

Nov 16/84

The past weekend was indeed a hectic one. The weather was not on its best behavior, roads were slippery in spots. The 11th was certainly not a day when one would have gone marching if one had their preference. But taken all in all it was a very pleasant time, enjoyed, I'm sure, by everyone who took part in our Remembrance Day service.

One of the things which made this memorable was having our American friends with us. By the time we arrived at the Legion there was a piper to greet us at the door with some of Scotland's poignant music. His name, Greg Berglund. Big and bearded, he is a typical type to be playing the pipes and he does it well.

Later the boys from the Trail Pipe Band arrived and rendered a number of the good old marching tunes. The appearance of these lads in their kilts and finery is always a welcome

sight and their music is beloved by us all.

Then came Dick Wayling and his piano renditions made a lot of the people in attendance join in the singing and some danced as well. The ladies of the auxiliary had spent a number of hours preparing a really delicious stew which really hit the spot when we finally got down to enjoy it.

I think one could say the real highlight of the weekend was the presence in our midst of our friends from across the border. Some came as early as Friday and then streamed in from their bus early Saturday to take part in the scheduled exchange of flags on Saturday evening. There were twenty-six people in all in the American party.

The flag exchange ceremony was quite an impressive undertaking and was carried out at 8 on Saturday evening in the Legion clubroom.

President Bernie Fourt started it off by saying how happy he was to have our friends from Deer Park honor us by coming to take part in our services and celebrations. He then presented the Canadian Flag to Quartermaster Ralph Roulson of the Deer Park, Wash., Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post and in turn received the Stars and Stripes from Commander Jack Lucki, of the same post.

He then announced the two units were now sister branches and hopes we would be seeing a lot more of one another. The key, he said, was that both countries are essentially the same and hoped they would stay that way.

The final act of the ceremony was a presentation made to Tami Verdel of Deer Park by President Ina Austin of the L.A. and Dorothy Gyte, Zone Deputy Chairman. It was in honor of Tami's recent marriage. She and her husband spent their honeymoon up here

in Canada and from all reports, enjoyed themselves immensely.

On Sunday morning, the weather as I said was not at its best. But a packed clubroom heard Rev. Don Jackson, Legion Padre conduct the service before we moved out on parade to the cenotaph for that part of the service. The laying of the wreaths by representatives of the various organizations, and the reading of the honor roll. The two little girls who did a find job on the Last Post and the piper doing an equally good job on his part of it.

Then it was back to the Legion to join our friends until it came time for them to leave us with an offer to return their visit in early spring, an offer that we can't turn down.

On Friday afternoon I had an enjoyable hour as I attended Rossland Junior High for their Remembrance Day program. It's getting to be as much a part of my celebration as

any other facet of the whole weekend. I've spoken to the youngsters up there on four different occasions now and I seem to enjoy it more each time.

Now to something different, the word has come down that Castlegar branch has settled on a program to run the Legion Zone Bonspiel this season. From Jim Schuck comes word that the event will take place on the weekend of January 19 and a small change in the format will see eight-end games played in all competitions down to the fours. This, I'm told is necessary because of other commitments at the Castlegar rink.

Another event takes place at the Branch No. 14 club this Sunday, a Grey Cup brunch is planned and tickets are on sale now at \$3.50 each. There will be eating from 10 a.m. till noon and then the game on TV with refreshments to be available.

And with that we'll say, Till next time.