



6 July 2009

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Gyrolog

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Editor

Allan Douglas
Phone/Fax 433-5409

President Dick welcomed 30 Gyros and guests to our first meeting of the summer (July 6th). In golden tones, **Larry Dobson** lead the group in Cheerio and **Gerry Glassford** substituted for **John Dowds** in asking the blessing. **Allan Warrack** introduced his guest, **Dr. Bob Busch**. Bob and his wife lived in Edmonton for many years before moving to Los Vegas where golf can be played year round and the temperatures

POSTINGS

Our Gyro Club is pleased to announce the first Posting for **Ron Neuman**. Ron, who is sponsored by **Marty Larson** and seconded by **Barry Walker**, is a well-known lawyer in Edmonton and a senior partner in the firm of Neuman Thompson. He and his wife, **Joan**, live at 232 Omand Drive, Edmonton (T6R 1L3). We are looking forward to having Ron and Joan as members of our Gyro fraternity. Ron loves to golf, to read history, and enjoys travel and photography. We look forward to having Ron in our Club.

MARKINGS

Along the pathways of life we often place special markings that denote truly memorable occasions. Among those most cherished are the markings of wedding anniversaries. Next month two couples from our Club celebrate very special dates: Gordon and Eleanor Robertson and Bryce and Florrie Van Dusen. On July 9th Eleanor and Gordon will have been married for **55 years** while Florrie and Bryce will celebrate **64 years** of a special life shared together. A wonderful tribute to the depth and breadth of their love. Well worthy of a little poem

What is love?

I know only that I feel warmth and happiness

When I am near you.

I feel complete truthfulness and understanding

When I talk to you.

And I feel a deep involvement and interest

When I listen to you.

I feel as though I am the sun, the moon, the trees

When we are together.

Is this love??

And isn't this better than love?

Given that you may not see your next Gyrolog until after August 6th let us tell you now that **Dave and Lauraine Duchak** will be celebrating their 67th wedding anniversary on August 6th. A wonderful marking, too!!

Florrie, Bryce, Dave, Lauraine, Eleanor and Gordon – congratulations on your anniversaries of life together. May your years ahead be filled with happiness, with bright memories, and friendships with good people.

Jack Brown is our newest Club member!! All of the necessary paper work has now been completed and we await only the official documents to install **Jack** in the Club. Welcome, Jack!! We all look forward to sharing Gyro friendship with you.

Interview with God

When Allan asked me to take over the editing of the Gyrolog for him, it raised the level of my stress and I began to dream about the tasks of editorship – including interviewing folks. One night I dreamed I had an interview with God. “*So you would like to interview me?*” *God asked.* “*If you have time.*” I replied. God smiled. *My time is eternity. What questions do you have in mind for me?*” “*What surprises you most about humankind?*” (Being sensitive to language gender issues.) God answered . . .

“That they get bored with childhood, they rush to grow up, and then they long to be children again.”

“That they lose their health to make money . . . and then lose their money to restore their health.”

“That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget about the present such that they live in neither the present nor the future.”

“That they live as if they will never die, and die as though they had never lived.”

God took my hand in his and we were silent for a while. And then I asked . . . “As a parent, what are some of life’s lessons you want your children to learn?”

“To learn they cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved.”

“To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others.”

“To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.”

“To learn that it only takes seconds to open profound wounds in those they love, and it can take years to heal them.”

To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but one who needs the least.”

“To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply have not yet learned how to express or show their feelings.”

“To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently.”

“To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another, but they must also forgive themselves.”

“Thank you for your time,” I answered quietly. “Is there anything else you would like your children to know?”

God smiled and said, “Just that I am here . . . always.”

Announcements

President Dick has reserved 2 lakeshore rooms at the Bayshore Inn for the Convention. One is available! Interested? Call Dick at 476-3221 or e-mail nicholsr@telusplanet.net

John Stroppa reminded us that the Annual Gyro Day at the Races is scheduled for **September 26th at Edmonton Northlands** and that Post Time is 1:00 PM (with lunch at 12:30 PM). The group will gather in the Private Upper Sky Suite (provided that they have paid the \$24/person entry fee, \$28/person for non-Club members). If you tire of betting the horses you can always satiate your gambling urges in the VLT area in the lower foyer.

The Dynamic Duo of Barry Walker and Roger Russell announced that all is a “Go” for the Gyro Golf and Dinner at the **Legends Golf and Country Club**. Tee time is July 20th at 1:00 PM. There is still time to join the group - \$45/person for golf (9h holes) and dinner and for those who would like to simply share the dinner, a modest charge of \$25 will be collected.

John Ross (filling in for **Bruce Foy** who could not be with us to day) read a touching message from **John and Diane Read**). **John and Diane** have moved to Victoria and they wanted us to know that “. . .although my sojourn with the Edmonton chapter was short, I truly enjoyed the many new people I met, and friends I made.” We shall surely miss them. If you would like to keep in touch, their current address is:

Dr. John and Diane Read
3451 Fulton Road
Victoria, BC V9C 2N2
(e-mail [Later] johnread@connect.ab.ca)

Thanks for coming our way, John and Diane. We shall miss you.

On matters related to the Health of the Club, **Mort Morter** told us that **Andy Friderichsen** is still wearing a brace on his leg as a result of the dislocation of his hip. He hopes to have it off before the end of the summer. **John Ross** arrived at the meeting sporting a sling on his left arm. It seems that John was out training for the Tour de France and took an unfortunate spill on a tricky part of the course (not the cobblestone area that the Tour faces in a day or two). The result was a fractured clavicle. The displacement of the bone will leave **John** a bit of a lump as a reminder of the fall. We all wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

We had only one birthday to celebrate this month – **Tom Chambers** adds one more mark to the calendar of life and we all wish him good health and happiness through the years to come.

While the Gyro Prostate Cancer Tournament is in the history books, the work goes on with the Planning Committee. **Marty Larson** reported that on October 19th there will be a special Dinner to recognize the Tournament Sponsors. The Keynote Speaker will be an eminent surgeon who is very familiar with prostate cancer. This will be a remarkable event and Gyros are urged to write it into their calendar. It may well be that the Dinner will also be used as a special Membership Drive event as our Club maintains its thrust to bring new members into the Gyro fraternity.

A Fond Farewell

It seems to be official now. Our very good Gyro friends, **Betty and Al McClure**, will be leaving Edmonton (St. Albert) shortly and will return to Winnipeg. How does one say “Farewell” to such a wonderful couple? It is not easy but **Marty Larson** managed it well by reminding all of us of how much this couple has meant to our Club and by stressing that we will continue to see them both – just in different ways and in different places. Al joined Gyro 25 years ago. Since then he has served the Club in many, many ways. The Annual Hockey Pools have benefited greatly from Al’s steady hand and enthusiastic salesmanship. Harry and Ruby Mills started the Hockey Pool and Al took over the operation from these fine folks as they eased out of the operation. In recent years, **Al, Dave Duchak, Bob Lippe, and Marty Larson** have worked tirelessly to keep the Pools functioning. It was **Al McClure** who, together with **Allan Warrack**, created and

provided the portfolios that still serve as the key gift presented to each of our Speakers. Al is a keen golfer, who as a novice player in Winnipeg, caddied for such greats as Stan Leonard. Al still offers, in the kindest possible way, golf tips to some of the beginning golfers of our Club. **John Ross** shared a newspaper clipping with Al that confirmed the “wisdom” of their move. The author of the article headlined it with the words, “Manitoba is moving in the right direction”. Apparently data shows that Manitoba is in a growth mode just now and that some former Manitobans are returning to their roots. Our soccer football expert, **Victor Jagoldas**, recounted the time at the Black Cat Ranch that Val, Betty, Al and Victor loaded into the car and drove into Hinton so that they could sit in a bar and watch a televised soccer match from “the old country”. Diehard fans? Or just in need of a libation? Ah, with Victor you know it was a journey driven by a deep, abiding love of the sport. In few poignant words **Gord Rennie** touched us all. He reminded us that to gain a friend you must first know how to be one and that Al McClure learned that lesson early in life. Betty, Ivy, Gord and Al were great friends and as Gord said, “Al, you will be sorely missed!! Thanks for the memories.”

Business

President Dick gave the major business report. Dick and his wife, Marilyn, together with **Marty and Shirley Larson** traveled to Syracuse to participate in the Gyro International Convention. They first flew to Hamilton and rented a car to travel on to Syracuse. Dick reminded us of the vagaries of map reading in strange cities and said that they had got lost several times in Buffalo, NY, a comment to which, in a stage whisper, **John Ross** said, “You got buffaloes, eh?” Both Dick and Marty noted that this was an excellent International Conference with many things to do, and with bands playing at every evening function – the dancing was “non-stop”. A side trip took the participants to the Thousand Island area and a trip on a riverboat. The stately homes of the Thousand Island area made a marked impression on our President. Regarding business decisions, President Dick noted that a motion had been put and carried that will see our International fees raised by \$5.00 per Gyro. This increase is due to the falling numbers of Gyros and to the rising costs of operations – a problem not too different from that which we face in District VIII. Our new 3rd International Vice-President is **Ab Nightingale** (Toronto) and our new International President is **Denis Moffatt** (Camosun-Victoria). We are in good hands with folks like this on our Executive Committee. **Keith Bradley** (Sherwood Park) won the award for the best Gyro bulletin for medium sized clubs – congratulations, Keith!! **Ian Greig** (Stampede City) was named as our Bud Mitchell Award winner – a very rare award to a very rare and wonderful Gyro. Well done, Ian. **Gerry Glassford** reminded Gyros that our 1st International Vice-President **Al Sinicrope** be in Edmonton and will attend our Aug. 3rd meeting. We hope to have representatives from the other area Gyro Clubs to meet and talk with Al. A good turnout of Gyros is urged (even recognizing that this date is near the long weekend in August). Our speaker for the Aug. 3rd meeting will be the **President of the Junior Achievers**. **Val Pohl** told us that a key young leader from the Junior Achievers is likely to attend as well. **Al McClure** cut the cards and **Ernie Siegel** took home the coins!! Congratulations, Ernie.

Same Old Bull

Allan (alias Gerry)

