

President Ernie, honored guests & fellow Gyros:

As you know this special meeting was called today so that we might extend birthday greetings for 23 January, to our guest of honor Nelles Buchanan. When speaking with Nelles about this gathering he mentioned that he was not particularly fond of numbers - especially when they referred to birthdays. He further suggested rather emphatically, that any remarks about him be brief, in fact the less said the better. To respect his wishes certainly makes it rather difficult for me to properly recount his biography, which as you know, covers a very active life and a distinguished career.

However at the risk of incurring his displeasure, I must make at least some mention of his many activities and accomplishments. Perhaps these are already known to you -- through his legal profession or the judiciary; or as a churchman; a sportsman, or maybe through his military career, which covered two World Wars, where he served with distinction - being awarded the Military Cross in WW1. You may know of his work and dedication for many years with the Royal Alexandra Hospital; the Associated Hospitals of Alberta where he served as President for several terms; or his contribution to the Canadian Hospitals Association, for which he was duly recognized nationally. In any event, we all know him to be a man who has the courage of his own convictions and an outstanding citizen.

The majority of us here today have the privilege of knowing him as a fellow member of the Edmonton Gyro Club. Our one remaining charter member, Nelles was present at the first meeting on 7 April 1921, when they discussed the formation of a club and applied for a charter. He has served Gyro well - he became Vice President in 1922, President in 1923 and served as Governor of Gyro District 8 in 1925-26.

In anticipation of a certain amount of nostalgia today, I was recently looking through some of our club's memorabilia, when I came across a picture of the club's executive of 1925-26, which I have with me, as I thought it might be of interest, especially as three of the men pictured, are here today. Nelles Buchanan, Bill Muir & Emory Wood. I also have two sections of the Edmonton Journal - one dated 1925 and the other 1929, both advertising the Gyro Carnivals of those years. There is no doubt that in those days Gyro was a very viable force in the community.

We have a member here today, who came as close to being a charter member, as damn it is to swearing. He has been a long time friend of Nelles and I am told he was a real showman in his day. Bill Muir, may I call on you at this time please.

There is another senior member of our group, who demonstrated a certain degree of reluctance when asked to participate in our program. He must have taken all of 5 seconds to agree. It won't surprise you when I tell you his name - Stan Smith - the floor is yours.

There is another man here and unfortunately while he is no longer a member - he was Club President in 1953-54 and is always noted for his wit & humor. A master of repartee, Frank Newson.

READ MESSAGES.

Guests and fellow Gyros, there may be others who might like to add to our program - if so now is the opportunity.

Nelles - it is my great privilege and real pleasure, on behalf of your fellow members of the Edmonton Gyro Club, to present you with this gift, a small token of appreciation of your long and faithful service to Gyro - and of the high esteem in which you are held by all. Happy birthday.

Nelles reply --

Call on Harry Mills for toast.

Return gavel to President Ernie

MESSAGES

Telegram from YUMA, Arizona: NELLES BUCHANAN:

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING YOUR
90th BIRTHDAY. YOUR SERVICE AS CHARTER MEMBER TO GYRO AS WELL AS TO YOUR COMMUNITY
HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING AND VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.
WE WISH YOU HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR FUTURE YEARS.

SIGNED

RUSS CARTER: STU GRAHAM: VERN SADD: LOUIS TREMBLAY & JOHN BOYCHUK.

I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A MR. S.M. (BARNEY) BARNETT: WHO SENDS HIS REGRETS AT
NOT BEING ABLE TO BE HERE TODAY: BUT WISHED TO BE REMEMBERED TO YOU AND SENDS HIS BEST
REGARDS AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY . (Former clerk of the court)

MESSAGE FROM WES VAN DUSEN: WES CALLED FROM VANCOUVER TO EXPRESS HIS REGRETS AT NOT
BEING ABLE TO BE HERE. HE ASKED ME TO WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR THE
FUTURE.
HE SAID IT WAS PERHAPS JUST AS WELL THAT HE WAS NOT IN ATTENDANCE, AS HE WAS SURE THAT HE
WOULD NOT GET EQUAL TIME WITH STAN SMITH.

Message from Gyro International: — arrived on Wed. 23 Jan.

Frank Newson, a colleague and senior partner in a law firm established by Nelles Buchanan spoke next. His impression of Nelles was that of a man, strong and tough, but fair.

He knew him also as a worthy competitor in tennis and curling, a man respected and liked by all. It would be thought that a man on the Bench dispensing even handed justice to all would sometime or other encounter an unfriendly soul.

Frank explained this by recounting the story of a gospel meeting in one of the Southern States.

The preacher based his sermon on the topic: "Love one's enemies."
"Is dere anyone here who can say, 'Ah have no enemies'."

One man stood up. "Ah have no enemies," he said.
"How come yo'all have no enemies?"

Came the reply, "Ah outlived the old buzzard."

Chairman Gordon then read a message of congratulations, health and happiness signed by Russ Carter, Stew Graham, Vern Sadd, Lou Tremblay, and John Boychuk.

Wes Van Dusen telephoned a happy birthday message from Vancouver.

Barney Barnett sent good wishes.

Art Westworth expressed the good wishes of the Crossroads Gyro Club.

Gordon Rennie, then, on behalf of the Edmonton Gyro Club presented Nelles Buchanan a book on the early history of Edmonton and a card signed by all present.

Nelles, in a brief speech of thanks, stated that over the years Gyro had been good to him. Early in Gyro he thought he might have to compromise his principles when a Carnival was used as the means of raising money for playgrounds. But when the first carnival raised over \$20,000.00 chiefly through the use of gambling devices, he knew then that, "The ends justify the means," was the principle that must prevail. And he was quite willing to ascend the pulpit and defend his case when his minister at MacDougall Methodist Church charged the Gyros with being a "gang of gamblers."

No Gyro, he said, had ever been a client of his, nor had any Gyro been charged with a felony in any court over which he presided.

Harry Mills then proposed a toast to our honored guest, Nelles Victor Buchanan, and wished him and Gladys a happy and pleasant holiday in the south.

The meeting concluded with the singing of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

President Ernie thanked all those who had made this meeting such a memorable and happy Gyro occasion.

And then there was the lady who had a dental appointment. "I don't know what's worse", she said to her dentist, "having a baby or getting a tooth pulled."

"You better make up your mind, lady", replied the dentist. "I gotta know which way to tilt this chair."

And at this point I turn the chair over to my reader (readers?)