

Tax Tale

Paid your city taxes yet? We did the other day and the total, as you can imagine, was a fairly large piece of change . . . \$288,000.

Mind you, we're not griping about it. No one's crazy about paying taxes but the company is well aware that you can't run a city and provide civic services without collecting money to meet the expenses.

But we would like to make one point . . . if the B.C. Electric were publicly owned,

we wouldn't be paying out that \$288,000. (Or any half-million in franchise fees, for that matter.)

Yes sir, we'd save the \$288,000 and the half million, because a publicly-owned system pays almost no taxes. But you wouldn't save anything . . . your property taxes would go up—you'd be paying your tax bill and ours, too.

That's a point to consider, next time the public ownership crowd talks about "taking over for the good of the people."

time, and he's still in brassy good voice—aided, as usual, by the personable Larry Parks in a pantomimic portrayal of the title role.

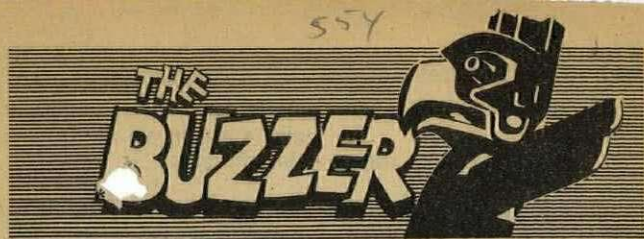
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Children's Fishing Derby at Stanley Park, Wednesday, July 12, commencing at 1.00 p.m. Full information regarding registration may be obtained by calling the Recreation Dept., Park Board, PAcific 1141.

Commencing Monday, July 10, Theatre Under the Stars presents "No, No, Nanette". Following this on July 17 is Victor Herbert's "Sweethearts".

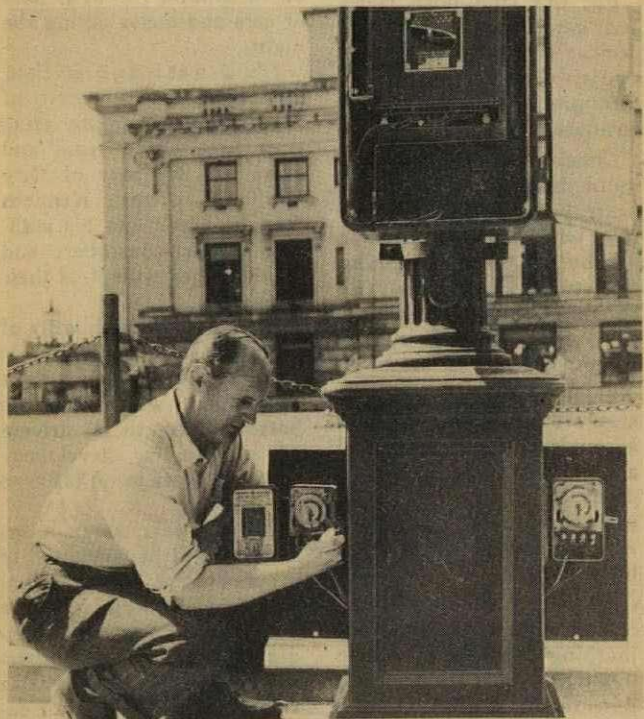
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Y.M.C.A. City Camps for boys and girls from 9 to 15 years offer splendid supervised holidays from now to August 11. For details contact Mr. Leslie, Y.M.C.A., 955 Burrard, PAcific 0221.



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Electrician Charlie Hayden and master-controller

Red, Green and Amber

The city's most complicated lamp-post stands near the Courthouse on Howe Street.

It looks like a thousand others around town as you walk by. Only this lamp-post ticks, quietly and without pause,

day in and day out, 365 days a year.

If the ticking ever stops, look out!

Like a heart quitting, it would create almost instant paralysis . . . all over downtown Vancouver traffic would bog down and clot.

For this lamp-post, ladies and gentlemen, houses the devices that control and coordinate traffic lights throughout the city's chief business area.

Considering the complexity of the system, the master controller looked unimpressive when Charlie Hayden of the city street lighting department unlocked the compartments in the lamp-post and showed us the equipment.

"Don't let it fool you," he said. "It looks simple—just a couple of time clocks and a box that ticks. But hundreds of miles of wire and cable lead away from here. And the insides are anything but simple."

* * *

Here's how it works. In the morning "rush-hour" (7 to 9.30 a.m.) most traffic heads downtown. So one of the time clocks "corrects" the lights to give cars and buses a lot of green travelling South to North.

Between 4 and 6.30 p.m., everyone starts homes. Traffic going north to south hits a peak. So another time

clock "corrects" the lights to give a maximum of green in this direction.

* * *

At other times, the lights are adjusted — again automatically—to a normal flow of traffic. Finally, at 1 a.m., the amber blinkers switch on to caution the light flow of cars and buses during the night.

It's a neat and efficient arrangement, the result of hard-headed planning that goes back three years and more on the part of City Traffic Engineer Kenneth Vaughn-Birch and his staff. The master-controller, and all that goes with it, is their baby.

Here are the highlights of an interview with them:

● The new double-light installation, which has the best visibility to all drivers of any so far developed, costs an average of \$2500 to set up.

● This year, seven intersections will be converted to the new type signal—Granville and Hastings, Georgia and Main, Beatty and Pender (these three are especially complicated by an extra "walk" light and are not coordinated at the present time); Terminal and Main, Victoria and Kingsway, Main and 2nd, Hastings and Renfrew.

● Twelve other intersections may get lights for the first time. City Council still

has to authorize seven, has okayed five — Hornby and Georgia, Hornby and Robson, Pender and Cambie, Homer and Georgia, Broadway and Renfrew.

● Checkers constantly record the flow and movement of traffic in the downtown area for continuing studies. If an intersection rates (on a special scale of factors) 300 or more, a traffic light is needed. Some of our corners rate as high as 580.

● A one-way street can carry at least twice as much traffic as a two-way street. For example, Seymour and Howe now handle a peak of 800 vehicles per hour. After the new Granville span is completed, and they become one-way, the flow will increase to around 1800 vehicles per hour.

● Two-light signals replaced by the new type are not scrapped . . . the individual lighting units are used to make up the new three-light equipment. 60-watt bulbs give all that brightness. Excellent reflectors are the reason. And incidentally, the bulbs are replaced at regular intervals, rather than waiting for them to burn out.

● Here are the speeds to travel and hit all the lights: Burrard, 25, both ways; Pender, 18 going West; Georgia, 20 going East; Howe, 20 going South; Seymour, 20 going North; Robson, 20 going West; Hast-

ings, 18 to Abbott going East and 20 thereafter.

● Cambie has an individual three-light system. Signals at 12th, Broadway and 6th are adjusted for 25 going north, 26 going south.

● Our traffic signal system compares with the most modern on the Continent, is improving each year. But you'll always be able to miss a light!

PICK OF THE *Pictures*
at the neighbourhood theatres

By CLYDE GILMOUR

Enchantment: This is what some people call, somewhat patronizingly, "a woman's picture." But many males are also enjoying its pleasantly nostalgic love-story, enacted by a good cast including David Niven and Teresa Wright.

Thieves' Highway: Hard-fisted melodrama along the San Francisco waterfront. Lee J. Cobb, Richard Conte and an Italian smoulderer named Valentina Cortesa are among the principals.

June Bride: Bette Davis as a bored women's-mag editor, Robert Montgomery as her stooge and suitor, invade a hick-town family with generally amusing consequences.

Jolson Sings Again: Nobody can complain that the ancient mammy-shouter doesn't warble enough this