

THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
EDMONTON - ALBERTA

Sept 7, 1996

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Our President, **Allan Douglas**, made an audacious move at our Tuesday luncheon meeting and introduced the dynamic duet of **Gunnar Anderson** and **Roger Russell** who joyously lead us in a jaunty rendition of Cherrio. No entrepreneur among the group assembled rushed forward to sign them to a new CD label but there was a definite tone of promise for better things to come. Nice touch, Mr President. Speaking of nice touches, our **Rev. Bill Graham** provided another with his blessing of our meal and our meeting. Thank you, **Bill**.

Birthday greetings were extended to **Gerry Glassford** (Sept 5th) and **Owen Cornish** (Sept 7th). Is there something about Virgos that incites in them a propensity for the writing craft? Has the Gyrolog simply become an instrument for them to express those latent, pent-up drives to create trivia in the guise of literary dominion? Happy birthday, gentlemen!!!

Mr President reminded the members of the executive that there would be a meeting at his house beginning at 7:30 PM on Sept. 3rd. It is clear that the period of summer vacations has drawn to an end and that the executive should consider themselves to be back in the traces.

Bert Boren reported that **Fred Kemp** is on the road to recovery - as the Aussies would say, **Fred** - "Good on ya', Mate." The health of the club seems very good at this point in time and that is the very best of reports.

The editors of the Gyrolog (in particular **Owen**) recognise the depth and breadth of interest in that great gift of the Scots, a game loosely known by the four letter word, GOLF. But one of our members, **Peter Carter**, carried this interest to extreme lengths when he played 100 holes in one day. That is almost the equivalent of six 18 hole rounds!! Who but a golf zealot would attempt such a

feat? Truth be known, **Peter** is not an avid golfer but he accomplished this undertaking in 11 hours and he did it to raise funds for the Red Cross. Together with 39 colleagues they raised nearly \$70,000 in a one day golf-a-thon. A great gift (but at some cost in stiff joints and aching muscles). Well done, Peter.

Our guest speaker was introduced by **Bert Boren**. For several years **Bert**, a

member of the Board of Directors at the Good Samaritan Hospital, has worked with **Phil Gaudet** who is the President and CEO of the Good Samaritan Society in Edmonton. **Phil** came to this role after serving for several years in Saskatoon. The Good Samaritan Society is a Not-for-Profit organization which was inaugurated in Edmonton in 1949. It now has a budget of \$40 million and a staff of 1500 and it is a major provider of extended health care in the Capital Regional Health District. In the past, auxilliary hospitals have served as the standard model for care provision but **Phil** indicated that new models are now being considered including an Assisted Living

Program based on an experimental model operated in Sweden. Small groups live in specially designed apartments and are offered assistance according to their needs. **Phil** also suggested that we may see greater emphasis placed on home care services in the future within our province. A third direction may take us toward a special program for elderly in the form of a service titled CHOICE which is a comprehensive home-based operation with service teams comprised of physicians, nurses and daycare specialists. People are transported to clinics, day homes, etc. as needed and they receive daycare help as required. Why are these and other optional changes being considered?

While it may start from current cuts to health care funding, our present situation is also being altered because of our aging population. At this time 10% of Canada's population is 65 years of age or older (Alberta's statistic is 9%). But all of Canada is finding that this are cohort is growing annually. Current models will not be able to accommodate this growth. On top of that, where Alberta has been funded to offer 60 beds per 1000 seniors, that number, under new national guidelines, has been reduced to 50/1000. There will be no new beds in the Edmonton area in the next 10 years (and during that time we will see a growth from today's approximate 60,000 seniors to 70,000 people 65 years and older.

And there are other variables within the formula that necessitates change. The monthly charges that must be paid by the individual for long term care are likely going up (currently Albertans pay in the range of \$850-\$900 per month with the balance paid by the province. In other provinces individuals pay according to their ability to pay and this ranges to a high of \$3900 per month). Moreover, the top end of coverage costs is being reduced by our government from approx. \$3000 to a level nearer to \$2000. It seems likely that the ceiling of costs covered by the individual for extended care will be raised and that one's ability to pay will be factored into the formula.

All of these, plus other factors, mean that it is unlikely that institutes of the current type, such as the Good Samaritan Hospital for extended care, will not be built in the future. New models will be needed.

Several other points of interest were raised during Mr Gaudet's presentation and subsequent questions/answers:

*while high technology (the use of interactive video and remote sensing devices will allow medical personnel to monitor health status) will be created and used, environments rich in personal care will still be of critical importance.

*a move to reclaim "the higher ground" in the realm of spirituality and human

dignity will emerge; the provision of food and shelter will not be sufficient.

*government and private sector will have to work together in creating new models.

*regional differences will have to be faced and adjustments made (eg., Edmonton has 9.2% of its population in the 65+ age cohort, Calgary has 7.8% in this age group. Clearly the health care costs of this age group are higher than for the younger age cohorts and as numbers go up so also do the concomitant costs.

*while most of the budget for operating the Good Samaritan Hospitals comes from government grants, \$500,000 is raised annually from donations, Bequests and other fund raising activities.

Peter Carter graciously thanked our guest for his informative presentation. A special thanks to **Bert Boren**, **Peter**, and **Stu Graham** for organizing this topic.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 13th An Evening at the Races. Northlands - try 6:00PM for a post time of 6:30PM.
- Sept. 17 Regular noon meeting at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club. Our speaker will be **Mr Amond Ackroyd** who will enlighten us on Oil Developments in Mexico - a visit on the lighter side (not necessarily lighter oil). Thanks to **Al McClure**, **Haig Lewis** and **Mel Snihurowych** for organizing this presentation.
- Nov. 1, 2, 3 CURLARAMA: and in Banff yet. Cost is only \$135.00 per person. **Mike Matei** (970-5351-W or 458-4690-H) promises more details later. Contact him asap if you are planning to go. We must confirm numbers by Oct. 15, 1996.

1996-1997 GYRO MEETING DATES AND TEAMS (First Named is Team Leader)

For whatever reasons we have not distributed the list of meeting dates and the teams responsible for their organizations to all club members. Our apologies. The following is the schedule beginning October 1.

- October 1 Team 10: Andy Friderichsen, Ed Edlund, Gordon Robertson
- October 15 Team 11: Victor Jagoldis, Larry Wang, Fred Shulte
- Nov. 5 Team 12: David Burnett, Dick Mandlis, Dave Duchak
- Nov. 19 Team 13: Rolly Walsh, Bert Boren, John Stroppa
- Dec. 3 Team 14: Tony Sheppard, Bob Lippe, John Tartar
- CHRISTMAS PARTY: Allan Douglas, Gerry Glassford, Jack Ellis
(Likely the week end of Dec. 7-8)
- Dec. 17 Team 16: Rev. John Dowds, Rev. Bill Graham
- Jan. 7 Team 17: Larry Dobson, Dick Mandlis, Barry Walker
- Jan. 21 Team 18: Peter Carter, John Pedden, Boyd Slavik

MIXED BOWLING Pat Rasko, John Plunkett (date to be set)
Feb. 4 Team 20: Ed Edlund, Allan Ursulak, Mort Morter
Feb. 18 Team 21: Gerry Glassford VALENTINE'S LUNCH (Mixed Gyro/Gyrette function) (Date may change).
March 4 Team 22: Ron Ewoniak, Roger Russell, Haig Lewis
March 18 Team 23: Ivan Ivankovich, John Ross, Barry Walker

March 22 Team 24: Mike Matei, Marty Larson CURLING FUNSPIEL (date may change)
April 1 Team 25: Mike Matei, Ernie Segal ELECTION NIGHT
April 15 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS - President or Vice-President
QUAD CLUB INSTALLATION Team 26: John Ross, Allan Douglas, Howard Wilson (date to be set)
SPECIAL MEETING - REYNOLDS MUSEUM Team 28: Marty Larson, Dave Burnett
SPECIAL MEETING - BOCCI NIGHT Team 29: John Plunkett, Jack Ellis, Gord Rennie

It's all a matter of location:

During a family dinner, Kathy, a family friend and a dentist, was lecturing us about our flossing habits. My grandson said, "Gee, flossing sure is a pain in the rear." Kathy responded, "Then you're definitely not doing it right."



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