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Legion Notes

WE'VE BEEN asked why the silence last week in this corner . . . Well, it was a combination of too much work around the office to get the time to write plus the Herald being a day late coming out . . . result — Legion Notes were lost in the scramble. However, we'll try to bring everything up-to-date.

THE LAST general meeting was well attended and marked "finis" until the Fall. (And with the heat in the upstairs, the way it was at the last meeting) we can't say we are very sorry.

The meeting opened at 8 p.m. sharp with the president in the chair. After the opening ceremony and silence had been observed, the minutes of the past monthly and executive meetings were read and confirmed. Another three applications were presented and were declared eligible for initiation. The various committees, including sick, entertainment, property and sports gave reports through their chairmen. The committees were complimented on their fine reports. Under general business a number of important items were brought up. The zone picnic was regarded as so successful that it was decided to try and hold a picnic later in the year for the entire branch. This was left to the executive to see if a suitable date and grounds could be arranged. Also under the heading of general business the idea was put forward of the branch investigating the possibilities of making a park or playgrounds for kiddies somewhere central in the town for the use of the district youngsters.

President Les Clark then called on the Sgt-at-Arms Jack Kerr to escort Com. Dave Bowman to the front of the hall to receive his past president's jewel.

A number of other matters were brought up before the meeting adjourned at 9.05.

THE PLAYGROUND or park idea seemed to stir considerable enthusiasm and it was decided to start at once to see what could be done, by forming a committee of five — President Les Clark and Comrades Jim Murphy, Marsh Timbers, Dave Bowman and Ralph Hawes. The idea was to get it going for the children right away, but one snag has already turned up in that service on suitable playground equipment is not too fast these days, and several weeks will be necessary before delivery, due mainly to the present material shortage. Another snag, is of course, location but at least one central spot has been mentioned and we understand the possibilities of acquiring it are fairly bright. However our personal hope is that a fair-sized piece of land can be obtained, so that if the members so desire, the project can be made into a long term one, so much being done each year . . . This way, we see no reason why we couldn't also in time have as well as swings and slides, and a playground, possibly a wading pool for the kiddies . . . and just by way of dreaming maybe by a lot of hard work and community as well as branch effort, some time in the not too distant future we could spark a community drive for Georgetown's greatest need, a swimming pool! As we said, this latter would be a tremendous project, but could be done, if organized properly. However, to get back to the projected park, we feel that the Branch would be well to obey that old maxim about "fools rush in where angels fear to tread" and plan well, for the future as well as the present. More about this project next week, as the first definite move will

be to see if any property is available before the committee can even order the playground equipment.

THE BALL club social evening on Friday night was very nice, although not as many there as expected. However, an excellent time was had by all, although one of the boys helping out asked us to stick a note in here saying "where were all those enthusiastic helpers who promised to get down to give us a hand and didn't arrive?" Maybe the family head wouldn't let them out. Anyway it was a really nice party for Legion members and their ladies and everyone we have talked about it with, reports an excellent time.

AND BELOW the other entertainment was also on a par with other years. Thanks to you too, boys. Last winter a general meeting decided not to hold anything on the Dominion Day week-end, so it would have been a dull week-end if it hadn't been for you.

AND IN CASE you didn't know, our Legion ball team is still whipping everything in sight, not only locally, but also having played Acton and won, and Brampton. They have one complaint, tho', and as far as we can see it's a legitimate one. The support they are getting is almost nil . . . except for the faithful few Legion members and wives who go out there night after night, they have no rooting section, and that is far from good. And we'll be the first to admit, the writer himself is a prime offender. Unfortunately, for him the ball games always fall on Tuesday and Thursday nights, which between getting this column ready for Wednesday's paper, on a Tuesday night, and the Legion's regular meetings and executive meetings on Thursday, it just hasn't been possible to date. However, with the holidays starting after this week, we will be on hand, we hope, and will try and gather up a few of the Branch to come along. How about it, Comrades, you've got a ball team that have gone all out and paid for every solitary bit of equipment without asking the Branch for a nickel, and making a bit for us as well. You've had their support. How about giving them yours where it will do the most good — at the next game?

HEARD SOME real fish stories last week-end. A lot of the boys have been really pulling them in, or so they tell us. Alex Taylor was away fishing over the week-end but as yet we haven't heard what kind of a catch he had. Bill Tuck and Chuck Davies were out on Georgian Bay up above Lions Head on the holiday week-end and reported a real good catch. (Chuck says it was a whopper and Bill confirms his story). The Rayners, Orval and Len, have both been out doing some fishing too. Both of them are ardent fishermen and in fact Len is one of the ones who first brought up the idea of forming a group of fishermen in the Branch. The idea has merit boys, and we're behind you one hundred percent in bringing a new activity into the Branch. If we had our way, we'd like to see hobbies within the branch, to take care of every want of the members. After all that is the primary purpose of the Legion, to bring together all members in a spirit of friendship, in one building where they can get together when and as often as they see fit. The Branch beverage room is not, and should not be considered the only

sphere of "activity" around the hall . . . With this point in view, we'd suggest that a good many who do not drink, but who are eligible for membership would be surprised at the number of non-drinking members who spend their spare evenings in the branch over a "coke" or soft drink while playing darts, crib, bridge, pool, watching television shows or just plain "chewing the fat" with old buddies. And as the years roll by, it becomes even more interesting to talk over service days. So to non-members, we might just add "maybe you ought to try it fellows. At least drop in and see what actually goes on before forming any set opinions on the matter."

THANKS TO Frank Cleave from the members for his donation of "slick" magazines. The reason we mention this after all this time, is that members are constantly enquiring if the Branch is subscribing to Esquire and the others. So now you know.

ONE OF THE new faces you see at the Dart board, and around the branch is Jack Whitaker, brother-in-law of Comrade Charlie Boyle, who just arrived from Edinburgh, Scotland. Jack and the writer had a chat the other day, and it turns out Jack is a former "pigeon" too, having served in the Far East, with the RAF. Jack says he intends to join the branch as soon as he gets settled. Jack and his wife are living with Charlie and Mrs. Boyle until they get located in town.

SHOOTING THE breeze with a group of the ball team last Thursday night, and found out that it is just about time for us to "kick thru" with a promise we made at the start of the season. (Still figure Scotty had forgotten all about it, if Chub hadn't reminded him, when Scotty started to fumble it! So just let's know when, fellows.

WHAT HAPPENED to our correspondent from the Imperial Section this month? We have no report of their meeting as yet.

RECEIVED A letter from the sales department of the John Labatt Ltd. firm, saying that they had just made a second shipment of Anniversary Ale to our boys in Korea. They had sent a previous shipment a couple of months ago of 41,320 quarts. My, my!

Dominion President Alfred Watts, said that this was a wonderful step in the right direction as except for this and a few other shingib exceptions little real interest has been shown in the welfare of our boys overseas.

WE HAVE HAD news from Ptes. Beerman and Edmunds that they have received cigarettes from the Branch. So it's nice to know that they are getting through, and no doubt the other boys from town will get theirs in due course. If any relative has names to add to our list, lets have them. Already three months cigarettes have been sent from the Branch.

SOME TIME ago we were sending out notices of activities to all our members, and sent one to Com. Mike Lorusso, along with a note from the writer. So the other day we had a very interesting and informative letter from him about what he's seen and his impressions of Korea. So we reprint the letter for Mike's many friends. Headquarters Coy., 2nd Batt. RCR., June 16th, 1951

Hello Les: Thanks very much for the activities card from the Legion and your note. I take it from the card that the Legion is really operating full speed ahead these days. Here's the best to you and the rest of the boys.

Well I'll give you a briefing on what our outfit has done since they left Fort Lewis in the middle of April. We landed in Pusan on May 4th, and stayed about eight miles out for a week, then the rifle company came north by train, while the rest of us went up by vehicle. It took three days to get to Seoul. The roads are either very muddy or very dusty, depending on the weather. The two most modern cities are Taejon and Seoul, which are pretty well flattened, though they have some paved streets and modern buildings still standing. The city hall in Taejon was the only building standing about three square blocks. All the windows were broke in it and across the front they had a big sign saying: "Thanks to the U.N. Forces" which kind of struck us funny, as you could take it either way.

After arriving at Seoul the Brigade went in to action. It was about two weeks after that when the RCR's made their rush across the "parallel" penetrating to about six miles through the rain and mud, which is typical "Chinese" fighting weather, as in that sort of weather we do not have air support.

You'll be real interested to know that support from the air force is simply tremendous, as long as the weather is good enough to let them see.

Soon after this we were pulled out and shifted around to join up

TRAVEL NOTES



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with the rest of the Commonwealth Division. As I write this we are in camp reserve expecting to move in again real soon. We are camping in a graveyard here, which are all on hills, and the richer you are the higher up the hill you are buried. This country is nothing but hills and valleys with rice paddies going practically to the tops of some of the higher hills.

Well, I guess that's all for now. As yet I haven't received the cigarettes from the Branch, but parcels take an awful long time to come out here so I expect they will be along.

Mike.

(When you read this in the Herald, Mike just remember the best wishes of all the members are with you, and we hope that you, and all the rest of the local boys will soon be back home again.

THE CHIEF pensions officer of the Legion, Richard Hale, passed away recently and has been succeeded by a young (29) man, Don Thompson in this difficult post. Mr. Hale was well known to many of the older members, and had gained fame in the whole of Canada for his constant work for pensioners.

APOLOGIES THIS week to Com. Tom Nelle, who had transferred to Branch 120 when he moved here from Acton. A few weeks we mentioned, regarding the essay contest that two were children of Legion members. Actually, three were, as Miss Nelle was first prize winner in the high school division.

COM. TOM ALLEN, recently let us have a very interesting book to read. He obtained it when in England with the army in the first war, and is an "Exposition of the Creed" printed in London in 1878! This book is in remarkably good condition and very interesting to look through. The typography is quite a bit different to today's standards, but it quite easily read. An interesting fact, on examination was that by comparison only one word in the Creed has changed . . . "which" to "who." The book, evidently was printed as an explanation of the Creed by the Bishop of Chester. Another interesting feature is that marginal quotes are also included in at least four other languages . . . Italian, Greek, Latin and Arabic. This book of Tom's is indeed a valuable one, and we don't blame him for prizing it highly.

—Les Clark



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