

Your Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion
By Eric Chapman - 884-0086

Legion officers representing all 10 provincial commands and five U.S. commands gathered at Legion House in Ottawa recently for the annual meeting of the Dominion executive council.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of an honorary life membership to Governor-General Ronald Michener who recently accepted the post of Grand Patron. The presentation of the award was made by Dominion President Ron MacBeath.

Judge Redmond Roche, of Montreal, chairman of the National Poppy Advisory Council, reported that the 1966 campaign was the most successful so far. The trend toward greater distribution of poppies and wreaths was expected to be reflected in the recent 1967 campaign. However, increased labor and material costs forced Veterans to raise prices last November. There was also a sharp increase in freight and express rates, and the total increased cost was estimated at \$14,000 which had to be passed on to Legion branches in the form of higher prices for poppies and wreaths.

Dominion President MacBeath, chairman of the trustees of the Legion's Centennial foundation established to administer the Centennial fund, reported that by last October some \$572,000 had been invested in bonds, term deposits and trust certificates to yield a satisfactory return at the best interest rates available. Investments in bonds were made in each of the ten provinces as well as Dominion of Canada bonds.

A total of 15 resolutions were received from provincial commands either requesting immediate action by the federal government to establish a basic pension rate of \$4,152, or criticizing the 1966 increase in war disability pension rates. Judge Roche, chairman of the veteran's welfare committee, reported his group had taken no action on the need for new pension legislation because it was obvious that Veterans Affairs Minister Rene Tellet would not act until he has received the long-awaited report of the Woods Committee.

An increase in war disability pension rates was announced by the federal government several weeks after the meeting of Legion National Council, and their reaction to it has not yet been officially stated.

With the devaluation of the pound sterling, and the necessary economies that Britain must effect, it automatically follows that some parts of its armed forces will disappear.

Some Canadian veterans, especially those of the 14th Army, will therefore be sorry to hear that the famous British Gurkha Brigade, the best jungle warriors that exist, may soon be out of business.

The brigade recently slimmed their forces from eight to six battalions and a December visit to Nepal by Britain's Defence Minister for Administration Gerry Reynolds, was seen by some observers as a move to wind up the kukri-carriers en masse.

For those readers unacquainted with these gentlemen it should be noted that the Gurkhas are hillmen from Nepal, an independent country between India and Tibet. Short in stature but slightly more solid than the Japanese, they are doughty fighters noted for frugality, dour self-discipline, freedom from vice or corruption and a highly developed taste for military adventure. They dislike Orientals, but appear to admire European habits in war and sport.

"They are interested in killing," says a man who saw the Gurkhas in action in Borneo. "They are not savages, they just go about the military business rather more efficiently than anybody else."

The historical reason for the long Gurkhas association with the British Army dates from 1814, when the two sides fought each other to a standstill and developed a mutual admiration for fighting abilities.

The Gurkhas fought with Britain in World War I at Gallipoli, in Palestine and in Mesopotamia. In World War II serving mostly in Africa, they suffered 24,000 casualties and won 10 Victoria Crosses.

Loyal and businesslike, capable of great endurance, they refuse to eat beef. They favor mutton and goat, killing the animal with a single blow of the kukri, a heavy curved knife.

Their most congenial sphere of action is in the Far East, and they are not easily deployable elsewhere though regiments have served in Britain. Because of the vulnerability of Nepal to China, they are not likely to be allowed by Nepal to offer their services in Vietnam.

In earlier days, the Gurkhas had a tradition that, once unsheathed, the kukri could not be replaced without drawing blood. Their device for distinguishing friend from foe in night fighting during World War II was to creep up from behind, take a stranglehold and then feel with the fingertips whether the helmet was the right shape, denoting an Allied soldier; and the practice froze the blood of many an Allied soldier, pending recognition by the helmet test.

The British War Office will no doubt be sorry to lose the Gurkhas if the brigade is disbanded, but it must be admitted that the kukri is a little outdated when compared to the modern means we have at our disposal for waging war. Nowadays a short squirt of napalm can do the job of 1,000 kukris and nothing must stand in the way of progress.

Members are reminded that the first general meeting of 1968 will take place this coming Monday at 8 pm.



Recently appointed Akela Terry Cameron of Elka Drive, is seen above (left) as he was welcomed to the 1st Beverley Acres Cub Pack by District Commissioner Al Hopkins of Oak Ridges. Mr. Hopkins' district includes Scout troops and Cub packs in Oak Ridges, Jefferson and Richmond Hill.

New Akela For 1st BA Scouts & Cubs

December was a busy month for the boys of 1st Beverley Acres Scouts and Cubs.

The Cubs sold Christmas cards again this year. The three top "salesmen" were Tim Cameron, David Kyle and Danny Malcolm, who each received a purse and keycase kit with embossed Cub crest. Each cub who sold cards was presented with a comb and case kit.

The honor six for the first half of the year was the Yellow Six. As a reward Cub Instructor Steve Berezowski took the boys bowling.

The Cubs enjoyed themselves at their Christmas party held at the last meeting before December 25.

The Scouts also enjoyed a Christmas party.

A hike to Lake Wilcox was organized for December 10. Cold and miserable weather failed to dampen the Scouting spirits of Paul McIntosh, Bill Hagborg, Steven Peat, Rod Cameron, Peter Walker and Ken Boardman Jr.

Steven Berezowski is to be congratulated on passing his cub instructor's badge and Brian Emms for passing the silver stage swimmer's badge.

The Scouts also enjoyed a Christmas party.

Bob Boardman completed his first class journey by hiking 30 miles along the Bruce Trail. He was accompanied by Gary King, who passed the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award by completing the overnight hike.

December 23, the Venturers held a Christmas party at the home of Colin Baker, 252 Zeldia Crescent, with the girls of the 1st York Rangers as guests. Venturer Advisor William Widdifield acted as chaperone.

A reciprocal New Year Party was held by the Rangers, December 30, when the young people of both groups enjoyed skating on the Mill Pond and refreshments at the home of Barbara Dyson, 128 Wood Lane.

This is the first time the Venturers and Rangers have combined their parties, which proved so enjoyable that it is hoped will become an annual custom.

The Venturers are busy preparing for the hobby show at Bayview Secondary School in February. Besides individual entries, a troop exhibit will be shown, consisting of a monkey bridge over a pool of water. The public will be invited (dared?) to test the boys' skill by crossing the bridge.

The Venturers will also staff the first aid situation. All are well qualified as they hold the gold stage first aid badge.

St. John's Anglican, Jefferson Scene Owen-Rawlings Wedding

The marriage of Barbara Ruth Rawlings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rawlings, King City and Oliver Owen, son of Mrs. Mary Owen, Toronto, was solemnized by Rev. E. C. Gerber November 4, 1967, at 2 pm in St. John's Anglican Church, Jefferson.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a white brocade, long-sleeved two-piece coat dress, fashioned on the empire line, with white peau de soie slippers, a peau de soie rose headpiece and shoulder-length veil. She carried a white prayer book with long white ribbon streamers and a white rose and carnation buds.

Matron of honor was Shirley Robinson of Calgary, Alberta, the bride's sister, who wore a royal purple velvet short-sleeved street-length dress, matching shoes and headpiece and carried yellow roses and white carnations.

Bridesmaids Pat Price of Richmond Hill and Winnie Owen and Charmaine Berry of Toronto, wore shocking pink velvet, street-length dresses with short sleeves, matching shoes and headpieces and carried pink roses and white carnations.

Flower girl Dianne Berry of Toronto wore a white peau de soie short dress with shocking pink headpiece and shoes and carried pink rosebuds and white carnation buds.

Best man was Evan Owen of Toronto, the groom's brother, and the ushers were Lowell Paterson and Ralph Berry of Toronto.

The bride's mother wore a navy chiffon dress, matching flowered headpiece, navy shoes, gloves and a yellow rosebud corsage. The groom's mother wore an aqua jewelled brocade dress with matching aqua feathered hat, shoes and gloves with a pink rosebud corsage.

The reception was held at the Four Winds Country Club on Steeles Avenue.

After a short honeymoon the couple now reside on Winona Drive, Toronto.

ELGIN MILLS AND JEFFERSON NEWS

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Church News
Despite the cold weather there was a good attendance at St. John's Anglican Church Sunday morning. The rector continued his sermons on the Old Testament lesson of the day. The service for next Sunday will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 11 am.

The young people's group met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Wilton, Maple Avenue, Jefferson Sideroad, Saturday evening, when 22 members enjoyed a skating and tobogganing party. Next week it is expected that the group will go bowling at the Allencourt Lanes.

The advisory boards met Tuesday evening when the accounts for last year and next year's budget were discussed in preparation for the vestry meetings which this year will be held at St. Mark's January 29 and at St. John's January 30.

Friday the married couples will meet. There will be a skating party at the Ontario Hospital, Aurora, at 8:30 pm. Those not wishing to skate will meet in the upper room at St. John's at the same hour. Refreshments will be served at 10 pm.

The parish was saddened to hear of the death of Harold Dearnley January 3 at Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto. For several years Mr. Dearnley was warden at St. Mark's, but resigned last year and returned to live in Toronto. Born in Dewsbury, England, he came to Canada in 1927. On October 22 of last year he celebrated his 70th birthday and retired from the Royal Trust Company on King Street, Toronto. Six weeks ago he went into hospital seriously ill and got progressively worse. Sympathy of the community goes to his friends and relatives.

Birthdays
Birthday greetings are extended to Bruce Kennedy on the 11th, to Marie Lotoski on the 13th and to Constance Tocher on the 15th.

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