



Curling Diary

Nov. 30, 1964—First official day of curling in Milton's new rink. Wonder if curling was played here in days gone by? When? By whom? I hear it was started in Scotland in the 16th century. Probably by some Gaelic gentlemen who had gone out for a game of bowls late in the season and finding the greens frozen, improvised a game by sliding rocks across a frozen pond.

The Dutch and Danes may have a different history (the word is derived from Dutch — Krullen — to twist, to writhe, to coil, to curl). In any case, the Scotch apparently got blamed for it and about the middle of the 16th century, the English went over and beat them up at the Battle of Pinkie. But this didn't stop the spread of curling and now it is played in almost every country where there is ice, and not only by people of all ages, but in latter years, especially by teen-agers.

It's a great game! Two teams, four persons each, eight stones per team, hurled alternately 38 yards down the ice trying to be closest to a mark called the tee, which is in the centre of three circles (the largest circle is six feet in diameter). Score one point for each stone nearer the tee than any of the opponent team's stones. There is a tee at each end of the rink, so when all 16 stones get down to one end and the score is marked, the 16 stones and hurled back again, and so on for 10 ends, which completes the game.

On the day of your game, it is considered advisable, but not compulsory, to have oatmeal porridge for breakfast and before the game, it is traditional, but again not compulsory, to have a teaspoonful of rum in your cup of coffee. The latter is of assistance when imparting the proper circular motion to the stone as it is sent on its journey down the ice. You don't just push the stone straight ahead, since its distance and accuracy would be impossible to control in this way. So a handle is on the top of the stone and it gives a chance to send the stone not only forward but also at the same time, slowly revolving on its axis.

This would be difficult if one were just standing on smooth ice. So a piece of rubber is embedded across the ice with a depression in front of it for the front of the forward foot. This is called the hack and for right-handed players, it is just a little left of the mid-line in order that the stone may be released exactly on the centre line marked in the ice.

A similar hack is on the other side for left-handed players. For balance, a broom is held in the other hand, with the brush part up, grasping it just next to the brush. Formerly the stone was not lifted off the ice at all, but in recent years, it has become usual to raise it at the end of the back swing and after bringing it down along the centre line, to release it and follow through with a slide.

Now it's taken for granted you start with the stone on the centre line and release it along the centre line and during its journey, it should revolve 3 1/2 to 4 complete turns. If the stone goes down revolving clockwise, it will veer a bit to the right. So you allow for this by aiming a bit to the left — your skip at the far end will show you about where

to aim. For some reason not yet known to me, this is called an "In" turn. Therefore, a stone aimed to the right of the tee and revolving anti-clockwise (its front is always turning to the left and its handle is going around opposite to the hand of a clock) is called an "Out" turn. These names, "In Turn" and "Out Turn" are a mystery for a beginner and I can't see any logical reason for naming them in this way. Must ask my skip next week. I suspect the naming was done with a right-handed curler in mind.

Anyway, if you're a right-hander, you put your right foot in the left hack, place the stone on the centre line and if you're planning an "In Turn", have the handle in line with the centre line. Now bring the stone backward into the backswing and deliver it down the centre line, aiming a bit to the left with just enough twist to make the handle revolve like a slow clock hand. For an "Out Turn", angle the handle of the stone before putting it in motion. Left-handers, of course, reverse the whole procedure.

After playing your second stone, you go forward to sweep. By now it has become evident that in addition to the centre line, there are several other lines marked on the ice. There is a transverse line through each tee and one across the middle of the rink. Between each tee line and the middle line is a transverse hog line. When delivering a stone from the hack, it is a rule that the handle must be released before the stone crosses the tee line just in front and if it doesn't pass the first hog line, the sweepers take it off. The territory of sweepers is from the first hog line past the middle line and second hog line and up to the far tee line. Beyond this tee line (also called a sweeping line) only the skip can sweep.

The sweeper sweeps only from side to side. He must be ahead of the stone and like the others, he performs as directed by the skip. So far, it doesn't seem that this game is encumbered by a multitude of rules like hockey and football but there is obviously a lot to learn about it. Must try to find out more next week.

Mt. Union W. I.

District President Speaker

The November meeting of the Mountain Union Women's Institute was held Nov. 18 at the home of Mrs. Gordon MacNab. The president Mrs. M. Readhead opened the meeting with a poem, "When Autumn Slips to Winter". The Institute Ode was sung, followed by the Mary Stewart Collect, and five guests were welcomed by the president.

A fine treasurer's report was given, and it was decided to give \$20 to the International Scholarship Fund. Roll call was answered by a Canadian product. The motto "Friendship is the only cement that will hold the world together" was taken by Mrs. F. Harbottle. She stated friendship is very valuable and lasting, and the only way to have a friend is to be one. If you cannot say anything good about a person, be still, she suggested.

100-Year Heritage
District president Mrs. Jesse McEnery was introduced by Mrs. Velma Norris. She stated Canada's heritage goes way back beyond 100 years. It is 100 years since governments came together, but we must take pride in our heritage, and take pride in Canada.

Study and think more about our Canadian Culture, including art, music, writing and poetry, she suggested. The poem "Canadian Born" by Pauline Johnson was recited. The Women's Institute is an achievement of pride, and it started in Canada and was carried to other countries by Canadians. If we are not loyal to our cause, we are not good members, she said, and the only place for a knocker is on the outside of the door, not in the Institute.

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KILBRIDE

Six Join Church by Transfer School Holds "Hot Dog Day"

By Mrs. William Watson
On Sunday morning Mrs. Fannie Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bye, Mrs. N. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Watson joined Kilbride United Church by transfer of certificate.

A successful rummage sale, tea and home baking was held Monday afternoon at 4 p.m. sponsored by the Explorers in the Sunday school room.

The executive of the Kilbride Home and School Association met Monday evening in the staff room with 10 present. Plans were made for the Christmas program which is to be held

December 15 in the school auditorium, and hot dog day will be held Wednesday, December 16. The next executive meeting will be held Monday evening, December 7.

Euchre Club
On Monday evening, November 23, the Good Neighbor euchre club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reg Coulson.

Prize winners for euchre were Mrs. M. Colling, Mrs. Fred Smith, Mrs. W. McCarron, W. McCarron, Fred Smith, Mrs. M. Smith. The club will meet again December 7 in Kilbride hall. The children at Kilbride school

enjoyed hot dogs for lunch Wednesday. Cooks on hand were Mrs. Harold Jackson, Mrs. Walter Wilson, Mrs. George Hardsand, Mrs. Ben Wilson, Mrs. Gordon Taylor and Mrs. Ken Warner. Birthday greetings and best wishes go to Norman Smith Nov. 28 and Mrs. Donnie Coulson December 7.

Pedestrians are asked to re- in bad weather. The choice can member that illegal, mid-block be . . . walk to the corner, or ride crossing is even more dangerous to the coroner.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

I am deeply interested in education and if you feel my interest and efforts on behalf of you will be helpful. I will appreciate your support.

Local Sr. Citizens Participate In Zone 13 Rally, Burlington

About 16 members of Milton Senior Citizens Club attended No. 13 Zone Rally held at Burlington Arena Wednesday, November 25. The Clubs represented were Aldershot, Brampton, Burlington, Oakville and Milton, and 160 members sat down for lunch. Robert Laking of Milton, the Zone chairman, presided. One of the highlights was the accordion music of Tom Renzetti that had many up dancing around.

J. L. Lerett of Toronto, president of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario was introduced by Mr. Fulton of Oakville. Mr. Lerett's talk was on the formation and progress of the U.S.C.O. He informed the members that the organization was now a national institute supported by all branches of Government and serving a very worthwhile purpose as a medium for the older citizens to bring before the various

levels of Government their problems.

The Brampton Club male quartette sang several choruses of old favorites that were thoroughly enjoyed, and two of their Club members gave recitations. Mrs. Bradley and Mr. Laking of the Milton Club sang a couple of duets, Mrs. James Ledwith assisting at the piano. Frank Hadley gave two recitations.

Robt. Fulton, Oakville, looked after the prizes that were given out to the most recently married couple; the oldest married couple; the oldest lady and the oldest gentleman. The chairman thanked those who arranged and contributed to the success of the program. The meeting was brought to a close with all singing Bless Be the Tie that Binds and God Save The Queen, Mrs. McCullough of Burlington assisting at the piano.

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