

THE GYROLOG



THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
— EDMONTON — ALBERTA

December 28, 1983

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 3, 1984, Mayfair Golf and Country Club at 12.15 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

1. The Gyro International Interim Meeting will be held at San Diego, California, January 19 through 21, 1984.
2. Valentine Party, Wednesday, February 15, 1984 at Stage West. Cost: \$26.00 per person.
3. District VIII Interim Convention, March 2 through 4, 1984 at Lethbridge, Alberta.

BIRTHDAYS

Garnet Nelson January 1 Benny Van Loom January 1
Paul Revere January 1

"The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom." - H.L. Mencken.

"There is only one thing age can give you, and that is wisdom." -
S.I. Hayakawa.

HOCKEY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Game No. 7, December 17, 1983

- \$10.00 - Ticket No. 783, George Evans; Ticket No. 826, Norma Treacy.
\$15.00 - Ticket No. 713, Don Birmingham; Ticket No. 856, Bob Shewchuk,
Ticket No. 910, Al Baker.
\$25.00 - Ticket No. 743, Jean Warrack; Ticket No. 886, Harold Wang.

THIS WEEK (25)

Bert Boren introduced his guest, Bob Tegler.

Gordon Rennie brought regrets from Elmer MacGillivray who was unable to attend because of a previous commitment.

Moved^d by Glenn Treacy, seconded by Roger Russell, that \$200.00 be donated to the Edmonton Christmas Bureau. Carried.

Marty Larson was nominated for the position of 2nd Lieutenant Governor, District VIII, 1984-85, by Allan Warrack and seconded by Dave Burnett. This nomination, which was unanimously approved, will be presented at the Lethbridge District VIII Interim Meeting in March 1984.

Moved by Boyd Slavik, seconded by Bert Boren, that an honorarium of \$50.00 be paid each member who attended the District VIII Curlarama. Carried.

Dave Burnett introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Steve Ramsankar, a native of Trinidad, who came to Canada over two decades ago. He first settled in Winnipeg but finding the winters too cold moved to Edmonton where he has adjusted not only to our climate but to Canadian life and culture.

Winnipeg but finding the winters too cold moved to Edmonton where he has adjusted not only to our climate but to Canadian life and culture. Steve joined the staff of the Edmonton Public School Board some twenty-two years ago, and at the present time is principal of Alex Taylor School, one of the so-called inner city schools. This school serves an area bounded by 101 Street on the west, 92 Street on the east, Jasper Avenue on the south, and the C.N.R. tracks on the north.

In this district are people from some thirty odd ethnic and racial groups; and Alex Taylor School is the generator that is melding them into responsible Canadian citizens.

Mr. Ramsankar was disturbed by the fact that our schools were so little used. He realized that these were costly physical structures, and so he set about to develop a wider community use of these buildings. Today, Alex
(over)

Taylor Community School is open from early morning to late at night and even during the summer vacation months of July and August.

The program reaches far out into the community well beyond the basic Department of Education curriculum. A Cub and Brownie Pack have been organized within the school to give the boys and girls training in citizenship and to keep them off the streets. The many ethnic groups are given scope to display the various facets of their culture in terms of art, music, choral singing, manual arts, athletics, and gymnastics.

The students are encouraged to relate to senior citizens in terms of friendship and entertainment; meals are provided for seniors who need this service. Proper attention to personal hygiene is insisted upon by Mr. Ramsankar. Showers and washing machines have been installed in the school and are made available for those who don't have these facilities at home. A high and true sense of self-esteem is surely being developed among the students here. The talk was illustrated by a slide presentation.

Mr. Ramsankar paid tribute to those such as Bob Tegler who make possible these extra-curricular activities by their financial contributions which are in addition to those provided by the School Board.

The story of Alex Taylor Community School has spread far beyond the boundaries of Edmonton. Educationalists from as far away as California have come to learn about a successful community school development. The Reader's Digest had a write-up about this school in a 1977 issue.

In recognition of Steve's contribution to the city, he was chosen a few years ago as Edmonton's citizen of the year.

Just this past fall he was summoned to Ottawa to be inducted into the Order of Canada by ~~Governor-General Schreyer~~. This is the highest honor a grateful country can bestow on any of its civilian citizens. More power to men like Steve Ramsankar.

President Ken thanked Mr. Ramsankar for a very thoughtful and enlightening talk, and as a very tiny token of our appreciation Alex Taylor Community School was unanimously declared the winner of the draw.

For an appropriate tailpiece to this Gyrolog there was the story of the young lad this past Christmas who had been promised a new puppy, but he had a tough time choosing from among a dozen likely candidates at the neighborhood pet shop. Finally he decided upon a nondescript shaggy pup who was wagging its tail furiously.

Explained the lad, "I want the one with the happy ending."

And may you all have a happy ending to 1983.

Cheerio

Gyjim