



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.15, July 29, 1921

**President-Ari Hoeksema, Past President-Bill Taylor,
1st Vice-President-John Boyd, Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Mike Matei,
Directors-Warren Garbutt, Marty Larson, Jack Little, Jim Lochhead,
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

DECEMBER 2011

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Those celebrating their birthdays in December are **Sam Gruden** on the 1st, **Ron Ramsey** on the 3rd, **David Dyck** on the 5th, **Art Merrick** on the 13th, **Larry Dobson** on the 16th, **Gary Campbell** on the 17th, **Bill Taylor** on the 20th and **Chuck Gerhart** on the 24th.

The December wedding anniversaries are **Bruce and Gayle Houston**, 29 years on the 4th; **Cliff and Sharon French**, 48 years on the 20th and **Ari and Kathryn Hoeksema**, 8 years on the 31st.

Dick Nichols reports on the results of the GYRO Hockey Pool.

Game 2 November 17 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Senators

First	0	3	Mort Morter	Yvette Stroppa	Marcia Kashani
Second	1	4	Ryan Power	Drea Scornaienchi	Don Hunt
Final	2	5	Bill Taylor	Gyro	Gyro

Game 3 November 22 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Predators

First	3	0	Ron Ramsey	Ron Ramsey	Gordon Brook
Second	3	0	Paulette Schulte	Paulette Schulte	Marlene Burnett
Final	6	2			

Game 4 November 30 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Wild

First	1	0	Thomas Glassford	Mike Palichuk	Morgan Burnett
Second	2	2	Craig Russell	Cliff French	Margo Long
Final	2	3	Gary Campbell	Kennedy Brown	Rudi Lucas

Game 5 December 7 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Hurricanes

First	1	1	Marcia Kashani	Marg Foy	Morgan Weisberger
Second	2	4	Don Hunt	Ari Hoeksema	Sharon Matei
Final	3	6	Gyro	Gord Robertson	Eric Spink

Game 6 December 15 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Coyotes

First	0	1	Valerie Walker	Grace Burnett	Blair Tuck
Second	1	2	Jack Little	Mark Fairbridge	Roger Russell
Final	2	4	Rudi Lucas	Gyro	Lawrence Zalasky

Game 7 December 26 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Canucks

First	0	3	Shannon Glassford	Jack Heibert	Ken Weisgerber
Second	2	4	Craig Russell	John Mann	Larry Dobson
Final	3	5	Alouise Henderson	David Dyck	Kennedy Brown

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the peaceful passing of **Bryce Van Dusen** on November 29th at the youthful age of 96. Bryce leaves **Florrie**, his love and companion for 71 years; his daughters Fran (Al Olsen), Helen (John Pope), Dixie Van Dusen (Luc Lascelle), his son in law, Roy Bennett (Bonnie 2003) and 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Bryce was the last to survive of a family of 10 children (6 boys and 4 girls) of Miner and Mary Frances Van Dusen who raised their family on a farm near Griffen, Saskatchewan. Bryce was born on February 5th, 1915 and received his education in the consolidated school in Griffen. After completing grade eight, Bryce joined the working world but kept his love of sport by playing on local hockey and baseball teams. Work was scarce during the 1930's and he and his older brother Wes travelled to Calgary to work. Bryce found work as an electrician, wiring homes and garages.

Wes eventually moved to Edmonton where he started up the **Sun Specialty Company** which included carnival equipment. A call went south to Bryce in 1934 and he moved to Edmonton. Times were very difficult economically for most Albertan's but on a social level, people still found ways to enjoy life and among those outlets were fairs and carnivals. Into this world moved the Van Dusen brothers; they managed to buy a few "wheels of fortune" and other carnival equipment and toured the province adding their "magic" to the business.

The *GYRO Club* of Edmonton which had been formed in 1921 had immediately embarked on an ambitious children's playground development program. To fund these lofty initiatives the Edmonton Club turned to the idea of operating an annual carnival in the streets of downtown Edmonton. In the early 1930's the club purchased some of their own "wheels" and other carnival equipment from the Van Dusen brothers and the beginning of a long business and friendship relationship began. Later when the annual *Gyro Carnival* was moved from the streets to the Trocadero Building, Bryce helped organize the carnival and trained the club members in the operation of the equipment. In 1940, Wes became a member of the **Edmonton Gyro Club** but Bryce was not nominated for membership until **1965**, since the club did not allow two or more people from the same business sector.

Bryce would often travel to Calgary to help the Calgary Gyro Club operate their carnival. It was a natural shift for the Calgary Stampede to benefit from their knowledge. The Stampede Association rented Van Dusen equipment and the Van Dusen's trained their employees on the ways to operate the "wheels" and other "fair" equipment. As the fairs flourished, many of the young people trained by Wes and Bryce went on to become leaders in the world of casino operation.

Today casinos are found everywhere in Canada but this was not the case 50 years ago. The Van Dusen brothers started the first legal casino ever operated in Canada. The years passed and the company name changed to **ACME Novelty Ltd.** with branches in Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria, Saskatoon and Regina. In 1968 the business was sold to Neonex which was owned by Jimmy Pattison.

Bryce's life was not limited to the wonderful world of carnival, in 1939 he entered the wonderful world of love when he met Florrie. Florrie's parents operated a small ice cream shop/cafe in the Coal Branch area southwest of Edson. This store featured a jukebox rented from the Van Dusen's. Florrie, who was attending high school in Edmonton, was asked by her mother to purchase some "decent" records for the jukebox from the Van Dusen's store. Florrie met Bryce and as they say "the rest is history". They were married in 1940 and started their family with two daughters. In 1943 Bryce volunteered to join the field artillery of the Canadian Army. In 1946, Bryce signed off the army's roster and headed home to Florrie and two more daughters followed.

Throughout their lives in Edmonton, the world of GYRO has been an integral part of Bryce and Florrie's social sphere. Even before joining the Edmonton Club, they participated as guests of Wes and his wife in Gyro parties and events. Bryce joined the Edmonton Club in 1965 and served as **President in 1969-70**. Bryce, like so many members of the Edmonton Gyro Club, was also a member of the Shriners and was a past Potentate of the Al Shamal Temple. In 1977, Bryce chaired the 1977 organizing committee for the first ever Shrine Convention held in Edmonton.

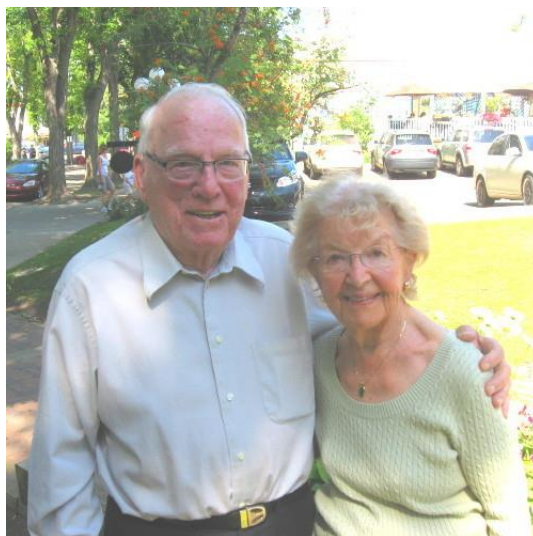
Bryce and Florrie for many years hosted the Annual Edmonton Gyro/Gyrette Golf Tourney barbeque at their "Flying V Ranch" north of Devon. Bryce's "official" time with GYRO spanned 46 years but his personal involvement goes back 77 years when he and Wes stated working with the Edmonton Gyro Club's playground carnivals in 1934.

Bryce's honesty and integrity touched thousands of lives and it was an honour and a privilege to experience his friendship in our club. Your Editor, when he was President of our club in 2006-07 was personally honoured by this remarkable man on a number of occasions when he phoned to check on my wellbeing and asked if he could help in any way. **A true sign of a gentlemen and a friend!**

[With thanks to references from PDG Gerry Glassford's 2006 tribute to Bryce Van Dusen entitled "*Adding Life to Life and Greatness to Gyro*"]



Bryce Van Dusen 1967



Bryce and Florrie August 2009



**Bryce viewing/playing a Wurlitzer jukebox restored by John Ross
March 2011**

It is also with regret that we acknowledge the passing of **Lauraine Duchak** on November 28th at the age of 94. Her husband David, a 67 year Gyro member passed away in July 2010. David and Lauraine celebrated an amazing 72 years of marriage together. Lauraine was born in Rivers, Manitoba on November 18, 1917 and married Dave on August 6th, 1937. They resided in Trail, B.C., Calgary, Barbados and Edmonton. Dave and Lauraine travelled extensively and were long-term members of Westmount Presbyterian Church. Lauraine was a Past-President of the Gyrettes, Calgary Gyro Club.

President Ari Hoeksema welcomed 76 Gyros/Gyrettes and guests to our **Annual Christmas Party** held in the Riverview Room of the Shaw Conference Centre on Tuesday evening, December 6th. President Ari acknowledged the passing of **Bryce Van Dusen** and spoke about his working experience and friendship with this remarkable man. The **Rev. Jim Lochhead** presented the Grace.

The gala event kicked off at 6:00 pm with sparkling wine and socializing, followed by whole roasted turkey carved at each table by 10 of our expert carvers.

Thanks to **Sam Gruden** and **Fred Schulte** for organizing this special event.

Barry Walker reached a milestone in 2011 and received his 25 year pin. Barry was sponsored by **Marty Larson** and joined Gyro in 1986. He served as **President** in 1994-95, was Co- Chairman of the 1996 International Convention held in Edmonton and subsequently received the **Award of Merit** for Outstanding Service to Gyro in 2001. Barry has served as Club Secretary since 2003 and received the Bud Mitchell Award (International Gyro of the Year) for his service to the community and Gyro in 2006.

Marty Larson, Past District Governor and Past International President, welcomed **Tony Mazzuca** and his wife **Care** to the new member **Induction Ceremony**. Marty touched briefly on the history of Gyro and explained the expectations of a new member and the role of his sponsors, Barry Walker and David Burnett. New member Tony accepted his commitment to Gyro International, District VIII and the Gyro Club of Edmonton and was welcomed wholeheartedly by those in attendance.



Photo by Elaine Douglas

President Ari Hoeksema

Barry Walker 25 Years



Marty Larson Care Mazzuca Tony Mazzuca Barry Walker Ari Hoeksema

Art and Judy Merrick who live in Ardrossan have transferred to the **Sherwood Park Gyro Club** effective January 1st. We are sorry to see them leave but are glad they are still in the GYRO fraternity. Best wishes and we look forward to seeing them at future Gyro events.



The Turkey Carvers

**Mike Matei John Boyd Alan Rusler Bill Taylor Larry Dobson Jim Lochhead
Roger Russell Jack Brown Sam Gruden Gerry Glassford**

President Ari Hoeksema welcomed 28 Gyro's and one guest to the December 20th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. Cheerio was led by **Jack Brown** and the Grace was presented by **Jim Lochhead**. **Walter Yakimets** introduced his guest, **Dr. Ron Cavell**, Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta.

Ken Willan introduced our speaker and Club Pastor, **Jim Lochhead**. Jim has one daughter in Grade 12 and was recently married to **Sandy McDonald**. Jim's father was a professor of theology. Jim's schooling started in Kitchener-Waterloo, then he moved to Simon Fraser University in B.C. and then finished his theological training at McGill in Montreal. Pastoral work has brought Jim to the Okanagan, Taber and Edmonton since 2007. He is an avid golfer and has a great sense of humour.

Jim indicated that much of the detail that is described in the birth of Jesus is not stated in the Holy Bible. Some examples follow:

How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?

a. camel, b. feet, c. donkey, d. Mary rode, Joseph walked, e. no **reference/none of the above**. *No reference in spite of all of the programs and cards that portray this event, Scripture never mentions by what means they travelled.*

What did the innkeeper tell Mary and Joseph?

a. "There is no room in the inn."
b. "I have a stable you can use."
c. "Come back after the busy season."
d. **No reference/None of the above**.

Luke 2:7 Scripture never mentions an innkeeper, just that the inn was full.

How many wise men were there?

a. one, b. two, c. at least two, d. three, e. **no reference/None of the above**.

What is frankincense?

a. a rare metal, b. an expensive fabric, c. a strange food, d. a sweet perfume, e. a horror story, f. **no reference/none of the above**.

In 1905, which company sponsored the first Santa Claus Parade in Toronto?

a. the Bay, b. Le Chateau, c. **the T. Eaton Company**, d. the Real Canadian Superstore.

Which Canadian was born on December 25th?

a. Celine Dion, b. Wayne Gretzky, c. Pamela Anderson, d. **Justin and Alexandre (Sacha) Trudeau**.

What is critical about Christmas? The message that there is hope for humanity, it is the time to recognize the beauty and joy of life, the time to renew our sense of human nature. Life is a true blessing and the world can indeed be a better place in the future.

Jack Brown thanked Jim for bringing back the Christmas message tradition to the club. Thanks to **Warren Garbutt, Ken Willan and Jack Brown** for organizing this speaking event.

The free lunch draw was won by **David Burnett**.

The *GYROLOG* December 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, January 3rd, 2012

Speaker: Bob Boutilier, Transportation General Manager, City of Edmonton

Topic: Rapid Transit, Road Construction and the Snow Removal Policy.

Contact: Chuck Gerhart

Gyrette Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday January 10th.

Time 6:00 pm, **Dinner** 6:30

Cost \$26

Speaker: R.C.M.P. member who will speak on family violence.

Please respond to Carol Dobson dobson4@telusplanet.net by January 4th if you are attending.

Contact: Sharon French

VALENTINES MIXED EVENT, Normand's Restaurant, Tuesday Evening, February 21st.

Dinner with an Australia/New Zealand and Alberta Theme

New Zealand Mussel soup, Normand's special Alberta Pickerel, Alberta Bison with a Kangaroo cutlet on the side, ending with the Aussie national dessert of Sticky Date Pudding.

We will be entertained by our own Mike and Sharon Matei.

More details to follow in January!

Contact: Marty Larson

District VIII Interim Convention, Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, March 16-18.