

# THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON  
EDMONTON - ALBERTA

May 20, 1997

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*Secretary*  
Dick Ogilvie  
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*Treasurer*  
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Victor Jagoldas  
Res: 434-2438  
Fred Schulte  
Res: 434-0925  
John Dowds  
Res: 437-6750  
Ivan Ivankovich  
Res: 486-0599

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President Gerry welcomed the thirty one Gyros in attendance, particularly those who have recently returned from the south. We were led in Cheerio by golden throated **John Ross**, followed by a humorous blessing from **Rev. Bill Graham**.

Our meeting started off with more hearty laughter when **President Gerry** read some quotes from Art Linkletter's interviews with young children.

Three Gyro's had to admit that they are getting older. Birthdays celebrations include **David Burnett** on May 18<sup>th</sup>, **Allan Warrack** on May 24<sup>th</sup>, and **Dick Ogilvie** on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Dick Ogilvie** reported that **Bert Boren** is not well and was not able to attend the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. We all send our best wishes to **Bert**, and we know that his positive attitude will contribute to his recovery.

We had one of the greatest pleasures of a Gyro club after lunch, the installation of a new member. **Past International President Marty Larson** had the honour of installing his long term friend **Walter Yakimets**. He is recently retired and is joining the club after being a member of the bridge club with his wife **Kay** for a couple of years. **PIP Marty** recalled some of the history of Gyro, pointing out that Edmonton, the 18<sup>th</sup> club to join, has been one of the more active clubs over the years.

We then had a second of the greatest pleasures of a Gyro Club, we formally recognized two of our fellows who have been members for 25 years. On behalf of the club and their friends, **Dick Ogilvie** presented a 25 year certificate to **Mort Morter**, and Past President **Allan Douglas** presented a 25 year certificate to clansman **Tommy Douglas**. Congratulations gentlemen and thank you for your contributions to our club.

Our new friend **Bruce Foy** is now eligible to be installed as a member, and the installation will be arranged shortly.

Admirably fulfilling the role of President, our leader **Gerry** handed out our assignments as team members responsible for programs for the upcoming year and the dates of meetings and mixed events.

**President Gerry** also circulated a document related to a GYRO CONVOY to the District VIII Convention in Nelson from August 7 to 11, 1997. The basic idea is to go as a group and meet for lunch, dinner and overnight, with sightseeing and golf options along the way to and from Nelson. If you are interested in this type of gypsy gyro friendship, call **Gerry Glassford** at 492-9347.

Four options for the benevolence fund were discussed, of which two needed more information. These will be considered later. Two requests were approved by the membership. The first was to the Winnipeg Gyro Club for \$1,000 for support for victims of the flood. The Lethbridge club has sent \$1,000 which the Winnipeg club matched, and it may also match our donation. In any case, the Winnipeg club will ensure that our donation goes to an appropriate, responsible organization for distribution.

The second donation approved by the membership was for \$650 to be presented to the Good Samaritan Society to replace the battery and charger for the motorized scooter which the Edmonton club and the Brown family donated earlier. It will be used in a home for individuals who are dependent on respiratory systems and will enable them to be more mobile and enjoy the outdoors.

This is a year in which the challenge for the club is to increase membership. We recognized the problem last year, but then our priority was on the International Convention. This year our priority must be membership. To provide some motivation, it was suggested that the following item entitled 'Why I joined GYRO' written by our fondly remembered friend, **Stanley Noel Smith**, be reproduced.

In 1919 I had returned to civilian life after three years in the Canadian Army, two of them in action with the infantry on the western front in France. I had formed a Damon and Pythias friendship with a group of men, none of the survivors of that group lived in or near my home city of Edmonton. Family members had moved away. Discharged while still under 20 years of age, I sought friends among my school pals, who to me, having lived with mature men, seemed callow youth. I failed to strike a rapport with older business men, I was lonely.

A few years later, having established a small business, I was invited to service club luncheons. Emphasis placed on the fact that membership; in such would benefit me in business. That approach lacked appeal; I being young and idealistic, considered I could hew my own way to success.

Two business associates invited me to a Gyro luncheon. I noted the friendly mood amongst the members, with banter and kidding. During the introduction of new members no mention of business affiliation was mentioned, name badges just carried the member's name. The meeting was brief and the talk given by a founding member dwelt on the principles of Gyro - the promulgation of friendship amongst individuals, provinces, states and nations. I was impressed. After a second invitation my hosts informed me that they had presented my name as a prospective member and that I had been accepted.

I asked questions regarding what obligations I would have to shoulder, none of which seemed too arduous. They explained that each club had autonomy, being bound to the International by the bonds of friendship. I thought that surely amongst this seemingly happy crowd I could find a group of intimate friends which would replace the ones I had lost. I joined. My hopes of friendship for the past sixty three years, has far surpassed my fondest expectations.

My introduction to Gyro in 1928 was by the Padre, Rev. Capt. K.C. MacLeod. As he had also been my Padre during training in the army, he knew all my past history and brought laughter when relating some of my escapades. I soon found the camaraderie which I desired. The spirit of youth had been retained by the members, decorum existed when necessary, ebullience of fun and friendship dominated meetings. Members kidded one another unmercifully. Thin skinned ones soon learned to take to buffets of wit and humour, in good fun as they were intended.

One ribbing I have never lived down was delivered to me by the Padre. His absence noted, the President asked me to say the blessing. As I arose the Padre stepped into the room stood still with his head bowed, until I had finished. I gave the Macbeth grace from Shakespeare: "Let good digestion wait on appetite, and health on both, Amen".

After lunch the Padre strode across the room, eyes ablaze. Grabbing my lapels he admonished me with these words: "Smith! Never let me hear you say that grace again. Its agnostic. There is no mention of the Deity. It was not given to the glory of the Lord, merely to the glory of a little superficial knowledge of one Stanley Noel Smith." How true, I have never repeated that grace.

The forming of an active enthusiastic Gyrette adjunct turned the club into a family social group. To most members friendship between families became the norm. Sons of Gyros have formed another club, carrying on the tradition from generation to generation, hopefully on ad infinitum. Bereaved widows remain Gyrettes, membership in the group helping them to pass through the period of grief and sorrow.

As one ages, business acquaintances drop away, friendly neighbours move, contemporaries die. One may be able to enjoy all the amenities available in Gyro; a group of younger men, however, remain who are your friends willing to assist you when necessary. The twilight years may be enhanced by continued membership in this growing group of friends. The present drive to increase membership is commendable. Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to complete the questionnaire on our club activities that President Gerry circulated. Your feedback will help in the planning of the upcoming year.

There are some proposed changes to our constitution that were passed by the Executive and they are posted here. A vote on the amendments will take place at a future meeting.

### **Article III - Membership**

4. **Reads** 'No more than two representatives of any firm, partnership or corporation shall at any time be active members of the Club'.

**Proposed Change:** Delete as being too restrictive.

13. Reads 'When membership of the Club reaches 60 active members no new members shall be accepted except on transfer from other Gyro Clubs and a waiting list of persons who have been proposed shall be established pending a vacancy'.

**Proposed Change:** Delete as being too restrictive.

### **Article X - Penalties and Expulsions**

1. **Reads** 'Any member being seven months in arrears in payment of dues shall have his name published in the Club Bulletin and after dues have been in arrears for ten months, the member may be suspended by the Board but may in the discretion of the Board, on written application to the Board for reinstatement within thirty days of suspension, be reinstated on payment of arrears of dues'.

#### **Proposed Change:**

'Any member being six months in arrears in payment of dues shall be sent a final notice of amount due, and after dues have been in arrears for nine months, the member may be suspended by the Board but may in the discretion of the Board, on written application to the Board for reinstatement within thirty days of suspension, be reinstated on payment of arrears of dues'.

2. **Reads** 'Any member who shall be absent from four consecutive meetings, or who shall attend less than three-fourths of all Club meetings in any quarter, without adequate reason duly given to the Chairman of the Membership Committee may be suspended by the Board, but may be reinstated by a two-thirds vote of the Board on receipt of written application for reinstatement within thirty days of suspension.'

#### **Proposed Change:**

Delete. Not being enforced.

3. Reads 'Notice of suspension pursuant to sub-paragraphs 1 and 2 hereof, shall be posted in the Club Bulletin and the period of thirty days for reinstatement shall run from the time of mailing such Bulletin.'

**Proposed Change:**

Written notice of suspension pursuant to sub-paragraph 1 shall be sent to the member and the period of thirty days for reinstatement shall run from the time of mailing such notice.

4. **Reads** 'Failure to apply for reinstatement within thirty days of suspension, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 hereof, shall be deemed termination of membership.'

**Proposed Change:**

Failure to apply for reinstatement within thirty days of suspension, in accordance with paragraph 1 hereof, shall be deemed termination of membership.'

**PIP Marty Larson** passed on the following notices. All Gyros were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Jack Leop of Wenatche on May 23. Jack was a Past Governor of District IV, and was instrumental in the preparation of the officers manual now provided to all clubs. Jack and Len Cary of Stampede City received the Honor Key for their efforts in this regard on the final night of our International Convention last year. Cause of death was an aneurism.

On the positive side, Past International President John Guzzo of Fresno is reported doing very well after a liver transplant. John had been waiting several years for a donor, after suffering from hepatitis for some time.

*Upcoming Events*

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1997.** Our next regular noon meeting at the Mayfair. The guest speaker will be Ron Czinski, the Executive Director of the Alberta Securities Commission.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1997.** We host the golf and BBQ @ the Riverside Course in Red Deer. Contact Mike Matei at 458-4690. There is a choice of regular golf and a two-man best ball tournament. The cost is \$55 which includes golf, dinner and prizes. Make cheques payable to the Edmonton Gyro Club.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1997.** The regular *GYRETTE* meeting will be held at the Mayfair. Cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 6:30, the cost is \$14.50. This will be a 'visiting night' that will give people the opportunity to socialize with other club members.

**June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1997.** Our friends from Stampede City invite us to join them for their Installation. The cost is \$75.00 per couple and a fun program is planned. Last year the **Glassfords** and the **Douglasses** went and can assure you that it will be a great party.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1997.** At our regular meeting at the Mayfair, our guest speaker will be Dr. Jim Hoover discussing calendar 2000. With computers not prepared to recognize the new millennium, there could be pandemonium. Come out, bring a friend, and prepare yourself for an impending event that will affect us all.

**July 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 1997.** The International and District I Convention will be held in Cleveland. The details are in the Gyroscope.

**August 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 1997.** District VIII Convention in Nelson B.C. It will be held in a brand new hotel, the golf course is scenic and challenging, and a program filled with fun is planned.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1997.** Barry Walker and collaborators are organizing our annual Golf Scramble. It will be held at Westridge Golf Club with a BBQ afterwards at the Van Dusen's. Details will follow, mark your calendar now!