



# NEWSLETTER 181

Nov 2007



**Bill Briercliffe 1929-2007**

## DEBRIEFING

Our November meeting took place on a sad day for Prairie Command. Earlier in the day about 15 club members attended Bill Briercliffe's funeral in Transcona. Our meeting at the Air Force Museum that evening was largely made up of the executive to discuss necessary changes in the club's future. As of Bill's passing, Don Trueman will assume the position of treasurer which in years gone by had been joint with secretary. This task had been divided between Bill and Don as secretary also assumed the newsletter editorship. For corporate reasons we also needed a third signature for banking purposes and this will be vice-president Derk Derin.

The annual dinner has been setup for Sunday the 2nd of December. We have a new venue but the same great

caterer. The dinner will be held at Shooters Golf Course on North Main St in Winnipeg. The cost of the meal is fifteen dollars, and the club will cover the gratuity.

Derk will be calling around for commitment and please remember that if you do sign up, we are obligated to make good if you don't show up! Watch for details and call if you have questions. And speaking of annual events, how about this as a great opportunity to bring next years club dues with you...\$20. Derk and Don are standing by!

Up for discussion again is the day on which we hold our meetings. Several have expressed interest in Sunday meets, afternoon and evening possibilities. Speaking on behalf of Sundays, it might be easier for many of us to get out our mv's for the meeting

(summer time of course, but then we don't have summer meets per se). Or informal rallies scheduled for Sunday AM's...

## NEXT MEETING

The dinner in December will be in lieu of a meeting so the next club meeting will be Monday, January 2008 at the 17 Wing museum where we have been invited to continue for the future. We will be having other meeting venues for variety, however a steady home is a nice base to work from. Mike Wolter has been able to secure this semi-permanent arrangement for us and a fine thanks to Mike.

## EVENTS

☛ Christmas Dinner at Shooters Golf Course Sunday, December 2nd.

## DISPATCHES

Club was asked to provide several vehicles for a movie shoot in Winnipeg. Bill Spence and Don Trueman provided their mounts and are driving same dressed as War 2 US soldiers. Man those old uniforms are small...we start at 15:30 hrs and closed (wrapped!) at 21:30 without doing anything but getting outfitted and some free food! Day two should be busier!

And speaking of movies, our entertainment division, Ed James is moving well along with the USO shows. Ed has run into vehicle safety inspection problems with a request to either move the muffler from under the passenger seat of his jeep, or put some sort of heat shield between it and the

**President:** Jeff Helps 204 837-3166 **Vice President:** Derk Derin 204 388-4557 **Secretary/Treasurer:** Bill Briercliffe 204 224-0618  
**Members at large:** Bill Spence 204 837-7706; Doug Young 204 895-1618 **Past President:** Gord Falk 204 326-1933  
**Editor:** Don Trueman 204 832-2857 [truemand@sbl.ca](mailto:truemand@sbl.ca) [truemand@mts.net](mailto:truemand@mts.net) **Correspondence:** 4807 Roblin Blvd Winnipeg Mb R3R 0G2  
**Email:** [prairiecommand@hotmail.com](mailto:prairiecommand@hotmail.com) **WEBSITE:** [www.prairiecommand.com](http://www.prairiecommand.com)



**Lights, Camera, Action! "Rock" Spencer and "Skip" Trueman pose on the set of "The Hessian Affair"**

body tub. He's now armed with enough spec. and photo evidence of the original configuration to get it grandfathered thru. Ed again reminds us he wants your 78 rpm's of Vera Lynne and Glenn Miller. (What about Guy Lombardo Ed?)

## **REMEMBERING BILL** - by Don Trueman

Our good friend and long serving member of Prairie Command passed away October 29. Bill had been in poor health for a while but was determined to carry on with the many activities he enjoyed and including his battle to keep his CN locomotive in Transcona. He always wanted us to use his establishment for our club meetings and even when his medical treatments left him fragile and unable to attend, still had the door open for us.

I always marveled that Bill could still handle his motorbike these later years. Someone else would get it going then Bill was back in the saddle! This last Transcona Hi Neighbour parade Bill had downsized a bit but still took the lead. And one of his last projects was to disassemble the gearbox of the bike to replace a broken crescent key.

Jeff Helps and I met with Bill and Joyce at the beginning of October to get signing privileges at the bank for Jeff. Bill was still in good spirit and interested in all we're doing. If Bill ever had any hard words, all I can recall are "gosh darned".

We had a good chuckle over how the rail embankment at Union Station had collapsed due to heavy rain, and it may have foiled the Museum folks plan to take Bill's locomotive from Transcona! I asked Bill if he could do fires and earthquakes too! Seems that the coincidence had not gone unnoticed by the family.

Bill's family asked PC to provide an MV to take Bill's bike to

the Church service and on to the Cemetery. It was a privilege for Prairie Command to be so honoured.

The club received a \$100 donation from Bill's family, in his memory. We will all miss Bill.

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

First and foremost I would like to thank those of you who were able to attend Bill's memorial service. While I have not been in the club that long I was very pleased that Bill's family allowed us to share in the tribute. Special thanks to Don Trueman who braved the first blasts of winter on the jeep drive from his home to Transcona as well as during the procession towing Bill's Harley on a trailer. He did however recognize that there can be too much of a good thing and so we tow-barred it back home.

On behalf of the Club I sent the following letter to Bill's wife.

*"Dear Joyce and family*

*Once again on behalf of all Prairie Command members, I would like to express our condolences at your loss. Bill was well liked and respected and his service to the club as treasurer was very much appreciated. I did a search through our newsletter archive and found that Bill had been a member since 1991, and from that point on, often hosted club meetings at the funeral chapel. I recall fondly that shortly after I joined the club you and Bill hosted an excellent club Christmas dinner at the funeral home. In fact I think it was my first club event where my wife and I got to meet most of the members. The train that runs around the room was a special treat!*

*Many members have asked me to express to you how important it was to be able to pay our respects to Bill through active participation in the service and how very special it was to be able to provide the jeep to tow Bill's motorcycle. As I look through our club photo album I see that Bill's memory will always be inseparably linked to the Harley.*

*I would also like to thank you for the kind donation to the club. I'm certain you realize that it was not necessary, just as certain as I am that you are happy to have done so. It will be put to good use in some manner to support the club activities.*

*Again on behalf of us all I offer our regrets and should you ever need any assistance you need only call any number of club members and they will be there in short order to help."*

As the year comes to an end, I would like to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season and the best for the New Year. I hope to be able to express this in person at the Christmas Dinner on the 2nd of December.