

**SEVEN BURNED TO DEATH IN FIRE
AT MADOC MONDAY**

41.

A shocking tragedy occurred at Madoc Monday morning when Mrs. Thelma Ray, wife of Ephraim Ray, and six children were burned to death in a fire which destroyed their home. The children were Douglas, 13, Doreen, 10, Allen, 9, Ella, 5, Dianne, 3, and Emerson, 1 year.

The fire is thought to have started from an overheated stove. Ephraim Ray, husband and father of the victims and only member of the family to survive, is a truck driver for the Reliance Flourspar Mining Syndicate, and got up early as usual to do his chores before starting for work. He started a fire in the kitchen stove and then went to the stable to look after his two cows. The stable was not far from the house and Ray heard a muffled explosion and a sound like falling glass. Rushing out he saw the house in flames and made a number of attempts to enter the burning building to save his family, but was driven back by the intense heat. His cries attracted a number of residents, who were forced to stand by unable to avert the tragedy.

The volunteer fire brigade soon arrived on the scene and poured water on the burning building but were unable to check the flames and the house was soon a mass of smoking ashes and ruins. As soon as it was possible to enter the ruins a search party, led by Provincial Constable J.H. Hatch, raked among the ashes in clouds of smoke and steam to recover the bodies of the victims. All were burned beyond recognition.

The tragedy came just when the future was looking bright for the family. For some time Mr. and Mrs. Ray and the older children resided in the northern part of the county. Then they had purchased the property on the outskirts of Madoc and reconverted a small barn into a comfortable metal covered home. The last payment on the property had been made a few days previous and with his truck and a good job they were able to plan for the future.

November 21, 1946

The family were making new friends all the time. 42.
The older children attended public school and Sunday school and the oldest son had become a boy scout. Following the tragedy the public school was closed on Monday and also on Tuesday for the funeral.

Still dazed by the shock of the worst tragedy to strike the community in 53 years residents of Madoc on Tuesday paid final tribute to the victims of the disaster that took seven lives here early Monday morning. A sorrowing village turned out almost enmasse to pack Trinity United Church to overflowing as Rev. Alfred Poulter officiated at the funeral service of the late Thelma Ray, and her six children, victims of the early morning fire that destroyed their little metal sheeted home on the outskirts of the village.

In the solemn hush of the edifice, broken only by the heartrending sobs of the bereaved father and husband, Ephraim Ray, 32 year old truck driver, the minister paid eloquent tribute to a loyal mother and to her family.

Two steel caskets, banked high with floral tributes of white chrsyanthemums, contained the bodies of the fire victims. One held the remains of the mother and her 1 year old baby. The other contained the bodies of the other five children.

Buddies of dead 13 year old Douglas Ray, members of the Madoc Troop Boy Scouts in full regalia, formed a guard of honor outside the church and at the grave-side. The entire staff and pupils of Madoc Public School, paraded in a body to the church where they occupied special seats.

Head bowed and leaning heavily on the arm of a relative, the griefstricken father entered the church followed by a large number of mourners. He Maintained his composure until the brief ministeral eulogy then broke down. His heart wrenching sobs were heard over the minister's voice. Several women, tears streaming down their faces left the service. Men sobbed and school children cried unashamedly.

The funeral cortege was a mile and one half in length as a cross section of the village and community paid last tributes. Interment was made in Lakeview Cemetery. All places of business and schools were closed.

**WILLIAM WRIGHT STRUCK
BY HIT AND RUN DRIVER**

43.

Last Friday, March 19th, William Wright was struck by a car or truck, driven by a hit and run driver. He was found lying in a ditch near Peterborough with his hip and shoulder broken and a number of ribs crushed in. He was rushed to a Peterborough hospital, but died shortly after being admitted. The driver of the vehicle which struck him has not yet been found.

The late William Wright, or "Curly" as he was better known, was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright and was 56 years of age. He was born in Rawdon township and had lived most of his life in the district. For a couple of years he was employed at the Royal Hotel, leaving about a year ago. Recently he had been employed at a lumber camp near Peterborough.

The late William Wright is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Frank Riley, of Belleville. His former wife, who divorced him last year, also resided in Belleville. He is also survived by one brother John Wright, who lives in California.

The funeral took place from Comstock's Funeral Home, Peterborough, proceeding to St. Paul's Church, Marmora, where service was conducted by Rev. J. M. Brownlie. Interment took place in Mount Nebo cemetery, Springbrook.

March 15, 1948

**MRS. BETTY STOCKER WAS
KILLED IN ACCIDENT**

44.

A tragic accident, which resulted in the instant death of Mrs. Douglas Stocker, occurred on Fair night, Thursday, September 16th, and came as a shock to the whole community. Mr. and Mrs. Stocker had been to the home of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bailey, and were on their way back to Marmora when the accident occurred. Mr. Stocker was driving a panel truck belonging to Mr. Basil McTaggart and when coming down the hill in front of the former home of the late Ira Murphy, the brakes failed to hold the vehicle and the driver turned it into the bank in an effort to stop it. Instead of stopping it went up the side of the bank and toppled over. Apparently Mrs. Stocker partly opened the door to get out and when the truck upset her head was crushed between the door and the side of the vehicle.

Mr. Stocker ran back to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Vincent and called to Marmora Village for help. Dr. W. J. Donevan quickly responded and Provincial Constables J.H. Hatch and Thos. Lummiss, of Madoc, also rushed to the scene of the accident. As the accident to Mrs. Stocker was fatal, Coroner S.R. Beatty, of Madoc, was also called and after learning the particulars of the death decided no inquest was necessary.

The late Mrs. Stocker was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bailey, Marmora township, and was twenty-two years of age. She was the oldest of six children and is survived by four brothers - Douglas, Robert, Charles and Allan and one sister, Anna. She was married to Douglas Stocker in December 1946. The sympathy of the community goes out to the bereaved husband and her parents and other members of the family. For a few years she worked in the telephone office and made a lot of friends in the village.

September 30, 1948

The funeral was held on Saturday, September 18 th, service being conducted in St. Paul's Church by Rev. J.M. Brownlie. The service was attended by a large number and the many beautiful floral tributes were an evidence of the esteem in which the deceased was held. Interment took place in Marmora Protestant cemetery.

45.

**FLECKO PETE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE
AT DELORO BY HANGING**

46.

Late Tuesday afternoon Flecko Pete, a native of Russia who had been employed by Deloro Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. since shortly after the end of the first World War, was discovered hanging in the cellar beneath the rooms he occupied in the rear of one of the company's buildings. He was around in the forenoon and shaved shortly before 11 a.m. but later could not be found. When no response was made to a knock at his door an entrance was made and his body was discovered hanging in the cellar. Dr. Donevan was summoned and after examining the condition of the body estimated that death occurred about 11 a.m. Flecko Pete was of a quiet disposition and always got along well with his fellow employees. He is reported to have a wife in Russia and lately appeared to be brooding over something. He had returned home from a hospital a week or two ago. An inquest is considered unnecessary. The funeral will be held to-morrow.

November 24, 1949

WM. BEYETTE FROZEN TO DEATH

47.

Early Friday morning one of the employees of the Ackerman Mine found the body of William Beyette lying in the snow about 200 yards from the building where he had been living recently. He was 74 years of age and had lived in and around Marmora most of the time for the past 50 years, going away at times to take a job some other place. Little is known about his family, but he is believed to have one sister living.

On Thursday he was in Marmora until after noon, when he got a ride home in one of Joe Doyle's cars. He is reported to have been in Madoc later in the day, but no one appears to know when he started for home. Apparently he was overcome by the cold when he was almost home. Although he had received his old age cheque only a few days previous he had only one cent and a button in his pocket when found.

Cpl. Jack Hatch, of Madoc, investigated and called Coroner Dr. M. C. Dales of Tweed. After learning particulars available they got in touch with Crown Attorney B. C. Donnan at Belleville and it was decided no inquest was necessary.

The remains were taken to Madoc where they were prepared for burial. On Saturday the body was placed in the Vault in Marmora Protestant cemetery. When the weather moderates interment will take place in Zion cemetery.

February 15, 1951

FATAL MOTOR ACCIDENT HERE

48.

A well known resident of Marmora township for many years was instantly killed shortly before midnight Monday night, when John McCracken was struck by a light truck driven by Carl Simpson. The accident occurred on No. 7 highway, just east of the bridge over Crowe River. Mr. McCracken apparently was walking along the highway on his way home, and when he heard the truck turned around. It struck him with great force causing multiple fractures of his arms and legs and breaking his neck.

The accident was investigated by Cpl. Hatch and Provincial Constable T.L. Lummiss. Dr. S.R. Beatty, Coroner, of Madoc, was notified and directed that an inquest be held. The jury, composed of F.R. Loveless, foreman, Wm. Shannon, Major Percy Gray, A.M. Jones and Basil McTaggart, was empanelled and viewed the body. Jas. Gordanier, an acquaintance of many years, identified the deceased and the preliminary inquest was adjourned to be continued next Monday July 23, at 5 o'clock, when the Crown attorney will be present and evidence will be taken.

Following the preliminary inquest the body was released for burial.

John McCracken was born in Marmora township and lived most of his life in this district. For years he engaged in farming, living in what was called the "Irish Settlement" west of the village. He was 79 years and 8 months of age. In the 1920's he left Marmora and entered the employ of a construction company in the Niagara district. In 1927 he met with a very serious accident as a result of which his back was broken and he has been unable to work since, but received Workmen's compensation.

His wife, who before her marriage was Dorothy Phillips, a sister of Robert Phillips, of Marmora, predeceased him in July 1917. He was of a friendly disposition and was well known in the district. In recent years he had lived with his son Thomas, at Niagara Falls for most of the year, but came back to Marmora for the summer.

July 19, 1951

The late John McCracken is survived by two daughters and two sons. They are Mrs. John Buck (Bessie), Mrs. Leonard McCracken (Cora) Thomas and James, all of Toronto. He is also survived by two sisters and two brothers, Mrs. Robert Phillips, Winnipeg; Mrs. Annie McCracken, Toronto, and James and William, both of Toronto.

49.

The funeral will be held this afternoon, service being conducted in St. Paul's Anglican Church and interment taking place in Marmora Protestant cemetery.

JOHN McCracken INQUEST

The inquest into the death of John McCracken, who was fatally injured on the night of Monday, July 16, was held in the council chamber yesterday forenoon with Coroner Dr. S. R. Beatty, of Madoc, in charge.

The first witness was John Driscoll, formerly a corporal with the Provincial Police and an official photographer. He took a number of photographs at the scene of the accident which were produced and explained by the witness. Two or three showed the body of the deceased still caught between the hood and the headlight of the car. Others showed the roadway with glass on it and other evidence of impact. The photographs were passed to the jurors and examined by each in turn. The license plate on the truck was C30138.

Dr. H.G. Parkin was the second witness. He told of being called shortly before midnight on Monday, July 16, and proceeding to the scene of the accident. On examination he found McCracken was dead when he arrived. He gave the cause of death as multiple injuries and shock. On being questioned he stated that shortly after 1 a.m. he had taken a sample of blood from Carl Simpson, which he gave to Constable Lummiss.

W.B. Wilde was called and told of being in his bed where he had been reading, when he heard a bump or thud, not very loud. He looked out his window and saw a car or truck standing, but did not know anyone was hurt or killed until the next morning.

Constable Gould was called and told of sending the sample of Simpson's blood by registered mail to the Provincial Pathologist at Toronto. He also directed traffic, but did not take part in further investigation.

Cpl. Hatch told of receiving notice of the accident by telephone by midnight. Accompanied by the Coroner he proceeded to the scene of the accident about 12:14 a.m. Carl Simpson admitted to being the driver of the half ton truck and also consented to a blood test. He described the road as being paved and in good condition, and while it was raining a little driving conditions were good. 50.

Hatch described a quantity of broken glass, which was lying on the road, most of it on the south side of the white line. The glass was 48 feet east of where the truck was standing when he arrived. The left front headlight on the vehicle was smashed. A cane, which was identified as belonging to John McCracken and used continually by him, was found lying on the south side of the road 42 feet from the rear of the truck. A set of teeth were also found on the south side of the road. The truck was seized and taken to Walker's garage. There was no evidence of brake marks of any kind on the road.

Constable Lummiss gave evidence that he had forwarded the blood taken from Simpson to Toronto by registered mail. He had received a call from Mrs. Myrtle Yeomans stating that Simpson had been involved in a slight accident. When he arrived at the scene of the accident he found the body of the victim caught between the hood and the left headlight of the car. His evidence corroborated that of Cpl. Hatch. He gave evidence that Simpson had said he only had Richard Cole in the truck with him, but subsequent investigations had revealed that John Oscar Cole and Frank Nihill were also in the truck. Simpson definitely had been drinking but not drunk enough to charge with drunken driving.

James Gordanier was called to identify the deceased. He had known John McCracken for thirty-five years and was positive he was the man killed.

John Oscar Cole was summoned. He said he was in the back of the truck and could not see what had happened. He thought the accident occurred about 11:45 p.m. Monday evening. When questioned he admitted he had heard Simpson say "My God, I've hit John McCracken."

Richard Cole, son of the former witness, said he had joined Simpson at the hotel about 11 o'clock and had asked for a ride home. He was riding in the front of the truck with Simpson. He said they crossed the track and then he heard a thud. He claimed the lights were good but he couldn't see a man a few feet in front of the truck. There was no car approaching. He also claimed Carl Simpson did everything possible to avoid an accident, but was unable to tell anything he did. At the time of the accident when Simpson put the brakes on the car stopped pretty quick.

Frank Nihill was in the rear of the truck with John Oscar Cole. He frankly admitted he was intoxicated and unable to tell anything about what happened.

Eugene Brady stated that Simpson was at the hotel from shortly after 4 o'clock until the beverage room closed at 6:30 and again from around 9 o'clock until after 11 p.m. As far as he could tell from the bar he did not show signs of intoxication.

Frank Leal said he was serving customers in the beverage room. He served Simpson with about 6 draughts of beer. He did not show signs of intoxication or he would not have served him any more. He also served the Coles and Nihill during the evening.

Carl Simpson said the brakes on the truck would have stood relining, but were able to stop it. Questioned as to his condition when he left the hotel he said it was practically the same as when he went in.

The most impressive part of the evidence was given by Dr. Lucie, pathologist, who made the post mortem on the body. He described an amazing number of fractures of various parts of the body including the legs, the arms, the spine in two or three places, ribs on both sides, the breast bone and lacerations of various kinds and serious internal injuries.

While it was not directly brought out in evidence there must have been a terrific impact to cause so many and such serious injuries.

After the conclusion of the evidence the jury retired and after about an hour's deliberations brought in the following verdict.

" We the jury, after careful consideration have come to the conclusion that John McCracken met his death on No. 7 highway, west of the C.N.R. crossing and east of Crowe River bridge at approximately 11:45 p.m. on Monday July 16th, 1951. His death occurred as a result of multiple injuries when struck by a truck driven by Carl Simpson of the village of Marmora.

We feel that Mr. McCracken was negligent in being near the centre of the road and further that the driver was negligent in driving a truck that was not mechanically perfect as to brakes and lights."

DOUBLE FATALITY FRIDAY NIGHT

53.

Water dripping from her clothes, an hysterical woman staggered into a building plant near Havelock shortly after midnight Saturday morning crying " My little girl is in the water."

A few hundred feet away in an overturned car submerged in an isolated pond were the drowned bodies of a man and a three year old girl.

Victims of the double drowning were James Cooke, 19 of Cordova, and three year old Shirley Edwards. The woman was Mrs. John Edwards, also of Cordova, mother of the drowned girl.

The car was discovered in 12 feet of water in a small pond adjacent to the powerhouse shack of the Building Products Company Ltd., situated one half mile north of Highway No. 7., three miles east of Havelock.

The car had apparently been driven along the road from the highway to the plant and had plunged into the water. Recovered an hour after the car was found to have the window next the driver's seat open. The woman had crawled out of the window to safety. Cooke's body was found in the front seat next the driver, while the little girl was found slumped in the back.

Jack Fitzpatrick, employee of the Company, was at work, when the terrified woman came to the plant. With another employee he followed Mrs. Edwards to the scene of the drowning and immediately notified the police and called for assistance to extricate the car. An hour later it was brought to the surface.

Investigating police said that Cooke who was driving Mrs. Edwards and Shirley home took a wrong turn and the car plunged into the pond.

John Edwards, husband of Mrs. Edwards, learned of the tragedy when he returned home by train early today. He is a railway worker.

November 1, 1951

The couple have two other children,
Vanita, 13 and Thelma, 5.

54.

Cooke was the son of Mr. and Mrs.
Arthur Cooke, Cordova. The family
had lived in the village only 2 weeks.

Ontario Provincial Police Constables
Donald Erskine and George Rose, Campbell-
ford, together with Chief of Police
Wesley Hall, Havelock, investigated the
double drowning.

**THOMAS GRAY PASSES AWAY
AT MARMORA HOCKEY GAME**

55.

While attending the T.V.L. hockey match at Marmora arena last Friday evening, Thomas Gray suddenly expired, as a result of a heart condition. Though he had a heart ailment for some time, he was apparently as well as usual when he left for the game, but the excitement of the play proved fatal.

The late Thomas Gray was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Gray and was born in Blairton. He was 71 years of age and has resided in Marmora for about fifty-two years. In early life he was employed as a lumberman having worked for the Rathburn Company, The Pearce Company Ltd. and the late Wm. Hughes.

He learned the carpentering trade with his brother James, and worked on the erection of quite a number of buildings. He also worked for the Canada Cement Company for several seasons at their Lakefield or Point Anne plants. More recently he worked for the late G.B. Airhart in winter. For six years, during the summer months, he was caretaker at the Marmora Protestant Cemetery and had considerable to do with the great improvements in the appearance of the grounds.

For many years Mr. Gray was a member of the Marmora L.O.L. No. 319 and Golden Star Precinctory R.B.K. No. 748. He was of a friendly disposition and will be missed by a large number of relatives and friends. He was a hockey fan and was also interested in various other sports.

On August 4th, 1904, he was married to Mildred Davis, of Belmont township, who survives him. They had no children, but Truman Davis, a relative, was raised by them and treated as a son. Also surviving are four brothers, Asa, Trenton; George, Belleville; and Fred and Frank, Marmora, and two sisters, Mrs. S. Cummings (Margaret), Kingston, and Mrs. Robert Young (Sarah), Marmora Township.

January 31, 1952

The funeral was held on Monday afternoon, proceeding from his late residence to St. Andrew's United Church where service was conducted by Rev. George D. Young, B.A. B.D., who also conducted the committal service at the graveside in Marmora Protestant cemetery.

The pall bearers were Robert Gray, George Fox, Arthus Reynolds, Hubert Wright, Earl Lucas and Wellington McInroy.

HOCKEY, MARMORA DEFEATS FRANKFORD BEFORE LARGE CROWD

True to expectations, Marmora and Frankford meeting for the first time this season in the new T.V.L. schedule treated the 400 and more spectators to a fast and exciting game at the arena on Friday evening from which Marmora emerged victors to the extent of 7-5. Frankford led at the end of the first by 2-1, the homesters taking a little time to settle down. Marmora showed more aggressiveness in the second, chalking up four goals with Frankford only beating Killian once. The Red and Yellows added another couple to their score in the final period and Frankford replied with two more counters, the second of which occurred in the last minute of play.

FATAL AUTO ACCIDENT

57.

Raymond Earl Gray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gray died in Peterborough Civic Hospital on Sunday morning as a result of being struck by an automobile in Havelock on Friday evening. He had just started to cross the street and apparently did not notice an approaching automobile, which struck him causing multiple injuries. He was taken to Peterborough Civic Hospital, but his injuries were so serious, including a fractured skull, broken limbs, etc. that it was impossible to save his life.

Raymond Gray was born in Marmora and would soon have reached his 19th birthday. For the past year he had been employed by the Deloro Smelting and Refining Company Ltd. and previous to that worked for G.B. Airhart Lumber Co., after leaving school. He was of a quiet disposition and a good worker.

Besides his parents he is survived by one brother, Joseph, and two sisters, Olive and Betty, all at home. He is also survived by his grandfather Fred Gray, who resides here.

The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon, proceeding from his late residence to St. Andrew's United church, where service was conducted by Rev. Geo. D. Young, interment took place in Marmora Protestant cemetery. The remains were placed in the vault until spring.

The pall bearers were Ralph Empey, Henry Empey Roy Lake, Ross Lake, Herbert Williams and Patrick Quinlan.

February 14, 1952

ALMOND BOYD FOUND DEAD

58.

Last Friday morning Almond Boyd was found lying dead, almost on the door step of his home a few miles west of Marmora village. It is thought he died sometime the previous Saturday night as that was the last time he had been seen. The body was frozen solid and covered with snow.

The body was taken to Madoc where an autopsy was performed. Inspector Ralph Taylor of the Criminal Investigation Branch, Toronto, is in charge of an investigation being carried on by the Madoc detachment of the Provincial Police. The inquiry resulted from reports that the deceased had been in an altercation at a party and had been struck a blow which knocked him to the floor.

The late Almond Boyd was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Boyd. He was born in Marmora township, and was forty years of age and was unmarried. Recently he had been employed in connection with the erection of James Marett's new hardware store. It is stated that he had said he was going to Campbellford for a few days so no one worried over his absence for a time.

The late Almond Boyd is survived by one brother and three sisters. They are Harry, Marmora, Miss Leona Boyd, Toronto, Mrs. George Lummiss (Thelma), Madoc, and Mrs. Jack Gray (Jean) of Gananoque.

The funeral was held on Monday, service being conducted in Havelock United Church by Rev. R. G. Newman, interment took place in the vault at Maple Grove cemetery, Havelock.

March 13, 1952

THE ALMOND BOYD INQUEST

59.

An open verdict was returned at the inquest which was held in the court room, Madoc, on Monday inquiring into the circumstances surrounding the death of Almond Boyd, who was found dead outside his own home in Marmora township on March 7th.

After a lengthy hearing of evidence the jury turned in their verdict to Coroner Dr. S.R. Beatty late that afternoon as follows: "We, the jury, empanelled to inquire into the death of Almond Boyd of the village of Marmorro in the County of Hastings, find that he died on or about March 2nd, 1952, in the township of Marmora at his former residence, from exposure and cold."

The jury was comprised of the following: G. West, foreman, C. Whytock, P.H. Nayler, K. Connor and A. Bird.

Assistant Crown Attorney S.G. Robertson, Q.C., conducted the examination of the many witnesses, and also present were Inspector Ralph Taylor, C.I.D., and Regimental Sergeant Major K.W. Bishop from Camp Borden, attending officer for Private Keith Toms, important witness in the case.

EVIDENCE ACCEPTED

Evidence of George Lummiss, brother in law of the deceased identifying Boyd and given at the formal hearing, was accepted. Dr. H. Lucke, pathologist of Belleville, gave testimony concerning the autopsy performed at Duffin's Funeral Parlor, Madoc.

He mentioned there was evidence of deceased having been exposed to cold and of his nose being broken in two places as though injury had been inflicted by a blunt object. There had been bleeding from this and from small abrasions about the face. In the windpipe there was a small amount of blood mixed with mucus. He was inclined to the opinion that the greater part of the bleeding had occurred while Boyd was alive.

Under cross examination he stated he did not think the injuries normally had been sufficient to cause death but rather the exposure, high amount of alcohol in the body and possible stunning effects of a fall. He also gave results of his analysis of the heart and bladder.

Constable R.J. Rackhaam of the O.P.P. produced and furnished particulars of photographs taken commencing March 7th under instructions of Corporal Jack Hatch of the O.P.P.

The latter, in giving evidence described the residence and its occupancy by the family. He described the position of Boyd's body as found by him on his arrival at the scene. At first, he had been unable to distinguish who the deceased was.

He then related how he had superintended the removal of snow for the purpose of photography. On his arrival at the scene, he met Harold Russell, Clarence Wallbridge and Arthur Peters, the last two named, having been the persons to discover the body.

FOUND STAIN ON SEAT

Corporal Hatch next narrated how he proceeded to the home of Charles Head of Dummer township to ascertain if he owned a green car and had been in the company of Boyd. Head had made a statement to that effect. Later he examined Head's car to find at the rear of the front seat a large stain about eight inches long, appearing to be that of blood. This was not suitable for analysis.

On March 13th with Inspector Taylor he proceeded to Camp Borden to interview Private Keith Toms. Previously he had interviewed Mrs. G. Ellis, sister of Toms, at her mother's home in Belmont twp. Mrs. Ellis made a statement as to her brother's activities when Boyd was with him. Toms was on leave from Camp Borden as he was on draft for Korea.