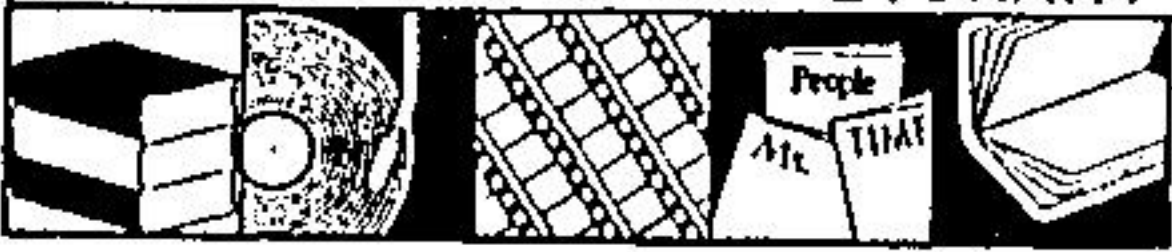


Outlook on Lifestyle

Waterfront warlord Peter Edwards

LOOKING INTO THE LIBRARY



By WALTER LEWIS
Halton Hills Public Libraries
Peter Edwards, *Waterfront Warlord: the life and violent times of Hal C. Banks*, Key Porter Books, 1987.

It is a tribute to the legacy of Hal Banks that his biographers - both on film and in print - waited until his ashes had been scattered in the Pacific Ocean before they made their research public. Bank's legacy of violence and mayhem made him Canada's most "notorious" union leader in the 1960s, a notoriety which has faded only slightly.

The CBC docudrama "Canada's Sweetheart" was the first "biography" released, itself generating some publicity for its gritty portrayal of the brutal, foul-mouthed Banks. Shortly after the program aired in October 1985, Peter Edwards began his interviewing for *Waterfront Warlord*. Also released this spring is a study of Banks and the Seaman's International Union (SIU) published by the University of Toronto Press.

What images of Banks emerges from Edwards' research? The

VIA changes

Georgetown passengers bound for Ottawa will now be able to take one train thanks to changes in scheduling by VIA Rail.

Georgetown residents will now be able to leave town on train 80 at 10:42 a.m. daily and arrive in Ottawa at 4:20 p.m. and Montreal at 5:15 p.m.

Passengers will no longer have to change trains in Toronto thanks to the new "run through" service. Toronto will now only be a 35 minute stopover in the route instead of a transfer point, VIA officials say.

The move will cut down on inconvenient changes and loss of time, VIA says.

Passengers leaving Georgetown to go westbound to Sarnia will be able to board train 43 leaving town at 6:51 p.m.

author offers little of Banks' younger years - Banks told a variety of stories about growing up. Nor did he grow into a model citizen, being before the court on charges ranging from writing bad cheques to murder and spending years in San Quentin. Nor was his loyalty to the union unblemished. In the depression he shipped out as a 'scab' for Standard Oil.

But by the late thirties he had found his vocation as a strongarm for the Sailor's Union of the Pacific. Some time after the war he switched

allegiances to the Seaman's International Union who dispatched him to Montreal invited by shipping companies and the Liberal government to destroy the communist-lead Canadian Seaman's Union. Banks led the SIU into a series of violent waterfront clashes.

He then proceeded to treat members of his own union with similar contempt, putting thousands on a black list on a variety of flimsy excuses. Edwards devotes almost as much space to details of these and other incidents of thuggery as he does to evidence of fraud and Banks' appetite for women.

Of the politics of Banks' career in Canada, Edwards is fascinated by one question. There is evidence that Banks supplied various politicians with female companionship, recording the encounters for future use. Is this why, Edwards speculates, the

government was "soft" on Banks, first by letting him stay in Canada, and later by not pressuring the U.S. to deport him? Why, he wonders, after all these years, are so many government files on Banks still closed?

Edwards has assembled an intriguing portrait of a violent and brutal man. The testimony comes from a wide variety of sources, from members of rival unions as well as the SIU, shipping company officials, victims of beatings, and members of the Banks family.

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R. E. McCall
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A BIT ABOUT BABIES

Your Baby - Growth And Development during The First Year

During the important first year, a baby grows and develops faster than at any other time of life.

The average baby measures from 18 to 22 inches in length at birth. A baby will grow about an inch a month for the first six months after birth. A baby who is 20 inches at birth may be about 30 inches long by age one year - about 1 1/2 times the length at birth.

A baby's birth weight likely will triple during the first year. A baby who weighs seven pounds at birth may weigh approximately 21 pounds by the end of the first year. The vital organs of a baby's body grow rapidly, also; brain weight doubles and weight of the kidneys triples during this time. The first tooth usually appears in the second half of the first year. When teeth come in varies greatly.

The development of a baby's capabilities is also remarkable during the first year. A baby progresses from a newborn whose head must be supported while being fed, to a six-month-old who may sit in a high chair with little or no support, to a one-year-old who probably can drink from a cup, with a bit of help.

All babies grow and develop at their own individual rate. No two are exactly alike. A wide range of growth and activities is considered normal. Your baby's doctor is best qualified to consider with you all aspects of your baby's health.



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