

LEGION NOTES

ROUND THE ROOMS

Big Vimy night in Brampton Legion Hall on Friday night. We understand quite a number will be attending. Should be quite a LARGE evening. Many favourably comments about the return to the Legion Notes last week of an old reliable source of copy (the one who surveyed the recreational scene at 3 a.m.)... that had has always made good copy. "Keep it up, boy, as long as your friends keep printing them." Incidentally, the writer had quite a practical joke played on him recently. Some time ago, we subscribed to some magazine, Sports Illustrated, and when a few back issues had collected, we put them in the Legion for anyone to read. A character snipped out one of the subscription blanks, filled in four names of friends, and sent it in to the company. In due course we get an invoice for \$25.50 for four "gift" subscriptions. We wrote the circulation department, and they are trying to pin it down. They have cut off the four subscriptions, naturally, with a letter of explanation to each one. What a character dreamed that one up! The moral is, don't leave any magazines around where anyone can read them, there seems to be a character in every crowd! The magazine refuse to think it's funny, and are having it investigated, on the grounds of forgery, taking the attitude that it was the same as a blank cheque. Personally, we think we can guess who the joker was and would think it awfully humorous to watch him talk his way out of that one!... Darts are going to be the order of the day in the near future, and with the number of teams competing it should be a real tournament. Arrangements for the annual hockey banquet are well under way and it is hoped to make this a big event. The Globe and Mail carried an interesting article on the Legion in an issue last week, and the article is reprinted in this issue of the Herald.

CANADIAN LEGION BROADENS POLICY

By Ralph Hyman
In the Toronto Globe & Mail
Without fanfare and with little public notice, the Canadian Legion has broken down the walls of its self-imposed isolation to become a national body dedicated to communal good works as well as to furthering the welfare of veterans.
This significant change in Legion policy is not yet concluded but it is safe to say that fully 70 per cent of the 2,000 Legion branches across Canada are dedicated to the proposition that as citizens as well as veterans, they have a community responsibility which must be met.
The Canadian Legion today no longer exists as an out and out pressure group intent on a single, worthwhile but admittedly narrow field of activity. It no longer lives within itself, feeding on real and fancied grievances and moving along the old groove of pressure tactics.
No single factor is responsible for the changed thinking of an organization which represents some 250,000 men and women. But one factor might be said to be the chief contributor to the new maturity of the Legion, and that is the successful campaign waged over the years to obtain just treatment for veterans. Virtually all the major objectives of the Legion with respect to Government legislation have been achieved, and today Legion officials freely admit that in its treatment of veterans, Canada takes second place to none.
Having attained its major objectives, the Legion found that it had created a vacuum, and that this emptiness had to be filled or the Legion's forward momentum would grind to a halt. The sense of injustice that had served as a spur to the Legion in its campaign to arouse government and the nation to the needs of the veterans disappeared with the fulfillment of its pledges to its own membership.
And so the Legion leadership struck out on a new course. In 1948 it began the long-term project of getting the Legion branches to break down the walls of their ivory towers and come out in to the world. It urged participation in community programs of all sorts, in boys' work, in sports promotion, in scholarships for the children of veterans and in a dozen other channels.
What has been the result? Major Patrick Biggs, the secretary of the Ontario Command, has the answer. He says: "This broadening of our interest has brought with it an increase in membership. More and more professional men... lawyers, doctors, engineers... are joining Legion branches. They are attracted by the kind of work we are doing. Those branches which continue to live within themselves are losing membership. They have lost the spark."
There was a time not so long ago when many people regarded Legionnaires as a bunch of old swells guzzling beer in canteens and swapping lies about their military exploits. Old soldiers do seem to consume plenty of beer, but this social phase of Legion life is only a small part of the story. Fewer than one third of the Legion branches hold beer licenses, and secretary Biggs becomes more than a little indignant when someone hints that beer drinking is the major occupation of old swells — that and playing bridge. This used to be civilian Legionnaires. It was never Legionnaires, and it is even less

so today.
"The Legion member of today is alive to his communal responsibilities, to the need of helping others," Secretary Biggs asserts. "He is rooted in the soil of his community."
The new policy of Legion participation in all worthwhile activities on a community basis does not mean that the movement's leadership has turned its back on Ottawa. It still presents an annual brief to the federal cabinet and at the moment it is keeping an eye on a measure to boost pensions for burnt-out veterans, which is now in committee stage.
The changed emphasis in policy is paying off for the Legion in more than increased membership. It is yielding substantial dividends in public goodwill. When a Legion branch sponsors sports programs for children, public speaking contests for public and high school children, finances scholarships, operates a summer camp for underprivileged youngsters, and cooperates with the local service clubs, the public soon becomes aware of what is happening.
No longer is a Legion member regarded as an individual interested solely in his own welfare and with "the world owes me a living" complex. The identification of the Legion with good works has proved beneficial in every respect.
The Legion operates six service

bureaus in Ontario. These are at Toronto, Hamilton, London, Windsor, Ottawa and North Bay. Each is fully staffed with trained officers who are responsible for covering a given area and consulting local branches on various problems. Last year the Ontario Command spent \$71,000 in this work, and 80 per cent of the veterans assisted were not legion members. The Legion does not differentiate.
There are roughly 1,500,000 war veterans in Canada, but only 250,000 of them hold membership in the Legion. Ontario with 535 chapters, comprising 71,875 members, has 24 per cent of the eligible veterans in the provincial command. This is the highest paid-up membership in the 30-year history of the organization. There are 325 ladies' auxiliaries in the command.
Sudbury with 1,800 members has about 70 per cent of eligibles. Toronto has 12,000 Legionnaires, but this represents only 9 per cent of the total in this area. The backbone of the Canadian Legion is the branch with a membership of 75 or less. In Legion activity, as elsewhere, there appears to be no virtue in size alone.
In this era of the cold war, the Canadian Legion is growing in membership and growing in its understanding of the scope of the peacetime program it has set for itself.

Harold Brain Enrols In Gardening Course

Harold A. Brain, Norval, is among the 10 young Canadians who have enrolled in the three-year residential course of the Niagara Parks School of Gardening, in an announcement of M. T. Gray, general manager of the Niagara Parks Commission.
Along with classmates, he will study agriculture, horticulture and floriculture both in classroom sessions and outdoors on the school's extensive grounds, located four miles north of Niagara Falls on the scenic Niagara Parkway.
The school, unique of its kind in North America, has an enrollment of eight in each of the second and third years of the course, bringing the total to 20 students. Owned and operated by the Niagara Parks Commission, the school was founded in 1937.

Canada Bred Holstein Huge Lifetime Total

One of the great milk producers of the Holstein breed is Lornabelle Doreen Pasche. She has a lifetime total production of 238,955 lbs. milk (95,582 quarts) and 8,433 lbs. fat, 3.53 per cent butterfat. This total was made in twelve lactations, seven of them on twice-a-day milking.

Lornabelle was bred by Victor J. Lawrence, Oakville. She made her first three records in the Lawrence herd, and then was sold to Merle H. Greene, Elsie, Michigan.
Contrasting with Lornabelle's great lifetime record is that of the Canadian Champion for lifetime milk production, Susie Korndyke Payne Lass, with 230,179 lbs. milk and 7537 lbs. fat made in nine lactations. This record was completed in 1944, in the

herd of Eaton Hall Farm, King, Ont. Lornabelle's best yearly record was 29,906 lbs. milk and 1,044 lbs. fat made as a nine-year-old on three times-a-day milking.
—The gardeners are out in full force these days, preparing land and planting early crops. The evening air is heavy with smoke, too, as people rake the winter's debris from lawns.

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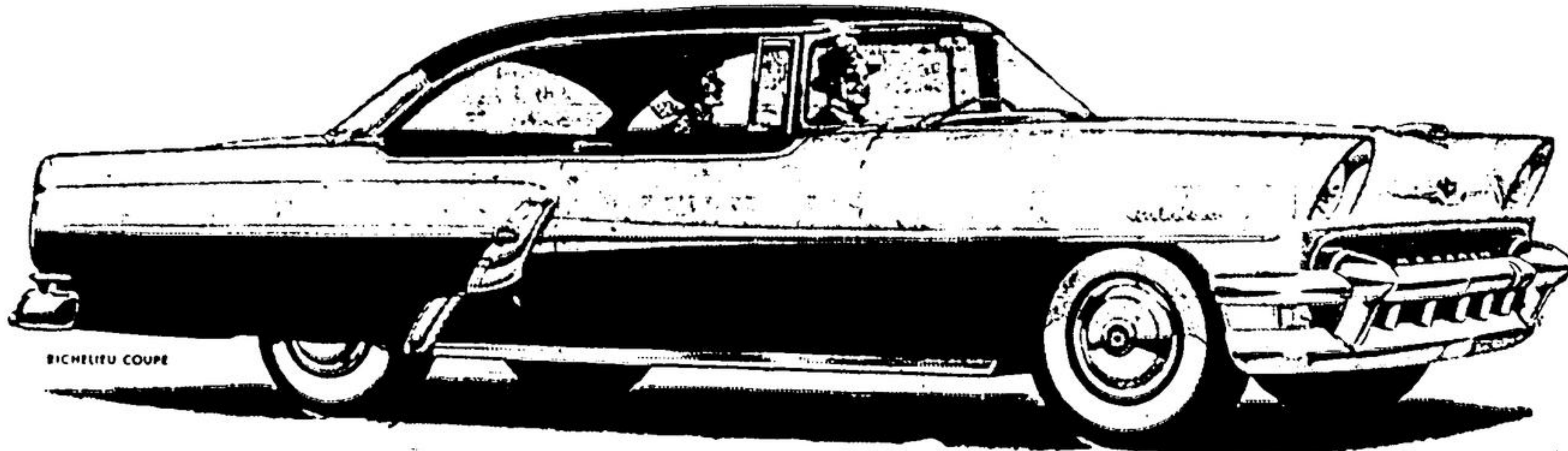


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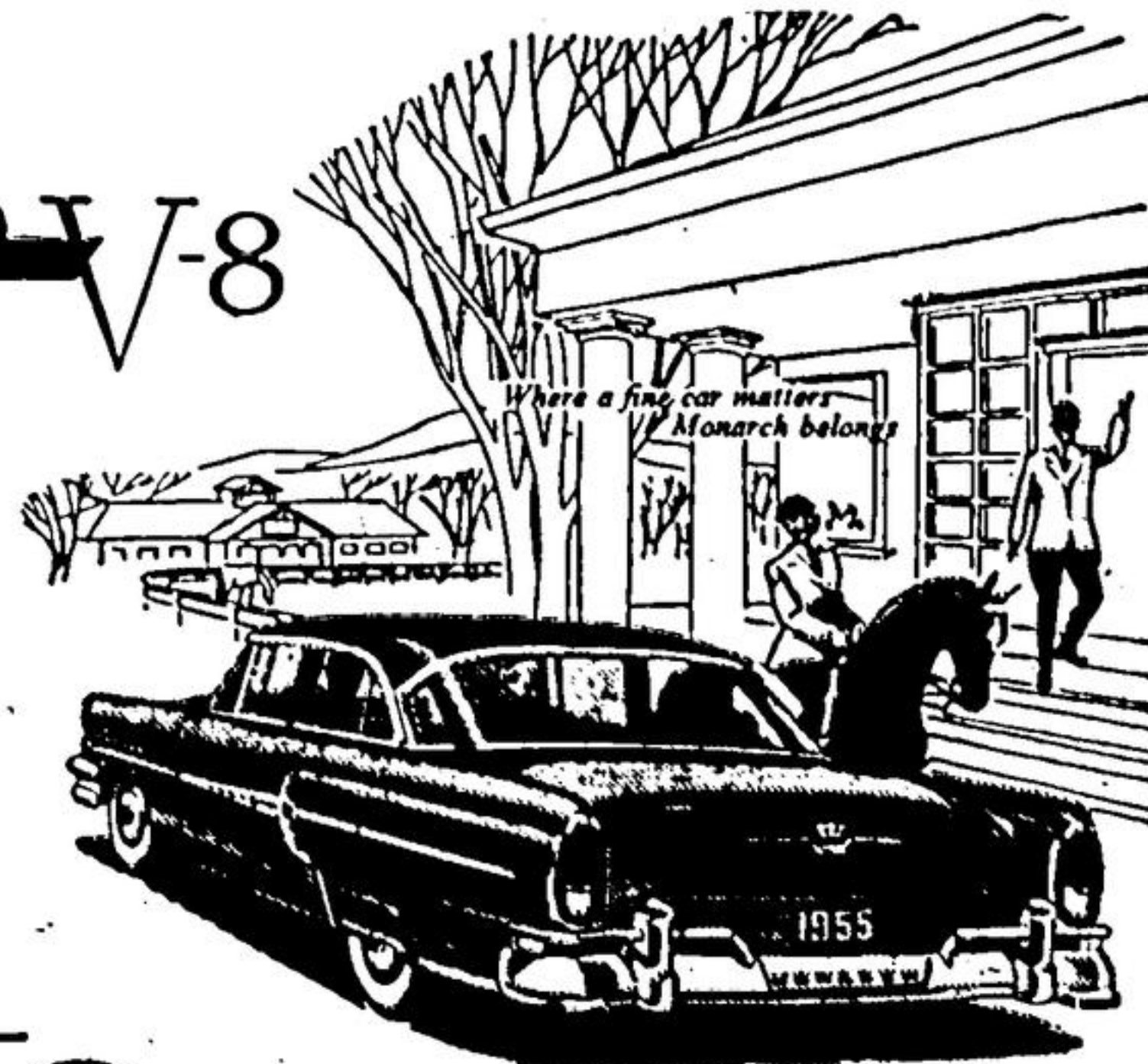


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