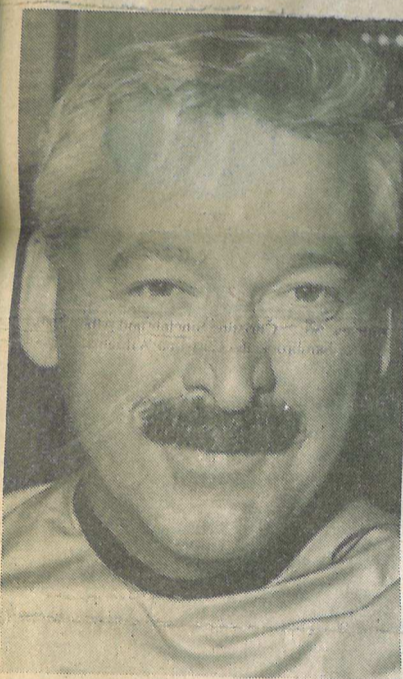B6317

Pinched

Review photo — Glenn Froh

In the twink of an eye — and with a pinch of the nose — Weyburn Legion member Marv Kittleson clears the way for the disappearance of Sgt. Mike Rogal's 22-year-old mustache. The veteran Weyburn policeman was forced to comply with laws laid down as a result of a Legion challenge and pledge for the law enforcement torch run that ended up at the Special Olympic summer games Saturday. With a stiff upper lip, Sgt. Rogal said the close shave with the Legion was a worthwhile venture with another $444 added to the $7,500 raised by law enforcement officers in their run from Estevan, through Weyburn, to Regina. Across the province, more than $70,000 was raised in the run for the mentally challenged.

S.E. torch run reaches new fundraising heights

Fundraising efforts of local law enforcement agents almost doubled from a year ago during their torch run for the Special Olympics held over the weekend.

Through their efforts this year, law enforcement agents including RCMP in Radville, Fillmore, and Weyburn; Weyburn city police; and highway and conservation officers brought in over $7,500, an almost-50-per cent increase over the less than $4,000 brought in a year ago.

One organizer of the area run, which has police relaying a torch to open the Special Olympics held in Regina over the weekend, said the money raised this year was the most to date.

Weyburn Police Service sergeant Mike Rogal, who sacrificed his moustache for the cause and $444 from his fellow Legion members, said the torch run may have received more publicity this year.

He also said the last-minute opportunity for the torch runners to follow a longer trail also may have helped the cause. The southeast was originally planning to start their run in Yellow Grass Friday in order to make the opening ceremonies later that day in Regina.

A stirring sight

Estevan police, and other southerly detachments, decided to begin the run two days early so they could take part. Local officials were able to begin in Halbrite Thursday morning and reach Yellow Grass in time for the next leg.

Sgt. Rogal said it was a stirring sight in Weyburn Friday morning when torch runners were welcomed into the city by local Special Olympians.

"That made it all worthwhile," said Sgt. Rogal.

The $7,500 raised locally came through pledges, the sale of pins and T-shirts, a hot dog-and-coke sale, and of course, the clipping of Sgt. Rogal's long-favored whiskers.

Provincially, the torch run raised $70,500 this year.