

Two Months Down Under as Group Study Delegate

A Georgetown insurance representative, Paul Armstrong, 39 Main St. S., has returned from an extensive tour of Australia as part of a Canadian delegation sponsored by Rotary International. Enroute the party visited Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, and on the way home Hong Kong, Kowloon and Tokyo. Mr. Armstrong has written the following impressions of the land down under for The Herald.

by Paul Armstrong

Through a programme set up by Rotary International, it was possible for six non-Rotarians to participate in a Group Study Exchange to another Country. It was my honor to be part of the group. Our leader, Dave Sealey who is a Rotarian, made the seventh member. The district from which we were selected is No. 280 and the first to have the privilege of sending a group outside of Canada.

The Group's itinerary started officially on March 6th at the matched District's Annual Conference held at the Pharmacy College in Melbourne, Australia. The team introduced themselves to the attending Rotarians and each of us had an opportunity to explain our backgrounds. From then on we were hosted by Clubs in District No. 707 and billeted in members' homes wherever we visited. We were shown everything that makes up life in Australia in the villages, towns and cities.

The team had the chance to study the educational system by visiting schools at primary, secondary, technical and university level. Education is state operated and supported. However there are a good number of Church Schools or private schools, which receive financial support from tuition fees. About twenty-five percent of the students at primary and secondary school level attend private institutions as compared to one per cent in Canada.

School uniforms are worn by all students except for some small country schools. District schools are becoming more popular but very slowly because the people in the country areas do not want this to be the focal point as they feel the close ties that exist will be lost when their youngsters have to travel great distances to be educated.

We were also introduced to politics in municipalities large and small. Councillors are not paid for their services in the State of Victoria and in most states, but one state has tried this on an experimental basis. Responsibilities of local governments are not as numerous as those in Canadian municipalities. Sound planning is the object of all communities. In Melbourne, the State's capital, we were honoured by an interview with the Provincial Liberal Leader, Premier Bolte, and some of his ministers. They discussed various aspects of the State and permitted us to ask questions.

Prior to our visit to the Provincial House, we were favoured by a visit to Federal Parliament in Canberra.

The governmental system throughout Australia is set up in the same manner as that of Canada. Because of the similarity, the team was able to spend more time discussing policies and problems in both our countries.

The people in Australia are warm and friendly and not unlike Canadians in many ways. They enjoy their homes, families and social pleasures. Sports form a big part in the lives of Australians and people of all ages participate in at least one actively. Australian rules football is the most popular and is quite different to our form of football. The work week for most is shorter than what we experience and there are probably more civic holidays over and above the statutory ones.

Stores and shops close at noon on Saturday so that people can enjoy activities of their choice on the weekend. The strong labour unions have permitted this situation since the end of the Second World War. Shops are not open in the evenings and all buying must be done between 9:00 and 5:30 during the week or on Saturday morning.

General conditions in industry and business are excellent. However, fringe benefits such as medical plans and life insurance are not offered by employers as yet, except in some isolated cases. As in Canada, Australia has the influence from the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. This influence helps Australia enjoy an economic growth and a good

standard of living. The country is also starting to have a better cultural way of life.

This is an example of some of the experiences the team had and my observations on the trip. In addition to the foregoing we toured industries, hospitals, irrigation and water conserva-

tion projects, sheep, cattle and crop farming; and a housing project set up by the State of Victoria for families with average or below incomes.

In conclusion, I would say that Australia is a rich country with a bounty of natural resources, some of which have not yet been developed. The people are eager and proud to show what their country has to offer and assisted greatly to make the team's visit rewarding and memorable. Next to Canada, I feel that Australia would be a wonderful place to live.

Legion Plans Many Events For National Veterans Week

If hard work and extensive planning mean anything, local Legion executives are convinced their contribution to the Centennial program in town should 'steal the show among the events planned for this year.

Branch 120 has a lengthy list of events for National Veterans' Week this year being held June 11th to June 17th in a nation wide effort by the Legion to emphasize the veterans' role in our country in war and peace since Confederation.

Members are working on a Museum, which will be open to the public and already contains many items of interest.

June 11th sees a parade to Cenotaph and Cemetery in conjunction with Odd Fellows and other groups. A four grave Vets plot has been purchased and will be dedicated by Branch Padre Kelvin Johnston. A cairn is also being dedicated.

Each afternoon public school children are being bussed to

the Legion Hall to see the award winning Canadian documentary 'Fields of Sacrifice'. They will tour the Museum and soft drinks and cookies are being offered as refreshments.

June 12th will see a night for all those who have contributed to Saturday morning kid hockey since its inception on a regular basis in 1951.

June 13th will see all area veterans of the Boer War and World War I entertained.

June 14th a dinner for those who head organizations and industries in the community is

being held. Also it is hoped to have as many of those winning awards for gallantry present.

June 15th tribute will be paid to Boy Scouts and Girl Guides with a donation to each from Branch 120. Later that same evening a presentation for the Silver Cross Mothers of the District will be made. These are mothers who lost sons killed in action during wartime.

June 16th: Recognition will be paid in the afternoon to the Red Cross, Salvation Army and knights of Columbus and other groups. A donation will be made each group as refreshments

Art Not Icing It's Lifeblood

Dear Mr. Editor: There was a report in last week's 'Georgetown Herald', about a speech I gave to the ladies of the IOOE on May 8th. According to this report I said (besides other things) "Art is the icing on the cake."

I would like to state that 'NEVER' in all my life did I utter this stupid sentence. On the contrary, I made it clear, that Art, in the broadest sense of the word, is the very lifeblood of every civilization. It is the one thing which makes everything we do worthy of consideration.

Yours Sincerely, JOHN SOMMER, House Sol, Georgetown

will be served. That evening district service clubs will be entertained, it is expected.

To wind up a full week, the Branch will hold a giant 'open house' on Saturday and it is hoped every citizen will see fit to visit the Branch and see their quarters, revamped a couple of years ago at a cost of \$50,000.

The ladies auxiliary of the Branch are playing a large part in preparing for the weeks activities. A thirty page booklet will be available carrying a brief summary of Legion history in the past fifteen years and a programme of event held Veterans' week.

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Brownies, Guides, Rangers Give Books to Town Library

Brownie, Guide and Ranger representatives from three districts, Credit Valley, Georgetown North and Georgetown South, assembled in order to present three copies of their latest book, "The Story of Girl Guides in Ontario" by Katherine Panabaker, to the library as part of their Centennial programme, last week. On hand to accept the books at Knox Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, May 16 was Georgetown Librarian Miss Marjory Nazer.

Prior to presentation uniforms dating from 1910 to 1950 were modelled by the following

members of the movement — 1910 Guider, Susan Asseltine; 1910 Guider, Jackie Treahy; 1920 Guider, Sharon Collier; 1920 Guider Janice Asseltine; 1920 Brownie, Karen Dakin; 1930 Commissioner, Mrs. B. Wolfe; 1930 Guider Susan Graham; 1930 Guider Beverly Bradley; 1950 Guide Penny Hull; 1950 Brownie Vickie Presgrave and Pakistan Guide Lisa Dakin. The girls were able to see from the display the great changes that have taken place throughout the years and how lucky they are to be wearing such practical uniforms today.

Mrs. I.H. Prestrave, Halton Division Commissioner; Mrs. P. Berry, Halton Division Public Relations and the following girls then proceeded with the presentation to Miss Nazer. Credit Valley represented by Barbara Youmans, 1st Norval Land Rovers; Georgetown North Debbie Howson, 1st Georgetown Land Rangers, Janice Martin, 7th Guide Company and Susan Horvath, 8th Georgetown Pack, Georgetown South by Norma Hole, 1st Georgetown Air Rangers, Roxanne Sweeney, 4th Georgetown Guide Company and Kelly Barratt, 1st Georgetown Pack.

Miss Nazer was introduced by Miss Carole Lane, District Commissioner South District, and then Kelly Barratt, Debbie Howson and Barbara Youmans each presented, on behalf of their respective districts, a copy of "The Story of Girl Guides in Ontario."

Miss Nazer gratefully accepted the books and assured those present that they would be put to very good use.

Brownie and Guide songs were sung throughout the evening which was closed by Brownie and Guide Taps.



Miss Marjory Nazer accepts book from Kelly Barratt



Girls model uniforms from 1910 to 1950


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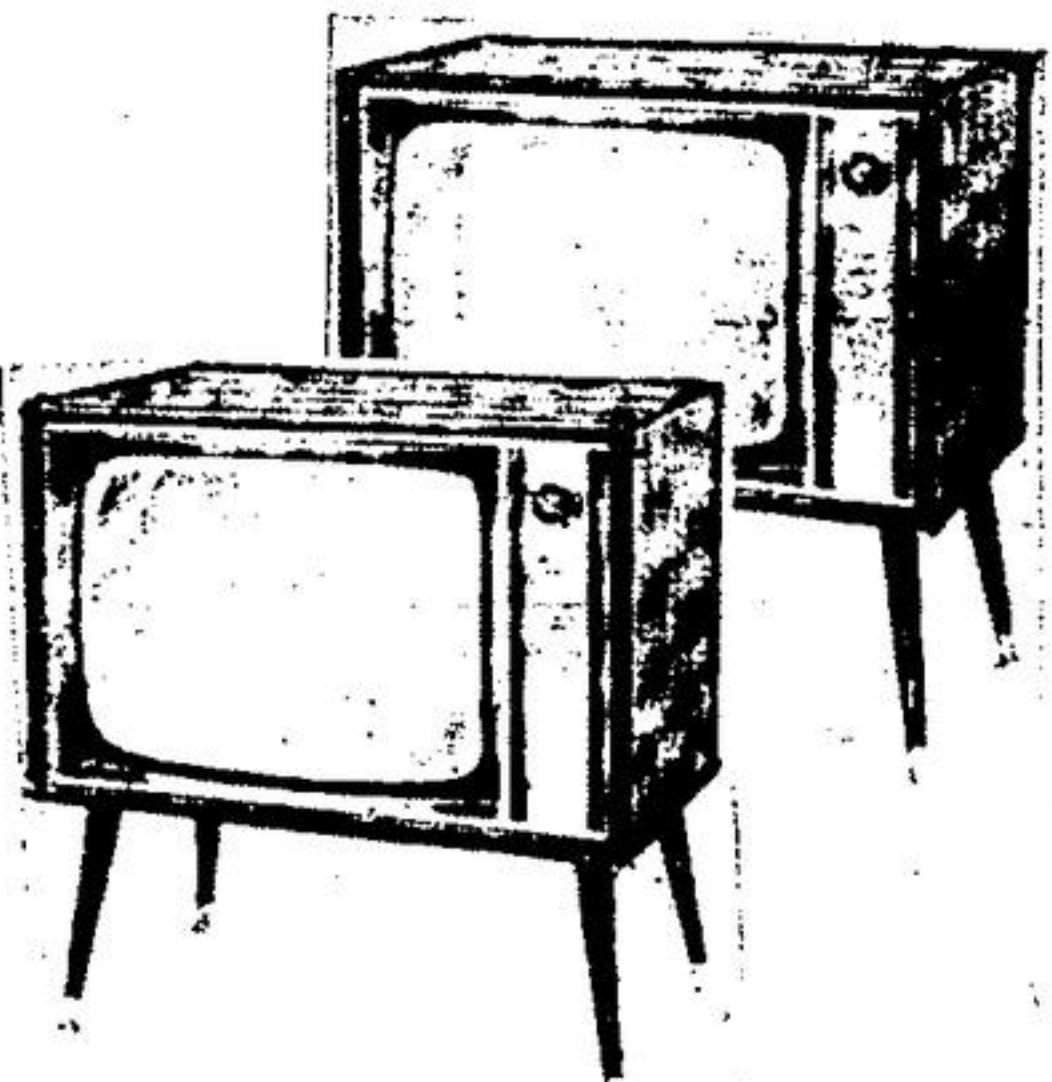
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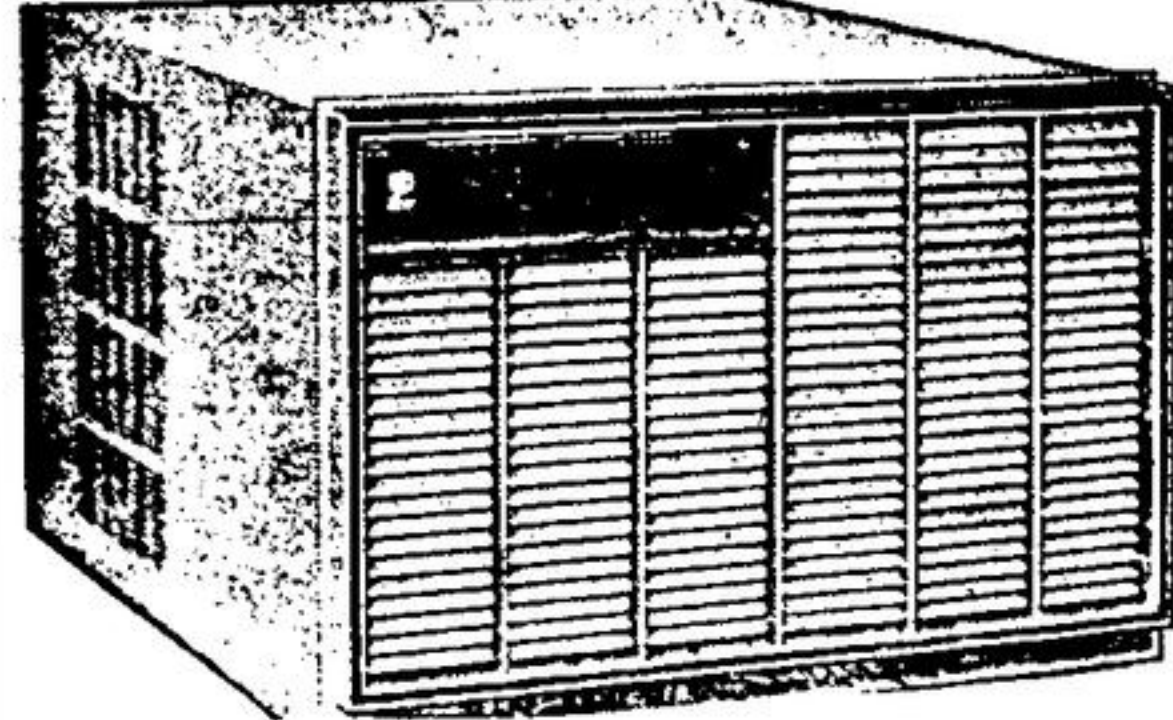
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