

Over the past weekend I travelled to Kaslo to take part in the Annual Spring Meeting of the West Kootenay Zone of the Royal Canadian Legion. It is always a joy to visit the little town on the shore of Kootenay Lake. The people there are always friendly and the mountain scenery superb. Some of our Rossland group were billeted at the Jones Boys' Marina, the remainder at the Kalso Motel.

Our group of members of the Branch and the L.A. were eight strong, led by President Bernie Fourn. We started at 1 p.m. with a parade to the Cenotaph on the shore of the lake. With a backdrop of the massive snow-clad Purcells across the lake, I think this is definitely the most beautiful spot in all of the West Kootenay and I've been to every cenotaph in the area. The parade over, the action shifted to the Legion Hall across from the Langham Cultural Centre for the opening ceremonies and introduction of guests, Derek Eyles of Pacific Command and Ed Tomasaitis of the Spokane Veterans of Foreign Wars. Eyles was there representing command interests and the gentleman from Spokane to invite us to the Airway Heights celebration on April 27.

After the agenda was adopted and the Zone Commander Jaimier Hall has welcomed everyone, the nominations for election of officers was opened and Earl Moffat of Nakusp was nominated for the Zone Commander's position, Sam Browne of Castlegar was nominated for Deputy Zone Commander and Jim Schuck of Rossland for the post of vice-chairman, Alex Turner of Salmo for the Zone Service officers post and Doug McIsaac of Trail for the Zone Sports portfolio.

On the L.A. side Dorothy Gyte of Rossland will take over as Zone Chairman replacing Vi Turner of Salmo. Taking over as L.A. secretary will be Donna Price of Rossland.

After the Zone broke up to attend various meetings on such subjects as sports, ways and means, public relations, by-laws and licensed branches, the first day wound up with a banquet and dance in the Legion hall which went on to the early hours.

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April 19/85
with
Harry
Pepper

Moving on to Sunday, Business began at 9 a.m. with various reports, noteworthy among these was a very comprehensive report on sports by its chairman Doug McIsaac who reported on curling, darts, and the upcoming Legion Golf Tourney at Christina Lake in June. A first time time will be the inclusion of the ladies in a special event. He said that a minimum of 80 entrants is necessary to reserve the course for that day. Otherwise, we may be waiting for quite a while on some tees.

Castlegar lost money on the Legion curling event last winter and branches figuring on hosting this event should see that the entry fees are high enough to prevent this from happening in the future. Nelson, who will host this event this winter has things well in hand according to all reports. The darts club netted money on the Zone playoffs at Nakusp. This year Rossland will host this event and hope to have a good turnout.

There was strong criticism sparked by a mention of the way in which local news and pictures are handled by the Legionary Magazine. The Pacific Command Rep did the best he could to explain, but the way these things are handled by the magazine was still to blame. A lot of incidents were cited to back up the arguments.

One very bright spot in all the proceedings was the L.A. report which told of the raising of \$113,134 by the 11 L.A. branches in the zone. Vi Turner of Salmo said her years as chairman have been a very rewarding experience.

While on the L.A. report, the Lilian Peitsche award has been retired and was given in perpetuity to the Beaver Valley branch. It was felt that it has served its original purpose and should be discontinued.