

GYROLOG
GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
FEBRUARY 20TH, 2001

Overheard at the foodmarket: the lady just in front plopped down one of those thin plastic bags containing five or six juicy, red tomatoes. The cashier started to put the bag onto the scale, hesitated, then proceeded to take the tomatoes out of the bag one at a time and commenced the process of weighing them one at a time. The lady, just a tad frustrated by the delay, exclaimed a little shrilly, "Why don't you weight them all at once?" "Don't be silly," came the prompted reply, ""they're all different sizes."

Well, President Bruce had a great turnout on Tuesday. We, too, were all different sizes. Fortunately he didn't try to weight us individually but he did "size up" the gathering and kept the meeting moving swiftly, with just the right mixture of good humour and solid, useful information. Our intrepid baritone, Larry Dobson, led us in a hearty rendition of "Cheerio". (Once this group is put onto the right key they lean into the song with gusto but when we fail to hit the right note at the outset we lend new meaning to the application of "chaos theory"). Thanks, Larry, you led us "not astray". The gentle spoken Jack Ellis brought decorum to the meeting at its outset by providing us with a thoughtful grace.

GUESTS

Members of the Club together with John Ross and his membership committee deserve a word of commendation. Four guests participated in the meeting – some new and several who have attended before. Ted Hagemann introduced friends Rick Korzan and Gerrit Halbersma; Mort Morter introduced friend Peter Fairbridge (welcome back, Peter); and Bryce Van Dusen told us about his friend Bob Moore who comes to his new home town, Devon, by way of Ontario, and B. C. Larry Dobson briefly introduced our guest speaker, **Bob** Montgomery from the Edmonton Police Services. It is wonderful to have new friends among old and special thanks go to our Gyro colleagues for inviting them. Behind the scenes, we must remember, is John Ross and his hard working Membership Committee. We are all deeply grateful to John and his team for their persistent, consistent and dedicated efforts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bocci – our annual Bocci Night will be held March 5th at the Italian Cultural Centre. Geoff Brewer reminded us that there are limited places and that we always try to reserve some rooms for friends from the St. Albert Club. We are "bears for punishment" – our St. Albert buddies always seem to emerge on the winning team yet we persist in inviting them along each year!! I suppose that we could seek refuge in the motto "It's only a game!" or "Well, we are friends after all." Or we might say, "This is nothing compared to the pain that Kelley Law and her team felt after the 11th end measurement to determine the winner of the Scott Tournament of Champions!!" Watch out, St. Albert, we are preparing some good excuses for this one. If you haven't signed up with Geoff Brewer, give him a call. He might have room for one or two more on the Bocci lanes. Cost? \$25,00!!! Start time? 5:00 PM for the first matches.

REMEMBER, THE BOCCI NIGHT REPLACES OUR REGULAR TUESDAY MEETING FOR THE FIRST OF THE MONTH OF MARCH. NO MEETING MARCH 6TH.

Health of the Club – Mort Morter reminded us that the good news for the week was that Al McClure was NOT at the meeting. His absence means that Al and Bette have been given clearance by his doctors to return to their winter home in the south. We wish both of them excellent, good golfing, and blue skies.

Our friend, Norma Tracey, has had a difficult winter. She suffered an arm injury earlier in the fall and just a short time ago a tumble resulted in a broken pelvis. This injury has severely restricted her mobility to please, everyone think of her and give her a call. Telephones become best friends during times like this. You might mention to your Gyrette that Norma would appreciate hearing from them as well.

Allan and Elaine Douglas have suffered the loss of two close members during the course of the last few months. Allan's father passed away in his home in Ottawa and then Elaine lost her brother just a few short days again. Please let them know that our thoughts and sympathies are with them during these difficult times. An extra hug would not be out of place at a time like this.

Dick Ogilvie remains in the extended care wing of the old General Hospital. On some days he is very chipper and bright while on other days he does not manage so well. He likes company so if you can arrange a visit with him please drop in. We will see Dick at the Valentine's Party – he and Margaret plan to attend.

Hockey Pool – Dave Duchak and Bob Lippe continue to crank out the cheques for the lucky winners of the Gyro Hockey Pool. Winners for Game 12 (Coyotes vs Oilers) were: 1st and 2nd period – Waiver Bouillon, Butch Agnew, Tony Sheppard; 3rd period – Keith MacDonald, Darren Agnew, Jim Borgel.

Game 13 (Canucks vs Oilers): 1st period – Norma Tracey, Gordon Rennie, Tony Sheppard; 2nd period – Glen Baird, Terry Russell; and 3rd period – Emma Edmonds and Cathe Van Dusen

The unfortunate Oilers were not winners. We are hoping for better results in the next two games, Dave and Bob. See what you can do.

Quad Club Golf - Larry Dobson reminded the club members that the 3rd annual Quad Club Gold Tournament would be held Friday, September 7th. Allan Warrack is our Club representative on Bernie Kropp's organizing team. The tournament will be organized in two parts: a men's section and a women's section. Cost? \$55.00 per person including green fees, carts, prizes and a dinner. A great deal so sign up early and assure yourself a spot on the tee.

Change of Date for April Fort Edmonton Meeting

The scheduled meeting for the Kelly Saloon Annual Event has been changed from Tuesday, April 3 to Thursday, April 5. Gord Robertson has been able to re-arrange this scheduled meeting to accommodate a conflict with University of Alberta's Sports Wall of Fame Dinner which will be held the evening of April 3. Thank you, Gordon.

Club Golf Tournament – President Bruce announced that Roger Russell and Barry Walker would, once again, host our club's annual golf tournament. Information on this special event will be inserted in subsequent Gyrologs.

VALENTINE'S PARTY

Friends Walter Yakimets and Bill Agnew did it again!! They organized a superb party for 42 Gyro and Gyrettes at the Bridges Restaurant. The restaurant was filled to capacity – it was, nice as someone quipped, to go to a restaurant where you knew everyone. Bill and Wendy presented special Riddle Sweets for everyone and Ted Hagemann won a basket of goodies for his Valentine Sweetheart. The wine selection was excellent and the meal would have graced the table of the Queen. Well done, gentlemen. We all enjoyed the fruits of your labour.

FAIRMONT INTERIM CONVENTION – MARCH 16TH, 17TH, 18TH

In a few short weeks several couples from our Club will head south and west through the front range, the mid range and the main range of the Rockies to join with other Gyros and Gyrettes from around District VIII. There is still room for others if you would like to share in one of the jewels of Gyro friendship. Barry and Val Walker are already looking for a special restaurant for our Club's annual supper together during the Fairmont Interim. They located just such a place during their last visit to the area and need only to check on availability. We would like to have a great turn out for President Bruce when he presents his Club report to the District. Come along and have some winter fun or spring time revelry – depending on the vagaries of the spring equinox.

GUEST ADDRESS

Larry Dobson introduced to us our guest speaker, Bob Montgomery. Bob has been with the Edmonton Police Service for 24 years, many of those he spent in that section which we euphemistically know as *the Fraud Squad*. In reality it is the *Economic Crimes Section (formerly the Fraud and Commercial Crime Section)*. In the main, his section deals with crimes of persuasion (scam artists who “talk you out of your possessions illegally), embezzlement, forgery, arson, credit card fraud, insurance fraud and the like.

Unlike other areas of crime in our city, the rates of which tend to be dropping, in this area, crime rate is on the rise. There are demographic reasons why this is the case – we have an aging population and as you age you tend to look for “easier pickings” if you inclined to lead a life outside the pale of the law. Bob also explained the shifts in our economic climate have exacerbated the problem. During recent recessions, companies tended to release middle management personnel and these were the very people that acted as “watchers” of the exchequer etc. Now no one checks on those inclined to pilfer a little here and a little there (and sometimes more than a little – the average cost per fraud is about \$23,000 and this is more than the average gained by a thief from a bank robbery). Another set of factors is at play that has their genesis in the economic difficulties we have faced in recent decades. Job security is a thing of the past and company loyalty has gone with it – there is little incentive to stay with one company and as you leave, a little internal espionage might gain you entrée to a new company.

Technologies of today, lashed together as they are by coaxial cables, fiber optics, telephone lines and infused with miniature chips that contain huge amounts of information, are extraordinarily vulnerable to the sophisticated “hackers” that take real pleasure from destroying the “firewalls” erected by others – “that which can be devised by one person can be defeated by another” Bob reminded us. When this invasion is perpetrated by someone with malice aforethought they just might steal your identity, President Bruce’s, or even that of Mr. Gyro himself, Gord Rennie. These people have no scruples. We are all vulnerable and much of the time we simply don’t recognize or realize our vulnerability. We are dependent on the skills of others to protect our good name.

Sadly, our Justice System is not that concerned about such things as identity theft. If a gun was not involved or if violent acts were not committed, don’t bother us is the standard response given to Bob and his colleagues when they seek support.

Organized crime rings are often at the root of many of the large scale scams. Take credit card scams, as an example. In this area the criminal groups are better organized than the law enforcement agencies. Criminals in one country will produce the new magnetic strips for the cards, those in another country will look after the laser etching, criminals from a third country will prepare the plastic blanks, and a fourth will organize the distribution. Once your number is known it can be transmitted to another country in seconds and from that point on it is smooth sailing (sorry about that analogy, Peter). Several of our Club members have already had calls from their credit card company checking with them to determine whether or not they used their card recently in New York, Cancun, Singapore, etc. It is a good idea to report to your credit card company (-ies) plans that you may have for travel, particularly travel out of Canada. This information can be used to trigger off rapid checks when bills come in from geographical areas at distance from where you are traveling. In the not too distant future our cards will include finger print information, perhaps hand geometry or even information for retinal scans. Smart cards that contain microchips with masses of information embedded in them are already in use in some parts of the world. They may be used here in Canada before long if the various agencies and levels of government agree upon it.

Bob shared with us a number of pamphlets the intent of which is to make us all more knowledgeable and with that knowledge to help all of us to prevent crimes of this type. Some of the pamphlet titles are:

- *Telemarketing Fraud
- *Credit Card Fraud and Prevention
- *Cheque Fraud
- *Counterfeit Currency (the new \$10 bill was counterfeited in 4 days)
- *Investment Fraud

- *Automated Teller/Bank Card Fraud
- *Internal fraud and Theft
- *Ponzi Schemes
- *Phony Bank Inspector Fraud
- *Pyramid Schemes
- *Counterfeit Credit Cards
- *Insurance Fraud
- *Guide for Parents: Children and Computers
- *I've been Ripped Off – Reporting Guidelines

For those of us who thought, “This can’t happen to me,” our friend, Peter Carter provided examples from his business as to how easy it is to have it happen to you. No one is immune to economic crimes today but all of us can become more aware of the pitfalls that exist by gathering information. In Edmonton write to:

Edmonton Police Economic Crimes
9620 – 103 A Ave.
Edmonton, AB
T5H 0H7

Or Phone (780) 421-2842

Owen Cornish provided a fine closure to Bob Montgomery’s presentation with a gift from the Club and words that reflected how much we had gained from Bob’s insights.

In the business world they say that “There is no such thing as a free lunch.” But in the world of Gyro friendship this adage does not hold – Bob Montgomery cut “the cards” and turned up the name of friend, Bill Agnew. A popular win, Bill. It was great to have you with us today.

Gyro Thought for the Day:

Go the extra mile. It’s never crowded.

Buffet:

A French word that means “Get up and get it yourself.”

Diplomacy:

Letting someone else have your way.

Baby-sitter:

A teenager who must behave like an adult so that the adults who are out can act like teenagers.

Tattoo:

Permanent proof of temporary insanity.

POSTINGS: SEVERAL FRIENDS HAVE PROVIDED WRITTEN INTENTION THAT THEY WILL JOIN OUR GYRO CLUB. THEY ARE:

- *PETER FAIRBRIDGE**
- *GERRIT HALBERSMA**
- *RICK KORZAN**
- *BOB MOORE**

INSTALLATION DATE: MARCH 20TH. PLAN TO BE THERE TO WELCOME OUR NEW FRIENDS.