

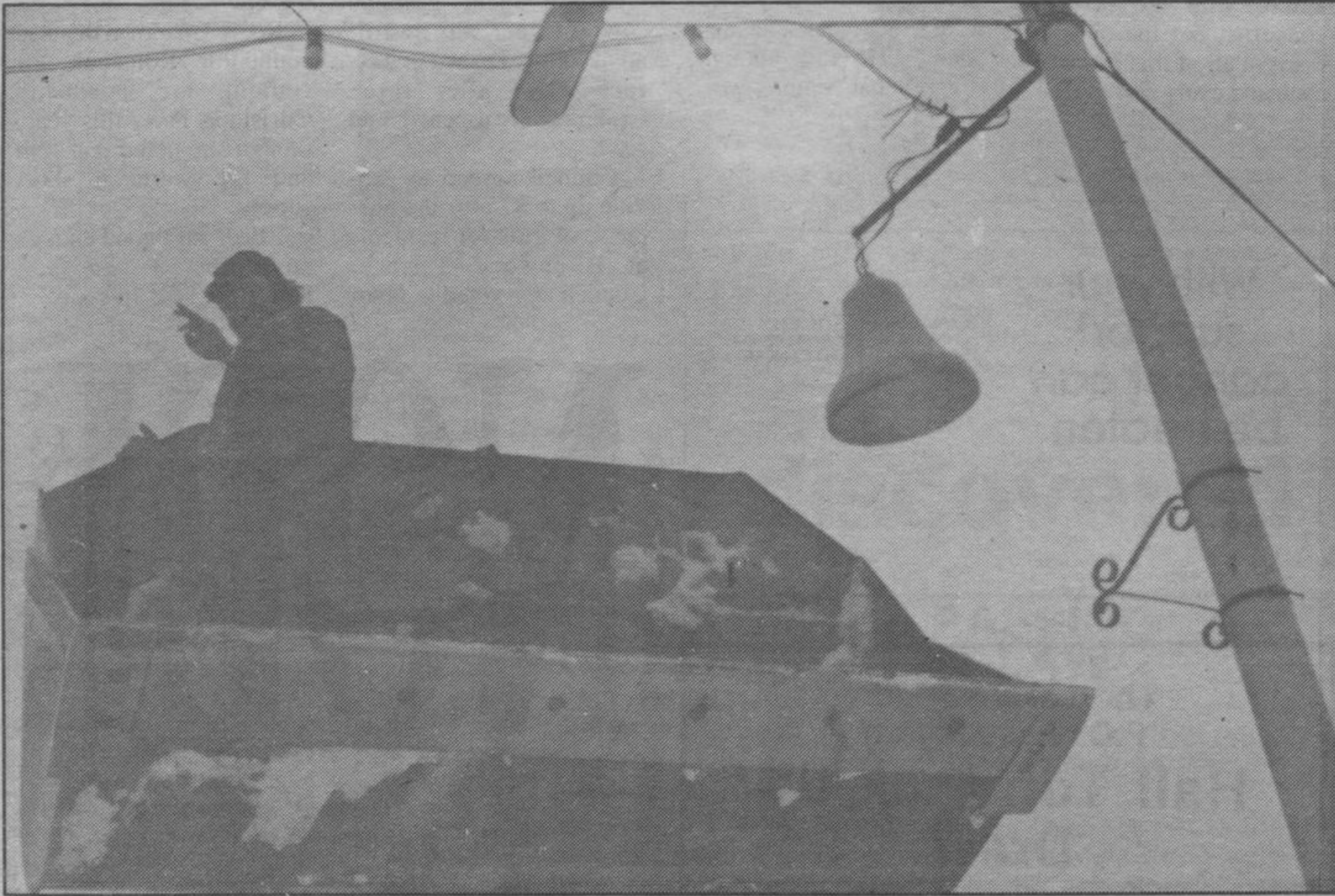
News

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Serving Terrace Bay, Schreiber and Rosspport

35¢



Christmas almost here

Garth Morris is almost silhouetted by the early morning sun as he is lowered to the ground after installing the last row of Christmas lights above the sidewalk on Simcoe Plaza in Terrace Bay last week. He received assistance

from truck driver Russell McBride, a town crew employee like Morris. The lights and decorations in the Plaza are a sure sign that Christmas is just a few days away.

New laws would close Terrace Bay pharmacy

Waghorn's Pharmacy, a Terrace Bay institution since 1952, will close its doors if two provincial bills, both now beyond the second reading, are passed and into effect on Jan. 1, 1986, according to the store's owner.

Lionel Waghorn put up a sign in his store which read "This store will close if Bills 54 and 55 are passed ... If you care, please sign a coupon."

Waghorn found out about the two bills about a month ago after receiving a letter from Murray Elston, the Minister of Health. He has also been contacted by the Ontario Pharmacists' Association (OPA).

In a Dec. 5 news release, the OPA said that the proposed legislation which is actually designed to control costs for prescription drugs will, in effect, lead to higher priced drugs in Ontario unless major changes are accepted.

"With these new laws, it wouldn't be feasible to operate a small pharmacy like this one," explained Tarmo Ronkainen, the pharmacist at Waghorn's. Waghorn said he is

"certainly displeased" by Bills 54 and 55, but also complained about the public's general lack of knowledge regarding the proposed bills. This is why, he added, that he decided to put up the sign in his store.

The sign also includes a message from an OPA ad, which claims that Ontario pharmacists were not consulted before the bills were drafted. The message also goes on to say that "this legislation is ill-advised and poorly thought out ... (it) would create a future where pharmacists can no longer give advice and personal service."

Waghorn said that the proposals have been "forced upon us" and that if they do go into effect he will close his store. "That's a promise ... I mean it," he added.

To prevent this from happening, he is urging area residents to come in and sign a coupon he has which asks for changes in the bills. The filled out coupons are being sent to the OPA on a daily basis.

He said the problem is one facing all small pharmacies, including those in Nipigon and Marathon,

which are now in campaigns similar to his.

"If we close, people would have to go to Thunder Bay to get their prescriptions," Waghorn warned, adding that he has the support of the township council in his fight to change the proposed legislation.

"This affects Schreiber a lot too, as they have a Senior Citizen's home there which we supply," he said.

The OPA release noted that the new laws would give the government the power to arbitrarily establish maximum dispensing fees without negotiations with the profession.

"The OPA is also concerned that the government's proposal to all inspectors ... to enter pharmacies and doctor's offices and seize all records, including patient medical records, represents an invasion of the rights of individual citizens," the release added.

It also claimed that pharmacists have always supported the principle that prescription drugs should be available at the lowest possible cost, but that pharmacists must not be forced

by well-intended but ill-advised legislation into a position where many could become financially unable to continue to provide their present levels of care.

Waghorn hopes the coupons and other petitions will make the provincial government have second thoughts about Bills 54 and 55.



Sign at pharmacy

Lionel Waghorn, owner of Waghorn's Pharmacy in Terrace Bay, put up the above sign in his store last week in response to Bills 54 and 55, two proposed pieces of provincial legislation which Waghorn fears would make

Council disturbed by Board letter

At the Dec. 9 meeting of Terrace Bay Township Council, clerk co-ordinator Larry Simons urged council to respond to a letter from the Lake Superior Board of Education, in which the Board spoke of its concern regarding "the alleged irregularities" in the recent public school trustee elections in the Terrace Bay area.

After the letter was read to council, Reeve Ollie Chapman explained that apparently an elector voted twice in the Nov. 12 trustee election, once in Jackfish and again in Terrace Bay.

Simons noted that the Board letter appears to point to the people who ran the election in question and hinted that these people were at fault. Simons was the returning officer for the Terrace Bay area.

The Board letter explained that "although the validity of an election can only be challenged by an elector, the Board would like to go on public record as expressing its concern regarding the alleged irregularities in the election."

Reeve Chapman said that the elector in question had supposedly called to ask if he could vote again, after he had already voted once in Terrace Bay and had noticed his name on the list of voters for Jackfish. The man, who was not identified at the meeting, was then given permission to go ahead and vote in Jackfish.

"The thing is that he voted twice for public school candidates on the same slate," the Reeve added.

Simons replied that the Board was operating under the assumption that someone can give permission to vote, which Simons stressed is not the case.

"If they are on the (elector's) list, you have no right to deny that person a ballot, even if you know that person has already voted," he told council. "The duties were carried out here according to law."

He added that "what is really annoying about this is that they (the Board) admit they cannot question the legitimacy of the election, yet they come out publicly with this kind of innuendo."

"I'd like to answer them, but I'm not sure how," councillor George Ramsay said.

"We could let it die or take it to the limit, those are your two options," councillor Jim Files said.

"The response from our lawyer was that council should respond in kind, as the Board wrote a public letter," Simons said.

"I think we should consult with a lawyer first," councillor Jim Ziegler said.

"Maybe we could play a waiting game," Reeve Chapman suggested after noting that a carbon copy of the Board letter was to be sent to the Minister of

Municipal Affairs, B. Grandmaitre. The Board letter was signed by the Director of Education, M.A. Twomey.

"There's no way the Minister is going to touch that," Ramsay replied.

"I would respond on my own behalf, but that would be inappropriate," Simons said. "It is wrong if somebody votes if he is not supposed to, but what the Board has done is make an issue of it without really making an issue of it."

Simons added that if the Board had any specific recommendations to make, they did not make them.

"There are ways a person could get on two lists, but there is nothing you can do to prevent this on election day," he explained. "It would be virtually impossible to cross check all of the voter's lists."

Reeve Simpson said the voter in question has supposedly confessed and is now liable to be charged under the Municipal Election Act, which carries a fine upon conviction of up to \$2,000 or even imprisonment.

"I'm not opposed to a reply to the Board," councillor Peter Romanuk said. "It's just the wording."

Ramsay agreed. "We

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Union selects new executive

by Conrad Felber
Local 665 of the United Paperworkers International Union in Terrace Bay has a new executive, according to Don Lavigne, who is the new President.

He won the position after the union's election, which was held on Dec. 9.

Lavigne is now starting a new two year term, along with First Vice-President Keith Rogerson and Second Vice-President John Santerre. There are approximately 750 members in the local, Lavigne said.

Also elected on Dec. 9 were Recording Secretary Bev Boutilier, Financial

Secretary Joe Butler, Treasurer Ted Kostuk, Outside Guard George Dashkewytsch, Inside Guard Tom Murray, and Trustees Jim Garriock, Chris Ray and Dave Daniels.

The new Executive Board members for the 1986-1987 term were sworn in on Dec. 11, Lavigne said. He would not release any details as the actual vote totals.

He did say that the new executive will "preserve what we have and build forward," which he added is now the local's new unofficial motto.

running a small pharmacy like his impossible. The bills, if passed, would go into effect Jan. 1. Waghorn is trying to have the laws changed with coupons which he is urging his customers to sign.