

Acton murder suspect acquitted

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Crown's case gave no evidence of exclusive opportunity for Mr. Cripps to set the fire which is said to have started near his room. Nor was there any evidence other than blind loyalty of an employee to his employer for Mr. Cripps to have a motive to start the fire.

While there is evidence of arson, there is nothing unusual for Mr. Cripps to be in his own room, he said. He was therefore compelled to allow the application for a directed verdict.

Crown Attorney Paul Stunt said later that it is unusual for the judge in a jury trial to rule so quickly on such a motion. In other cases the judge has usually approved a directed verdict just prior to a jury deliberating.

A widely-grinning Mr. Cripps surrounded by several members of his family told reporters he "felt good" to have his case ended. This was his first encounter with lawyers and it would be his last, he vowed.

Mr. McWilliams said in an interview, that while he had been hoping for a favorable outcome to his motion, he wasn't all sure it would be granted immediately.

"It's not all that often such a motion is granted and an accused is acquitted in the middle of a trial," he said. "I felt it should be a directed verdict because people can be suspicious and mistakes can be made. It's not a light matter to be charged with murder, even statutory murder."

"This is an illustration of the fact that more than presence at the scene of the crime is required when the prosecution's evidence is based entirely on circumstances. The onus is on the prosecution to prove my client guilty at the close of their case and that wasn't done."

Mr. McWilliams said he had been prepared to call Guelph lawyer Aldo Braida, a former classmate of Mr. Cripps, as a character witness. Braida would have pronounced Mr. Cripps "harmless", Mr. McWilliams said.

Mr. McWilliams also pointed out that Cripps had suffered a mild stroke in July, 1979, and Aug. 18 was only his second night back to work.



Crawford Lake 'Nessie': fact or fiction? See page 1

Beware of 'boxing' technique in duplicate bridge game

In all bridge games, from the rubber bridge game to the high level competition matches at the duplicate table, the declarer of a given contract must always be aware of "boxing" himself.

"Boxing" is a bridge term used to describe a situation where declarer cannot cross from his dummy to his hand, or vice versa, because of an ill-fated play that he makes.

Notice in today's hand, if West plays his two top diamonds from the board before he crosses to his hand, the result will be disastrous. Not only will declarer never get to the board again to exploit his two good diamonds at the end, but he will also lose two good clubs.

The communication between the two hands is destroyed and declarer goes for a telephone number. This was the hand played at the Georgetown Club last Tuesday. I am happy to report that to West player "boxed" himself.

good 5 card suit. The opening lead of the HK should also be universal and declarer should win and cash his ten tricks for plus 630.

In doing so, he must be careful to take his two top clubs before running dummy's diamonds - else he will lose the club Q-J. South, for his part, must hold onto his two top spades and a heart, while all this is going on, to limit declarer to ten tricks.

An occasional deviation may occur when West holds up the H-A at trick one in an attempt to lure North into continuing hearts. This is a common play with AJ but it is incorrect here

since, on a different lie of the cards, declarer could lose 3 spade tricks. If West tries such a ruse, North should not fall for it after seeing South's H-2.

The North-South winners at the Georgetown Club were Fred Allen and Gus Flesch. Second place went to Gwen Moores and Gordon Mellow with Elsie Whitham and Norma Maynard earning third spot.

The East-West winners were John Flanagan and Ron Linklater followed by Grant Reel and Denis Rosendale. Third went to Joan Henry and Rob Thomas.

The Georgetown Bridge Club invites the area residents to join the members each Tuesday night for a good bridge game. The game is held on the second floor of the Legion hall and game time is 7:45 p.m. sharp. Come and play bridge.

- THE HAND:**
Bd. No. 7
Dir - South
Vul - Both
- S - J83
H - KQ10876
D - J54
C - 2
- S - Q965
H - AJ54
D - K87
C - AK
- S - 742
H - 3
D - AQ1093
C - QJ65
- S - AK10
H - 92
D - 62
C - 1098743

THE ANALYSIS:
3 NT should be a universal contract on this deal, with West opening 1 NT and East jumping directly to game on the strength of his 9 HCP and

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