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LEGION NOTES

by Les Clark

We have had enquiries from a number of ladies eligible for membership in our organization. The qualifications are exactly the same as all you have to do is fill in an application form and see that it's sponsored by a member, and show an honorable discharge certificate. It would be a wonderful thing for the branch if all the ladies eligible could see their way clear to join.

It's been our earnest desire to try and promote a better knowledge of who are your new members and this week we have instituted an addition to our column in which from week to week we will list our new members and the odd few facts about them. Hope you like it (and incidentally will every one fill in the questionnaire in our next bulletin).

WELCOME TO BRANCH 120

Milton Barker... a veteran of the first world war, is married and has four of a family. Lives with his wife at 16 Arletta St., Georgetown. Says he has been here only since last July, but is proud to be a citizen of such a fine community. His family are living from B.C. all the way east to Halifax. Among other ribbons and decorations holds Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal.

George Smurthwaite... the genial Volkswagen dealer in town at the corner of Main and Guelph, is married with two sons. In the army (2nd world war) from 38 to 46. Altho' English, was attached to 1st Canadian army in Normandy campaign. Was at Dunkirk and in on D-Day. George was a mechanic sergeant major. He has lived in town for 3 years.

Harry Clarke... Has lived in the area since last fall, when he purchased the former Coussens property. Is married. Veteran of the World War II with service in the far east (Burma) as a pilot. He presently is employed as a pilot with Trans Canada air lines. We believe he served with the army for some time before he "saw the light" and got airborne.

Acton are planning a big weekend anniversary for March, with a three day affair again. This will be their twenty sixth year of real solid progress as a Legion branch. The Milton branch are contemplating a further expansion which will give them a great deal more room. Erin should be admitted to the fold (BT, that is by the end of the month) as it will be thrashed out by the two zone commanders and district commanders involved at an executive meeting in Toronto this month. The district meeting will take place in Waterdown, probably in April, but as yet we have heard no date set. The provincial convention will take place in St. Catharines this summer and this should mean a good representation for zone BT. Our own BT zone meeting will be held in Acton a week next Sunday and we hope to see a good turnout from town. A zone meeting airs a lot of discussion and always settles quite a few inter branch problems. Also it is good to see our fellow members of the neighbouring towns. There are a great number of zones where the branches are scattered over a large distance, but BT is covered in not more than 35 miles travel in any direction. The other factor is, of course, that most of the lads from this district went to war together, and were friends before they were Legionnaires.

Acton should have the highest of commendations from our provincial command for their effort when a further classroom was needed. One half hour after a fire had broken out in the local public school, they had volunteered to look after one class. The children only tot a half day school before moving into the makeshift Legion classroom. Mind you, the Legion were probably not very popular with the kids for being so prompt, however it was wonderful to see a Legion take such positive action in such a short period of time. We recently had the pleasure of inspecting the room, as shown by president Vic Patrick and secretary Gord McCutcheon. They have converted the beverage room (the main one) into a full scale class room, and it is a beautiful one, with a private entrance and all. It is completely isolated from the rest of the building, and is only used by Legion members on week-ends. We think the least Provincial Command could do is give some sort of award for this wonderful community effort, an effort, incidentally which will certainly do a great deal to help and promote public relations, although we believe that public opinion is already behind them fully. They are running a blood clinic very shortly for Acton and it is expected it will be even more successful than the one held last year.

In the brief submitted to the parliament recently a rather unusual fact came to light. In 1920 one of the lower paid brackets of the civil service, cleaners and helpers, received \$300 less than a married 100% pensioner. Today such a worker received \$720 MORE. His wages have increased over 200 per cent, while the pensioner's salary is incidentally a single cent less.

in 1920, and in 1950 had been increased to \$1500, while a widow had only been raised in the same period from \$720 to \$1200.

Our hockey workers still seem to get up awfully early in the morning. And it's amazing how clearly you can hear those footsteps crunching through the snow at 6.30 a.m. Finally, our hats are off to Frank Birch, Paul, Chuck, Jim and the rest of the boys, be they hockey executive, coaches referees or managers who are doing such a grand job of going down each Saturday from 7 until 1 p.m. to show the community's children the rudiments of fair play sportsmanship, and hockey. If it were in our power to do so we'd like to see them were honored as "citizens of any year" for the work they have accomplished in the past six years.

We still hope to use the picture taken by Turk at our annual meeting last January 27th. We think it has a lot of news interest, when you see the new members flocking into our branch.

Those initiated Sun, Jan. 27, were: Joe McMenemy, Ed McDermott, Milton Barker, W. F. Foster, Bert Fiddler, Bob Footitt, Cliff Hibbert, Don Burns, Phil Carney, W. Pringle, T. Gadd, H. S. Howard, Bruce N. Gummer, Roy Rudiger, Clare Little D. Pollock, Arthur Roy Jr., Andy Murray, Stan Giles, Richard Fallerton, Harry Joynson, Ken Jubb, Douglas Wright, Les Heed, Mrs. D. E. Chamberlain, John Elliott, Harold Ashley, George McArthur, Del Beaumont, C. Walker, Bruce McQuarrie, E. H. Jim' Cull, Tom Wilson, J. K. Hunter, Harry Clarke.

Last Saturday a bus load of crib players went to Port Credit for a zone crib tournament. Port Credit won out with 36 pts., Oakville 24 pts. B team from Branch 120 had 21 and C team, 23. Four Georgetown players (two teams) tied with 7 perfect games. They were G. Collier and Lorne Cross; Charlie Parson and Dave Bowman. There unfortunately were only two trophies, so they played off when they got home. Dave and Charlie winning the two beautiful trophies. Congratulations, boys. B and C teams are still in there for further competition.

Amused to read the article "The Twenty Second Beer" in the last issue of the Legionary. We deplore that vulgar title, but did enjoy the article. Just imagine any of our members even thinking about taking twenty two of them! Tsk, Tsk! However, he did have a point when he mentioned "why do we want all these new members? We've heard a similar remark made many years ago, but fortunately it was the only time we have heard it. The foremost aim to keep in mind, as the writer of that article stated, is that no one branch alone is the Legion. Each branch is a very necessary and useful unit, but only 1/2000th part of our organization. In November of 1925, first war (the big "shooting" war, as they say) veterans realized they couldn't go along in scattered groups and amalgamated in Winnipeg into the Legion. Today as the spokesman for 200,000 members, and through primarily a unique experience in its service bureau work, which is so varied, it has probably a greater insight into deficiencies and needs for veteran legislation than any other organization. However, a continuing large membership is vital to the continuing strength of the Legion. Public opinion is any politician's stock in trade. And the larger the segment of public opinion the Legion can muster, the more attention veteran legislation will receive in the government at Ottawa.

That brings us to the oft asked "where does our five bucks per annum go." The breakdown is this provincial command gets approximately \$1, dominion command the same service bureaus roughly \$0c and the Legionary \$0c, bringing the total to \$3.70. Leaving your branch with \$1.30 to carry on the year's work. It seems a lot but if you consider the amount of work done by both commands, provincially primarily in service work and administration and dominion in the fighting of veterans claims and the coordination of work in the ten provinces and the publication of a national magazine, it does not appear unreasonable. The branch, of course, could not operate for one week on their revenue from dues, but have to depend on other sources. By that we mean not only the business we operate, but the bingo and entertainment income, which as most members will know, is by no means small. All you have to do to prove this point is look at the amount of work and reports turned over by our chairmen, Jim Murphy and Alex Taylor each month. And, judge, over the long haul, has been the greatest source of revenue up until the new set-up, was inaugurated by Jim a couple of years ago for the operation of our weekly dances.

ANGLICAN CHURCHMEN MEET AT OAKVILLE

Anglican clergy of Halifax Deanery held their January meeting at St. Aidan's, Oakville where host rector, Rev. J. Bothwell was the celebrant at the Holy Eucharist assisted by Rural Dean J. E. Maxwell. Toast and coffee was served after this 9 o'clock service and the morning session was a Quiet Morning of spiritual exercise.

Mattins and devotional addresses were conducted by Rev. Kenneth Richardson, and following noonday prayers, the deanery clericus was served an appetizing luncheon by the ladies' guild of St. Aidan's and a vote of appreciation extended by Rev. D. N. Powell, Milton.

During the luncheon the rural dean presided over a business session and reports were given on diocesan budget and church extension. The new Church of St. Simon has been established in Oakville and three more locations are being investigated for future churches. Youth work and matters relating to annual vestry meetings were matters pursued in the business study.

The clericus was invited to St. Christopher's, Burlington for the next meeting. Clergy attending were Rural Dean J. E. Maxwell, Norval; Secretary Kenneth Richardson, Georgetown; Evan Jones, Acton; D. N. Powell, Milton; J. Bothwell, Canon F. Jackson, Oakville; H. N. Mansfield, F. Heathcote, Burlington.

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD
 Wednesday, February 6th, 1957
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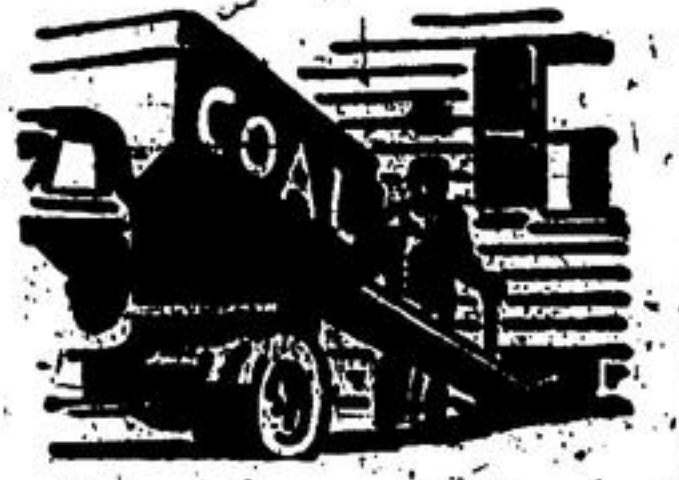
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