

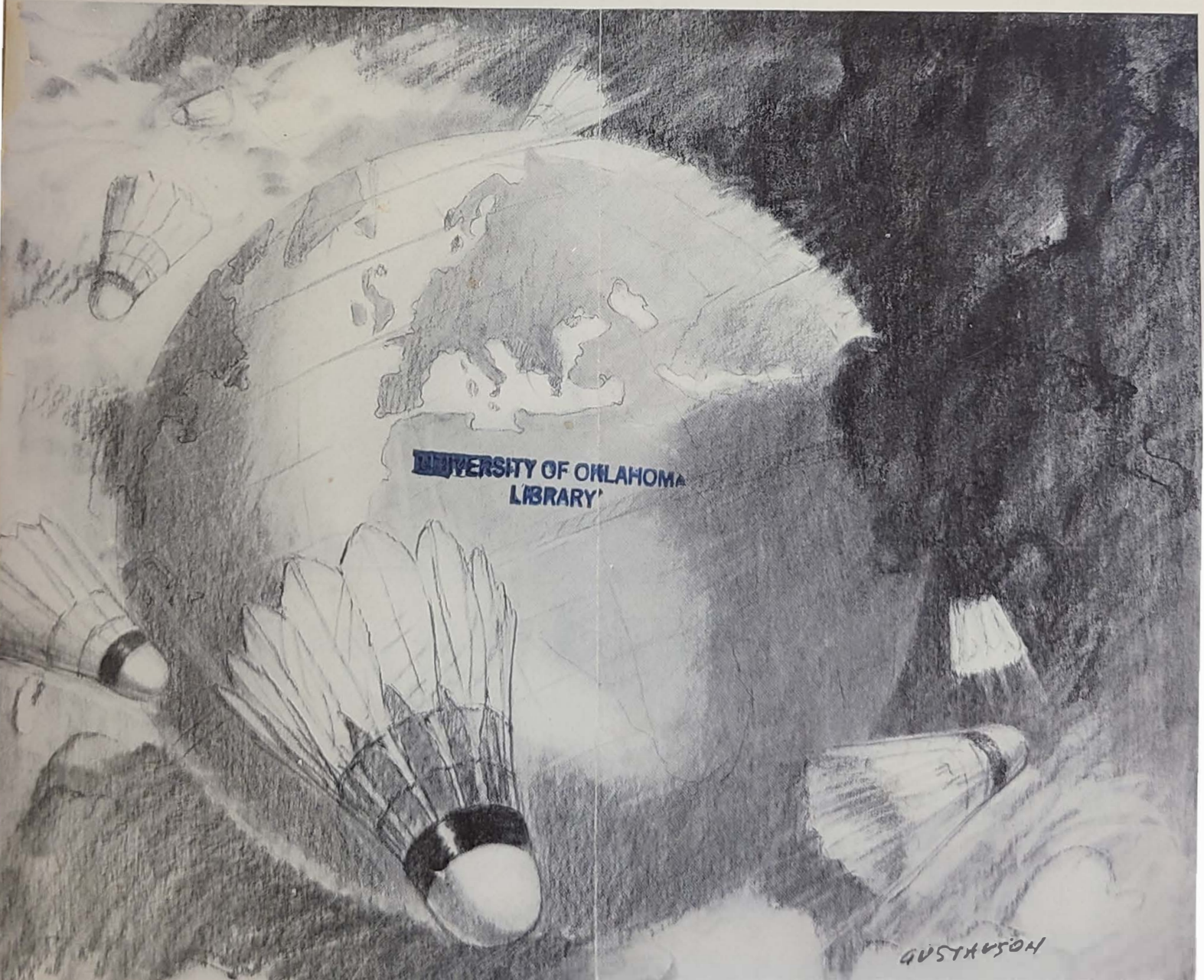
Chatter Bird



VOL. 5

DECEMBER 1945

NO. 1



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BIRD CHATTER



AMERICAN BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Vol. 5

DECEMBER 1945

No. 1

Crucial Year Ahead But Future Is Bright Predicts ABA President

"This is one of the most important years in the history of the American Badminton Association", states President James F. Crafts, "and each Director of this Association, each president of a State or sectional association and all those interested and concerned with the organization and promotion of Badminton clubs and play must be alert to this situation."

The need for reorganization of your clubs and administrative control bodies, to take full advantage of the changing aspect of war time activity to normal activity calls for the best in clear thinking and sound planning by those now heading up all types of Badminton groups.

The Executive body of the ABA has already taken steps to fill the gaps in its Directorate and Committee ranks with well known or highly recommended persons definitely interested in the Badminton picture and who have time available for active participation in management details.

There are still many angles to the "reconversion" status but waiting it out will not be the policy of this Association.

Some of our major activities are already in progress and will be presented to you as the occasion demands.

This first issue of "Bird Chatter" for the 1945-46 season will continue the new improved magazine started last year and now in its fifth year of publication. It has gone beyond the status of an association house organ, and I can definitely state is recognized by the advertisers represented herein and by leading racquet magazines in both this country and Canada, and by the International Federation officers of England as the most potent force ever developed by any source on the promotion of the sport of Badminton. This is our sole means of reaching all parts of this large country of ours in any substantial way. It brings all sections in reasonably close contact with one

another through the publication of local news of one section for all sections to read. It presents the accepted theories of instruction by outstanding teachers and players, the experiences of those who travel into the many sections of this and other countries, pictures of leading tournament players and clubs, and presents facts of universal interest in other phases of Badminton activity. Its support should be unquestioned, both as to submitting data regarding your own doings and being sure you have anyone interested in Badminton on the circulation list, whether the present \$1.00 subscription cost is forwarded or not. This subscription will still be on a voluntary basis this year and no one will be refused a copy while there are copies available.

Already we are seriously considering the running of a National Tournament and Convention in early April 1946, and each Director is now contacting his sectional clubs for his answer to this important question. The answer to their decisions will be announced in the February issue of "Bird Chatter" and its importance can not be underrated.

The newly created Junior Activity Committee, under Lealand Gustavson, is forging ahead and next issue may present their plans for this important phase of the Association's work.

Amateur status of players must be watched closely by the sectional sub-committees and consistent interpretation of the rules on a non partisan basis must be their watchword. Loyalty on the

part of the local committee inevitably leads to sectional friction and is eminently unfair to both the players directly concerned and those with whom they compete in official tournaments. This is one of our most delicate problems as it invariably involves the well known and popular local favorite.

We are the "Baby" major sporting activity in this country and yet potentially one of the future's biggest. Let us move forward with sound constructive thinking but being ever aggressive in our operations.

Ken Quigley and Hugh Forgie Exhibit for Ohio State Assn.

Stimulating the fast renewing interest of the Cleveland Metropolitan Badminton area, Ken Quigley, 3rd National Ranking Player, and Hugh Forgie, outstanding professional, will exhibit at the Moreland School at Shaker Heights, Ohio, on December 7th.

Several new features, with a distinct trend towards an educational program have been cleverly planned under the leadership of C. L. Nicholls for the Ohio State Badminton Association.

Passing of Past President Starrett Keenly Felt

The death on June 22, 1945 of R. Ward Starrett, Director, and President of the ABA, 1941 to 1943, removed one of Badminton's wise counsellors and staunch supporters and his loss to Badminton is keenly felt.

A resolution, expressing the sorrow of the Association and recognizing his distinct loss to the game was drawn up by a committee composed of two former National Secretaries, Norval P. Trimborn and Justin Canfield, and Jack Taylor. By vote of the Directorate this resolution has been incorporated in the official records and a copy sent to the members of the Starrett family.

Bird Chatter

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should be addressed to —

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Wellesley Hills 82, Mass.

Editorial

The amazing thing about the people of these United States is their ability to act and react.

When the time came for us to toss away the period of play, of which Badminton was coming to be a major part in many of our lives and plenty of our towns and cities, and dig into the real serious business of total war we acted, and fast. Hundreds of our playing areas turned overnight into training and housing centers for the war effort, thousands of our players turned to all types and sorts of war participation and endeavor, local, sectional and our own National Badminton Associations reorganized for "the duration" in the administration of Badminton affairs, freezing certain officials and limiting play to that primarily needed for good health, maintaining personal morale and entertaining all branches of the service.

With the advent of V-E Day, we came out of our corner with a speculative rush, with V-J Day we made a few tentative passes and since then we have almost walloped the stuffing out of the skeptical we'll-never-come-back-guy in almost every section of the country.

Rackets and sneakers have been scarce and not too good — birds (shuttles to you purists) have been higher in price than the Empire State Building and plenty of "lefty flyers" among them too, and facilities have been opening up too slowly for the rush of play.

Despite all these drawbacks, the kind that a few years ago would have blighted the very growth of Badminton, WE, YOU and US have literally reacted to the loss of our Badminton play as if it was a drink of water to a desert-dry traveler. Every single section of known pre-war Badminton areas has jumped the gun like the novice

sprinter. And this is a matter of fact, unless our correspondents, some 40 odd stalwarts, are telling bedtime stories.

But this staff knows they're telling the amazing truth of this wonderful reaction from check after check thru scores of reports. We're going so fast into real, sound, and progressive action that it must mean only one thing. This sport **MUST** be bigger than we even believe ourselves.

Hours of thought of the desire to come back for the oldies and let's go now for the youngsters must have been circulating in a boiling pot. Hundreds of enthusiasts with sound constructive thinking have organized in jig time and **TODAY** we are moving with the speed of atomic energy.

Perhaps you don't believe this, because we who sit at the crossroads and look far afield wouldn't have believed it ourselves as recently as last August. But we can't help but be convinced thru our contacts thruout this country, from reports from our neighbors, Canada and England, and from the letters from those who are still in service in scattered parts of the world.

So what do we do? Well, we don't gasp and relax on the couch. We take advantage of our amazing good fortune, dig in and do some more of the much needed spade work and then flop on that aforementioned couch, because now we are resting after a tough 3 game match with our pre-war neighboring opponents or perhaps we've just had one of those smoky, liquid bull sessions of the tournament committee so famous the night before the state champs (and I still think they should be seeded No. 2 in the mixed).

You're making the national officers dizzy and the staff is going batty trying to get all the local news into its columns without missing your club's or association's favorite son's or daughter's name for the public's review.

We feel you want to know these things and that you should see this picture, because that's what is going to make this swell game the best in real enjoyment and competition for the hasbeens, the isers and the willbes.

Correspondents!

Reminder that deadline for February issue routine copy is January 10th.

A Plug for Us by Us

Well, friends, your "Bird Chatter" starts its 5th year of publication and generally continues in the new dress given it last season with a few additions. Our cover heading has been revised by Lea Gustavson. Our advertisers, practically all those who finished last season with us, have given themselves new hair-dos and we'll present at least one new advertiser next issue, the Linen Thread Co., makers of — well you look and see for yourself, and it hasn't anything to do with needling your opponents, so guess again.

We've some interesting and exciting articles and pictures to add to our news-from-all-points starting this issue with Hugh Forgie's trip to the Aleutians, a squint at Ozzie Hilton's playmates in the French Champs, and two pictures of interest to tournament players (the flash at St. Louis and the handsome lads and lassies at Oklahoma). Next issue will present some startling stroke pictures of our old "sourpuss" Ken "Curly" Davidson, the man with the smile on the back of his face or perhaps I mean the man who puts the bee in the midriff laughs.

Maybe we'll even pull some Doo Person secrets from our "confidential informant" and get you behind the scenes on the next!!! National Tournament, blue smoke conclave. And have you heard the one about Jack Purcell and Doug Grant for the world's professional singles title — no — well keep reading "Bird Chatter" for the latest of the latest.

*From S/Sgt Frank S. Sisulak,
57th Station Hospital, Tunis,
Tunisia.*

"I have been receiving my copies of the 'Bird Chatter' regularly and have enjoyed reading them very much. Especially, different articles and results of tournaments in which friends of mine and men who I have competed against were competing in. From all indications it seems as though interest is still very high in the States in Badminton. After finishing with the 'Bird Chatter' I have been passing it on to friends of mine who are in service and I know that they enjoy reading them very much also, and no doubt have picked up some very valuable hints in the articles contained in them, as I have."

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St. Louis Association Swings Into Action

Women's Phys. Ed.



The Greater St. Louis Badminton Association is well organized for the coming season and all clubs are in full operation. The record of maintaining all clubs active during the war period is unique in the overall national picture.

Charles Ochs, President of the Association, will be assisted by Norman Kraeuchi, Vice-President; Mrs. Jo Reger, Secretary; H. H. Perkins, Jr., Treasurer; and Roy Jordan, Warren Cowdery, Betty Carpentier and Allen Sanders, on the Executive Committee.

The following clubs presently constitute the Association, — Missouri Athletic Club, Meramec Club, Navy Club, Webster Groves Badminton Club, Wydown Club and the Olympic Club.

The winners in the July outdoor tournament were —

- Men's Singles*
W. Russell Smith.
- Ladies' Singles*
Mrs. Elizabeth Perkins.
- Men's Doubles*
W. Russell Smith and H. H. Herpel Perkins.
- Ladies' Doubles*
Mrs. Elizabeth Perkins and Mrs. Peggy Goessling.
- Mixed Doubles*
Ken Aderholt and Mrs. Jerr Krey.
- Veteran's Doubles*
Ken Aderholt and Robert Warner.
- Class "B" Men's Singles*
Marshall Jenkins.
- Junior Boys' Singles*
Ted Moehlmann.

In addition to the District event, the Manhasset Club ran a closed tournament July 18 thru July 21.

- Men's Singles*
Harrison Hug defeated Albert Galbreath, 9-15, 15-7, 15-5.
- Men's Doubles*
Harrison Hug and James Healy defeated Albert Galbreath and Walter Rulon, 18-14, 9-15, 15-12.

- Ladies' Singles*
Patricia Galbreath defeated June Swain, 11-0, 11-1.
- Ladies' Doubles*
Helen Hug and Jane Swain defeated Halley Kraeuchi and Katherine Ebling, 15-5, 15-3.
- Mixed Doubles*
Helen and Harrison Hug defeated Harold and Mary Berger, 15-7, 15-9.
- Open Mixed Doubles*
Russell and Virginia Smith defeated Herpel and Elizabeth Perkins, 15-5, 15-9, both teams from Webster Groves, B. C.
- Boys' Singles*
George Gale defeated Roger Burnet, 11-8, 1-11, 11-7.
- Men's "B" Singles*
Frank Boehm, Jr. defeated Walter Rulon, 15-7, 17-16.
- Ladies' "B" Singles*
Marion Galbreath defeated Betty Galbreath, 11-5, 11-6.
- Correspondent* — Betty Carpentier

GENERAL

Atlanta A. C. News

The Atlanta Athletic Club's late Fall schedule for Badminton has been announced and the following dates have been set aside for special events: Saturday, December 8, Christmas Party in the form of a social and dance. February 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, Club Championship. With the final matches being held on Saturday night, February 9. Sunday, April 7, there will be a final Losers' Pay Tournament. The date of the Mother-Daughter and Father-Son Tournament will be announced later.

* * * * *

A senior Badminton committee has been elected. They are Chairman Edgar J. Forio; ex-officio member, W. B. Farnsworth; co-chairman, H. E. Lane; secretary and correspondent, Mel Chamblee; J. L. Dobson, W. J. Gage, D. Hollowell, E. Patton, W. Rucker, J. H. Taylor, H. Vaughan, T. Zuber, Mrs. J. L. Dobson, Mrs. C. Schoen, and Miss L. Wilburn. Coach Joe Bean is advisor.

* * * * *

A Father-Son, Mother-Daughter Tournament will be held for Juniors. The age limit for the son or daughter is under 15. The following compose the junior committee: Ira Hardin, chairman; H. C. Allen, co-chairman; I. G. Wilkes, W. Wynn, John Underwood, C. Schoen, and Mrs. Emily Hartman. Coach Joe Bean will also act as advisor for this committee. Beginning October 20 there will be a Badminton class for junior boys and girls every Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5.

* * * * *

Special committees which apply to both senior and junior members have been elected. Members of the classification committee are H. Vaughan, chairman; J. L. Dobson and L. Taylor. In charge of inter-club matches are W. Rucker, chairman; J. H. Taylor, co-chairman; and E. Hartman. In charge of publicity are J. L. Dobson, chairman; M. Chamblee, and Joe Bean, advisor.

The first event of the 1945-46 season was held October 21 in the form of a Loser's Pay Tournament between the "Skunks" and the "Polecats". Leader "Polecat" Wilkes inspired his gang to victory over "Skunk" Underwood's brood, and the winners were fed a fine dinner at the Athletic Club. One of the highlights of the evening

was the fine speech made by Ed Forio in presenting an award to the person showing the most improvement in their Badminton game. Bill Gage was the recipient of a Badminton racket so warped that it certainly could have been mistaken for a shovel.

Correspondent — Mel Chamblee

Western New York Plans Energetic Tournament and Exhibition Schedule

Seven championship and invitation tournaments are scheduled by the clubs of the Western New York Badminton Association, starting November 24th. (See Tournament Schedule for complete listing.)

Continuing its successful series of exhibitions by Hugh Forgie, the week of November 26 is an active one for this popular professional with the following exhibitions planned:

Nov. 26 - At East Aurora Badminton Club.

" 27 - Afternoon — School 18, Buffalo.

Evening — Buffalo Badminton Club.

" 28 - Eastman Kodak Club — Rochester.

" 29 - Triad Badminton Club, 174th Armory, Buffalo.

" 30 - Afternoon — For Y. M. C. A. Juniors, Perkins Hall, Buffalo.

Evening — Clinic at Buffalo Athletic Club.

Dec. 1 - Afternoon — Informal play, Buffalo Athletic Club.

Evening — Exhibition matches, Buffalo Athletic Club teaming with Ken Quigley of Cleveland, opposing Harry Keating and Bobby Williams, holders of Eastern Men's Doubles title and playing a single match with Mrs. Patsy Donovan Starrett, No. 3 National ranking player.

Youngstown, Ohio Swings Again

After three years of inactivity the Youngstown Badminton Club is back playing every Tuesday and Friday evening at the Hillman Junior High School in Youngstown, Ohio. Players passing through this city are welcome to drop in and enjoy the play.

Correspondent — Ed. J. Lewis

Early Season Oregon State News

"Correspondent Makes Good" might well be the title for this column, for one of "Bird Chatter's" Oregon news gatherers (and local wit we understand) has been elected to Presidency of the Oregon State Badminton Association.

And "Al" Elmer Brown, assisted by three well-known Badminton players for his other officers, plans big things for this season. In Al's words his sidekicks are "Ernest Amburn, Vice-President and pioneer of Badminton in the Pacific Northwest. Ernie started Badminton in Oregon and Washington way back in 1926-27 when he hijacked a set from a friend who had been visiting in Canada. In those days he had to buy birds direct from England, often waiting three or four months for a shipment of birds and equipment. Secretary is Mrs. Louise Cicrich, Oregon's top woman player whose husband, Stanley, is a former Oregon titleholder now in service. The controller of the currency for the group is Mrs. Helen Phillips, also a top woman player from this area."

Their first tournament was a turkey shoot on November 26th for the primary purpose of determining player classification and arousing interest for subsequent play and tournaments.

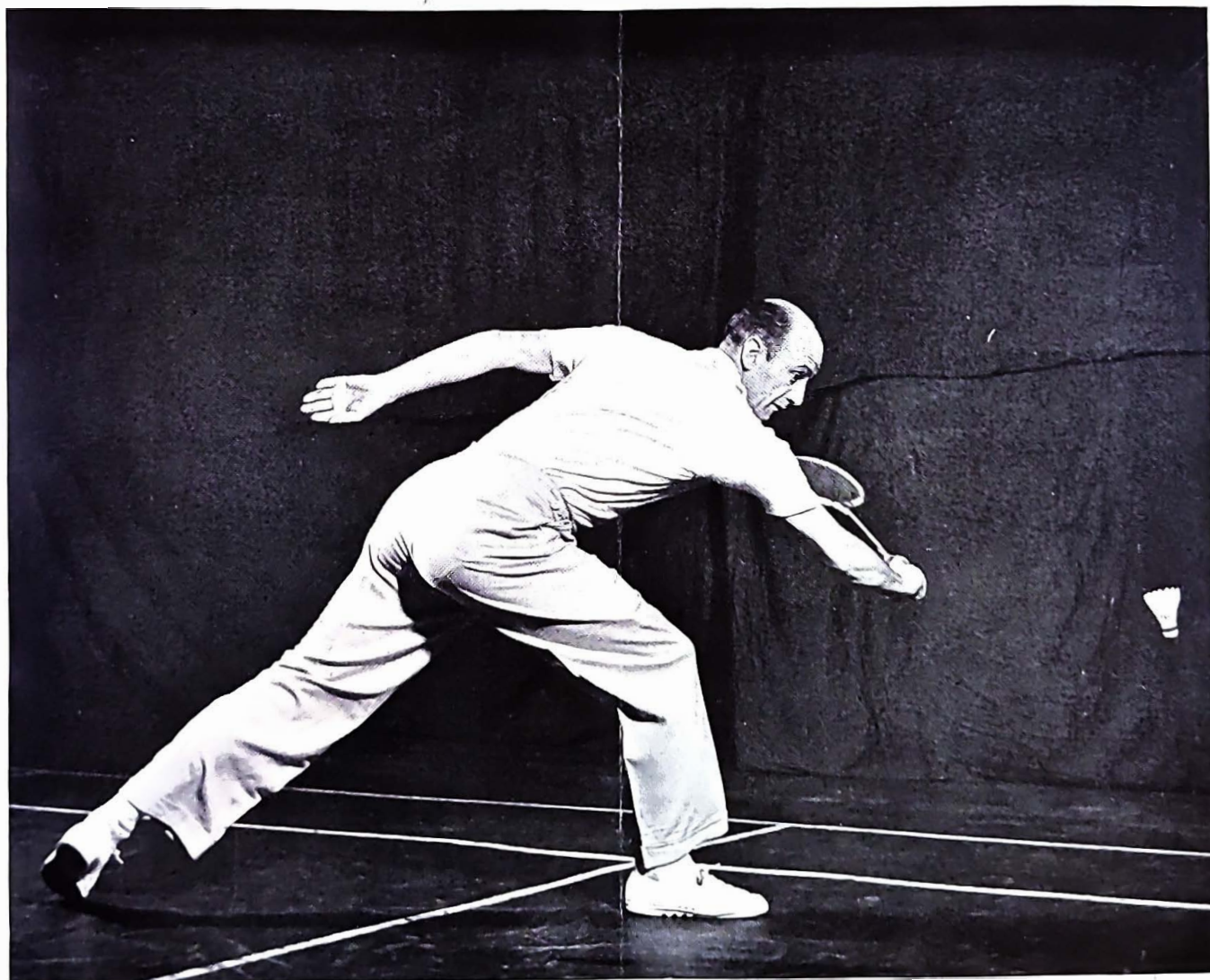
The Association plans call for developing interest in the high schools and colleges in the Portland area and the three college towns within a 40 mile radius of Portland, and developing a network of other playing areas in the State from which the best talent will be eligible for the annual statewide tournament.

The enthusiastic support of the Department of Recreation of Portland has been obtained towards obtaining gym facilities at the various schools. A six court gym in the local armory is expected to be available now that its war use is over.

Lewis & Clark College is constructing a new gymnasium with facilities for Badminton and this should stimulate play at this college.

Correspondent — Elmer Brown

PLAYED BY CHAMPIONS



"KEN DAVIDSON" BADMINTON RACKETS

by Sportcraft

Northern California Makes Early Season Start

August 28 - 31 marked the early season start of Northern Californian play. Oakland Y. M. C. A. Badminton Club conducted a highly successful invitation tournament of five events. Former National Secretary, Tom Ough, and Merle Corrin steered and managed the affair. The latter made a bit of local history by arranging a broadcast of the Men's finals over Station KROW, a feature that was excellently done and created much interest.

RESULTS

Ladies' Singles

Janet Wright (California, B. C.) defeated Shirley Blanchet (California, B. C.), 11-3, 11-7.

Men's Singles

Norman Blanchet (California, B. C.) defeated Herman Welz (California, B. C.), 14-17, 15-8, 15-5.

Ladies' Doubles

Helen Ough (Oakland, B. C.) and Janet Wright (California, B. C.) defeated Shirley Blanchet and Jean Kirby (California, B. C.), 15-7, 8-15, 15-7.

Men's Doubles

Norman Blanchet (California, B. C.) and Bob Mensor (Oakland, B. C.) defeated Dave Copenhagen and Tom Ough (Oakland, B. C.), 15-9, 15-2.

Mixed Doubles

Shirley and Norman Blanchet (California, B. C.) defeated Helen and Tom Ough (Oakland, B. C.), 15-5, 15-1.

Veterans' Doubles

Art Bouterious (Athens Athletic Club) and Tom Ough (Oakland, B. C.) defeated Ralph Kibbe (Oakland YMCA, B. C.) and John Smart (California, B. C.), 7-15, 15-7, 15-4.

The highlights were Norman Blanchet's grand slam, which was accomplished a couple of days

before he was released from the Navy, and the upset of the Northern California Men's Doubles Champions by the unseeded team of Blanchet and Mensor.

The Northern California Badminton Association anticipates a tremendous increase in interest and activity in its district. Their membership Committee is planning to canvas all present and former member clubs, and other playing groups, with a view to building up a strong membership in the Association and to resuming, as soon as possible, the interclub league competition which was suspended during the war and so missed by all.

We are delighted to welcome back to the fold as civilian Badminton players the following ex-service men: Norman Blanchet, Jack Boegle, Bud Coburn, Ozzie Hilton, Curley LeClercq, Max Mertens, Lyle Planje, Ben Ross and Fran Smart.

Lt. Comdr. Louis (Bunny) Macall, USNR, of Washington, D. C., spent a few weeks in this district before his release from the Navy after four years' service. He played regularly on the Oakland "Y" courts and made many Badminton friends, he particularly endeared himself to the tournament committee by occupying an umpire's chair for four or five hours on each of four consecutive nights, which must be some sort of record. Thanks again, Bunny, and best regards from the gang.

Correspondent — Bill Morrison

Enthusiasm Galore at the Chicago Badminton Club

The Chicago Badminton Club fairly oozes pep through its November issue of "Bird Cage" delightfully written by Dorothy Rieck. Meetings and tournaments combined with a strong financial setup and enthusiastic membership continue to make this an outstanding club. Of particular interest is a letter from Basil Jones, former professional at the Badminton and Tennis Club of Boston and on the Wilson staff of Badminton experts prior to the war.

"Bird Chatter" takes the liberty of reproducing excerpts from this

letter for the interest of the many friends of this outstanding professional.

" — — glad to hear the Chicago Badminton Club is still flourishing. I am playing lots of Badminton over here — started off with Inter-Station competition and now on an Inter-Command basis. I am Captain of the Bomber Command Team. We have a good chance of winning, I think. As far as I know I should be home by the end of this year — hope to carry on my Badminton activities in the Midwest, as of old".

ABA Die

Available for Use by
Member Clubs & Ass'ns



Above is a reproduction of a die designed by Mr. E. B. Koener, Secretary of the Western New York Badminton Association for use on their association stationary. It is excellently done and in size easily usable by any club or association belonging to the ABA.

The Western New York Association has permitted us to reproduce it and to offer electros to those desiring to use it. Electro cost will be \$1.50 f. o. b., Boston, Mass. Only those approved to use it by the Secretary of the ABA will be permitted its use, and copy of it from this magazine is not permitted. Address your requests to Mr. John Garrod, 47 Colburn Road, Wellesley Hills 82, Mass.

Navy Plays in Admiralty Islands

Commander Ralph H. G. Mathews USNR, President of the Indiana State Badminton Association, sends an interesting message to the readers of "Bird Chatter" of play in the Southwest Pacific Admiralty Islands. Quonset huts, warehouse size, make excellent makeshift courts with only a slight deficiency on height noticeable.

"Back home we sometimes complain over the distance we must travel to find a place to play", says the Commander, "but out here it is necessary to take a half hour to forty-five minutes boat ride to a nearby island, but possibly the boat ride is more enjoyable than the auto trip at home.

"I have not run into any of our national ranking players out here, but from the interest being evidenced at the various Naval bases where I have served, I believe we will have a greater increased interest in the game when the war is all over."

Tournament Calendar — Season of 1945-46

- November 24 — Westport Conn. Invitation Men's Doubles.
November 24, 25 — Class A Men's Doubles Round Robin at Buffalo Athletic Club — Western N. Y. Ass'n.
November 25 — "Turkey Shoot" Oregon State Ass'n.
December 7, 8, 9 — Manhattan Beach Club Badminton Club (5 events) Southern Calif. Badminton Ass'n.
December 8, 9 — Triad Racket & Shuttle Club Invitation Class B & C, 174th Armory, Buffalo — Western N. Y. Ass'n.
January 4, 5 — Southwestern AAU Official Championships (5 events & consolations) at Dallas, Texas. Southern Methodist University.
January 18, 19, 20 — Buffalo A. C. Annual International Invitation — Western N. Y. Ass'n.
February 8, 9 — Western N. Y. Class B & C Championships at 174th Armory, Buffalo, N. Y.
February 16, 17 — Ohio State Open Badminton Championships, Cleveland.
February 23, 24 — Niagara Falls Country Club Annual Invitation — Western N. Y. Ass'n.
March 9, 10 — Kodak Badminton Club Annual Invitation at Rochester, N. Y. Western N. Y. Ass'n.
March 22, 23, 24 — Western N. Y. Championship at Buffalo A. C.



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"BIRD CHATTER" YOUR MAGAZINE

This publication is the only National Magazine in the United States devoted exclusively to Badminton.

It is issued by the American Badminton Association four times a year, during the normal Badminton playing season.

Copies will be sent to all persons who request it on a voluntary subscription basis.

May we remind you, though, that its continued success and improvement is based on its circulation and the ability of the "Bird Chatter" Staff to finance its publication.

If you want the —

- News from all sections of this country —
- Interesting facts and stories from other lands —
- Pictures of Badminton scenes and stars —
- Instructional Articles for Beginners and YOU

THEN

Do be sure we have your name and correct address.

Send us names and addresses of your friends who YOU feel sure will want "Bird Chatter".

AND — for continued success — why not remit the \$1.00 subscription.

Below is a slip for you to fill out and send to:

JOHN E. GARROD

47 COLBURN ROAD, WELLESLEY HILLS 82, MASS.



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Please send one copy to —

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Enclosed is my \$1.00 subscription covering 4 issues for the 1945-46 season.
Please send back issue (December 1945).

Slow Birds Kill Singles

Under-speed Birds Too Tough for Average Player

by Doug Grant

(Ed. Note — What to do about singles is an important Badminton issue. We are, therefore, particularly pleased with permission to reprint Canadian comment on the subject in the following timely article from the November issue of Canadian Sport Monthly.)

Failure to adhere to the shuttle speed regulation as laid down by the rules of the International Badminton Federation is killing the popularity of singles play in Canada.

The regulation specifies that when struck with an underhand stroke from behind the baseline the bird shall fall not less than one foot and not more than 2 ft. 6 inches short of the other baseline.

This is the rule, but I have watched our most powerful players test birds and very seldom seen anybody who could hit one within two yards of the backline.

Previous to 1930 when we used imported English shuttles this rule was complied with, producing a fast, comparatively easy game of such popularity that courts were crowded with singles players.

Soon after, however, slower, lighter shuttles were adopted, demanding tremendous hitting power and prolonging the rallies to such an extent that none but the youngest and super trained can withstand the strain of games which are scarcely more than tests of endurance.

The result is that singles play throughout Canada has declined sharply in comparison to doubles it being estimated that only 10 out of a hundred players elect to combat the rigors of club games and only 2% enter singles tournaments.

Aside from forcing singles players into ridiculously early retirement, slow birds place a premium on stereotype, safety-first tactics which dull the game from a spectator's standpoint.

The fast bird is infinitely superior because it enables a player to execute every stroke in the bag, to and from every corner of the court, while placing the proper

premium on speed, control and finesse.

With a slow bird the high serve is inclined to become very stereotyped in singles, most of our major championships being won by players who only employ the low serve once or twice during a match. With a fast bird, however, it is possible to achieve more success with low and drive serves, greatly adding to the interest and fascination of the game from a tactical and spectator standpoint.

The fast bird also tends towards a smashing, dynamic form of attack eliminating much of the endless clearing which is both tiresome to play and to watch.

While players are unanimous in declaring the present birds too slow for singles, they also point out with a great deal of logic that a bird which is fast enough for singles is too fast for doubles. They maintain that just as a slow bird places too great a premium on endurance for singles so does a fast bird over emphasize the value of the first smash while nullifying clever tactics in doubles. Many others insist that as over ninety percent of all players are enforced to confine their activity to doubles only, that the speed of the bird should be determined by doubles requirements.

While I am personally in favor of producing a special speed bird for singles, this would place our doubles players under a handicap in International competitions with the United States and European countries which use a faster bird for both singles and doubles.

It is interesting to note in England where slow birds are quickly weeded out, that the players can clear the bird with such ease they have been able to develop a style which utilizes the backhand almost as freely as the forehand enabling them to keep a good centre court tactical position while saving many steps and much back bending.

Canadian players, however, have found that there is insufficient power in the backhand to clear a

slow bird full court and have consequently developed a round the head style which requires a few more steps but gives far greater stroke power.

On coming to Canada, most English players have been at a loss as their backhands failed to stand up to a steady barrage of hard-to-clear, slow birds, and now with the world championship Thomas Cup looming it will be interesting to see how the various styles predicated by varying shuttle speeds compare in effectiveness.

If we are to revive singles play in Canada we must either use a faster bird or confine play after the service to the inner baseline, but as this drastic alternative will not meet with approval in countries already using a full speed shuttle, the first suggestion offers the only solution both from repopularizing singles and fitting us for a winning role in Thomas Cup competition.

The rule which says that the tested bird must land not less than one foot short of the baseline is itself open to question, because if a player standing in a stationary position under perfect conditions cannot stroke to the baseline, how can he possibly utilize the complete length of the court during the rally when he is almost always either rushed or off-balance?

Webster Groves Meets Goal of 100% Subscriptions

I am very happy to enclose \$12.00 for one year subscriptions for "Bird Chatter."

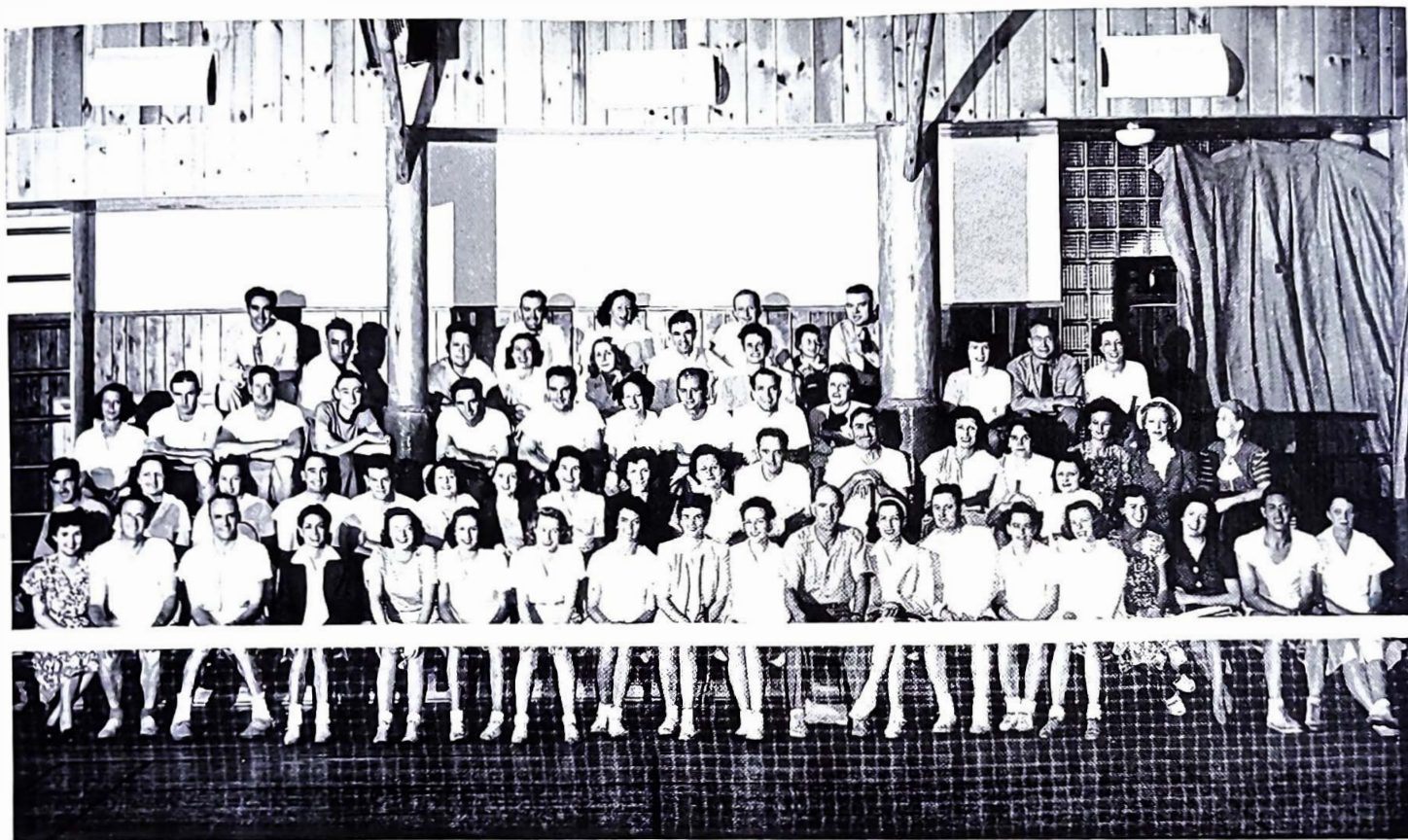
Miss Betty Carpentier, a member of the Webster Groves Badminton Club, is the correspondent for this district and I believe that she has forwarded the Badminton news for this territory. These 12 above mentioned subscriptions comprise all the members of our club and I am very happy that we made it 100%. We have ten married couples in our club therefore these 10 subscriptions will do double duty.

If it is convenient please send me some extra copies as I believe that we can distribute them to good advantage.

Looking forward to a big Badminton year, I am,

H. H. Perkins, Jr., President
Webster Groves Badminton Club
1030 Charleville Place
Rock Hill 19, Missouri

Oklahoma's First Open Tournament Huge Success



The first open tournament sponsored by the Associated Oklahoma Badminton Clubs was held on the Continental Oil Company's air conditioned courts on June 23 and 24 for the benefit of the Red Cross plasma fund.

Players from Texas and Oklahoma dominated the final rounds of all events. George Harman of Tulsa, current Texas Singles champ and Oklahoma champion, at the time he entered the service, scored a triple, while Carolyn Burwell of Oklahoma City annexed the Ladies' Singles and Doubles. The Texan entries landed the runner-up positions in both Singles, Men's and Mixed Doubles. The closest championship events were the Ladies' Singles and Doubles, each going into three games.

RESULTS

Men's Singles

George Harman, Tulsa, defeated Lowell N. Douglas, Waco, 15-1, 15-3.

Ladies' Singles

Miss Burwell defeated Dorothie Lander, Dallas, 11-3, 6-11, 11-5.

Men's Doubles

George Harman and Robert F. Johnson, Tulsa, defeated Lowell N. Douglas and Nick Roberts, Dallas, 15-9, 15-6.

Ladies' Doubles

Mrs. Ed Overholser and Carolyn Burwell, Oklahoma City, defeated Mrs. Elaine Archer and Mrs. Jeanette Summers, Ponca City, 10-15, 15-6, 15-3.

Mixed Doubles

Mr. and Mrs. George Harman defeated Dorothie Lander and Nick Roberts, 15-9, 15-7.

Ladies' Esquire**

Mrs. Ed Overholser and Paralee Lander defeated Mrs. Carl Morley and Mrs. Elaine Archer, 11-17, 18-16, 15-6.

Men's Esquire **

Bill Mayfield and G. S. Marvin defeated Lowell N. Douglas and J. I. Walmsley, 15-13, 15-7.

Correspondent — John L. Walmsley

** (Ed. Note — This Esquire business has us wondering too, John, how about a word as to its meaning.)

From — John Davidson, 330 East 71st Street, New York City.

"Thank you for your very complete and informative letter. As you forecast, both Wilson and R. S. L. were pleased to provide me with copies of their booklets and score charts, so I feel equipped to run a couple of tournaments.

"The copy of 'Bird Chatter' also arrived and I found it very interesting reading. I am enclosing a check for one dollar to cover my subscription for the coming year."

Industrial Recreation Association Sports Folder Under Way

The Industrial Recreation Association plans to issue a Badminton Folder as one of their sport folder series developed primarily for the purpose of encouraging participation in Badminton, particularly by novices who frequently are reluctant to enter a sport because they are not familiar with the techniques, lingo, and rules. The ABA has cooperated by providing information on sources, photographs, and advice by competent players on format, etc.

ABA Director Warren Wheary and Midwest President Fred Russell have given generously of their time and effort in furthering this project and should have our congratulations.

In return IRA has kindly offered a supply of the folders at a nominal price if desired at the time of the press run. They would be available to our membership at the same price schedule obtaining to IRA members. Details may be obtained through "Bird Chatter."

Recently Appointed ABA Junior Committee Announces Program

The policies of the new Junior Activities Committee of the ABA are announced by Chairman Lealand Gustavson of Westport, Conn., who has advised "Bird Chatter" that the committee is beginning to go places.

Its purpose is to encourage and develop the playing of Badminton in the Junior ages. The major efforts will be directed in a two-fold direction — one, getting Badminton recognized in the schools for the excellent physical game and mental training that it offers, two, to give all possible assistance to the ABA clubs in their own Junior play development.

Every club should recognize the value of this junior play, both for the junior player and the future success of the club.

Form your own local junior committees, and appeal to the regular players to turn over used rackets and shuttles. Arrange

your club family memberships to include junior memberships for Badminton at little or no expense, the dividends will return when these boys and girls become adult members.

Give them the benefits of professional instruction where possible and call upon the better players for help in instruction. Teach them the rules and their proper observance.

Consult the members of the ABA committee in your locality for help and suggestions. Members of this committee and their addresses are listed below:

Lealand Gustavson — Hickory Hill, Westport, Conn.

Miss Helen Gibson — The Sidwell Friend School, 3901 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. G. W. St. Amant — 28 Waban Avenue, Waban 68, Mass.

Miss Paralee Lander — 506

Continental Bldg., Dallas, Texas.

Miss Alice Brown — 190 Lovering Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y.

Mrs. J. Frank Devlin — 220 Hawthorne Road, Baltimore 10, Maryland.

W. B. Farnsworth — 552 Peachtree Battle Avenue, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia.

A. H. Bouterious — 5991 Contra Costa Road, Oakland, Calif.

E. W. Brown — 1849 W. Salmon Street, Portland 5, Ore.

Additional members from other sections of the country will be appointed, particularly the Midwest area, where an appointment will be made following their meeting due shortly.

Write the National Chairman if you have any problems or ideas, he will welcome any comments on this vital part of our national operation.

BADMINTON SHOES WITH "P. F."



"P. F." means Posture Foundation. A patented feature which cradles the arch in a way to ward off strain — it keeps the bones of the foot in their natural, normal position avoiding tired, strained leg muscles. Gives correct foot support in fast, active games. Means greater comfort and protection for the athlete.

These are not the original "Jack Parcell" Badminton Shoes. Until design and construction regulations are lifted, here is a sturdy, comfortable, canvas, rubber-soled shoe suitable for Badminton, Squash and Tennis. Good quality canvas uppers, and tough, long-wearing, sure-gripping GRAY soles. These shoes are now in production and are being shipped to retailers as quickly as possible. If you don't find your size the first time, — try again soon.



B. F. Goodrich Badminton Shoes



An Interesting Letter from the International Federation

International Badminton
Federation
13 Sanford Rd. Bromeley,
Kent, Eng.

Dear Editor:

I was very interested to read in the July issue of Canadian Sport Monthly, that you make some reference to Badminton in Newfoundland, and of there having been a Newfoundland championship. Now, I wonder if you would be good enough to let me have the addresses of authorities in that part of the world. I want to get them interested in the International Badminton Federation. Newfoundland is, of course, a distinctly separate country and would therefore be eligible for membership with the Federation on a full basis; in other words, on a par with countries like Norway, Sweden, France, etc., etc.

This Federation is now beginning to revive its pre-war activities, which have, of course, been very curtailed during the past five years.

The game in England is also being revived, although I fear that the coming season will be rather a poor one in comparison to pre-war years owing to the grave shortage of shuttles and the fact that so many halls have not yet been handed back after being used for purposes of war by many and varied authorities. In consequence, we shall not be able to stage many tournaments, and indeed, any hopes of staging the

All-England Championships this winter have now been abandoned.

It is very tiresome, after six years of allout war effort on the part of all in this country, to think that the first peace-time winter will be such a modest one from a Badminton point of view, but there seems no alternative.

I have had many letters from various countries over-run by the Germans, and it is amazing to realize that Badminton went on apace in countries like Denmark, France, Norway and the Channel Islands despite the occupation by the Germans. Indeed, in Denmark, the number of clubs affiliated to the Danish Badminton Association grew from 199 in 1940 to 457 in 1945! They held their championships every year, too. Tage Madsen, the present holder of the All-England Singles, is still their best singles player. He must now be about 25, I should say.

Of English players, many are still overseas. These include Ralph Nichols who is in East Africa and T. P. Dick who conquered Jack Purcell on the latter's only attempt at winning the All-England the year before he turned pro.

With many thanks for your assistance re. Newfoundland, I am,

H. A. E. SCHEELE

Hon. Secretary

Federation International Badminton

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Canadian Sport Monthly.*

Washington, D. C. Group Active Exhibitionists

Assisted by Major Humphrey Chilton of the British Army Staff, a former ALL-ENGLISH star, players from the national capital toured many service installations from June 15th to August 1st in a series of exhibitions.

In addition to Major Chilton the group consisted of Kay Baker, Barbara Templeton, Joe Baker, Harry Thompson and Bill Shreve. Dick Yeager, former National Men's and Mixed Doubles champ participated in a few matches during his tour of duty with the Navy in that area.

Exhibitions were played at the Naval Proving Grounds, Dahlgren, Va.; Naval Powder Factory, Indian Head, Maryland; Mine Warfare School, Solomons Island, Md.; Naval Research Lab., Bellevue, D. C.; Wave Pannicks D and other

places in and around Washington. On many occasions Jim Gosney, Navy Chief Specialist, handled the mike as commentator and umpire, adding greatly to the performances. All Naval exhibitions were under the sponsorship of the Potomac River Naval Command.

Many places turned out groups up to 500 spectators and the interest ran high throughout.

A series of home and home matches with Baltimore are being planned this season.

Dave and Chris Dole, leading players in the Boston, Mass. area, visited Washington while on leave from the service, but Chris remarked that the weather was too hot for any Badminton as far as he was concerned.

Correspondent — Bill Shreve

Massachusetts Organizes for Active Season

The Massachusetts Badminton Association will open the official season with its Annual Fall Meeting in early December. Most encouraging during the early fall has been the activity shown in the Western part of the State, and representatives from two active sections are expected to attend the meeting.

The Middlesex Mixed League of Clubs of Metropolitan Boston is also forming its schedule for the coming season and eight clubs are planning Class B and C Doubles competition.

The University Club of Boston still leads in active play, with many A players meeting each Tuesday night and members of the former Men's and Ladies' Leagues playing Thursdays in practice matches preparatory to a reforming of both these pre-war large and active leagues.

Maugus Club of Wellesley has been unusually busy with 80-100 players operating a highly organized system of group play covering playing periods for senior and junior players on almost every day of the week.

Exhibitions have been presented at the YWCA, Waban Neighborhood Club, Wellesley College and the Badminton and Tennis Club with leading players Wayne Schell, Robert Wright, Nelson Howard, Donald Richardson, Mrs. Evelyn Boldrick Howard and Mrs. Mary St. Amant joined by professionals Jack Brewer and Vaughan Pipes.

Howard Brand Plays at Silver Bay

While enroute from Montreal, Howard Brand, Badminton professional to the Badminton Club of New York, stopped off at Silver Bay, N. Y. to visit Dr. G. Edgar Burford, a member of the Manhattan Badminton Club. While there, Mr. Brand gave a fine demonstration before the players and guests of the Silver Bay Association.

The exhibition consisted of a mixed doubles match and a singles match. Mr. Brand was assisted by local players. The matches were attended by well over 100 members of the Silver Bay Association and their friends.

With two high-ceiling courts in regular use, the Association has a large Badminton group.

*Correspondent —
Edwin B. Knowles, Jr.*

BIRDS

that can take a beating!

MUNRO birds are made of stronger stuff. They take the fastest play — and come back for more. Absolutely true in flight, they are so perfectly balanced and finely made that they improve even the best player's game!

A MUNRO badminton racket will also give your game a lift. Strong and with plenty of whip, they are the smartest, fastest-playing "bats" on the court today!

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Ohio Peps Up with Return of Quigley and Nichols

The Eleventh Annual Ohio State Open Badminton Championships have received the ABA's sanction to be played in Cleveland, Ohio, on February 16 and 17, 1946. Joseph N. Grant of the Midwest Association has already advised that players will compete from St. Louis and Chicago. Chicago players won all events in the last Ohio Open played in 1943. It may be of interest to "Bird Chatter" readers to know that the following have won the Men's and Women's Singles since the Ohio Open's inception:

Men's Singles

Walter Kramer	(Detroit)	1934
Rod Phelan	(Toronto)	1935
Ken Davidson	(England)	1936
Dave Robertson	(Toronto)	1937
Walter Kramer	(Detroit)	1938
Ken Quigley	(Cleveland)	1939
Walter Kramer	(Detroit) ***	1940
Ken Quigley	(Cleveland)	1941
Russell Grant	(Pittsburgh)	1942
Dr. Wm. Gibbs	(Chicago)	1943
No Competition		1944
No Competition		1945

Women's Singles

Norma Rogers	(St. Catharines)
Barbara Duffy	(Cleveland)
Doris Gray	(Guelph)
Barbara Duffy	(Cleveland)
Doris Gray	(Guelph)
Constance O'Donovan	(Detroit)
Patricia Donovan	(Buffalo)
Shirley Fry	(Akron)
Pearl Peterson	(Detroit)
Thelma Burdick	(Chicago)

*** Walter Kramer retired 3-year trophy.

OFFICIAL LIST OF OHIO RANKINGS 1940-1941

Men's Singles

1. Kenneth J. Quigley (Cleveland)
2. Robert Stille (Cincinnati)
3. Norman G. Atchison (Cleveland)
4. Edward Di Leone (Cleveland)
5. Whitney Warner, Jr. (Cleveland)

Men's Doubles

1. Seymour Colton and Bertram Winston (Cleveland)

Women's Singles

1. Patricia Donovan (Painesville)
2. Shirley Fry (Akron)
3. Margarita Fuller (Cincinnati)
4. Mary J. Taleling (Cincinnati)
5. Barbara Duffy (Cleveland)

Women's Doubles

1. Pat Donovan and Barbara Templeton (Cleveland)

Mixed Doubles

1. Elizabeth P. Nicholls and Kenneth Quigley (Cleveland)

Junior Activity Committee

Marjorie E. Harrowell assisted by Ken Quigley and C. L. Nicholls, local professionals, have been conducting a clinic at Moreland School every Friday evening for juniors

interested in learning or improving their game. A fair turnout with increasing interest has resulted.

Exhibitions

Kenneth Quigley and C. L. Nicholls have averaged about one exhibition a week since the season's start. Assisted by Norman Atchison, Mrs. Nicholls and Gertrude Schroeder exhibitions have been played at Painesville, Hiram, Wheeling, W. Va. and another is scheduled for Muskingum College at New Concord, Ohio for December 1st. The Wheeling trip meant driving 150 miles, a hurried dinner (no dessert), playing for an hour and then driving back to Cleveland. Who said interest in Badminton has waned? Or are we just plain nuts?

Correspondent — C. L. Nicholls

Erie Badminton Club

The 1945-1946 season in Erie, Pennsylvania got under way early in October after a business meeting at the home of Milton H. Rowley, Jr., the retiring President. New officers were elected as follows: Edward H. Roberts, President; Milton H. Rowley, Jr., Vice-President; Frances Coughlin, Treasurer; and Kay North, Secretary. Again, play is at the Pennsylvania National Guard Armory, Sixth and Parade Streets on Sundays 3:00 to 6:00 P. M. and Thursdays 7:00 to 10:30 P. M. All visiting players are very welcome. For information call E. H. Roberts, 65-313.

The membership has been increased this year to include many new members and former members who have returned from the Service and from war work. Mrs. Dudley Seldon is back from Washington and George Carroll, Lt. (j. g.) U. S. N. R. is released from the Navy. For the toughest competition you still cannot beat the Spencer boys. "Jay" (63) and "Spike" (51) can run the legs off any other member. Kay North is back after a strenuous W. M. C. job and an illness.

Some matches with the Cleveland Badminton Club are planned as we have enjoyed our association with them in the past.

Correspondent — E. H. Roberts

Connecticut Badminton Association News

Play started in November in Mixed Doubles team matches between the member clubs of the Connecticut Badminton Association. This will be followed by the Men's and Women's team matches in all three classes. Plans this year call for State Championships in Mixed Doubles to be decided in a single tourney, with Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles in a separate tournament. Last Spring's congested State tournament hatched forth this plan.

* * * * *

The Norwalk Y Badminton Club has dissolved, and has reformed as the New Canaan Badminton Club, playing in New Canaan. The Norwalk Y. M. C. A. may field a club of its own this season.

* * * * *

The Greenwich Y Badminton Club is a new entry in the CBA ranks.

* * * * *

The Greenwich Badminton Club, new in the association last year, did not enter teams in the inter-club play, but is expected to have one of the strongest entries in the State this year. A number of the top ranking New York Metropolitan players have become members of the Greenwich Club.

* * * * *

George Harris, formerly of New York, where he was one of their top flight players, is now living in Stamford, and has been working out with the Stamford Y Badminton Club.

* * * * *

The Annual Westport Invitation Men's Doubles, back to its pre-war basis of top teams from throughout the East, was played on November 24.

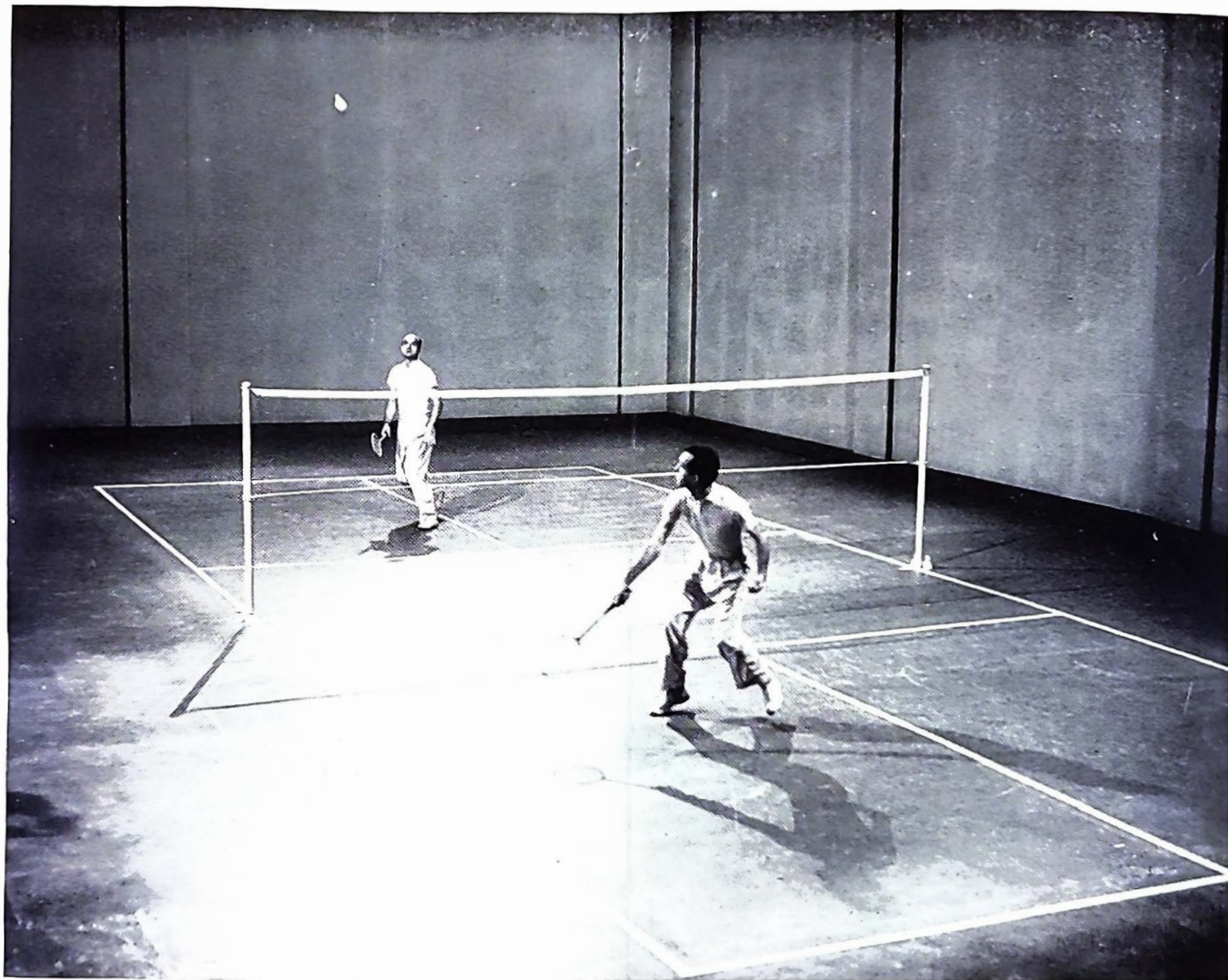
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Billy Markham, a former amateur and professional topnotcher has returned from service in the European Theatre and will be playing in the Connecticut area this winter.

* * * * *

It is rumored that Mrs. Wanda Bergman is returning from California and that she and Roy will reside in Westport. It's good news for East Coast Badminton if it occurs.

Correspondent — Don Hersam



Ken Davidson (far court), Joe Watters (near court) in scene from Pete Smith's latest Specialty "Badminton", produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

The announcement in the June 1945 issue of "Bird Chatter" that Ken Davidson and Joe Watters had successfully completed the "shooting" of a film depicting Badminton aroused a storm of interest among Badminton players thruout the nation. Letters and comments from all sections of the country have been received by us with requests for information on release dates.

"Bird Chatter" takes pleasure in advising you that this Pete Smith Specialty "Badminton" has been chosen as the M. G. M. Studios' best short of the year 1945 and will represent this studio at the Academy Award voting. It will be released generally in December.

The full length feature film

"The Great Morgan" which will contain some Badminton action by Ken and Joe was scheduled for release this fall but evidently has been delayed as no word has as yet reached "Bird Chatter" that anyone has seen this film in their local theatre. The above picture was selected for reproduction as an excellent demonstration of proper footwork and racket handling. Teachers may well use this to illustrate these points in their instruction work. It may be noted that both players appear completely relaxed and in control of their body action.

The backhand shot made by Watters was made from the correct backhand position and he carries his thumb up the back of the shaft.

His weight has been shifted to the right foot on the follow through.

Davidson is approaching the shuttle with feet not too far apart, left side of the body to the net and is carrying the racket up in readiness for raising to position to make the proper stroke. Both players are following the flight of the shuttle with real concentration.

For our February issue we have selected a series of other pictures of Ken Davidson which excellently demonstrate the execution of other strokes and positions. They are some of the finest pictures that "Bird Chatter" has seen and should be of unusual interest to all players and of particular value to instructors.

Hugh Forgie Describes U.S.O. Tour in the Aleutians

"Bird Chatter" is pleased to present a most interesting story of a U. S. O. Badminton Tour as told by Hugh Forgie. While Hugh has been generally known to the Badminton world as an outstanding professional exhibitionist, of more recent years he has been actively engaged in teaching, particularly in New York City and Western New York. He was accompanied by Frank Jasensky, co-holder of the Eastern Men's Doubles Title, and his story describes their experiences in a gripping narrative of conditions in the cold regions of the Aleutians.

In March, 1945, the Special Service of the Army Command in New York City received a request from the Alaskan department for a sports unit to comprise of bowling, billiards, and Badminton. It was then that Badminton got its first opportunity to be listed on a U. S. O. tour of overseas branches.

The Special Service rounded up Frank Benkovic, outstanding bowling champion, Gene LaRue, a one-armed billiard player, who, until he lost an arm, was a three-time contender for the world's fly-weight boxing championship; the other two members of the troupe were Frank Jasensky of Greenwich, present co-holder of the Eastern Men's Doubles Badminton Championship, and myself.

Within two months arrangements had been made that we four athletes were to be sent as U. S. O. Unit 681. We passed our physicals and got the usual jabs — ten inoculations in all. Our processing took about three weeks, during which time we were under orders not to talk of our coming trip.

On July 3rd, as manager of the troupe, I received orders for our transportation. We left New York via rail to Great Falls, Montana. It took us three days to reach Montana, but the next morning we dropped out of the sky at Anchorage, Alaska. At that time of the year there is practically no sunset. The twenty-four hour daylight was a new experience for all of us. The flight from Great Falls took us across Canada via Edmonton and Whitehorse to Fairbanks and then down the pass to Anchorage. We were fortunate that the weather was ideal and thus the Rockies and the valleys

were magnificent from the sky. Mt. McKinley, the largest mountain on the North American Continent, was awe inspiring as its snow-capped peak and slopes glistened in the sunlight.

We were in Anchorage two days while our itinerary was being prepared by the Special Service of the Alaskan Department. On July 11th we left Anchorage about four A. M. and flew approximately 1600 miles west and south out on the Aleutian chain to Amchitka.

If you have not heard of Aleutian weather, well only those who have lived there really know how miserable it is, and Amchitka draws some of the worst. The fog usually enshrouds the island and we stayed there eleven days instead of a scheduled five while we waited for enough ceiling to enable a plane to come in and take us out. However, some of the most enjoyable days of our trip were spent at Amchitka. General Maxwell O'Brien was in command of that base and Badminton is his favorite sport. He teamed up with Frank Jasensky as his partner while I played with Major Joe Maziatti and we had many enjoyable games. The General won a few "cokes" from me on some side bets.

While at Amchitka, Frank and I realized what kind of Badminton we were going to be expected to play on this tour. Besides putting on our exhibition at the gymnasium, the Special Service asked us if we could play on the stage at their movie theatre. It was twenty-eight feet by fourteen feet. We improvised a pair of standards and practiced during the afternoon. Gene LaRue rehearsed with us, it being decided that he would be the official referee. I must say that his constant ad lib and unusually clever wit added greatly to our show. We put on our exhibitions for the men at the opening of the evening movie. When Gene introduced the act, he explained to the men that Badminton started at love-all; which meant, as far as he could understand it, the referee was included, but as he did not know the game well as yet he wasn't sure of the difference between love one and one-love. This light introduction certainly started us off right with our G. I. audience.

Anyway, we never rehearsed our show from that day on and I think Frank and I had many occasions throughout the tour to laugh with the G. I.s at LaRue's efforts in refereeing our matches.

As a result of this first match which proved to be good entertainment in spite of the limited space, we were confident that we would carry on and put on a good show wherever possible for the fellows throughout our tour.

From Amchitka we flew to Shyma which was a secret base with an air strip second in length only to that of LaGuardia field. We had our first sight of front line operations there, the huge liberators loading up and taking off for the Parimashiro Islands. At Shyma, they were building a beautiful gymnasium and bowling alleys, but as these were incomplete, we played on the stage at the movie house.

We travelled by barge from Shyma to Attu. That was the coldest trip in our entire sojourn and the Pacific was rough. Probably you have heard that the water is so cold that man cannot live in it more than twenty minutes, but we did see a couple of G. I.s venture in one sunny day for about sixty seconds. (A G. I. bet, no doubt.)

Anyway, on our trip from Shyma to Attu we were really bundled up. We had on our field jackets, top boots and a Parka overcoat with hood well tied down. We were sailing through fog for most of the voyage, but as we came into the harbour the sky was clear over the island. We saw units of the fleet at anchor in the bay. We were met and quartered by the Navy. Once again we stayed longer than our schedule as we awaited good weather to get out. But once again we were fortunate that we were in the midst of many Badminton enthusiasts. We met the Zummies. These fellows belong to the Fleet Air Arm. It was compulsory that they spend an average of 45 minutes per day in the gymnasium. Every one of these fellows put most of their time in on the Badminton courts. We had some very good games at Attu. The flyers on a bombing mission offered us a flight over the Japanese islands which were now only 700 miles away. I thanked them kindly but declined the invitation. These Zummies were flying the longest

over-water bomb runs in the world; 1500 miles, round trips. They did a great job which was little publicized here at home.

From Attu we started working our way back to the mainland and our first stop was Adak, where we were again the guests of the Navy. Adak is the largest base in the Aleutians. It is tremendous and here you see a bit of U. S. ingenuity — a mountain removed to build an air strip.

We played at a number of theatres and gymnasiums at Adak; and once again we found considerable interest in Badminton. Should some of the men whom we saw playing Badminton at Adak continue back in civilian life, I am certain they will gain national repute in the game. Lieut. Joe Overton of the U. S. N. R. did a great deal to promote better Badminton in the Aleutians. I first saw evidence of his work in Norfolk, Virginia when I visited there in 1942. When we were later in Dutch Harbour we ran into special lighting and set-up for Badminton and learned it had been Joe's work. He had been stationed there.

At the beginning of the trip I made a standing offer to give any serviceman a twelve point start in a 15-point game. At the Tundarena, which is probably the largest gymnasium on the North American Continent, I lost the only two games of the entire tour. Both scores were 15-14, 15-14.

Badminton was temporarily at a standstill at the Tundarena as they were awaiting a shipment of new rackets. We saw about fifty broken ones on the shelves.

We flew from Adak one morning to Adka which is probably the prettiest of the Aleutian Islands and here we put on our show at the hangar base. During our short stay at Adka we saw wild fox, a beautiful eagle and a salmon trap teeming with fish. On Adka we were escorted to one of the three Aleut villages in the Aleutians and were amazed to find beautiful American styled white-framed cottages. As we drove in we were greeted with smiles and grins from the natives. Once again Gene LaRue was up to his kidding. He stood up in the front of our jeep and commenced bowing in Eisenhower fashion to the natives until we pulled him down in his seat. The native men had just returned from a caribou hunt on which expedition they shot 40 caribou.

They store this meat for the winter. Alongside their homes salmon was hung up for curing.

We spoke with two youngsters who spoke English. We learned that missionaries had put up a school and thus the entire village spoke or understood English. In late afternoon we flew back to Adak and later flew to Umnak.

Umnak is, or was, the secret base from which our planes surprised and drove off the Japs on their sneak attack on Dutch Harbour.

We played on the stage at the movie house. After the show we got lost trying to find our lodgings. The hut was within one hundred yards of the movie, but the soup was as heavy as London's worst. (However, in half an hour we were comfortably seated at the poker table.)

We were at Umnak on August 14th, the day the Japs quit and that day we played in the gymnasium to a group of G. I.s who had made "their own stock" and were doing their best to celebrate V-J Day. These boys just wanted to see trick shots over and over again and as a result we had quite a workout.

Listening in on the radio we heard the celebrations in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and the N. B. C. Tour. I got the impression that it seemed like just another day to many in the Aleutians.

From Umnak, the Navy flew us to Dutch Harbour in a P. B. Y. flying boat — a new experience for us in flying. At Dutch we found those ideal Badminton courts which I mentioned earlier. The players were good and we had some great games during our two days there. We slept on our first box spring mattresses in six weeks, and personally I could not sleep. From Dutch we flew back to Umnak. The same evening a mail plane came in en route to the Pribilof Islands. The pilot suggested we go along as the fellows there had never had a U. S. O. Unit visit them. The Pribilof Islands are north of the Aleutians in the Bering Sea and 90 per cent of the seal oil in the world comes from there. It is a U. S. Government project. The landing field is very small at St. Paul and has no landing lights so that our pilot landed by the lights of an automobile which parked at the end of the runway. When we pulled up, the whole population of the village and

camp was there to meet us. The men had not received mail for a month, thus we just mixed with the fellows that evening. You cannot interrupt a G. I. with his mail — they didn't need any further entertainment.

We took off the next morning about five A. M. and flew low along the shores of the islands seeing literally thousands and thousands of seals. There is no air field at St. George, another island in this group, so two men, lashed in, tossed the mail from the plane which dropped by parachute to the base below. During our entire flight between Umnak and the Pribilof Islands we flew contact or about 100 feet off the bleak ocean. It was a 500-mile trip. On our return journey we ran into two columns of the fleet and we zig-zagged up and down these columns, low over the decks of the ships for about 15 minutes. The men on deck seemed to enjoy it as much as we did. We had wanted to fly over the 8-mile diameter volcanic crater on Umnak, but the visibility was too poor. We did, however, see two volcanoes in eruption during our tour.

From Umnak, we flew out once again, this time to Cold Bay which was the secret base lend-leased to Russia. Then we carried on to Fort Morrow and later to Naknek. At Naknek we saw our first trees in two months. It is amazing how fascinating a tree appears when you haven't seen one for some time. Imagine the plight of the dogs in the Aleutians and there are thousands of them which have been taken there by the G. I.s.

As our plane took off from Naknek, the right motor suddenly went out. Over the speaker came the voice to stand by for emergency landing. However, the pilot banked and brought us in on a beautiful landing. The mechanics got to work on the plane and we were on our way to Anchorage in an hour.

When we landed at Anchorage, we were quite excited and relieved to get off the Aleutian chain and its tough weather. I feel guilty in making this statement when you consider some of our men have been there thirty-three months.

The next morning we flew to Kodiak, which is a two and one-half hour flight. When we arrived there we found the entire island completely souped in. We hovered over the island for half an hour

in the hope of getting in, but we were forced to turn back as the ceiling was zero-zero and as the field is locked in by mountains it requires more than radar to get in safely. We flew back to Anchorage and the next day set off again. This time we were able to get through. At Kodiak, there is probably more Badminton than at any of the posts. They claim thirty-two courts on the island. We played our first evening there at the intermission of a Navy dance. The floor was very slippery and we did quite a bit of sliding around, but we happened to put on one of the best shows of our tour and truly received a great round of applause and calls for more. It caused enough comment and interest to bring out a grand crowd to our exhibition next day. While at Kodiak, we visited the town and found some truly inflationary prices. A hamburger cost seventy cents, while a banana split cost us sixty-five cents. We saw some of the famous Kodiak Bears also.

When we flew back to Anchorage which was our base for the time being, we took the only train ride of our travels in the Alaskan area. There is a railroad from Fairbanks to Anchorage to Whittier. I doubt if there is a more scenic railroad in the world as this one runs its entire course at the foot of snow-capped and glacier studded mountains.

On our journey from Anchorage to Whittier there were mountains on our left, water on our right which was about a mile wide and beyond were mountains again. Along this route there are about twenty glaciers and on a sunny day they are masses of grandeur in the sunlight.

At Whittier, which is a seaport, we played both at the service club and in a storehouse which had been converted into a gymnasium. There was very little Badminton play in Whittier prior to our visit, but I have a hunch quite a few have tried their hand since we left. Unfortunately, they do not have shower facilities in their gymnasium and that is not conducive to working out in weather such as they have. It rains ten days out of eleven at Whittier.

Once again we returned to Anchorage. Our next trip was spectacular in that we had breakfast in Anchorage at six A. M., flew 500 miles to Yakutat. Enroute we passed over the world's largest glacier. We ate lunch at Yakutat,

put on our exhibitions while the plane stood by for us, and then arrived back in Anchorage in time for dinner, after a 1000 mile round trip. They have quite an active group of Badminton players in Yakutat. They have two excellent courts in the air hangar.

Once again we left Anchorage, this time by a Navy plane for Ketchikan. A half hour out of Anchorage our right motor "konked out" and we were forced to turn back. To make our plight a little more "scarey" a fire started in the radio room and pretty soon smoke and fumes filled the plane. However, we landed safely. It is a funny feeling to see those "meat trucks", a G. I. term for ambulance, and fire engines standing by as we landed. As we were well behind schedule, our flight to Ketchikan was cancelled as also were the posts at Fort Ray and Prince Rupert which had demobilized.

Now we enjoyed our official visit to Anchorage. We had a fine show there and a very good turnout. Many civilians who have an active club in Anchorage attended. The fifty-fourth squadron of the 11th air force was out to see us again. We had originally given them a private exhibition when we first arrived in Anchorage in early July. They are the fellows who flew us most of our flights, often giving us rides in the co-pilot's seat. Eddie Moran of Boston strolled into Anchorage the day after our performance, disappointed not to have seen our show. During the next couple of days, however, Eddie, Frank, and I had some good fun and workouts on the courts.

We now commenced our last lap of our schedule. We flew North to Fairbanks and while there met several Russian pilots who were ferrying planes from Fairbanks to Russia. At Fairbanks we saw one of the two football games which have been played in Alaska during the war. It was like being home. There was snow in the air, a band was out and there was even a cheer-leading section. Fairbanks defeated Anchorage 14 - 13 in an exciting finish. The Alaskan families with their parkas and papooses watching the game from the sidelines reminded us we were still far from home.

At the Fairbanks gymnasium, we played to more civilians than service personnel. They have quite a flourishing Badminton club in

town. From Fairbanks we flew to Whitehorse via Pan American Airways and had a luxurious ride for a change. Whitehorse has the finest Badminton courts imaginable for that area in their huge air hangars, but unfortunately the group there during our visit did not play the game much; the fellows who had used the courts the year previously had organized a good club. We played at the movie house as well, and the men and women gave good evidence of enjoying the match.

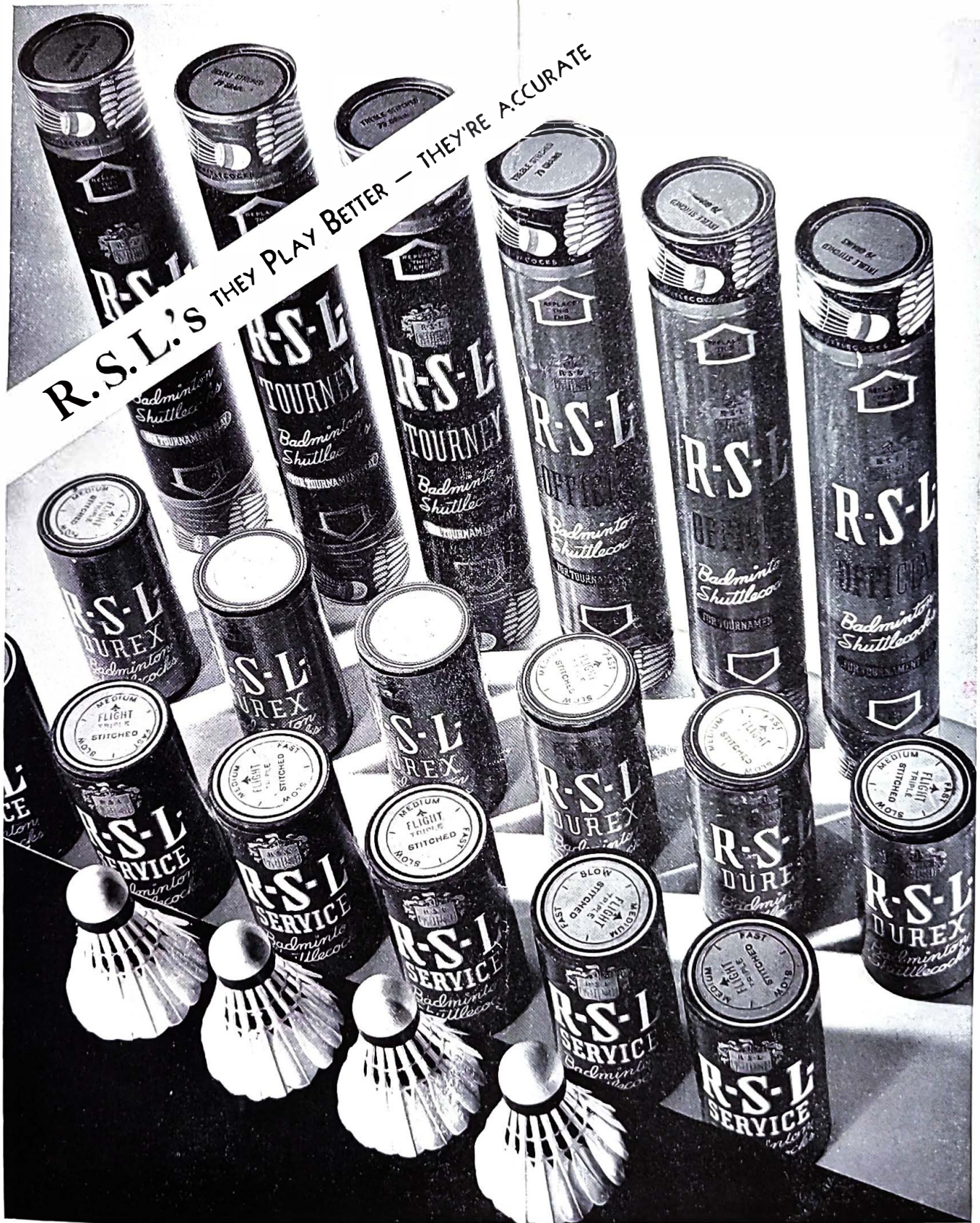
From Whitehorse, which is picturesquely situated in a huge valley between a chain of capped mountains, we flew to St. John and then on to Edmonton. At Edmonton, we played in town at the Red Cross Canteen. Two of Canada's better players in the West played with us, but unfortunately it was their first time out for the season and their timing was naturally off. However, we did have some good Badminton in spots and the audience was very appreciative.

We played again for the transients at the base gymnasium. They have three good courts and these courts do get a good play during the winter season.

During the entire tour I had been doing card tricks for a bit of side entertainment and in Edmonton I got stuck (behind the bar) for six hours presenting card tricks as the personnel changed over.

Our tour now being finished, we travelled by train to Winnipeg, then to St. Paul, Milwaukee, Chicago and home to New York, where we had to shed our overcoats for the first time during the entire summer. We had been away a little over thirteen weeks and had travelled about 20,000 miles. It was a great adventure and we were treated royally by all branches of the service. By the many letters of thanks from Alaska which I have received since I came home, I know we did a good job for Badminton; as well as for the morale of our men. I would not like to close without thanking the Metropolitan and the American Badminton Associations for their cooperation in helping to bring this presentation before the men in service. I would also like to thank R. S. L. and General Sportcraft, without whose interest and cooperation, I may not have found it possible to accept the invitation from the Special Services.

Hugh Forgie



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RACING CLUB DE FRANCE
86, Rue Peronnet, NEUILLY

Samedi 21 et Dimanche 22 Avril 1945

COMITE DU TOURNOI

Président: Pierre GILLOU, Président de la Fédération Française de Lawn-Tennis

Membres: MM. G. De BAZILLAC, R. CIROTTEAU, G. MAILLOT, P. LEFEBURE, J. MALAUD, P. LANGLET HENRY, PAVY, R. AILLOUD, SOYEZ, J. ROZIER

Commissaire Général: M. René MATHIEU

Commissaire-Adjoint: M. Jean BROSSARD

Juge-Arbitre: M. J. R. LE BESNERAIS

Tirage au sort des Épreuves

Programme

Samedi 21 Avril

Éliminatoires
à partir de 14 heures

Dimanche 22 Avril

Demi-Finales et Finales
à partir de 15 h.

Comme en 1943 et en 1944

Les Championnats de France se disputent avec des Volants

SPORT



Third from left — Lt. "Ozzie" Hilton, USNR, Triple Winner

Joe Champion emerged victorious for the second year in the Knoxville, Tenn. Tournament held at Winona Field and the Y. M. C. A., August 20-25, defeating Willard Martin in the Men's Singles 15-7, 15-5. Last year's champions in all other events did not defend their titles in a tournament where play was held partly indoors and partly outdoors. The Ladies' Singles produced a real battle with Mrs. Anne Lobetti, 1944 runner-up edging out Mary White, 1942 champ, 8-11, 11-1, 11-6. This duo teamed up for the Ladies' Doubles Title, defeating Betty Ramsey and Alice Todd 15-7, 15-6. Ashford Todd and Fred Ramsey, the most effective doubles team this year, won easily over Willard Martin and young Tommy Bartlett, 15-0, 15-11. Last year Willard was co-champion with Joe Bowman, now in the Navy.

Winners of the Mixed Doubles were Mr. and Mrs. Ashford Todd who defeated Willard Martin and Anne Lobetti, 15-8, 15-8. Mr. Martin was co-champion 1944 with Doris Sams 1944 Ladies' Singles Champ. The Todds displayed excellent teamwork from the first and never seemed in danger of falling behind.

A special award was presented by Frank Garratt, local sportsman, to Anne Lobetti for her excellent tournament sportsmanship. The Tournament Committee consisted of Mrs. Frances Drumwright, Chairman, assisted by Mrs. Polly Brown, T. A. Fry and Mrs. Margaret Shetterly with President Hugh Waite and Treasurer Anne Lobetti additional active workers.

Correspondent —
Mrs. Frances Drumwright

The Official Badminton Guide

This new annual is scheduled to make its initial appearance shortly. Published by A. S. Barnes as one of the Official Guide series it will contain playing instructions, official rules and regulations of the ABA; laws of Badminton, tournament records, etc.

Well illustrated and pleasingly arranged it is a welcome addition to Badminton literature.



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