



John McKinnon who retired last week from the Timmins Fire Department, remembers a lot of things about the days of firefighting. When John McKinnon started with the Department March 17, 1925, the equipment was all horse-drawn. Above Jack is shown at the wheel of the pumper which the Department bought ten years ago. Right is Deputy Chief Jim Morton.



When the firebell rang a little over twenty years ago it was a beautiful sight to behold. Those standing in a good position across the road from the firehouse, would see the horses led quickly to the steam pumper and the hose wagon. A pull on a rope and the harness fell on the horses' backs... the firemen work feverishly as they fastened each strap. The driver mounted the seat and the whole cavalcade tore down the street with a clanging of bells and belching black smoke and sparks.



Jack McKinnon says that when he has had a rest he will no doubt go back into the butcher business which he left in 1923 to join the Timmins Fire Department. But Jack says that he will continue his old habits to some extent. One habit he doesn't wish to drop altogether is that of having a friendly game of Cribbage with the boys at the fire house. Left to right are shown R. Nickolson, A. Eby, J. McKay, Jack McKinnon, Deputy Chief Jim Morton, J. A. Ayotte, Frank Wallingford, Bud Snider and Con Clairmont.

### Firemen Not Selfish Simard's Seranaders At Sing-Song Sunday

(Continued from Page One)

man for 35 years with the Chicago Fire Department and served later as fire marshal in that same city. "Firemen only want to live normal lives like other citizens and they cannot if they are working longer hours and getting less pay."

Mr. Redmond told of his own experience as a firefighter and the lack of training in the early days. "You learned the hard way at the fires and tired yourself out just learning. You weren't much use for a long time and you got so that you didn't care too much what you did."

He spoke in such familiar terms of "pines" and "lines" and "line breaks" that the local firemen were with him from the start of his speech.

He said that in the United States firefighting was a political business and the firemen spent more time fighting politics than they did fighting fires. "In Canada you have been more sensible in that regard. After the United States placed the Fire Fighters under the Civil Service a great change took place. There were fewer fires and the ones that did happen were put out faster."

"Firemen cannot become public charges," he said. "They must be free citizens, adequately paid and equipped to do the job."

Rome, he said, had a vast firefighting system which carried on for hundreds of years until Nero thought that he could dispense with their services. The burning of Rome was the result.

England, he said, always had a fire fighting system, but until the great fire of London, each large house was protected by a group of firefighters. During the great fire the fire soon got out of hand and they were unable to stop it. After that great conflagration, the city fathers set up a fire-fighting system of free firemen, paid by the city to fight all fires and at any time. This method soon kept down the number of fires and prevented the spread of small fires.

"This system paid off during the war years. When fire rained from the sky in Poland, the cities controlled by a military clique were unable to fight back and their buildings burnt to the ground and the people fled in panic. The same thing happened in France and the low countries. "But in England it was a different

The Y's Men's Club announces that if they don't get rained out again this Sunday evening the regular Sing Song will be held. Last week Earl Simard and his Starlight Seranaders orchestra were scheduled to appear but instead a cloud burst washed out the whole program. During the summer months the Y's Men's Sing Song has been one of the highlights of the week. Held every Sunday evening at 8.30 o'clock the sing songs have been attended by thousands of interested spectators.

The firemen, who had been properly taken care of during peace, free and unafraid, devoted their lives to their city and fire which might have wiped out the whole city of London was contained in relatively small sections.

"And, I know that if anything like that should come to our countries on the North American continent, the firemen would be willing to devote their lives to the preservation of the citizens and their property."

He said that with modern fire-proof buildings, new techniques of firefighting had to be devised. In many cases the firemen have developed new alarm systems, ideas for the storing and protection of volatile substances.

"We must project ourselves into the future," he said, "and think ahead. We must be prepared to fight fires and prevent them."

Mayor Karl Eyr welcomed Mr. Redmond on behalf of the Town of Timmins and said that he had never heard such an interesting talk in firefighting.

Philip Payne, chairman of the Town Fire Committee said that he remembered the Chicago Fire as a small boy and had followed with interest the speakers words.

Deputy Chief Morton mentioned briefly the Halleybury fire and the fact that the firemen had been on 24 hour duty and were too exhausted to save the town.

Fireman A. J. Ayotte, president of Local 535 Timmins Firefighters, presided as chairman at the meeting. At the close of the meeting Jack McKinnon was presented with his life membership card.

### L'Affaire Holm Featured Last Olympic Crossing

By Joe Williams

Our Olympic athletes begin the invasion of London when the good ship America set out to sea. It is to be hoped abundant success will crown their labors and that the crossing will be interesting and educational but not too lively. Not like the 1936 crossing, for instance.

That one will always be remembered for L'Affaire Holm, or Jarrett, to give the alluring breast-stroke swimmer her married name as of then. She broke training on the ship, got herself delightfully plastered, defied the badge wearers to toss her off the team and wound up a mere spectator in Berlin. (She did manage to meet the Crown Prince, though).

The other day her current husband, Billy Rose, the greatest gift to journalism since the invention of the typographical error, had something to say about the Holm, or Jarrett rhubarb in his newspaper column. To wit:

"As the Saturday Evening Post tells it, Avery Brundage had nothing to do with bouncing my missus off the team. The decision was made by the 26 or 30 members of the Olympic Committee who made the voyage. It was up to Brundage, as the ranking committee man present, to make the announcement."

It that true?" I asked Eleanor.

Committee Brundage Stooges "Definitely not," said the girl who placed first in the '32 Olympics and was never defeated after that. "The committee was composed of coaches and other sports-struck people who were getting a free trip to Europe only because Brundage okayed them. They voted his way or else."

"Give me the straightaway on the champagne story," I said. "It's simple," said my favorite mermaid. "An Olympic team is made up of the products of coaches from all parts of the country. Virtually every coach has his own training methods. The man trained me was always afraid I might get stale. He worked me like a washerwoman six days a week and on the seventh let me relax. If I felt like a smoke or a few drinks it was okay with him."

"When I went to Europe with the team I traveled third class. Mr. Brundage refused to let me travel any other way. When the newspaper boys invited me to their party I was glad to come up out of the steerage and I saw no harm in having a few glasses of champagne with them. I have no apologies for what I did..."

This can scarcely be accepted as a thoroughly accurate picture of what happened. As I have noted before, it is popular to throw bricks at Brundage who is very high brass in amateur athletics. One reason he gets an unpopular press is that he believes the rule book should be respected. His approach to amateurism and sportsmanship is doggedly idealistic and completely honest. I happen to be one of several who applaud him for this.

There can be no doubt that his position in amateur athletics is influential, as Mrs. Rose charges. But there were others on the committee at that time who were quite influential themselves. Gus Kirby, for one. And it is my memory that Eleanor blamed him for her expulsion, not Brundage. At least, she put him on the gridlock and broke him with a merry malevolence.

Writers Don't Throw Champagne Parties

It is capacious to point out that the champagne party was not given by the sports writers. For one thing, they don't have that kind of money. For another, they'd rather have Scotch or, in desperation even, fresh paints. An official of the steamship company was the host. Largely, the guests were sports writers and their wives. Eleanor was an added starter.

The party was held on the second or third afternoon out. I quote from a log I kept on that trip: "July 17th: One of the water nymphs of the swimming team who became a bit heady at a cocktail party was reprimanded for breaking training today and defied the Olympic Committee to put her off the team. In this she was supported by another passenger, Mr. Charles MacArthur, the Broadway playwright and distinguished authority on acts of God. It was ultimately decided to let the young lady sleep it off. The newsmen agreed to ignore the incident."

Later: "July 23rd: Incidentally, the

### Re-Examine Traditions Chamber Commerce Asks

The historians of the future may well call the age we live in the "Time of the Wars of Semantics", says the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Nothing so much characterizes the present struggles between opposing ideas and political systems as the concentration semantics — the study of the meaning of words. The old familiar labels which we used to indicate particular things have been hauled and punched out of shape so that now a "progressive" is a man who is told what to think by a Communist committee which meets mysteriously in Eastern Europe, and a "Democrat" may mean anything from a member of Tammany Hall to Joseph Stalin.

Th's woolly talk is a symptom of the identity of the playgirl nymph became known today. The Olympic brass got word a news agency had broadcast that the ship was the scene of high revelry. By the way of defense the alarmed committee foolishly issued an official statement that "with one exception" the behavior of the team was beyond criticism. Mrs. Eleanor Holm Jarrett, the swimmer, accepted this as a personal attack and said: "They can't do this to me." And so, using

woolly-headedness which is part and parcel of our time. It is used as a weapon by the opponents of Democratic Traditions. It is mistaken as "tolerance" or "broad mindedness" by foggy-thinking disciples of "Democratic socialism". Although they have seen the fate of their kind in country after country which has fallen prey to the hard-headed revolutionary methods of the Communists, these people never seem to learn. The Communists use them, then throw them aside. But their bleating continues undiminished on such subjects as "finding a common ground with the Marxist Democrats", and "taking the appeal out of Communism by demonstrating the superiority of the American way of life". Dr. Virgil Jordan, writing in the July issue of American Affairs, comments on this subject: "If the superiority of the American system and the American ethos has not been demonstrated beyond any imaginable degree of comparison then the dialectical insanity of the world may be called hopeless".



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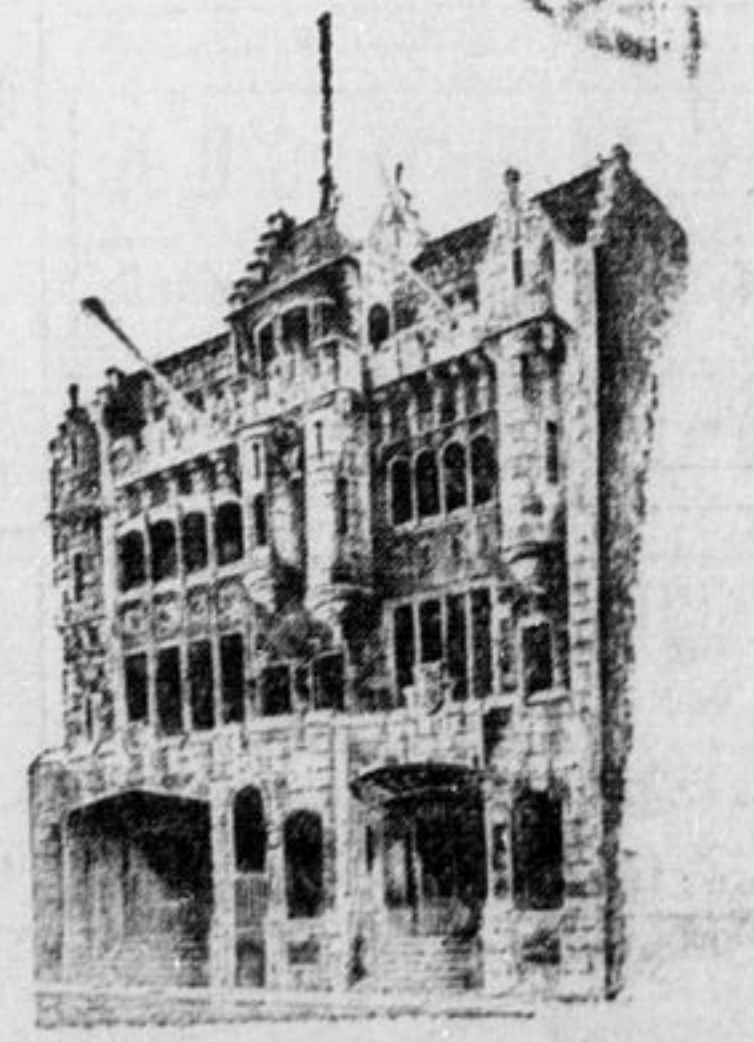
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