

THE GYROLOG



THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
— EDMONTON — ALBERTA

December 10, 1984.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 18, 1984, Edmonton Petroleum Club at 12.15 p.m.

ERRATUM

Murray and Eva Pawlings' Apartment Number should read 1703.

HOCKEY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Game No. 4, December 1, 1984

\$25.00 - Ruth Millar, Ticket No. 1013; Art Westworth, Ticket No. 1101;
Marlene, Ticket No. 1025; Frank Dove, Ticket 1113.

Game No. 5, December 8, 1984

\$10.00 - Jack and Alex, Ticket No. 1049; Heather Rankin, Ticket No. 1179.
\$15.00 - Barclay Johnson, Ticket No. 1041; Cory Russell, Ticket 1171.
\$25.00 - Wayne Lawton, Ticket No. 1061; Harf Watson, Ticket No. 1191.

THIS WEEK

President Allan extended congratulations to the following: Bert Boren for his being the recipient of an Achievement Award for his devoted community work; John Pedden on his election as President of the Edmonton Shrine Club for 1985; Mort Morter on his election as Treasurer of the Edmonton Shrine Club for 1985.

Marty Larson introduced Don and Bill Agnew, sons of Birt and Jack Agnew. Elmer MacGillivray, Chairman of the Christmas Bureau Fund, spoke on the great necessity for contributions to provide some Christmas cheer for the needy during these harsh economic times. He expressed particular thanks to the news media and to the Edmonton Firefighters under Fire Chief Bob Walker for their splendid support. He stated that contributions could be left at any Edmonton Fire Hall or the Westin Hotel which had generously provided office space for the Bureau.

It was moved by Mort morter and seconded by Gordon Rennie, that a contribution of \$200.00 from the Benevolent Fund be made to the Edmonton Christmas Bureau. Carried.

2nd Lieutenant Governor Marty Larson presented long time member ^{Bernie Brown} with his 40-Year Certificate. Russ Carter also spoke briefly of his association with Bernie over the years.

Boyd Slavik won the draw.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

A very successful Christmas Party was held on Friday, December 7, 1984 at Banquet House Ltd. with some 60 members and guests in attendance. Following dinner, dancing was enjoyed to music played for the worshipers of Terpsichore. Incidentally it was a financial success. A special thanks to John Ross and his committee for their organization of this delightful social function.

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CURLING

At the recent District VIII Curl-a-Rama held at Banff 73 Gyros attended with 16 full rinks curling. The winners follow:

A Event - Calgary No. 1 - Fred Gossett (Skip). B Event - Stampede City - Ralph Dowson (Skip). C Event - Trail - Norm Hinton (Skip) D Event - Nelson - Alan Palmer (Skip) EDMONTON * Also-ran.

And speaking of curling as we were just above, it has made remarkable progress over the past half century, with bonspiels in every small country town, the Canadian Brier Championship Event, Big Money Cash and Car Bonspiels, and the Silver Broom emblematic of the World Curling Championship.

(over)

Perhaps the two most important advances over the years were the installation of artificial ice plants and the club purchases of matched sets of rocks. The writer recalls many years ago of the struggle of one small town to build a curling rink and organize a club.

There were a number who were interested in curling but no one had any money to invest. The bank manager, an ardent curler himself, was determined to get a rink built. So he offered to advance a bank loan provided he could get enough guarantors.

A 2 - sheet natural ice rink was eventually constructed largely with volunteer labor, but then came the problem of equipping it with stones. The town and countryside were canvassed in search of at least 16 pairs. 13 pairs were located and these included one pair of iron stones, smaller and lighter than the regular granite stones. These had been brought over from the Old Country by an elderly Scottish farmer.

The bank ^{loan} had been exhausted in buying materials for the building, so a few of the more affluent citizens were asked to dig down and purchase the three more pairs of rocks needed.

Generally speaking in every small town of that day there was one individual who as the saying goes, "Owned the town." He often operated the largest and most successful general store, owned considerable property in town, perhaps had the title to several farms, and held mortgages on a number of others.

Bob, a bachelor, was our man. He could readily alone have financed the rink and the rocks without batting an eye. But he had no interest in curling or any other sport. His main aim was to keep taxes down and as a council and school board member he did his best. He was approached by the club president to purchase a set of rocks.

"How much are they?" asked Bob. "Forty dollars a pair," replied the president. "I'll buy one," offered big-hearted Bob.

After a brief explanation he went for the two and the club was off and running.

It must be said, in all fairness, that Bob was not quite the Scrooge that the above might suggest, because some years later when he was ready to retire, he set up in business one of the present owners of the Pan-American Motel.

P.S. NOTE WELL

Because New Year's Day falls on the first Tuesday in January, 1985, the meetings that month will be held at the Petroleum Club on the second and fourth Tuesdays, January 8 and 22, 1985.

And have a joyous Christmas

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