

Your Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion
By Eric Chapman - 884-6021

Public notary, trouble-shooter, mind-reader, and a president of a Legion branch. These were some of the words used to describe Comrade Frank Barrott when he was awarded the Legion's Meritorious Service Medal at the recent Honors and Awards Dinner held at Legion Court.

Provincial Vice-President Don Wilson, who presented the award, said the duties required of a branch president are numerous, and the duties carried out by President Barrott had not only been numerous, but they could only be equalled "if six branch presidents were to be rolled into one."

After the presentation and a standing ovation, Comrade Barrott said that the Legion was his hobby. Although people liked to get in a few digs at him at times, he welcomed and enjoyed them. Of the medal he said, "Every one of you should wear this with me."

Frank became president of Branch 375 in December, 1961, when it was headquartered on Carville Road, Richvale, and the membership totalled 27. Through his efforts the branch was relocated in Richmond Hill, and by 1965 the membership had increased to almost 500. In 1967 he is still "the prez", and the citation they read out on Honors and Awards night concerning all of his achievements was recorded in two pages of typewritten script — single spaced.

Perhaps it might be meritorious to mention here that this man, elected to be a leader, has done exactly that, and led. And in six years the branch hasn't yet found one that can match him.

Head table guests at the Honors and Awards Dinner also included Provincial Service Officer Claire Wall; District Commander Bob Jeffries; Past District Commander Jack Hackett; Zone Commander George Wood; Past Zone Commander Jack Flood; Legion Chaplain Rev. James O'Neill, and a charming lady councillor by the name of Lois Hancey, who has sometimes been referred to as the "June Marks" of Richmond Hill.

Centennial badges were awarded to five Legion members for their efforts in the current Legion membership campaign. Comrade Wood said the target figure set in Ontario was 100,000 and presently stood at 90,000. Certificates of Merit for past service were awarded to Poppy Chairman Doug Hopson, Secretaries Pat Stockdale and Charles Hawkes, and Ladies Representatives Madge Barrott. The latter four deserving comrades had their picture taken at the proceedings by the "Boris Spremo" of Richmond Hill, Stuart Casement, who always pops up from nowhere on such occasions to say "Hold it please". And next week you're

on the front page of "The Liberal".

Two other deserving comrades were presented with tokens of Legion esteem; George Sim, who can work hard and recount at the same time all the stories of war and peace you might care to hear, and Leo Gehan, a very quiet and very hard-working man of good Legion repute who also plays a fiddle.

Provincial Vice-President Don Wilson brought greetings from his level of Legion government and said that provincial command was aware of the achievements of Branch 375 and complimented them on being "a star in the command". He warned that it was easy for a successful branch to sink into complacency, and advised that Legion branches must always attempt to provide the community with service, "at least equal to the value of dues received from Legion members in the community."

Provincial Service Officer Claire Wall spoke on government legislation for needy veterans and said that the support of Legion branches was still necessary in order to maintain a decent standard of living for some of our pensioners. At no time had Branch 375 let him down, he said.

Councillor Lois Hancey stated that she was a politician who loathed giving speeches and she conveyed the regrets of Mayor Tom Broadhurst who was unable to be present that evening. On the award to President Barrott she said that there were some who didn't particularly care for the man, but that they liked his work. "I'm different," she said. "I like him."

Legion Chaplain James O'Neill said that it was very dangerous to put the parson at the end. He spoke on subjects which had been raised in rhetoric by preceding incumbents and effectively, 'sank the lot', as the figurative expression goes. On the subject of presidents he said, "You just have to talk to Frank Barrott, and buzzers are buzzing flags are flying, and somehow everything gets done when somebody is in trouble."

The Honors and Awards Dinner would not have been complete without the members of the ladies auxiliary. President Lucy Rickard and her loyal providers of roast beef and immaculate service received a standing ovation. Her hard-working entourage included: Edith Titshall, Doris Clark, Marie Finnerty, Frances Beaulieu, Greet Tonner, Dorothy Bradley, Rose Donnelly, Jean Bird, Hilda Jones (dressed in all her finery), Gloria Sanford (spud peeler elect), and honorary auxiliary members Arthur Rickard and Mike Finnerty, who can roll up their sleeves and wash dishes with the best of them.

Another house, similar to the House of Concord, will be opened in Vancouver shortly, Commissioner Edgar Grinstead, Territorial Commander of the Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda, said last week at the eighth annual dinner meeting of the House of Concord.

Commissioner Grinstead, who was the guest speaker, said that he was happy the work being done at the House of Concord would be repeated in other parts of Canada.

He lauded the House for its efforts in the field of correctional work and for the individual attention given the residents.

"The House of Concord carries a burden of responsibility... the work is done efficiently and well," the speaker said.

"In a delicate manner, it brings spiritual issues to the front."

He said officials weren't alarmed if the boys at the House didn't join the Salvation Army, but were happy if they became re-established in their own faiths.

He thanked Major A. MacCorquodale, director of the House, for work through the years and for the many new buildings he had helped to

Vancouver To Get Own House Of Concord

By JIM IRVING

get, including the new chapel, "a reminder of the spiritual aspect of the work done here."

Dan W. F. Coughlan, director of probation services for Ontario, who also addressed the meeting, said that, if a five-year moratorium could be imposed on space research and building, and the facilities and costs be used to work on the world's immediate needs, there could be 20 Houses of Concord in Ontario alone.

"We could fill them all in a week, and I hope that day will come soon," he said.

Mr. Coughlan, who has three probation officers on the Concord staff, praised the House, which he said "has been in correctional services longer than we have."

Also speaking briefly were Betty Graham, director of Child Welfare for Ontario, and Magistrate James Butler, representing the board of the House of Concord.

In his annual report, Major MacCorquodale said the most significant thing during the past year at the House, had been the opening of the Paul Harris Lodge, which consists of 12 dormitories and 42 private rooms for the residents.

Facilities had increased substantially and had been

done through a three-way partnership with the Salvation Army, the provincial government and the Rotary Club, the major said.

He said the educational course in grade nine and 10 had been "upgraded" due to the efforts of former Thornhill Secondary School Principal, Stanley Elson, who had joined the Concord staff after retiring from Thornhill.

"I wasn't too enthusiastic," Major MacCorquodale said. "I didn't think a straight academic course would go over, but Mr. Elson was persuasive."

As a result, the course had since dislodged the service station attendant one as the top course.

The major paid tribute to his staff of 30 and to the various agencies, organizations and government bodies that had assisted in the work of the House, both financially and otherwise.

Among these were the Department of Welfare and Education, Probation Services, Rotary Club and the York Central District High School Board.

The latter had waived its fees for the House and there were at present five residents attending high school full time.

He said the House had admitted 165 boys during the

year, and of this number, 118, or 71.5 per cent had graduated successfully.

Named Boy of the Year was former resident, Henry George Baggis.

Eleven residents were presented with certificates for graduating from their courses. Receiving them were: Alexander McKay, Wilford Mitchell, David Mitchell, Terrence Vardy, Glen Rand, Michael McMann, Allan Antoine, John Scarfe, Gordon Finnis, Eric Dunbar and Ronald Burke.

Introducing the head table guests was resident Ken Bowly, who also made a presentation of a farewell gift from the House to Commissioner Grinstead, who is going abroad, and the presentation of some money to the Vaughan Township Rotary Club for its Centennial Fund Choir.

He said the boys raised the money for the latter through fines for misdemeanors around the House.

CKEY Good Citizens Awards were presented by station Public Service Director Kendrick Crossley, to Dr. Robert D. Buckner and Wallace E. Bunton of the Salvation Army.

Church News

The married couples club had a very successful meeting last Friday. King Township Councillor Gordon Rowe, an Oak Ridges businessman, gave an interesting talk on the problems of the deaf and methods of communicating with them. He also told of the various methods of teaching and the program carried on at the Ontario School for the Deaf at Belleville. His daughter, Melissa, who is totally deaf, was present and endeared herself to the audience. Programs for future meetings were discussed. The next meeting will be a bowling evening June 9 at Allencourt Lanes.

A warm welcome home was extended to Captain and Mrs. S. C. Snively, who were back in their usual pew Sunday morning, looking very suntanned and fit after two months in Florida.

At the fireside service there was a celebration of Holy Communion.

The young people will meet Saturday evening to prepare and practice for taking the 11 am service April 22, "Youth Sunday". A member will be responsible for the sermon.

As mentioned last week Rev. and Mrs. Gideon Kitsualok will be staying in the parish for the whole of next week. We know a warm welcome will be extended to them by all parishioners. Incidentally, they will

be in the Toronto area for a month — the next three weeks will be spent at Trinity Church, King Street East; St. Paul's, Bloor Street; and Trinity Church, Thornhill.

Details of the confirmation service held Tuesday will be included in next week's column.

Neighborhood News

Several members of the community accompanied their children who are members of the Festival Choir of Vaughan Township to the concert Saturday evening at the Seventh Day Adventist Hall on Finch Avenue West. Over 1,000 people were present to hear the choir, under the direction of Hugh Martin. The next concert will be at the People's Church, May 13. Richmond Hill Symphony Orchestra will also be heard in this program.

The community club had a very interesting evening Wednesday, the largest attendance for many months being recorded. Vaughan Councillor David Fraser, Concord, a lawyer, gave an informative talk on the problems encountered by a widow after her husband's unexpected death. He gave advice and information on wills and ownership of property.

Birthday greetings are extended to Douglas Browne on April 21 and to Cindy Davies on April 22.

Elgin Mills - Jefferson News

Correspondent Leonard Lomas — Phone 884-3000

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1967 Report

Same King Twp. Road Mill Rate Although More Work Is Planned

King Township's road mill rate will be approximately the same this year as it was in 1966 (13.79 mills), Reeve Gordon Cook told "The Liberal" this week. More work is planned for this year, but since \$7,000 of the 1966 road budget was not spent, it has been possible for council to keep the same mill rate.

Council is asking the Department of Highways to approve the regular bylaw which calls for \$225,000 to be spent in construction and \$175,000 for maintenance. A supplementary bylaw has also been passed in the amount of \$240,919, which is also included in the road mill rate.

A summary of construction started in 1966, to be completed in 1967, includes:

- Minor gravel, ditch and fence work at Lots 7 and 8, Concession 7;
- Asphalt paving on 1,500 feet of Bond Avenue, Oak Ridges;
- Asphalt paving on the East Gwillimbury boundary at Federal Farms;
- Ditching, grading and graveling on Sideroad 17 — Concession 11;
- Sectional plate culvert on Sideroad 18 — Concession 7; CNR bridge and approaches on Concession 2 at Lot 11;
- Asphalt paving on Concession 5 and Marsh Road.

Additional work planned for 1967 includes:

- Road improvement (ditching, grading, graveling and culverts) on Concession 7 at Lots 28-30;
- Road improvement (ditching, graveling and culverts) on Concession 2, Lots 34 and 35;
- Road improvement (graveling and re-shaping) on the Schoolhouse Road, Lloydtown;
- Road improvement (ditching, grading, graveling, culverts, seeding or sodding) on Aubrey and Parker Avenues at Oak Ridges;
- Road improvement at the intersection of Concession 10 and Sideroad 15.

Police villages are excluded from a levy for this work, Mr. Cook noted.

Fatality Inquest Brings Old Plea

An inquest into a fatal accident at a CNR railway crossing in Vaudour, has prompted similar recommendations to those made by another jury five years ago.

This week, a jury investigating the death of Timothy O'Brien, 42, of Capreol, who was killed when the truck he was driving was hit by a CNR passenger train at the crossing February 22, recommended that an unused railway station house and a tool shed be removed from the crossing of a private service road over the tracks.

It also recommended relocating the service road levelling the approaches.

Albert Washington, of Gavenhurst, a passenger in the truck, was critically injured in the accident.

Responsibility for conditions at the crossing was denied by both the CNR and M.G. Slater lumber yard, whose premises are served by the road.

Five years ago, after Ronald Wiss was killed by a train while driving over the crossing, a coroner's jury recommended improvement of visibility and the posting of signal signs for the trains.

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