

Three plead guilty to theft of leather skins from tannery

Three men accused of stealing hides from Beardmore Tannery pleaded guilty in Milton Provincial Court Thursday.

John Jordan, 27, Ramsay St.; Al Doley, 34, Bracebridge (formerly Acton); and Mark Gourlay, 22, Main St. N., all admitted to their parts in the theft of approximately \$10,000 worth of leather

bands (skins) from September to December, 1981. Charges of conspiracy were not proceeded with. Gourlay was given a suspended sentence and a year's probation. Jordan will be sentenced next Monday and Doley in December.

Crown Attorney Brian Calhoun told Judge William Sharpe that Beardmore stock inventory showed shortages from September to December, 1981. This led to an internal investigation by the firm, who in turn called in the police.

From evidence gathered, Calhoun said, Doley agreed to load up a truck with skins of the hides. Each said, he said, was worth about \$3,000.

As a result of this, the Crown said, John Jordan of Tyler Transport approached Doley and indicated he would take the next shipment of hides to Toronto.

Money was acquired in Toronto, brought back to Acton and split up between the men involved.

In the meantime, Calhoun said, Mark Gourlay was working on the shipping docks at Beardmore when he learned of and saw what was going on. He was bribed by Doley to keep quiet about the incident.

"The Crown is not saying Mr. Gourlay handled the goods, just took money," Calhoun said.

Speaking on behalf of his client, Jack Bellegem pointed out one heist took place

without Gourlay's knowledge. The second time they were being loaded he was aware something was happening that shouldn't have been. He checked and discovered the thefts. It was at this time he was offered \$70 to "turn a blind eye." He took the money. The second time he was offered, he refused.

His client, Bellegem

stressed, was guilty of asking and abetting rather than theft. He was not part of the planning process, he merely "turned a blind eye."

Gourlay had worked for Beardmore for four years. When the investigation began, he said, Gourlay was "booted out of the company."

His client is now employed elsewhere and his employer is aware of what transpired. The lawyer noted Gourlay has no record with the law and is married with a young child. "It was entirely out of character for him" and it is "very unlikely he will appear before the courts again."

Bellegem contended Gourlay's conviction was "technical."

On a recommendation from the lawyer, Judge Sharpe gave Gourlay a suspended sentence and placed him on one year's probation.

John Jordan was only involved on two occasions the Crown noted. He received less than \$300 for both jobs, and was very co-operative with the police. As a result of the charges he was dismissed from Tyler Transport and is now working at a race track grooming horses.

The Crown contended Doley was working at two or three skids onto trucks driven by Jordan and another driver, which were taken to a shoe repair store in Toronto. Doley received \$50 the first time and \$250 the second time.

Doreen Hepburn was one of the busy volunteers who worked on the Acton Baptist Church Thanksgiving arrangement, headed by Willie De-Jong.

Daughters of Knox Plan bazaar

The regular meeting of the Daughters of Knox was held on October 4 in the Mary Ellen Anderson Room. President Faye Pink presided and opened the meeting with a reading, entitled "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." "Living for Jesus" was sung, and the club's motto repeated.

In answering the roll call, the members again presented items for the craft table. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were given, also the report of the last euchre. It was announced that the Young People's group of the Church will look after the selling of Church Calendars this year.

A discussion followed and further plans made, regarding the Knox Presbyterian Church Bazaar and Craft Table, on Saturday, October 23, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Soup and sandwiches will also be served at a cost of \$1.50.

At the completion of the items of business, Annetta Van Fleet and her group conducted the worship service. Annetta opened with a reading entitled, "We Thank Thee, Lord," the hymn "O Lord of heaven, and earth and Sea" was then sung. The scripture responsive reading was led by Margaret Toth. Prayer was offered by Gladys Price.

The offering was received and the offering prayer given by Renee Watson. After the singing of "Now Thank We All Our God," Renee Watson closed with prayer. Refreshments and an hour of fellowship then followed.

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	PARKAY 1 lb. bowl soft margarine	CLARK 19 oz. beans with pork
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	PARKAY 1 lb. bowl soft margarine	CLARK 19 oz. beans with pork
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Obituary

Mary Cooney

Funeral service was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church for Mary Helen Cooney, who died September 19 in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, following a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Cooney, of 95 Longfield Rd. was born on August 27, 1922 in Alberta. She was the daughter of Catherine and Andrew Turkoz.

Fifty-five years ago, she came to Acton and attended Acton schools. On May 29, 1948, she married Jack Cooney at St. Joseph's Church. She was a member of the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary and worked at the Free Press for 10 years. She was a member of St. Joseph's Church.

Left to mourn her loss are her husband, Jack; son Jim, of Acton; two grandchildren, Chris and Jeremy; brothers, Peter, John and George Turkoz; sisters Eva Williams and Martha Turkoz, all of Acton; and her mother Catherine Turkoz. She was predeceased by her father, Andrew.

Father Ralph Diodati officiated at the funeral September 22. Pallbearers were friends, Rick Henderson, Ken Owen, Ab Irwin, Herb Cook and Bus Chisholm, all of Acton, and Rob Radford, Guelph. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery.