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Along the Boards

with Wheldon Emmerson

A few years ago it was really something for a hockey team to land in the opponents' arena and have a fire already lit in the dressing room stove for them. The boys usually had to muster all hands and break up old boxes (or old benches) to provide enough fuel to last the length of a game. Once the fire was started the "cagey" guys would park beside, and on top of the stove so they could throw more wood on without disturbing the poor shivering souls in their birthday suits at the far end of the dressing room. One fan was always given a free pass to stay in the dressing room and keep the bid stove "stoked up". If the fan was a good scrounger the Arena Board usually found the odd row of rear seats missing. As they had to stand up to see anyway, no one missed them except the caretaker. In the last few years things have changed, fancy lobbies, ushers, huge ice surfaces, surrounded by brightly painted seats, all numbered and marked off in rows. Now they even have a nice little wire cage with a seat in it for the goal judge. They have done away with the old idea of the goal judge behind the net waving a white handkerchief. There were several reasons for dispensing with this method.

1. Dirty hankies (in the more rural areas the large polka dot size was used).
2. Too many cases of goal judges waving to friends in the crowd and therefore causing arguments as to whether a goal had been scored or not.
3. Dodging or ducking (a goal judge usually had to be pretty nifty on his feet to dodge or duck exceptionally hard shots or body checks).
4. Imbibing. The team that was playing at home usually had the advantage because if the town was wet they could make sure the goal judge was in rare form to perform by giving him a few good snifters (Lord only knows they needed them in those days) before the game.

5. Last but not least, Medical Fees. It was found if a wrong decision had been given by the goal judge and the opposing team took offence and decided to do something about it, the goal judge's speed was cut considerably by the heavy boots he usually wore and so before managing to escape unscathed, the doctor usually had to be summoned to repair the system.

This applies to more modern places—but not Fergus. One thing in their favour, they had a cage for the goal judge. Their goal net were not fastened too securely, and every once in awhile it would go all the way away and time would be called until it was replaced. Captain Kenny Nash went charging in on the goal keeper once, failed to get stopped and took goal, net and all with him. If it hadn't been for the boards we honestly believe we would have had to organize a posse to find Nash, Robson, the Fergus goalie and the net.

Yes, Fergus have a lot of things missing in their rink, heat, seating, lobby, etc, but they feel as we do we guess—as long as the hockey game was a good one, no one would miss the fancy stuff too much.

EVERYTHING IN GENERAL

Oakville have four new players on their team. At the start of the season it was doubtful if they would make the grade as an "A" team but they stand an excellent chance of copying first place in the A group. Weston have slipped badly of late and in order to beat Oakville they will have to pull up their socks.

Someone spread some gossip about a couple of the local players having a great time on the bus to Fergus last Friday night. For the benefit of the wife and girl friend of the two players in question, they were very quiet and polite during the whole trip. Now gals, let the boys play hockey and no more of this "if you dare go to

that blankety-blank Arena I'll divorce you."

The Junior team went to Dundalk last Friday night and took on the Dundalk Intermediate club. Although the boys were beaten, the Dundalk team gave them a rare old time with a lunch party after the game.

Max Bradbury received a hard check during the last Fergus game and has a mighty sore knee. Nick Ferri has missed the last two games—imagine the guy went to California! If he wanted to shovel snow he could have come to Georgetown.

This one is on myself. Before departing for Fergus last Friday the evening chores had to be looked after, coal up, oil stoves filled, ashes dumped, etc. We threw on a battered old hat covered with dirt, dust and paint to do these chores. It wasn't until we tipped our hat to a slick chick in Fergus that we realized by the feel we were wearing the old stand-by.

From the window of the bus coming home from Fergus we saw several local cars parked along the way. Gosh, fellows if you were out of gas you could have flagged the bus.

Alas! Alas! Provincial trimmed the Businessmen in their last struggle in the Industrial League. When we says struggle we mean it. There is lots of "hustle" getting on the ice but it is a "struggle" to get off. Smith and Stone still hold top place with Provincial right behind them, Alliance and Businessmen are tied for third and Meadowglen Growers are the tail enders.

Russ Bowman, coach of the Intermediates, brought his young son along to the last practice. One of the players asked him how his small brother was "OK, I guess" was the reply. "Can he talk yet?" asked the local player. "Sure," said the lad, "now we're teaching him to shut up."

They tell me there is a grand old lady in town here, 88 years of age who reads this column and enjoys it very much. We would like to wager she is a real hockey fan.

We hear from our "spotters" we are as popular as a skunk at a garden party in Acton.

LIMEHOUSE

May's Orchestra provided music for dancing at the Hall on Tuesday evening last week. Winners at euchre after several cuts were Mrs. F. T. C. Brown and Mr. George Burt.

Mr. Alex Wright was home from Toronto for the week-end. Recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones were his mother, Mrs. Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Gould and Norma of Woodbridge on Sunday and Miss Lois Mills of Georgetown for the week-end.

Miss Doris Mitchell was home with a heavy cold all last week but resumed her teaching duties in Toronto again Monday.

The village children enjoyed a tobogganing party and a late supper with Nell and Bert Benton on Monday evening.

Mr. William Shelbourne is enjoying a few days fishing near Barrie.

Mr. W. I. Newton of Barrie visited his mother and aunt here on Sunday.

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