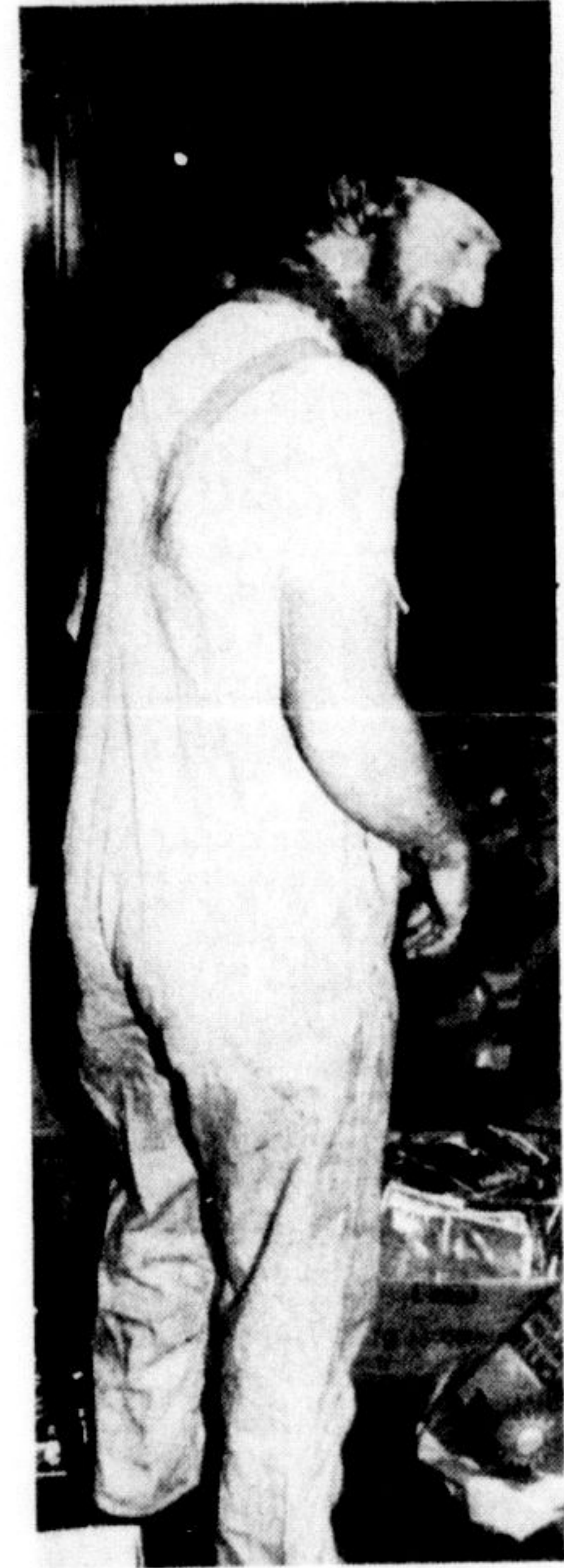


Kinsmen's Fall Council takes train to Montreal

By Roy Downs
"GO MAD" was the invitation, and "mad" is the best word to describe the weekend train excursion Milton Kinsmen organized for the Dis-



TONNER BEFORE: Coveralls



AFTER: A collar

BARRY TONNER, the carrot-topped president of Milton and District Kinsmen Club, was one of the hosts for the weekend Kin fall council convention in Montreal. He left wearing his engineer's clothes, including a red neckerchief, but came home sporting a neck brace. Barry slipped and fell while boarding the train for the return trip home and had to go to hospital for treatment of a cut ear, dislocated jaw, bruises and a wrenched back. But he was still smiling.

Accident sidelines Kin club president

Everything was going along fine on Milton Kinsmen's weekend train convention trip to Montreal, until midnight Saturday when an accident sidelined the Milton Kin president, Barry Tonner.

As he went to board the charter Kin train at Montreal's Central Station, Tonner slipped and fell between the station platform and the side of the train.

A conductor, standing nearby, saw him fall head-first into the narrow gap between the train and the concrete platform, and rushed to his aid, as did several fellow Kinsmen.

They found Tonner unconscious and called for an ambulance. One Kinsman on the train was a doctor, and they sent for him immediately to render medical aid.

However Tonner came to before the stretcher arrived, and was talking with them although he appeared to be in a dazed state.

He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was treated for a cut ear, a dislocated jaw, bruises and shock. He was released the same evening, spent the night in Montreal and flew home Sunday morning, arriving in town an hour after the train delivered its passengers back home.

Kinsman Tom Logie, who recently moved to Milton from Montreal, stayed with him on the trip to hospital and

trict Eight Fall Council Convention.

Although it had its moments of seriousness, the trip was also "40 hours of frivolity" as 282 Kinsmen members representing 61 of the 74 clubs in District Eight converged on Milton, Oakville and Montreal for the annual affair.

Unique from start to finish, the convention began in Milton Friday afternoon, moved to Oakville for an evening of fellowship, adjourned to a waiting charter train and progressed through an all-night party on board the train, to Montreal Saturday morning. The Kinsmen spent the day at business sessions, then went night clubbing and boarded the train in the wee small hours of Sunday morning for the return trip then wound up their fun-filled weekend with a pancake breakfast in Milton.

Although registration was a big disappointment for the sponsoring Milton and District Kinsmen (known as the MAD bunch), the convention was an overwhelming success in the eyes of all the participants. The local club had budgeted the trip for 600 Kin—the number registered for last year's Fall Council—but they suffered a big let-down when only 282 showed up. Besides, some of the expected delegates who had paid \$20 registrations in advance, failed to appear and pay the full registration fee.

Fun-wise, Fall Council 1977 will go down in history as a memorable weekend. As they clambered off the train at Oakville early Sunday morning, members from local and distant clubs were tired but still beaming with pleasure and happy memories of the fellowship they had enjoyed over the two days.

Milton club president Barry Tonner and convention chairman Lester Wood, a past president of MAD Kin, were both pleased that the weekend was a success. It was a great experience for the 24-member club, they said, and all the members rose to meet the challenge of organizing, financing and directing such a major undertaking.

MAD Kin, sporting their red vests festooned with buttons and badges they have collected since they were organized four years ago, were everywhere—selling tickets, organizing bus rides, running a bar, ensuring the meals were on time, providing back-up for the District executive and literally doing 101 other jobs associated with such a gigantic project. In the background were the Kinettes, Kinsmen's wives, who provided the Sunday morning pancake breakfast at the Milton Legion and served food at the Friday night social.

Chairman Wood said the convention was "a very satis-

factory conclusion to 12 months of hectic, solid activity. It all began in October of 1976 when MAD Kin won the bid to host the 1977 convention, during the '76 fall council meet at Huntsville," he said.

"Our whole club participated, it was a 100 per cent effort," he said. He said 17 MAD Kin went on the train trip, and the other seven helped promote and organize it. "I am pleased, and proud of all of them."

Several members of the Milton club are brand new members, and they were "initiated by ordeal of fire," he said but all came through well. He also praised the Kinette Club for the back-up services they rendered.

Although Milton's Kinsmen were dedicated to the cause, others were too, he pointed out. He told about three Kinsmen from one club who came to Milton looking for the train, late Friday evening, not realizing it was leaving from Oakville. (Milton has no CN service.)

They eventually made their way to Oakville, but missed the train. But rather than go home, they got back in their car and drove all night, reaching Montreal about the

same time as the train arrived. "That's dedication," he summed up.

District Eight covers 74 clubs in nine area zones in Eastern and Northern Ontario and the western section of Quebec. John Murphy of Matheson is Governor of the District, with Bruce Glass of Lindsay Vice Governor. They are assisted in the operation of Dist. 8 by the nine Deputy Governors and eight others who hold positions as secretary, treasurer, co-ordinator, public relations, reporter, Cystic Fibrosis chairman, Kinette chairman and the past governor who rounds out the executive.

The executive gathered in Milton early Friday and held a business session in Milton Council chambers that afternoon, with convention chairman Lester Wood and MAD Kin president Barry Tonner on hand. They lunched at the Goldo Restaurant, where Mayor Don Gordon was a special guest, and had supper at La Riviera.

Mayor Gordon extended an official welcome on behalf of all Miltonians, and told the visiting Kin that the Milton club was "one of the giants in Milton." The local Kinsmen park is a landmark in town,

he said, and he praised the club's local service work. "The Milton Kinsmen know where they are going, and they are going there at no cost to the taxpayers," he said.

Governor Murphy presented the Mayor with a District Eight banner and thanked the Mayor for his warm hospitality.

A total of 22 attended the meeting in the town hall, including John Boreham from Colborne, a national association director who was called in at the last minute to represent the association.

National Vice-President Len Simms, from Newfoundland, was scheduled to attend and was in Toronto preparing to join the trip, but his father died Thursday evening and he had to fly home.

Final registrations were accepted at the Galaxy Club in Oakville Friday night, where a fellowship evening had been arranged. Games, food, entertainment and souvenir sales preceded the train ride. MAD Kin sold souvenir "GO MAD" photos, beer mugs, convention pins and T-shirts and a representative of Princess Hotels was on hand to pin "Falls in

Help hold Canada together Cabinet Minister Cafik urges

Kinsmen from Ontario attending a fall council convention in Montreal Saturday heard an impassioned appeal from Canada's new Minister of Multiculturalism, for help in holding Canada together.

Norm Cafik, an Ontario MP who was named to the federal cabinet a month ago, said the Quebec situation is a "political problem, a battle for the hearts and minds of the Canadian people."

"You must help convince the people of Quebec they are better off in Canada... than in a new State of Quebec," he said.

Cafik had been invited to the conference to explain his ministry's role in multiculturalism but he also dealt at length with the separatism problem of the host province, and delivered a lecture on the "doom and gloom" concerning the economy.

The setting for the weekend convention, the University of Montreal, is known as a hotbed of separatism in Quebec. Several university students sat in on Cafik's speech in the campus cafeteria, but there were no outbursts. The Kinsmen gave him a standing ovation and the convention's host club from Milton presented some framed wall prints depicting the early days in Milton. The university students rose and left quietly after his talk.

Cafik said his job is to



NORM CAFIK, Federal Minister for Multiculturalism, spoke to Ontario Kinsmen at the Montreal convention and dealt with the controversial Bill 101 in his remarks.

ensure that all Canadians get equal opportunity. He said in the national unity debate, it is important to remember that one-third of the people of this country are of neither French nor English backgrounds, and that they too should be given a chance.

"They have a great deal to contribute to holding this country together," he pointed out.

discussed the economy, and dispelled the "doom and gloom" attitude that seems to exist among Canadians. "I believe Canada suffers a great deal from a negative spirit," he warned. "The problem is in our own heads."

Unemployment is high, he admitted, but Canada also has the fastest growing labor force in the world. He cited other areas where Canada stands out over the other nations and suggested "we are one of God's most chosen people in international and domestic affairs."

"If we were to lift our own spirits, we would have no problems at all," he predicted.

Turning to multiculturalism, Cafik said Canada is not a bicultural nation and

those who came from other lands have a contribution to make. He said he encourages people to hang onto their past, their heritage.

Canada uses the "mosaic" approach and shuns the "melting pot" system used in the United States, he explained.

The cultures of people whose background is in a foreign country is "so strong, so vibrant, if we spent a billion dollars a year we couldn't destroy them."

Multiculturalism policies and programs need a boost "from Canadians placed in the mainstream, such as yourselves. We want you to think seriously about the ways in which you can make multiculturalism work, and work well."

True Kin fashion

Milton club's loss covered

A heartwarming story of Kinship — what Kinsmen clubs are all about — emerged from the Montreal trip that highlighted the District 8 fall council convention.

The host Milton Kinsmen Club lost money, because registrations fell far short of what was budgeted for, but in true Kinsmen fashion their fellow Kin dove in and dug deep to come up with enough cash to cover the club's losses.

Although the convention was an overwhelming success as far as the program, organization and fellowship went, financially it was a disaster. Without outside help, the deficit could have wiped out the local Kinsmen group and the individual club members would have been personally responsible for repayment of a heavy debt.

Organizers told The Champion they wanted to budget the trip for 400 Kinsmen, but at last year's fall council meet, the District Executive had insisted the trip be set up for 600 — the number registered for the 1976 fall council at Huntsville.

The charter train alone cost \$25,000 and the money had to be guaranteed, in advance. As the local club does not have that much money lying around, two Kinsmen signed a personal note at the bank to cover the guarantee, and several other Milton Kinsmen co-signed with them.

"It was a gamble," said trip treasurer John Wood, and it was one gamble that failed to pay off.

In addition to the train charter, there were other expenses in running the weekend and the total budget was over \$40,000. If 600 or more Kinsmen had showed up, the Milton Club would have shown a good profit on the weekend.

But only 282 registered. Some of them only attended

part of the weekend, at a reduced rate. Some who had paid a \$20 deposit did not show up to pay the balance of the cost, so the club lost there too.

Milton Kinsmen explained their plight to the District Executive and it was brought to the floor of the Saturday business session in Montreal. After a brief debate, a motion was approved, almost unanimously, allowing the District to cover the loss from surplus funds and invoice all 74 clubs in Dist. 8 for the amount, on a per man basis.

It was specified that the individual Kinsmen must repay the loss, from their own pockets. The money is not to come from the varied Kinsmen fund-raising accounts, which are specifically for community service projects. Organizers estimate the loss will mean a cost of less than \$10 for every Kinsman in Dist. 8.

That way Milton doesn't bear the brunt of the loss, and the District Executive will only be loaning the Milton club funds which will be repaid by the individual Kinsmen.

Convention chairman Lester Wood said there was an advance registration cut-off date, but the club was forced to accept late registrations right up until train time, because not enough had signed up by the deadline to finance the trip. Final night registration is usually allowed for fall conventions, he said.

Some Kinsmen said cancellation of a promised Montreal Canadiens hockey game may have meant the difference in the attendance. Milton Kinsmen were assured of up to 600 seats for the Saturday night hockey game at Montreal, but they were notified in mid-August that the Habs' home game that

night had been switched, by the NHL, to an away game and a rock concert had been booked into the Forum.

Organizers substituted a night club tour, but admit they did lose some registrations because the game was moved at such a late date. (Some Kinsmen did secure tickets to an afternoon football game in Montreal, however, and were just as happy there as they may have been at the wiped out hockey game.)

National representative John Boreham said at Saturday night's banquet, that what their fellow Kinsmen had done to help the Milton club showed "the true spirit of Kin fellowship." He likened it to a story about a good Kinsman who once lost two legs in an accident and was hospitalized for several months in a city far from his home. But at the end of that year the man received a 100 per cent attendance pin.

When he was asked to explain the perfect attendance award, in light of his hospitalization, the Kinsman said the area Kin clubs in that city had simply moved all their business meetings into his hospital room, so he could retain his good attendance record.

"That, and what you have done today, is what Kinsmen is all about," he summed up.

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