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LEGION NOTES

by Leslie M. Clark

This Thursday night is a very special night in the history of the Legion. We hope that each member will take our word for it and turn out. The event of the evening will be worth the effort of getting there, we assure you. Unfortunately, we cannot divulge the idea behind it but hope that you will believe us when we say that it's something that is long overdue . . . and has been particularly asked of the executive in the past few months. We know that every member if they were told of the event (and it is a big one) would be on hand to give a hand. Unfortunately the executive has had to be very careful and wait until the last minute to arrange it, so that there would be no leak. So we hope that each member will spare one hour to be on hand and a part of something we feel is long overdue. How about it, fellows? Sometimes we kid a lot in this column, but this is not one of the times, believe us. We hope you'll just take our word this once to be on hand for AN EVENT NONE OF YOU WOULD KNOWINGLY MISS!

The date is tomorrow night at the Legion Hall, Thursday, November 22nd, at 8 p.m. And incidentally, we understand that Jim Murphy, in cooperation for the special night, has arranged for hot roast beef. So you'll be well fed, too!

This past week or two has been a busy time of it, particularly in the matter of parades. It started with the annual Remembrance Supper on November 9th, then the Remembrance Day parade (which was a whopper) on Sunday November 11th. But three occasions were not so happy, when Branch members marched to the United Church to attend LeRoy Dale's burial service, and the following Wednesday to attend Lt. Col. Cousen's funeral. The branch, incidentally, held their own service the night before for our first president, at the McJure Funeral home, with a large number attending. And on Thursday a number of the Comrades acted as a guard of honour at the graveside of Miss Sybil Bennett, Q.C., M.P. They have been invited to act in this capacity by her brother, Arnold Bennett, a past president of Port Colborne Legion branch, and for many years active in Legion affairs.

Amused last night to watch the much touted American "Air Power" TV. It dealt quite lengthily with air war in 1914-1918, and mentioned the French ace Guyenneyer, the German Richtofen, and NATURALLY, the GREAT American ace Rickenbacker. Wonder if they ever heard of the four Canadians, Bishop, Collishaw, Barker and McLaren, who shot down more enemy aircraft than the entire American air force in World War I? Just an oversight, no doubt.

And if you doubt the above statement, you can check the official air war history which ranked those 4 among the first ten aces of all nationalities.

The membership drive rolls on, and is kicking up real momentum. Our goal? . . . Over 500 members by June, and we can do it easily, with everyone's cooperation.

There's a little matter we would like to bring up, we believe, for the good of the branch. It has always been the good fortune of our organization, to have a good many public men drop in to visit us at our Mill Street hall from time to time, and regardless of any of our differences in way of thought, or in clashing ideologies, they have always been most welcome because we are happy to have visitors, and happy to see men in public life taking an interest in our group, and what we consider our very fine buildings. We think that all these men, be they mayors, councillors, members of parliament or just interested ordinary citizens like you and I have enjoyed their visits and have always wanted to return when circumstances permitted.

One thing we have been always very proud of, was the way they could drop in, and have a quiet social time and fellowship without any of the various complex problems that have to do with their public life following them. Granted, the boys around the branch often good naturedly banter our councillors if and when they drop in. But we think on the whole, that both members and council enjoy this, as besides being in most cases, personal friends the large number are members of the Legion or ex-service men. However, we know that the members of the Legion as a whole would not be so rude as to bother them about municipal problems when guests in their building. This did happen, we're sorry to say, at a recent evening in the auditorium, when two of our town fathers were present as guests with their wives. No one would knowingly invite a man to his home and then start to "talk shop". That would be the sheerest ignorance. So enough said . . . and let's hope it doesn't happen again. It's a nuisance to those involved as well as a definite embarrassment to the large number of Legion members who happened to be near the scene and witnessed it.

Charlie Day reports his Christmas lucky draw going well, and he hopes that the boys with tickets

SILVER-WOOD

MAPLE TREES MARKED ORIGINAL GUELPH CITY

The November meeting of Silver-Wood W.I. met at the home of Mrs. Doug Peck, with fourteen members present. A number of ways to "postpone old age" were given as roll call. A contribution to the Mental Health Association of fifty cents a member is to be sent in and following Mrs. R. Corbett's report of the district directors' meeting, a discussion was held on suggestions for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Women's Institutes, to be held next February. It is interesting to note that the founder, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless was born in 1857, so next year will also mark the anniversary of her birth. The sum of \$25.20 was turned in by members as prize money won at the Fair, Mrs. George Burt, as Historical Research and Current Events convenor, then took over the meeting. Mrs. Batkin read an informative and amusing article on the beginnings of Guelph city in 1827, when a large maple tree was cut down to mark the centre of the city. Unfortunately the tree was nearer the outside limits of the 550 acres set aside for the city, but the city fathers overcame that by having the streets radiate in the shape of a fan, from the maple tree hub. Mrs. Burt then read an interesting article on L. M. Montgomery, the author of books so well known to us all. Current events were read by Mrs. Donald Lindsay, Mrs. Shier and Mrs. Lindsay assisted the hostess with a social half hour.

Mrs. Henderson St. is staying with her daughter, Mrs. Norman Thomas, at Guelph, during Professor Thomas' visit to New Zealand to attend an agricultural convention.

Little George Henderson fell, breaking an arm, but is making a good recovery.

Mr. Frank Marchington of Ottawa and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Marchington of Toronto, spent last week-end with the Harry Marchingtons.

will really get them sold. This is one way of helping to get the large amount of money necessary for the gifts at Christmas time to the kids paid for, and is a very painless method. Everyone should lend him a hand.

Interested to see the famous British VC, Major Geary, at Col. Cousen's funeral. Major Geary lives in Toronto.

Peter Pruneau

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FARM NEWS

Bertha Watson, Acton Is Champion Speaker

J. E. W.

Those who were in attendance at the Milton high school on Friday evening, November 9th, for the Junior Farmers' Annual Public Speaking and Debating competitions enjoyed a real treat. Preliminary competitions had been held in the local clubs to select the club representatives for the county finals. The very excellent programme was ably chaired by president Jean Peterson. The public speaking competition brought together Bertha Watson representing the Acton Junior Farmers; Kay Merry, the Milton club winner; and Bill Kelly, the winner from the Palermo club.

The judges, George E. Elliott, Q.C., Cecil A. Wood, principal of the Milton high school; and agricultural representative J. E. Whitehead, had a difficult assignment in deciding on the winner among the three top speakers. Their decision went to Bertha Watson, who in her ten minute prepared speech spoke on "Transportation" and in a her impromptu on "Rural Life". The debating topic was "Resolved that a reduction in the number of farm organizations would be in the best interests of the Ontario Farmer." In the first debate, the affirmative was upheld by the Norval team of Ralph Cunningham and Howson Ruddle, while the Palermo representatives, Bill Marshall and Bruce Tyrrell took the negative. The Palermo representative

later took on the Acton affirmative team of Bertha Watson and Jack Black. The affirmative teams on a split decision won the decision in both cases. The judges were also charged with the responsibility of electing four debaters to represent Halton in the inter-county debating series. Those selected were Bertha Watson; Jack Black; Howson Ruddle, and Bill Marshall, who will now meet Lincoln County in the first round.

The evening's programme was suitably balanced by some delightful instrumentals by Ruth Wilson and an enjoyable sing-song led by Dave Wilson with Wilma Sinclair as accompanist.

MR. AND MRS. CORBELL NO WIN NEW YORK

Members of the Varian Associates staff feted Mr. and Mrs. Paul Corbell with a party at the golf club prior to their departure to New York last week, where they will now live.

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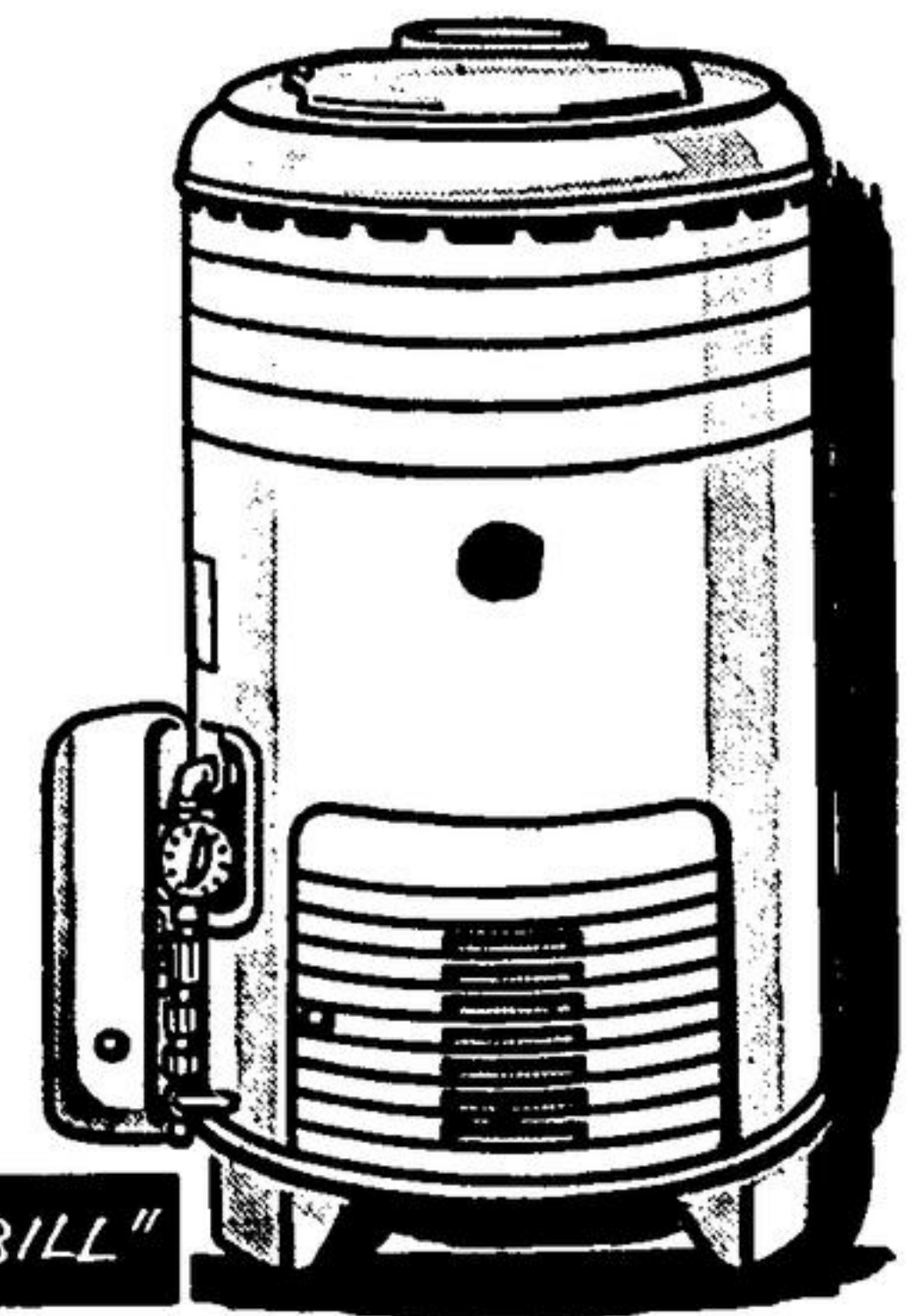
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