

Need more local support

# Financial cloud hangs over Essos

By DOUG BULWER

Vernon Essos wing their way to the lower mainland this weekend for what could be one of their most strenuous series of games yet of the early stages of the B.C. junior A hockey league.

There is no doubt they will have their hands full in meeting Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster, in that order, starting Friday night through to Sunday afternoon.

Not only will the team have it fairly rough in each of their three meetings with the Coast teams, they go on their first road trip with a financial cloud over their heads.

Following a special meeting of the Essos executive Wednesday night, information was released stating that club treasurer, Garth Langford had brought forth a bleak outlook on the financial status of the club.

His financial report for the first month and a half operation of the club this season, indicated that unless more funds were made available, the club could not survive until the end of the year.

Although no figures were released, indications are that fan support is lacking to the point where a second look will

have to be taken at the over-all operation.

Apparently officials feel the biggest pinch in the lack of fan attendance in six home games of the seven games the Essos have played so far this season.

Although no official figures are ever given on each game at the time of said games are being played (City of Vernon handles the ticket sales at the door and all sales must go through city auditors hands first) it is estimated that average attendance is less than 500 people per game, far below the point where the club could break even on expenses.

The Essos are unlike other clubs in the circuit, where large financial groups back these teams. They operate on a meagre budget with only local support backing them.

The 10 man executive, working under a management company basis, have agreed to cover losses from their own pockets if the need arises, but until now have felt confident that local support would keep the club operating on an even keel.

With the release of the statement early today covering the meeting, an air of uncertainty now clouds the Essos future.

Apparently suggestions put forth at the executive meeting asked that additional promotion be introduced to bring the public to the games and to somehow start a campaign to raise funds.

The Essos, as indicated earlier, are being operated by a

management company but are still owned by the Vernon Minor hockey association, which in turn is a public organization.

With two exceptions, the six games Essos have played before home town fans have been on the winning side, leaving them with an over-all four win, two loss and one tie record, and is good enough to keep them abreast of the strong Coast clubs who are using over-age players such as former Vernon players, Gerry Vachon, Bob Mayer, Barry Bleakley to name but a few.



## The OUTDOORS

By Nonie Frisby

I have never professed to be a hunter, interested yes, but never with any desire to actually do the hunting. Neither do I ever knock the hunter, every man to his own. When it comes to birds I am not a bad cook and over the years I've come pretty good at plucking the feathers from various types of birds that arrive fully feathered on top of my deep freeze.

Evidently the shotgunners in my house feel that they have done a very fine job of bringing home the bacon, and if I wish for them to ever see the inside of the deep freeze, the birds that is, I'd better get with it.

I realize I've just lost a few friends as most wives are smart

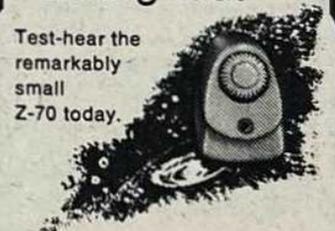
won't see when the season opens.

Don't get over anxious, make sure of your target before you squeeze that trigger and try for a shot that will waste as little meat as possible.

On fish—from the Government news letter. Fishermen looking for a variety of catch in one body of water might not be able to do better than Shuswap Lake. Regional Fish Biologist John Cartwright verifies that Shuswap Lake has the following, rainbow, kokanee, Dolly Varden, mountain whitefish, lake trout, white suckers, large scale suckers, prickly sculpin, reidside shiner, squawfish, cornling, ne-mouth,

In the spirit of the 70's! The Z-70, Zenith's new in-the-ear hearing aid!

Test-hear the remarkably small Z-70 today.



K. A. (Ken) Gaden, Manager

VERNON OPTICAL CO.

3006 31st St. Vernon  
Phone 542-7800

ZENITH the quality goes in before the name goes on