered at 5 a.m. He said the barn was completely enveloped in flames when he arrived. Flames were coming out of the kitchen window he said.

North Halton OPP Con. W. I. McNally said he discovered a green colored gas cap, another gas cap, which appeared to be off a can, and a length of hose, while on security duty at the scene at 1.42 the afternoon of Saturday, July 10. He subsequently turned the articles over to Con. Hewitt. Investigating officer Con. Hodson said he was dispatched to the scene and arrived at 5.58 a.m. He said he later discovered a five gallon can, which had obviously been burnt in the kitchen. He

described what Lapointe was wearing, when he saw the body and said he found nothing in the pockets, except a book of matches. He said he found Lapointe's wallet nearby.

Investigation of the truck revealed the gas gauge showed under half full he said. Later on July 10 it was discovered the truck's gas tank contained 5.7 gallons of gas. When full it will hold 17.5 gallons.

He testified one of the caps Cons. McNally found fit the

truck's gas tank and the other fit the five gallon can.

No struggle  
Questioned by the coroner, if there were any signs of a struggle, Con. Hodson replied "No, if there had been a struggle, there would have been a very minor nature."

Terry Murray an investigator from the Fire Marshal's Office in Toronto, said the interior of the kitchen of the house was completely destroyed. He said he discovered one area of

independent burning along the baseboard of the east wall of the living room.

"No connection could be made between the two fires," he said. "One did not result from the other."

He said it appeared gasoline was used to start the fire in the kitchen.

Murray also said he believed the deceased would have had no interest in the fire insurance on the place, since it would have gone to those, who hold the

mortgage on the property.

Final witness, the deceased's 20 year old brother Ernest, testified he felt Roger was inwardly afraid of the unknown, even though he appeared to be a strong individual on the outside.

"Roger and I came from a very bad background. He was raised under extremely difficult conditions," he said. He said he and his brother had lived for some time in a Winnipeg orphanage.

He said Roger talked constantly about financial difficulties, when he paid him a visit, a little after Easter time this year.

Asked by the coroner if Roger had ever attempted suicide, Ernest replied "Not to my knowledge."

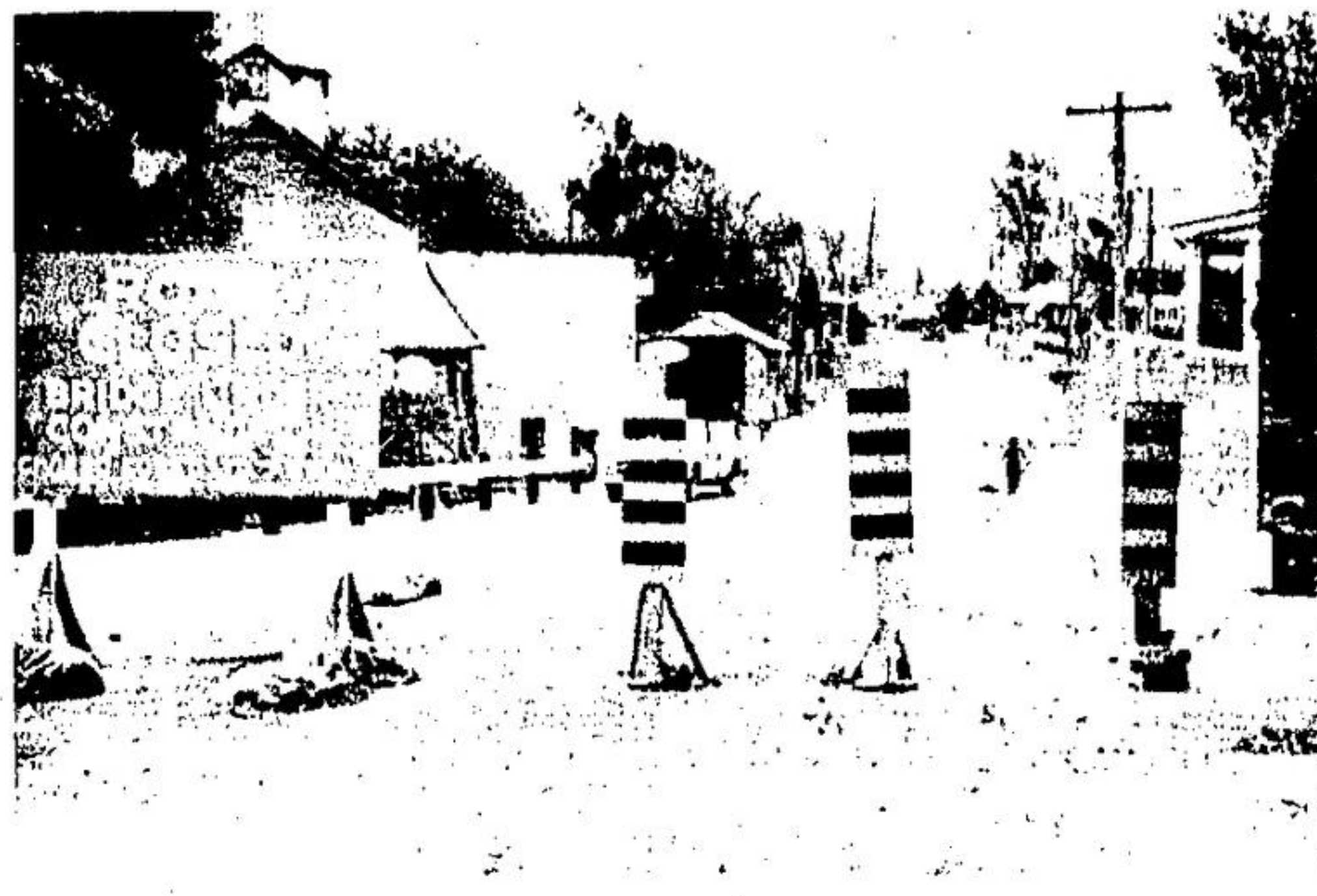
Before the jury retired to make their decision, the coroner reminded them there were a lot of red herrings in the case.

Return verdict

The jury deliberated for about an hour, then returned with the verdict. Jury foreman Robert Lawson read the verdict.

"We the jury say that Joseph Roger Lapointe, the deceased person, came to his death between the hours of 1.30 and 5 a.m. in the forenoon of the 10th day of July 1971, at the east half of Lot 22, Con. 2, Esqueving township and that the death was caused by a .22 calibre bullet into his head, which was self-inflicted. In our opinion this was suicide."

Other members of the jury were John Dunlop, Denny Charles, Thomas Oliver and William Gage.



MILL-PARK corner improvement was slowed last week when the sidewalk had to be changed, to comply with specifications. Included in the contract were road widening, sidewalk, fencing and a new bridge. Visibility is much improved. —(Staff Photo)

## Polymer turns sod

The sod-turning ceremony at Polymer Corporation's new \$5,000,000 housing module plant at Milton was a unique affair when Polymer president Ian Rush and Milton mayor Brian Best climbed onto an 18-yard earth scraper to gouge out the first sod. The ceremony followed brief speeches by both men and afterwards the town hosted a reception at the curling club.

County Warden Dr. Frank Onkes was among those attending. Others included M.P. Hal Whiting and M.P.P. Jim Jim Snow.

Initial announcements by Polymer indicated their new plant will employ 150 when it opens in 1972, with later provision for expansion requiring a total of 300 employees.

They purchased 52 acres of land.

It turned out that M.P. Whiting, who had been criticized for missing a vote on M.P. salaries in the House of Commons, had been at the time at a meeting he helped arrange between Polymer and Milton officials.

## Lorne Scots best at camp

Judged winners of the Major General G. Kitching trophy as best military unit in Ontario in the 1971 summer camps, the Lorne Scots Peel, Dufferin and Halton regiment will receive the award during a parade and ceremonial in Brampton Oct. 17.

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HERE IT COMES! Rockwood's last affiliation with the Canadian National Railroad is being seen as the vintage station, was transported down the Main Street at 9 a.m. Tuesday morning to be restored at the Ontario Electric Historical Railway Society's stomping grounds in Nassagaweya. Another landmark has disappeared and villagers came out to the Main Street to watch and contemplate. —(Photo by Lorraine)

### District offices for Assemblies

The new western Ontario district office of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada was opened in Burlington with a combined cornerstone-laying and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Rev. Donald A. Ernmons of Burlington, district superintendent said the office serves 150 congregations from Toronto to Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie.

Rev. Robert W. Taitinger of Toronto, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies, said the Pentecostal Assemblies numbered only 28 spread thinly from Victoria to Halifax in 1919. There are close to 1,000 congregations now, supporting 200 missionaries in 16 other nations.

Finland is starting to use root wood to bolster their annual harvest of wood fibre.

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(All Former Acton Creamery)  
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Large Variety Candy & Suckers

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**STORE HOURS**

Monday 8 to 6  
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**OPEN SUNDAYS**  
9 A.M. — 6 P.M.

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<p><b>SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Stokely's Fancy 10 oz. <b>APPLESAUCE</b> <b>GREEN BEANS</b> <b>PEAS</b> <b>CREAM CORN</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">4 / 69¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Mix or Match 'em</p>	<p><b>FREE</b> 10 LB. BAG <b>FREE</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">POTATOES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">with \$7.50 order and this coupon</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Bright's <b>TOMATO JUICE</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">29¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">48 oz.</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL THIS WEEK</b></p> <p>Kleenex 200's <b>FACIAL TISSUE</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">6 for \$1</p>
<p>Orange Crystals <b>TANG</b> Pkg. of 2 <b>69¢</b></p> <p>Vegetable Shortening <b>CRISCO</b> 1 lb. <b>43¢</b></p> <p>Purina 25 lb. Bag <b>DOG CHOW</b> <b>\$3.69</b></p>	<p>Florida New Crop <b>Grapefruit 8 for 79¢</b></p>	<p>Ontario Waxed <b>TURNIPS 7¢ lb.</b></p> <p>Ontario <b>MUSHROOMS 69¢</b></p>	<p>Ontario Large bunch <b>CARROTS 2/29¢</b></p> <p>Ontario Fancy Macintosh <b>APPLES 1 lb. Bag 39¢</b></p>
<p><b>SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Liquid bleach <b>JAVEX</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">75¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">128 oz.</p>	<p><b>SPECIALS</b></p> <p>Christie's 1 lb. Box Sugg. Retail 49¢ <b>PREMIUM CRACKERS 41¢</b></p> <p>Macaroni &amp; Cheese 7 1/2 oz. Box <b>KRAFT DINNER 2/33¢</b></p> <p>Campbell's 10 oz. can <b>CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP</b> Sugg. Retail 2.43¢ <b>2/35¢</b></p> <p>Maxwell House 10 oz. Jar <b>INSTANT COFFEE</b> Sugg. Retail 2.27¢ <b>\$1.64</b></p> <p>Carnation 16 oz. Jar Sugg. Retail 1.19 <b>COFFEE MATE \$1.09</b></p> <p>Aylmer Choice 19 oz. <b>TOMATOES 29¢</b></p> <p>Kellogg's 16 oz. Box Sugg. Retail 49¢ <b>CORN FLAKES 42¢</b></p>	<p><b>Bakery Feature!</b></p> <p>Hostess <b>DANISH PASTRY</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">49¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Pkg. of 16</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Kraft Individually wrapped <b>CHEESE SLICES</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">39¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">8 oz.</p>
<p><b>SPECIALS</b></p> <p>Peck Frean 6 oz. Pkg. <b>PASTRY BISCUITS 37¢</b></p> <p>Post's 13 oz. <b>SUGAR CRISP 55¢</b></p> <p>Fabric Softener 128 oz. <b>FLEECY \$1.39</b></p> <p>Welch 24 oz. <b>PRUNE NECTAR 39¢</b></p> <p>Scope 17 oz. <b>MOUTHWASH \$1.39</b></p> <p>Family Size <b>GREST TOOTH PASTE \$1.09</b></p> <p>Spray Deodorant 5 oz. <b>SECRET 99¢</b></p>	<p><b>SPECIALS</b></p> <p><b>Frozen Food</b></p> <p>TV DINNER Chicken Turkey Beef <b>63¢</b></p> <p>Farm House <b>APPLE PIES 39¢</b></p> <p>High Liner 16 oz. <b>SOLE FILLETS 69¢</b></p>	<p><b>SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Hostess <b>DANISH PASTRY</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">49¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Pkg. of 16</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Clover Leaf Red Sockeye <b>SALMON 65¢</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">1/25</p>

BLADE ROAST

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Short Rib Roast <b>75¢ lb.</b>	Cross Cut Roast <b>75¢ lb.</b>
Chuck Steaks <b>79¢ lb.</b>	Minced Chuck <b>79¢ lb.</b>
Side Bacon <b>59¢ lb.</b>	Sausage <b>49¢ lb.</b>

We Reserve the right to limit quantity.