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I.O.D.E. Fifty Years Old

THIS IS A MEMORABLE DAY in the history of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire because it is the fiftieth Anniversary of its founding. As Mrs. Frank P. McCurdy, National President of the I.O.D.E., says, the order can look back over the past fifty years with pardonable pride that it has courageously faced heavy duties and responsibilities and written in service to humanity a story that will long be remembered.

The I.O.D.E. is a voluntary, patriotic, non-sectarian, non-political, philanthropic organization. Its stirring motto "One Flag, One Throne, One Empire," has burned like a flame in the hearts of its members in this Dominion since the dawn of the twentieth century. It was the realization of the dream of a Scottish woman, Margaret Polson Murray (Mrs. J. Clark Murray), wife of a professor at McGill University, Montreal, who envisioned an organization of women's and children's chapters in every city and town of Canada and of other parts of the Empire, federated in Municipal, Provincial and National Chapters for service to King and Country and for the promotion of a better understanding among the peoples of the British Empire. Mrs. Murray's vision has indeed been realized.

The I.O.D.E. has no paid officers. Its work is the voluntary effort of public spirited women who pledge true allegiance to the Crown and who are serving their country faithfully and well.

Possibly in no place in Canada is the work of the I.O.D.E. more splendidly exemplified than right here in Prince Rupert where today, as in the past, many patriotic and hard working women are engaged in its activities.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

HEARTS AND FLOWERS, love and kisses, are pretty weak Valentine's Day fare.

Weak, that is, compared to February 14 goings-on in years long past. For Valentine's Day has been celebrated—in some form or other—since Roman times.

What began as a pagan festival in Rome, honoring no saint at all and certainly not the good Valentine, was gradually changed in Christian centuries—so the story goes—into a feast of love and goodwill.

The beginnings of this long-lived custom are rather uncertain. There seems to have been no fewer than eight saints called Valentine.

Historians, however, have settled on one of the eight as being most closely connected with the day. This is the St. Valentine, who was beheaded in Rome February 14, 270 A.D., during the reign of Claudius II. He died at Rome's Flaminium Gate.

It is believed his death coincided with the Roman pagan festival of Lupercalia, observed on February 15. Love entered the picture even then. The day, in honor of Jan and Juno, gave Roman youths a chance to pick lots for their sweethearts of the coming year.

That's the historical background. Legend has proceeded to weave other stories around the name of the good St. Valentine.

It is said he was a matchmaker, that he defied an emperor's decree against marriage by Roman soldiers and secretly heard the marriage vows of young lovers. For this, it is said, he was thrown into prison and subsequently beheaded.

Legend also holds that St. Valentine was a friend of his jailer's daughter and that before he died he wrote her a letter, signing it—as young lovers do today—"from your Valentine."



MANTZ CLAIMS NEW SPEED TITLE — Famed speed pilot Paul Mantz is shown at a New York airport after setting a new unofficial transcontinental record for conventional, piston-driven planes by flying from California to New York in a reported four hours, 53 minutes and 17 seconds. If Mantz's claim that he has broken the existing record of five hours and five seconds is sustained he will

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY—

Daughters Of Empire Are Well And Usefully Organized Here

(By MRS. J. A. TENG)

(Written in connection with the Fiftieth Anniversary Observance)

The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, better known as the I. O. D. E., was founded on February 13, 1900, by Mrs. Clark Murray of Montreal who envisioned an organization of women's and children's chapters in every city and town of Canada and of the British Empire. The I. O. D. E. is a voluntary, patriotic, non-sectarian, non-political, philanthropic organization. Its motto is "One Flag, One Throne, One Empire." During the past 50 years the Order has made steady progress and now has a membership in Canada, from Prince Edward Island to the Yukon, of more than 32,000 women in 930 chapters.

With a program designed to stimulate patriotism, foster unity within the British Commonwealth and Empire, assist the youth in Canada by furthering their education, cherish the memory of their heroic deeds, forward every good work for the betterment of their country and people and develop high standards of citizenship, the I. O. D. E. has progressed along lines represented by the following major departments: Education, War Memorials, Child and Family Welfare, Ex-Service Personnel, Empire Information, Immigration and Canadianization, Films, War-time and Post War Services, Bursaries and Scholarships are awarded to children of service personnel of both the First and Second Great Wars.

The first chapter in Prince Rupert was organized in 1910 by the late Mrs. H. F. Du Vernet and was named after the then Queen Mary. Its motto being "Loyalty to the Order." This chapter has done and is still doing a great work. They have as their adopted schools "Borden St. School" in Prince Rupert, "Elementary School and High School" at Terrace, the "Queen Mary Ward" in the Prince Rupert General Hospital is maintained by this chapter. Monthly donations are given to the Civic Centre and many branches of work, too numerous to mention are carried on by this chapter.

The Langemark Chapter was formed in 1914. This was a junior chapter. They later changed their name to "Girl Guides Chapter" and did a great amount of work until they disbanded. The "Hill 60" chapter was formed in 1915 and named after the "Battle of Hill 60." The members of this chapter did a wonderful work and only recently disbanded. The "Adair Carss" chapter was formed December 13, 1917, and was named after Lt. Adair Carss, young Prince Rupert barrister who was killed at Vimy Ridge in the first Great War. They took as their motto "Lest We Forget." One of their projects was the upkeep and caring for the Returned Soldiers' Plot in Fairview Cemetery. After the chapter disbanded this work was taken over by the Queen Mary Chapter. The Prince Rupert Municipal Chapter was formed on February 10, 1919. This Chapter has jurisdiction over all the other chapters. Its motto is "Unity

and Loyalty." The Municipal chapter has established a scholarship fund and presents a \$100 Bursary each year to the student ranking highest in the Graduation Class of Booth Memorial High School. This bursary was won last year by Kenneth Laurie, who is now furthering his education in the south.

When Adair Carss Chapter disbanded in 1932, the "Hill 60" chapter, having a large membership, decided that half of their members would form a new chapter to be named "Cambrai" after the battle of Cambrai, taking for their motto: "By Faith—Not by Force of Arms." This chapter is still in existence and doing good work. Another Junior chapter was formed in 1944. This chapter was named "Galloway Rapids" but was later changed to "H. M. C. S. Haida," a proud native name. The young girls of this chapter are striving to keep that record of high standard in all their work.

The last chapter to be formed in Prince Rupert was the "Duchess of Edinburgh," the nucleus members being overseas War Brides. They selected as their motto "Second to None," and they are living up to this motto. All the chapters have adopted families overseas and send food parcels regularly. Replies have been received from recipients of these parcels and it is heartening to hear how these gifts are appreciated. The members of the I. O. D. E. in Prince Rupert are proud to belong to such an organization and on their fiftieth Anniversary are pledging themselves anew to live up to our obligation—to be of service to God, King and Country.

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An Abridged History Of Queen Mary Chapter I. O. D. E.

(By MRS. D. C. STUART)

Queen Mary Chapter, Prince Rupert, one of the six first I. O. D. E. Chapters in Canada, was organized in 1910 and named after the beloved Queen Mother. It received its Charter in January 1911.

The first task of the Chapter was the furnishing of a ward called the Queen Mary Ward in the newly built General Hospital which ward has been maintained in first class condition throughout the years and this year is being completely refurbished.

In 1912, two lots were purchased from the Provincial Government, which were later turned over to Municipal Chapter on which lots a Hall was erected. Queen Mary Chapter contributed towards the building and its maintenance. Two years ago, as the building had outlived its usefulness, it was sold, the Chapter receiving its share of the proceeds of the sale which are being used for educational and other I. O. D. E. work.

During World War I, the Chapter raised over \$4000 towards the equipping of the old steamer Prince George as a hospital ship. After the formation of the Red Cross in Prince Rupert the Chapter worked in co-operation with them in their varied war activities.

The Chapter took part in the nation-wide registration of manpower in June 1918 and also participated in the raising of \$3567 for Belgian relief and contributed huge hampers of clothing for the people of the devastated areas in Europe.

During World War II, there was a large increase in membership and activity. Several groups of ladies, not members of the Order, worked for the Chapter, turning out enormous quantities of clothing, both

knitted and sewn, for distribution to the bombed-out victims of Britain.

Supplies were sent to Poland. Large quantities of field comforts were also made by the members.

The Chapter raised large sums of money and contributed generously to all the National Funds.

They also contributed to the Provincial "Spitfire" Fund and shared in the adoption of the brigate H. M. C. S. Prince Rupert.

Busy War Days
Prince Rupert being a strategic point of defence and also a sub-port of embarkation for the U. S. forces, thousands of both Canadian and U. S. forces were stationed here and hundreds of them were entertained in the homes of the members of the Chapter who also acted as chaperones for the dances held by the Y. M. C. A.

The Chapter contributed generously to the Service Libraries Fund and also provided books for the troops stationed in barracks adjacent to Prince Rupert.

By request the Chapter held a "tag" day for the Chinese War Relief at which over \$700 was raised.

The members also canvassed for the Auxiliary Services Drive and did their part in the distribution of ration books.

Educational work has always high-lighted the Chapter's activities. Bursaries, prizes, calendars, magazines etc. have been given. Four schools have been adopted and libraries and pictures presented to them.

The Chapter has taken part in the observance of all patriotic days and also in Intercession Day Church parade. For many years the Chapter had a thriving Brownie Pack. In 1938 the Chapter received through the kindness of Her Excellency Lady Tweedsmuir, two books from Her Majesty Queen Mary to be given as prizes to an adopted school.

The Chapter raised \$1550 for the "Second War Memorial Fund."

In 1932 the Chapter assumed the responsibility of the care of the Order, worked for the "Soldier's Plot" in the local cemetery. Markers for the graves are pro-

vided by the Chapter and a leading part is taken by the members in the annual observance of Decoration Day.

Many Activities

Under its Child and Family Welfare work the Chapter works for and contributes to the local Civic Centre.

The Chapter assisted in raising funds for the Canadian Institute for the Blind.

The Chapter also sponsored a Junior Chapter "H. M. C. S. Haida" which was organized in 1944.

Empire Study has been taken up by the Chapter since 1938. During the war the Chapter had addresses at their monthly meetings by the various heads of the armed forces and war services stationed here.

During the years much money has been raised and has been contributed to all the projects of the National Chapter as well as to our own Provincial Cancer Fund.

The Chapter is still in a very healthy condition and many new and young members have been added to the roll to replace the old timers, many of whom have left the city, become inactive or passed away.

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