

LEGION NOTES

by Lee Clark

Have you done your part by bringing a new member into the Legion? If not — why not get busy and do so immediately? Every member has at least one friend who is a vet, and is eligible to be a member. How about getting after him right now, today? He'll never be sorry, and you will be doing your Branch a really good turn.

The regular monthly meeting is to be held tomorrow (Thursday evening) in the Branch. It is hoped that there will be a big turnout for it. The entertainment chairman has arranged to have refreshments afterwards and the president promises the meeting will be short. So how about it.

Like to thank the 15 odd members who went along to Port Credit with us last Sunday to our first zone meeting. There was a goodly number on hand for it and we were actually surprised to see all the branches represented. There was quite a bit of business discussed, and several things were decided. First, a membership drive is being sponsored in the zone, with the winning branch receiving a trophy. It is hoped to make this an annual affair and keep interest in the Legion at high peak. A draw is being held and also a public speaking contest is going to be held for the entire zone. Sending the zone commander to the Dominion convention at Vancouver was discussed, and on his suggestion it was left over until next meeting, to see how the state of the finances are. A number of resolutions were passed to forward to provincial command, to be brought up at the Dominion Convention.

Port Credit branch really did themselves "proud" as host branch, serving a hot dinner at the close of the meeting. During the meeting Hugh Lamb was presented with a brief case and Major Trowell Robinson, with a cigarette lighter, for the services they had rendered during their terms of office as zone commander and zone secretary, respectively. Next zone meeting will be held in Georgetown, possibly around the first of May.

It was noted by the zone commander that all resolutions must be in to provincial command, not later than the end of March, so that they may be presented to Dominion Command by April 18th, otherwise they will not be considered at the convention in Vancouver on June 10-15.

"Today the Canadian Legion is at the crossroads. It can continue to be a vital force in Canada's future or it can go into a gradual decline."

This was how the Dominion President the Very Rev. J. O. Anderson, MC, CD, DD, summed up the broad subject of Legion activities. The next five years would be very important ones in the Legion's development. Speaking to the Ontario Provincial Convention, he said "we have a brilliant record of achievement. But where do we go from here?"

He said the task of obtaining adequate legislation was almost complete, emphasizing however Legion would continue to press for improvements where necessary. Yet, he felt, that by the large, the legislation picture was good.

He made it clear that service bureau work was still one of our prime concerns, saying that the work was getting more complex as time went on.

However, he said, the Legion has another duty, and that is in community service.

"We must develop the values of freedom in our youth," he stressed. "Freedom is a living, a changing thing which must keep pace with the times. It's dangerous to think of it as something established and static. If an appreciation of these values doesn't grow with the times and the population, then the values must lose ground."

The president said that branch activity within the community, particularly with the youth, was of vital importance. He called for more of it.

"The Legion can continue to be a vital, active force in Canada's future," he said. "Or it can go into a gradual decline where members sit in lengthening shadows contemplating the lost days of their youth."

"I believe the Legion will follow the first path, because it is young in spirit," he optimistically concluded. "I believe it will remain young and vigorous by helping to instill in today's youth the principles for which our comrades died."

We found the foregoing article by our Dominion president most interesting, although we do not agree with his outlook for the future. Far from us be it to argue with such an eminent soldier and churchman, but we think that there is only one path for the Legion in the future, and that is to progress. We believe the expansion of the Legion in the next three to 5 years, especially in Ontario is going to be little short of miraculous. The reason? (and the answer) lies in his mention of community work. We believe that most branches are already, and have been for the past few years gradually taking a more active and vital part in their communities. And it is only right that they do so. As they have served their country in war, so should they serve it in peace time, through the medium of public service to, and for, their communities. Such a policy will pay off as it has done locally, in respect and added stature in the town. We very well recall some years ago, when the hockey was started in Georgetown for the younger lads, the feeling of skepticism by parts of the community. Happily, the project proved quite a success and was, we believe, the direct reason for

a good many new members joining our organization. To be brutally frank about it, the general public, not too aware of anything that went on in Legion circles, began to realize that there was something else to the Legion than a well equipped beverage room. Our personal observations in the other branches in this zone is that every one is becoming "hepped" on the idea of community service, and pushing it as far as they can. And as long as members find the Legion doing something in the community in which they live, that they may be proud of, you'll find the branches going on, growing beyond all reasonable expected limits. The room for growth is tremendous. In Georgetown alone we should say that we have not tapped 50 per cent of the potential membership. That is why, in the next few weeks you will see a gradually accelerated membership campaign drive. It is also interesting to note that in Ontario less than 25 per cent of veterans are members of the Legion. Of course those figures would be higher here in southern Ont., but there are still many to attract to our group. Not included naturally, are the figures of those belonging to other smaller organized vets' groups, such as Army & Navy Club, and the Canadian Corps.

Found it rather interesting, and think you will in reading of the Ontario Hydro's ultra-active Legion No. 277. This branch last summer sponsored a track event featuring Wes Santee, Fred Dwyer and Gord Pirie in what was known as the Hydro Legion dream mile. The affair was held to a capacity crowd at Varsity Stadium and attracted a huge crowd. The Hydro Branch also took on a terrific job last year in sponsoring the training of Canadian athletes.

We refer of course to the Canadian Olympics Training Plan. After the dismal showing of the Canadians in the last Olympics, many people and organizations offered suggestions for the improvement of the calibre of the Canadian entry. The then chairman of the CNE, Mr. J. A. Northey offered the use free of the facilities and staff of the "Ex" if it would help. The late hydro chairman Robert Saunders got together with CNE sports director George Duthie and worked out a plan for a week's intensive coaching in track and field at the CNE grounds, coached by top US and Canadian trainers, followed by a two day meet for the interprovincial championships. It was estimated the plan would cost \$20,000, and Mr. Saunders raised it immediately for 1953. The plan was a success and he raised it again for 1954. When he was killed in a plane crash a new committee was formed,

and appealed to various organizations for help. Hydro branch 277 contributed \$2,500 for 1955. And offered to finance the ENTIRE PLAN for 1956! To envisage the wonderful resultant publicity to the Legion as a whole from the action of this branch, we quote Toronto Mayor Phillips: "On behalf of Toronto, I wish to thank Branch 277 for the magnificent contribution they have made to good citizenship." The Hon. Carl Nickle, for the Ontario Government added "Because of this new attitude towards the community by the Legion branch, I envision a wonderful future for the Canadian Legion."

And we think we must have our little bit of humor, so here it is. The 145-member St. Lamber, Quebec, Legion sponsored a field meet last summer which saw 315 top Canadian athletes in action drawing over 10,000 spectators to the suburban Montreal community. There were many gasps from the crowd and huzzas from the press as outstanding woman athlete, blonde, curvaceous Jackie McDonald, came spitting out of her track shorts in rather strategic areas. Legion president, George Clark was sent on a frantic trip to Montreal sporting shops for a pair of lady's track pants (large size.)

Bill Booth's Taxi for prompt service. TR. 7-2596.

A Personal LOAN ended my worries!

"Personal's Bill Consolidation Service showed me how to clean up bills and reduce monthly payments that were too high. And then—in a single visit—Personal lent me the cash to get a Fresh Start! You, too, can get a cash loan in just 1 visit to the office if you phone first. Or, if more convenient, write or come in.

Loans \$50 to \$1500 or more on Signatures, Furniture or Auto

Personal FINANCE CO.

3 convenient offices—which is nearest you?
BELLEVILLE—234 1/2 Front St. Over Stroud's Gift Shop... Woodland 8-8724
TRENTON—23 Dundas Street, West, At the Stop Light... Phone: 8522
PETERBOROUGH—235 George Street, North, 2nd Floor... Phone: 2-0428
OPEN EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT—PHONE FOR EVENING HOURS
Loans made to residents of all surrounding towns * Personal Finance Company of Canada

GLEN WILLIAMS

VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS AT HOME, SCHOOL

Glen Williams Home and School Association met on Tuesday the 14th with president Tom Hill in charge. During the business meeting certain difficulties connected with the beginning of such an organization were brought out. William Bingham, an executive member, in speaking followed the president's trend of thought and expressed hope that the new organization would receive the cooperation of all.

Several members were asked to serve on committees to carry on various aspects of the association. Comments from principal Ralph McKeown were that school children are practicing for an operetta which will be presented the latter part of March. The characters have to be costumed and he asked for assistance from parents. An interesting period followed viewing coloured slides of pictures taken locally, in and around Midland and in Quebec by Peter Van Wouw. These included scenes of the Santa Claus parade in Georgetown.

- BUILDING SAND
- CONCRETE GRAVEL
- ROAD GRAVEL
- FILL & TOP SOIL

TOM HAINES

Glen Williams
Triangle 7-3302

TRAVEL NOTES



BOOK NOW FOR EASTER IN NEW YORK

BY AIR OR TRAIN
ALL-EXPENSE TOURS
(except meals)
from \$35.00

JOHN R. BARBER

Travel Advisor
JOHN R. BARBER AGENCY
INSURANCE - TRAVEL
Triangle 7-3521 - MILL STREET

LUCKY NO. 634

If holder of this number calls with 7 days, they will receive a return trip to London, Ontario, or its equivalent.

Flowers FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Wedding Work, Corsages a specialty
Cut Flowers and Funeral Designs
- We Wire Flowers -
Rosedale Floral
32 Albert St.
TR. 7-2952



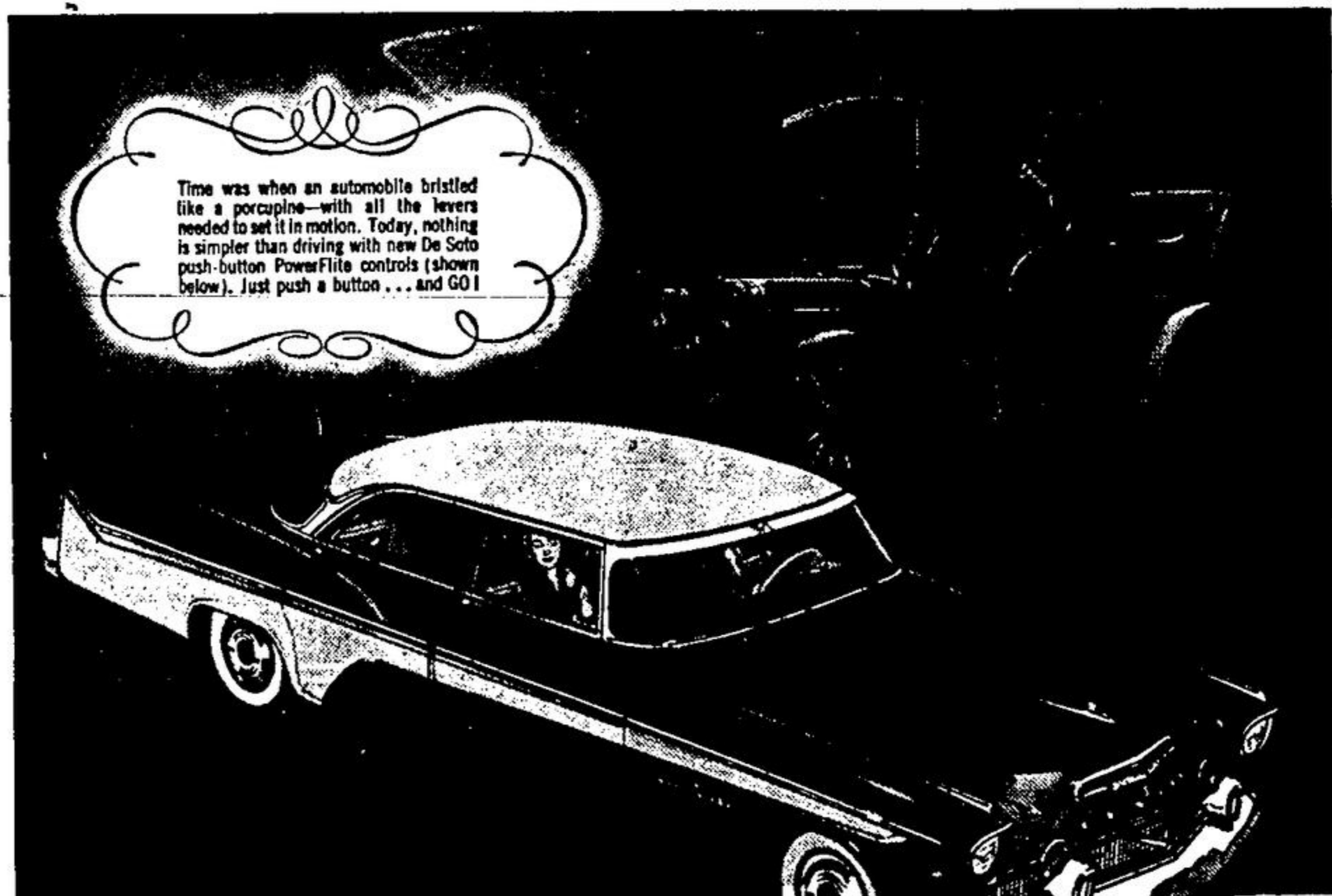
BUY THE BEST BUY B-H PAINTS

for lasting beauty — sold by —

Twins Woodworking
LIMEHOUSE
TR. 7-2162

manufacturers of
SASH — FRAMES — SCREENS
DOORS (inside and out)
TRIM
DOOR HARDWARE
FLOOR TILE — GLASS
OPEN EVENINGS

and
All Day Saturdays
TR 9 p.m.



DeSoto Fireflite V-8, 4-door Sedan

Today... the modern way to go is

DeSoto



Push-button controls for PowerFlite automatic transmission are safety-positioned at the driver's left. There are no sleeve-catching levers!

There's one smart way to travel the road to success. And that's in a fabulous new DeSoto with Flight-Sweep styling!

For DeSoto brings you the newest of the new. You'll thrill to the magic touch of push-button controls that set in motion the finest automatic transmission—PowerFlite!

Then, with DeSoto's great new 255-h.p. Fireflite V-8 at your command, you'll reap extra power benefits for faster acceleration, smoother cruising, safer passing.

And once in motion, DeSoto will introduce you to a bright new world of handling ease. Full-time power steering is available to guide you easily around curves and into parking spaces. And there's new safety, too—with new centre-plane brakes, an entirely new design that gives you swift, sure stops with less pedal pressure.

But see for yourself! Drive a DeSoto today!

Manufactured in Canada by Chrysler Corporation of Canada, Limited

Watch Climax—Shower of Stars weekly on TV. Check your newspaper for date and time.

NOW ON DISPLAY... THE 1956 DESOTO WITH THE FORWARD LOOK

HEWSON MOTORS LTD.

6 Mill Street
TR. 7-2422