

Barbato Maple Inquest

Crane Death Due To Inexperience

The crushing of a 21-year-old laborer when a crane toppled on him was prompted a coroner's jury to recommend that anyone operating such equipment must have completed a proper training program.

Making the recommendation Thursday of last week was a five-man coroner's jury called to inquire into the sudden death July 6 of Giuseppe Barbato of Downsview.

The accident occurred in Maple on the property of the Dominion Welding Engineering Co., where he was employed.

The jury cited a contributing factor to the accident as being the insufficient experience of the operator of the crane — Joseph Ringhofer, 38, of 75 16th Avenue, Thornhill — to cope with a heavier than usual load.

Inexperience, the jury decided, led Mr. Ringhofer to operate the hoist "at an angle which placed the machine at a disadvantage causing it to topple."

Mr. Ringhofer testified that he had operated the crane on a number of occasions in the normal course of his employment and had experienced no previous difficulty.

The witness said that on the day of Mr. Barbato's accident he was in the process of hoisting a 2,000 pound round cylinder plate for inspection.

Mr. Barbato, he said, was on the ground and had helped clamp the plate to the crane's cable and was standing beside the machine.

"I had the one end of the plate off the ground about two feet," Mr. Ringhofer testified, "and was backing the machine away from it up a slight incline when the crane started to go."

Mr. Ringhofer said he saw the deceased "start to move away from the plate but I can't say whether he ran or not." He later ventured the opinion that Barbato might have been saved

if he hadn't apparently ran into the path of the toppling crane boom. The boom, he added, was capable of lifting a much heavier load than the particular steel plate.

Mr. Ringhofer also told Assistant Crown Attorney John Lawlor that he didn't have a crane operator's licence because "the company told me I didn't need one for this size of machine."

Later evidence revealed that the Ontario Department of Labor doesn't require an operator to be licensed unless the crane is over 25 h.p. The machine in question had a h.p. rating of 16.9.

David Edward Russell, of Toronto, an industrial X-ray technician, testified he was preparing to test the plate for defects when the mishap occurred.

"It happened so fast," he said, "that I have little conception of it. The operator picked up the plate in order to put it in a vertical position so I could X-ray it."

"I was looking down at the time when I heard a shout or a noise of some kind. I looked up and the crane was already on top of the deceased." The crane, he said, was only bearing part of the weight of the plate.

INQUEST

Hugh Adams, a draughtsman with Vaughan Township, said there was a slight incline in the area. He provided drawings showing the rate of decline of the slope.

Patrick O'Reilly, industrial safety officer for the Department of Labor, said he felt the accident occurred "because the crane was operated on the grade. That was the chief cause in my opinion plus the weight of the plate."

He was asked by Mr. Lawlor if a licensed operator would have been aware of the potential danger and have avoided it.

"I think he would have," replied Mr. O'Reilly. He added that the question of whether all crane operators should be licensed was up to the province to decide.

"I feel all crane operators should be licensed but I don't

make the legislation," he said. Maurice Fournier, inspector with the operating engineers branch of the Department of Labor, stated he had operated cranes for a number of years. "I'm an operator myself," he said, "and I believe I would have recognized the danger. But I don't know if everyone would have."

He was asked if he didn't think all crane operators should be licensed in the interest of safety.

"In my view, yes," he answered.

Pasquale Defilippis, of Toronto, an employee at Dominion, testified that some of the plates or material moved around at the plant were sometimes too heavy for the crane.

On these occasions, he said, he dragged the material on the crane instead of lifting it completely off the ground.

He stated that the shop foremen always had the keys to the crane and named the person to use the machine on any day.

York Central Hospital Pathologist Dr. Donald Guthrie stated that the immediate cause of death was due to multiple fractures of the skull with attendant injuries being lacerations to the back of the brain. "This is usually fatal," he

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Your Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion
 By Eric Chapman - 884-0086

In a wide-ranging press conference held last week Prime Minister Lester Pearson announced that the federal government intends to tighten its spending this year, and estimated that a saving of "hundreds of millions" would be effected. He refused to say just what programs were due for cutbacks or postponement and it is expected that these will be announced shortly after Parliament meets on September 20.

Also last week the Legion sent a letter to the prime minister, and while the text of the letter remains undisclosed, it is natural to assume that the Legion has once again reminded the government of the plight of veterans existing on "interim" disability pensions, pending the long awaited report of the Woods Commission Study. At the last session of Parliament, Gerard Laniel M.P., chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, had quite a few forthright words to say on the subject and the following were some of them:

"Mr. Speaker, I must say I was disappointed at not finding in the speech from the throne any reference to veterans; to those who went overseas to defend their country and who sacrificed part of their health to enable younger generations to live in peace and freedom. I fully agree that the government is concerned with economic development, manpower, scientific progress, trade, etc., but I feel that nowadays those who served their country as gloriously as our Canadian soldiers are easily forgotten.

"It is true that we pay them a very moving tribute on Remembrance Day, but after all, those of our veterans who suffered the hardships of war and came back marked for life should not be considered as second class citizens. At times, I deplore this modern world in which everything is judged and appraised according to its effectiveness, output and future potential.

"It is true, Mr. Speaker, that our assistance program for veterans is better than in certain countries, if not in most. May I add that these benefits must relate to the North American context and bring about a measure of well-being equivalent to the average of the population.

"People talk about retraining and increase of workers' income, but the fact remains that the veteran is the worst paid Canadian considering the services he rendered to the nation, to society and to the world. Retrained or not, he will never regain what war atrocities took away from him.

"Mr. Speaker, I think that, in this Centennial year, the speech from the throne should

have included at least a statement of intent, and even certain projects concerning matters not provided for in the studies of the Woods committee. Before passing to another matter I shall simply mention a few, namely: the basic rate of pensions and allowances, which should have been changed long ago; a system allowing for automatic pension increases based on a definite standard such as the cost of living, salaries, etc., and let us not forget the project of a memorial for the veterans of the two world wars in the national capital.

"Therefore, I hope that before the end of the year the government will bring forward some concrete measures to show its concern for war veterans through the good offices of the minister in charge of this department."

The Legion, of course, realizes that the government is well intentioned in saving, as the Prime Minister said, "hundreds of millions". But let us hope that it will not be at the expense of our war disability pensioners.

Branch 375 was well represented at the Warriors' Day Parade held at the CNE recently and our color guard once again marched in competition with other units, but were unsuccessful in winning an award. The 48th Highlanders Old Comrades Association won two of nine marching awards and topped the platoon and color party competitions.

The army, navy and air force veterans won the unit award and the RCAF Squadron 400 took the pipes and drums competition. Our comrades in Willowdale, Branch 66 Royal Canadian Legion, won the Lord Mayor's Cup for having the biggest turn-out.

Readers are reminded that the touring Canadian Armed Forces Military Tattoo is being staged all this week at the CNE and will be there until September 4. The tattoo, which includes an ear-splitting re-enactment of a World War I infantry attack, depicts a spectacular history of the Canadian Forces which no one should miss.

Part of the tattoo recently appeared on Ed Sullivan's TV show and it is interesting to note that the Department of National Defence subsequently turned down an offer by American impresario Sol Hurok to put the tattoo on tour in ten U.S. cities. The department is said to feel that servicemen in the giant show — the cast numbers 1,700 — must return to their regular duties after the show concludes October 10 at Shawinigan, Quebec.

However, the tattoo may yet go on tour in the United States and possibly Europe. The Can-

adian government travel bureau is said to be pressing for such a move as a means to promote Canada for the tourist industry. The subject is still under discussion among the government departments involved.

President Frank Barrett and his wife Madge will leave Canada next week aboard the Legion's chartered flight to Britain. Frank will therefore be in absentia at the September executive and general meeting and these will be the first he has missed in six years. In view of his dedicated service the branch grants him this temporary leave of absence and will tie everything down until he returns.

Comrade Harold Bryant reports that Leo Gehan recently left Richmond Hill for points east to settle permanently on a farm. Leo, a fiddler of renown among Friday night free and easy specialists is certainly being missed by Legion patrons. His two-year subscription to "The Liberal" should ensure that he will be kept informed of all the Legion news, and of future up-and-coming Friday night fiddlers as he plows his way through greener fields.

Emily Fanny Adelaide Parker passed away recently at her home in Richmond Towers, Richmond Hill, in her 87th year. Miss Parker was the daughter of the late William and Mary Anne Parker and sister of the late Edward, Frederick, Ernest, George and Percy Parker.

Born at Parkersville, Muskoka, of a pioneer family, on September 12, 1880, Miss Parker spent her early years in that village and at the Parker summer home on Mary Lake near Port Sydney. Later, after moving to Toronto, she nursed her mother through a prolonged illness until the latter's death in 1922.

She then took up residence in New York City and after training as a nurse followed that profession for 25 years. On her return to Canada in 1949, she retired first to Uxbridge and in 1955 moved to Richmond Hill, residing at 96 Mill Street until three years ago, when she moved to the Markham Road apartment building.

Miss Parker was a lifelong Anglican. Her body was interred in the Stephenson Township Cemetery August 25, with services conducted by Canon Goodier of Port Sydney.

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Church News
 St. John's Anglican Church was beautifully decorated with the flowers from the Grierson-Holmes wedding on Sunday.

Young members of the congregation participated in the morning service. The psalm was read by Caroline Lomas and the lessons by Cindy Wilton and Carol Ainsworth. Sidesmen for the day were Mary Lomas and David Nelson.

The service next Sunday at 10 am will be morning prayer and the litany. The following week, September 10, the 9:30 am service at St. Mark's and the 11 am service at St. John's, as well as the Sunday school, will be resumed.

Grieson - Holmes
 The wedding of Janet Holmes to Gary Grierson was solemnized in St. John's Anglican Church August 26. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Holmes of Falconbridge and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Grierson of Peterboro.

Rev. E. C. Gerber officiated at the ceremony with Mrs. Donald Rawlings at the organ. Miss Barbara Rawlings was the vocalist.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a full length white wedding gown with a train-type veil. She was attended by Patricia Holmes as maid of honor in a full length turquoise gown and Karen Grierson and Mrs. Howard Eckler as bridesmaids, also in turquoise. Flower-girl was Laura Rumble of St. Catharines, wearing a white dress with turquoise sash.

Best man was Nelson Ness and Stephen Rumble of Richmond Hill was the ring-bearer.

The reception was held at the Summit View Gardens Restaurant. Among the local guests were Mrs. Ada Dibb, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Passmore and Mrs. F. Burnett. Mr. Jack Compton, brother of the late Mrs. Giles Kerswill (the bride's grandmother) and Mrs. Compton were present from Pontiac, Michigan. Other guests came from Peterboro and the Sudbury and Falconbridge districts. The gifts were on view at 225 Altamira Road, Richmond Hill, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Rumble. Telegrams were read from Rev. D. C. H. Michell in England, former rector of the parish and from friends in Paris, France.

For travelling the bride wore a green suit. Mr. and Mrs. Grierson will spend their honeymoon in the Montreal area, attending Expo. The groom is a law student at the University of Toronto and the bride is a graduate of the same university.

Neighborhood Notes
 Birthday greetings to Jamie

Emily Parker

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THE Challenge OF Cancer

Leukemia is a cancer of blood-forming tissues and is characterized by the abnormal production of immature white blood cells. Acute leukemia strikes mainly children and is treated by drugs which have extended life from a few months to as much as three years. Chronic leukemia strikes usually after age 25 and progresses less rapidly.

Cancer experts believe that if drugs or vaccines are found which can cure or prevent any cancers they will be successful first for leukemia and the lymphomas. These diseases arise in the lymphatic system and include Hodgkin's Disease and Lymphosarcoma.

Tuckerman on September 1 and to Joanne Laidman on September 5.

Local members of the Vaughan Festival Choir sang at the birthday cake bandshell at the CNE on Tuesday and Wednesday last week and at the city hall the previous week.

Miss Reinah Challenger will be visiting Expo next week from September 5 to 8 with Miss Eileen Harrison. Then from September 24, she will be visiting Dr. George Sparrow at his cottage in Algonquin Park with Miss Mercer and Miss Eileen Harrison.

Pupils returning to Jefferson Public School next Tuesday will find the school completely repainted and a new flagpole installed.

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