

THE GYROLOG



THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
— EDMONTON — ALBERTA

(34)

25 November 1992

We last met at the Mayfair Golf Club at 12.00 noon on November 17th, with President John Ross presiding. We had an attendance of 34 members but no guests on this occasion. We had a rousing "cheerio" led by Harry (harmonious) Mills, followed by David Burnett giving the invocation.

Health & Welfare: Bert Bören reported that he recently had a visit with Gyro John Boychuk in the Grandview Extended Care Centre, at 6215-124 Street. He learned that John and his wife Regina, had recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Our belated congratulations to these two fine people and our best wishes for the future. John is unable to attend our meetings for health reasons, but he would be happy to see some of his Gyro friends. Make a note to call and visit with him.

Bert also advised that Russ Shepherd had an eye operation, but is back home and doing well.

Birthdays - We have three celebrating in November 1992, our VIP Marty Larson who added another milestone on November 14th, while Garry Diment's big day on the 18th, with Gunnar Anderson's on the 24th. They all appear much younger than their years - it must be the "Gyro way of life". Happy birthday and may you all enjoy many more.

Gyros in the news: A very interesting article by Allan Warrack, concerning the Alberta Heritage Fund, appeared in the Edmonton Journal on 23 October. He reviewed the Heritage Fund situation when he addressed the Economic Society of Alberta.

Another club member Tony Sheppard, recently submitted an article to the Journal in which he expressed his thoughts and feelings concerning the referendum vote held on October 26th. Both of these reports gave food for thought and are commended to you.

Congratulations are once again extended to Gyro Dr. Larry Wang, The University of Alberta zoologist who developed the Cold Buster energy bar, who was awarded the Innovation in Alberta Technology Award. Our membership is pleased that Larry's hard work is being duly recognized.

Our congratulations also to William Sutherland Agnew, who graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Convocation on November 21st, 1992. William is the son of Gyro Bill & Gyrette Wendy Agnew. A happy son and very proud parents!

Gyro Hockey Pool - speaking of winners we received the following list from our hockey hustler Al McClure for the first two games:-

November 14th: 1st period: \$10.00 - Mark Power and Wayne Knight; 2nd period \$15.00 Ed Day: Lauren Warrack: Ron Ewoniak: 3rd period \$25.00 L.Mattiussi and Tony Sheppard.

November 21st 1st period \$10.00 J. Anderson: Paul Pope: Elaine Tomniuk;
2nd " \$15.00 Linda Agnew: Larry Murray: Brenda Hennig.
3rd " \$25.00 Ron Cowles and Derek Briggs.

Al McClure says these are all the winners that he knows about, unless any of us have sold a winner but haven't turned the tickets over to him. Check your lists please.

Mail Call - President John received a post card from Ernie & Beth Siegel who were on a cruise, which was sent from a place called Hell, in the Cayman Islands. Ernie was at our last meeting and explained the a/m location was really nice and they had a great trip.

John Ross also read a letter he had received from our Gyro Neil and Anne Sheidow, who now live in Barrie Ontario. They have kindly issued an invitation to any of our members who may be travelling east, to come and visit with them. They send greetings and best wishes to all.

Gyrettes Corner - Lassies, you are reminded by Flora Peterson, that your next Gyrette Meeting will be held at the Mayfair Golf Club, on Tuesday evening December 8th. Libation at 6.00 and dinner at 6.30 p.m. Cost is \$15.00.

You are reminded that this is Gyrette Gift Exchange Night, so please come prepared. In addition please bring a "Win House" gift, for a child's mother. Do not wrap the Win House gift.

IN REVIEW - President John made reference to three Gyro club events that had taken place, viz; Dist 8 Curl-a-rama (Banff) Gyro Founder's Night, and Edmonton Oilers Night. As all of these successful events were previously reported in the "log we feel no need to guild the lily. Suffice it to say that while our curlers didn't win a trophy this year, we had one for last year to keep polished.

It was the great Scottish bard, Robbie Burns who said, "the best laid schemes o mice and men gang aft a-gley". At our last meeting on 17 November, the planned program for that day could not be carried out. However Plan "B" was implemented when Int'l Pres Marty Larson volunteered to take over.

As you probably know Marty has been involved over the years in sports broadcasting, doing interviews and play-by-play descriptions of baseball, hockey & football games. He continues to conduct interviews on current affairs on CHQT Radio.

So at this meeting Marty gave us a talk about the history of radio, which proved to be a walk down memory lane - via the airwaves, which proved to be a very interesting and informative presentation; interspersed with his delightful sense of humour and story telling ability. The following is a summation of his talk....

"The first commercial radio station was in Pittsburgh in the 1920's. Some of you may remember the old crystal sets, when you had to have a set of headphones to hear the program

The first radio station most of us would remember in Edmonton was CJCA. One of the early pioneers of that station was Dick Rice, who later became involved with a fellow named North and began CFRN Radio in the mid-30's.

A lot of famous names hit the airwaves in the 30's and 40's as radio came into it's own in Canada. There have been era's of pure entertainment such as comedy shows and melodrama's plus the golden age of sports broadcast names, like Foster Hewitt in hockey, Graham MacNamee in racing, Don Dunphy in boxing, Red Barber and others in baseball.

Remember listening to Hockey Nite in Canada with Foster Hewitt on play-by-play, and Bobby Hewitson and Elmer Ferguson on the hot stove league

Locally you may remember names like Art Ward and Gord Williamson, who brought us all the hockey & baseball covering the Flyers and the Big Four Baseball League. How many remember one of the great bilingual broadcasters who hailed from Morinville, Alberta. Paul Guy was an outstanding news broadcaster in English or French. Paul and a lady named Betty Sims used to do an evening program called "Just The Two Of Us".

Kids programs also came into their own in the late 30's and early 40's. Who can forget "The Farmer" who had a regular program on CJCA - and his one big "faux pas". Then there was Uncle Hal and Jojo. Uncle Hal was Hal Yerxa who later owned CFCW, and made a lot of money selling the station a few years ago.

During the second World War, the correspondents who covered all the action became well known to us; including the announcers reporting the news. I believe this was the fore-runner of the personality cult that dominates the television scene today.

Back in the forties we all came to know the name of Matthew Halton, an Alberta born correspondent who travelled all over Europe to report on the fighting. Here at home we had the "voice of doom" reading the CBC National News. That of course was Lorne Greene, better known to most of us as Pa Cartwright, of Bonanza fame.

Those of you who remember radio before it became a way to hype record sales and give away money, will probably remember just what program went with what evening. See if you remember the same highlights I remember for each day of the week.

On Monday night at 7.00 p.m. was the Lux Radio Theatre. My favorite on Tuesday had to be Fibber McGee & Molly. Wednesday & Thursday were not so clear, but Friday nights I listened to the fights, with Don Dunphy and Bill Corum from Madison Square Garden. Actually Thursday night was memorable for the original amateur hour with Major Bowes.

Saturday night when it wasn't a hockey game, we would likely listen to Gangbusters.

The power of radio was demonstrated in 1938 when Orson Welles brought us "The War Of Worlds" and people all over the United States panicked, thinking we were really being invaded by Martians. Luckily it was broadcast on a Sunday night, competing with the top rated Charlie McCarthy show, otherwise the panic may have reached epic proportions. Other top Sunday night programs were Jack Benny and Fred Allen.

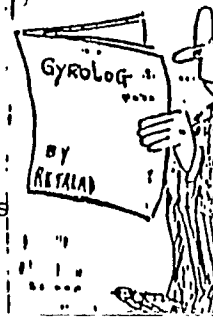
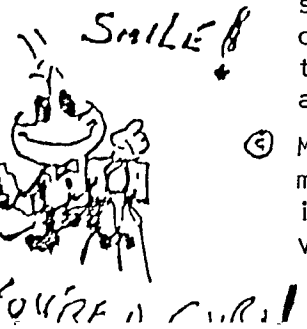
In the morning and afternoon, we had fore-runners of today's soap stories with such programs as Ma Perkins and Peper Young's Family, among others. Probably the top-rated morning program all across Canada was the Happy Gang. In the afternoon it was the way down east music of Don Messer and his Islanders.

As the importance of the hit parade ratings increased, radio turned it's attention more and more to music. The advent of Rock & Roll in the 50's, coupled with the popularity of television spelled the end of radio, as it had been for 20 years. Radio since then is another story."

To recreate some radio memories, Marty brought along a few tapes, covering the intro's for some of the radio shows, commercials and other highlights, that we might have forgotten. The tapes also included some of the classic radio bloopers that occurred. Radio was very spontaneous and the mistakes that went on the air, added to the fun of it all. To conclude the tape presentation, we were treated to that famous dialogue between those two great entertainers, Abbott and Costello, captioned "Who's On First!!"

- ④ Marty's excellent presentation certainly brought back a lot of fond memories about those great radio programs. Once again we are indebted to Marty for "stepping into the breach" so to speak. Thanks very much, you never cease to make Gyro your No.1 priority, whether it's local, District or International.

Retread.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - Mike Matei reports that everything has been arranged for this happy event on Saturday December 5, 1992, which will be held at the Faculty Club. Cocktails at 6.30 and dinner at 7.00 p.m. Cost is \$28.00 per person. Please bring your money (make cheque payable the Gyro Club of Edmonton) to our next regular meeting at Mayfair on Tuesday 1 December. You can pick up your tickets and then Mike can complete arrangements with the Faculty Club.

BITS & PIECES - A careful driver - a motorist on the way to court to pay for a speeding ticket.

An alarm clock - a small device used to wake up people who have no children.

VOX POP - It takes a long time to grow an old friend. (Stanley Noel Smith)

The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbor. (Allan Douglas)

It takes a lot of things to show you are smart, but it only takes one to show you are dumb. (Andy Friderichsen)

Political bedfellows - men who usually use the same bunk. (Dan Lawton)

One of the quickest ways to meet new people is to pick up the wrong ball on a golf course. (Harry Mills)

Of all the important things you wear, your expression is the most important.
(Larry Wang)

OUR NEXT MEETING will be at at 12.00 noon at the Mayfair Golf Club on Tuesday 1 December.

Program Team No.8 - Russ Shepherd: Dick Ogilvie & Gord Rennie

This will be your opportunity to meet and greet your newest Gyro friend, Pat Millard, who is being sponsored by David Burnett and Ernie Siegel. We look forward to a good attendance. See you then.

Retread.

ADDENDUM - If you got tired of reading this 3 page bulletin (especially page 2) and you are looking for an apology - you are not getting one! - but I will give you an explanation.

- (a) Page 2 gives you (almost verbatim) Marty Larson's damn good talk.
- (b) This talk contains some very significant historical information about Radio programming at it's best.
- (c) Our Gyrologs form part of the Edmonton Gyro Club's Historical Records, all of which end up in the City of Edmonton Archives.
- (d) Therefore the History of Radio as provided by our International President Marty will be preserved.

(Gordon (Taurus) Rennie