

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

As a pre-Christmas gift we are to be favoured with a talk by Lieut.-Col. D.E. Macintyre, DSO, MC, who will reminisce about his interesting and exciting early days under the title RAILROADING 70 YEARS AGO. Col. Macintyre has written two books, CANADA AT VIMY and PRAIRIE STOREKEEPER as well as many articles. He lives at Kirk's Ferry and has been around long enough to accumulate a store-house of experiences and memories of which he has kindly agreed to share a few with us.

The time is Tuesday, 30 November 1971 at 8 p.m. and the place is the home of Mr and Mrs Vincent Hendrick. This house is another of the interesting old places of our area having been built over a hundred years ago for a Mr Link and purchased by Mr Hendrick's father many years ago. The entrance is immediately east of the New Town Hall and Bell Canada, Old Chelsea, the former being the location where we have had many of our meetings in the past.

Come one, come all for an edifying evening including coffee and cakes in an early Gatineau farm-house!

ADDED FEATURE (MAYBE)

We would like you, who were on the train trip, to bring slides or prints you may have taken for a little "show and tell" if time permits to make envious those members who were unable to be with us. A projector will be available but please do not be "nose-out-of-joint" if it turns out that the main feature of the evening takes up all our time.

RAINY DAY BLUES AND BRIGHTS

Despite a day of unremitting rain, the worst weather in our nine years of operations, the auction sale this year had the highest gross and the greatest return to the Society of any on record. We had 580 lots consigned by 77 members and friends and we had 284 registered bidders plus an estimated additional 150 spectators.

It was also the longest sale ever, running for 15 uninterrupted hours. The gross take was \$3,068.78, some \$200 more than last year (when we were favoured with some of our more pleasant August weather) and, after paying taxes, our consignors and expenses, the net return to the Society was \$1,321.04 compared to \$1,182.38 in 1970.

We have always dreaded the prospect of having a sale in foul weather and the conditions this year could hardly have been worse. Having brought off a successful operation in spite of all this and having been supported by our bidders who were thoroughly damped for many long hours we now have more confidence in facing almost any prospect in future except such a lengthy sale which was asking a bit too much of our workers.

ROLLING ROUND THE BENDS

Unlike Auction Sale Day October Third was one of those perfectly delightful autumn days which could not have been more pleasant for our train trip up the Gatineau in a joint venture with the Bytown Railway Society. The consensus seemed to be that this was really a heartwarming affair for all and a sentimental journey for some who had known this railway passenger service of years gone by.

Although we had no financial risk we did our share by selling through our channels all but one of the 68 seats allotted to us and, in fact, we were indirectly responsible for helping the Railway Society sell some of the tickets through their outlet. In any event we were pleased that they made a little money on the project and we can thank them for making possible a day's nostalgic enjoyment for so many people including a number of our members. Furthermore the people along the route were entranced to see a trainload of passengers on what has now become strictly a freight line. Even the grazing cattle seemed surprised.

Our commendations to those responsible in the Bytown Railway Society for their complete co-operation, thorough organization and genial management!

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HISTORY IN THE WRITING

Thanks to Dr Edouard Laberge, who originally suggested the idea, and his committee of Mrs Carol Martin and Miss Grace Brown the first historical essay contest of the Society has been launched. This committee has worked closely with Mr Ralph Turner and M. Bernard Lattien, co-ordinators respectively of the history programs for the Protestant and Catholic School Boards. Printed rules and application forms have been issued to the high schools in the Gatineau Region, posters have been put up on the bulletin boards and now we await the generation of interest and enthusiasm. Essays will be received in both English and French and the deadline is the end of March 1972 after which judging will take place and money prizes awarded.

The Society is grateful to those mentioned above and to our secretary-treasurer for their part in getting this new venture underway.

PHOTO FINISH

Last summer we had an informal contest for a photograph of a scene associated with the Gatineau to be used as a subject for post-cards to be published and sold. Mrs Judy Crawley and Mrs Meiya Wright kindly acted as judges and selected a colourful autumn river scene photographed by Miss Desiree Girouard who summers on the Gatineau. Our congratulations to Miss Girouard and our thanks to the judges!

We have the photograph but we also have a problem as to how we can make this project financially viable. We are working on the problem.

PAPER CHASE

Mr Ronald Grantham of the Ottawa Citizen has indicated that his newspaper is seeking, for its archives, copies of The Packet, precursor of the Citizen, for the 1840s and particularly for the years 1844-45-46.

Now if that bundle of yellowed papers in your attic just happens to include some of the above Mr Grantham would be most pleased to hear from you.

PUBLIC SPIRIT

One of the Society's vice-presidents, Mrs Thomas Hyslop, has been furthering the common weal by acting as this year's organizer of the United Appeal Campaign in West Hull. We hope that she has found both satisfaction and substance.

MERRY AND HAPPY

We may be rushing the season but this may be our only chance for those of you who, for one reason or another, will be unable to attend the next meeting. On behalf of the executive may I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - a new year during which we may enjoy many more good times together.

Arthur Davison,
President.