

Accused Couple Shortly After Their Arrest



Huddled and weeping May Hill of Claremont district first jointly charged with Fred Aldred with the murder of W. D. Cowan, Malvern storekeep-

er, had her charge reduced and was granted bail Wednesday morning, but the bail was not immediately available. Aldred

sits in a dejected mood. He is pictured in the inset as well. Sergt. Fred Fisher of Scarborough police stands by in police station.

District Shocked Over Murder Tragedy at Malvern Store

Fatal shooting tragedy at Malvern shocked the countryside, when it became known on Sunday morning that a teen-aged girl and a 21-year old youth from Claremont district had entered the general store of the popular and well-known Bill Cowan with intent to rob, and when confronted by the owner the youth shot him dead, pouring two shots into his body.

The 57-year-old general store proprietor, hearing an intruder on his premises, picked up a revolver and rushed to defend his property shortly before dawn.

Minutes later William D. (Bill) Cowan lay dead on the floor, shot by his own gun which, police say, was wrested from his hands by Fred Aldred, 21, of Claremont.

Aldred and his 17-year-old sweetheart, May Hill, were arrested a short time later and charged with murder.

Cowan was killed before the horrified gaze of his wife and five daughters. In their efforts to aid him, the daughters ripped the man's shirt from his back. In the struggle Cowan tore off the would-be thief's shoes.

The dark-haired girl, said by Scarborough police to have been acting as a look-out, sobbed after she and her lover were taken into custody. He was wearing another pair of boots stolen from a neighbor of Cowan's.

Fred Aldred, a farmer's son who left a note saying he would send "the old man" home a big pay, told the officers that he and May had run away because her parents would not let her go out with boys and "we were in love." They were picked up near the CPR station in Agincourt, about two miles from the little general store where Bill Cowan died. Aldred still had Cowan's revolver stuck in his belt, but offered no resistance.

In the dull, grey hours before dawn, Bill Cowan heard some one breaking into his store. He got up, picked up his .32-calibre revolver and went into the store. His wife and daughters followed in night attire.

"We heard dad say: 'What are you going to do with that gun?' said Eleanor Cowan, 17-year-old daughter of the slain storekeeper. "We went downstairs and dad started to wrestle with the man. He had him flat on his back, and when he cried, he let him up. One of my sisters grabbed him by the shirt and tore it from his back. Then he started shooting and we saw dad fall." Two bullet wounds were both fatal.

Although he was bleeding from a wound over the heart and another in the thigh, Bill Cowan did not give up. He staggered to his feet and went to the back of the store, where he had a 12-gauge shotgun. He picked it up and tried to follow his assailant as the young man fled from the store after glass in the front door had been broken by the waiting girl.

While her husband put up a terrific struggle, Mrs. Cowan blocked the rear door and the daughters tried to help their father. When her husband dropped for the first time, Mrs. Cowan stood her ground as the gunman tried to flee. He warned her to "Get out of my way, sister, or I'll let you have it." She stood firm, but was knocked down by a blow from the gun.

Minutes later a neighbor, Fred LeBlanc Jr., levelled his shotgun at the youth and his girl friend as they fled from the store, but LeBlanc's father restrained him. From their home across the street, the LeBlancs heard voices outside the store at about 3:35 a.m. Some one said: "Let's break the glass." A side window in the store was broken.

Mrs. Cowan called Edna Reedy, Agincourt telephone operator, as soon as the struggle was over.

Back at Claremont it was learned that the couple had run away. Aldred said he had to help the girl who was "kept down" by her mother. May Hill was known in Stouffville since she worked here as a domestic for Mrs. Robert Bone, who gave the girl a good name so far as she knew.

The pair were charged with murder, but we understand the charge will be reduced against the girl as they did not have a gun when they entered the store.

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Judge Will Settle Markham Unionville Tax Dispute

Markham Township Council and the trustees of the police village of Unionville are unable to settle their differences over the rightful contribution the village should make to the township treasury by way of taxation. It was decided on Tuesday to appeal to the county judge and settle the matter by way of arbitration.

"I say the police village should pay 4½ mills and continue their rightful share of the general taxes," said Reeve Vern Griffin. The 4½ mills would be for special services, such as walks, etc., which the ratepayers of Unionville enjoy the benefits of, and which are no part of the farming areas.

Upkeep of the 6th concession running through the village is a contentious matter, with the township council suggesting the village should maintain their part. On the other hand the trustees want the township to pay for the upkeep of the road and to make the special levy three mills instead of 4½.

The revee is of the opinion that it might be better for the township to take over the Unionville fire engine, and operate the outfit in a fire area extending around the village, while other parts of the township would be placed in fire areas with Stouffville and Richmond Hill, each area bearing its own cost. In this way Unionville would contribute to their fire area.

The whole matter will be aired before a judge whose decision will be binding to all parties. Reeve Griffin points out that whatever decision is reached between the township and Unionville, will also apply to Thornhill police village.

Markham Men Judge Plowing in U.S.

Mr. J. A. Carrol announced a few days ago from Queen's Park that the Department has chosen two top-ranking judges at plowing matches to go to New York State to judge in a state plowing match there this week.

The mantle of honor has fallen on two Markham men, high in the ranks of the plowing association in Ontario. They are Messrs. W. L. Clark and Win. Timbers. The pair left on Tuesday afternoon for Belmont, N.Y. for the annual competition in that area.

This is the first time that Canadian judges have been invited to act in an official capacity across the line, and the success with which these experienced judges meet will be watched with interest.

Co-op Manager Going To Ottawa Association

Mr. Bruce Clark, manager of the Stouffville Co-Operative Association for the past three years, has taken a similar position with the Ottawa Valley Association, doing over a million dollar turnover annually.

Since coming to town Mr. Clark has shown remarkable business ability, and doubled and tripled the output of the local association which is even yet only in the development stage. His resignation was received a few days ago by the company executive with general regret.

It's expected that Mr. Len. Wilks who has been with the local office for some time, will be appointed to the position vacated by Mr. Clark. Mr. Wilks is a salesman of real ability, and is generally liked by all.

Bruce Clark has been active in the Stouffville Lions, and is at present a director, and has been on the executive of the hockey club for three years, and a town booster in many ways.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark and young son will shortly be moving to Ottawa where his firm is securing him a house.

Pickering Members Named to Newly-Formed Planning Board

Debate with Township Police Chief Waxen Warm at Council Meeting—Might Bring in Provincials on the Job

At the regular August meeting of Pickering Township Council on Tuesday, four men were named to represent the township on the new Pickering-Whitby Planning Board. This is a Board being established to work in conjunction with the Ontario Dept. of Planning and Development to survey the need for distinct rural, residential and industrial sections in the municipality.

The men named for Pickering: Cyril Morley, 3-year term; Roy Morris, 2-year term; John Powers and Clare Balsodon each a 1-year term. Whitby will appoint two members, and the cost will be shared 65% by Pickering and 35% by Whitby.

The clerk has been instructed to contact the Provincial Police Chief, located at Aurora to ascertain the cost to the township of having this municipality policed by provincial officers. This decision arose following a warm discussion over local police matters.

Police Chief Irvine was present at the meeting and brought in his first monthly report of work done and calls made, as asked for by the council several weeks ago.

Council informed the Chief that there was a continuous stream of complaints over neglect of police work. However, Mr. Irvine reported each incident which councillors brought to his attention, had been taken care of.

A communication from the C.P.R. stated that the cost of erecting warning lights at the railway crossing between lots 11 and 12 on the Greenwood Rd. would be \$5,500 and the annual maintenance \$200. The letter went on to say that, if 40% of this cost could be obtained from the Railway Grade Crossing Fund, the balance of the installation and (continued on back page)

Confusion Reigns Over Procedure in New Enlarged High School Area

Nobody seems to know what will be the procedure followed in setting up the Markham-Stouffville High School area at the end of the year. Up to the present time, no authority seems to be able to plot the procedure of forming the two schools into one area. Ask any member of Stouffville Board of Education, and he will show hesitancy. His term of office automatically expires at the end of December.

The question is being asked, who will arrange for extra buses to be on the job next January, if indeed extra buses are necessary. Then another issue is that of principalship. There will be a chief principal over both schools, with an assistant principal, or will each school be supreme in its own right?

There is the matter of setting up the time-table after Christmas. Is the time-table adopted in either of the schools from September to December to be continued, or what will happen here?

All in all, there is a bit of a muddle for Departmental chiefs to iron out. One would think that any drastic change should have been brought about with the beginning of the school term in September. Perhaps that is what will happen after all. It could be that while the school area is legally established as from January 1st, 1949, there will be no changes in school management so far as classes are concerned until the 1948-49 term ends. In the meantime the new Board of Education will be set up in January with representatives from Markham and Whitchurch Townships, Markham and Stouffville villages.

EARLY TURNIPS \$2. BUS.

The old saying, "the early bird gets the worm," holds quite true for those farmers who trucked turnips from their fields to the Toronto market this week. Two dollars per bushel was received for the early crop, and at that many we saw were little bigger in size than a cocoon. Here in the country folks do not fancy turnips during the summer season, but somehow there is a market in the city, and with a fancy price for the moment at least.

Joan Lewis Farm Has Been Sold

The attractive 52-acre farm just east of Stouffville belonging to the estate of the late Joan Lewis has been sold through the Willoughby Agency to Victor Little of Newtonbrook, Mr. Harvey Moyer reports. The place has a comfortable house and good stables, selling at \$8,400. While a resident of Newtonbrook, Mr. Little worked for his brother Frank on the 8th concession of Markham, and is no stranger in the district.

SURPRISED ON HIS EIGHTY-SECOND BIRTHDAY

There was a surprise party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Pallister, Altona, Aug. 2nd, in honour of Mr. Pallister's 82nd birthday. Guests included, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hughes of Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Neil and family of Toronto, and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cox of Port Whitby.

17 Building Permits In Two Weeks

Building Inspector J. A. Clarke issued seventeen permits for new construction and alterations on other buildings in the Township of Whitchurch during the last ten days in July, and still quite a number of properties to deal with that have applied for a license to build.

Since most of the licenses issued are for cabins, cottages, and changes, they do not run into an imposing figure. One license was for a \$6,000 dwelling for a Newmarket man, which was the largest amount applied for during the brief period mentioned.

Mr. Fred Cummings is building a spacious bungalow immediately south of Ballantrae opposite his present residence. Permit for this isn't included in the 17. Mr. Cummings has the cement foundation completed and the building framed in, giving some idea of its size and attractiveness.

Miss Ruth Badgero is spending a couple of weeks at Bigwin Inn, Lake of Bays, one of Muskoka's popular summer resorts.

FORMER DR. SMITH RESIDENCE SOLD

Sold only a year ago to Mr. J. Johnston, photographer, the former well known Dr. Smith residence on Main Street opposite the Dr. Freel home, has again changed hands. The new owner is Miss Mabel Edwards who taught school in Toronto for a number of years. Miss Edwards intends to convert the house into a duplex, and will take up residence here.

9TH CONCESSION ACCIDENT

Hauling gravel from Stouffville Sand & Gravel plant a big truck from Scarborough Jct., owned by Hamill & Magee was ditched just north of town on the 9th concession on Saturday afternoon. Driver Magee said he struck a hole in the road breaking a spring and his truck came to rest over in a field. Road Superintendent Sandy Davis says these trucks loaded with gravel travel too fast, tear gravel roads to pieces faster than any maintenance crew can keep them repaired. While the truck body was wrecked badly in this accident the driver was uninjured.

Expect Road Surfacing Townline Next Week

According to information received by The Tribune and published two weeks ago, work on resurfacing the townline west from Ringwood to the 6th concession of Markham, should be underway this week.

Not seeing any signs of the contracting firm placing machinery or materials on the job, The Tribune contacted the firm of the Miller Paving Co., over the telephone, and Mr. Miller assured us that the work would be started in about a week's time. Frequent rains and other causes have delayed starting, but the head of the firm was sure they would have a gang here in a few days, perhaps a week.

The two and a half miles of road will be scarified, shaped and then surfaced with oil and chips to give a smooth tarvia top finish that will be superior to the old narrow surface hard top of ten years ago over this stretch when it was part of the main road through Stouffville and down the sixth of Markham for main traffic to the city.

Despite the fears of many people, this road will be built, and thanks will be due officials of the surrounding townships for their insistence in demanding a better road. The next effort should be to continue the hard top to Gormley, linking up with the 4th concession highway.

THE HYDRO PEAK HITS NEW HIGH

During the month of July, Stouffville demand for hydro current was the largest on record. Our peak load was 685.8 h.p.

The cost of this power purchased by the town from the H.E.P.C. of Ontario was \$1,771.65, at a rate of \$31 per horse power.

That's a far-cry from the original contract when hydro was first installed here 20 years ago. At that time we contracted for 75 h.p. and were fearful it could not all be used.