

Escapes police custody, man held at bay in Legion, recaptured

After attempting to pass a forged cheque, a Woodstock man was chased, caught and taken to the police station Thursday, only to suddenly escape custody. After a couple of hours he was recaptured, charged and taken to jail in Milton.

The harrowing afternoon for police resulted in two charges being laid against William Arthur Myer, 19, of Woodstock — uttering a forged document and escaping lawful custody.

His associate, Richard Taylor

Jane, 26, of Woodstock, was charged with forgery.

Remanded week

Both appeared in court in Milton on Monday and were remanded for a week in custody. Investigation is still continuing, and charges are pending from seven other police departments. The couple had made similar — but more successful — attempts at various banks in seven towns. They had already received \$3,000 in their forged cheque racket.

The Bank of Commerce in

Guelph called Del Cook, manager of the branch here, to warn him shortly before the man fitting the description appeared at their counter in the noon hour.

Mr. Cook phoned the police and Const. Paul Brown came running, his hat flying off as he raced for the bank. William Myer, realizing he had been caught, fled out of the bank and, luckily, slipped on ice. This gave Mr. Cook a chance to shout, and two passers-by, Charlie Harrison and Ed Diamond, immediately assisted in holding the agile

young man. Con. Brown handcuffed him, and still with the help of one of the men on the street, took him to the police office.

During the ensuing investigation, while the man was released from handcuffs, he suddenly escaped custody and fled through back gardens across Main St. and behind the Dominion Hotel.

Search is on

The search began, and North Halton police quickly arrived to help their colleagues.

One of the other people who

learned of the incident and immediately began to help was John Mason, Aberfoyle, son of Corp. Ray Mason who was involved in the investigation at the time of the escape. John was on his way to the Medical Centre when he was hastily told what had happened.

While others searched in cruisers, cars and on foot, John Mason went upstairs in the Legion — and found the man there. The two were alone, and John Mason couldn't leave him to summon help for fear he would

dash out of a door, downstairs, and away again. His attempts to attract attention failed, until someone came upstairs an hour later to clean.

Back again

He called for her to get the police. When the call came in, Cons. Connors and Cons. McNally of the North Halton detachment were in the police office and rushed right over. Myer made no resistance when he was handcuffed and taken back to the police station for the second time. During subsequent

investigation it was learned a second man was involved. At 4 a.m. the next morning Detective Sergeant Scott of the O.P.P. Anti-Rackets Department and Cons. Brown went to Woodstock where Richard Jane was arrested. He was charged with forgery and jailed.

It is believed he was in a car waiting for Richard Myer when he saw him arrested outside the bank.

'High Noon'

It was "high noon" in Acton

when the dramatic capture and escape occurred. There was no western shoot-out, as in the movie High Noon — just plenty of running.

Police said Myer ran with astonishing speed, egged on by desperation.

Children home from school for lunch witnessed part of the drama. "There's a bad man here today," one little girl told her mother excitedly. "He has cuff links on!"

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In North Halton

Heavy load, frustrations disillusion nurses

Despite dedicated efforts by the medical officer of health and the director of nursing, public health nurses in North Halton are saddled with a tremendous work load, frustrated by attempts to carry out a program, and find themselves unable to use much of their professional training. The situation is aggravated by a chronic shortage of nurses.

This is the submission of a former nurse with the Halton County Health Unit in an interview with this newspaper. Her sentiments are shared by other nurses now with the county and members of the community who have been involved with services.

Unfavorable comparisons

Mrs. Alma Swetman of Acton, who spent "one traumatic year" at the Halton Health Unit, has a story of keen personal frustrations with the program in North Halton, comparing it unfavorably with benefits bestowed on residents of Oakville and Burlington. Efforts of the medical officer of health, Dr. J. H. Chamberlain, and the director of nursing, Miss J. Leavy, to improve the situation are continually frustrated by bureaucratic twiddling, Mrs. Swetman says.

"This is not a total criticism of elected representatives," Mrs. Swetman says. "In many cases they have no idea of what is going on and health professionals are too busy doing a job which leaves them too beat after a day of personal frustrations to find the energy to do more."

"In my opinion, the director of nursing is a truly dedicated person who has kept abreast of developments in nursing in general and public (community) health in particular. She has progressive ideas but has been constantly thwarted by lack of staff and lack of enlightened personnel on the board of health.

Could lose again

"We now have a well prepared medical officer of health and an experienced assistant director of nursing and several very capable community health nurses. If we can keep them and hire others we could have a top notch health unit, but if events follow the pattern of recent years we will lose these competent health professionals," Mrs. Swetman warns.

Many of Mrs. Swetman's concerns are shared by Miss Isabel Davey, the psychologist

with the Board of Education's North Education Centre, especially the lack of treatment facilities for disturbed children. The problems are so complex that they both see a general shake-up of the board of health as the only way to remedy the situation.

They are both disturbed by the attitude of some elected representatives when Dr. Chamberlain made a request for an adequate staff of community health nurses and an administrative assistant. Evidently they have no knowledge of the situation, Mrs. Swetman notes. Elementary schools often are virtually without health care except for immunization, hearing and vision tests.

An administrative assistant would leave Dr. Chamberlain time to set up new programs that other counties now have, such as home care, which he has proposed to set up now. She views the former warden's comment that an assistant would leave the M.O.H. little to do as ludicrous. He should read copies of guidelines for a M.O.H., she notes, to have some idea of what an M.O.H. and a board of health are supposed to do.

In Wellington

The most galling part of the situation to Mrs. Swetman is other counties, like Wellington, already have many of the programs Halton lacks. The home care program, for instance, which is being proposed for Halton has been so successful the provincial department of health has decided it should be set up as soon as possible in every district. The saving on home care as opposed to hospital stay in enormous and the province is



HEALTH SERVICES in North Halton leave much to be desired, according to nurse Mrs. Alma Swetman, Acton, shown here with her two boys, Adam, left, and Chris, right, studying a pamphlet on preventive medicine. Mrs. Swetman

said she spent one "traumatic" year with the Halton Health Unit trying to serve all Esqueping's 10,000 population as well as schools.—(Staff Photo)

providing 100 per cent financial support.

To give an illustration of the work load the Public Health Nurse in the north of Halton carries, Mrs. Swetman notes

when she was employed for a year as Esqueping PHN, she was responsible for eight schools, plus carrying a population over 10,000 people, all of it in rural areas. She points out that the

provincial health department suggests there should be one nurse for every 5,000 people in urban areas. In rural areas the ratio should be smaller because of the large territory to be

served.

"It doesn't take much imagination to know how little service these schools received," she states with emphasis. The problems they face from

distance, time and the heavy amount of cases, cause nurses to stay in North Halton only a short time.

Swamped with calls

"My experience has been that there is no possible way to cover the territory even with what the board of health considers a full complement of nurse," she says. "I was swamped with calls," she recalls, "and had so many referrals I wasn't able to handle them."

Proof this is not an unusual experience for a North Halton nurse is provided by the heavy turnover of staff. And compounding the problem for the new nurse who comes in "cold" is any lack of liaison.

"I would say it takes six months to a year before the new public health nurse is really contributing much to a successful community program," Mrs. Swetman feels, because of the lack of overlap between the outgoing and incoming nurses.

Since she has quit the Halton Health Unit, there have been so many telephone calls, Mrs. Swetman says, she almost decided to get an unlisted number. She has referred these people to the health unit but realizes there isn't enough staff to handle everything.

A public health nurse, she points out, must be a graduate of a recognized school of nursing and must have at least one year of post graduate university study in public health nursing, preferably a B. Sc. N. She has a large role to fulfill in the community especially as a family health teacher.

She is to visit schools and homes, help expectant parents, provide a service for the newborn baby, assist with child health conferences, look after children, adolescents, the aged and chronically ill and is also a member of the team which tries to prevent the spread of disease. Her specialty is to work in preventive programs and emphasize "wellness" in all ages and stages of life.

Put on blinkers

"You have to learn to put on blinkers when you work in North Halton," Mrs. Swetman says.

The southern part of the county has better services, more nurses to service the populace by ratio and Miss Davey also feels there are more problems in the north, especially in the number of multi-problem families.

"It is very frustrating to spend time in the north of Halton after serving in the southern urban areas, both from the amount of travelling and the lack of services the south takes for granted," Miss Davey states.

There are less striving families in the north, she feels, "trying to keep up with the Joneses" but she thinks the problems are more numerous because the south is more affluent. For instance, both she and Mrs. Swetman figure there are many nutritional problems in North Halton schools that need solving, although these are not necessarily caused by the level of affluence.

Bussing is a real health problem which should be assessed, they both claim. Children take a lunch to school, some eat it on the bus and have nothing to eat at lunch time. This upsets blood sugar level and is reflected in their attitude at school. Some schools serve a chocolate drink which has no nutritional value because there is no milk in it.

Miss Davey's greatest concern is lack of facilities to treat serious psychiatric problems—a stopgap measure is use of Chedoke hospital services in Hamilton. She feels the board of health is negligent in not providing a local service which has been encouraged by the province.

No guidance

Mrs. Swetman doesn't entirely agree with Miss Davey that North Halton has more problems than the south of the county, but she does insist many children are in opportunity classes in the north who really have no business being there—if there was time for proper pre-school guidance from the public health nurse.

They both agree that many children sent to training schools could be avoided if the preventive and treatment programs were available in the north. There is no psychiatrist in North Halton to

(Continued on Page 2)



VIEWING THE WORLD through rose colored glasses without lenses can be a real achievement when you've made the frames yourself as Bruno Schultz, 1st Georgetown, David Latimer, 1st Georgetown, and Bobby Skuce, 1st Acton, demonstrate at Saturday's Cub Craft Day in Georgetown. Leering behind is Ronnie Bell of 5th Georgetown.

Ban snowmobiles from streets

Except for purposes of coming and going, motorized snow vehicles will be banned from Acton streets, effective 12.01 a.m. Sunday, February 6.

All vehicles must be equipped with a fluorescent safety antenna of not less than five feet in height from ground level and egress and ingress must be carried out at reduced speed and noise levels. Acton Council made the amendments to their snowmobile by-law last night (Tuesday), after being swamped with complaints about operators abusing privileges in town.

Park open

Snowmobiles will still be allowed to operate in Prospect Park between the hours of 7 a.m.

and 11 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. on Sundays providing snow conditions are suitable. Suitability of conditions will be left to the discretion of the arena manager.

In Sir Donald Mann Park in Gienlea, snowmobiles will also be banned. That action was taken last week by Acton Parks and Recreation Committee to protect tobogganers who use the hills there frequently.

Councillor Peter Marks, one of two town fathers, who also sit on parks board, said last night (Tuesday) the board felt its regulations would carry more weight if incorporated in the town by-law.

Council decided to discuss the parks board request in com-

mittee and make further amendments to the town by-law later, if required.

Marks also asked council to consider giving appropriate advertising to the fact snowmobiles will be allowed to operate in Prospect Park within certain hours.

He called the ban from streets a drastic move, although he admitted he himself endorsed it, because he felt the streets definitely were being abused. "Are you serious in this welcome to Prospect Park?" Reeve Frank Oakes asked. "Last year you were worried about the effects it could have on the grass underneath."

Marks emphasized the arena

manager will have the authority to prohibit snowmobiling in the park, anytime he feels there is not a proper amount of snow.

Meeting held

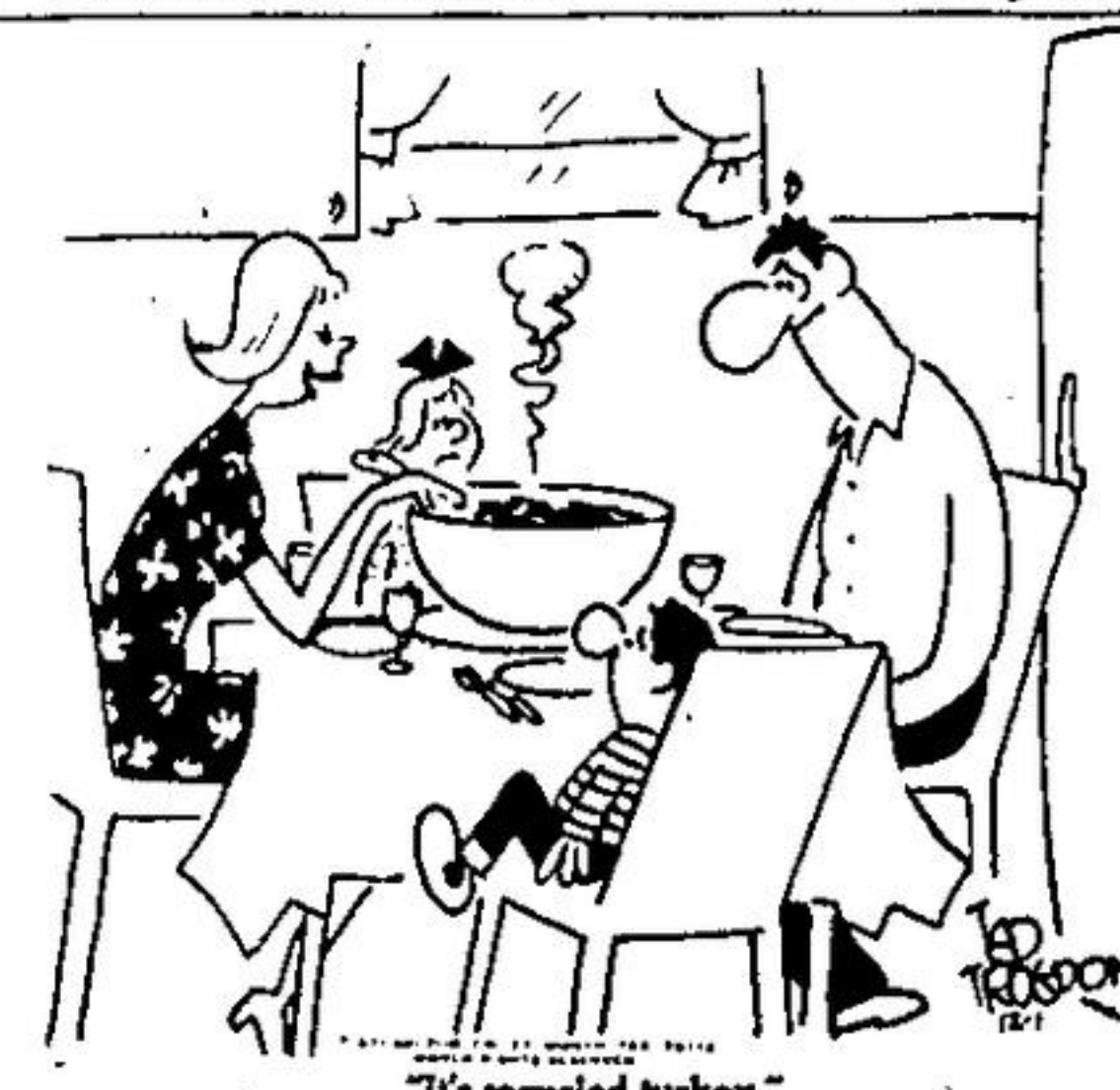
Council's action last night (Tuesday) followed a committee meeting last week by representatives of the Acton Snow-

mobile Club Alan Holmes and John Miller.

At another meeting held in the M. Z. Bennett School Thursday, club members went over snow vehicle regulations with Acton O.P.P. Constable Paul Brown.

Many members feel they're being victimized by thoughtless strangers.

TICKLE BOX by Ted Trogdon



Watch Free Press pages for Tickle Box