

# Merry Christmas!



COLONEL R. L. MORTIMER

## Words From 'Tallman'

Another year has almost passed and, as we prepare for the holidays and family activities of the Festive Season, I want to once again extend Seasons' Greetings to all Canadian Forces and civilian personnel here at CFB Comox, to your families, to all our many friends in the Comox Valley, and to all those readers of this fine newspaper who are elsewhere.

The year's end is also the time to pause and reflect back over what has occurred during the past twelve months. 1976 was the first full year during which we belonged to Air Command, and our adaptation to the new organizational structure continued throughout. At the same time there were many other events that had a significant impact on the Canadian Forces in general, and on us here at CFB Comox in particular.

The year did not begin well as things seemed to go from bad to worse in the prospects of an aircraft to replace the

Argus, despite the good news that had been announced on the selection of the LRPA prior to this date one year ago. It took another seven months of prolonged uncertainty and countless rumors before the contract for the CP-140 was finally signed. However, some signs of real progress with the program can now be seen, but it will be another four years before the roar of the Argus is replaced by the whispering whine of the Aurora here at Comox. In the meantime, the aircrews and ground crews of 407 Squadron continue to meet their tasks professionally and well with their aging aircraft. 407 groundcrew showed their first-rate standard of performance by bringing home the coveted I.B. Morrow Trophy from the National ASW Competition in June.

1976 was not to be the year that our Squadrons brought home all the hardware from the international competitions, but the participants turned in proud performances even though they were not



successful in placing first. Moreover, in the many inspections, evaluations, surveys, and audits to which this Base was subjected during the year personnel in every Branch and Squadron contributed to a considerable number of consistently complimentary reports.

There were also a number

(Continued on page 2)



# TOTEM TIMES



A TIME TO BE JOLLY - WITH CHEER AND SOME HOLLY

VOL. 18 - NO. 23

CFB COMOX TOTEM TIMES THURSDAY, DEC. 16, 1976

## Christmas Mosaic

By MARY JO ZUCCHERO

Christmas is a delightfully predictable festival in Canada. Each year families gather together to eat the same food, follow the same rituals and experience the same joy as they ate, followed and experienced the previous year. But that does not mean the traditions of Christmas are without variety.

Canadians trace their heritage to every corner of the globe, and many of their celebrations at Christmas reflect the origins of their forefathers.

The Canadian frontier is revived in the festivities of the Metis, a people of French-Canadian and Indian heritage. Groups in northern Canada still make the buffalo the centre of their Christmas celebrations.

The evening of Dec. 24 kicks off a party that might last as long as two weeks. Sometimes there is a church ceremony, but always there is a large family gathering. Men take their guns into open fields and fire them to signal the beginning of the season.

Gifts are exchanged around the fire, and family members wear their finest clothes - including Metis sashes and moccasins.

The traditional feast is a reminder of Christmases past, and only the best will do. The most tender part of the buffalo is served, together with wild deer and moose meat. Berries, potatoes and

wild rice complement the meat dishes.

When appetites are satisfied, singing, fiddling and dancing go on through the night, often taking the form of contests. Those who have enough energy, can go horse riding the following day - until the celebrations resume in the evening.

Christmas in French-Canadian homes is also based on the traditions of early settlers. Preparations begin weeks, or even months, in advance.

On Christmas Eve the mother puts the final touches on the meal, while the older children set up a nativity scene, or creche - usually under the tree. About 11 p.m. the younger children are awakened, and the family attends midnight mass together.

The reveillon or Christmas feast is set out about 2 a.m. It is a joyous family reunion, with numerous relatives sharing the fun and food. The reveillon must surpass all other special meals, and nothing is spared.

Delicacies include tourtieres, or meat pies, turkey, vegetables, potatoes, and fruit cake or a Christmas log (a special cake) for dessert. Wines are poured freely for young and old.

After supper, gifts are exchanged and carols are sung around the tree. Party games and dancing often carry the celebration into the wee hours.

European customs have lent a special touch to Christmas in Canada. Traditions are influenced by differences between regions and even small villages in the homelands.

Italian festivities are a good example. Families from southern Italy share a special

supper on Christmas Eve, while northerners celebrate the following day. Since Dec. 24 is traditionally a day of abstinence, the meal is a meatless one. Various seafood dishes are served, with eel being the most popular. Codfish, smelts and anchovies are fried in oil. Vegetables and fancy pastries complete the dinner, and desserts are made with seasonal fruits.

The entire family attends midnight mass, then returns home for an evening of playing cards.

Children have their day on Dec. 25, when gifts are exchanged in the morning. Though southern Italy has no fir trees, Canadian tradition makes a Christmas tree a must. Little people visit the nativity scene at their parish church. And homemade spaghetti is usually prepared for the afternoon meal.

Northern Italians serve "panettone", a breadlike cake with raisins, at their noonday breakfast.

One custom common to both northern and southern Italo-Canadians is the visit of the "Befana" on Jan. 6. "Befana" is a Latin abbreviation of Epiphany, the day of the wise men's visit to Bethlehem. Legend has it that good children receive gifts from an old woman who carries a sack. Those who misbehave get nothing but a chunk of coal.

German and Austrian-Canadians spend Christmas Eve with the immediate family.

Austrian families love to serve breaded filet of sole. This dates back to the days when fish was a luxury for an inland people. Hot spice wine and a variety of fancy homemade cookies put a finishing touch on the dinner. Everyone attends church together after supper.

Then the beautiful tree-lighting ritual begins. The youngest child recites a short prayer, and the family sings Silent Night in German. Anyone who plays a guitar or accordion is invited to ac-

company the singers. The tree dazzles as it is lit for the first time, a reminder of the days when real candles were used. Everyone joins in the merriment of giving out the Christ child's gifts.

In German-Canadian homes, Dec. 25 is a joyous family celebration, highlighted, if possible, by a visit to Grandma's. Hers is a special tree, decorated with handmade ornaments, marzipan and chocolate treats that are there for the eating.

The Christmas feast includes goose or duck, a roast pig, sauerkraut and potato dumplings. Desserts are sure to satisfy any sweet tooth - Black Forest cake, Christmas raisin loaf, and special cookies baked a month in advance. Each child is given a colorful plate of goodies to nibble during the day.

Estonian customs have also been transported to Canadian soil, and are shared with the immediate family.

Church services begin the celebration on Christmas Eve, and during this time Santa arranges gifts under the tree.

Feasting begins about 8 p.m. Blood sausage is served with pork roast, sauerkraut and various types of rye and other breads. The hearty farm fare includes root vegetables like beets and carrots, and dill pickles. Dessert is a dried fruit compote, and the traditional vodka is served throughout the meal.

The children's favorite time, however, is after dinner when a family member dresses up as Santa and distributes gifts. Each child recites an Estonian poem or sings a song, memorized painstakingly weeks before Christmas.

Dec. 25 is a quiet day, set aside for visiting friends and enjoying leftovers from the Christmas Eve feast.

Canada's Dutch immigrants spend the Yuletide season quietly. Gifts are exchanged about two weeks

### SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE OL' FISHWRAPPER



Contemplation  
Mrs. Ivy Brown, Western Road, Courtenay



# The Nice People



## Private Beckie Flavel

The young lady that graces our pages this time is a truly personable and likeable person. BECKIE FLAVEL is a young woman striving for recognition in a man's world -- as an Airframe Tech on the Nightfighter Squadron.

Beckie has been in the forces for 2 1/2 years and after the normal training scheme she arrived as she said as an April Fools Day surprise to 409 Squadron in April of 1975. Home is Cilanworth, Ontario, and for those who are not familiar, that is just outside London, Ontario. She is married to Clint Flavel, who is also an Airframe Tech on the same squadron.

Beckie passes her off-hours being a good wife and spends some of her time knitting and mulling over crosswords. She is not actively involved in athletics but is an ardent hockey fan.

Beckie likes the area and the beautiful surroundings that it provides, but is not really impressed with the long grey days of a coastal winter. There just isn't enough sunshine, she says. Something that really bothers her is the attitude of some of the male members in the forces towards their female counterparts. While she finds that some of the guys are just great and encourage and help her on the job, others create an impossible situation by being just plain difficult. She likes her job and totally believes in herself and her ability to do that job. She agrees that there are some things on the job that are difficult for her but this is where a helping hand is really appreciated.

Well, Beckie, we at the Totem Times think that you are a fine young lady and, with the tip of the hard hat, we say to you Congratulations -- you are truly one of the Nice People.

# Words From Tallman

(Continued from page 1) of extra tasks in which the Base participated during the year. Fifteen personnel supported the Habitat Conference in Vancouver, while 127 personnel from Comox took part in the Canadian Forces roles during the Summer Olympics. We continued to provide personnel to the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East where 63 personnel from Comox served during the year, including the 5 officers and 21 other ranks who are currently serving there. We had a record number of visitors to the Base during the past twelve months, and we held a very successful Armed Forces Day Open House in May. In a year during which the number of postings were to be minimal we seemed to continue to have the normal number with 298 personnel posted out and an equal number posted in.

Looking ahead to 1977, I think that even greater challenges will present themselves to us as change brought about by economic and other considerations continues. The extended 200 mile limit for our fisheries protection zone will undoubtedly have an impact on 407 Squadron and VU33 operations, and the recently

announced expansion of the Canadian Forces Search and Rescue capability will directly affect 442 Squadron. But in thinking about the year past and wondering about the year ahead, we also each must make our personal plans and commitments for the Christmas season. Most of us have much to be thankful for as we enjoy Christmas in warmth and comfort, and with our families. Our thoughts and feelings are with those who are less fortunate, those who are separated from their families because of duty or distance, and especially to those who have suffered a loss in their families during the past year. To each of you I want to extend my wishes for a most joyous and merry Christmas.

As we look forward to the coming year from this period of time in which the spirit of goodwill towards all men is most evident, we nevertheless must realize that our roles as Servicemen and Servicewomen are vital to our country and way of life in these unsettled times. I am confident that the personnel of this Base, with the support of their families, will continue to perform at the high standard that has been achieved in the past, whatever the task. May I extend to all my best wishes

for a happy and successful 1977.

## The History Of Christmas Stockings

Gift giving was a part of the holiday season even before the first Christmas. The ancient Romans celebrated mid-winter by distributing presents to each other.

According to the Bible, the Three Wise Men brought gifts to the infant Jesus on the 12th day after his birth.

The tradition of Santa Claus filling children's stockings with gifts is not quite so ancient but, according to legend, did start about 16 centuries ago. At that time a Turkish bishop was known for his great charity. According to one story, he took pity on a man too poor to provide a dowry for his daughters and

dropped gold pieces into the girls' stockings hung up by the fire to dry.

According to another, gold fell by accident into a poor child's drying stocking when the bishop was on a charitable errand.

It is believed that the custom of hanging stockings for presents originated in Germany and was brought to the New World by the Dutch colonists of New Amsterdam, who also brought America the concept of Santa Claus.

Many children in Europe don't hang stockings at all. Instead, they set out shoes. In the morning the good children's shoes are found filled.

# The Trans-Canada Blues

By BOB SHAWCROSS

The year that for the Forces was to be one of "not-too-many-postings-because-of-the-Olympics-and-financial-restraints" is just about over, and as I sit here about 3000 miles from where I was 4 months ago, some thoughts turn over in my mind (and in my stomach) regarding three very important factors in highway travel: fuel, food and accommodation.

Heading east from Vancouver on the Trans-Canada Highway one approaches the town of Hope with a certain amount of concern for that municipality's namesake. That is, you hope there's no traffic bottleneck, and you hope you don't need too much gas. Those service station owners, bless 'em, they know they've got you and they charged us \$1.00 a gallon, with the grin thrown in free. I must give credit to the fellow I dealt with, for he aptly named his

place "Ken's Rip-off Esso".

And sure enough, the bottleneck was there, all the way through the Fraser Canyon to Kamloops, where we stopped the first night. We obtained a room in a decent motel with a restaurant attached, and anticipated enjoying supper and a good night's sleep. Once inside the restaurant, I thought we were on location for the remake of an old Keystone Kops movie, with the waitresses playing the lead roles. As we waited for our order to be taken, the four obviously inexperienced young ladies managed to mix up meals, placate an elderly matron demanding another glass of water and laugh at some drunks' jokes. Then to top it off, as the waitress was about to bring our long-awaited plates, the inevitable collision occurred, and I watched helplessly as dinner hit the floor.

Eastward the next day, we

managed to survive the crude sustenance that was called lunch, passed through the take-out window of one of Revelstoke's roadside "eat-here-and-get-gas" joints. On to Calgary, where western hospitality was to be savoured, sadly for one brief overnight stop. Which reminds me, if you want a supper which featured everything but what was on the menu.

Approaching Manitoba, I envisaged a night of comfort and good food in Winnipeg, the city of my birth, however the road signs did me a foul turn, as Highway 1 seemed to disappear into the city centre, right at the evening rush hour.

Emerging near the NC switchyards in the city's east end, we pressed on into the night, finding a dimly lit hostel in a field behind a truck stop. Taking the last room they had, we dined on unappetizing, exactly proportioned goodies that looked exactly like they were

supposed to look in the nice glossy picture menu. I think I should have eaten the menu.

After that forgettable repast, the Canada-Russia hockey game should be good, or so I thought. Ten minutes after I turned it on, the twelve inch black-and-white screen went dead. It must have been connected to the hot water heater, for it gave forth the coldest, hardest well water south of Hudson's Bay. Checking out the next morning I mentioned these inconveniences to the lady at the desk, who seemed more concerned with brushing her hair than with the creature comforts of her guests.

Arriving at Thunder Bay that evening, we were greeted by dozens of big modern inviting motels, all flashing big modern "No Vacancy" signs. Seems that Ma Bell employees were having a convention in town, and once again we just managed to get the last room at a rather shopworn establishment

complete with its own freight yard just ten feet from the back window. Just two more days to Borden, I thought, as we headed toward Sault Ste Marie over some of the most scenic roadway so far. About half way around Lake Superior, there lies the village of Marathon, whose service station operators charge so much they simply set their pumps at 52 cents per gallon, then charge you double the price shown. Just can't seem to wait till the four-digit gas pump comes along. Another cardboard sandwich at the adjoining restaurant, and we head for the Sault and our last night on the road. And wouldn't you know it, the "No Vacancy" signs are lit up like Christmas trees. Seems that, despite the fact that it's September and the kids are all back in school, everyone's taking a late vacation, and once more we get just about the last room in town. Yet another blah meal at a nearby restaurant, and to the rhythm of passing freights (again), sleep.

Looking back, I believe that we as Canadians can be justifiably proud of the Trans-Canada, for as a highway it is indeed a feat of engineering, and continued good maintenance makes it a pleasure drive over. As for its roadside hospitality, the attitude of apathy, aloofness and just plain greed leave much to be desired. Pardon me if I seem unpatriotic, but next time I think I'll try the States.

# Rescuebits

Well, sports fans, after an absence of many months, Rescuebits returns to give some degree of credibility to the local fishwrapper. There is an old saying that, if a thing is done right, the Air Force

## PMQ Residents Santa Claus Is Coming To Town

You're invited big and small to welcome good ole Santa Claus. Turn your eyes towards the sky on Christmas Eve between four-thirty and five and you will see him flying high. Next he plans to take a ride through PMQs to pass out goodies to all you girls and boys. So welcome Santa with a great big cheer, cause Christmas comes just once a year.

usually did it and the Rescue Centre, being 100 per cent light blue, certainly supports that statement. A rose in a patch of thorns.

Things are humming right along in the West Coast's most viable asset and, to quote the ever present statistics, we're running 500 plus incidents ahead of last year. The 1976 workload should peak at about 3500 incidents which is just about one step beyond the sublime. Coupled with this is the ever present telephone call which, by conservative estimates, place this year's toll between 130,000 and 140,000. In the three years I have been here, the workload in the Rescue Centre has increased 75 per cent and, since 1969, almost 350 per cent. Most of this, of course, can be attributed to the nautical nut but, much to our chagrin, he has decided to put air under his rear and, to date this year, we have participated in 17 major air searches.

Good news seems to be forthcoming in the world of SAR although no one will say anything officially. Witness the helos on stand by in St. John's, Newfoundland. Would you believe helo crews from Comox are on alert in St. John's. The Coast Guard, our Marine Arm, is promising good things in the form of another Hovercraft, additional cutters and staff. Perhaps the most outstanding occurrence and long term benefit is the public acknowledgement of the shortcomings in SAR. It's too bad that most of these decisions are predicated on major disasters.

One area that may have possibly been overlooked is the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC). In all the studies that have been done, other than a management study in 1970 which was before the upsurge, we don't think anyone has ever physically set foot in a Rescue Centre. Yet Search and Rescue is not done by chance, it is done by direction and co-ordination and that comes from the Rescue Centre. The numbers

of staff that fielded the 20,000 or so phone calls and 1000 incidents in 1969 have been reduced by two to handle the 130,000 phone calls and 3500 incidents in 1976. Once again, we are not looking for accolades, the job itself is enough satisfaction.

It's a pretty good feeling when something you have done results in a life being saved but also the converse is true. When you have wasted your all-too-limited resources for some fool who is supposed to be a responsible individual, it really galls a person. Self-preparation and the greatest survival instrument, the head, are all too often overlooked when it comes to the greatest of instincts, self-preservation.

For you officers down at Work Point Barracks, those that can read, here is another question from the career progression aptitude test.

1. Explain Le Chatelier's principal of dynamic equilibrium force or spell your name in block letters. That others may live - Per Ardua Ad Rescatatem.

## SAR News

The four rescue co-ordination centres (RCC) responded to a total of 6,249 incidents during 1975. Canadian Forces' aircraft logged 8,299 hours in search and rescue activities, while privately-registered and other government-owned aircraft logged a further 1,605 hours. Of the total number of responses involving the RCCs, 2,538 were air incidents, 3,120 were marine related, 637 were of a humanitarian nature and 54 involved assistance to authorities.

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# News From Out Of Town

## Minister Announces Moves Urban Areas Hit

OTTAWA -- Defence Minister Barney Danson announced on 29 Nov., the realignment of some military formations to achieve a more effective and efficient distribution of available land force resources, and steps to establish the best use of property in urban areas surplus to DND's requirement.

Today's decisions complement those reached a year ago at the conclusion of an extensive defence structure review and include: the closing of the Avenue Road site of CFB Toronto over the next two years; an assessment of what best use can be made for urban development to DND surplus land at Downsview, the main portion for CFB Toronto; the retention of CFB London; and the reduction of Griesbach Barracks at Edmonton by moving the Canadian Airborne Regiment to CFB Petawawa.

Mr. Danson said in reaching these decisions, the government was particularly aware of the need to make better use of valuable land in urban areas. He said he would be consulting with his colleague, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, and in turn with provincial and municipal authorities and community groups, to ascertain what best use can be made of land areas and facilities being declared surplus by the Department of National Defence in the Toronto area.

The major unit at the Avenue Road Site in Toronto, the Canadian Forces Staff School, will be moved to existing facilities at CFB Kingston. Other smaller units at the Avenue Road Site will be moved to facilities elsewhere in the Toronto area. Among the alternative uses that would be considered for the Avenue Road site are a senior citizen development or a special school for children with learning difficulties.

At Downsview, the Department already has declared large tracts of land as surplus to its requirements. Mr. Danson said while this surplus property was the immediate basis for considering proposals, he expected discussions with provincial and municipal authorities would include other portions of the Downsview site which could be made surplus.

Mr. Danson believes the size of the Downsview property, the existing development in the area and the proximity of the subway, provides an excellent opportunity for Downsview to be used as a controlled urban development project.

With respect to CFB London, Mr. Danson stated he had examined the closure of the base very carefully, and while it might save money and release some support personnel for operational activities, there were other factors affecting the development and effectiveness of the land forces which have caused the government to retain CFB London, with the 1st Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment, as at present.

In this regard, Mr. Danson added that the closure would have completely eliminated the only regular force present in that part of Canada, and moreover, one of the important roles of the military in the urban areas is support of the Militia and Reserve components of the Canadian Forces. Urban centres are the recruiting base for these components, and to be effective, Militia and Reserve units must be given an adequate level of support.

CFB London at present provides support to some 15 Militia and Reserve units in Southwestern Ontario.

Mr. Danson also pointed out that while he would not compromise military efficiency for the sake of tradition, one had to recognize the historic association of the R.C.R. with the London area, and particularly with Wolseley Barracks.

The Minister said Edmonton, unlike London, has a large number of military units, and the move of the Canadian Airborne Regiment to another location would still leave a major military presence in Edmonton, while providing for a better deployment of the land forces more in accordance with national population distribution, as well as enabling the majority of the headquarters staff of the Canadian Airborne Regiment to be reallocated to operational tasks.

Edmonton will remain as the western terminus of the Air Transport Group of the Canadian Forces and will continue to have the only supply depot in Western Canada, which is the second largest in the Canadian Forces. In addition, it will be the location for the Western Canada NORAD regional Operational Control Centre.

The move will also result in a reduction in the size of the Griesbach Barracks site of CFB Edmonton and would allow civic development of the area now located within the urban limits. Mr. Danson said the government was looking forward to discussion with Alberta and Edmonton authorities as to possible urban uses for the Griesbach site.

The move of the Canadian Airborne Regiment to Ontario, planned for the summer of 1977, will give the military a better posture in relation to the many tasks assigned to its land forces. The army will now consist of a combat group with headquarters in Calgary. Another combat group located at Valcartier, near Quebec City. A regimental combat group with headquarters at CFB Petawawa, and a training centre at CFB Gagetown, N.B.

(Continued on page 5)

## CF Controllers Scoop Major Prize

William Tell 76, the world series of Air Defence Fighter Interceptor marksman, ended November 22, at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, with the Canadian team of Air Defence Group placing second behind Oregon's 142nd FIG Air National Guard in the F101 Voodoo category.

The Canadian entry, a composite team made up of four air crews and ground support from Canadian Forces Base Chatham, Bagotville and Comox and a team of Air Weapons Controllers, were one of eleven teams competing for the best of Air Defence gunnery, taking place high over the Gulf of Mexico range.

The nip-and-tuck competition waged in the F101 Voodoo category throughout the meet, between Oregon and the CF team was finally established in the last week of the 21 day event by an aircraft malfunction in the Voodoo flown by Canadian team Captain L.Col. Al Sundvall.

Only twenty seconds from missile launch on a low level towed target when a fire warning light in the cockpit of their supersonic interceptor came on.

Sundvall was forced to abort the run and return to the base with a blown engine panel, conceding the loss of the total point count in the perfect run. A loss, despite a perfect score in his last mission, that probably cost them the meet.

But it was the Canadian Air Weapons Controllers who scooped the major prize, registering a near perfect score in the overall three week Air Defence exercise.

The team of Capt. Marsh Swartz, Sgt. Rick Stultz and MCpl. Bob MacLean of North Bay and Capt. Joe Comeau of St. Margarets showed particular skill in three of the four profiles where they gained perfect scores and listed 4320 out of 4400 in the overall meet.

The controllers place first in the 101 Voodoo category and held the highest point count over all eleven controller teams.

Wm. Tell is a live firing marksmanship test for fighter pilots. It is said to be the closest one can get to actual combat conditions without being at war. It is the only exercise of its kind in which Canadian airmen can take part.

The four basic plays tested by fighter interceptors are a head on attack against a drone target; a low altitude stern attack against a towed target; a five minute alert and scramble against a supersonic drone flying at 50,000 feet and an electronic counter measure mission against a B257 bomber and a F101 fighter equipped to jam the radar of fighters.

Results are determined by a panel of judges and marked to establish the best in the fighter pilot business.

In the three main flying categories the best in Air Defence gunnery at the Wm. Tell meet went to Montana's 120th FIG Air National Guard flying the F106; the 4th T.F.W. Tactical Air Command North Carolina won in the F-4 category and Oregon's 142nd FIG Air National Guard placed first in the F101 category.



**BARNEY TAKES A RIDE.** Defence minister Barney Danson, left, prepares for his flight in a CF-104 Starfighter jet during his recent visit to Canadian Forces units in West Germany. With him are Major-General Ramsay Withers, of Toronto, Commander of Canadian Forces Europe, right, and Captain Walter Pirie, of Halifax, pilot of the CF-104. (Canadian Forces photo)

## Former Infantryman

# MND Praises CF

OTTAWA (CFP) - Defence minister Barney Danson today issued a message to all ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces and civilian employees of the defence department, his first since taking over the defence portfolio Nov. 3.

He said, "I assume my role at a time when we can look forward to receiving the very finest in new equipment, and when you will be called upon to undertake new, challenging and interesting tasks."

Mr. Danson told them that "it is with particular pride that I join you as minister," adding "it is a tribute to our country and our armed forces that one can begin as a private soldier, rifleman in my case, rise through non-commissioned and commissioned ranks, and ultimately become minister of national defence."

The new minister, a Second World War infantry officer who was wounded in France with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, a Toronto regiment, took over the defence post from James Richardson of Winnipeg, who resigned from the cabinet last month.

Mr. Danson said in his message that "we are fortunate to have men and women of high calibre and deep dedication to their country and to their service. No other nation has quite the same relationship between

the civilian and military populations.

"Your reputation is high because of the manner in which you have served a variety of tasks with which Canadians identify and respect.

"From strictly fighting tasks to peacekeeping, to assistance in civil situations, you have acquitted yourselves with efficiency, dignity and sensitivity, often under very difficult conditions.

"I look forward to working with you, and for you, knowing I can count on your loyalty and support; loyalty and support which I assure you I will reciprocate.

Mr. Danson added that "we can all continue to serve our country and the world community in the cause of principles and way of life we all cherish."

Last year, Mr. Danson was appointed honorary lieutenant-colonel of the Queen's Own Rifles, the regiment he joined more than 37 years ago as a rifleman. He served in the ranks of corporal and sergeant before being commissioned a lieutenant.

He joined the army in 1939 at the age of 18, prior to the start of the Second World War, returning to civilian life

politics in 1968 he was prominent in the Toronto business community.

## What MP's Ask

OTTAWA (CFP) - The following are extracts from Hansard numbered 23, dated Monday, November 15, 1976:

### SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS ACT

Proposed amendment to permit indexing of pensions of members of Armed Forces and Mounted Police - Motion under S.O. 43

Mr. G.H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to raise a question of urgent and pressing necessity before this House. It is the question of whether some members of our Canadian forces and members of the RCMP should be further discriminated against and treated as second class citizens because of the subsequent amendments to the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act in 1973 which provide the accumulated cost of living increases on a qualification date when a minimum age of 55 plus -

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a motion pursuant to Standing Order 43, will he put it forthwith.

Mr. Whittaker: I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers): That this House urge the government to consider amending the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act to provide for the reduction of the magic 85 formula to 70 and the indexing of the new formula to the cost of living.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion, pursuant to Standing Order 43, can be presented to the House only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed  
Some hon. Members: No.

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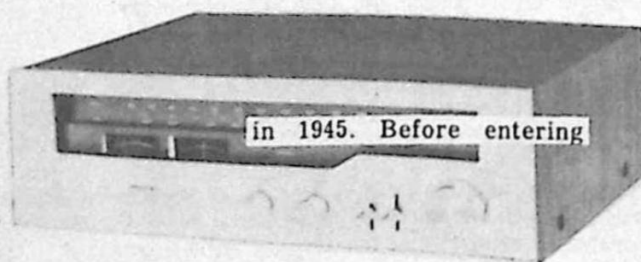
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a Safe,  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
and a  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

ERNIE ANDERSON  
DOUG COOK  
MICHAEL EMERSON  
AL DIXON  
CLAY GARDINER  
CLAY GRANT  
STU LIVING  
RAY PAGE  
VIC RUSHTON  
AL ROBB  
DUKE SCHILLER  
MAX WEEGAR  
GAYE WORK  
LLOYD WORK  
BILL MORRISON



# Ground Pondering

The death penalty in Canada has been abolished for everyone except those subject to the Code of Service Discipline -- the members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

However heinous, no crime is now considered serious enough to warrant that such a "cruel and unusual" punishment as the death sentence be imposed upon the perpetrator. Nor is it believed to be of significant value as a deterrent to future crime. Therefore the death penalty has been abolished for all criminals regardless of the crime.

But for those of the Canadian Armed Forces, the men and women who have volunteered to defend Canada, and who are as a group perhaps the most law abiding and disciplined of citizens, the same arguments are not valid, an exception is made and retention of the death penalty is considered necessary.

The announcement that the death penalty would be retained for those subject to the Code of Service Discipline passed almost completely unnoticed. There was no public outcry, no newspaper debate and no humanitarian group raising its voice in protest as most certainly would have been the case had the death penalty been retained for a particular type of criminal or crime.

Are we to understand from this that

the public is totally apathetic and unconcerned about the members of the Armed Forces, or does the public consider the death penalty an indispensable deterrent to breaches of the Code of Service Discipline and an appropriate punishment for servicemen?

In either case, the serviceman is left out in the cold, and the ludicrous situation exists in which, for example, a criminal can commit wanton and deliberate murder as many times as he is free to do so and still remain immune to the death sentence, while a serviceman who while defending Canada through cowardice fails to pursue an enemy, is guilty of an offence carrying the death penalty.

If the life of a serviceman is not considered too sacred to fall under the death sentence, then there is no justification to preserve the life of a criminal guilty of a crime against humanity as too sacred to snuff out.

To retain the death penalty for those subject to the Code of Service Discipline contradicts and invalidates all the arguments used to abolish it for criminals. We are, after all, all human. In this light the move to abolish capital punishment appears to be little else than the result of misguided humanitarianism.

# 'Fishwrapper' Survives

Volume 18, number 23 marks the end of another year of publication for the Totem Times.

Without the support of all the volunteers our beloved "Fishwrapper" surely would have passed away. This unofficial service newspaper does not have a paid editorial or advertising staff. However, it can boast that it is still a highly professional looking publication even without the support of a full time editor or other staff members.

A glance at other service newspapers would indicate that they are having problems even though they have full time, even paid, staff members. For example, the following words were taken from the Borden Citizen of December 1, 1976:

"With the exception of the Editor and part time assistant Editor, all staff members of the Citizen are unpaid

volunteers who represent the various units, organizations and activities within Borden. These volunteers are the backbone of the paper and without them the paper could not exist. Due to their normal commitments they are unable to get around and search for news, therefore they depend on you, the readers, for much of their material. If your group does not get any publicity or if your activity is not reported, then perhaps the blame rests with you."

So it's hats off to those hard working volunteers.

How about you out there with your latent journalistic talents. Why not break down and contribute material on a regular basis to the Totem Times? Or, how about getting some exercise on the sidewalks of Courtenay, Comox or Cumberland? Join the ranks of the advertising staff.

# 'Will The Real Inflation Fighters Please Stand Up'

It is too easy to find a scapegoat when you want to hang the albatross of high inflation around someone's neck.

But who is really responsible for our social and economic problems? Is it Government, is it labour, is it business or is it every one of us who are the real villains in the piece?

Is it the person who demands a 20 per cent increase in wages without an attendant 20 per cent increase in productivity? Is it the businessman who charges 20 per cent more for an item when there is no apparent increase in quality or performance or service? Is it a Government which increases its spending by 20 per cent without a noticeable increase in social benefits? Is it the homeowner who wants 20 per cent more for his house than he paid for it last year, without doing a thing to improve its value himself ... and how does each justify these demands -- this way!

Well of course we all want to make more money even if it means going into a higher tax bracket. But we need the extra money to pay for the higher labour cost of those things produced by ourselves and others, who received inflationary wage increases.

And, all businessmen want to make a reasonable profit, so charging more for a product because people need it and will pay for it, isn't wrong, is it? And Governments often use the argument that they have to spend more tax dollars because people demand social programs.

When was the last time any of us wrote to Government asking them to spend more of our hard earned tax dollars? Or do Government expenditures go up in direct ratio to the types of social programs they think will

get votes and the ease with which they can get us to believe we need or must have them?

And we all know how much housing costs. Aren't we homeowners entitled to make a buck? I mean, we have to sell our house for ten thousand more than we paid for it last year, otherwise how can we afford to buy a better place that costs fifteen thousand more than it did last year?

Sooner or later, all of us ... wage earners, businessmen, Government officials and civil servants ... will be forced to address ourselves to a post-control period and what we are prepared to do to keep inflation from spiralling upwards once more.

If we think the solution to the problem should be left to Government, we should remember what The Honourable John Munro told us last summer in Vancouver. He said -- "If Government alone is held responsible for the performance of the economic system, then Government will be driven increasingly into regulating the private sector at the cost of both efficiency and economic freedom."

Let's not forget that regulating economic freedoms means regulating your life and mine. We are part of the economic system.

Private firms, labour unions, and private institutions and associations, all of us, have a role to play -- an important role -- in keeping inflation down. We had better start thinking now about whether we are going to be part of the solution or part of the problem.

Saying that -- "I must do something" accomplishes a lot more than saying -- "Something must be done".

(Vancouver Board of Trade)

# New Input On Output

By KENNETH McDONALD

Productivity has become an overworked word. Politicians and economists give the impression that improving it will solve everything. Yet the accepted definition (output per employee) is highly misleading. The term "productivity" needs to be defined differently.

Measuring output solely in terms of employees' productivity implies an auto-

matic bias toward large, capital-intensive firms. Through special concessions -- capital cost allowances and fast write-offs -- the tax system reinforces this bias by encouraging these firms to replace men with machines.

If productivity were measured as output in terms of capital employed, measurements would be biased in favour of small firms which are labour-intensive. Com-

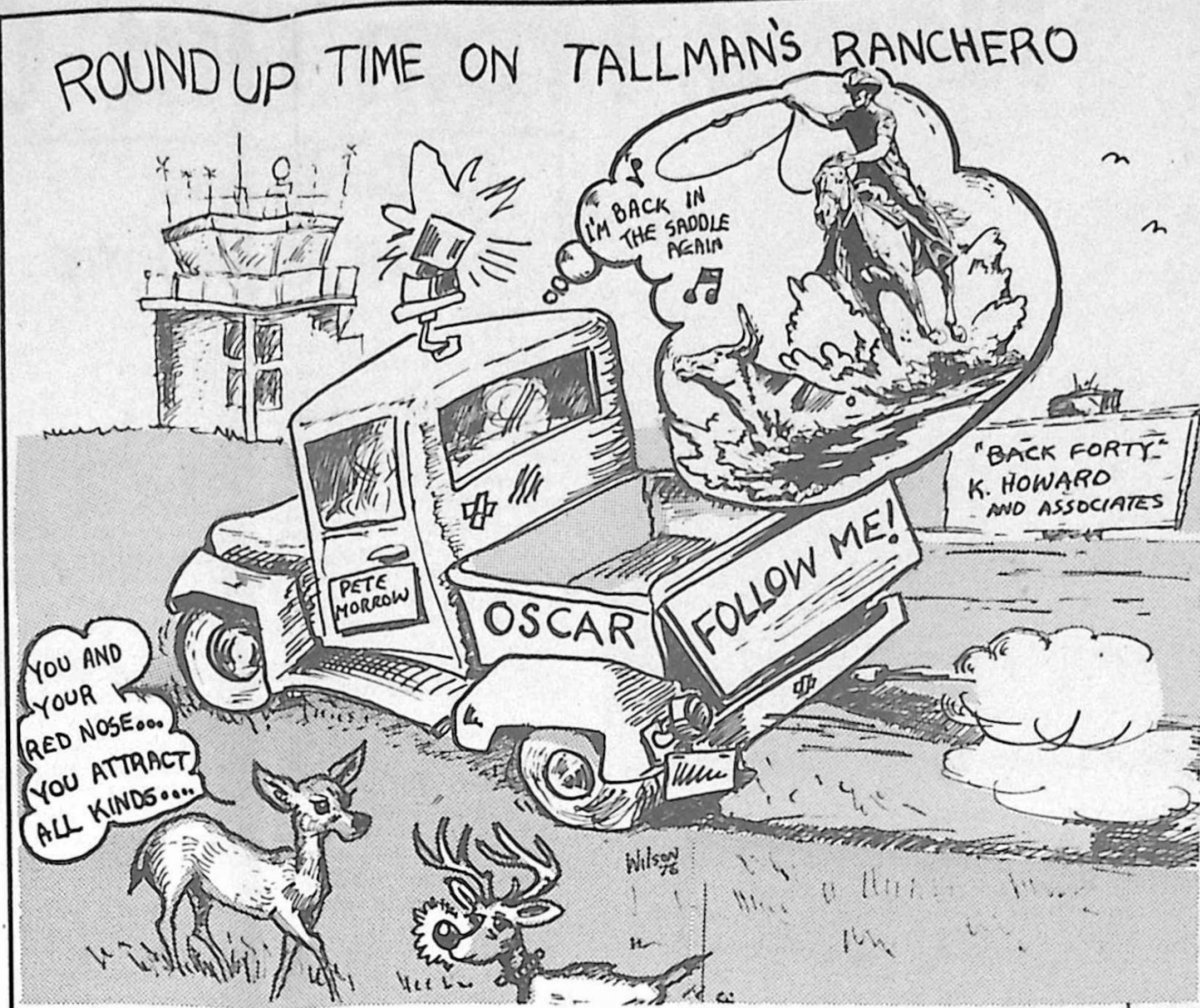
paring the productivity of big and small businesses is like comparing apples to oranges.

Any form of monopoly power will produce apparent gains in productivity. Acquiring or merging with competing companies and thus improving profit through higher prices will appear to raise productivity. So will creating barriers to the entry of new ventures. So will the proliferation, under the impact of massive advertising, of consumer products which have only superficial differences in name and packaging.

Clearly, present productivity figures are unreliable as a guide to national competitive efficiency. They give us no clue as to which industries should be encouraged, which phased out.

Nor do they give recognition to social costs -- such as health care, environmental damage or resource depletion -- for which accounting systems make no provision. As a result, two industries which rank highest for productivity by the present method of measurement are distilling and the exploration of non-renewable resources.

Those who try to persuade us that poor Canadian productivity stems from small plants or a small domestic market are misguided. The economy's weakness derives from extensive foreign ownership, which deprives us of experienced managers and entrepreneurs, and from the excessive transfer of resources to the non-productive government sector.



Santa Rests While BATCO Cowboys Match Wits With Rudolph On Airfield

# 426 Reunion

In 1978, 426 (Thunderbird) Transport Training Squadron is anticipating the presentation of its Squadron Colours. Leading up to this occasion the squadron is in the process of collecting data on past squadron personnel and activities with the intention of publishing a Squadron History. There is already available a good deal of material covering the war years and the recent period in the transport training role, but there is a shortage of information from the reformation of the squadron in 1946 to the end of the North Star days. The type of material the squadron is looking for is scrapbooks, diaries, photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, anecdotes, or other memorabilia.

The co-ordinator of the project is Major C.E. Quinn, so any readers who are ex-"Thunderbirds" are asked to correspond with him at the following address and provide him with any data they may have that has historical significance, or at least with their current addresses.

426 (T) Training Squadron  
Canadian Forces Base  
Trenton, Ontario  
K0K 1B0

# Yes, We Get Letters

## 'Ground Pondering Strikes Home'

Dear Sir:

First of all, I'd like to commend you and your staff for a generally excellent publication. If the few editions I've seen here and there are any indication, the Totem Times must be one of the few CFB newspapers that's managed to surmount the 'House Organ' barrier.

I would, however, take exception to the editorial entitled "A Healthy Sign", published in the 18 Nov. 76 edition.

While I agree in general with the theme of the piece, your comments on personal appearances vs. willingness to serve leave much to be desired.

It is hard to imagine anyone who manifests himself with abnormally long hair, unorthodox dress, unusual mannerisms and an aversion for anything which suggests the status quo, submitted to military discipline, much less risking his life for his country.

First of all, let's get something straight. "Abnormally long hair" -- abnormal from whose point of view? Yours? Just looking around, I'd have to say that our hair styles are abnormal, not only from "their" point of view, but from that of contemporary society as a whole. (And rightly so, of course, but that's another matter.)

Ditto your judgements on dress and "mannerisms", whatever "mannerisms" are. In this day and age, regimented conservative dress and those "mannerisms" so necessary for good order and discipline in any military force most likely appear to the average citizen both unorthodox and unusual.

Second, having in the not-so-

very-distant past shed hair, beard and jeans for a career in the CF, I must take exception to your comments on the current generation's willingness to serve. Look in the barbershop the first day in either Chilliwack or Cornwallis; you'll see a plentitude of "abnormally long hair" underfoot.

If indeed, today's youth is against something, it's not so much their country as some of the institutions embodied in it. To many, love and support of one's country, and the resulting pride in it can no longer ipso facto be read as a love for and willingness to support the government purporting to represent it.

As military personnel, we in the CF have sworn an oath of loyalty and must support the government in power. This must not blind us to the fact that the vast majority of citizens have not sworn such an oath and are not legally bound in an apolitical state. The average citizen is free to exercise one of the most basic and necessary rights in any democracy, the right to freely and openly criticize the government. Nor does the exercise of this right reflect on a person's loyalty to the nation.

Which brings me to my third point, the most important. The military in any nation is by its very nature among the most conservative elements in that nation. While that in itself is probably not a bad thing, we must not allow ourselves to fall into the trap, as typified by your editorial, of assuming that those who don't hold to our necessarily very limited standards of dress, behavior and grooming are somehow 'agin' us or have in any way lost their love for their homeland.

Two examples come to mind. The first concerns the massive demonstrations in the United States in the late 60's and early 70's. While some of the literally millions of demonstrators were undoubtedly dedicated to the overthrow of the nation, the vast majority were motivated by a sincere love of their country, which they felt was involved in an illegal, immoral and unjust war. The key point here is love of country. The draft resisters, by and large, don't seem to have been motivated by any feelings of ill-will towards the United States. On the contrary, for most of them, their evasion of military conscription was based on a moral commitment not to become involved in what appeared to them to be the support by the government in power of an exceptionally unsavory dictatorship.

Whether or not the situation was as they saw it is immaterial. Their motivation was not cowardice or a simple reluctance to serve, but rather a reluctance to support

their country's excursion into Southeast Asia, which they felt was wrong. The United States was never itself in any danger. Had it been, I'm sure that those same demonstrators would have been as fervent in their support as they were in their protests.

The second example goes back to the seemingly self-styled "Lost Generation" of pre-war years. It was fashionable during the 30's, perhaps as a backlash to the horrors of WWI, to be anti-military, anti-war and more than slightly anarchistic. (Sound familiar?) What little I've read points to a feeling on the part of the powers-that-were that the youth of the day out-of-step and probably couldn't be relied upon in a pinch. Just the same, they did pretty well when the time came.

Those fashions that you (and a lot of others) are decrying are just that -- fashions. We cannot allow ourselves the luxury of judging a man's spirit by his hair. Or his clothes. Or by the

amount of flag-waving he does or doesn't do during peacetime.

People with hair, however, much they assault your nerves (mine too, I'll admit) are nothing more than that -- people with hair. Let's not read anything more into it.

R.A. Herold  
Lieutenant

**Thanks**

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, Comox Branch 160, I would like to take this opportunity, through the medium of your newspaper, to thank your Commanding Officer, Colonel R.L. Mortimer and his staff for their co-operation with us in our annual Poppy campaign. In particular I would like to thank Warrant Officer George Ledig who, as acting B.W.O., gave of his valuable time to personally escort four members of our Ladies Auxiliary over the entire Base.

In addition, we were very gratified to have a contingent of serving personnel headed by Lieutenant Colonel W.J. Read who attended our Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Yours truly,  
L.S. Ziegler  
Poppy Fund Chairman.

with freedom outlined in the editorial, rushing to the colours and assuming the duties, responsibilities and risks of a serviceman during a national crisis.

**Staff OK**

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter with regard to the numerous remarks that I have heard against the Base Exchange and its staff. I, personally, have had very friendly a courteous help. I'll admit that I have had to wait a few times to be waited on but that is certainly not the staff's fault, which I have heard a few of my companions complain of. Why is it we always hear the negative points? Is everyone so eager to put down the Base Exchange? Maybe the store does need help but it needs your support to help make it. I've expressed my feelings and I feel better for it. Let's give three cheers for the staff of the Base Exchange for putting up with the complaints and snide remarks of us the public.

Yours truly,  
S. Atisfield

**Reply**

Thank you for your support and your comments on the "Ground Pondering" (vice "A Healthy Sign") editorial. Your points are welcome and well taken.

You may rest assured that the passage you quote was made in full awareness of that which is considered "the norm" in today's society, and did not refer to those who do constitute the norm. The editor is pleased not to be so narrow-minded as to assess civilians against CFAO's.

You are correct in asserting that a man should not be judged on his appearance. However, the editor feels justified in finding it "hard to imagine" anyone with the characteristics mentioned, in addition to the lack of responsibility and obsession

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

From MND Barney Danson

I wish to extend to all members of the Canadian Forces, civilian employees of the Defence Department, and your families, best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season.

This past year has seen the forces involved in challenging tasks, in addition to your primary roles, such as support to the Olympic games, relief assistance to Guatemala and Italy perimeter security at Canadian prisons, and support for me at Habitat in Vancouver. Your performance in these undertakings has been such that you can be justly proud.

I know that Canadians everywhere increasingly are aware of the contributions made by the Canadian Forces, within Canada and overseas, towards our national security and towards world peace. After my recent visit to Lahr, Baden-Soellingen and Cyprus, and meeting men and women of all ranks, I am confirmed in my conviction that you are as fine as any military force which exists, both individually and as a team.

Wherever you may be, I hope that each of you realize that you have an important role to play, whether it be helping to maintain the peace in the Middle East and Cyprus, contributing to the stabilization of East-West relationships in Western Europe, demonstrating our defensive awareness in NORAD, or providing support and training for these missions.

My wish is that each of you will experience a holiday full of joy and good fellowship. As you reflect upon a year of rewarding accomplishment, you have reason to face the New Year with renewed vigor and confidence, as have I.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**The Next Deadline  
is January 3, 1977**

**CNA TOTEM TIMES**

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**BLUE RIBBON AWARD 1976**

# Mail Bag Overflows

## A Warning

Dear Ryan Road Resident: Your letter was given consideration at the last meeting of the MSE and POMV Safety Council. The circumstances given in the letter were discussed in some detail which gave rise to a number of suggestions, such as:

- Paint a solid line on the road prohibiting passing,
- Reduce the speed limits

## Interest Appreciated

Dear Captain Wilson: Thank you for your kind letter of November 7th. I greatly appreciate the interest you are taking in the past history of the Royal Canadian Air Force and am most pleased to learn that my memoirs have been of some use to you in recalling the real meaning of Remembrance Day.

## Colored English

Editor - Totem Times. I wish to bring to your attention the fact that the word "colour" is spelled with a "U". As we are Canadian citizens and British subjects I feel that we should endeavour to use the Queen's English - not that of our southern neighbours. I refer to the paper of 2 December which carried the article on the "mellow yellow" Buffalo.

You have a very good paper which I always look forward to reading. Keep up the good work.

from the Little River Road to the Anderton Road to 30 mph., -Provide for left hand turn lanes.

No doubt there is some merit to all of these suggestions but their practicality is in some question. To begin with, the Ryan Road is a provincial highway, and if the residents along the stretch of road in question can convince the Department of Highways to take some appropriate action more power to you. Our own recommendations for a cross-walk and a footpath fell on deaf ears. You might try your local MLA as taxpayers and see if you can have better luck that way.

Insofar as your near accident was concerned you didn't give all the details. For example was there any on-coming traffic? What distance before you turn off did you start to slow down and signal? Did you snub your brakes two or three times to warn the following car that you were going to do something?

Frankly you have a problem. Until such time as the density of houses on that stretch of the Ryan Road increases to the point that the Dept. of Highways feels they have to reduce the speed limit or reacts to the demands of the existing residents the current situation will prevail.

For our part, we are again going to send a letter to the Dept. of Highways which will contain a request for a reduced speed limit on Ryan Road. If you and your neighbours did the same it might have some effect. In addition, I would urge all drivers leaving the Base at the close of day to have a little more patience and to keep a look out for cars turning left on Ryan Road.

N.F. Richardson  
Major BTnO  
260

## Warning considered

Dear Editor: After being the object of a could be disastrous situation for the past four years, I have decided it's time to share the problem with someone else - namely the readers of the Totem Times who operate motor vehicles or motorcycles.

Somewhere outside the main gate there must be a highway sign that stipulates "NO LEFT TURNS BETWEEN LITTLE RIVER RD. AND ANDERTON RD". It's funny, but I have yet to notice where the sign is.

I am well aware of the fact

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, B.C. and Yukon Division, may I take this opportunity through your media to express my heartfelt appreciation to the residents of Greater Victoria and Vancouver Island for their wonderful support of the now completed 1976 "Conquer Cancer Campaign".

Total returns for the Province exceeded \$1,800,000, with \$250,000 coming from Island communities. Greater Victoria, including the Saanich Peninsula Unit, reached \$162,000, far in excess of any previous amounts raised throughout the area.

As a result, Cancer Research will benefit by over \$1,300,000 from the B.C. Campaign, supporting many new and ongoing programs within our own province.

Patient Aid Services and Preventive Educational Programs consumed an additional \$355,633,000, Fund Raising \$62,000, whilst Administration costs were held at 6 per cent.

A copy of our audit report will be available early in January for those persons interested, and will be sent on request.

To all the Media, Newspapers, Radio and Television equally, to the hundreds of volunteers who work in, or assist, our Units, and to all Vancouver Island residents... "Thank you" for your mutual concern over a problem that affects us all.

Funding Cancer Research is the major objective of the Canadian Cancer Society, and everyone who contributed to the success of the 1976 Campaign, in any way, may consider their generosity an investment in life that will

## Campaign Is Successful

benefit everyone in the years to come.

Best wishes to all for a pleasant Festive Season.

Yours very truly,  
Wilfred W.A. Burton,  
Executive Officer,  
Vancouver Island Branch.

## She's A Worker

Dear Editor: I wish to bring to your attention what I consider are a few pertinent facts on a picture and caption that appeared in the Totem Times dated December 2, 1976, page 3:

a. Pte. Cunningham was not a guest of crew two for the trip in question.

b. Pte. Cunningham was on that trip as a member of the technical ground crew, and as such was required to carry out the aircraft armament servicing work as required of any armourer on such a detachment.

Nuff said! You have a fine paper that we at CFB Comox can be proud of.

T.J. Forget  
WO1-c

407 Squadron Armament

## Health News

Dear Sir:

A well attended meeting of the Upper Island Union Board of Health took place in Courtenay with Mrs. Mary Davie in the chair. Concern was expressed over some shortcomings in air ambulance services to the islands and also with the delay in implementing a province-wide dental service. These were to be brought to the notice of the Minister.

It was noted that regulations for the control of mobile home parks had been transferred away from the department of health over to local councils.

Flouridation of community water supplies was in operation in six areas of the Upper Island and was working well.

The need for residential accommodation for handicapped children and adults in the Campbell River area was discussed and was to be taken up locally.

Concern was expressed over lack of control over pleasure craft creating problems in confined waters with holding tanks and the Department of the Environment was to be contacted regarding regulations for this.

Director  
Upper Island Health Unit  
4890 Cumberland Rd.  
Courtenay, B.C.

The world's longest ocean telephone cable runs from Australia to western Canada, a distance of more than 9,000 miles.

## RCAF Nostalgia

# Drifting Sand Echoes Memories

### DRIFTING SAND ECHOES MEMORIES

The wind whipped sand bites into your exposed flesh - it's another brisk November day at Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario.

The winter weather hasn't changed much during the last 22 years, but the "O' Station" has.

No more agitated commands by a red-faced Flight Sergeant reverberate through the hallowed halls. Halls still carrying names like Croil, Dye and Billy Bishop.

For the officers, no more dining in the RCAF Officers' Mess. The "North Atlantic Squadron" no longer rings from its rafters on a beer call night. It's just an annex now. It sits there bleak and dark, a victim of unification and economic problems.

It's a long brisk walk over to building S138; over to what used to be a Sergeants' Mess on the army side - home of the "ground hogs" as the "pigeons" once chirped - for food and relaxation. Yes, there is a bus service which can get an officer into the general area if he is prepared to wait (the bus operates on a reasonable schedule during normal working hours).

The corporals eat in a mess hall with all of the trainees, and there are hundreds of

privates aspiring to be future tradesmen-women. After being out in the ranks for 10 or 15 years, it is difficult to push one's way to the head of the line up without some twinge of conscious. So master corporals and corporals on special courses tend to adjust their eating periods to correspond with the school snack bar hours.

The old hangars still squat on the edge of the ancient runways. The red brick tradeschool, barracks and mess hall still nestle amongst the hardy pines. Only the names of their tenants have changed. Majors, Captains, Lieutenants and Privates now man positions in Companies, Platoons and Squads.

The brass plate pinned to the outside of the red brick wall of the snack bar located at the entrance to the former air force station, is tarnished and wasting away. One can barely read the inscription: "ARMEN'S CANTEN ... 1939"

Young trainees still eat, guzzle soft drinks and giggle in the snack bar building. They are privates treading in areas where AC2, AC1 and LAC used to spend their leisure hours. Green flat hats have replaced the light blue wedgies, but the haircuts are

still close to the bone.

The light blue uniforms and "Cornflakers" have faded away, probably never to return.

"PER ARDUA AD ASTRA", ghostly words drifting from the past on the howling wind.

A tear falls ... or was it a drop of frozen rain?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Captain Al Wilson has just returned from an Aircraft Fluid Handling Supervisors' Course at CFSAOE Borden. Back in the winter of 1954-55, he was an AC1 learning all he could about the APG 30 and MG 2 fire control systems while a student at RCAF Station Borden.

Best Wishes of the Holiday Season to the Personnel of CFB Comox

from the

COMOX (CANADIAN FORCES) CREDIT UNION

CFB Comox Box 400 Lazo, B.C. V0R 2K0 (604) 339-2344



## Energy Conservation Incentive Awards

The ENERGY CONSERVATION BOARD of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has launched a promotional Campaign "SAVE 10 PER CENT" throughout the Federal Government in support of the In-House Energy Conservation Policy set out in T.B. Circular 1976-16. The Suggestion Award Program will be part of this Campaign, in that awards will be paid to successful suggesters who meet the eligibility requirements of the Incentive Award Board.

It is important that the investigation and evaluation of all energy-saving suggestions be given 'top priority' and that administrators of the Suggestion Award Program adopt a positive approach toward the aims and objectives of "SAVE 10 PER CENT" to ensure that it will receive the maximum support possible. Administrators should note that a suggestion dealing with energy conservation is in the same category as one dealing with any other subject and will be considered under the existing rules of the program. Quick evaluation should be obtainable from your own departmental Energy Conservation Officer.

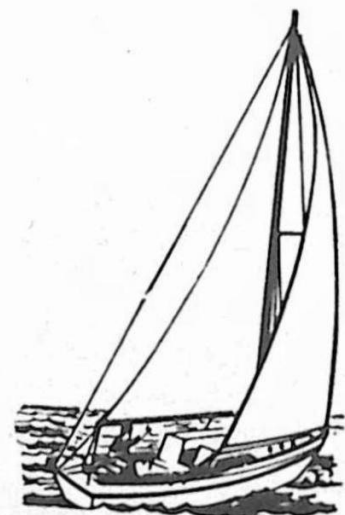
It is important that "SAVE 10 PER CENT" be a success and it has been considered that by introducing the already existing lines of communication and benefits established for the Suggestion Award Program, the

Incentive Award Board can assist in ensuring that the Campaign achieves its desired goals.

The Incentive Award Board will be contacting all Suggestion Award Administrators within the next few weeks to determine the action you have taken in your department in support of this campaign and the results which are being obtained.

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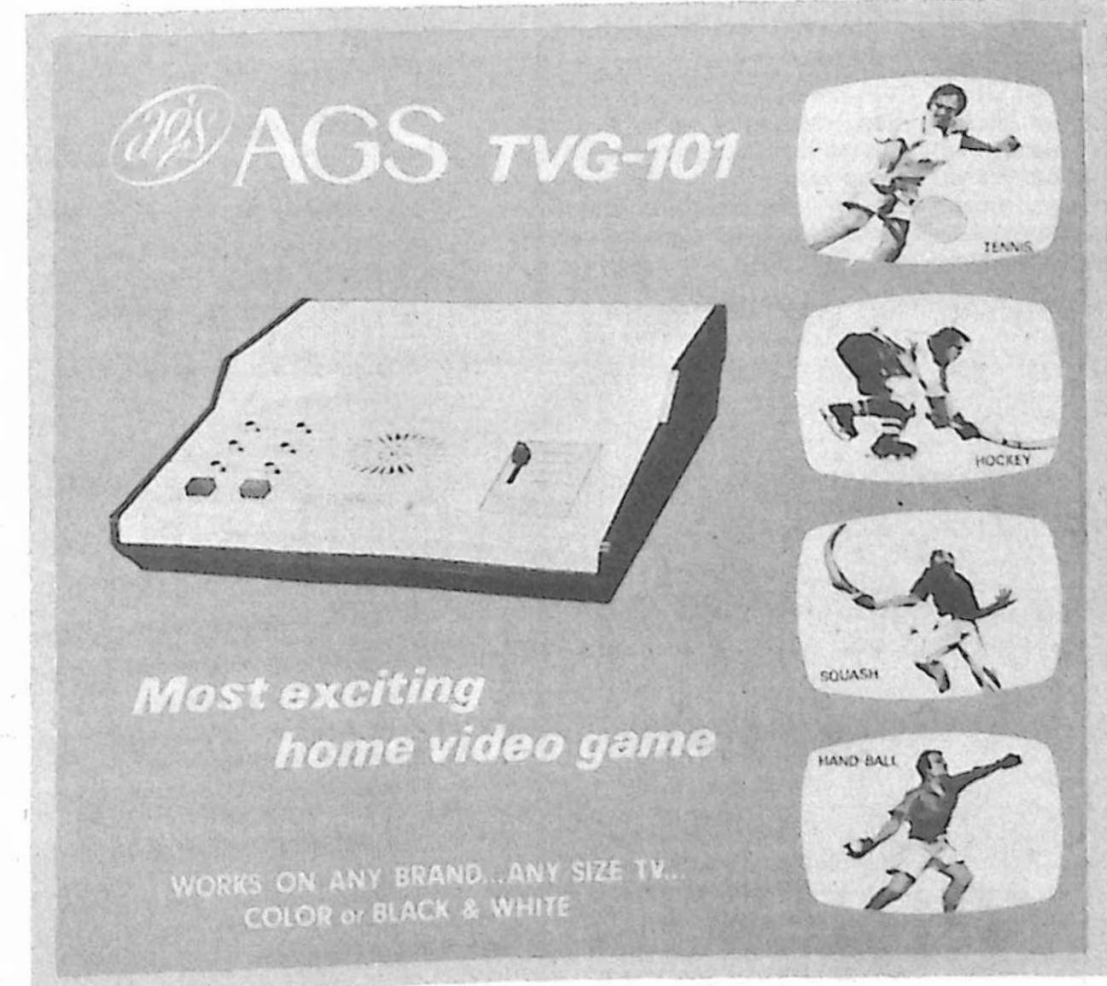
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# Sports Beat Comox

## News From The Jock Shop

**AREA ONE SERVICEWOMENS CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
The new dates for the Area One Servicewomen's Championships will be the 18-21 Jan. 77.

This event will be hosted by CFB Winnipeg. All interested female personnel are to contact the Rec Centre as soon as possible.  
**ATTENTION VOLLEYBALLERS.**  
Plan to join the noon hour recreation volleyballers. This event takes place every Tuesday commencing at about noon. A court is set up and teams are made up as the players arrive. It certainly is a great way to enjoy yourself and exercise at the same time.

**"A" LEAGUE HOCKEY.**  
Play is going along very well in this league and other than the occasional minor penalty the players have been making it rather a pleasure for the officials. The scoring stats and the standings will be updated in the next edition of the Times.

There was one highlight in the past week of play as M.C.P.L. Bob Carter "Stoned" the 42 team and came up with a brilliant performance in posting a 1-0 shutout for the powerful MP's team. That not only marked the first shutout of the season in the league, but, it was Bob's first of his career... Well done Bob.

The league is now playing straight CAHA Rules and there seems to be no problem with injuries. Remember fellas, if a good game is played it is the players and not the officials that are responsible, so keep it up.  
**"B" LEAGUE.**

Action in the "B" League has really improved over the past couple of weeks and is due mainly to the fact that the players are really enjoying themselves.  
Even though standings and

stats are not kept (officially) the teams really are competitive.

The ATC boys are really playing well behind the superb coaching and management of Major Howard. This gentleman is truly an inspiration to his team and not only does he acknowledge a good play by his own players, but by the opposition as well. He and his team certainly had lots to cheer about the other night as they obliterated the 407 team 12-2. The 407 lads had a ringer in their net by the name of Bob "Shutout" Carter but, to no avail. If you heard a loud resounding "Pop" throughout the PMQ's on Monday evening it was not an afterburner "cutting in" it was Bob's shutout balloon. Well, I guess you win some and lose some Bob. In closing I might add that "Sunburn" is a self inflicted wound - normally - but for this time you may blame it on the ATC lads.

**OLDTIMERS HOCKEY NEWS**

The Base Oldtimers had at it with the Courtenay Oldtimers at the Glacier Gardens on Sunday afternoon.

This was the third meeting between the two teams and the Courtenay team behind the leadership of Kenny Durst, John Kauback and Hugh Knockwood handed the host lads their first defeat of the season.

The game was close all the way with the local pucksters having to continually play "catch up" hockey.

The leaders in a losers cause for the locals were, Gary "The Dirty Harry" Anderson, Earl "The Pearl" Thompson, Ray "The Roadrunner" Herrington, Wally "Bad Bounce" Berger, Glen "Tiger" Williamson, Rusty "Heavy Shot" Parker, Bob "Mean Mouth" Main, Al "Couldn't Get Going" Walsh, Graham "Old Man" Walker

more commonly known as "Whip Lash", Al "Slapshot" Tuck to mention a few.

The next game will be played on the 2nd of January 77 with the opposition to be named shortly.

A special thank you to "Honest" Jack Blair who did a great job in handling the game for us.

There were a few seats available in the stands and on the players bench as well. The shortage of players might have been caused by a lack of communication in some cases but, there were a number of fellows who were called and failed to show. It is hoped that this does not become a habit, if so, phone numbers might be discarded...

Earl Thompson will be contacting the players selected for the game on the 2nd Jan. Oh, yes, the starting time for this game will be 1400.

For all you fans that would like to see hockey at its best, maybe not the fastest, you had better go to the Gardens early and avoid the rushhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

Admission will be .50 for adults and children will be allowed in Free.

If there should be a couple of you officials that would like to work off a little of the festive TURKEY give Earl a ring at local 315 or 335-6827.

Oh yes, the score of Sundays game was 8-7 for Courtenay. **BROOMBALL.**

The Intersection Broomball is running along well and the Headquarters team is on, or it should be said, are still winning.

The other teams are starting to get a grip on the situation and are making it more difficult to predict who will beat who. The teams play every day at noon and for all you sports buffs that sort of just relax at noon, drop over to the Arena and have a first hand look at the action provided.

## Indoor Soccer



The Falcon's

On 6 December the Falcons downed the Bears 3 - 1. Chuck King's goal from Mark Surette for the Falcons was the only goal in the first half. In the second half goals by Shawn Gailey from Chuck King and then Tad Tingley unassisted made the score 3 - 0 until Michael Eddy of the Bears scored on a penalty shot. In the other game the Wolves edged the Lions 2 - 1. Steve Redmond from Steven Blair gave the Wolves a 1 - 0 lead at half time. Terry Eddy evened the count in the second half but Greg Hill scored the winner on a nifty play with Steve Redmond picking up the assist.

On 13 December the Lions nipped the Falcons 1 - 0 on a goal by Terry Eddy with Dave Dobson picking up the assist. The other game saw Lee Jepsen score all the Bears goals as they downed the Wolves 3 - 2 in a hard fought game. Down 0 - 3, the Wolves came back with goals from Steve Redmond and David Flower before the clock ran out on them.

I would like to thank all the boys and girls for coming out and playing, and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

**STANDINGS**

Team	P	W	L	T	Pts
Wolves	10	6	3	1	13
Lions	10	4	4	2	10
Falcons	10	4	5	1	9
Bears	10	3	5	2	8

## LIBRARY HOURS

The Base Recreation Library will close for the

holidays after hours (12:30 - 14:00) on Friday, 17 December. We will open again on 4 January. If you have books to return before that, just slip them through that handy slot in the Library door!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## Rec Centre Holiday Schedule

Tuesday, 21 Dec - Open all day - closed in the evening.  
Wednesday 22 Dec - Open all day and evening  
Thursday 23 Dec - Open all day and evening  
Friday 24 Dec - Open until 1400 then closed remainder of day and evening  
Saturday 25 Dec - Closed - Merry Christmas  
Sunday 26 Dec - Closed  
Monday 27 Dec - Closed  
Tuesday 28 Dec - Closed  
Wednesday 29 Dec - Open all day and evening  
Thursday 30 Dec - Open all day and evening  
Friday 31 Dec - Open until 1400 then closed remainder of day and evening  
Saturday 1 Jan - Closed - Happy New Year - sssshhhhh - ouch my head  
Sunday 2 Jan - Closed  
Monday 3 Jan - Closed  
Tuesday 4 Jan - Open all day and evening  
Normal routine from the 5th Jan on.  
From the Rec Centre Staff to all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

**PUBLIC SKATING TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

- 20 Dec 76 - 1400 to 1530
- 21 Dec 76 - 1815 to 1945
- 22 Dec 76 - 1400 to 1530
- 23 Dec 76 - 1400 to 1530
- 24 Dec 76 - 1400 to 1530
- 27 Dec 76 - 1400 to 1530
- 28 Dec 76 - 1815 to 1945
- 29 Dec 76 - 1400 to 1530
- 30 Dec 76 - 1400 to 1530
- 31 Dec 76 - 1400 to 1530
- 3 Jan 77 - 1400 to 1530

**OPEN BOWLING**

Open Bowling will be held for all interested personnel on the following dates and times prior to the Christmas period:

- 20 Dec 76 - 1300 - 1600
- 21 Dec 76 - 1300 - 1600
- 22 Dec 76 - 1300 - 1600

For further information please contact Mr. R. Englemeyer at local 303.

**LEVEL 1 COACHING THEORY COURSE**

A Level 1 Coaching Theory Course will be held at CFB Esquimalt on the 28 - 30 Jan 77, Saturday and Sunday, commencing at 1400 Saturday and terminating at 1200 Sunday.

These courses are instructed infrequently and are required for full coaching certification at all levels.

Course will be conducted by Leisure Services Branch, B.C. Department Provincial Secretary. Cost ten dollars payable at registration. For more information contact the Rec Centre.

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## Ocean Waves At Nanaimo Meeting

By RUBY WESLEY  
On Sunday, November 28th, Nanaimo hosted both the Vancouver Island Caller-Teacher Association and the Western Square Dance Association for their meetings and workshop. Representing the Ocean Waves Square Dance Club was caller Bob Jeglum and President Vic Cotten together with their wives, Joy and Velma.

After greetings among the many members in attendance, it was soon time to settle down to business. The workshop got under way with basic instruction by Doreen and Ernie Bawtinheimer on teaching the modern waltz. This was followed by a square dance workshop emphasizing the Folds, Hinge and a gim-

mick movement, the Ah-So. It was a vigorous session with maximum participation.

At the meeting it was reported that the Caller-Teachers belonging to the Victoria and District Caller Teachers Association, had recently held a seminar in Victoria to introduce modern square dancing to the local school teachers. It is hoped that all school principals on Vancouver Island will be contacted regarding this seminar.

In Ontario and parts of the USA, the basics of modern square dancing are already being taught as part of the school curriculum. The Comox Valley is leading the way in British Columbia in

this area of recreational education. Early this year, students of Vanier Senior High School were introduced to modern square dancing for the first time. Their instructor, Bob Jeglum, local member of the Victoria and District Caller Teachers Association, found them to be

most enthusiastic. The Caller Teacher Association is planning to hold a "get-acquainted" dance for all new dancers currently learning the basics of modern square dancing in the Comox Valley, Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni, etc. The location is tentatively to be Parksville.

**MERRY TO XMAS YOU!!**

**And Best Wishes For a Happy New Year From the Staff of**

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- CAMPERETTE for small pickup \$695
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**CARS**

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- 71 DATSUN 510 sed. \$1295
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- 72 MAZDA 616 H.T. 4 spd. \$1895
- 74 DODGE COLT h/r. \$2295
- 66 MERCEDES 4 dr. Sunroof. New paint. \$1695
- 73 MAZDA RX3 Stn. Wgn. Radio, 4 spd. \$2495
- 73 TOYOTA 1600 Corolla. New paint. \$1995
- 72 DATSUN 1200 cpe. Green. \$1695
- 75 MAZDA 808 cpe. 4 spd. trans. 8,000 miles. \$3295
- 67 FORD Fairlane. V/8, a/r, 302, p/b. \$1195
- 76 HONDA Hatchback. 17,000 mi. \$3295
- 70 MAZDA 1500 sedan. \$1295
- 74 VOLKS BEETLE Automatic. Radio. \$2695
- 67 FIREBIRD H.T. V/8, a/r. \$1695
- 74 - 808 STN. WGN. (Only 3,000 mi.). 4 spd. \$3295
- 69 FORD Sedan. V/8, a/r. \$595

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**THE CURLER'S DREAM** was accomplished by a local rink on Thursday, December 2. Lorne Vanetta and his rink of Third, Jack Hallum Second, Phil McCutcheon and Lead, Don Wolf pulled off the eight ender in Men's League action at the Comox Valley Curling Club. Eight enders are rare and it is quite an accomplishment when achieved by a team. When last seen, the opposition were making their way out the rear exit of the rink. Times photo

During my years of teaching skating and hockey we have encountered the problem of poor support in the ankle area of the boot so often that we have had to develop our own skate modification. We have perfected a set of leather inserts that can restore excellent support to any pair of skates with good counters. They are made of tapered, high quality leather that will not break down under pressure and moisture and are glued and sewn into each side of the ankle area in the skate boot. The pictures should provide enough information for any competent shoe maker to install the inserts. The inserts are useful in several circumstances. If a boy has narrow feet and heels making it difficult to find a boot that fits snugly, the inserts will take up the extra room in the ankles and heel areas. He will then have all the support he needs. In any skate that is just slightly too large, when it is not economical to buy new skates, the inserts are the ideal way to make the skate fit and give support where it counts most. I strongly recommend that any parent who has the slightest doubt about the supportive quality of a new



pair of skates, should have the inserts put in immediately. Leather supports for everyone is a great idea. It makes skating easier and more fun. (for more information on leather inserts read my book Howie Meeker Hockey Basics). Last week I stated that 9 out of 10 pairs of moulded boots were 2 to 3 sizes too big for the boy. I just finished 2 coaching clinics, spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday with over 100 coaches in Cleveland, Ohio and Essex Junction, Vermont and found just 1 pair of moulded boots in the 75 or so pair we looked at, that you could say came close to fitting the boy. The students, coaches and parents were just amazed when we found that everyone examined could easily fit into boots at least 2 sizes smaller. Okay, how do you fit plastic

skates properly? We will forget the boot entirely. Remove the foam rubber insert and where you have the enclosed toe with the tongue attached, fit and insert as tight as you would a sock, pay for the skates and wear them. Later when your toe rubs uncomfortably against the plastic toe of the boot, cut the toe of the insert off above the sole, get a shoemaker to rivett the tongue to the boot and wear the skates until your toe again hits the front of the skate. Then haul out the insert and cut the heel padding above the sole away. About 2 or 3 inches up is enough and wear the skates for another year. Plastic skate boots though very expensive have very good support but only if they fit will they allow the boy to move his feet with comfort and ease.

Some plastic skates have the tongue attached to the boot and the insert has an open toe. Again fit the insert, not the boot. Make sure the big toe completely covers or at least comes to the edge of the insert sole. Put the heel tight against the back (heel area) of the insert and insist that the sole does not protrude more than 1/4 inch beyond the toes. You can also cut the heel area of the insert away to extend the life of the boot for another season.

The youth hockey player just hasn't got a chance unless the boots fit and give support in the counter and ankle area. Next time you buy new skates for your budding Gordie Howe, follow my suggestions and the little or big guy will skate 30 per cent better.

# Promotions Announced

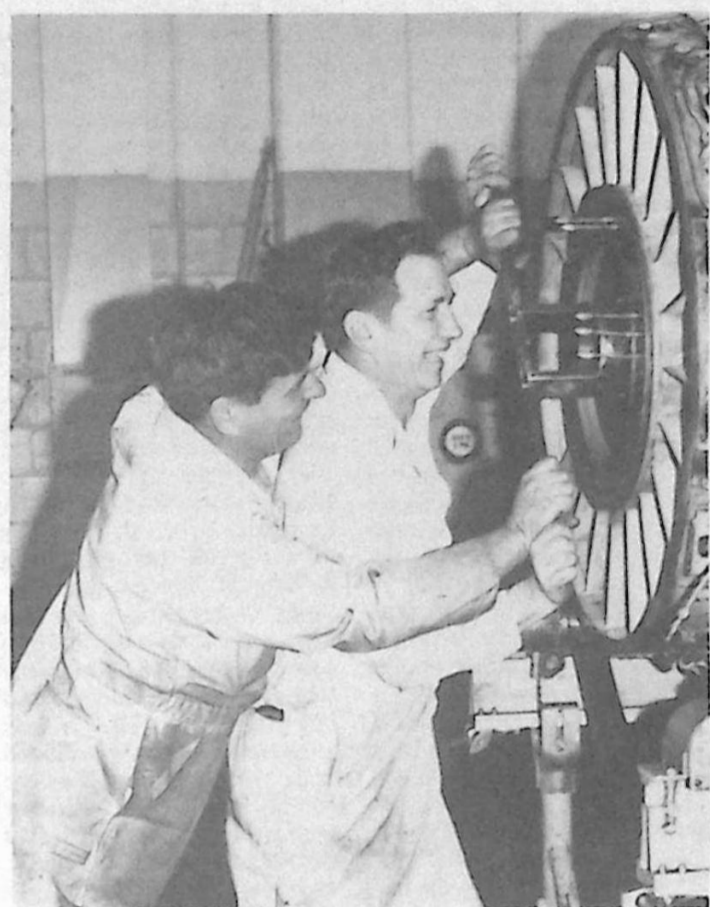
Recently was 386 Comox Valley Lions Club's Parents' Night, which enables parents to see their sons and - or daughters participating in the march past and inspection. We were very pleased to see so many interested parents attend. Completing the inspecting party were, Major B. Hammond, C.O., Lt. J. Hicks, C.O., Major Stevens, Mr. Davis (Lions Club Representative), Mr. Alf Kron, and W.O. K. Murray. Major Hammond and the officers complimented the cadets on their uniforms, brass, shoes, and overall conduct.

course - Kathy Murray. Ground Tech Training - Steve Thurber.

Next, a film was shown, based on summer camps, showing segments of the band course, bush survival, and pilot training available to cadets. Following the film, Bill Martyn, Kathy Murray and Steve Thurber each gave

a speech on their summer training. To end the evening, refreshments were offered, and parents were given the opportunity to ask any questions concerning cadets and their functions. All together, it was a very enjoyable evening for all who attended the annual parents' night. By Jackie Campbell and Debbie Fossett.

## Happiness is . . .



**YOU PUSH, I'LL PULL!** Bob (Root Bear) MacKay, rear, and Dave (My name is Windy) Gould try their hands at freeing a tight rotor. After the sweat had flowed and their strength ebbed, it was found there was nothing wrong with the engine. Just two loose nuts on the front end. Hosford photo

## Ocean Waves Square Dancing News

By RUBY WESLEY  
The Ocean Waves Square Dancing club is still rolling right along and recently enjoyed a couple of evenings of fancy footwork at Black Creek Hall courtesy of the Campbell River Ripple Rockets. Caller Fred Shultz of Nanaimo did the honors November 20th and Caller Fred Willing on December 4th. We sure had a good time and thank you Ripple Rockets.

knowledge of modern square dancing and you can bank on it that no one would let Beejay close shop and go home if it wasn't an absolute necessity. While the club dancers have been doing their thing, the beginners' group have been doing a bang-up job of mastering the Basic 50 steps. Those club members who join them on Sunday evenings at the Social Center can attest to that. Their enthusiasm is fabulous - Joy and Don Reid travel all the way from Campbell River for these lessons and wouldn't miss one on a bet! All members will be interested in hearing that Betty and Norm Dawson send their greetings from Mesa, Arizona and say that they think of us each Wednesday night. Now, for future happenings.

Great plans are becoming realities for our Christmas party on December 22nd. We hope you have marked this date on your calendars - better yet, we hope you have called Bob Jeglum or Vic Cotten to let them know you and your guests are coming. Their telephone numbers are: 338-8780 and 334-4224. This party is being held at our usual place, the CFB Social Centre. The Ripple Rockets have been invited and the beginners' class will be there as well. All square dancers are most welcome, so let's have a good turnout. The evening will be topped off with a scrumptious supper featuring that good fellow, Mr. Turkeybird, as the main attraction plus an array of

delicious salads and condiments, etc. There will be a \$1.00 white gift exchange. Please mark male-female. **NEW YEAR'S EVE.** Our welcoming of the New Year is going to be the best "do" in the Comox Valley and this dance, to be held at the Social Centre as well, is open to anyone. Dancing takes off at 8 p.m. and will go on until ??? After the New Year has been welcomed, a hearty supper of Baron of Beef and a cold buffet will follow. Dress is optional. Music will be supplied by Bob Jeglum. Reservations are a "must" in order to facilitate planning. The charge is a mere \$7.00 per couple inclusive.

**EW** Courtesy  
Adults \$2.25 OAP \$1 Child \$1

Mon. to Thurs. - 8:15 p.m.  
Two Shows Fri. & Sat. - 7:00 & 9:00 p.m.  
No Matinee the Next Three Saturdays

Thurs., Fri., Sat., Dec. 16, 17, 18 Charles Bronson  
**"ST. IVES"**  
Mature entertainment

Mon to Fri., Dec. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24  
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she was just trying to stay alive!

## WO's & Sgt's Mess

**DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT**  
**December 18th — PMC's Draw and Bingo/Dance**  
Bingo — 2000 - 2230 hours.  
Dancing — 2230 - 0200 hours. Band - ("Harvest")  
Dress — "C" Winter.  
Admission — Members \$1.00 per person, guests \$2.00 per person.

**December 31st — New Year's Eve Ball**  
Time — 0900 - 0400 hrs.  
Band — The Alley Cats.  
Dress — Members "B" Dress. Spouse, semi-formal. Corsage for Ladies.  
Food — Baron of Beef.  
Price — Members, regular & associate, \$25.00 per couple. Honorary and Guests, \$50.00 per couple. (Includes bottle of cheer on arrival).  
Reservations made through Mess Manager.  
Bus transportation to be provided. Pick-up points TBA.

**MOVIES FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER**  
20th — High Plains Drifter.  
27th — Airport '75.

## OFFICER'S MESS ENTERTAINMENT

Sat. 18 Dec. — 409 CHRISTMAS PARTY.  
1900 cocktails - 2000 dinner - 2200 Dance

Sun. 19 Dec. — KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY  
1400 - 1600. No reservations. No cost.

Sat. 25 Dec. — Mess Closed

Sun. 26 Dec. — Mess Closed

Fri. 31 Dec. — NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL  
Receiving Line 2130 - Cocktails 2200 - Dance to "Ripple Rock" 2200 - 0330. Buffet dinner, two sittings, 2230 and 0300. Reservations by 1600, 20 Dec. Formal Dress. \$20 Regular. Guest Couple \$30.

Sat. 1 Jan. — NEW YEAR'S LEVEE  
1100 hrs. - 1300 hrs.

# JUNIOR RANKS CLUB

## DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

**DEC. 17** - TGIF at the Annex. Food at approx. 1800 hrs.

**DEC. 26** - Ladies Cocktail Party - Ladies Only. 1900 - 2100.  
Mixed Dance - "Ripple Rock" - 2100 - 0100.

**DEC. 31** - Dinner, 2100 - 2300 hours.  
Dance, 2200 - 0400 hours - "Good News" - a popular band from Seattle.

**FREE BUS SERVICE** - From Royston, Cumberland, Courtenay and Comox.  
Shuttle buses from P.M.Q.

**TICKETS ON SALE AT PMC OFFICE**  
Members \$20.00 per couple, Guests \$30.00 per couple

### MOVIES

**DEC. 21** - HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER - Clint Eastwood  
**DEC. 28** - AIRPORT '75 - Charlton Heston

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# Demon Doins

Well, long time no tell! It seems every time the deadline strikes I get waylaid. However, we have had one or two articles by crews to keep you up on the news.

We have had quite a lot of action around the squadron lately, and if it doesn't simmer down soon I'm heading for the hills. We have had several lots of aircrew spend some unplanned time in Vancouver. The skipper of Crew 3 is now known as Hyatt House Harv, after one escapade with 20 pilots on an air traffic centre visit and once with his crew. Crew 4 also returned home the hard way after sitting up four days in Greenwood with a sick Argus, then diverting to Abbotsford and Vancouver for several days delay at this end. Someone said that you don't have to shove the fog but you could sure cut out blocks of it and stack it up a week or so ago.

We had three crews off on Readix 2, an exercise with our southern neighbors in Moffett. After much careful planning the gang that shoved off from here bore no resemblance to the original crew lists, but once again the aircrews proved flexible and prevailed all with that good old "can do" attitude. Besides, they all wanted to get in a shopping run prior to Xmas. Just try them in Jan.

At long last we are getting some strength in numbers. Recent arrivals include Capt. Jim Slater, Capt. John Leross, Capt. Jon Dillon, WO. Mel Barrie, Capt. Doug Gearing, Capt. Bob Eby, and Lt. A. Shurson. Welcome! Welcome!

Welcome! We retrieve soon Capt. Al Pasanen and Capt. Rudge Wilson from SANC but replace them in the new year with Capt. Smokey Alexander and Capt. Lloyd Noseworthy who are slated for the course. Majors Van Der Pryt and Wattie are coming for Xmas and say there's no way they'll return to Greenwood. Capt. Bill Collier has returned to clear off squadron having completed his basic pilot course and is eagerly awaiting the big chance to become a super "jet" pilot. Good luck to you, Bill.

The nav career manglers visited and we were treated to that super brief which shows all the charts and graphs and explains why there are no promotions and the might, maybe, and perhaps of our uncertain future. I'm sure glad I've got my job and they have theirs. I can cope with six crews of navs sore at me but 500 plus would be a bit much.

The squadron officers' party was a considerable success. The entertainment was superbly provided by Crew 5 who had as guest lecturer Prof. J. Stevens speaking on the care and feeding of aircrew from infancy to retirement. He had very able assistants in Mike and Cheryl Gibbs and Colleen Collier. It was a fun time and enjoyed by all. Their presentation was concluded with the aircrew-of-the-year award which was won by unanimous acclaim by David "Mad Boom" Phoenix. However, Mike "2 Charge" Gibbs was strongly in contention.

Well, folks, the following is a transcript from my able assistant on Crew 2. Have a happy new year and be sure to get out to the squadron Xmas blast on the 18th.

P.S. A "well done" goes to Crew 3 for their job in dropping hepatitis serum to our naval friends-at sea.

## VP 407 CO Commences Cross Training

A brief ceremony held in the ASW compartment of aircraft 10716 marked the possible start of a new career for LCol. Konings. The ceremony included the presentation of a Certificate of Military Merit for his contribution to Crew 2 during Exercise Readix 1-77. The certificate acknowledged his ability to perform the duties of an ASW operator during tactical missions and, perhaps more important, completed one of the OJT requirements for a VP observer.

This initial step by LCol. Konings is perhaps one of the most important yet to be taken by a pilot. The recent advances in aircraft technology have produced not only computerized navigation systems but also systems that are capable of landing and taking off without a pilot touching the controls. These advances must cause both civil and military pilots to reflect on their long term future.

LCol. Konings' ability to recognize where the future lies and his initiative to press ahead is an example to all. From the Crew 2 observers - well done, Sir.



LT COL A.A. KONINGS

## A Christmas Message

During this past year the squadron has continued to excel, making it without doubt the foremost VP maritime squadron within the Command. The spirit and dedication shown by each of the squadron members in accomplishing our aims has been tremendous. I fully realize that this spirit in part is fostered by the close co-operation between all squadron personnel. Notwithstanding our occasional professional differences, I have observed an excellent co-operation between aircrew and groundcrew both at home and on deployment.

1976 has been a busy year for the squadron, since we not only had to contend with our primary responsibilities but also with such events as the Olympics. While we were not fortunate enough to capture the ASW Competition trophy, we nevertheless did retain the Commodore Morrow trophy for supremacy in servicing which is a tremendous accomplishment.

Each of you should be justifiably proud of our accomplishments during this past year and I look forward with keen anticipation to 1977. I wish each of you a joyous season and a prosperous new year.

# 407 Tech Ramblings

## FROM THE HEAD SHED

Twos two weeks before Christmas, the sections, a slooring,

Everyone recuperating the party at the moorings. Fun, antics, boosing and laughter, by all.

Provided quite successful, by the long and the tall.

Old Mitch in his glory, and Wally in his wit,

Provided the laffs, while others did sit.

When what to our wondering eyes did appear,

Russ, Larry, and Marc full of all the Christmas cheer.

Down the stairs, rushed Don and his staff,

Providing goodies to all the riffraff.

Bruce's and Rick's bellies heaved and did churn,

To the spirits of Hank's hands, on the piano they burned.

The CO's knuckles a white in a flutter,

Slipped on the keys like newly churned butter.

Presentations done, then came the fun,

Till the time came, for all us to run.

To all of our staff, and all the avid readers

We wish a merry Christmas to you and your leaders.

One never realizes the talent that happens to be available in times such as these. The above prose is from the burning fingers of Sgt. Engelmyer. On behalf of the Headshed - thanks Russ - our sediments are capably expressed to one and all at this Christmas season.

Many thanks goes out to Mrs. Jan Poole and the Boss for putting up with "The Office Gang" again this year.

To all our Squadron associates thanks for a good year. May 1977 be just as successful.

## ARMT ANTICS

'Tis the season to be jolly and deck the halls with boughs of holly once again. Big Dave Glover is away on a Norpat so we're minus his presence at the moment. Gary Holt is back working in the office, much to Pte Boehl's delight.

Oily Lohnes is contemplating some leave this week but he has suddenly discovered a snag-he's orderly corporal on the 16th. 407 Arm't has a new officer in the person of Captain Manuel who has lately come to us from our neighbour, 409 Sqn. He is working with Capt. Williams.

We are very pleased and delighted to announce the return from Shearwater of Pte Kari Cunningham who is pleased and delighted to be back.

Ptes. Gouliquer and Belanger and Cpl. Pare are away on leave for a couple of weeks.

There isn't much more news from the section except that 407 Arm't would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Bye for now.

## ASW LABS

To start things off on a good note - everybody welcomes the promotion of Lt. Bodnarek to Captain. Congratulations. We've all decided to hold a party in his honor and it should be some bash.

The rest is as usual - Guy Labreque and Andre Fontaine have returned from Shearwater and they recommend it as a good place for a winter vacation (ha! ha!). Gord Keenan and Fred Neild returned from down south - more on their exploits later.

As always the steadfast efficiency of Jim Freeman and Michael Roy has complimented the efforts of the whole ASW Labs. As Christmas approaches the Radar Techs appreciate the fact that finally the Observers have learned to use the system properly - now all a.c radar is u.s.

The Ammit Team was of little worry to us. Now everything can come out of hiding and maybe we'll be able to get some work done! Dave Pilon is back. Word has it he is going hard to get his hooks. Paul Carreau is taking his first Military leave to NOVA Scotia - Bon Voyage!

As for at RTT LAB goes - Del Christensen is back off leave and Fred Neild is awaiting departure to the Land of the CAMELS.

We all wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Have a safe holiday.

XTRA - CPL. Howie Hillaby was just advised of his promotion to M-Cpl. effective 11 Dec. 76. Congrats Howie - it's long overdue.

As the Servicing scribes are just too busy to write, they want to wish one and all the very best of wishes over the holiday season and the coming New Year.

Congratulations are also in order for Cpl. Rick Hamel, in the 407 Sqn. Orderly Room on his promotion to M-Cpl effective 15 Dec. 76.



## Under The Nighthawks Nest

The big annual 409 Christmas Party turned out to be the little annual 409 Christmas Party. As the saying goes however, good things come in small packages and there was lots of room on the dance floor and lots of food for all.

The 409 Weapons load section has been active as usual. Armourers with their built in sense of order, service and discipline would really be running the world. Anyway another successful fun filled Arm't party is history. On Saturday 3 Dec, active and retired weapons-airs at CFB Comox and surrounding area, gathered at the Totem Lounge for the annual Xmas Party. Thanks goes out to all who helped to organize the party and in particular the entertainment committee composed of MCpl Hayes (409 load section), MCpl Black (base arm't), Sgt Hines - MCpl Grant (SAS), and MCpl Horochuk (407 Sqn). Unaccustomed as Sgt Don Hines is to public speaking, he took the job of MC and did a fine job. (Eat your heart out all you toast-masters).

Guests of Honour included the Base Commander Col Mortimer, Lt Col Fielding, Maj Tingley, Maj Faubert and Maj Rivers.

The draw for the 100 dollar bill was won by MCpl Joe Surette who works in 409 Servicing. (He now owes Eatons \$100.00, - thanks for taking the bill off our hands Joe). Two door prizes were also given away, Master Sgt Dick Eppler won a coffee maker and MCpl Doug Beatty won a Door.

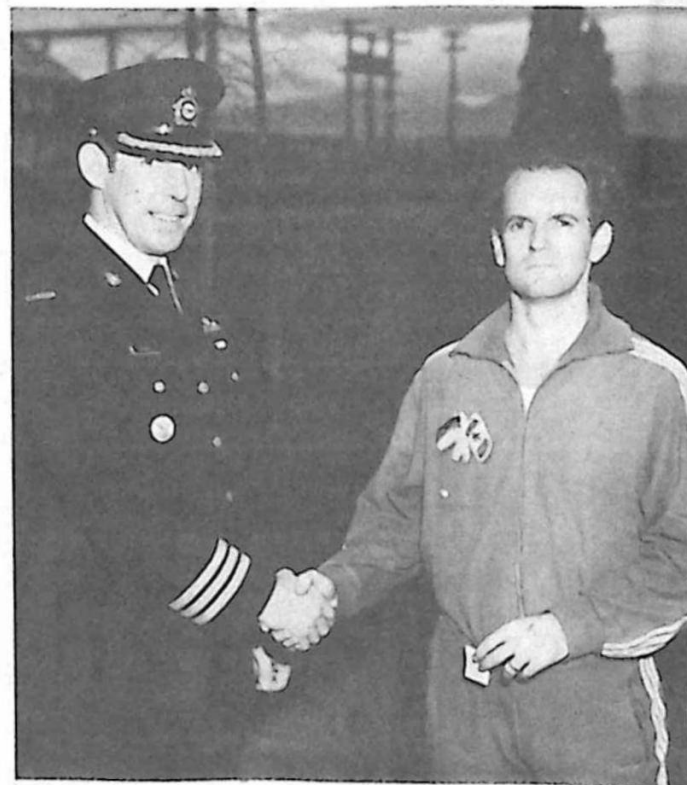
The mess hall staff provided a most delicious seafood dinner and our waistlines were kept in shape with the music of the Alley Cats.

TURNING to hockey, let's mention the victory of our Arm't THUNDERSTICKS over 407 Sqn on Dec 6. The Thundersticks were led to victory by Ron Western who scored 2 goals. The winning goal was scored by Super Star Ian Black. The coach was pleased to see that all the money spent on bringing this Super Star to the team is finally paying off. In a private interview however, Black is complaining of a sore knee again and keeps insisting that No. 3 is not his sweater number. Pte Smith (Smitty), Pte Ziegler, Pte Perkins and Pte Nickols (Nik) also scored, to make the total 7 to 3 for the THUNDERSTICKS. This is definitely a team to contend with in "B" League.

From Checklist and all the Weapons Techs of 409 Sqn have a happy and safe festive season.

## Promotions Announced

JEP Forget to CPL.	HH Hillaby to MCPL.
KW Hagen to CPL.	RG Edey to SGT.
RS Henriksen to CPL.	J Emmons to SGT.
GL Gardiner to CPL.	IR Lipsack to WO
JO Boulanger to MCPL.	DH Phillips to WO
JA Hamel to MC-PL.	JL Watson to A-WO (LQ)
	RL Bodnarek to CAPT.



CPL BARRY WHILLANS of the 407 Armament Section was presented with the Blue Seal Award for aerobic excellence. The Blue Seal Award is presented to those individuals who have run 3,600 miles. Barry, who came from Shearwater one year ago, is the first person at CFB Comox to attain this commendable achievement. Thirty-six hundred miles constitutes once across Canada or, as Barry explained, 3 miles per day every day of the year since he entered the program. Barry also stated that the jogging suit he was wearing for the presentation saw the majority of miles that he ran. Barry is currently at the 4,000 mile mark.

Good news you hear once in a while. It had to be that time of the year that Bart heard it - and during the "A" flight meeting at that. Powers that be in their finite wisdom selected, from amongst the aspiring numbers, Bart for pilot training. He was so overjoyed that he ran to ring the Bell.

Typical pilot-type behaviour when you consider the Mess filled with 442 Sqn. members enjoying their light refreshments. In any case Bart was so happy that he forgot that next day he was going to Tyndall, along with Maj Wes, to find out what he was supposed to do during their last escapade. I still do not know how he convinced everyone connected with the affair but next day Maj Wes and Russ had to make two tries before they finally got airborne. They will be there for full five days to know all about Tee FIVE. Lucky the package is not called Tee-One Fifty.

Nighthawks held their All Ranks Christmas Party on Sat., 11th Dec. in the Base Rec Centre. With Squadron composition as it is too bad only the Christians showed up. We will have to work harder next time if we want to inculcate the spirit that festivities like these are not a sectarian affair. There was a happy note to it all though. Bill Gladders and Dick Borys honored the occasion with their presence and entertaining one and all with their contagious charm.

Ron Coleman, our resident academician is proceeding on ICP course in sunny Manitoba in January while Tom Goodall is going to learn "How to Ski" a la service style in Europe. Don't worry too much Tom you will Ski through this one without any problems. Just make sure you are back before Tac Eval.

The Hawks are planning

## Nighthawks Nest

their Christmas party on Saturday, 18 December in the Mess. Hopefully the spirit would have taken one and all under its spell and Hawks will be full of good will and good

fellow feeling. I close with a Hindu prayer:  
LEAD ME FROM THE UNREAL TO THE REAL  
LEAD ME FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Have a Happy Holiday Season!  
P.S. The winners of the 409 Sqn weekly draw for the last two weeks are: Don Marion, Dave McNaughton.

## Merry Christmas

from the

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# Light Hearted Reading

## The Adventures Of Superteck.....Corvette On The Prowl

By A.C. EINE  
Superteck is in for it this time, folks! He got tagged while doing his "Ink" Blotter thing, and not only by that pesky female, Anne Huney, but also by the Flight Commander, Major Boldguy. The question was, what would the Major do to him. He had visions of Court Marshalls, firing squads, hangings, postings to Shearwater... all sorts of good things.

Pte. Huney was another matter. If she started blabbing, the guys would never let him hear the end of it. He had tried to talk with her, and in the process, discovered that she had pretty good reflexes.

"Hey, look! Truce, huh? All I want to do is talk this all over. I got you off the hook with the Major, so the least you can do is to hear me out. The only problem is that this isn't the place to do it. Too many nosy people."

"If you think I'm going anywhere alone with you, you have another thought coming!"

"All I want is a chance to explain things. How about after shift we split to the Drive-In and I'll buy you a burger. We can talk with some privacy there."

Anne looked apprehensive, but after considering everything, and determined to get all the gory details, she agreed.

There was a fair amount of work for the Snag Crew that night, but Superteck and Pte. Huney managed to get through it without either of them drawing blood. MCpl. Whizzer had decided that as much as they "bugged" one another, they had the makings of a good team and refused to split them up.

Midnight found them sitting in Superteck's Corvette. Anne was sitting as far away from him as she could get, but how far can you space things out in a Corvette.

The Drive-In was crowded, but they found a parking slot and pulled in. The day of the car-hop was long past, so Superteck climbed out to go and get their order. He was about half-way across the parking lot when a very familiar voice called out. His heart dropped into his boots for the second time that day.

"Soo-pair, darling!!"  
Ohmigawd! That's all he needed! "Bumps" Lahanche, Pride of the Go-Go Dancers. He looked around for a place to hide, but it was too late. He was surrounded by a gorgeous hunk of female. It was tough for one person to surround another, but "Bumps" managed it. Before he could think of any escape plans, it happened.

"Soo-pair? Who ees that een your car?"  
"Wha... hoo... ah... well, er... that is, you see..."  
"That ees another girl! You are two-timing me, you rat!"

Superteck's predicament was being enjoyed by many of his buddies who were at the Drive-In, and especially by Anne Huney.

"I tink dis ees why you don't phone no more. Maybe even why I don't see you around!"  
"Honey, listen! It's not what it seems. She's just one of the guys on my shift."

"She don't look like any guy. You tink I stoo-pid?"  
With that, she let fly a punch that caught Superteck in the mid-section. As he doubled up for the second time that day, he couldn't help but think that this wasn't one of his better days.

It took some doing, but at long last he was able to straighten up. By then "Bumps" was long gone, so he turned back to the Cor-

vette. His stomach was never going to be the same again.

When he finally folded himself into the driver's seat, a sickly-sweet voice said, "That, I take it, was Miss LaHanche?"

"Oh, belt up! I've been in trouble ever since I met you. Now I'm going to have to straighten things out with her and it isn't going to be easy. Come on, I'm taking you home."

"Oh no you're not! You owe me an explanation, and I'm sitting right here until I get it. Now! What's with the weird outfit you had on?"

"Alright. But you had better swear not to tell anyone else!"  
"I swear. Now go!"

It took Superteck a while, but at last he managed to get through the whole crazy scheme. I could have been told faster but for the constant interruption of Anne's laughter. She thought it was the funniest thing she had ever heard. The only trouble was, the more she laughed, the madder he got. When he got to the part about trying to hide under the desk at the Scandierag to avoid Major Snoope (see Part 3), she was laughing so hard, there were tears in her eyes. Of course, he managed to leave out all mention of either one of the girls. She had already seen "Bumps" LaHanche, and he wasn't about to let the little pest know about Pearl Pureheart.

Superteck glanced at his watch and let out a yelp. He still had to get Anne back to her barracks and then drive back to his own place before he could get on the phone to "Bumps". He had to get back into her good graces before some other crafty snake beat his time.

He bent a couple of traffic laws to get home in a hurry, but luckily "Smokey" was busy elsewhere and he got away with it.

He mis-dialled the first time he tried to call "Bumps". The person who answered wasn't exactly pleased at being woke up and called "Bumps" especially at that time of night. When he did get the number right, there was no answer. Now where the heck was she anyway? Come to think of it, Superteck pondered, what was she doing at the Drive-In? She couldn't drive. This would take some looking into when he did get through to her.

"Ah nuts!" He was going to bed.

Superteck awoke with a start! He grabbed frantically for the clock. Yike! He had to be in the Flight Commander's office in less than an hour.

The apartment was the scene of some frantic scrambling but he managed to get into his best rig and out to the hangar before the "hour of doom".

He knocked on the office door and waited. This wasn't going to be easy, but he remembered the old saying, "Don't panic. Remember, you're British!" He wasn't really, but that was the only thing he could think of.

At the order to enter, he marched in and snapped up a salute that just about broke his arm. Seated waiting for him were Major Boldguy, and the BAMEO, Major Ersatz.

Major Ersatz waited a couple of hours (or so it seemed to Superteck), and then began.

"Major Boldguy here has brought me up to date on your doings, and between the two of us, we've tried to think up some punishment that would fit them without having to take you up in front of the

Base Commander. I feel we have succeeded admirably."

Superteck mentally retracted his head down between his shoulder-blades. Here it comes.

"Yes, you've been a bad boy, and to take you away from temptation, we've decided that a good spot for you would be in the Base Warrant Officer's office!"

## "Seethings" Greetings

At this time of year, especially near Christmas, I not only do a complete change of character (and in all probability I do a physical transformation as well) and it is all due to Merry Old St. Nick. In the beginning all is well with the world and I "ho-ho" and hum carols along with the rest of the affected people. However, as THE DATE approaches, I become increasingly moody, argumentive, and downright contemptible. I find myself difficult to live with and so my sympathies are extended to those around me who either put up with it out of a deep abiding love or some sense of duty to remain "friends".

There is a justifiable reason and perfectly logical one for this "Jeckle and Hyde" syndrome that hits me and it usually commences in late November and lingers on to well past New Year's.

It all starts with shopping. Now department stores are a bee in my bonnet so to speak. How many times have you waited patiently (and more often than not impatiently) for a tiny space on an over crowded elevator that is invariably jammed to capacity with parcels, smelly damp wool coats, nauseous waves of perfume an what appears to be half the world's population?

After extensive experimentation I have discovered that an almost inaudible comment can empty an elevator within seconds. As the doors open, try and be close to them and accidentally drop a small box (which contains a few minute holes) within view of the enormous mass of people around you. Then, with much concern and visible distress just say, "Oh dear, I seem to have dropped the box containing the pet mouse I bought my son for Christmas and, in a louder voice), "I'M SURE IT HEADED INTO THE ELEVATOR!!"

If you are both lithe and smart enough you will be able to leap back to avoid the stampede of screeching women and children and then will be able to casually saunter into the elevator after it has been relieved of the majority of rodent haters. As a result you will have room to breathe, no parcels poking you and transportation to the sixth floor, which I might add, after a long days shopping is comparable to climbing the Alps.

Christmas cards are another cross to bear. How many times have you sat down and tried to figure out who sent you a card last year, who didn't and to whom should you send cards this year. And (if you are like me) where in blazes are you going to get Christmas cards four days before Christmas?

In my case I am not as lucky as some of the other people I know since I don't have any children. However, if you have been blessed with these

peanut butter smeared dears that pester you on one of your busiest days and it appears all toys have been exhausted or a declaration of war has been declared amongst their peers, here is the perfect time to send out those irksome cards. I mean really, if you were to stop and think about it for a minute, how many times have you stood facing a barrage of Christmas cards ranging in price and design and then tried to decide to whom you were going to send the prettiest ones and how much do you want to pay to remain on at least writing terms with friends?

My solution. Gather the little sweethearts together (that is if they are on at least head nodding terms), place colored construction paper, scissors, glue (the washable type) and root around the house for old wrinkled envelopes. Tell the kids to design some Christmas cards and allow their imaginations to run rampant - anything goes; even if a pumpkin gets confused with a Christmas tree or a pink chicken ends up with green feathers, after all, it is the thought that counts! If you are fortunate enough to have the little ones at the legible printing stage, allow them to write a brief wish on the cards. And I'm sure Mrs. Blotchbottom really won't take offence because one of your kids wrote that "she is an old crank and doesn't deserve even a lump of coal and besides they don't even like those stupid flowers she always worries about." If by chance she should call up, tell her that her new overcoat is marvelous and wish her Season's Greetings. Don't mention the kids - she might remember why she called.

Season's food shopping is another sore point with me. Have you ever been in one of those long, tent-pitching Christmas shopping line ups in a supermarket, waiting to pay for the imported oysters and three cartons of eggnog you forgot to buy? I have found a solution that doesn't work all the time but has been effective. Turn to a nearby fellow shopper and comment on the amazingly low prices of the imported smoked oysters and that they are SO HANDY since you make numerous amounts of canapes at this time of year. Also mention the fact that the eggnog is FRESH TODAY and should last quite awhile. In most cases, these merry fellow shoppers careen their carts through the aisles creating a roar and thunder, in order to beat the next person to these GREAT bargains. Occasionally those ahead of you will have heard this and they too will rush out thereby relinquishing their position in line and you are at least now only a half hour from check out.

Now comes the time of reckoning: The Christmas dinner. I have tried over the years to convince both family and friends that I am not a cook

Superteck winched visibly. "We have also decided that it will be for three months so that you don't lose your aircraft qualifications. If you keep your nose clean, and we

can't see it any other way, you'll be back on aircraft then."

So that was that! Three months under the eagle eye of the BWO. Maybe he would be

better off to get marched in front of the Base Commander. Three months!! That was a life sentence!!

Will "Bumps" give him the brush-off? Will the BWO put

him on Permanent Duty NCO?? Will having to wear a tie every day choke him to death?? Hang in there, readers! Maybe we'll find out in further; Adventures of SUPER TECK!!!!

By SUE LAWSON

and either because they love me or are much too timid to tell me, they let me go ahead and destroy a perfectly good turkey.

Many times I have cajoled, begged, pleaded, swore, etc., that hot dogs can be just as tasty and I'd even add a bit of store bought cranberry sauce.

From 4 a.m. in the morning I am up and preparing the BIG MEAL of the day. The first hour is just to learn how to turn on the oven so that I can at least burn the turkey properly. There I am in the kitchen up to my ear lobes in bread stuffing, smelly onions and spices, greasy butter and a very naked looking turkey. Having watched my mother for years I did learn one thing - put the salt and pepper and stuffing into the turkey BEFORE cooking it.

Once I have managed to get most of the bushel load of bread crumbs into the bird, I then deftly, with the steady hand of a surgeon, sew up the loose bits of skin to whatever part of the bird that looks like it will hold it. The placing of the turkey in the pan however is another matter in itself. How those women tuck the legs in so neatly and mine drape lazily over the pan. Once this feat of cramming the bird into the pan I then slather butter all over the turkey, me, the counter and any other object that comes in contact with me and then pop it all into the by now overheated oven.

Dessert presents another problem. "Oh how I just love HOMEMADE carrot pud-

ding", bubbles forth from guests. If they would only be satisfied with a Hostess Twinkie decorated with red life savers, they'd never have suggested carrot pudding. But to appease the crowd, I make a frantic dash to the store, buy up most of their "ready to heat and serve" puddings (with sauce) and then jam them into one enormous bowl, cover with a cloth and place the pudding on the stove to steam.

Table setting and placing has never been one of my stronger points. I am a very casual person so a milk carton is suitable, pickles in a jar are just as tasty as those in a cut crystal dish and a loaf of bread, wrapper included makes more sense to me since it doesn't dry out and doesn't look as foolish as those stupid burnt rolls in a wicker basket. So, I climb ladders, dust dishes, plates, cutlery and sometimes I am even able to come up with a tablecloth.

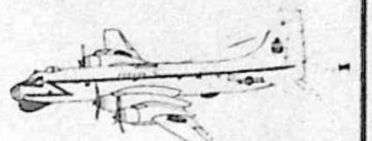
Well, the meal is ready to be served and as I mentioned earlier, I am not at my best at seating arrangements and so have devised a method that seems to have worked so far. Instead of having people standing around the table drooling, wondering where to sit, I give them a typed name card, tell them to place it somewhere near a plate etc., and that is where they will sit. Naturally, at the very end I forgot the napkins and so rush into the kitchen for the paper towels which I try and fold into some resemblance of a fancy napkin. Of course they usually end up looking like a

folded paper towel. The meal seems to be going well and people's plates are being cleaned with amazing speed. I did notice though that the last time some of the guests were hiding food under their plates, stuffing it into their pockets or feeding it to the fish. At first I took this as a compliment, thinking that either they were too embarrassed to ask for a "doggy bag" or they felt my fish were

undernourished. After a lot of thought and consideration and tasting my own cooking I have at last come up with the answer to the disappearance of food - my cooking, to put it mildly is the "BLAHS".

Oh well, Christmas will soon be here and perhaps if I am lucky, Swanson will develop a frozen Christmas dinner that only requires warming in the oven.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.



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# Accent Safety

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One of the unusual circumstances that accompany a posting to CFB Comox is the geographic distribution of community facilities. Depending on your age and interests this may be a major transportation problem or no headache.

The complicating factors are no public transportation system serving the base, a wide variety of locations for housing, recreation, sports activity, recreation, schools, etc. The safety factors are long periods of poor visibility, reliance on hitchhiking, risk of vehicle-pedestrian collision.

In an effort to minimize the safety hazards, CFB Comox provides two shelter structures just outside the main gate. The logic goes like this: How can vehicle-pedestrian collision risk be minimized?

Answer: Remove pedestrians from the roadway.

How can passenger pickup be accomplished without risking rear-end collision or impeding traffic?

Answer: Locate the pickup point off the roadway.

How can the motorist know the pedestrian's destination?

Answer: Separate them by destination.

So much for logic. The reality is that it's not working! One of the problems is that motorists are faced with waiting to re-enter the traffic line if they detour into the "Share-A-Ride" turnoff. Another is that the motorist cannot see whether the shelters are occupied until he is past the turnoff point.

The advantages of having a sheltered pickup point are worth the effort to make it work. If you have an idea on how to improve the system, why not get involved? Phone local 502 and ask for Safety Sam. Try it - you may like it.



The Way It Is



The Earl of Sandwich, inventor of the sandwich in 1744, said that sandwiches should be eaten with "a civilized swallow and not a barbarous bolt."

Christmas is a time of joy and happiness but every year it becomes a time of sadness for many people in Canada because of fire. We all have a tendency to be a little less cautious during the festive season and when we add this to the fact that we have more things in our homes that could cause or contribute to a fire at this time of year, it is easy to understand why we have so many fires during the holiday season. So we ask you to please be extra careful and make sure that all members of your family understand how quickly the festive season can become one of tragedy and heartbreak. Just one careless act such as matches or lighters left within reach of little children can start a fire that can make Christmas a nightmare instead of a time of joy and happiness.

The following is a list of some precautions you should take to ensure that your Christmas is a time of joy.

1. Buy a fresh tree.
2. Before setting it up, saw off diagonally at least one inch of the trunk and place the base in a holder containing water.
3. Keep the water reservoir filled. Be sure the tree is firm and secure.
4. Locate tree away from exit doorways, and all sources of heat, such as radiators, television sets, spotlights, etc.
5. If the needles turn brown, take the tree down and dispose of it in a safe manner - Christmas trees burn with explosive violence.
6. Use only fire retardant or non-combustible decorations for trimming the tree.
7. Use only approved lighting sets and be sure all connectors are in good condition and connections tightly made.
8. Don't use flammable materials such as fabrics, paper and other fast burning materials or display decorating, acoustic or scenic purposes in places of public or private assembly unless materials have been made flame retardant.

NOTE: The Fire Hall will be clearing the PMQ area of all discarded Christmas trees at 2 p.m., Sunday, January 2. All trees placed by MQ road

# Firing Away

at this time will be picked up. You are urged to discard your tree at this time.

All members of the Base Fire Department wish you

and yours a happy and fire free Christmas!

Included in this issue is a poem that sums up the precautions we would like you to take.

# Mosaic Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

earlier on St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 6. This is a children's holiday, and they still hang their stockings "by the chimney with care".

St. Nick was a third century bishop known for his generosity. English colonists in New York eventually adapted his name to Santa Claus.

Christmas Day is spent with the family. In accordance with Canadian customs, turkey and vegetables are usually prepared for dinner.

Colorful Polish and Ukrainian customs have also found their way to Canada. On Dec. 6 St. Nick leaves each child a present under his pillow.

Polish festivities begin Christmas Eve when the first star appears in the sky. With that, the Christmas feast is under way.

A blessed host of unleavened bread is shared among family members, and good wishes are exchanged. The white tablecloth covers a layer of hay, reminding everyone of Jesus' birth in a manger.

Since no one should be alone at Christmas, an extra place is set at the table. Legend says that any weary traveller could stop by and feel welcome at once. A figure of the Christ child is somewhere on the table, sometimes in the centrepiece.

The dinner itself is a hearty one. Traditionally there were 12 courses, representing the 12 apostles.

Borsch, a beet soup, begins the meatless supper. This is followed by jellied fish and "pierogi" - dumplings stuffed with potatoes and cheese or cabbage. Fancy cakes and sweets complete the meal.

The youngest child gets the privilege of distributing the gifts after supper. Homemade

ornaments adorn the tree. The family gathers to exchange stories, then usually attends midnight mass together.

Christmas Day means a chance to visit and, perhaps, share a traditional Canadian turkey dinner.

Almost the same rituals take place in Ukrainian homes, but not until two weeks later. The Julian calendar moves Christmas celebrations to Jan. 6.

Just for this special occasion, "kutia" is prepared. This is a delicious dessert of cooked wheat kernels and poppy seeds, sweetened with honey. The father serves the "kutia", wishing each family member in turn a Merry Christmas.

All these traditions combine to make Canada's Christmas mosaic the celebration it is. Canadians young and old join to mark a season of peace and goodwill.



# Warning Belle Of Winter Dangers

When you first set eyes on Lynda Johnston your first thoughts might not be of winter and ice safety.

But hers are. Lynda Johnston, age 26, graduate of the University of British Columbia with a BA in Theatre, is now the program co-ordinator for the Red Cross Water Safety Service in this part of the country.

So isn't that a soft touch this time of year? "Hardly," Ms. Johnston says. "Besides the fact that there are now more than 70 indoor pools around B.C., the Red Cross is deeply involved in promoting ice safety and winter survival."

"That's because people are just as busy killing themselves now as any other time."

The first ice of winter always brings out throngs of children with skates and hockey sticks and other sportslovers with fishing huts, snowmobiles and even ice boats. "It's easy to understand," Ms. Johnston notes. "The pond has frozen over, and let's get it on!"

"But looks aren't everything, except to an artist, and you should think twice before trying the ice."

A call to the local police station, she suggests, will tell you if it is safe. Ice must be at least four inches thick for group skating and hockey, and seven or eight inches for snowmobiling or iceboating. If the police, radio or newspaper don't know, cut a hole in the ice yourself to make sure.

"Changes in air temperature can often affect the solidity of ice. Be extra careful during early and late winter when ice thaws and refreezes, for it may not be safe," Ms. Johnston advises.

"The noon sun can melt what was perfectly safe ice last night. Keep clear of discolored or cracked ice and stay near to shore - the ice is thickest there."

Lynda Johnston's job is to service aquatic programs in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. She's involved in leadership training, small craft safety (she just got back from a small craft refresher course in Waterloo,

Ontario), public education and program consultation.

For 1 1/2 years she was Red Cross water safety program co-ordinator in the B.C. Interior and Yukon. Her extensive background also includes several years with the aquatic program of Coquitlam Parks and Recreation.

Right now, Ms. Johnston is especially concerned about snowmobiling "as it is the primary cause of many ice-related accidents."

"Snowmobiles are fairly simple to operate," she allows, "but you should first learn all you can about general maintenance because so often the snow is too deep to walk for help. Read the owner's manual thoroughly."

"You should also know the affects of different weather and snow conditions and how to dress for the temperature and wind chill factor." (See accompanying Red Cross Snowmobile Tips.)

"In riding a snowmobile," Ms. Johnston says, "the two basic principles of handling are balance and track contact. Once you've mastered these, you should have little trouble driving over uneven terrain, sidehills or over twisting wooded trails."

Every year, people die when snowmobiles crash through the ice. Every year, skaters, ice fishermen and others are lost the same way.

"If you go through, don't panic," advises Lynda Johnston and the Red Cross. "Shout for help. Grab the nearest ice shelf facing the shoreline and kick your feet to keep your body horizontal."

"Place your wet mittens or gloves on the ice: they'll freeze to it and give you something to grab hold of. Then slowly inch and roll your way up on the ice again."

"Don't stand unless you're sure the ice is thick enough for that concentrated weight."

"If someone else has broken through, tell him to grab the ice shelf and kick. Pull him to safety with a stick, a rope, a ladder, anything, even a bunch of sweaters and windbreakers tied sleeve to sleeve."

## Fletchers

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# Neighbourly News

## PMQ Preamble

The PMQ survey has been completed. Much information was gained. We will try to give you a capsule view of what we found. Thirteen residents volunteered to serve on council. About 70 persons stated a willingness to serve if elected. Fundamental? -- maybe, but I believe we have concerned citizens.

We found that nearly all households read this column. We are therefore confident that we have a ready medium to reach nearly all PMQ homes. A few residents get most of their PMQ information from their neighbor so after you read this go tell your neighbors on each side about it. One lady resident wrote that all her info was from gossip -- her husband quickly added that she was speaking only for herself.

residents are not familiar with the operation of the council. If you are one of those, keep reading the PMQ Preamble for the next 2 or 3 months. We'll try to give you an idea of council's concerns and operation. Three fourths of PMQ residents are willing to help with community projects.

Now for the biggie: We received 77 different complaints, suggestions, ideas, and questions. Counting the times that items were repeated we received 232 complaints, suggestions, etc. We have broadly categorized every item for actioning by the appropriate agency. Don't at this point get on the edge of your chair; -- this council and the next two can't solve every complaint, but I'll assure you many hours are being devoted by the Mayor, Ken Howard,

and council members to do what is possible. And many of your complaints can and will be handled. Several of them have rather ready solutions. Some have already been addressed and solved.

At the November council meeting, Major Johansen, Base Construction Engineering Officer, and Capt. Carmichael, Base Fire Chief, addressed the council. Several items were discussed.

### BASE RUMPUS ROOMS

By now every resident should have received a letter concerning basement rumpus rooms. The policy stated in the letter should relieve the grievances. A compromise has been reached. The problem arose because of the fire hazard inherent in the inferior construction

materials in many of the rooms. The concern of base officials is that residents are not exposed to unnecessary fire risk. And by the way, nearly all loss of life by fire on DND property occurs in the PMQs. Of course, that is understandable, but the BFC must still ensure the safest environment possible.

The letter also has attached a form to use to get PMQ improvements approved. It is a simple form that can readily be completed. If you have an improvement you wish to make, use the form and get the project off on the right start. Its purpose is to ensure safety and a quality of construction that is compatible with the existing structures and good taste. I can assure you that the BCEO and BFC will meet you more than half way, but the chap who wishes to paint purple and pink polka dots on his ceiling may get some static. We should add that all PMQ improvements become the property of the Crown when the resident departs unless the improvements are removed and the property restored to its original condition.

### GARBAGE COLLECTION

Most residents have cooperated in discontinuing the use of bags, sacks and boxes for garbage. The crows may have to look elsewhere for their Tuesday and Friday meals, but the PMQ has looked better. Thanks. Please continue the use of the covered cans. Several complaints concerning refuse collection were received. These included cans not completely emptied, no pickup, and late pickup. These complaints have been noted; but most importantly, -- note this -- at the time a discrepancy occurs call base extension 313, Mrs. Guthrie, and report it. The CE section logs and actions calls. They will make every effort to correct deficient service.

Pressure can be brought to bear on a collector to meet his contract. But not much will happen to improve service if discrepancies are not reported. However, one point to remember. Pickup within 1/2 day of scheduled time is considered acceptable. Garbage collectors have overloads and breakdowns too, just like airplanes. Suggest you note phone 313 for garbage collection problems. On this problem do not call the councillor or gripe to the next door neighbor -- call 313. Of course this article does not magically solve all the garbage collection problems you cited in the survey, but the avenue for solution is there.



BEAVER PAUL GILES receives goodies from Santa.

## Akela Says

1st Lazo Beavers, Cubs and Scouts held their annual Christmas party at the Airport School Gym this past Saturday afternoon. About ninety boys were there for Christmas Carols and skits put on by Blue and Grey Packs. The Ladies Auxiliary supplied sandwiches and cookies and soft drinks were served to all. Many thanks to Joan Everill and her ladies in the L.A. for their help and to Deb Hartley for doing the organizing. A visit by jolly old St. Nick to pass out oranges and candy canes and hear what the boys wanted for Christmas rounded out an excellent afternoon.

A reminder to all that Christmas trees are being sold again this year by the District Scout organization. The location is changed to the end of the Zellers store at the Driftwood Mall, but the price remains unchanged at \$3.00.

A bottle drive will be held Saturday 8 January 1977 starting at about 9:30 a.m. Residents of PMQ's and

surrounding areas are asked to support our group by donating their beer and pop bottles to our cause. If you will be out, please place them on your front porch and the boys will pick them up. For PMQ residents information, permission must be obtained for such drives in PMQ's and the First Lazo Group has Base approval. Two days before our last drive in mid October, an illegal drive by a downtown school group almost cleaned out the "Patch" and hurt us financially. If you are approached by anyone for bottles before our drive ask them for their authorization and call Military Police. This is for your protection as well as ours. Thank you.

Red Pack will be closed down in January unless we get more leaders. It is hoped that this will not be necessary but unless someone will help, the cubs cannot lead themselves. Contact any current leader or Tony Nichols at local 409 or 339-5126 if you can help.

## "Backfence Gossip"

### Chapel Chimes



#### The Protestant Chapel

Telephone 339-2211 Local 273 D.L. Martin, Maj Base Chap (P) CHRISTMAS 1976

Why, it is Christmas again! The trees of the forest find their places in our homes. The air is filled with a very delightful aroma. Isn't it wonderful? We relax, and take time out to think of the friends and associates of past years. It is now that we think of the friends who have meant so much to us throughout the year, and the new friends we have made during the past twelve months. We put aside the care and worries of the immediate past and glory in the rebirth of the Christmas spirit. The spirit of giving permeates the thought.

It is Christmas, when we stop a moment to pay homage to the Christ-child of Bethlehem. A time when we rejoice and give thanks for all the blessings of the past; freedom, friendship, opportunities of service that we have been able to render. A moment to pledge ourselves anew to that type of living which seeks the best in all men, to help the suffering, and to bring joy to all those who have known sickness, sorrow or fear.

Christmas again, when Christians honor the birth of Christ. This year let each one of us pledge ourselves to attend church, to pray, and to give thanks for the Prince of Peace whose birth brought so much hope to the world of yesterday and which hope is such comfort to so many today. As Christians let us ever be mindful of our great privilege to worship God. Through Christ's teachings may we strive to be better men and women and more helpful to all. Thus will we be doing our part to assure the hope of the Angels, when they sang: "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

#### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, 19 December - CHRISTMAS SUNDAY  
1100 hrs - The Family Christmas Service  
1200 hrs - The Christmas Communion  
Friday, 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE  
1930 hrs - The Family Carol Service  
COME TO WORSHIP THE LORD ON HIS CHOSEN DAY



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and all the Staff at  
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Safe and Happy  
'Holiday



L.A. MEMBER and Cub Mother Brenda Codner serves cookies to a bunch of hungry boys.

## Outreach

in place, and with your feet fitted with the gospel of peace as a firm footing. In addition to all of this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the Helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Eph 6:11, 14-17.

With this armour, you will notice that there is no armour for the warrior's back. It shows we have to face the enemy, not turn our back like we most always do and run away from things. If we ac-

cept God's gift of salvation, which is given to us freely, He will give us the faith to face the enemy at all times.

"We will be able to go up and take the country if we would only hold to God's unchanging hand!" Grasp a hold of his hand today, while there is still time.

I would like to remind everyone that bible studies geared for the people in the Rec centre, upstairs, at 7 p.m. every Friday. The invitation is open to one and all. Please come and join in!

## RC Chapel

### Christmas Season Schedule

Father Francis Swoboda - Base Chaplain (RC)  
Telephone 339-2211 Loc 274 Residence 339-2102

**CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE**

TUESDAY: Dec. 21 at 7:00 p.m. Penitential Service for all Comox Valley in Canadian Martyrs Church Courtenay.

WEDNESDAY: Dec. 22 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Confessions, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Chapel. Weekday Mass.

THURSDAY: Dec. 23 - 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Mass followed by Confessions.

FRIDAY: Dec. 24 - 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Mass followed by Confessions.

FRIDAY: Dec. 24 - 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. Confessions 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Mass (RC Chapel)

11:30 p.m. - Christmas Carols in Protestant Chapel.

11:59 p.m. - Midnight Mass in Protestant Chapel.

SATURDAY: Dec. 25 - 9:30 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass 11:00 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass

Note: Your Sunday obligation to attend Mass is not satisfied by attending Christmas Mass.

SATURDAY: Dec. 25 - 7:00 p.m. - New Years Vigil Mass

SUNDAY: Dec. 26 - 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m. - Sunday Mass

FRIDAY: Dec. 31 - 7:00 p.m. - New Years Vigil Mass

SATURDAY: Jan. 1 - 9:30 a.m. - New Years Day Mass 11:00 a.m. - New Years Day Mass

Note: Your Sunday obligation to attend Mass is not satisfied by attending a New Years Day Mass.

SATURDAY: Jan. 1 - 7:00 p.m. - Sunday Vigil Mass

SUNDAY: Jan. 2 - 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.

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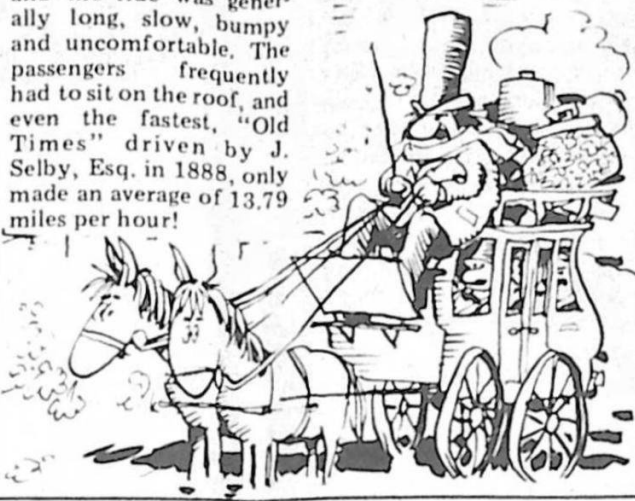
Photo Michel Pelletier

## Yuletide Visit

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,  
When down through the chimney, all covered with soot,  
Came the "Fire Menace", an ugly galoot.  
His eyes glowed like embers, his features were stern,  
As he looked all around for something to burn,  
What he saw made him grumble, his anger grew higher,  
For there wasn't a thing that would start a good fire.  
No doors had been blocked by the big Christmas tree,  
It stood in the corner leaving passageways free.  
The lights that glowed brightly for Betty and Tim  
Had been hung with precaution so none touched a limb.  
All wiring was new, not a break could be seen,  
The tree set in water which kept it so green.  
The tree had been trimmed by a mother insistent  
That the ornaments used must be fire resistant.  
And mother had known the things to avoid.  
Like cotton and paper and plain celluloid.  
Rock wool, metal icicles and trinkets of glass,  
Gave life to the tree; it really had class.  
And would you believe it, right next to the tree,  
Was a suitable can for holding debris.  
A place to throw wrappings of paper and string,  
From all of the gifts that Santa might bring.  
The ugly galoot was so mad he could bust,  
So he climbed up the chimney in utter disgust,  
For the folks in this house had paid close attention,  
To all of the rules of good "Fire Prevention".

### IT'S A FACT!

..... by THOMPSON  
The first "bus" line was really a coach line and the ride was generally long, slow, bumpy and uncomfortable. The passengers frequently had to sit on the roof, and even the fastest, "Old Times" driven by J. Selby, Esq. in 1888, only made an average of 13.79 miles per hour!



## Christmas Message

From Chief Of Defence Staff

Upon reflecting on the developments and activities of the past year, I think we have justification to consider 1976 as a satisfying and eventful one for the Canadian Armed Forces. Perhaps most satisfying to all of us has been the renewed emphasis by our government on military procurement. However, there have been other developments

which reaffirm the esteem, and priority, accorded to the Armed Forces by our Nation's leaders. I view these vital decisions, and other steps now under consideration, as significant omens that Canada's military organization is entering a new era. Such progress is bound to result in the Canadian Forces

becoming an even more highly motivated and productive team.

Also, we have cause to reflect with satisfaction on some of our past year's activities. Our contribution to the Olympic Games - Canada's largest military undertaking since the Korean operations - was handled with efficiency and vigor, and with a sense of dedication and service to ensuring its success.

Also, we were able to react quickly and efficiently in times of disaster, as evidenced by our performance in Guatemala and Northern Italy. We also demonstrated flexibility and expertise when called upon to perform tasks at various Federal institutions.

I believe that the dedication exhibited by both uniformed and civilian members of National Defence in the past year will continue to earn for us a reputation as being among the foremost of the world's military professionals. At this time of year, I always have special thoughts for families separated by service obligations. Mindful of these necessary sacrifices and the void they create, I extend to you special greetings, and good wishes for a safe and speedy return to your loved ones. To all men and women, wherever and in whatever capacity you serve, I wish you and your families good health and good fortune in the New Year.



### Base Commander's Commendation

In recognition of outstanding Service, as a member of the base Explosive Ordnance Disposal team for the past four years, MCpl. Crorey has consistently shown outstanding professionalism and technical competence. During the eight month period for 1 January 1976, he took part in 40 EOD team responses, with exemplary devotion to duty and a conscientious sense of responsibility for the safety of personnel and property in each case. In all his EOD activities, MCpl. Crorey has brought much credit to CFB Comox and the Canadian Armed Forces. Signed 7 Dec 76

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# Oil Rich-Dollar Poor

The gasoline market today, both the retail and wholesale sections, is a very very complex mechanism to understand. Certainly the average driver is thoroughly confused and discouraged by the inexorable rise in retail prices; as a member of the retail market we in CANEX too have had to analyze and understand the market mechanisms at work behind the scenes in the wholesale operations. Then again, there is a third complex market forum superimposed on the other two, namely the world market.

In a nutshell here's what's happening ... the depletion of fossil fuel reserves has and will continue to push the price of oil and gas upwards. Gasoline is expensive now, and it will get more expensive. How fast the price goes up is what I've attempted to explain in the following article.

Retailers of gasoline, such as CANEX or your neighborhood gas stations, really play a very small, often insignificant role in determining the retail price of the gas you buy. I use the word "insignificant" in relation to the major factors such as the fluctuations in world market and increasing costs of production and distribution. Retail dealers have a very small margin with which to operate. If that margin changes by only one or two cents per gallon it can often spell the end for a particular gas outlet.

The last point is an important one ... indeed you should keep it in mind before you verbally blast your local service station operator for the high price of gas. The following paragraphs will show you that the role the gas retailers do play in influencing gasoline prices and specifically how the ability of CANEX to offer discounts changes with current market conditions.

**RETAIL GASOLINE MARKET AFFECTS CANEX TOO!**

"Back in the good old days" servicemen and other authorized patrons usually felt comfortable in expecting receiving discounts at the pumps of up to five or six cents per gallon. Almost everyone who reads newspapers is familiar with the stresses and strains on the economy caused by the apparent abundance or scarcity of fossil fuel reserves and current supply. To digest the associated assault of statistics and forecasts would provide meaty matter for a student of economics. Let's face it, though, most of us really only want to know what's going on at the pumps and why.

What we are witnessing now is in marked contrast to the "drought" period three years ago during the so-called Arab Oil Crisis. The effect on pump prices right now is a simple interaction of the supply and demand forces in the retail gasoline market.

**SUPPLY IS UP!**

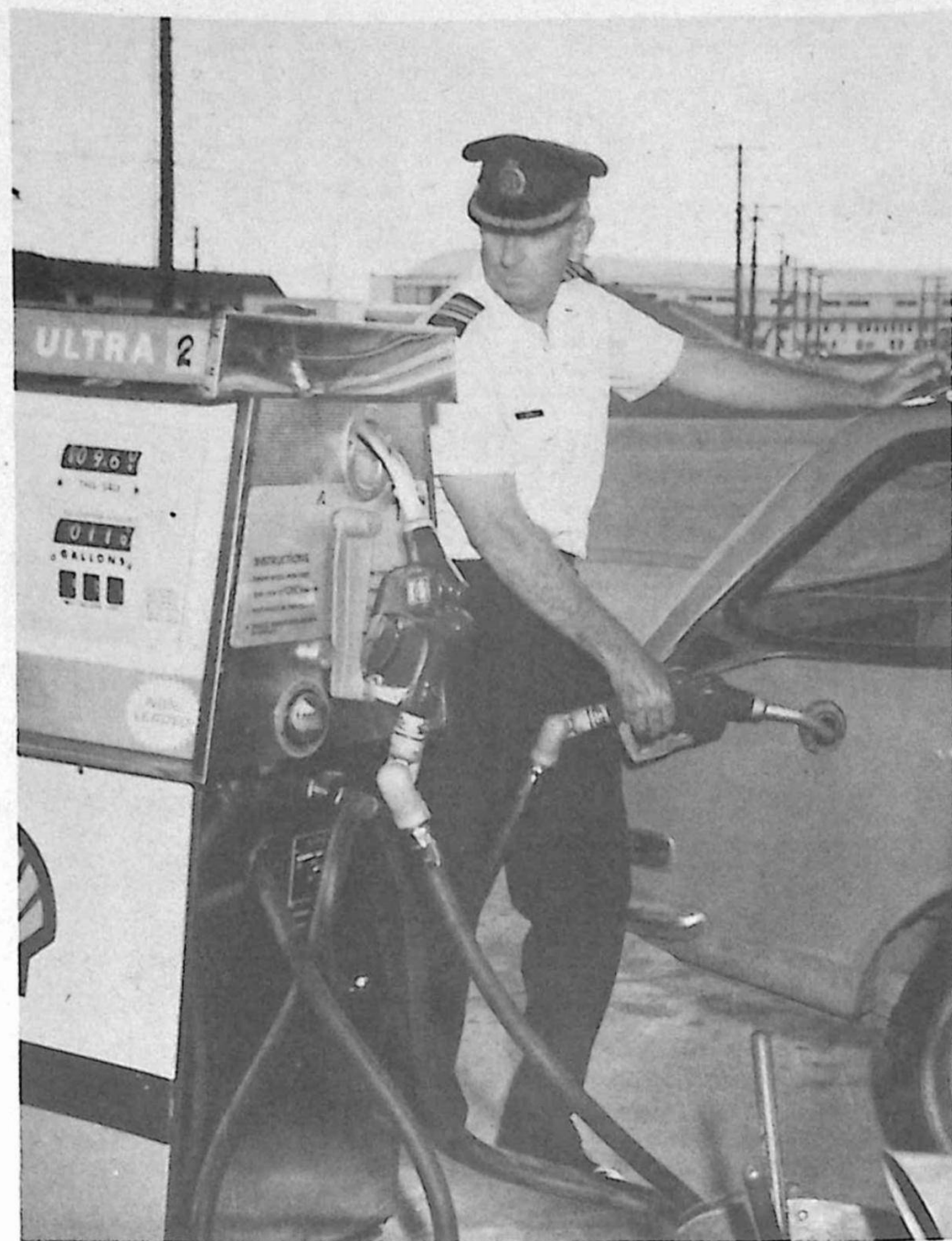
Yes indeed ... the quantity of gasoline available for your car and mine has increased and will remain in that level for at least a couple of years. Don't be confused with predictions of the fossil fuel reserves in the Tar Sands. We are talking about refined fuel right now and in the immediate future.

The oil industry had a construction program going which was based on consumption and growth rates which existed three or four years ago. They planned (and executed) refinery expansion which would keep pace with the growing demand. Now that demand has fallen off we have overproduction occurring.

Coupled with the factor first mentioned is the fact that Canadian producers are finding it difficult to obtain export permits even though their product is surplus to their immediate needs. The result is that they must find ways to market the surplus at home. We the Canadian consumers, are the beneficiaries, in that rates of price increases are moderated.

**DEMAND IS DOWN!**

The Arab oil crisis and dire predictions of depleted fossil fuel reserves have certainly made everyone energy conscious. Governments and manufacturers alike have preached conservation with effective results. The continuing trend today is towards small displacement cars, mopeds, bicycles, and, where available, public transport. You, like myself, have probably thought twice before



Bose photo

## Rice Burner Gobbles Gas Too Ask Major Wood. He'll Tell You!

taking that Sunday drive which in many families used to be a tradition.

### NEW APPROACHES TO MARKETING

It is easy for you as a customer to understand the interaction of rising supply with falling demand. The result is a downward pressure on prices. That pressure is indeed visible at present, not as a decrease in price but rather as a stabilization or lack of increase in prices at the pumps. After what we've experienced for the last three years even that's a treat for consumers! Predictions of dwindling fossil fuel reserves will always apply an upward push to fuel prices as time goes on, but this is a long range influence.

The downward pressure on prices tends to erode profit margins (both wholesale and retail) as well as affecting the cost price of petroleum products. Lower profit margins create a more competitive situation between oil companies and between rival retail station operators. Both resort to all kinds of methods to retain their gasoline volume. This is great for the consumer, but how on earth can one sort out the good from the bad when confronted with an array of stations providing self-service, half service, full service, free car washes, not-so-free car washes, or combined convenience stores, not to mention an irresistible choice of prizes, promotions, and giveaway treasures? If it doesn't confuse you, it should!

If all outlets offered just gas, it would be easy to identify one outlet's pump price as being a better value than that of another. The addition and mixing of the variables in service, such as those mentioned above usually have the effect of increasing the price per gallon at the pumps. The reason is that it takes very little labour or exotic equipment to pump and complete the sale of a gallon of gasoline. It takes a significant labour cost to wipe your windscreen, check your oil or to have a trained mechanic on duty; it takes a significant sum of money to build an automatic car wash to provide "free" car washes.

There's no getting away from it - to make all these extra service features financially viable a dealer will have to subsidize the cost of the services by adding to the pump price. The amount of adjustment or subsidy represents the unknown variable between stations, especially from the customer's point of view. The more services provided, the more difficult it becomes for the customer to determine if the pump price indeed represents a fair value or not.

A surplus of product prompts oil companies to try to sell their product rapidly

(they earn their money by producing and distributing not by storing, petroleum supplies). Since they each have a relatively fixed number of stations with which to market their product, they'll look to anyone who is willing to buy. Up spring the unbranded dealers in abundance. You will remember that during the Arab Oil Crisis many unbranded dealers disappeared into bankruptcy through lack of source of product to sell. Again, right now, the consumer benefits because the unbranded gas dealers represent the discount houses of the gas market.

### WHERE DOES CANEX FIT IN?

I stated earlier that as prices slow their rate of increase the profit margins also decrease, usually in absolute terms, as the market becomes more competitive. The result is that, though the competitive game becomes fierce, the price margin between the least expensive on the retail market and the most expensive narrows. For this reason you are unlikely to see anyone, including CANEX, with a price advantage of 4 or 5 cents per gallon for the next few years.

## On Safety Council Tar Succeeds Jadex

OTTAWA - Vice Admiral R.H. Falls, of Welland and Ottawa, vice-chief of the defence staff, was elected to the board of directors of the Canada Safety Council at its recent annual meeting in Ottawa.

He succeeds General J.A. Dextraze, CBE, CMM, DSO, CD, chief of the defence staff, who has just completed a three-year term as a director of the council.

The Canada Safety Council is a non-profit, non-governmental public service organization founded in 1968 to coordinate safety and accident prevention on a national level in Canada.

The Department of National Defence has been a member of the council since its beginning. The council's sole aim is to reduce the high and unnecessary toll of lives and health taken by accidents.

The council conducts a wide variety of programs, courses and campaigns in the fields of occupational, vehicle and public safety and accident prevention. These include the well known Defensive Driving Course, Safe Driving Week, Safe Boating Week and Child Safety Week.

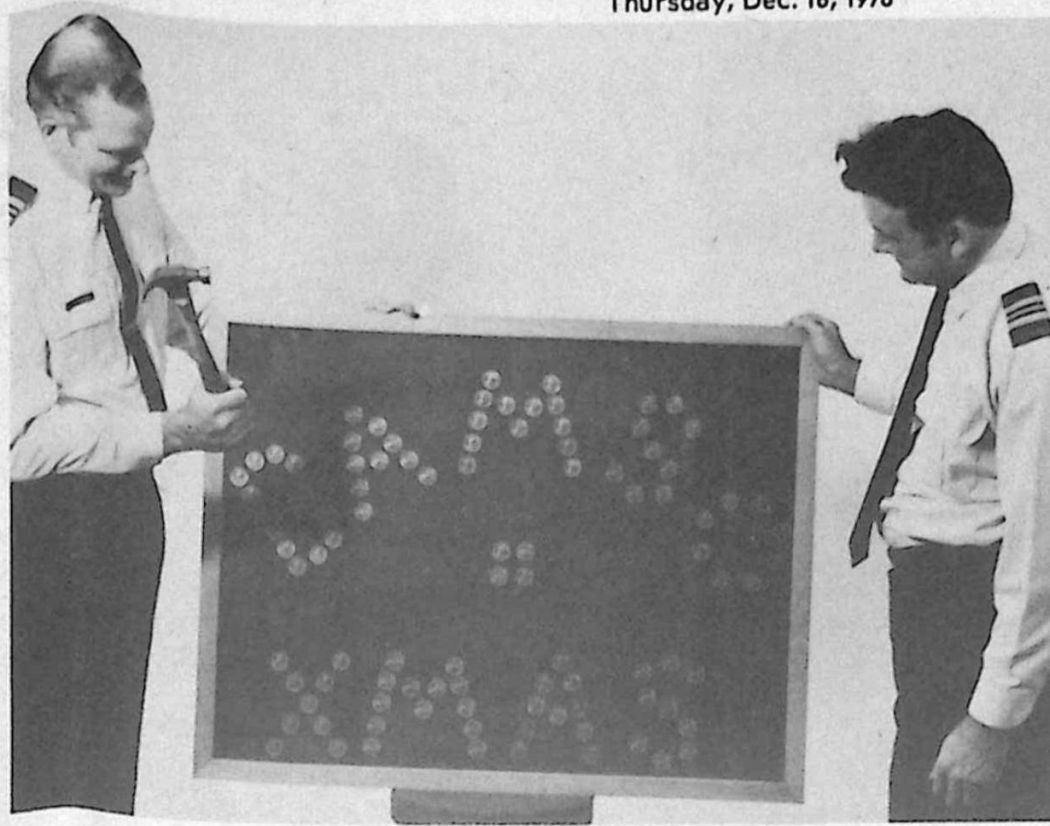
National Defence supports and makes use of all of the council's activities, and this has been instrumental in promoting the DND General Safety Program, particularly the Canadian Forces mobile support equipment and privately-owned motor vehicle safety programs.



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Bose photo

## In Money Matters, Dean Does Okay

"I'd like to leave the 100 silver dollars mounted as they are, but with Christmas so close..." says Major Nelson as he prepares to reap his profit, the results of a BAMSO Christmas draw. Major Bud Faubert stands drooling at the glittering array.

# Military Compensation

*'What You See Is Not Always What You Get'*

In recent times the subject of "compensation" has caused some confusion and controversy in the Forces. A large number of members appear to misunderstand "pay and allowances" and, to some degree, fear that we are overly "civilianizing" the Forces' compensation package.

Before proceeding further the following points should be noted:

a. Compensation complements current personnel policies (and not the reverse), and if changes occur in personnel policies some adjustment to the compensation package may well result;

b. "Pay" (or salary) is an entitlement to all Forces members, is a function of rank (hence responsibility and qualification) and is given for the day to day involvement in a particular job;

c. Pay already includes a 6 per cent premium pay (for overtime, standby and shift-work) and 4 per cent for

turbulence (i.e., frequent moving and family separation);

d. "Allowances" are an entitlement to specific Forces members who, by virtue of being exposed to certain conditions, require additional compensation to motivate and retain them under such conditions;

e. "Charges" are levied for services or facilities provided by DND such as rations and quarters;

f. "Expenses" are reimbursed for actual costs involved in a move, separation, temporary duty, etc. ...; and

g. Pay is pensionable and taxable, allowances are taxable, charges and expenses are respectively neither claimable nor taxable. DND has little influence over federal government taxation and pension policy.

In addition it is important to appreciate that, while a basic matching process to public service salaries is in effect, DND develops its own pay system and rates for approval by the Ministers of Treasury Board who are charged with this responsibility under the National Defence Act. Specifically, military members in NDHQ-DGCB:

a. develop the pay system, i.e., currently one pay group and two specialist categories for men and a GSO and specialist approach for officers;

b. establish rank and incentive category rates within the parameters developed from the outside matches;

c. develop and add a percentage to the pay which recognizes certain military factors and the uniqueness of military life;

d. develop allowances for members exposed to foreign, adverse environmental, abnormally hazardous or isolated conditions, and

e. develop compensation-related benefit policies.

As a final point in the general discussion on compensation it must be recognized that when a member joins the military, some degree of exposure to hazardous conditions, some

quantity of service in an operational (land, sea or air) environment and some amount of travel and family separation are inherent in the basic job. The member who commences training at Cornwallis or Chilliwack, even with his very limited knowledge of military life and his basic understanding of the term "military", fully expects to "go to sea", to be separated on occasion and perhaps be exposed to some risk. Somehow we manage to breed this understanding out of a member and to convince him that such employment outside the confines of a Canadian Forces Base requires considerable additional compensation. This trend can only be reversed through an understanding of what our additional compensation recognizes, by some positive leadership and through a return to acceptance of a "military profession".

It is important to understand that allowances are established, not as an integral part of the pay package related to the job, but simply as recognition of the adverse nature of a member's particular conditions. There is no intent to establish a scientific or technical scale of values for risk or discomfort because, in the end result, how can one determine the "actual" dollar value related to "jumping out of a serviceable aircraft".

The recognition must be sufficiently attractive to convince a member to continue working and living under adverse conditions but, conversely, we cannot allow the recognition to become an indispensable part of a member's total compensation. Already difficulties are being encountered when members are posted from a compensatable to a non-compensatable position ... and such difficulties will increase should allowances (the recognition!) grow to an indispensable value.

Thus, while providing a fair and equitable recognition, we must strike the fine balance between this and allowances developing into an integral and indispensable part of a member's salary.

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### Suggestion Award Program

The Suggestion Award Program of the Public Service of Canada has been operating for 24 years during which time \$1,376,468 in cash awards has been paid out to employees. This program has been actively encouraged in National Defence with satisfying results.

Employees who have suggestions to make are able to present their ideas to the Suggestion Award Administrator of their base or station and receive a considered response on the suitability of their proposal. If the idea is adopted, and about 25 per cent are, the suggester will receive a cash award paid by the Incentive Award Board.

Suggestions which reduce costs and result in savings that can be calculated, earn the suggester an award based on savings for the first and second year of implementation. This past year, National Defence completed investigation of 501 suggestions and were able to adopt 160 or 32 per cent. \$28,960 was paid out to service men and civilian employees on savings of \$545,103 and other intangible benefits.

Many suggestions do not result in savings but do result in increased efficiency, improved safety or better working conditions. Suggestions in this category earn awards based on an Intangible Scale related to the degree of benefit.

Here is a program for you. If you have ever said "there must be a better way to do this job", you are ready to cash in on the Suggestion Award Program. Put your ideas in writing and send them to your Suggestion Award Administrator.



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Cpl Andy Kish  
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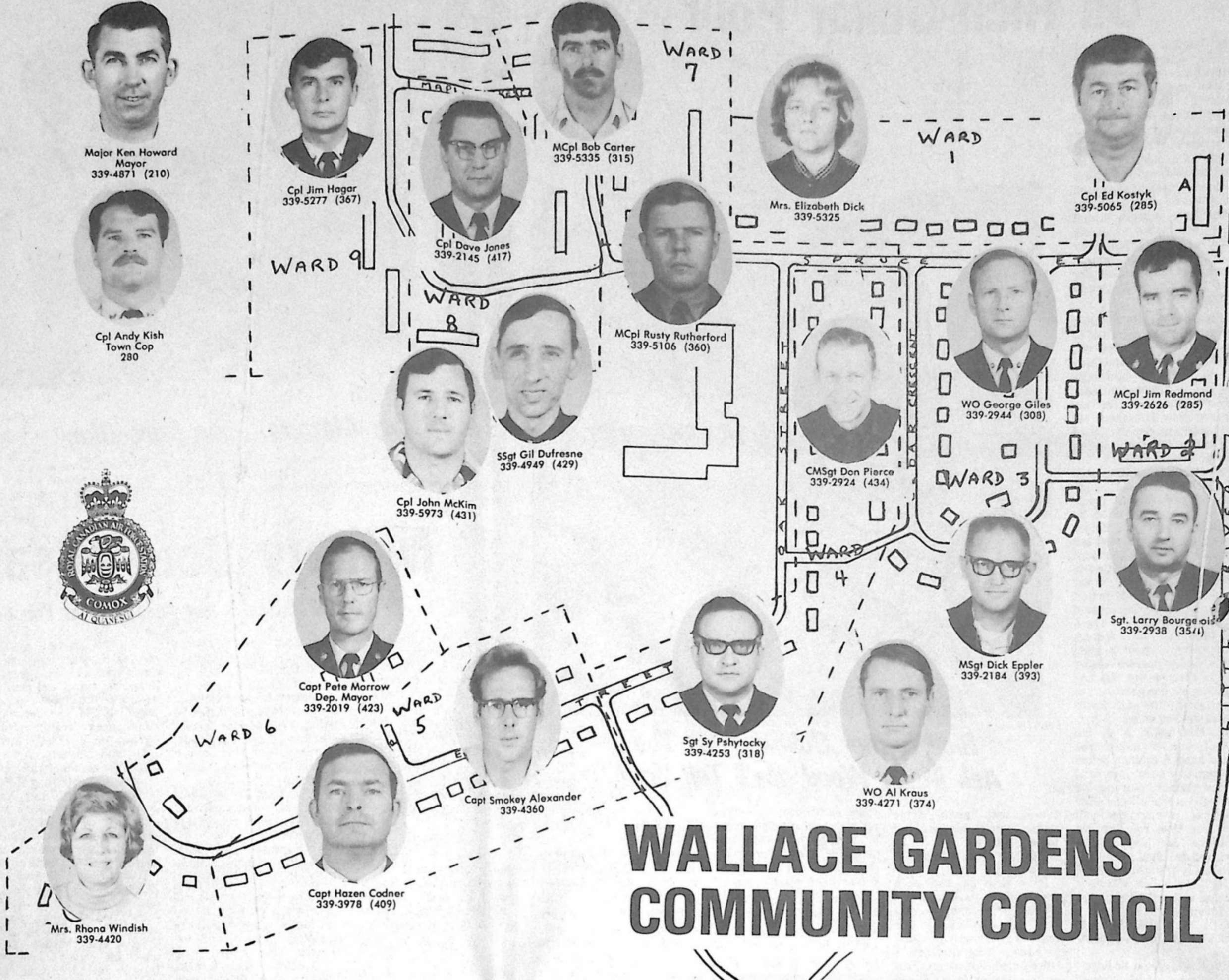
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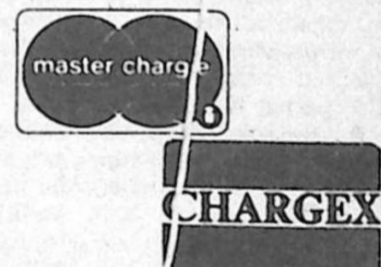
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