

Mar 7, 1997

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Have you ever noticed that routine is an anchor point of life? Those who have recently retired will perhaps identify with this principle more than those who are still hard at work paying the CPP benefits for those of us who have taken the "R" step. The matter of routine, and its importance, became evident to me last month when we did not generate a Gyrolog due to the cancellation of the mid month Gyro meeting. From that point until now I have experienced this sense of restlessness, of things being somehow incomplete. So with this early March edition I hope to mitigate these sensations. Without the benefit of a focus on a recent meeting as a starting point I am not quite sure where this 'log will end up - of a certainty, there will be no editorializing about the relative merits of one political party over another, standard fare in all local papers these days. No quotes from Taft's recent book either. So where do we start?

How about our next regular meeting? March 18th we return to the beautiful setting of Mayfair Golf and Country Club for lunch and for a little "slight of hand" work. Our friends **Ivan Ivankovich, John Ross and Barry Walker** have arranged for **Robert Long** to speak to us on the topic of MAGIC (No, not Johnson). **Robert** "is a magician of many years and his climb to fame is his ability to combine song and magic." He is well-known internationally and his presence at our luncheon meeting should add that fine touch of lightheartedness that we all need so very much during these "dog days" of our winter.

The astute among you, and there are many in this category, will remind the editors of the 'log that our last edition promised a continuance on the business of the budget structure debate. **President Allan** will provide a review of follow-up actions to our last business meeting and will highlight the recommended procedures for possible implementation. If there is a high comfort level we will have a vote on these recommendations. If there is a sense that more open discussion and debate is important to friends and colleagues then this will be deferred to a closed

business meeting likely in April. Every effort will be made to adhere to our schedule to be away from the Mayfair by 1:30 PM.

A special Valentine's wish (belated though it might be) goes out to all Gyros and Gyrettes who were unable to participate in the Valentine's luncheon on February 12th. Forty three Gyros and Gyrettes were able to attend and to receive their Valentine's wishes in person. Special thanks to **Bill and Wendy Agnew** who created beautiful

chocolate favours. They provided a wonderful touch to go with the flowers and the memories. **Margaret and Dick Ogilvie** helped to make romantic background music available (and supplied their own musical "technician" in the form of **John Ross**). Thank you all, for helping in this special way. A Valentine word of appreciation to all of those who drove cars to help bring Gyros and Gyrettes to the luncheon. It was a wonderful party and a great way to remember the importance of love in our lives. **Ernie Siegel** shared this Valentine thought with us: "Think young. Aging is for wine." This, from our master vintner, bears remembering.

On March 3rd Gyros from the Edmonton Gyro Club joined with friends from the St Albert Gyro Club to swap stories of daring-do, to drink good wine, to indulge in fine food and to roll a few balls (somehow that last phrase does not flow easily but it has the value-added dimension of truth). The intrepid 27 joined in playing that wonderful Italian pastime (no, Mr Editor-in-Chief, that was not a typo- we did intend to say pastime, not pasta) called Bocci - an Italian lawn bowling game played on a long, narrow court. Now where would you find a long, narrow, sward of lawn IN EDMONTON IN EARLY MARCH??? Well, it seems that **John Plunkett** and **Jack Ellis** located it at the Italian Cultural Centre and, golden-tongued devil that they are, persuaded them to allow Gyro friends to use their lawn, and they tossed in their culinary skills as added incentive. Now that is a powerful voice of persuasion. Well done, **John and Jack**. At the end of the day **Wayne Knight, Richard Karbonic, Phil Parato** and our own **Allan Ursulak** emerged the victors. Congratulations to all.

BACCHUS IN EDMONTON

For whatever reasons, the topic of wine seems to have crept into the fabric of this 'log. Perhaps this is the direct result of a not-so-hidden persuader in the form of a fax recently received from Gyro friend, **Victor Jagoldas**. **Victor** asked if we could share with the wine connoisseurs among Gyro friends information on a forthcoming national convention. For the first time in ten years, the Society for German Wines is holding their National Convention in Edmonton on May 9th and 10th, 1997. If you wish to participate in these festivities and join the *Wine, Dine and Dance* celebrations at the Fantasyland Hotel please call **Victor Jagoldas** at 434-2438 for tickets and information.

GYRO HOCKEY POOL

DATE Feb 8th TEAMS Vanc. (2) at Toronto (4)

FIRST PERIOD Betty Lewis
(\$10.00) Allan Douglas

SECOND PERIOD Adam Letawsky
(\$15.00) Rob Scranton

DATE Feb. 15 TEAMS Toronto (0) at Calgary (3)

Morgan Power
Bryce Van Dusen

Ivy Rennie
Dave Wilson

FINAL SCORE No winning ticket sold
(\$25.00)

Mike Matei
Colleen Wood

DATE Feb. 22nd TEAMS Toronto (5) at Montreal (1)

DATE Mar 1st TEAMS San Jose (2) at Toronto (3)

FIRST PERIOD Ellen Boren
(\$10.00) Bill Brook

Bruce McCullough
Ty Ogilvie

SECOND PERIOD Elaine Tomniak
(\$15.00) Dennis Walberg

Dean Rempel
Larry Knechtel

FINAL SCORE Margaret McClure
(\$25.00) Dave Ross

Gord Robertson
Ryan Cunningham

COMING EVENTS

March 11th

Monthly Gyrette meeting at the Matfair Golf and Country Club. Please plan to attend. Contact person is **Joan Ursulak** (475-5057).

March 18th

Regular Gyro luncheon meeting complete with the magic touch of **Robert Long**. Enjoy special insights into the world of magic through the light-hearted humour of this internationally known magician. Special business section will be held to review the recommendations shared in the last 'log. Contacts for the March 18th meeting are **Ivan Ivankovich** (486-0599), **John Ross** (435-7478), **Barry Walker** (475-0983).

March 14th to 16th

District VIII Interim Meeting at Fairmont.

April 1st

Election of Officers - Kelly's Saloon
Cocktails at 6:00PM; Dinner at 7:00PM; elections to follow. Cost to be announced. For more information please call **Mike Matei** (458-9211). This is a critical meeting for all of us so please plan to attend.

May 3rd

Quad Club Installation. This is, as our friend **Retread** reminds us, one of the most important of our annual Gyro events. It will be held in the Chateau Louis GRAND BALLROOM. Please make plans now to participate in this special Quad Club event. **John Ross** will provide us with more information as this special date nears.

June 5th	Golf and BBQ at the Red Deer Golf Club
July 15-20th	International and District I Convention - Holiday Inn Lakeside, Cleveland, Ohio (see Gyroscope for more detailed information).
August 7-10th	District VIII Convention, Nelson, B.C.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Over the years Retread (Gord Rennie) regaled readers with bits of light hearted humour (so much an integral part of Gord's personality). The present editors do not assume to scale his lofty heights but we, too, believe that laughter is an important part of life. We share, from some of Retread's voluminous files, a few chuckles, a few light-hearted thoughts, and a few special insights.

One evening, the English poet, John Keats, was sitting in his room with his friend Leigh Hunt. Hunt was reading and Keats, seated at a nearby table, was working on a poem. At one point Keats looked up and said, "Hunt, what do you think of this? 'A beautiful thing is an ending joy.'"

"Good," said Hunt, "but not quite perfect."

There was a silence for a while, then Keats looked up again. "How about this? 'A thing of beauty is an unending joy.'"

"Better." replied his friend, "but still not quite right."

Keats once again bent to his writing table, his pen quietly scratching on the coarse paper. Finally he spoke again. "Now, what do you think of this? 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.'"

Hunt looked admiringly at his friend. "That," he said, "will live as long as the English language is spoken!!"

VOX POP (Voice of the People)

"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet." (John Ross)

"Man never made any material as resilient as the human spirit." (Rev. Bill Graham)

"A person can succeed at almost anything for which they have an unlimited enthusiasm." (David Burnett)

"If you think it is easy to be a politician, try to straddle a fence and keep both ears to the ground at the same time." (Allan Warrack)

"If you only look at what is, you might never attain what could be." (Bert Boren)

"The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which bridge to burn." (Ernie Siegel)

"Those who agree with us may not be right, but we admire their astuteness." (Gord Rennie)



A
FRATERNITY
OF
FRIENDSHIP

