

'Substantial' Gains In Civic Overhaul

Cost of Reassessment \$400,000, Says Prober

The property reassessment recommended by a firm of U.S. efficiency experts would cost Vancouver \$400,000.

A city manager, also recommended in a report on the firm's survey of Vancouver's civic administration, would cost at least \$20,000 a year.

The gains to the city, if the report is adopted, would be substantial but "cannot be measured exactly in dollars and cents."

These were the answers given today by Charles S. James, of Public Administration Service, of Chicago, in a long distance interview with The Vancouver Sun.

James was one of the experts who conducted an efficiency survey of Vancouver's civic administration and is co-author of the controversial report on the survey now before council.

Changes in assessments as new information is slowly added to the files results in "injustices as between one property owner and another from year to year."

The best thing to do, he said, is "roll up your sleeves and dive into a complete reassessment. The water will be cold at first, but in the long run it will mean substantial benefits to the city."

The "ghost" was the "very severe lack" of information about buildings which is basic to an assessment program.

James did not blame the department for the present situation. He said it was doing its best to bring its information up to date but that its personnel "don't have either the time or the opportunity to make a detailed study of buildings."

James said the "rule of thumb" used in estimating the cost of such projects is \$1 per capita, or about \$400,000.

Asked why such a costly project was considered necessary, he said:

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MAN JAILED TWO YEARS IN FORGERY CASE

Frank Mayer, 42, of the Angelus Hotel, was sentenced today to two years in jail after he pleaded guilty to five charges involving forgery.

Mayer, who told the court he suffered from "active tuberculosis," was convicted on one charge of attempted forgery in Vancouver and four charges of dealing in forgery in Winnipeg. He also pleaded guilty to a Winnipeg theft charge.

Magistrate Gordon Scott sentenced him to two years concurrent on each charge.

\$1500 Cash Bail for Witness

Cash bail of \$1,500, instead of a property bond for that sum, was approved today by Mr. Justice Wilson for Henry Aileen Clark.

Clark is being held by police as a material witness in the case of Joseph Gordon, 34, and Mrs. Catherine Pilling, 21, charged with the \$26,000 hold-up Oct. 26 of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Grandview and Renfrew.

Gordon and the young woman are awaiting trial in County Court. Gordon's bail was set in police court at \$15,000 and Mrs. Pilling's at \$7,000.

Prosecutor S. J. Remnant, Q.C., consented to cash being put up for Clark as requested by his lawyer, H. A. D. Oliver.

Court Awards Bride \$1577

A 20-year-old Lulu Island bride will receive \$1,577 for injuries suffered Aug. 13, 1954, when the car in which she was riding was in collision with a road roller on Cambie road.

She was Helen Dunstan when the accident occurred but is now Mrs. Frank Karpenic, 457 Granville road. Driver of the car, Reinhold Prochnau, 21, of 1135 Cambie, Lulu Island, gets \$1,488 under the settlement.

Their action was against E. R. Taylor Construction Co. Ltd., Maplewood, and Wilfred Caudette, Surrey, driver of the roller.

Murder Case Retrial Slated to Open Jan. 3

Retrial of Donald Keith Cathro, 26, for murder is slated to open in Assize Court on Jan. 3, just three days short of a year after the holdup death of Ah Wing in his grocery store at 4017 Macdonald.

Four were charged with the grocer's killing. The case against a 17-year-old Chinese youth was dropped and another Chinese was acquitted. Cathro and Chow Bew, 43, were found guilty and sentenced to hang.

A month ago, the Supreme Court of Canada ordered a new trial for Cathro but upheld the conviction of Chow Bew.

A reprieve until April 3 was granted Wednesday for Chow Bew, who is considered a possible witness at Cathro's new trial.

F. G. P. Lewis is preparing a plea to the minister of justice for clemency for Chow Bew.

Manager Not Hard to Find

Jacobi said Vancouver shouldn't have any trouble finding a top-notch man to fill the city manager's post.

The minimum salary the city should expect to pay would be \$20,000 a year, he said. The highest-paid city manager in the U.S. (in Cincinnati) gets \$30,000.

(Three top officials in Vancouver's administration now get \$15,972 a year each. They are Russell Baker, corporation counsel; John Oliver, city engineer, and Frank Jones, city comptroller.)

The city might not even have to go afield for a chief executive, James said.

"There are several outstanding men in your city administration at present," he said. "As far as ability, background and training are concerned, I would be interested in some of your people in Vancouver if I were hiring a manager for a city of comparable size here in the States."

He said the chief reason for bringing in a city manager from some other city would be to avoid friction among present department heads if one of them was elevated to the new post.

Party Politics Not Urged

Mr. James settled one controversy which has already developed over his report.

He said his firm "definitely does not advocate party politics" for Vancouver.

He said he was sorry the wording of the section of the report dealing with party politics had left any doubt as to the authors' meaning.

James could not say how long an over-all implementation of the report would take.

The council-manager system "could be operating in a few months," he said. "Considering the strength of the city's present staff there would be little displacement."

Other recommendations might take years to develop, he said.

Meanwhile, at city hall it appeared the civic overhaul probably would not be carried out for several years.

Indication that council plans no speedy action on the recommendations is the fact that a number of copies of the report will be filed for the use of councils in future years.

City hall officials say the type of reorganization recommended in the efficiency survey cannot be accomplished in less than several years.

They point out that a previous efficiency survey, dealing only with the engineering department, was completed a year ago, but putting its recommendations into effect will take two more years.

The civic administration report will be formally presented to council Wednesday, and it is possible that aldermen, confused by some aspects of the survey, will ask Thomas Jacobi, principal author, to return to Vancouver to explain his recommendations.

Wasserman — Suggested title for a new Canadian Army song: "She Was Swell to the Division but Rotten to the Corps."



SCOTS PERFORM TO AID SLAIN COMRADE'S FAMILY

Last-minute adjustment to Highland regalia of Nancy Wilson, 9, North Vancouver, is made by Const. William Baird (left) and Det. Donald MacDonald before all three took part in special benefit performance of Scottish music. Enthusiastic audience at Scottish Hall, Twelfth and Fir, donated \$500 to fund for family of Const. Gordon Sinclair, shot dead on duty Dec. 7.—Corky McKenzie photo.

OUR TOWN By Jack Scott

A Man's Musing

Seem to be getting vast numbers of Christmas cards this year from commercial outfits, tailors, loan companies, a hardware store and such, most of them with advertising material, and it strikes me as not too right public relations, something unsavory about mixing the Christmas wish with salesmanship. . . .

There's a pleasant seasonal thought in the Ella Wheeler Wilcox poem that appeared this week in The United Worker: "So many gods, so many needs. So many ways that find and wind; While just the art of being kind is all this sad world needs." . . .

A few days ago we reported the gift suggestion of a solid silver container for aspirin. Now we've come upon a 14-carat gold pocket carrier, "for the man who has everything," designed to carry rolls of tablets for acid indigestion. . . .

Wonder if any game has survived the years as well as crokinole. . . .

Christmas is all things to all people. A Torontonians has written to the Ottawa Citizen that each Christmas Eve he arranges to visit a stable for a few moments of meditation and companionship with the livestock—"my pilgrimage," as he puts it, "to a place similar to the one in which our Saviour was born." . . .

And a fragment from Aldous Huxley's new novel where one character, bidding another goodbye on Christmas Day, says: "Drive carefully. This is a Christian country and it's the Saviour's birthday. Practically everybody you see will be drunk." . . .

I've long suspected that the Do-It-Yourselfers were playing with fire. Now the Wall Street Journal reports that insurance firms are alarmed at the number of policy holders who are damaging themselves playing Mr. Fixit. . . .

Somebody ought to pass on to George Drew and company the slogan for Ford's new Continental automobile: "An experience awaits you—the excitement of being conservative." . . .

That was a splendid sight against a grey winter sky when the sleek new Comet swished by on its demonstration flight." . . .

Women who carry on with their knitting while conversing have a terrible effect on my blood pressure and I'm tempted to retaliate by working a yo-yo. . . .

The contest to decide the Canadian Man of the Year points up the gloomy awareness of how few outstanding men we have in any year. Lester Pearson, I suppose, is the obvious choice. . . .

That "Exploring Minds" show last Sunday on TV, at the ridiculous hour of 11:10 p.m., was a horrible mistake, a pedantic lantern slide lecture on evil at a time when a little going-to-bed Mantovani music would have been in better taste. . . .

The most reliable piece of mechanism I ever owned is a 10-year-old alarm clock that cost less than five dollars and never misses a solitary beat. . . .

I like Bennett Cerf's story of the young man who entered the bookstore and asked for a present for a very rich old aunt who could scarcely walk. "Why a book?" asked the clerk. "Why not some floor wax?" . . .

Whatever happened to the mistletoe tradition? . . .

Wish I'd written the piece on "Winter Beachcombers" that appeared in the New York Times last week, including these memorable lines: "The winter profile of the beach is not frowning. It is mobile and many sided. It turns its best side to winter beachcombers who take the sea in all its tempests and tantrums, well knowing that it will smile again." . . .

Now that the solid proof has come from the 10-year experiments in Brantford, Ontario, and Newburgh, New York, showing the sharp reduction in tooth decay with fluoridated water, what in the world are we waiting for? . . .

What's that you say? One more shopping day? . . .

3 Women Seized After Dope Raid

Three women were arrested today after detectives raided a hotel room and seized what they said was drug paraphernalia.

A burnt spoon, a needle and an eye dropper were seized for analysis.

Trap-Door Burglars

Thieves entered Hammer's Bakery, 1654 Kingsway, by a trap door under the building and escaped with \$17.50 from the till.

SKI WEEK on GROUSE MOUNTAIN

Chair Lift, Chalet All Facilities Operating 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. PROFESSIONAL SKI SCHOOL

WANTED 5 Cafeteria Helpers Saturdays and Sundays. MA. 8758.

For Reservations Phone MA. 8758 or MA. 6051

HE WOULD SAY 'ENJOY YOURSELVES'

Scots Swell Sinclair Fund Amid Skirl of Bagpipes

Members of Vancouver's Scottish organizations opened their hearts and their pocket books amid the skirl of pipes Wednesday to boost the Gordon Sinclair fund by \$500.

More than 250 people attended a special concert at the Scottish Auditorium, Twelfth and Fir, to honor the city police constable who was shot and killed under the south end of Granville bridge on Dec. 7.

The concert raised the Sinclair fund to almost \$8,000. The money is to be given to his widow and three children.

Mayor Fred Hume and officials of the United Scottish Societies spoke briefly to open the concert, which included the dancing of little girls, songs of Scotland and selections by the Strathspey and Reel band.

Mayor Hume urged the audience to do as much as possible to help the Sinclair fund.

"I can remember that he always wanted to help others," the mayor said.

NOTE OF SADNESS Alex H. McDonald, director of the United Scottish Societies, paid special tribute to the slain officer.

"Sinclair was a man who fed himself on Scottish societies," he said. "He was the man who piped for them and helped with their programs."

"I know if he were here tonight he would say 'enjoy yourself, enjoy the pipes and the music.'"

Societies' president George Gibson said "there is a note of sadness here but we are doing just the thing that Gordon would want us to do."

WONDERFUL WORLD Rev. D. J. Gillies, who read the tribute, said Const. Sinclair had all the qualities that make a man a Good Samaritan.

"If we all had his attitude what a wonderful world this would be," he said.

Members of the B.C. Pipers' Association, of which Const. Sinclair had been president, and the police pipe band, of which he had been a member, provided pipe music.

Ticket Workers Join Brotherhood

Employees in the ticket office of the British Columbia Coast Steamship Service (CPR) are now officially represented by the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks.

The Canada labor relations board announced Wednesday that the brotherhood had been certified as bargaining agent for the 20 employees.

Sudbury Crew Honored for Towing Feat

VICTORIA (CP)—Capt. Harley Blagborne and the crew of the deepsea tug Sudbury were honored Wednesday night for their victory over the "most vicious elements" of the sea.

They were presented with manuscripts commemorating their feat in towing the disabled Greek freighter Makedonia 3,200 miles to Vancouver through a succession of Pacific storms earlier this month.

The presentations were made at a special dinner by the Victoria Junior chamber of commerce.

The Sudbury, a converted corvette owned by Island Tug and Barge Ltd. of Victoria, left port for the stricken freighter Oct. 31 and didn't arrive in Vancouver until Dec. 11.

TICKETS INTERCHANGEABLE Bus Lines to Pool West Bay Services

WEST VANCOUVER—A streamlined commuter's bus service, utilizing interchangeable tickets good on both West Vancouver Blue Buses and Pacific Stage Lines buses between Larwill Park and West Bay, will start Jan. 3.

Plans for the new service were announced formally Wednesday by municipal manager Nish McDonald.

The announcement came after Vancouver city council approved in principle the plan to move the Blue Bus Vancouver terminal from 841 Dunsmuir to the Pacific Stages terminal at Larwill Park, Cambie and Dunsmuir.

The extended route and changeover was also considered by the public utilities commission Wednesday.

PRINCIPAL POINTS Main points of the new bus deal: Commuters may use the same ticket for either Blue Buses or PSL buses between Larwill Park and West Bay. There will be only one ticket issued and drivers will "punch" the designated zones of Ambleside, Altamont or West Bay. Commuter's books of tickets for various West Vancouver zones will not be needed. Upper Levels passengers will use West Vancouver Blue Buses only on transfer at Fourteenth. Schedules will be five minutes later leaving both ends of the route—at Larwill and at West Bay.

SPEED MADE UP Schedules will remain the same for intermediary stops in Dunderave and Ambleside as buses will be able to make up the five minutes running time. Tickets will be sold at Larwill Park wickets and by bus drivers. The West Vancouver transportation system will not have to buy more equipment or use more drivers to meet the new transit schedule. "It will certainly be a much improved service," said the municipal manager. "It certainly won't lose us any business." He suggested the Blue Buses would "gain business" by picking up passengers between the old terminal at Howe and Dunsmuir and the B.C. Electric depot. PROFIT IN 1954 West Vancouver's Blue Bus system made a 1954 profit of \$5,044.84 while PSL has lost money on its Larwill Park to Horseshoe Bay operation, the manager said. Under the new deal, Blue Buses will outnumber the green and yellow PSL buses four-to-one, he said. The municipality just about breaks even on its new deal in comparison with the old. It will pay the B.C. Electric \$485 a month rent for the use of two bus bays and two parking lots

ABOUT NOW

Next Week Chamber Selling Phoney Gold Mine Shares

By JACK WASSERMAN

Blues For Boozers—At the last meeting of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce, member Bill Hardwicke produced a bottle of rye and offered it to chairman Rusty McDonald with the suggestion that the chairman auction the jar, with the proceeds going for a Christmas hamper for a needy family. After much haggling the bottle was finally auctioned for \$12. Then someone got the idea that everyone should buy a drink from the bottle. The price was 50 cents per shot shot. Another \$18 was raised and the members, filled with goodwill for the fellow who thought up this marvelous idea, prepared to drink a toast to him. They tossed back their drinks and started sputtering. The \$30 had been raised selling and reselling a bottle of cold tea.

Thomas Jacobi contained some stiff criticisms of our town's government but the weighty, 198-page document opened with the observation, "Vancouver is one of the youngest large cities in the world and one of the most beautiful." Now there's a guy who knows which side his bread is buttered on. . . . Canadian Fishing Company's Roger Hager is slated to be the new Canadian director of Crown Zellerbach. Announcement due next year. . . . John Deaschner resigned from the Junior Chamber of Commerce public relations post "to devote more time to his new super service station at Main and Second." His resignation followed a big argument within the Jaycee organization over the pay demands of some hired help on the Grey Cup dance. John followed to see the party paid. Fello walked up to the City Hall cashier this week and

paid over \$96.50 for a sewer connection. The payment was made up of 965 dimes.

Sight Angles—North Star sign over Eaton's Square advises, "Merry Christmas. It's Better to Sit Tight Than to Drive That Way." . . . City police spent three hours looking for a stolen car the other day before it was returned unharmed. The "thief" was city social services psychologist Marion Wilkinson who came out of her office, got into her car, placed the key in the ignition, started, and drove off. Only it wasn't her car. It was another English model that was identical, right down to the key required to start it. . . . City architect J. S. Mathews and civic authorities are in the process of agreeing on his successor. . . . Airline man Bud Walker reports that, on a recent motor trip to Seattle, he saw a tow truck hauling away a smashed-up hearse. Sign on the truck: "John's Body Shop." . . . Oh, what you see when you haven't got a camera: A Buster's tow truck towing away a Buster's tow truck from Eighth and Main, Wednesday night. . . . Everyone's doing it. Instead of giving presents to customers Vancouver Tug is donating the cash to the Commu-

ity Chest Christmas Fund. Nice.

Here 'n After—Shoplifter grabbed a radio from a Hastings street appliance store this week and was out on the sidewalk before an employee collared him. When the clerk demanded return of the radio the indignant "booster" demanded, "Let me see your badge." . . . Singapore hotelman Brian Gotfro in the city looking at hotel properties. . . . Freak radio conditions have jumbled communications of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and the RCMP on Vancouver island. The two forces can talk back and forth while the conditions persist. Do you always get your man, you all? . . . Once was a day when the Liberal nomination in Vancouver Centre was highly desirable, even to Mayor Hume. Some Liberals figure that Centre's refusal to nominate a candidate means the end of Art Laing's provincial leadership. . . . An exclusive city club collected \$15,000 from members for Christmas gratuities for the employees.

Wasserman — Suggested title for a new Canadian Army song: "She Was Swell to the Division but Rotten to the Corps."

Peephole on People—Civic efficiency survey report by

VANCOUVER'S GOAL 80 DEATHLESS DAYS Wednesday was No. 1 STAY ALERT — STAY ALIVE