

# HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

## QUEBEC-MARITIMES BRANCH

MARCH, 1994

Banjo Gossip

Newsletter 1.3

Bamboo Telegraph

Hello again from New Richmond. Here on the Gaspé our winter started only on Christmas Day, but we had major storm after major storm, followed by high winds and drifting snow. Now on St. Patrick's Day we are into our second day of rain mixed with a little snow. However, I would take 100 times more of winter's blasts rather than spend one winter in Hong Kong or Japan, with little rice, less greens, and little of anything else except misery.

### EDITORIAL

KAY CHRISTIE. Who among us was held in higher esteem than our beloved Kay Christie? Who was more faithful in supporting our cause? Who was more faithful in attending our reunions and participating in our deliberations? She was our own Florence Nightingale. Sister Kay went to her reward on February 8, 1994. What a blessing that she knew before she died that we had honoured her by appointing her Honourary President of The Quebec-Maritimes Branch.

Comrade President Roger Cyr has written a touching tribute to Sister Kay in a memo to National Council, and with his permission, I include it here as follows:

"Having to report the loss of a comrade is a task that I find very painful.

"Kay Christie passed away mid-day February 8, 1994 in Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto.

"To the very last she continued taking pride and satisfaction in identifying with the 'Hong Kong Family'. Kay never tired in her efforts to better the lot of our members, and, down through the years became one of our better spokes persons, never missing an opportunity to tell all and sundry about the mental/physical consequences of our disastrous wartime experiences.

"I certain the entire Hong Kong community shares my sadness and joins me in saying, WE WILL REMEMBER HER.

### REUNION , 1994

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the reunion will take place on Labour Day Weekend in Fredericton at Keddy's Hotel. I am enclosing a green reservation card for the hotel which you should fill out and send **DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL**. Registration is \$25.00 per person which you should send to Arnold Ross, P.O. Box

14, New Richmond, QC, G0C 2B0. Repeat, send the registration fee to ARNOLD ROSS. Do it soon, please, so that we will have an idea of how many will be there. Arnold is undergoing surgery in a Quebec hospital, so I have had to fill in for him, temporarily, I hope!

#### DONATIONS

Not many this, time, no doubt because Lawrence Rattie is in Florida for the winter, and will not be able to report until he returns in April. The donations are as follows: Mrs. Bernice Simons, Wesley Hamilton, Mrs. Rita Norman, Mrs. Hilda Grimshaw, Mrs. Hazel Bishop, Mrs. Bertine Comeau, Mrs. Mildred MacPherson, Eli Finn, Thomas Wilson, Donat Bernier, Mrs. Joyce Clarkson Hammon in memory of her husband Kenneth

#### LAST POST

Kay Christie, Hercules John Buchanan, Stanley Millis (Winnipeg Grenadier living in St. John, NB) Wilmer Cyr, George Lake, Murdeena Denison(Everett). At the going down of the sun and in the morning, NOUS NOUS SOUVIENDRONS D'EUX

#### BIOKI

Arnold Ross in Laval Hospital, Quebec, Clem Blacquiere in hospital in Moncton, J. Ralston Hardy in hospital in Brockville. We happily report that Betty Firth is now out of the hospital and at home enjoying Denzil's cooking.

#### NEWSLETTER

In the last newsletter I mentioned something about departing from the usual way of mailing the newsletter. Then I went ahead and mailed it in the usual way. Let me explain. I thought that we could save the cost of envelopes by folding the letter over, stapling it, and mailing it without an envelope. After I had printed it, I thought that I had better check with the Post Office. I found that I would have had to put a piece of tape over the staple, and put on TWO 43 cent stamps! From now on you'll be getting your latter in an envelope.

#### VARIA

Lawrence wishes to report that the winners of the raffle at the National Convention were: 1st., Leandre Leblanc of Tide Head, NB, 2nd, Rita Bujold, Montreal North, 3rd. Lucette Muir's daughter, Granby, QC, 4th, Joan Dow, Chateauguay, QC.

National President Roger Cyr and wife Lo were recent visitors to his old home town. I had the pleasure of their company on several occasions. Roger had with him a video-tape of an interview with him and Brian Forbes, legal counsel of the War Amps, and a TV call-in programme in Ottawa. The tape is very interesting. Both gentlemen conducted themselves in a most respectful and professional way. The topic was essentially the pros and cons of the claim against Japan for our slave labour while we were prisoners of war.

All callers were sympathetic to the idea of compensation by either Japan or our

own government, some vehemently so. Let us hope that we may yet see some positive results.

Harold Englehart and Marg had some misfortune on the way to their winter lair in Myrtle Beach. Their car was wrecked to the tune of \$11,000.00, but they escaped with minor injuries. Our sympathy. But, Harold, what better excuse to go shopping for a new car?

Lionel and Kay Hurd went on that Caribbean cruise organized (I believe) by Bill and Pat Maltman of Winnipeg. It was billed as the "Hong Kong Veterans' Cruise" and it took place between November 26 and December 11, 1993. Hong Kong Vets on the cruise were: Bill and Pat Maltman, Ethel Cake and John Pollock, Frank and Renate Christensen, Donald and Pearl MacPherson, Lionel and Kay Hurd, David and Maureen Boychuk, Jake and Breeda O'Donnell, Lucette Muir(Ken), Joan Gillis(Malcolm), James and Betty Tryhorn, Gerald and Ladena Mabley, Borge and Evelyn Agerbak, Claude Corbette and Alice Hyde, Allen and Constance Martin. Lionel and Kay had a great time and recommend a similar cruise to all.

Glenford and Kay Mann celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on February 18 in Coburg where they live. They sent me a photo taken at their wedding 45 years ago. Glen, you have changed!

Lionel and Ida Speller also sent me a photo taken on their 40th anniversary. Many thanks.

Our best wishes to these two couples and to any others celebrating a recent anniversary.

### CORRESPONDENCE

I am taking this opportunity to acknowledge your kind letters and Christmas cards. Many of the letters requested forms to apply for the Defence Medal, and to date I have sent out forty-two. Some letters contained news clips from newspapers all across Canada, for example: Lionel Speller, Glen Mann, Phil Lawlis, Lionel Hurd. Many thanks for all that. It would be impossible to reproduce all the information received, but I can say that all comments in news articles and editorials are supportive of the objectives of our Association.

I'll list the names below. There will be some repetition, but, so what?

Annie Nolan, Robert D'Avignon, Lionel Hurd, Marg & Harold Englehart, Kay and Glen Mann, Sheila MacKinnon, Ruth Frenette, Bernice Simons, Dorothy Lockhart, Linda Guglick, Lloyd and Peggy Doull, Edna Garbutt, Wesley Hamilton, Joe Miller, Claris Phillips, Richard Buchanan, Lawrence Rattie, Inez Kelso, Lionel Speller, Alice Pappas, Marjorie Kennedy, Madeleine Bernard, Bill & Lynn MacWhirter, Peter Allain, Marge and Harry Atkinson, Joe and Rita Bujold, Denzil and Betty Firth, Cecile and Charley Thompson, Pat and Pierette Poirier, Dorothy Soper, Jessy and Flash Clayton, Brinky Murray, Arnold and Tony Hunt, Phil Lawlis, Aini Dissing. Thanks to all for writing. Your letters make my daily trips to the mailbox more exciting.

## LOST TRAILS

After many years of wondering what happened to him, I received a nice letter from Pete Allain from Florida. I haven't heard from Earl McBeath for years. I would appreciate a note from him.

## PERSONALITIES

Some of our members are front and centre a lot of the time, and I'm thinking of guys like Harry Atkinson, Roger Cyr, Denzil Firth, and all of our Branch Presidents across Canada. We appreciate them and all they have done and continue to do for us. What more is to be said except a sincere "Thank you".

There are others who work quietly behind the scenes, soldiering on with barely any recognition, unheard and unseen until they ask you for your dues, or otherwise bug you for something.

Such a person is HAROLD ENGLEHART who has kept our finances in order for many years. Harold never misses an executive meeting, is never late with his financial report, always lends his wisdom and experience to the deliberations at hand. Bravo, Harold! Lang may yer lum reek!

## TRIVIA

Two of our stalwarts, Henry and Dick, while travelling to an executive meeting of the Q-M Branch, became engaged in an intellectual discussion about the definition of an overpass-underpass. One claimed that it is an underpass because in a car you go under. The other maintained that because there is a road for trains, cars, etc., that goes over the other, it must be an overpass. Apparently the argument raged on and on until they reached their destination without a satisfactory solution. The latest report indicates no settlement to the matter. Don't bother to comment. If my father was alive he'd be turning over in his grave.

That's it for now. I hope you have been able to get this far without getting fed up. To close I may run a few "jokes", for example, Casey Stengel is reported to have said, "A lot of people my age are dead at the present time." Yogi Berra said, "If you come to a fork in the road, take it." He also said, "You can observe a lot by watching."

In the category of newspaper boners, it was reported that Miss C.H. reported the loss of \$20. today. She said the money was concealed in her stocking, and the loss was discovered soon after the departure of a vacuum cleaner salesman who had been demonstrating his line.

Bye bye for now. Be good to each other and may God bless.

Philip

P.S. I ran out of the green cards mentioned above. Instead, I'm sending a form which you can send to: Keddy's Motor Inn, P.O. Box 1510, Forest Hill Road, Fredericton, NB, E3B 3G2. Sorry about that. I could send to Keddy's for more cards, but I don't want to delay the newsletter any longer. Phil.