

Winter Sports

PRICE
10 CENTS

THE PENHOLD

YEAR _____

MONTH _____

PILOT _____

2nd PILOT _____

DUTY _____

ALBERTA

CANADA

LOG

B.W. ROUGHTON

GRAND TOTAL _____

36 S.F.T.S.

VOLUME IV
NOVEMBER



NUMBER 5
1943

DRILL HALL DETAIL

MONDAY

1830-2000 hrs.

Boxing Class (Elementary)
Free for all other activities.

1830-2000 hrs.

Weight-Lifting Class.
Free for all other activities.

2000-2200 hrs.

Rifle Club.
(No Badminton, Basketball or Tennis)

* * *

TUESDAY

1800-2200 hrs.

Basketball League
Free for all other activities excepting Tennis.

* * *

WEDNESDAY

1800-2000 hrs.

Cricket
(No Badminton, Basketball or Tennis)

2000-2200 hrs.

Boxing Class
Free for all other activities.

* * * * *

BASKETBALL matches may be played on Saturday or Sunday, if a court is reserved before Saturday mid-day.

CRICKET may be played on Sunday morning, if arrangements are made before Saturday mid-day.

For reservations and all information, 'phone the Sports Store,
Extension 57

THURSDAY

1800-1930 hrs.

Rifle Club
(No Badminton, Basketball or Tennis)

1800-1900 hrs.

Basketball League
(Free for all other activities excepting Tennis)

* * *

FRIDAY

1800-2000 hrs.

Unarmed Combat Class.
Free for all other activities.

1800-2000 hrs.

Gymnastic Class
Free for all other activities.

2000-2200 hrs.

Cricket
(No Badminton, Basketball or Tennis)

* * *

SATURDAY

FREE FOR ALL
ACTIVITIES

* * *

SUNDAY

FREE FOR ALL
ACTIVITIES

VOLUME IV
NOVEMBER



NUMBER 5
1943

Published by kind permission of Group Captain H. J. Pringle, A.F.C.
Commanding Officer No. 36, S.F.T.S., Penhold.



EDITOR

F/Lt. W. H. Thomas

ADVISORY BOARD: S/Ldr. Bloxham, F/Lt. Gilbert, F/Lt. Hudson
COMMITTEE: F/O Andrews, F/O Street, F/Sgt. Wilson, L.A.C. Malbert
BUSINESS MANAGER: Cpl. Goldstein

Editorial

WINTER SPORTS for the British at home are a luxury involving an expensive trip abroad which few of us can afford. But in Norway, Switzerland, Austria and Canada they are the sports of the people. In Norway the ski-ing clubs became the centres of popular resistance to the invader, and many were suppressed by the Nazis. In Canada, ice hockey has the enthusiastic following which soccer has in England.

Here at Penhold, with the Rockies fringing the western horizon, there is a magnificent opportunity to enjoy the exhilarating sports provided by a real winter. The freeze-up brings months of unbroken skating weather, while Penhold's location gives easy access to some of the best ski-ing country in the world. Coming from a land of damp and fog-bound winters, we British know little of the beauties of ice and snow. Here we have a chance to discover them which may never come again.

Station Personalities . . .

Maintenance Wing



Flying Officer W. W. Ballantyne, Maintenance Wing Adjutant, can claim to be the first aerial stowaway in history, for in 1919 he hid aboard the airship R.34 before it left East Fortune, Scotland, for a trans-Atlantic trip to New York. He had been attached to the R.34 as a first class air mechanic in 1918, and determined to fly with the airship come what may. He landed with the airship at Long Island after a trip lasting 108 hours, and stole the newspaper headlines by his exploit. Although dismissed from H.M.A. R.34 for breach of discipline, F/O Ballantyne was shortly afterwards transferred to R.80, the last airship to be manned by a R.A.F. crew.

Born in Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1898, F/O Ballantyne joined the Royal Navy in 1915, and in the same year volunteered for naval balloons. He did his first solo in H.M. Balloon Vera in 1917 during a raid by 17 German Taubes on London. It was not until 1923 that he took to flying heavier-than-air craft. As a pilot in the 1920's with 45 Squadron, he flew air mail between Cairo and Baghdad and was engaged on operations in Kurdistan. At Worthy Down, in 58 Squadron, he flew Virginias, and once had the present C.E.O., S/Ldr. Gifford, as passenger when an engine caught fire. He was then posted back to the near East and was engaged on operations in Northern Kurdistan with 70 B.T. Squadron. Three times during this period he served in squadrons commanded by Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, who was then a Squadron Leader.

During the Abyssinian crisis, F/O Ballantyne was attached to the Fleet Air Arm with the 1st Battleship Squadron in the Eastern Mediterranean, and served in H.M.S. Barham and H.M.S. Malaya. In 1938 he was transferred to 12 Squadron, which went to France at the outbreak of war in 1939. This was the Squadron which bombed the Maastricht bridge, and the V.C. was awarded to a pilot in F/O Ballantyne's flight. F/O Ballantyne was one of the last to leave France, taking a ship from Brest on June 17, 1940. After further service in helping to form a Spitfire and a Boston squadron in England, he came to Canada in April, 1942.

F/O Ballantyne has a distinguished record in the annals of service boxing. Fighting in the bantam-weight and feather-weight classes, he was R.A.F. champion in 1920 and 1922, Iraq champion in 1923 and 1925, and a member of the R.A.F. team in 1927 and 1928.

F/O Ballantyne has earned many awards during his service career. He wears medal ribbons for the General Service and Victory Medals from the First Great War, the Iraq General Service and Active Service medals with Kurdistan and Northern Kurdistan bars, and the Long Service and Good Conduct medal. He has been twice mentioned in dispatches, once in 1933, and once while serving in France with the R.A.F. in 1939-40.

F/O Ballantyne is married, and has two sons. His family lives in Cumberland, near Keswick.

Station Personalities 52



L.A.C. J. E. Hopwood is, for obvious reasons, known as "Ginger." One of the outstanding station athletes, he came to Penhold with the first drafts in September, 1941, and has been a regular member of the Penhold soccer team, the Alberta Services League champions, for two seasons. But for the fact that in Canada all sports have to be crammed into the same few months, Hopwood would also have been a member of the athletics and cricket teams. He is a fast and versatile full-back and has played left-back for one season and right-back for the other.

Although Hopwood has worked at various times in four of the hangars, he is principally a Minor Inspections king, and is at present a prized if inexperienced exponent of basketball for the Minor Inspections Flight team. His innocent countenance is mislead-

ing, and at the same time has proved an irresistible attraction to the opposite sex. It is no wonder he played football so well for the station team in Calgary — when so many fair young things flocked to see him. But Hopwood has evaded his pursuers with tact and firmness, and is only waiting for the boat to get home and marry his fiancée. He is 21 years old, and an all-round popular erk.

* * * * *

Sergeant A. T. Sharp, N.C.O. i/c repairs and modifications, is known, though not to his face, as "the mighty atom" or, occasionally, as "tich." One of the Penhold "old-timers," he has been on the station 26 months, and has worked in every hangar except No. 1. He is chiefly famous for his activities at the far end of the camp in the "prang dump" (or repair hangar) where he has had a hand in breathing new life into no fewer than 22 sad looking wrecks, while N.C.O. i/c repairs. In more recent weeks he has been engaged, with others, in the task of hammering 50,000 nails into a wall, a mysterious occupation which has something to do with the number of Oxford modifications.

In spite of these 50,000 worries, Sgt. Sharp is generally distinguished by a cheerful smile. In part of his leisure time he teaches the art of fencing to all comers. He has been wielding a tricky rapier for nine or ten years now, and before the war was a member of the 38 Squadron fencing team. When he has finally disposed of his affairs on the camp, he goes home to Red



Ice Hockey

ICE HOCKEY is the game Canadians have taught the rest of the world. Those who have watched ice hockey matches at ice rinks in Britain have seen teams composed very largely of Canadians. When Great Britain won the world ice hockey championship at the 1936 Olympic Games, the team was entirely made up of English-born Canadians—they beat Canada in the final!

The rules of ice hockey will be unfamiliar to most airmen who have recently arrived from Britain. The game is played on an ice rink of no set dimensions, as the whole area of ice is used as the playing area. Teams consist of six players—three forwards, two defence men and a goal-minder. Owing to the high speed at which the game is played, it has been found impossible for one man to stand the pace without a rest, and substitution is therefore allowed during pauses in the game.

The rink is divided into four areas by a red line marking the half-way line, and by two blue lines 12 inches wide, each set 60 feet out from the red goal line—in the same manner as the 25-yard line in Rugby football. A small area known as a goal crease is marked in front of each net, and within this area players are not permitted to shoot for goal. For a touch line, the rink is surrounded by boards, and play can be carried on behind the goal line.

Equipment consists of hickory sticks, derived from the ordinary hockey stick, but having a flat, long trailing edge, to use an aeronautical term. The "ball" is a flat rubber disc, approximately three inches in diameter and three-quarters of an inch thick, known as the "puck." Owing to the danger of heavy falls on the ice and collisions with the boards, the players are padded about the legs, knees, hips, shoulders and elbows, while most wear gloves and some crash helmets. The goal-minder wears in addition a pair of outsize cricket pads and a leather apron, and carries an outsize hockey stick which is authorized in the rules, looking altogether like a medieval knight going out to battle. The goal is four feet high and six feet wide, presenting a disconcertingly small target.

Play is commenced by a "face-off" at "centre-ice", when the referee drops the puck between the sticks of two opposing players. Face-offs also occur during the game after any stoppage of play at special positions denoted by circular red spots. The basic principles of the game are akin to those of soccer or English hockey. The chief difference occurs in the offside rules.

Up to this season it was not permitted to pass across either of the blue lines to a player who was in front of the blue line when the puck was passed. An amendment to the offside rule which has come into force this season permits the defending side to pass the puck across their own blue line to a roving forward, but it is still not permitted to pass across the opponents' blue line when attacking. The purpose of this new rule is to avoid chronic congestion of the goal area.

Body-checking, or charging a man off the puck, is allowed, but must not be dangerous. It is held to be dangerous if a man is thrown against the boards, and body-checking is not permitted if a player runs or jumps into an opponent (this is defined as "charging"). Most common fouls are: tripping with skate or stick, sticks carried above shoulder height, holding the puck against the boards, holding an opponent, and assault in varying degrees. It

Deer to his Irish-Canadian wife whom he met and married out here.

Sgt. Sharp joined the R.A.F. in June, 1935. He had previously been a fitter engineer, serving his time at the bench, and he also appeared on the stage for two years. Before coming to Canada he was in Bomber Command. He has three brothers in the service, one in the 8th Army and two in the Navy, one of whom was recently torpedoed.

is permitted to kick the puck only when the player is in possession of his stick, and as long as no goal is scored thereby.

As a general principle the puck must always be kept moving. The referee must stop the game if he is unable to see the puck, and must penalise if deliberate stoppages are made by the players themselves. Akin to touch-kicking in rugger and soccer, defensive shooting of the puck from the blue-line area right up the ice (known as icing the puck) is penalised by a face-off in the defenders' blue-line area.

Penalties range from face-offs with loss of ground to sending a player off the ice for varying periods up to the maximum of a "match" penalty, which precludes the player from taking part in any further games until his case has been dealt with by the disciplinary board of the league in question. A common penalty to which no moral stigma is attached is to send a player off the ice for a period of two minutes, no substitute being permitted.

Play is divided into periods lasting twenty minutes, of actual playing time, loss of time for all stoppages being excluded. A match consists of three periods, and in the event of a draw a further period of ten minutes is played.

HOCKEY TACTICS

Hockey tactics are based on constructive passing movements between players, and these are very similar to soccer, subject to the differences in rules. The centre forward fulfils the role of a soccer centre-half, being a pivot and feed for his two wing men. Owing to the speed of the game and the comparatively small area of the rink, a defence man is not solely confined to defence, but is expected to take part in attacking movements. Similarly the forwards fall back and assist in defence. A team fighting in the last minutes of the third period to even the score will frequently bring the goal-minder out and play six up in attack—a very exciting and risky gamble.

Marking of opposite numbers is close. In defence, the defending players will often run the puck behind their own net, and there play "cat and mouse" with the attack. A tactic peculiar to ice hockey is the use of the boards to by-pass an opponent by driving the puck against the boards so that it cannons off at an angle.

The skating necessary for good ice hockey is entirely different from figure and speed skating. It is rugged and utilitarian, emphasis being laid on manoeuvrability, quick turning, acceleration and deceleration, and the ability to avoid eleven other bodies moving at high speed on converging courses. A good hockey player is one who is strong, quick of thought, hard to throw, and has a capacity to shoot straight when on or off balance. Stick handling is, of course, as important as the skating, but in most respects is very similar to field hockey.

The speed and excitement of first class ice hockey has to be seen to be believed. Matches to be played in the Alberta Services League this winter in Red Deer will present some of the most famous players of the National Hockey League, the outstanding hockey league in the world. Some of the players are: Mac Colville (New York Rangers and A-20), Sugar Jim Henry (New York Rangers and A-20), Tommy Anderson (Detroit Redwings and A-16), Max Bentley (Chicago Black Hawks and A-16, top scorer in the N.H.L. last season), and Sweeney Schriner (Toronto Maple Leafs and Calgary Navy). Incidentally, though the famous hockey teams all lie in the east of Canada and the United States, it is a fact that the majority of the famous names in hockey come from Alberta.

THE STATION ICE RINKS

As soon as the freeze-up sets in for good, the two station rinks will be flooded. At the time of writing the weather is still mild, but by December skating should be in full swing. The rinks will be flood-lit in the evenings. One rink will probably be reserved for hockey, and one for skating. Hockey equipment will be available at the sports store.

Arrangements have been made for the purchase of boots and skates at favourable terms through the Service Institute. Anyone wishing to buy skates through the P.S.I. should apply to the P.S.I. clerk, Cpl. Goldstein, at S.H.Q.

Winter Sports . . . Ski-ing

THOSE who have faced winter on the unsheltered prairies before, no doubt regard its approach with awe, and wonder if this one will have to be explained away by the natives with: "We've never known anything like this." But rather than hibernate in the stuffy atmosphere of ye olde Barrock Block, why not go out into the cold and snow and revel in it?

Winter has its compensations, for the ice brings skating, exciting ice-hockey games, and curling (for those who can get down to it); but more than that, there is snow, and snow spells ski-ing (if you use the proper dictionary). There must be few amongst you who have not seen ski-ing in fact or on film, and longed to indulge in this most exhilarating of all sports—and now is your chance.

There is, of course, very little scope for ski-ing in the immediate locality—apart from practice in cross-country ski-ing (Get some in! You mean 'Langlauf)—but Banff is a mere two-hours journey from Calgary, and there one may ski to hearts content or till limbs repent. The ski slopes on Mount Norquay are within a short distance of the town. Skis, boots and ski poles may be hired at the Ski Chalet there, and the budding skier will find lots of people (pretty popsies, too!) ready and willing to give him help, advice and instruction—and anything else he may want. At Mount Norquay there are nursery slopes for the novice, and steeper downhill courses for the more expert, whilst at week-ends a ski-tow is operated to haul skiers (lazy type) to the top of the ski slopes—a wonderful labour-saving device, and good fun to ride.

For those who consider themselves moderately expert and wish to go further afield, the high-level Ski Lodges at Sunshine and at Mount Temple (Lake Louise) are open during the season, and ski-ing expeditions from these Chalets, which are above the timber line, give some of the finest open ski-ing terrain imaginable. Novices can learn there, too.

For the benefit of those who have not yet had an opportunity of indulging in this glorious sport, the following brief outline of the technique involved is given. Walking on the level is normally (and naturally) the embryo skier's first exercise, and although descriptions taken from "the good book" are generally extremely verbose and impossible to follow, the procedure is quite simple—the skier walks more or less normally, keeping skis parallel, following each step with a short slide, helped by alternate thrusts with the ski poles. Progression may be speeded up by making longer slides with stronger thrusts from the ski poles, or by adopting the self-explanatory skating step.

One cannot climb straight uphill, unless the skis are fitted with seal-skis, which prevent their sliding backwards, but progression uphill is made in gentle climbing traverses; by side-stepping; or by the somewhat awkward and back-breaking process known as "Herring-boning"—from the pattern described on the snow by the skis. The easiest way uphill, of course, is by ski-tow—favoured by those who suffer from vertigo (and therefore the most popular method!). One can turn on the spot by executing short turning jumps, keeping the skis parallel; or by the infamous "kick-turn." The gyro-scops involved in the latter usually result in the skier collapsing in a knot—so it is probably easier to take the skis off, turn them round, then clamp them on again.

Downhill running (under perfect control—if possible) is the essence of all ski-ing, and should be practised at first on gentle slopes. Skis are kept parallel, about six inches or so apart, body leaning forward at right-angles to the slope, with knees bent forward from the ankles (if you can get them that way), and ski poles held loosely to the rear. Braking at medium and slow speeds may be done by means of the side-slip, or by the single- or double-stem (or "snow-plough" as it is sometimes called), in which the heels of the skis are forced as wide apart as possible, the tips close together, so forming a "V"-shaped snow plough. Due to the strain on the limbs, it is

dangerous to use this means for braking at high speeds (breaking will more likely result—Couldn't resist it!); and if all else fails, then describe a "sitz-mark". In other words, sit down! Don't worry, the snow is quite soft, and it won't take long to dig you out!

The first turn one learns is known as the Stem-Turn, and is a derivation of the double-stem, with the body screwing the weight against the outside ski, forcing it round in a controlled turn. Turns at high speed are done by swing or skid turns, such as the Elementary, Jerked, Steered, or Stem-Christiania, by the Telemark (in deep snow), or again by the spectacular jump turns or between the ski poles. As for jumping, personally I don't see how any real human being could possibly have the nerve to learn to ski jump—so, enough said.

Don't labour under the delusion that ski-ing is dangerous, for it is no more dangerous than any other active sport. Accidents only happen to those who, with insufficient experience or ability, attempt either the dangerous or the impossible—who, in other words, disobey common sense ski-ing regulations.

Ski-ing Equipment

Complete ski-ing equipment (skis, boots and sticks) may be hired at Banff from Jim Morrison at the Mount Norquay Ski Chalet, or from the Standish Hardware Shop in Main Street, Banff, at the cost of \$1.00 per day during the week, \$1.50 at week-ends; while special new equipped skis and boots may be had for \$1.75 per day. Those who wish to hire these items for a period covering trips to the high level Chalets at Sunshine and Mount Temple, may do so at reduced rates.

SKIS

For a person of normal build, the ski length should be such that the ski tip reaches the palm of the hand with upstretched arm, the most usual length being somewhere in the region of 7 ft. The wood should be Ash or Hickory, with a gradual bend at the tip. The most important points to watch are that the skis are straight, that the wood is not warped, and that the skis have only a reasonable amount of camber. It is a decided advantage, in addition, to have the skis fitted with metal edges. Skis bearing recognized trade-marks are obtainable from sports dealers, the price varying from \$10 to \$25 or more, but it is often possible to purchase good second-hand equipment from some sports stores.

BINDINGS

Bindings are the most important part of the skier's equipment, and, although there are several designs available, the best to have fitted to the skis are the "Kandahar" bindings, since they combine diagonal pull with lateral thrust, and keep the heels firmly down on the skis for downhill running. It is advisable to have the binding fitted to the skis and adjusted for the boots by an expert, and this can generally be done at the time and place of purchase. Kandahar bindings cost about \$8.00.

STICKS, BOOTS AND WAX

Sticks should be fairly light and flexible, reaching from the ground to armpits, and should be easily balanced at the grips. They may be of cane, bamboo or metal, prices ranging from \$2.00 to \$10.00.

Proper type ski boots are essential, and they should be large enough to take two pairs of socks. The heels must have grooves for the binding cables, and the soles should be stiff to prevent the boots bending with the pull of the bindings. Prices vary from \$5.00 to \$30.00, but it is a decided advantage to have a good pair. They should not be oiled, but merely polished in the ordinary way.

Wax is necessary to make the skis slide, and to prevent snow clogging to the under-surfaces. "Red Wonder" Ski Wax may be purchased for a few cents locally, and is serviceable as an all-round ski wax. Ordinary paraffin wax will serve.

Flaps from Flying Wing

The Instructor who, after paying a substantial fee, added up his Log Book with the aid of the hours-and-minutes adding machine at F.W.H.Q., and still couldn't get it right, accused the machine of failing to cope with leap years and double summer time. . . The editor was found trying to work out his salary on the thing with the aid of Penhold Logarithms.

* * *

The timekeepers, having had their one and only clock taxied-over while it was standing inoffensively in the middle of a runway, and having done their only watch no good at all by dropping it on the tarmac, had, perforce, to tell the time by the sun until their new watches arrived. The provision of a sundial in the signals area was being seriously considered. One instructor believed the checker-in to be working on G.M.T., and the checker-out on M.D.T.

* * *

Under consideration was a proposal to overcome the fuel shortage resulting from the coal strike by forming logging parties to fell trees in the Flying Wing National Park. A very fine stand of sitka spruce has been noticed behind the fourth blade of grass on the left of Prang Avenue.

* * *

It is clearly intended that aircraft shall be operated only for aviating. Their use for blowing the dust off hangar floors comes under the heading of misemployment.

* * *

There is no truth in the rumour that the attractive pictures on the wall of the station barber's shop depict the latest aircrew hair styles undertaken by the station barber.

* * *

Who is the senior instructor who has decided to remuster to Padre after receiving gen from S.H.Q. indicating that padres can take their 48's from "after sermon" on Sunday to 10.55 hours on the following Sunday?

Flying Wing Headquarters staff arrived at Tottering Towers one morning, before it was light, to find the place reeking with a new and powerful odour that even they could not stand. When windows were hurriedly opened, the smell became stronger. Eventually it was realised that a visiting skunk (animal variety) had toured the building during the night. Tottering Towers is now being placed out of bounds to all skunks. An order to this effect will be promulgated in "Technical Orders to Cowboys," and C.A.P. 303 will be amended.

* * *

Victory Loan campaigns have their evils. At least one Section Organiser, Departmental Canvasser, Past Chief Potentate, or what you will, has been seen striding round the Control Tower with an application form in one hand, and a half-completed duty roster waving menacingly in the other.

* * *

The new huts, timekeeper, have arrived. They are not quite large enough to enable the Timekeepers to impound an aircraft, the pilot of which fails to book out. We always thought that this was the idea. One hut is located in Times Square and the other in Greenwich Village.

It has been ruled that one of the huts be placed 300 feet from the centre of the runway used as a return taxiing strip. Apart from minor difficulties caused by the non-existence of this runway, the distance of a hundred yards involves providing the Timekeeper with a bicycle in the summer, and a sleigh and team of huskies in the winter, to enable him to make the trip from his hotel to the aircraft.

Tickets for Calgary and Edmonton are obtainable at the Timekeepers' booking offices. Double fare at week-ends.

* * *

Why we like our 48's. From bumff to Banff.

Satellite Studies From 36½ S.F.T.S.

OR

Binds from Big Bend

THE OPEN SEASON at Innisfail R.I. commenced on Sunday, October 31. The arrival of "B" Flight, en masse, was heralded by two kegs of familiar appearance, the contents of one proving a great comfort during the first evening. The contraption supplied for pumping the precious fluid was sadly lacking in vital spares, but this was quickly overcome by our resourceful canteen types. A blunt instrument in the form of a baseball bat was produced in short order, and the keg was "tapped" (or bludgeoned) in no uncertain manner, the result being reminiscent of a Turner Valley gusher. The O.C. Innisfail was, at that time, noticed to be gazing at the ceiling with his mouth open, for most of the demented joy-water was falling on and around the (un)fortunate gentleman's face. The cry immediately went up for more and larger receptacles, and in less time than it takes to tell, the flow was diverted into the proper channels.

To the strains of the piano, beaten unmercifully as it was by our pupil talent, the evening went with a swing (and the beer with a swig). Songs—ancient, modern and even unprintable—could be heard above the raucous laughter from the Officers' Ante-Room, where the O.C. was elaborating upon the habits of the canine section of our permanent staff. It appeared that Bonzo had missed the duty run to Innisfail on Saturday, and had never been the same dog since, whereas Paddy had been more single-minded in purpose, and had since been contentedly asleep.

In the course of allotting rooms to officers, it must be recorded that an unfortunate mistake was made, with the result that one of the most used rooms, but one which we trust was neither designed nor used as sleeping quarters, became known as "Mr. Biscoe's room." Mr. Biscoe had frequent visitors, although it was well known that he was on leave at the time.

Some aviating was done during the "B" Flight tenure, including a "dice fantastique" one morning when the flight commander found the urge to do a weather test irresistible. A second pilot was called upon to help inspect the cloud formation at close quarters, and the deputy fuehrer quaveringly volunteered. An erk who requested a flip was also installed in the aircraft in pursuance of the "B" Flight policy of "The More the Merrier," and no rip-cords were pulled in the process. Entering cloud before the second pilot had time to say "Mixture," the daring trio soon located the sunrise, but, holding that there was no sense in fair weather flying above cloud when there was a perfectly good clamp below, they quickly descended again into the murk. Here the second pilot was invited to fly on instruments while the flight commander hung his head out of the window, and called out the altitude above ground to the nearest ten feet. Having decided that the weather was fit for squadron commanders and examining officers only, the fuehrer took control and flew across the aerodrome giving an interesting demonstration of the wash-out signal.

This manoeuvre was followed by an approach and landing which the flight commander insisted was quite intentional, and would "give the lads something to talk about." The purpose was served, for a pupil was heard to remark "You could have driven the fire tender under his tail."

On the occasion of a fire practice, the O.C., with the aid of a Smoke Generator Mk V., staged a conflagration on the hangar roof, but was chagrined to find that it passed unnoticed. Not to be out-done, the O.C. once again ignited a smoke generator, and proceeded to give the alarm himself. The first fire-fighter to appear was a Flight Mechanic whose portly figure quivered with excitement. The stream of profanity which followed when he discovered

Officers' Mess Chronicle

THE snows of September and October which led old-timers to prophesy a winter of untold severity, have now been largely dispelled in a St. Martin's Summer. In consequence, golfing, ski-ing and rustic amusements have been indulged in at the same time and place with an equal lack of success.

At the beginning of the month the first party of flying personnel left for Innisfail. This heart-rending exodus has been described elsewhere, but it is generally felt that the attempt on the part of these intrepid pioneers to make the place appear like one of the original settlements of the Hudson's Bay Co. borders on exaggeration.

On November 6 the second of the series of informal dances was held in the Mess and, excepting complaints from the few more serious tipplers, was generally regarded as an outstanding success. The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly contributed by a series of cockfights arranged after the close of the formal activities: these were brought to a rather unexpected end by an upper denture escaping with some velocity from its owner's mouth on to the bare floor. Being unclaimed, however, the set was returned intact to store.

A General Mess Meeting was held on November 10 at which F/Lt. Minor was elected Mess Secretary; F/Lt. Frost was requested to continue his long and successful run of the dispense; F/Lt. Milsom, F/O Hibberd and A/S/O Wilson were also elected to the Committee. Subsequently F/Lt. Scholefield was appointed P.M.C. in succession to S/Ldr. Erskine.

The question of electric razors was again brought before the members and gave rise to its normal spirited discussion. It was finally pretty generally agreed that, provided no interruption was made in the Dentine Chewing Gum programme and the broadcasts from London, England, no objection would be raised to their continued use.

With the proposed additions to the Ladies' Room, the Mess should achieve a gayer appearance, but it has yet a long way to go before it can be described as a "Casino," which is so properly the Polish word for an Officers' Mess.

F/O J. J. Martin and F/O Jordan have left the Station for courses preparatory to returning to England, but it would appear a little early to congratulate them on their good fortune as it is understood that Moncton is so congested that it resembles nothing so much as a gigantic pending tray for personnel.

S/Ldr. Anderson, however, has departed direct through the usual channels and it is certain that it will not be long before he is returned to his native shores, as so many Stations in Great Britain must be clammering for an Officer who is, at once, a delightful personality and a first class technician.

It is with deep regret that the going of F/O E. J. ("Betty") Martin was not noted in the last Chapter of the Chronicle—he will most certainly forgive the writer when the reason for this omission is ascribed to a sorrow that only time will heal.—G.

the fire-raisers crouching in the watch office was a revelation. He then informed the O.C. that he had everything under control, and that he had told the troops to "get the——kites out." He was also heard to mention something about a "poor show."

In the meantime it was found that a pupil had watched the entire performance from the foot of the tower with marked lack of interest. When asked why he had done nothing to help to extinguish the blaze, he replied simply, "Well, I'm not a fireman . . . see?"

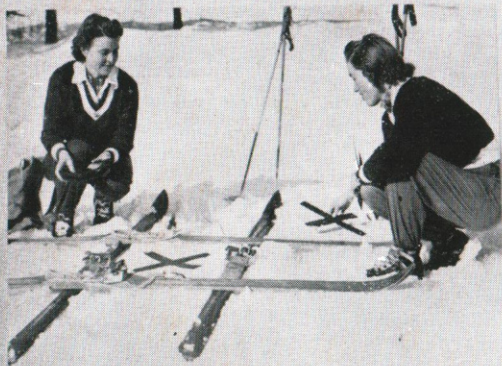
It can be seen that, though way out in the bush, 36½ S.F.T.S. has a few points to recommend it, and there was really small reason for the Sports Officer to refuse so churlishly the "A" Flight invitation to carry out the P.T. tests there during the evening. He could, at least, have tested everyone in "Putting the Pint."



Ski Trail at Norquay, Banff



PLAYTIME



IN THE



ROCKIES





Above the Timberline at Sunshine

Sport at Penhold

THE WINTER PROGRAMME in the Drill Hall is designed to cater for all tastes. The evening activities are scheduled on the inside front cover page of this month's issue of the "Log", while more detailed notes appear below. Drill Hall activities are by no means confined to the evening. The Sports staff offer to give lessons in any of the available sports during daytime hours to any who are off duty. In addition, anyone off duty during the day who is unable to find a partner for badminton or tennis, is invited to phone the sports store, extension 57, where a partner can probably be found at short notice.

Instruction is particularly designed to introduce novices to new branches of sport. The facilities now available are more extensive than at most home stations in the United Kingdom, and everyone should bear this in mind before deliberately wasting their opportunities. There are, for instance, few stations at home with an indoor cricket net or a qualified fencing instructor.

The Sports officer is anxious to receive ideas, criticisms and suggestions for the improvement and extension of winter indoor sports. He is also anxious to have more competitive matches. A section may not always be able to raise a regular team to compete in a league, yet it may wish to play a single match against a rival section. Any section may arrange such a match by phoning extension 57 and booking the required court or area.

BASKETBALL.—An inter-section Basketball League has been formed, with the following teams taking part: S.H.Q., Flying Wing, Repair Squadron, Minor Inspections Flight, Pupils "A" and Pupils "B". At the moment, Flying Wing appears to have the strongest team, but they have recently lost F/O Jordan, F/O Maloney and F/Sgt. Fleming. Pupils "B", mainly composed of "G" Flight, should finish well up the table, but, at the same time, great things are expected of Repair Squadron and Minor Inspections Flight when they have had more practice. S.H.Q. have started well, but will need the steady support of all basketball players in their section to maintain their lead. League matches are played every Tuesday evening in the Drill Hall.

Basketball is a game of Canadian origin, and has an enthusiastic following throughout North America. It is a very strenuous game, and 40 minutes is enough for the fittest player. It is recognised as one of the best ways of keeping fit during the winter, and therefore should prove popular with soccer players and all athletes who wish to keep fit during their "close" season. Excellent coaches are available to coach and train novices.

TENNIS.—Indoor tennis in the Drill Hall is proving as popular as ever, and the court is in use night and day. The first of the winter tennis championships has started, with the first round played off on November 18.

BADMINTON.—There has been a large entry for the Badminton championship, which started with the first round on November 16. The matches in the later rounds, due for the middle of December, should provide some exciting play.

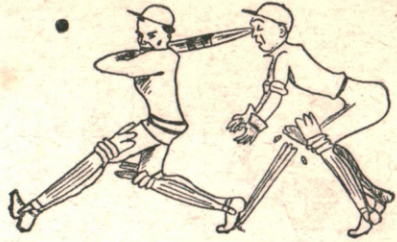
CRICKET.—Cricket practice is held in an indoor net in the Drill Hall on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The lighting has proved very satisfactory. The indoor net provides scope for practice, not only for the regular cricketers, but also for those who would like to take an occasional crack with the bat.

BOXING.—Classes for beginners are held every Monday and Wednesday evening. The instructors are anxious to get to work on as much raw novice material as possible. This is an excellent opportunity to learn the science of knocking the other chap's block off.

GYMNASTICS AND UNARMED COMBAT.—Elementary classes in gymnas-

Cricket Season

1943



THE Cricket season at 36 S.F.T.S. has given us some most enjoyable games. The Station team played seven games in Edmonton, and an eighth had to be abandoned because of the non-arrival of our opponents. There were seven matches in Calgary, and one in which no play was possible owing to rain. Two games were played in Victoria, B.C., and two in Vancouver during a Pacific coast tour.

Weather has been very favourable, with only one game washed out and another cut short on account of rain. Cricket on the Golf Links ground in Edmonton and in Riley Park, Calgary, has been a delightful experience for our players. All of us have enjoyed very kind hospitality from our opponents and their families, and have spent many happy week-ends in their homes. Those Penhold cricketers lucky enough to be able to make the tour to the Coast had a "Wizard" time, and took part in four grand games, two of which were drawn, one we lost and one we succeeded in winning at the expense of our compatriots at No. 32 O.T.U.

Though few of the games were won, there were many close finishes and on many occasions our opponents only just managed to win. A record of the games played in Edmonton showed one won, four lost and two drawn, and in Calgary one won, three lost and three drawn.

Speaking of cricket on the camp itself, we still lack a suitable ground for inter-section games, and because of this we were unable to invite teams from Calgary and Edmonton to play at Penhold.

Outdoor practice facilities need to be improved. A concrete wicket, under which the soil sinks, makes a dangerous pitch from which the ball is apt to rise head high. Experienced Canadian cricketers recommend a mixture of clay and cinders, finely sifted and well rolled, matting being placed over this. We have tried this here and, providing it is given regular attention with the heavy roller, this wicket proves successful. We hope that next season we shall have a suitable cricket ground and first rate outdoor practice facilities.
—A.M.G.

tics and unarmed combat are held on Friday evenings. Gymnastics include mat, bar, rope and ring work, while the arts of unarmed combat cover strangulation, muscle tearing and bone-breaking in easy lessons.

WEIGHT LIFTING.—A varied selection of lifting apparatus is now available in the Drill Hall. There are beginners' classes on Monday and Friday evenings, and general training between 1700 and 1930 hours every day. This is an excellent means to physical development.

FENCING.—Fencing classes are held on Thursday evenings, when Sgt. Sharp, diminutive but agile, instructs in the correct methods of prodding ribs with the point of a rapier. Many of the old members of the class have left the station, and the present standard is not so high as to discourage novices.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT.—All borrowers of equipment from the Sports Store are asked to "play the game" and return their equipment as soon as they have finished with it. It is unfair to others and thoughtlessly selfish to keep badminton and tennis racquets in lockers, wardrobes and cupboards, thus preventing others from using them. The sports equipment belongs to everybody, and must be available to everybody at all times.

Soccer 1943



ONCE AGAIN we have come to the end of a successful Soccer season in Canada. The weather has been very kind to us this season, and that great menace to humanity, the mosquito, has been less in evidence. If you remember, last season it was with not a little apprehension that we used to take to the Soccer field, for no sooner had the match begun than we were invaded by mosquitoes in their

millions after our blood. Whichever team was better able to withstand their horrible onslaught would almost certainly win the match, for one spent more energy combatting these sanguinary aggressors than playing soccer. But that was not all that we had to contend with. The heat was sometimes almost insufferable and often we became enveloped by dust storms.

There were times during this season when many blokes had qualms about the outcome of the Alberta Soccer League, and doubtless a number of the Soccer Committee's decisions regarding players for the "Fliers" (our "A" team) were not unanimously approved by our supporters. Nevertheless, the winning of the Championship by the Fliers justifies the Committee's decisions. It would not go amiss to record our appreciation of the efforts of LAC Ramsey, our tireless Soccer Secretary. His was not an easy job, but he did it well and with enthusiasm, assuming the greater part of the responsibility of providing ample opportunities for all Soccer fans to play as much as possible, and of ensuring that Penhold retained the Alberta Soccer League Championship.

The "Tigers" (our "B" team) did not do at all badly during the season, but it is thought that the Station Soccer Committee next year should seriously consider entering only one team in the Alberta Soccer League because the "B" team cannot hope to be as good as the "A" team throughout the season. Neither can the "A" team be representative of the standard of Soccer on the Station when many of the Station's best players are forced to remain in the "B" team, having once played in that team, even though the "A" team is short of players through injuries, leave or postings.

There were very few Soccer fans who thought that the "blac[?] coated workers" of S.H.Q. would win the Station Soccer League Championship. Maintenance "A" were the favourites for the greater part of the season, with No. 3 Flight, No. 2 Flight, Signals and S.H.Q. competing for the right to oust Maintenance "A". The Officers' team was very disappointing this season, for it is felt that a fairly average team at least could be provided from the large number of young officers on the Station. Let us hope for a better team next year.

Calling all Soccer Players! Calling all Soccer Players! Keep fit during the Winter, ready for next season when Penhold must do the hat-trick with the Alberta Soccer League Championship!

* * * * *

WOOD'S CHRISTIAN MISSION HOME, CALGARY

A subscription list has been opened in the Airmen's Mess to provide a Christmas Party for the eighty-four boys and girls of the Wood's Christian Mission Home, Calgary. It is hoped to raise \$120 for this purpose, and subscriptions may be handed over the hot-plate in the Airmen's Mess, addressed to A.C. Saville.



THE STATION ORCHESTRA

Entertainment at Penhold

"BOND WAGON"

Penhold is proud of P/O Peters for his house-packing entertainment entitled "Bond Wagon." The whole show flowed with the ease and distinction of a D.R.O. Item followed item with a like incongruity and each one had a similarly well chosen point. P/O Peters can be assured that his next production will be awaited with as eager anticipation as are the daily notices in that other celebrated work in whose compilation he plays so important a part.

It is difficult to praise one performer more than another, but it was obvious from the prolonged applause that Prentice at the piano, Ridley in white flannels, and Atkinson in anything, gave the most popular numbers. Gleave, by his singing, brought back to China enchantment which it no longer enjoys, and Newman, Powell and Nellings each sang so harmoniously that the encore demands of the audience could not be satisfied because of time alone. Kiddle and Atkinson made so delightful a pair of parsons that, were there more like them, there would be less articles written in American Magazines on "The Drift Towards Paganism." In "Memories from the Shows," Atkinson appeared at his best and reminded one forcibly of the late Marie Tempest.

Philp and the Choir, Morris and the Orchestra, the Dance Band, and the staging have each and all shown that there is no reason why "Bond Wagon" should not become a permanent and very endearing part of Penhold "Night Life." P/O Peters and the stage Director, LAC Atkinson, must again be congratulated for binding together in so professional a manner these very different types of performers. By closing the Show with the "Harfleur speech from Henry V" the necessary reminder, during the Victory Bond Campaign Week, of what we owe, had an electric effect the following day upon the sales of

Bonds. Garside's composite uniform, representing, as it did, the Entente Cordiale, was a pleasing tribute to our gallant Allies.

THE STATION CINEMA

During September last, the attendances at the Cinema reached a record figure. Since then there has been a slight decline in numbers but, no doubt, approaching winter will again bring an increase in the popularity of entertainment which is so near at hand. A policy of presenting about four "request" features each month has been adopted, and some of those for which frequent demands have been made appear in the December programme. Jack Benny in "Charley's Aunt," "The Man Who Came To Dinner," with Monty Woolley and Bette Davis, and Deanna Durbin in "100 Men and a Girl" (a striking musical with the added attraction of a famous orchestra), should each find favour. War pictures, which nowadays seem inevitable in any programme, are represented by "Squadron Leader 'X'" (the story of a Nazi spy in the Royal Air Force), and by "Crash Dive," showing Tyrone Power employed in a submarine.

Looking back over the past few weeks, we may feel that, on the whole, the quality of the shows has been well maintained, although a few films proved disappointing to some of us. We remember with pleasure "So Proudly We Hail" and "Heaven Can Wait," which proved a great draw. From time to time a faulty sound track has brought back memories of silent films; but always, on such occasions, the audience, with spontaneous gallantry, has furnished the operators with an abundance of sound. To the more elderly among us, it is a matter for regret that the advent of "talkies" stemmed the river of pertinent comment which, in the heyday of Tom Mix and Roscoe Arbuckle, flowed ceaselessly from its source in the ninepennies, to be swelled by the informed wit of the one and threepennies and at times brought to flood by well-bred cries of "Shame, sir" from the half-crowns.

To such of us, these failures in the sound apparatus, and the resulting cat-calls, have been like draughts at the fountain of youth. It should be borne in mind, however, that (no doubt because of their comparatively tender years) this sentiment is quite foreign to the operators and, for their sakes, it might be kinder for the audience to mourn in silence the defects of mechanical science. Remember, too, that some of us might appreciate at last the glamour of the sarong if the sound track failed completely! On the whole, whatever the lapses, we can feel that we have progressed since the days when a pause in the musical accompaniment either indicated dramatic suspense or conveyed tactfully that the pianist had gone to wash her hands.

CONCERTS.—At the time of writing, the Station Concert Party is busying itself with preparation for a Christmas Show. The "Town Tonics" scheduled to appear on November 7 were, unfortunately, unable to make the date, but coming up on December 5 is an amusing entertainment called "Canadian Corps Capers," and we are promised a grand evening of fun and frolic, music and dancing.

DANCE TIME.—With the Christmas festivities approaching, Dance Time becomes a matter for some additional preparation and thought. The traditional gaiety of the season provides a motif for those whose task it is to set the scene, and the coming Wednesdays must surely show that here at Penhold we'll keep our Christmas humour just as we would at home. Dec. 1—No. 3 Servicing Flight; Dec. 8—Repair Squadron; Dec. 15—Equipment Section; Dec. 22—Station Headquarters; Dec. 29—Hospital.

MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP.—The Station music-lovers gather together in the Pupils' Study, G.I.S., each Tuesday evening at 2000 hours for a concert of recorded music. The programmes during the past month have included works by both classical and modern composers. Among orchestral compositions have been Dvorak's "New World" Symphony, recorded by the Philadelphia Orchestra; Elgar's "Enigma" Variations by the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, and Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor by Backhaus and the New

Symphony Orchestra. Our soloists have included Paderewski (playing Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata) and Kreisler (playing his own compositions). Each meeting has been enlivened by extracts from opera, with arias from Carmen, The Barber of Seville, Manon, The Pearl Fishers, and Samson and Delilah. All personnel who are interested in music are cordially invited to attend these weekly concerts and hear the great celebrities without paying for the privilege.—F.S.H.

STATION DRAMATIC SOCIETY.—During the last few weeks we have continued with our play-reading sessions. Included in our programmes have been the "Thread o' Scarlet" by J. J. Bell (scene: a dear old English "pub"), and Shakespeare's evergreen "Merchant of Venice." We are now well on the way with the production of Dickens' "Christmas Carol," specially written as a Radio play by our director, and to be produced on Sunday, December 19. Even if you are not keen on learning long speeches, or not prepared to take on a full stage part, why not turn up at 2000 hours next Monday in the Recreation Hall? There you will no doubt have the opportunity of trying your chances as a future B.B.C. announcer. Everyone is strictly "amateur," and we are anxious to exploit any new talent that may at present be hiding its light under a bushel.—B.R.L.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB.—Considerable interest has recently been aroused by the formation of an Arts and Crafts Club on the Station. Successful meetings were held following the October Exhibition of Water-colours in the Reading and Writing Room. All personnel who are interested in pencil, charcoal- or water-colour sketching, lino-cutting or wood-carving, or any other form of art or craft (!), may obtain information about the Club from the Education Officer in No. 6 Hangar, or from Mr. Brewster at the "Y". The Club Rooms are in No. 7 Hangar and are open at all times to members only. Though possibly too distant from Barrack Blocks for the weary and half-hearted, it is hoped that those who really feel the creative urge burning within them will pay their membership fee to Mr. Brewster, Hon. Treasurer, and speed their way down to the "ultima thule" of the Camp and set down their ideas in some medium or other before the desire of self-expression forsakes them. Arrangements have been made for the holding of classes each Wednesday evening, under the guidance of F/O Andrew, Mr. Brewster and Cpl. Pickles, and occasional lectures on Art Appreciation and other topics are contemplated.—J.P.G.

CHOIR NOTES

The Choir have made four public appearances, the first being at the Victory Bond concert, and the second at the Red Deer Anglican Church for "Services Sunday," when that very fine anthem, "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings," was very well sung, while four members sang a quartet as closing vesper. A visit to the Community Hall at Ridgewood constituted the first outside concert engagement. There were approximately 150 present, and the show went with a fine swing. Following the show, a dance was organised and Choir members showed their versatility by forming a dance orchestra.

The fourth appearance of the Choir was at the concert given at the Gaetz Memorial United Church on November 17, which was an unparalleled success. Over 350 people were present, and after the first group of songs it was obvious that they were in an appreciative mood. The soloists were in fine form and each group of part songs was done with precision and polish. The slapstick comedy duet by Cpl. Smith and LAC Powell was good relief to the more serious side of the show. Along with the regular members appearing were two guest artists, LAC Norman Spice, who entertained at the piano, and LAC Evan Prentice, a pupil pilot, who played the organ.

The Penhold R.A.F. Trio made their usual broadcast from CFCN studio, Calgary, on Friday, November 19. This was their twelfth radio programme presented in Canada, and constituted the last appearance of Harold Powell, an original member of the trio, who expects repatriation very soon. The trio have become well known in Alberta for their English variety programmes. LAC Stan Philp and LAC Alex Gibson are the other two members of the trio.



Boxing

The second Boxing Tournament of the season was held on October 18. It was evident that word had passed round of the high quality of the previous tournament, for on this Monday evening all seats were taken and the late arrivals were forced to stand.

AC Prince v. AC Page. In a sensational opening, Prince came out hitting, and in a matter of seconds Page was on the canvas and counted out. From the ringside it appeared that Page was hit low, but after medical consultation, Prince was awarded the fight on a knock-out.

AC Eaton v. LAC Rose. (Semi-final Heavy-weight Elimination Bout for the C.O.'s Cup).

Knock-outs were in vogue this evening. Eaton, after scoring with his left in Round 1, scored a technical knock-out in the second round. Despite severe punishment, Rose refused to go down and gamely, but ineffectively, endeavoured to weather the storm of blows.

AC Matthews v. AC Martin. (Light Heavy-weight). In a whirlwind bout, a terrific exchange of leather, Martin finished the winner in a close decision, but both showed scars of battle.

Cpl. Madden v. AC Williams. (Buffalo Cup). Williams started a methodical job of putting Madden down on the canvas. In the second round Williams scored the second technical knock-out of the evening. Williams was too strong for the somewhat smaller and slighter Corporal.

LAC Wilkinson v. LAC Davies. (Welter-weight). The first round was evenly matched. A technical knock-out was given to Davies in the second round. Wilkinson had shown promise and good style.

LAC Mills v. LAC Sutton. Mills was a little baffled, despite his ring knowledge, by the elusiveness of Sutton, who labelled himself a novice. Mills was awarded the decision, but Sutton, on this showing, should prove himself very useful.

Cpl. Oliphant v. AC Briggs. (Heavy-weight). This was truly a heavy-weight encounter. Briggs chased Oliphant round the ring, but in the last stages of the round Oliphant contacted and the bell saved Briggs. Briggs came out in the second round still dazed, and was knocked cold.

Sgt. Crouch v. Cpl. Jacobson. (Middle-weight championship of Alberta). The first and second rounds went to Jacobson. Crouch misguidedly tried to mix it and took a lot of punishment. In the third round Crouch came out boxing well and scored repeatedly with his left. Jacobson got a close decision.

AC Dethridge v. AC Eaton. (Final of the C.O.'s Cup). A good fight, with Dethridge giving a cool and amusing display. Dethridge, against a heavier opponent, wisely kept out of trouble, nipping in at the right moment to score enough points to win.

Prizes were presented by Group Captain Pringle, who congratulated the participants and officials on a fine display.

INTER - UNIT BOXING

Penhold representatives have appeared in tournaments at Swift Current, Pearce and Calgary. On October 28 at Swift Current, Sgt. Crouch knocked out LAC Stockdale, and LAC Winrow lost by a narrow margin of points to LAC Bass. Crouch connected repeatedly with his long left to his opponent's face, and, following with a neat right cross, put Stockdale down for the count. Winrow, giving away a few pounds and a few inches, put up an excellent show, though he was just beaten on points. The unbeaten Swift Current team

VICTORY LOAN PARADE



With a total of \$56,150 raised in the Fifth Victory Loan Campaign, 36 S.F.T.S. established a record for R.A.F. Schools in No. 4 Training Command.

is due at Penhold in December.

At Pearce, on November 3, the Penhold team consisted of AC Briggs, AC Dethridge and AC Mitchell. Briggs, making his second appearance in the ring, was opposed by LAC Hanson from No. 15 S.F.T.S. Briggs was fit, and had Hanson guessing throughout the third round, and won on points by a good margin. Dethridge was knocked out by F/Sgt. Harrington, from Lethbridge. The "Chieffe" soon had "Maxie" on the canvas, but the latter was up again after a count of seven, only to go down again for the "out." Mitchell fought gamely for two rounds against LAC Campbell, of Calgary, before the referee stopped the fight, declaring Campbell the winner.

On Thursday, November 11, two of our Boxing team travelled to No. 37 S.F.T.S., Calgary. AC George (Penhold) fought Cpl. Jacobson (37 S.F.T.S.), who got going immediately the first round started, and in both the first and second rounds scored repeatedly with his left, but George remained quite undisturbed. In the third round, George, realising he was behind in points, came out fighting, and with left and right hooks had Jacobson shaken, winning this round with a wide margin. Jacobson, however, gained a win by what must have been a narrow margin. The spectators showed their appreciation of a grand fight and it seemed minutes before the applause subsided.

LAC Winrow (Penhold) was matched against AC Pennell (37 S.F.T.S.). In the first round, a clever display of boxing was seen, but half-way through the second round Winrow pulled a sinew in his shoulder and was forced to retire. Penhold lost both fights but gained plenty of popularity from the two matches fought.

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS—See "Editor's Gen" if you want to receive a Christmas present, or send Christmas Greetings to Chiefy or the old man.

Application for Posting

NO. 826444 A.C.1 Smith S. had just returned from leave in the States. He arrived back at his billet at 1230 hours; the hut was empty and he was glad because this gave him time to transfer his small kit from his suitcase, to go through his pockets and to adjust his thoughts quietly but painfully to a return to routine. Normally a thrifty lad, Smith admitted he'd been a bit extravagant, and now he was "broke," without even a cigarette.

And so necessity and the elusive Lady Nicotine lured his fingers to that little pocket inside the right flap of his tunic, reserved by Air Ministry in their wisdom for a Field Dressing, but reserved by A.C.1 Smith, in his wisdom, for "dog-ends" and such a time as this. He discovered two perfect specimens. One he tossed carelessly on the bed, but the other he held reverently in the palm of his hand and gazed at it spellbound as though it was a symbol of crystallised happiness. And so it was, for one end was lightly charred, the other was tipped with—crimson.

Then Smith said a strange thing which had no connection with cigarettes—"And now, Penhold, my Gawd!!"

At this crucial moment in barged Nobby Clarke, Pincher Martin and Jock Gow, to the tune of "You'll get no promotion, etc., etc."

"Whatcher Smudger, have a good binge?" cried Martin, slapping Smith on the back with gusto. "Looks as though you've bin to a funeral, you ole scrounger."

"Penhold's my ruddy funeral," grunted Smith.

"You ain't 'erd nothing yet, Smudger," laughed Clarke. "Tiny Small's in the digger for saying 'Rowlocks' to a Sergeant; C.O.'s parade s'afternoon, kit inspection tomorrow, short-arm Saturday and we go on Centralised Maintenance next week. Talk abaht round and round went that ruddy great wheel. Wot a life!!" All laughed heartily at this crack, except Smith.

"What's on yer mind," asked Jock, with a wink, and then Smith opened his heart and told them, in these words.

"It was like this 'ere. Second day in New York I met a popsie, the sorta bint ya cry for—blonde, blue eyes and a come-hither look. Wot a figger!!—not too big, not too small, just right. Talk abaht pin-ups, Ha! They got nothing on her. Her ole man owns a fleet of taxis, got pots of dough and my tart told me in confidence the ole boy took a likin' to me and would like to see more of me."

"Well, go down in yer bathing suit, or do a strip tease next time, Smudge," twitted a voice on the outskirts of the throng rudely, but Smith didn't hear this remark or the suggestion that it was risky at 40 below, and continued, "Chance of a lifetime—wish I wasn't so d— far away."

"Why don't yer put in an application and get posted to Hamilton, then you could pop down on a bike," suggested Jock.

"That's an idea—but wot grounds have I got," grunted Smudger.

"Grounds!" said Nobby, "we can make some grounds for ya."

"Yus, s'right," agreed a voice in the crowd; "it's yer rights, Smudger; every man can see his C.O., and if he isn't satisfied, see the A.O.C., and then if he likes he can go the ole 'og and give Air Ministry a shake-up. Why, I can remember a bloke got posted 'ome cos 'is ole dog was pining for 'im; mind, the C.O. was easy, though."

"P'raps that tart's pinin' fer yer," urged the same voice that had suggested nudity to Smith, but cries of "Pipe down" restored the meeting to normal, and serious business was resumed.

"Aven't yer a long lost Aunt somewhere in the States a'dying to see yer, Smithy?" asked Nobby. Smudger pondered. "Come to think of it, I 'erd the ole man say one of 'is step-sisters ran away to America before 'e was born."

"That's a good point, Smudger; blood's thicker than water," prompted Pincher. And then a quiet voice said, "And what about the Good Neighbour policy, urged by the Prime Minister himself, who also married an American? It's an excellent investment for the Empire—every husband a potential

ambassador you know, Smith, and after all, the future must be considered."

"Make a note of that, Smudger," commanded Jock.

"Guess you got a stone ginger case, Smithy—they can't refuse; more than they dare do. Why, you could write to John Bull and he'd be round to see Archy Sinclair like greased lightning."

The certainty of this last statement, its immense scope, its illimitable possibilities, decided the course of action for A.C.1 Smith. His future loomed as bright as Broadway.

"I'll bung in an application tomorrow, I think," he said.

"Do it now, Smudge, wotcher waiting for?" cried a small chorus.

"Well, I ain't much of a fist at applications—always get 'em slung out by the Adj' before I can give the ole man the works," hedged Smith.

Pincher Martin winked knowingly. "Wot yer wants to do is just make out yer application to see the ole man for private reasons, then keep yer reasons up yer sleeve. When yer gets on the mat play yer trump card, then yer got the old man where you want 'im, see? Get some paper—I'll show yer."

So, after five pages had been wasted and the fellow with the Oxford accent finally co-opted, the application was born, read aloud a dozen times, and agreed by all to be a masterpiece, a free warrant to God's Own Country, an ultimatum, a talisman.

And so, at 1500 hours the same afternoon, the O.C. Wing received A.C.1 Smith to the tune of the time-honoured:

"Sir,

"I, No. 826444 A.C.1 Smith, S., respectfully request the favour of an interview for private reasons.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient Servant."

and when asked his reasons, Smudger produced his trump card with a "get a load of this" expression, and the C.O. read as follows:

"Sir. I earnestly request immediate posting to Hamilton for the following reasons:

(i) My Aunt, who lives alone in Carolina, is in failing health and my father is anxious that I should be near her to assist and comfort her in her declining years.

(ii) My fiancée's father, who resides in Chicago, is awaiting his call-up and feels that I should be near to look after his motor transport business.

(iii) Further, close co-operation with the United States is being sponsored by the Government, and every man that marries an American girl is acting as an unofficial ambassador.

In the circumstances stated above it will be appreciated if my posting East may be approved.

Thanking you in anticipation, etc."

At 1700 hours A.C.1 Smith returned to the hut and described to the same little crowd such moments of the interview as he could recall, in these words:

"It was like this 'ere. 'E asked me all about my aunt and got me flummucksed. Then 'e asked me 'ow many times I'd been to the States and o' course I'd only bin once, last week, so 'e said I was a quick worker, taking over the ole man's business so soon. Then 'e said the British Government, regardless of expense, 'ad engaged a Mr. 'Alifax as ambassador and if I could arrange a swop with 'im 'e would reconsider the application. Then, 'aughty like, he ses, 'A very interesting submission, Smith, but I can only approve posting on the grounds of acute distress or financial hardship—Good-day, Smith—and me broke to the ruddy wide."

And so A.C. Smith felt in his pocket, produced and lit the dog-end with the crimson tip and, when the cigarette almost burnt his lips, threw the end away murmuring, "Good-bye to all that."

"CRYSTAL GAZER"

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CHRISTMAS PRESENTS—See "Editor's Gen" if you want to receive a Christmas present, or send Christmas Greetings to Chiefy or the old man.

Editor's Gen

The Christmas number of the "Log" will be published for the first of the Christmas pay parades. This means that all material for this number must be received not later than Wednesday, December 8, a week earlier than usual. Will all regular contributors please note—and remember—this date.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

A section of the December number will be devoted to the distribution of verbal Christmas presents. The idea is that each present should be devised as a joke against the recipient. Thus George, who after many weeks has grown a singularly anaemic moustache, might be presented with a bottle of moustache tonic . . . or a razor. The joke should be as personal as possible. Within the ordinary limits of gentlemanly behaviour, no cracks are barred, and the AC2 may present significant gifts to his superior officers and N.C.O.s (where discretion is advisable, the donor will remain anonymous; for instance, the erk who might feel like presenting a binding Flight Commander with a starting handle and a set of chocks is entitled to conceal his identity). All sections are asked to send in a list of suitable Christmas presents to the Editor not later than December 8. The real name or a pseudonym of the honor should be given. This chance of taking the you-know-what out of all and sundry will not be repeated.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The contributions situation is as poor as ever, and no cinema pass prizes are awarded this month. Christmas material is urgently needed—Christmas stories with a local or service angle, cartoons with a Christmas theme, and so on. They must be received not later than December 8. Free cinema passes for January will be awarded for suitable material which should be delivered to the Editor, F/Lt. W. H. Thomas, at "B" Flight Commander's office, or the Officers' Mess.

PHOTO SECTION

We are indebted to Miss Ethel Knight and Mr. Lloyd Harmon, of Banff, for the use of the ski-ing photographs which appear in this month's centre page insert. We are also indebted to F/O J. Ismay who collected the ski-ing information which appears in this month's issue, and which we know to be comprehensive and reliable gen.

NEWS FROM HOME

Owing to pressure of space, it has been necessary to hold over the "News From Home" feature until next month.

STATION CINEMA

Programme for December 1943

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2nd—

"MISTER V"

Leslie Howard

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th and 5th—

"BOMBARDIER"

Pat O'Brien, Randolph Scott and Anne Shirley

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7th—

"THE YOUNGEST PROFESSION"

Virginia Weidler, E. Arnold and Guests

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9th—

"MY FRIEND FLICKA"

Roddy McDowall and Preston Foster

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th and 12th—

"CHARLEY'S AUNT"

Jack Benny and Kay Francis

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14th—

"JOHNNY COME LATELY"

James Cagney and Grace George

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16th—

"THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER"

Monty Woolley and Bette Davis

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th and 19th—

SQUADRON LEADER "X"

Eric Portman and Beatrice Varley

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21st—

"TRUE TO LIFE"

Mary Martin and Franchot Tone

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23rd—

"100 MEN AND A GIRL"

Deanna Durbin and Stokowski

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25th and 26th—

TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28th—

"CRASH DIVE"

Tyrone Power and Anne Baxter

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30th—

"MAJOR BARBARA"

Wendy Hiller and Robert Morley