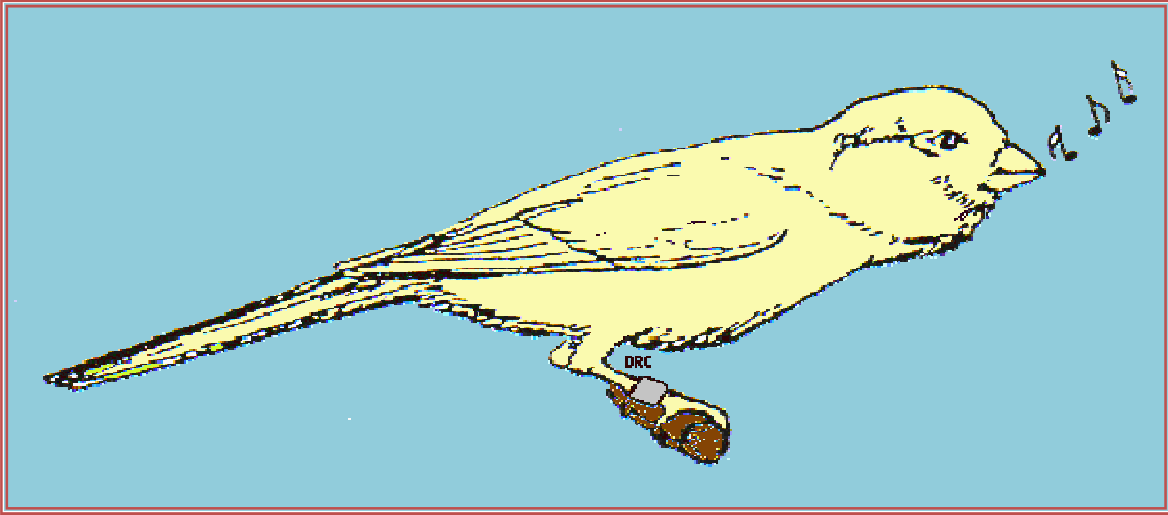


The Dominion

Roller Canary News

Canada

~ Roller Canary ~ Bred for Song ~



December 2009
65th Anniversary Edition

The Dominion Roller Canary News | 65th Year | 1944 - 2009

Published by the Dominion Roller Canary Association Inc., 1934
Serving the Roller Canary fancy for Seventy Five Years
Composed of affiliated Roller Canary Clubs of Canada

The DRC News is published in Canada four times per year. The intention is to advance, protect, and encourage the breeding and showing of Roller Canaries. The "News" is the main source of information for Roller Canary enthusiasts. Opinions expressed in DRC News, might not always reflect the spirit of the Dominion Roller Canary Association, its constitution, or its' Executive.

~ DRC News Contact ~	
DRC News Editor & Producer	<i>Kent Donnelly ~ 2009</i>
~ DRC News Website ~	http://www.germanroller.com

The D.R.C. News

65th Year

December 2009

Winter Edition



On behalf of the DRCA Executive, I wish to thank you for your continued support and offer my sincere wish that all of you will enjoy the very best of all that this season has to offer,

Kent Donnelly

2009 Hamilton Roller Canary Show

The 2009 show was once again held at the Brampton Fairgrounds in conjunction with CACC, CFSS and the American Singer clubs.

I can sincerely say the Show was a smashing success. We had 31 teams in the show. Again we welcomed Farid and Aziz from Quebec -always a colourful addition to the show.

This was our 2nd year at this location, and things went a little smoother than the year before. (We are willing to learn).

We welcomed Faye and Ken Campbell, also Lee and Jake Molenaar at the show. Their help was really appreciated. Faye and Lee manned the table at the door to check the visitors.

Naturally all the regulars (you know who you are) pitched in. It was a well run show.

Thanks to All.

Also, it was a real pleasure to welcome Linda Hogan to Canada and our Show. Linda was under the weather, but she carried on and finished the show.

After the show she held a seminar on Roller Canaries and it was well received. Many questions were asked. Due to time restrains we had to cut the session short. (Had to catch a plane).

Thank you Linda.

Peter Jaehrling
Show Manager

P.S.

The Show results will be sent separately (by Lettermail). I tried to send it by email, but no luck. I'd blame it on the computer, but it's probably just my fault.



HAMILTON ROLLER CANARY CLUB



SHOW RESULTS

"2009 Judge Linda Hogan"

Class #1 Master Breeder Young Bird.

	Band No.	Points
#1 N. Pratarina	38	56
#2 N. -11-	28	55
#3 N. -11-	43	53

Class #2 Champion Breeder All Young Birds.

	Band No.	Points
#1 P. Runtas	10	49
#2 -11-	21	46
#3 -11-	8	44

Class #3 Amateur Breeder Young Bird.

	Band No.	Points
#1		
#2 NO ENTRY		
#3		

Class #4 Novice Breeder All Young Birds.

	Band No.	Points
#1 H' mda	93	46
#2 Aziz	19	40
#3 Aziz	17	34

Class #5 Four Bird Young Team in One Cabinet

	Band No.	Points
#1 A. Schlott		178
#2 R. Rouden		175
#3 P. Runtas		174

Class #6 Master & Champion Old Bird

	Band No.	Points
#1 R. Rouden	01	54
#2 N. Pratarina	03	50
#3 A. Schlott	805	49

Class #7 Amateur & Novice Breeder Old Bird

	Band No.	Points
#1 Aziz	721	37
#2 Aziz	704	36
#3 Aziz	735	35

Class #8 Master & Champion Two Bird Team

	Band No.	Points
#1 N. Pratarina	38/25	99
#2 A. Schlott	805/933	96
#3 A. Schlott	805/819	93

Class #9 Amateur & Novice Two Bird Team

	Band No.	Points
#1		
#2 all entries Class # 8		
#3		

Best Old Bird In Show

	Band No.	Points
R. Rouden	01	54

Best Young Bird In Show

	Band No.	Points
N. Pratarina	38	56

"TOUR SPECIAL AWARDS"

TOUR	WINNERS NAME	BAND #	POINTS
HOLLOW ROLL	N. Pratarina	61	11°
BASS ROLL	P. Runtas	10	11
WATER GLUCKE	R. Rouden	32	6
GLUCKE ROLL	R. Rouden	735	7
GLUCKE	N. Pratarina	38	6
SCHOCKEL	R. Rouden	25	7
HOLLOW BELL	A. Schlott	805	6°
WATER ROLL	R. Rouden	39	5

N. Pratarina

Breeder Status 2009

Master Breeder	Champion Breeder
N. Pratarina	C. Vardy 1WIN
A. Schlott	P. Runtas 1WIN
R. Rouden	Amateur
P. Yearling	Fulvia
K. Campbell	P. Merineau 1WIN
	M. Dart 1WIN
	J. Bridon
	H' mda

Show Announcement

FOR PRESS RELEASE

The Fifth Annual Song Contest of the Western Roller Canary Association which is being hosted by the Southern California Roller Canary Club is being held in Riverside, California from January 6th through January 9th, 2010 at the Cornerstone Baptist Church, 6021 Limonite Avenue.

All Roller Canaries bearing a closed band from a recognized Roller Canary Club are welcome and will be accepted starting at 2:00 pm, January 5th continuing until 7:00 pm on January 6th. If you ship birds in, please contact the Show Manager, Roberto Andrade, Phone 951-907-6748 or Email: tripleArealty@msn.com and advise him of the flight number and arrival time for your birds.

It is expected that this song contest will be very large, if not the largest, Roller Canary Contest in America for 2009 birds.

If you have any questions, please contact Roberto Andrade at the above phone or email numbers or the undersigned:

**Paul R. Scandlyn, President
Western Roller Canary Association
449 S 12th Avenue
Cornelius, Oregon 97113-6815**

**Phone: 503-357-7253
Email: pscandlyn@mac.com**



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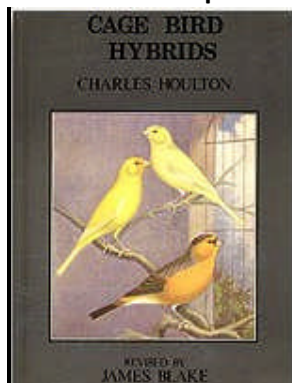
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Merger

December 6, 2009

On this day, a meeting in Quebec was held in order to discuss the merger of all DRCA affiliated clubs within in the Province of Quebec.

During this event, the members and executive of these clubs voted in favour of the merger proposal and also ruled in favour of using the existing club name The Canary Noble Roller Club of Quebec "Club Canaris Noble Roller du Québec" as the name of the newly merged club. The new executive officers of this club were also elected at this time and their names are as follows:

Richard Verret	(DA :11)	Président
Alain Deslongchamps	(DA :44)	Vice Président
Jacques Bragdon	(DA :45)	Secrétaire Trésorier

A discussion based on using the 3-6-9 song standard ensued whereby it was agreed by "Club Canaris Noble Roller du Québec" to use this scoring system for their shows. Use of this song standard lies within accordance with verbal agreements that were made with the DRCA executive prior to the December 6, 2009 meeting. Thus, the DRCA has agreed to allow this system of scoring to become an official method of scoring contests in Canada.

This was done to ensure that owners of "four tour" birds can enter their birds in a contest that will reflect the point system that these birds were bred to be judged under. The original 100 point system will still apply to any club wishing to use that system and any club in Canada can at any time choose to change whichever system of judging that they intend to use at future shows. All that is required is to make known to the DRC news editor of the full particulars of your show, including your preference for whichever point system you will use. All shows are best announced early in order to ensure that people have time to prepare ahead of time. As the editor, I ask that this be no later than May of each year in order to have time for your show announcement to be published beginning with no later than the Summer edition of the News. This is because these announcements will likely not be of any use to anyone that first discovers show dates and locations from reading the Fall issue. Also, November is far too late for most people to begin training birds or to make any travel plans.

The Quebec Show

I am happy to announce that the new Quebec club has already begun to make plans for their first show in the fall of 2010. In the following email messages, confirmation is given by David Bopp confirming that he will

Judge the show under the 3-6-9 system:

Bonjour

j'ai une tres bonne nouvelle, la confirmation de David Bopp pour le concours de montréal, voici la traduction de son email.

Farid, je serais très heureux de juger de votre 13 novembre et 14, 2010 le show à Montréal. La fiche de chant allemande est tres bonne, j'ai déjà utilisé avant lorsque j'ai jugé à New York City.

From: Boppfarms
Date: Fri, 18 Dec 2009 19:15:23 -0500
Subject: Re: Contest

Farid, I would be most happy to judge your Nov 13 & 14, 2010 show in Montreal. The German score sheet is fine; I've used it before when judging in New York City.

The DRCA executives have also agreed to amend its constitutional bylaws in order to officially reflect upon the verbal promise of sanctioning the use of either song standard. Changes to the constitution will be posted online in our members' area, as they are made.

All those in attendance at the Quebec meeting are named as follows:

Richard Verret	(DA :11)	Président
Alain Deslongchamps	(DA :44)	Vice président
Jacques Bragdon	(DA :45)	Secrétaire Trésorier
H'mida Bouharira	(DA :36)	Membre
Pierre Merineau	(DA :37)	Membre
Farid Djouder	(DA :43)	Membre
Aziz Abdassamad	(DA :41)	Membre
Tony Tavares	(DA :53)	Membre

For those of you who wish to know more about the song standards that we will use, I have provided the following articles in this issue to give an explanation of an earlier 3-6-9 system as opposed to our 100 point system as well as a brief explanation of the changes that were made to the 3-6-9 in order to update you with the system in use today.

Our 100 point Song sheet

Our 100 point system was developed to reflect the scale of points we award to multi-tour Rollers. It is also known as the British system of scoring because it was used in Great Britain to award points for Glucke strains that the British were famous for breeding and developing. This system allows additional points when birds sing more than one of the different Glucke tours. This is unlike the 3-6-9 system of scoring in Germany (where there is only one column for scoring Glucke).

The reasons for using two different systems are really quite simple. Germans do not breed for Glucke because they feel it is an inferior sound. In fact, they will happily breed all of the Glucke out of their birds in order to improve the sound of their four main tours. When they first singled out their four main tours, they chose Schockel as one of those tours. In all, they were: Hollow Roll, Hollow Bell, Bass Roll and Schockel. If the bird failed to sing ALL of those primary tours, then the judge would not score them on any other (secondary) tours that they sang. Well, that system did not last because there was a problem with it that many fanciers could not accept. It had to do with the fact that many fine Rollers that did not sing Schockel, were being eliminated from breeding. This also meant that only those that were of the Schockel strains would be bred for the shows. Many great (non-Schockel) Roller strains were eliminated because of this. Eventually, they decided that this was harmful to their cause and they chose to use Flute as one of the four primary tours. This was very wise because every Roller should sing this tour as well as the other three. Also, by eliminating Schockel as a required primary tour, the other valuable (non Schockel) strains could also be bred for song. The article that follows this one explains the system of scoring when Schockel was still considered as one of the four primary tours.

When it was written, its author (Bill Lamy) was still judging under the British 100 point system. In later years, the 3-6-9 system was adopted in Great Britain and they also used Schockel as a secondary tour.

Today, the four main tours are: Hollow Roll, Hollow Bell, Bass Roll and Flute. Instead of a 30 point maximum we now have a 27 point maximum. When you think of it, the Roller first became famous for the quality of sound heard in these four main tours and not for the knocking sound you hear in any of the Glucke tours. Furthermore, the quality of the song in German "Flute" strains improved when they bred the "Glucke" out of them. Similarly, the quality of Flute tours diminished in the Glucke strain multi-tour birds that were bred outside the continent.

What is the 3 - 6 - 9 Song Standard?

By Judge Bill Lamy 1958

(Produced & Edited by Bill Friend in July of 2006
for Journal One of the Roller Canary Journals)

To many fanciers in the British Isles, the 3-6-9 is something of a mystery. Most of them have little knowledge of it, and all seem to have a quaint idea that to win under it you must have a different sort of Roller. The 3-6-9 standard of judging is the World Standard of assessing the song value of the Roller Canary. The German fancier, Dr. Woolf, originated it in 1909, and I believe it was adopted at that time by one of the two leading organizations there. In 1922, it was revised, and is still in use in Europe today.

The maximum total score is 30, which is also divisible by three. This gives one the ability to classify the tours into three classes, good, better, and best. Now, a Roller singing from 1 to 10 points would be a poor bird. This also applies to 11 to 20 points from a contest Roller point of view. What Dr. Woolf sought to show was that if a bird sings and is awarded one to ten points, he is a Roller, not an ordinary canary. With 11-20 points, he would have a better Roller song, but the real classifying of a good contest Roller lies in the 21-

30 point range. The maximum total is 30 points and this is multiplied by three when only one judge is officiating. Birds scoring 61-70 points' are good Rollers, 71-80 points are better Rollers and then, between 81-90 points, you have the best rollers. Always you have the three classifications to guide you and the same applies to the tours.

The major tours are Bass Roll, Hollow Roll, Schockel, Glucke (in all forms), Water Roll, and Koller, all of which score 1-9 points. Points of 1-5 would be good, 4-6 better, and 7-9 best. The same principle applies to all the other tours. Secondary tours, Flutes and Hollow Bell score 1-6 points. Good is 1-2, better is 3-4, and best is 5-6, and the minor tours, Bell and Bell Roll rate 3 points each. Good is 1, better is 2, and best is 3. General effect also has three points, the same as the minor tours. The same applies to faulty tours. Minor faults: sharp Aufzug, hard Schwirre, and high Flutes, 1-5 pts deducted. Heavy faulty tours, Bells, Nasal tours and Ugly Interjections, 1-6 points are deducted and multiplied by three when one judge officiates.

Although this is only a brief explanation of the 3-6-9 standard, let us look at the advantages it has over the 100-point standard. In my opinion, I would submit that

it is a more balanced standard. In the Roller species there are several different song combinations, such as Hollow Roll, Bass Roll, Hollow Bell, Schockel, Flutes, Bell Roll, and Bell Tour. There is also the combination of Hollow Roll, Bass Roll, Hollow Bell, Flutes, Glucke, Bell Roll, and Bell Tour; or a third combination perhaps a Water strain with Kullering Hollow Roll, Water Roll, and Water Glucke. All these various song strains have a reasonable chance against each other under Dr. Woolf's standard. Witness for instance the remarkable success of the beautiful Hollow Roll, Bass, Schockel birds of Mr. A.J. Braam of Nijmegen, Holland. Under 100 points however, one must try to breed birds possessing all the tours. To breed birds possessing all the tours (different song combinations) to perfection is impossible, because some of them have a negative influence on others. As in sport, some sports militate against other sports, while others go hand-in-hand. This same principal applies to Roller song. Years ago, the strain breeders in Germany learned this, yet in England we persist in trying to cram every tour into a single bird. The beautiful Hollow Edel Roller singing perhaps 5 or 6 tours to perfection is not to be found in Great Britain, and it would entirely vanish

if it were left to the British fancier. The only strain that can be bred to win under the 100-point standard is Glucke-Water, and the song in this strain degenerates far more quickly than the Hollow strains. The splitting of the Glucke tours into three major tours has no place in a balanced Song Standard. Hollow Roll can be sung as variable as Glucke is, with Water added Kullering Hollow Roll. No standard gives additional points for Hollow Roll with Water added, yet the 100-point standard gives additional points for Glucke with Water added. The same applies to Water, why split Water into two.

Much could also be learnt from the 3-6-9 methods of exhibiting. Instead of fanciers having to pay for the transport of packing cases up and down the country, the birds are sent in a small traveling case, and caged at the show. All show cages are supplied by the club promoting the show and are a standard cage used both for training and exhibiting. Upon arrival at the show the birds are caged in the standard cage which bears a number. The bird's identity number and the owner's particulars are placed under the cage and sealed. The bird is then judged against the cage number, and the only person with knowledge of these numbers is the show

secretary. The B.R.C.C. uses a similar method in their Grand National Class. The only person with any knowledge of the cage numbers for this class is the secretary. The point sheets are in book form WITH A carbon copy underneath. Upon completion of judging, the book goes back to the secretary, who then he fills in the various fancier's names and bird's identity number. The original sheet is given to the fancier and the carbon copies are retained. Classes are usually Klas A, single young bird bred by exhibitor; Klas B, 2 bird team bred by exhibitor; and Klas C, 4-bird team bred by exhibitor. Old bird teams vary between two bird teams Klas D and 4 bird teams Klas E, according to the size of the show. These alphabetical classes are more or less uniform; Klas A is usually the same at all shows, and so on.

The tours in the 3-6-9 song standard are placed differently compared with the 100-point song system. Glucke Roll sung Bass Roll ground tone is classed as Glucke Bass, and is scored under Bass Roll column. Eminent judges will tell you that Glucke Roll is very scarce, but Glucke Bass is quite common. The Gluckes are lumped together although the judge usually indicates on the sheet if the better tour is not pure Glucke.

The teams are allowed a half-hour each, as continental judges are of the opinion that a team will not always bring their best song at first. Judges are not allowed to alter sheets; so if a bird improves on his rendering, the judge puts +1 or +2 against this tour according to how much better it is rendered. Usually, however, the judges have the bird quite accurately assessed before marking the sheets. Up to three points may also be awarded for Team Harmony, but these can only be given by consultation with the two other judges. As a result they are only seen at big events. To gain them the birds must be of a single strain and perfectly matched.

There is much to be said for team exhibiting. Any fancier may breed a solitary good bird and he is catered for in the single bird classes. If his bird is good enough, a fancier can become Klas A champion of his country. However, to consistently exhibit winning teams in Klas C is proof of a strain, and that is why the Champion of the World must bench 4 tip-top Young Birds of a strain and not a Single Bird.

In conclusion, I trust that this small article, which I regret that owing to lack of time, only touches on the fringes of the subject, is of Interest to readers.

-SOLD-

"The Roller Canary Journals"

This was the first edition ever published.

There are six Journals to each complete set of Roller Canary Journals. The DRCA published only ten sets of these early in 2009 and later offered them to subscribers of the DRC News. All of the complete sets of Journals have since been sold.

I want to thank all of the new owners of this valuable collection for your kind words of appreciation. You are amongst only eight other people in the world who have the privilege of owning the only edition in print.

At present, the DRCA has no intention of publishing or printing a hard copy second edition. The cost to produce and mail the first edition came to more than double the amount of revenue that we received for them.

Overall, our total loss on the Journals was well over 800 dollars Canadian. The price of the last set was the only one that came close to cost (after mailing) and it was for 160 Australian dollars.

In 2010, I plan to offer a more economical second edition of this set, but it will be on CD, not paper.

-Kent Donnelly

From the Desk of the President

These past few months have been very busy indeed.

Via emails and telephone calls I communicated with many.

The DRCA had numerous concerns that needed to be resolved.

The most important issue we faced was over our inability to function as an Association due to the announcement that Industry Canada made back in 2000 that we would be dissolved as a corporate entity in the following year of 2001. This was due to our previous board of directors' failure to file corporate annual summaries during the many years that preceded the final announcement.

This meant that we would no longer be able to publish articles under the DRCA name or to legally function as an Association.

This announcement was discovered purely by accident through an online link that came up from a search engine. Although more than eight years had passed since it was first posted, it was still in an archive that the Government of Canada maintains for the Ottawa Gazette. This publication is used by the Government of Canada and

other legal representatives in order to legally act upon official announcements. Knowing that the one year period of grace had expired eight years ago, I felt an obligation to inform all in the fancy of our situation. That is when I began to telephone and email many of our supporters to notify them of our inability to function as an Association.

This announcement came as a surprise to the many; who in turn responded with much sadness and concern about what happened to the DRCA. In light of this, I decided that it could do no harm to make some inquiries.

I wanted to see what could be done to revive the DRCA under its old name. Failing that, my back-up plan was to contact all the various song canary clubs and fanciers that I knew of with the intention of fighting back with my own plan to build a new and larger organization.

I suppose it always pays to try because it wasn't until after I did that I made a very interesting and very important discovery.

In speaking with one of the representatives, from Industry Canada, I was able to go through our files by telephone. That is when I learned that they had not yet acted on dissolving the DRCA. Afterwards, a further search of files took place and nobody in their office

could explain why we were still on the books.

Well, I felt that this was quite a significant piece of information since it seemed to imply that the DRCA was still a viable entity. If we still had our charter, then we should still be able to operate without disruption. Great; but will they still allow us to pay off our late filing fees and if so, then how much would this cost? Aren't we still going to be dinged hundreds of dollars to make up for all the unpaid annual summaries?

Wouldn't we also need to hire a lawyer in order to get through all the red tape? Well, as luck would have it, no lawyer was necessary. The representative I spoke with was not only very helpful; he was very knowledgeable. He guided me through the whole process without a hitch and he even waived all the unpaid annual fees up to the last two years.

That's when I immediately went into action to file and pay everything off. I didn't want to give them time to ponder so they could change their mind in allowing this.

I am happy to report that our filings were accepted and we have now received our receipts in the mail.

The DRCA (Inc. 1934) is once again in good standing.

The DRCA Budget

Overall, our annual budget for the DRCA is quite low. Until now, our greatest operating expense has been for the DRCA special tour ribbons that we reimburse each club for purchasing on our behalf. In turn, each club provides us with their annual twenty-five dollar affiliation fee.

During the past decade we have only had one show in Canada, so there was even less cost for ribbons than there was in previous years.

This year will likely break that trend with the prospect of having an additional show sponsored by the newly merged clubs in Quebec. (Please read the article in this issue titled "Merger").

I wish we could offer more to this club than just a few tour ribbons but the fact is; the DRCA has had numerous recent expenses that prevent us from contributing to the rather substantial cost of this event.

Because this is a young club, its' members must dig deep into their own pockets in order to pay all the costs up front before they can earn any revenue from entries or admission fees.

I only mention this because I believe that some of you might be willing to donate something in order to help

them get started. If you want to help but are short of cash then please don't give up just because of that. What about donating your time, an old trophy, baked goods, or even some coffee? This is your opportunity to step up to the plate and ask if there is anything you can do to help get them started.

Since everyone will benefit from having them put on this show, it's only fair for each one of us to make an effort to contribute something towards it.

I will thank you; they will thank you and your conscience will thank you.

The DRC News Budget

The DRC News budget is funded separately from the DRCA budget. This is done to ensure that they are each paying their own way with funds used from their own accounts.

Unlike the DRCA operating budget, the expenses for the News for this year have been very high.

In a good year, we might barely be able to cut even but this year I had to look at doing a lot more.

In the middle of summer, I made the discovery that the

News account had nearly run out of funds. One reason why this happened was due to higher than average costs for the "new look". Another was the higher cost of postage to mail heavier copies of the news.

The advertisers that helped to sponsor us did not come close to subsidizing all the additional costs we incurred.

Then there was the corporate bank account.

The monthly fee for that account alone was nearly equal to the total annual revenue that the Hamilton club sends us for all their news subscriptions.

(This bank advertises on television with the slogan: "Yer richer than you think").

This means that just their bank fees alone had robbed our account of all the money we needed to publish and mail copies of the news to that whole club for a whole year.

Needless to say; I had to close that account and because of this, we can no longer cash any cheques made out to us under our corporate name.

In the future you will have to make all cheques and all other forms of payment payable to me in my name. Payments made out to the "DRCA" or to "The Dominion Roller Canary Association" will be returned. This is

because I cannot cash corporate cheques into the new (lower cost) personal chequing account that I have set up for the News.

Extreme situations can call for some extreme measures.

In all, the most extreme change in the way we operate has to do with our going online with the NEWS. This was something that I had announced in a previous issue of the news that would likely happen in the near future but at the time I wrote that, I didn't realize how close we actually were to having it become a reality.

I now believe that our days were truly numbered and we would have inevitably been forced to quit publication altogether if this change had not been made.

I regret those that have no computers will have less than what will be offered online but I believe that the black and white old fashioned issue that they receive in the mail will still give them enough of what they want to chew on until they can get a computer and go online like the others.

Perhaps this will be the year that they will be able to do this. Certainly, there must be one that they will find suitable amongst all the economically priced brands that are now available.

-Kent

Correspondence

At this time of year we receive Christmas cards and emails from all in the fancy. I cannot describe how rewarding it is to read your kind words and comments.

I want to thank everyone who wrote and I apologize for not having responded to all. I want you to know that your words of goodwill have been well received.

Once in a while I receive a letter that says more than just Merry Christmas.

The following is a letter such as this. It was enclosed inside a Christmas card from Marjorie Haynes.

Dear Kent,

Thank you for sending me the magazine with the wonderful article about Marvin in it.

I had copies made and gave them to about 15 of his close friends and family. It was a very well written article. I am glad that his birds are doing well for you and I know that they are being very well cared for.

I finally finished cleaning the Aviary- getting ready to sell the house next Spring.

I will still be in Penticton, though.

It was very nice meeting you.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

-Wishing you all the little joys of the holiday season,

Sincerely,

Marjorie Haynes

The Bairstow Archive

I am happy to announce that this archive has now become an important part of our files.

The DRCA owes much thanks to Leo Paul Leclerc and to Farid Djouder for donating their time and energy in order to help make this valuable collection of historic material become an important addition of our archive.

You might remember that Leo was a close friend to Ada. He not only cared for her needs during her final days; he also took care of her precious keepsakes from the DRCA. He had many memories of her from the long friendship that they shared over the years.

Not until only recently, did his failing health improve enough for Farid to pay him a visit. I was told that his memories of Ada made it hard for him to give up things that reminded him of her. This is why it took more than a year before Farid could finally retrieve the carton of photos and other material that was so carefully stored away in the basement of Ada's old home. We were so lucky that Leo was the one that had purchased Ada's house and that he had thought of us in memory of her.

We owe him our sincerest debt of gratitude.

The information contained in this archive is vital for answering all the questions we have about our first years. The most interesting thing I found so far was buried in the minutes of a meeting that was held in 1933.

I still can't believe what I discovered from reading this. I wish that Ken

Swann and Ada were both alive today because they would really want to kick themselves if they could only have a chance to just read that one page, one more time.

The title on that page is equally as important as the minutes that were written inside. The page title was perhaps what would have misled Ada into believing that these were merely minutes from one of the many DRCA clubs that were filed away in that folder.

This is because some of the club minutes were from one of our early clubs tilted as:

“The Canadian Roller Canary Club”

This closely resembles another title:

“The Canadian Roller Canary Association” and it is on that page that the minutes of our earliest meetings existed.

As such, she would have paid less attention to it than “The Dominion Roller Canary Association” title when searching for minutes on our history.

Before I continue, Let’s go back a bit, so I can describe something about the Swann letters that Ada kept in another folder.

A few years before Ken Swann passed away, he wrote to Ada as the editor of the DRC News to request her assistance in trying to gain more information on our first ten years of history. Ada and he went to great lengths trying to find something but

they always came up short. That is why the first ten years were always missing in any of the Anniversary editions that were ever published. Well, now that I explained all that, can any of you guess where it was all along?

If you said that it must be in the minutes of the Canadian Roller Canary Association, then you definitely win first prize.

This is what we were called alright. This is also where they wrote about hiring a lawyer to obtain a “Dominion Charter “in the year before the DRCA became an Association.

After searching, I soon realized that I did not have the minutes from all of the meetings. From all that does exist however, I believe that there is enough information to put together a fairly complete history of our past. In the near future, I plan to scan and assemble all of this into an archive for viewing online in our members’ area. As time goes on, more content will be added. This is something that will benefit those that want to research our library of old books and read through some of our old copies of the news.

-Kent

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