

THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
EDMONTON - ALBERTA

January 22, 1996

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In spite of very nasty January weather **President Mike** welcomed a good turn out to our January 16th meeting. After he had warned us in advance, **Allan Warrack** led us in Cheerio. **Bert Boren** said Grace for us.

Gordon Robertson introduced **Haig Lewis** as his guest. **President Mike** acknowledged **Gerry Hood** (our speaker) from the St. Albert club.

President Mike apologises for missing the announcement of **John Tartar's** birthday at the January 2nd meeting. Belated Birthday Greetings, **John**. To recap, here are our January birthday boys: **John Ross** and **John Stroppa**, January 2nd; **John Tartar**, January 4th; on February 5th **Ed Edlund** and **Bryce Van Dusen** will celebrate their birthdays. The Club wishes each of you a very happy and healthy year.

Bert Boren welcomed **Andy Friderichsen** back and told us of the good test results that he had received. We learned after the meeting that our **Rev. Billy Graham** is under the doctor's care and we wish him a speedy recovery, or, as the Scots would say it "Willy, haste ye back!"

Marty Larson introduced **Gerry Hood** of the St. Albert club as our guest speaker. His unusual topic was Peat Moss and with his 25 years of expertise and interesting slides, he provided us all with an insight into this remarkable renewable resource. Canada is processing only a small percentage of the moss our wetlands are producing (70% from eastern Canada). Because of European competition, most Canadian Sphagnum goes to the USA (80%), Japan 10% and 10% is sold here in Canada. After a lively question and answer period, **Bert Boren** thanked **Gerry** for such a fine presentation.

GYRO HOCKEY POOL

GAME 8 JANUARY 6th COLORADO AT TORONTO

1st Period Florence McDonald, Fran Sadd

2nd Period Ed Ledieu, Morgen Power (Grand Centre), Dick Ogilvie, Stephen Bakkur (Hay River, NWT)

Final Score Ron Cockerill, Bernice Pedden, Don Paulencu

GAME 9 JANUARY 13 VANCOUVER AT TORONTO

1st Period Jim Warrack, Shirley Larson, Robert Sharpe

2nd Period Margaret McClure, Chris Walberg (Sherwood Park), J. Holnke

Final Score Adam Letawsky, Natalie Danny, C. M. Wood

Dave Duchak announced that this Saturday's All-Star Game will be the official game for the January 20th spot on all hockey pool tickets. Expect a high scoring game.

NEXT GYRO MEETING

On February 6th, the team of Gary Diment, Andy Friderichsen and John Pedden will have, as our guest speaker, the noted Alberta historian, Alex Mair. Alex's topic: "Let a little laughter into your life."

OUR CLUB'S UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-----------------|--|---------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| February 6th | Noon Mayfair Meeting | | | | | | |
| February 13th | Valentine's Day Celebration Mixed (Gyros and Gyrettes)
Meeting to be held at 12 Noon at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club. Cost is \$16.50 per person. Contact Alice or Gerry Glassford (430-7108) or John Tartar (436-9840). | | | | | | |
| February 20th | Lunch and Tour of the New Federal Women's Prison, 10735-180th Street at 12 noon. Deadline Feb. 10th. Guests are welcome. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Register with:
<table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Roger Russell</td> <td>434-4333</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Victor Jagoldas</td> <td>434-24-38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Larry Wang</td> <td>492-4402</td> </tr> </table> | Roger Russell | 434-4333 | Victor Jagoldas | 434-24-38 | Larry Wang | 492-4402 |
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| Larry Wang | 492-4402 | | | | | | |
| March 2nd | Mixed Curling | | | | | | |
| March 4th | Bocci Night | | | | | | |

OTHER CLUB EVENTS

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| January 24-27th | New Orleans International Interim Convention |
| February 4th | District IV Interim Convention in Vancouver |

February 23-25th Sherwood Park Gyro Ski Trip to Jasper. Deadline to register is January 20th. Contact:

Al Schuster Work 467-7331 Home 464-3936
Rene Duchesne Work 445-0370 Home 489-8950

When this reporter asked "nosy" questions about a certain securities hearing in Calgary, a rare event occurred - our "Viking", Marty Larson had no comment to make. All those at our table felt we should mark the calendar! Marty, true to form, had the last laugh when he won the draw.

NOTE OF IMPORTANCE

Many Gyros and Gyrettes have been involved in raising funds for the upcoming Gyro International and District VIII Convention by selling raffle tickets on the beautiful necklace. Would those who have made sales please return the cash proceeds to Barry Walker as soon as possible? Many thanks for your help with this important project.

CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

July 11, 12, 13, 14th, 1966!!! Less than 6 months to go until we host Gyros and Gyrettes from all parts of North America. The organization teams will be swinging back into action after the Christmas festivities and we should have more information to share as plans become finalized. We have a special request from the organizers of the late Friday afternoon/evening event: we hope to make this event memorable by having as many hosts, hostesses and guests decked out in Klondike garb as possible. Toward this end would you please be thinking about your own Klondike apparel for that night? At one of the meetings of this group, a suggestion was made that some of us might have special Klondike items that we might be willing to let some of our guests use. The thought was that we could bring them to the Mayfield Hotel where we could place them on a special Klondike Garb Table. Guests could borrow them to enhance their Klondike-like appearance for the special time we will share at Fort Edmonton. If you have thoughts about the usefulness of this suggestion, please call Gerry Glassford (430-7108) or Dick Ogilvie (432-0912).

A few thoughts on Edmonton and the Klondike. In many ways, the Klondike has been and will be a part of our heritage, even a part of our own personal experiences. Not that we lived it in a direct sense but the wilderness that was so much a part of the Klondike Gold Rush remains a significant part of Canada today. The gold that lured thousands into that wilderness was found in significant quantities in 1896. The gold was buried in the sands and the gravel along the length of the mighty Yukon River. Importantly, it lay hidden in the canyons and the valleys of the many streams that flowed into the Yukon. Nowhere, however, did it lay more thickly than in the Klondike

Valley, "so thickly, indeed, that a single shovelful of paydirt could yield eight hundred dollars' worth of dust and nuggets." Three pioneers who lived in that Yukon wilderness are thought to be the key to unlocking the gold chest of the rivers and streams: Joseph Ladue, George Carmack and Robert Henderson. It was Carmack who found the gold along the gravel bars of Bonanza Creek (then called Rabbit Creek) while Henderson uncovered the riches of what was later to be called, appropriately, Gold Bottom Creek.

Under Canadian mining law, no more than one claim can be staked in any mining district by any person except the discoverer, who is allowed a double claim. It is said that Carmack, following his discovery of gold on Rabbit Creek, blazed a tree and wrote in pencil:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I do, this day, locate and claim, by right of discovery, five hundred feet, running upstream from this notice. Located this 17th day of August, 1896.

G. W. Carmack

The word crept south and the last great gold rush in North America was begun. Soon thousands were trying to reach Klondike Creek. They braved the glaciers and the high mountain passes, they travelled by sea and they rafted the rivers, they battled the muskeg, the flies and mosquitoes. Some died enroute, more succeeded in reaching the Yukon and its tributaries. The merchants of Edmonton did their best to convince the world that our city was the gateway to the only "practicible trails of '98". Edmonton was advertised as the "back door to the Yukon." Arthur Heming, a noted woodsman, called the Edmonton-Yukon route "the inside track" and wrote that the Klondike could be reached from Edmonton in six weeks by canoe or dog-team. "All you need is a good constitution, some experience in boating and camping and one hundred and fifty dollars." Heming had never been over the trail he wrote about. Those who have travelled the route in the luxury of a modern automobile might question his advice.

Of all those who left Edmonton in 1897 and 1898 and pursued an overland route to the Klondike, "only three, as far as can be determined, found any gold at all." This summer during the Gyro International Convention our visitors will find a different kind of wealth - the wealth of Gyro/Gyrette friendship. The Convention is going to be a great experience for everyone involved - we, too, will be a part of history-in-the-making.

(Note: much of the above information was taken from Pierre Berton's KLONDIKE.)



A
FRATERNITY
OF
FRIENDSHIP

