

# VII



Memories of Rotarians at Malaspina Galleries 1933

## MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

*Membership in any Rotary Club is continually changing. Many members join and then leave after a short period of service. There are others who remain in the club and in the community for many years, building a notable record of service in both.*

*These are some of the members who have served the club and the community with honour and distinction that we would like to commemorate in this chapter; "Members to Remember." Written by club historian Len Lovick, and edited by Bruce Gordon, classifications denoted are original classifications upon entering the club.*

### **JOHN (JACK) BARSBY**

**1883- 1967**

Classification: Plastering

Joined Rotary in March 1938. President 1947-48. His 46 years in public office, 1920-1966, on City Council, School Board, and Water Board is unmatched by any other Rotarian, and quite probably by any other citizen. He was an Alderman for 7 terms from 1920-1931, Mayor 1932-1937, and was made a Freeman of the City of Nanaimo in 1958 for his years of outstanding service.

John Barsby Junior High School, opened in 1957, was named after him in recognition of his service on behalf of education, at the local, provincial and national level. His son Ted, was Club President in 1971-72.

### **CARMAN BROWNE**

**1906 - 1979**

Classification: Surgeon

Joined Rotary in October, 1941 and served for 38 years. Named a Rotary Pioneer in 1961, Carman served as a Director of this club.

Particularly remembered in the Rotary Club of Nanaimo for the annual Robbie Burns Day celebrations every January. Carman, dressed in his Nova Scotia tartan, for many years piped in the haggis held high by Jim Scales, also in kilts.

Carman was born in North River, Nova Scotia in 1906, the son of Rev. Robert and Lelia Browne. He graduated from Dalhousie University medical class in 1929 at age 23, and came out west and worked on the staff of the Vancouver General Hospital.

In 1931 he came to Nanaimo and worked with Dr. D. S. Ingham. In 1936 he was joined by Dr. A. H. Meneely and they established the Browne-Meneely Clinic on Bastion Street. The clinic was moved to Wallace Street in the late 1950's and renamed the Caledonian Clinic.

Carman Browne was invested as a Serving Brother of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem by Governor-General Roland Michener in 1967. The citation read: "For 38 years of lecturing and conducting exams in first aid for St. John's Ambulance Society from 1929."

He was a past commodore of the Nanaimo Yacht Club, member of the Doric Masonic Lodge, the Nanaimo and District Shrine Club, the Vancouver Gizeh Temple Shrine Band and the Caledonian Society. Carman was a member of the Nanaimo Pipe Band and was a well known local piper, often attending social functions to pipe in the head table.

### **ROSS CASHMAN**

Classification: Baking - Wholesale

Joined Rotary in February, 1951 and served for 30 years. Life Member, 1981.

During his business career Ross was manager of McGavin's Bakery, expanding the business until they had a staff of 80 people. They delivered bread all up and down the east coast of Vancouver Island, as well as to several points on the mainland.

Ross was a mover and a shaker in both his business and in the community. During the 1940's he was a live-wire Kinsman and, when they turfed him out at age 40, Ross joined Rotary and we benefited from this man's enormous energy and drive. He was also an active Free Mason and long ago helped to organize DeMolay for teenagers.

In Rotary, Ross' contribution came in many ways. He was at all work parties, worked on the Bowen Park project, judged at May 24th parades, helped at pancake breakfasts, and cooked at annual picnics. Ross and Mabel Cashman donated 150 rose bushes in 1968 that still bloom in Bowen Park to this day in a bed adjacent to the Rotary cairn at the Wall Street entrance to the park.

Ross and Mabel were avid gardeners, and were regular visitors to the hospital loaded with flowers for others to enjoy. They were always taking a carload of people for Sunday drives, and only the benefactors of their generosity truly know the extent of their kindness.

In May of 1981 Ross was made a Life Member of Rotary and the executive chose Len Lovick to make the presentation to Ross.

### **JOHN ST. CLAIR (JACK) CLARKE**

**1907 - 1980**

Classification: Ocean Shipping

Joined Rotary in 1964 and served for 16 years.

Jack was an active and dedicated Rotarian. He served as a director and for years he said the grace at the weekly luncheons, usually with a supplication suitable to the day or occasion.

He served as a commissioner on the Nanaimo Harbour Commission for 12 years—longer than anyone to date. Jack was a devoted and a "Happy Christian," and gave many years of devoted service to the St. Paul's Anglican Church. His friends remember his puckish grin and crinkling eyes as he sidled up to you to recount another of his endless repertoire of jokes.

In June of 1988, at the annual installation of officers, a Paul Harris Fellowship was presented to Jack's widow, Gladys, from an anonymous donor in memory of Jack.

### **NORMAN T. CORFIELD**

**1889 - 1983**

Classification: Automobiles - Retail

Joined Rotary in September, 1929 and served for 50 years.

Norman was Vice President of our club in 1935-36. A Rotary Pioneer, was made a Life Member in Rotary in 1979 after 50 years membership.

Born in Duncan to George T. and Christina Corfield, Norman was raised on the family farm located on Cowichan Bay delta adjacent to the mouth of the Koksilah River. He was an enthusiastic and an above average tennis player as a youth, competing in tournaments in western Canada and the U.S. At one time he was rated 8th internationally, and a cabinet full of trophies dating back to 1910 attests to his prowess on the courts.

Although Norman was a very astute and successful businessman, and despite his many personal achievements, he has always been a reserved and undemonstrative person. At one time he had nineteen different companies in his organization. He opened the first Ford dealership on Vancouver Island in Duncan and later expanded his dealerships to Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Parksville, Courtenay and Port Alberni. Nanaimo became the headquarters of his business. He also established the Standard bulk plant, the first bulk petroleum plant on the island.

Norman retired to a comfortable apartment overlooking English Bay in Vancouver, and in December, 1979, Nat Martin and Len Lovick journeyed to Vancouver to present him with a framed scroll declaring him a Life Member on the completion of 50 years of continuous service to Rotary.

Norman suffered a heart attack early in 1983, and passed away in his 94th year in April of that year.

**D. M. (DON) CUNLIFFE**  
**1924 - 1988**

Classification: General Law Practice

Joined Rotary in 1953, and served for 35 years. Club president 1962-63; Rotary Pioneer 1973. Both Don and his father, Frank, were presidents of our Rotary club, an honour shared with Jack and Ted Barsby.

Don went overseas with the Canadian Army early in the Second World War and was taken prisoner for several years. His subsequent ill health can probably be traced to these years. After the war he served for some years with the militia, retiring with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

On his return from the war, Don attended U.B.C. and obtained his degree in

law. He joined his father's practice in 1952. He was eventually honoured as a Queen's council.

During the 1960's he was particularly active in the community. He was instrumental in the formation of the Nanaimo Harbour Commission and the Vancouver Island Publicity Committee to encourage the tourist industry. Like his father before him, Don was active in the Chamber of Commerce and served that body as president. He also served six years as director of the B.C. Chamber, and six years with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

**ANDREW (ANDY) DUNSMORE**  
**1892 - 1955**

Classification: Education - Music

Joined Rotary in February, 1921, and served for 34 years.

Andrew Dunsmore was the 37th member in the fledgling Rotary club when he joined in 1921. He served as Vice-President in 1931-32 and for 33 years was club pianist. A close friend of Jim Scales, the two teamed up as pianist and song leader, bringing many memorable programs to the club.

Although Andy was a Mason as well as a Rotarian, music was his real life. For many years he was organist and choirmaster of the Methodist Church (later St. Andrew's United Church) and in addition became the music instructor at Nanaimo Senior High School.

Andrew Dunsmore's most notable and long-standing achievement was the formation of the Upper Island Music Festival, which celebrates its 67th anniversary this year. He began the organization in 1927, and with the help of R. T. Covenay, the first competition was held in May, 1928. Andy was the first

president of the festival, and used his influence as a Rotarian to persuade our club to sponsor the newly formed organization. His contribution to the festival and the development of music in this community is recognized by the community as a whole.

A succession of Rotarians played a prominent part in the early development of the Upper Island Music Festival. Andy continued as president until 1935, and served on the committee until 1942. He was succeeded as president by Dr. Earle Forester for three years, to be followed by another Rotarian, John Barsby, for four years until 1942 when the festival was discontinued for the duration of the Second World War.

In 1954, despite failing health, Andrew Dunsmore was again persuading community members to re-activate the festival. Another Rotarian, Dr. Doug Kirkbride, a former pupil of Andy's and successful competitor in the festival himself, took over where Andy left off and served as president for four years. In 1971-72 one other Rotarian, K. D. McClure, served as president of the festival, making a total of five Rotarians to date who have presided in that office.

On Andrew's death in 1955, the Rotary Club of Nanaimo established the Andrew Dunsmore Memorial Bursary in the amount of \$25.00. Through the years this sum as been increased and it eventually became two bursaries, each one worth \$250.00, a continuing tribute to the early service of a dedicated Rotarian.

Andrew Dunsmore is remembered in the community as indicated in a press report at the time of his death: "Committee members who worked with him remember a gracious and helpful man who won the respect of all who knew him."

## A. R. (ROD) GLEN

1918 - 1980

Classification: Credit Unions

Joined Rotary in 1970, and served for 10 years.

Rod was born and raised in Ladysmith, the son of Arthur Percy Glen, a Rotarian from 1927-1940, and our club treasurer from 1935 until 1940. During World War II he worked in Powell River for a weekly newspaper and in 1948 came to Nanaimo to work as a Linotype operator at the *Nanaimo Free Press*. Rod was on the union executive and was elected a trustee in the Harewood district for several terms.

He was a founding member of the Nanaimo Credit Union and, as president, spearheaded the planning and construction of the present headquarters on Albert Street. As a senior executive of the Credit Union in Canada, Rod travelled extensively promoting the co-operative movement. He was an excellent public speaker, and was keenly interested in the historical backgrounds of both Ladysmith and Nanaimo.

On November 23, 1978, at a civic dinner attended by the foremost citizens of the city, Rod Glen was made a Freeman of the City of Nanaimo, the highest award the city can bestow upon one of its citizens. The citation, read by Mayor Frank Ney, gave recognition by City Council to "A. Rod Glen for outstanding public service, who has served with dedication on the Greater Nanaimo Water District Board for 25 years, 17 years as chairman, and presently serving as chairman; 14 years on the Greater Nanaimo Sewer and Drainage Board, 9 years as chairman; for 22 years, from 1950, trustee of the Harewood Improvement District; and chairman of the City of Nanaimo Restructive Committee." At that time Rod was the ninth citizen to be made a Freeman of the City of Nanaimo.

"Rod Glen is one of those rare individuals who are endowed with the far-

sightedness which enables them to visualize change beyond the imaginations of most, and even more importantly, the energy and fortitude to work toward the realization of those visions." –*Nanaimo Times*, reporting on the Freeman civic dinner.

Mayor Frank Ney was guest speaker at the weekly Rotary luncheon in 1980 when he said, "The city of Nanaimo has saved millions of dollars because Rod Glen insisted that an adequate sewage disposal system be built to accommodate the needs of the area for years to come."

Rod passed away April 4, 1980, survived by his wife Rita and two daughters, Adrienne and Allison.

#### **LAWRENCE ARNOLD HANNA**

**1892 - 1979**

Classification: Judiciary - County Court

Joined Rotary in November, 1936, in Port Alberni, and became president of that club. He joined the Rotary Club of Nanaimo in 1951. He was Senior Active and a Rotary Pioneer with 27 years of perfect attendance in 43 years membership. Arnold was made a Life Member in 1974.

Arnold was a successful lawyer and politician. He was first elected to the Provincial Legislature in 1928, re-elected in 1931, and made Deputy Speaker of the House by Premier Pattullo. Soon after his re-election he resigned in favour of George Pearson, and then ran and won the Comox riding and served one term in Victoria.

Arnold did not seek re-election, and returned to his law practice and was elevated to the bench in 1940 as a Provincial Court Judge. He was honoured on April 5, 1965, for 25 years on the bench, and retired in 1967 at age 75.

Arnold had three sons, Laurence, Neill and Richard by his first wife, Anne, who passed away in 1959. He then married

Flora, who nursed him through the long final years until he passed away on March 27th, 1979.

#### **WILLIAM G. (BILL) HUNTER**

**1900 - 1988**

Classification: Refined Oil Products, Retail

Joined Rotary in 1962, and served as a director. Was made a Rotary Pioneer in 1982, and an Honorary Life Member on February 4th, 1983.

Bill's service club activity began in 1937 when he was a charter member of the Nanaimo Kinsmen Club. He was president in 1940.

He served on the first Arena Commission when the Civic Arena was opened in 1939. He eventually became chairman of the Nanaimo Parks and Recreation Commission after serving on that body for several years. He was elected to Nanaimo City Council for seven terms from 1968 to 1974, representing the South End.

Bill was proprietor of the Chevron gas station on Nichol Street at Needham, which he built when the Trans-Canada highway went through.

Bill's great-grandfather arrived with the first group of settlers on the "Tory" in 1852 at Fort Rupert, now Port Hardy. His grandfather was the first white baby born on Vancouver Island.

He married Winnifred McLennan in 1922 and they had a son, Bill, and daughter, Winona Laurie. Bill and Winnie celebrated 60 years of marriage in 1982. Winnie died in 1987, and Bill passed away June 7th, 1988.

**W. J. (BILL) LUPTON**

**1914 - 1991**

Classification: Newspaper Publishing

Joined Rotary in 1955; Club President 1959-60. Left Nanaimo for Port-O'Spain, Trinidad, in 1963; then to Oshawa in 1969; back to Nanaimo in 1979 when he retired and rejoined the Rotary Club of Nanaimo.

Bill started in the newspaper business with the *Chatham Daily News*, then went on to Brantford, Guelph, and finally to Nanaimo in 1953 when the Thomson newspaper chain purchased the *Free Press*.

Bill married Cae in Chatham, Ontario, March 25th, 1934, and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Nanaimo. They have five children; Allan in Nanaimo, Keith in Toronto, twins Beth in San Francisco and Brian in Vancouver, and Vicki Brent in North Vancouver.

**McGREGOR CHARLES**

**(CHARLIE) IRNSIDE**

**1875 - 1946**

Classification: Ship Brokerage

Joined Rotary in 1920, charter member No. 5. Of the 24 charter members, Charlie was the only one absent from the charter meeting April 30, 1920. He made up for this lapse when he took over as club secretary from Jim Galbraith and continued for 26 years until his death in 1946 from a heart attack, the first and only illness of his lifetime. Charlie was suitably recognized by our Rotary club with a presentation after 25 years of service. He held a commendable record of perfect attendance for 26 years.

His work as secretary was outstanding, the meticulous care with which he kept all the club's records and wrote up the minutes was a matter of comment. As the efficient services of a secretary are essential to the success of any organization, so it may truly be said the without Charlie

Ironside, this club would not have had the record which it has enjoyed during the first quarter century of existence.

Charlie Ironside came to British Columbia in 1898 at age fourteen. He gained employment on Canadian Pacific Steamships, eventually becoming a purser on coastal runs. He settled in Nanaimo in 1910 as the first company agent on the CPR Wharf. Some years later he established himself in business as a steamship line agent, marine notary, and harbourmaster.

Besides his long tenure as secretary of the Rotary Club of Nanaimo, he also served for 25 years as secretary of the Nanaimo Board of Trade and the Vancouver Island Affiliated Boards of Trade. He was recognized by the Board of Trade with a silver-on-oak plaque.

He also served as secretary of the original Nanaimo Golf Club. Charlie was a Mason, and a Past Exalted Ruler of Elks Lodge No. 26. He was elected as a city alderman in 1925 and again in 1927 and 1929. Much of his time was given to community work despite the long hours he put in at his office at the foot of Bastion Street.

For years his wife, Kathleen, assisted him with his daily business. They had two sons, Algoma C. and Edmund D. Charlie and Kathleen celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 1945.

To quote from the memorial printed in the November 15, 1946 edition of *COGS*, ". . . we shall miss his warm smile, his hearty handshake, the eloquence of his speeches, the beauty of his poetry, and the exceptional mastery of the English language which he disclosed in both. We shall remember him as a close, loyal, personal friend. We shall remember him for his broad outlook and human sympathies and for his ever-ready help to his friends in time of trouble. We shall remember him for his community activities, his high ethical

standards, and for his undeviating adherence to the path of rectitude. We shall miss him and remember his as a true Rotarian whose life is an example for us all to follow."

**JOSEPH (JOE) NICHOLSON KNEEN**

**1883 - 1967**

Classification: Builders Supplies -Retailing

Joined Rotary October 18, 1929. Club President in 1940-41. Senior Active and a Rotary Pioneer. With his wife, Emily, attended three Rotary International Conferences in San Francisco, New York, and Tokyo. Was a Rotarian for 38 years.

Joe came to Canada in 1907, staying briefly on the prairies where the winter cold drove him to the west coast and to Nanaimo. He worked for the Western Fuel Company as surface construction supervisor. Using mine slag, Joe supervised the filling of "the Ravine" which was a waterway at that time and is now the Terminal Avenue section of the Trans-Canada Highway through downtown Nanaimo.

Joe left Western Fuel when it was sold to the Dunsmuir interests in 1928, and formed his own building supply company, Central Wharf and Builders Supply. It was located on what is now the west parking lot of Harbour Park Mall. After World War II the company name was changed to Kneen's Builders Supplies Ltd. Joe retired in 1953 and sold out to Evans, Coleman and Evans of Vancouver in 1958.

Joe passed away November 5th, 1967 at age 83. He achieved 32 years of perfect attendance.

**WILLIAM (BILLY) LEWIS**

**1863 - 1968**

Classification: Light and Power

(Nanaimo Light & Power)

Joined Rotary June 20, 1920, just three weeks after the club was chartered. Billy served as club treasurer from 1923 to 1935, and again from 1941 to 1946. He was made an Honorary Member for Life in July 1963 on his 100th birthday by President Ian MacLeod.

Born at Portwine, California July, 11th, Billy Lewis' parents and four children arrived in Nanaimo at midnight on the steamer "Maude" on November 15, 1875, having left Victoria at 7:00 a.m. His parents are buried in the Comox Street cemetery. (The headstone is mounted on the wall.) Billy lived at 54 Dawes Street since 1891. He joined the staff of the Nanaimo Electric Light Co. in 1886 as a collector.

A much-loved citizen, Billy possessed a remarkably sharp memory and retained an active interest in local and world affairs. He lived through the terms of every Canadian Prime Minister since confederation, all 14 of them, and through the terms of 23 provincial premiers. He met some very famous people in his lifetime, including Judge Matthew Begbie, Sir John A. MacDonald and General William Booth of the Salvation Army. He knew Robert Dunsmuir as well.

From *Nanaimo—A Short History* (1974) by Patricia Johnson: "By 1904, a large brick powerhouse was operating on the Millstream, near the site of the old Hudson's Bay Company waterwheel, and it produced electricity generated by water power under the management of William Lewis."

Billy Lewis was first in the clothing business with his brother-in-law James Caldwell. He became manager of the Nanaimo Electric Light Co., also Nanaimo

Duncan Utilities. Billy retired in 1928 at age 65. Past Master of Ashlar Lodge, member Scottish Masons, member St. Andrew United Church, and honorary member Nanaimo Historical Association. Billy was predeceased by his wife Mary Caldwell by several years, and his niece, Miss Caldwell, became his housekeeper until he died.

The Billy Lewis Centenary Rose Garden in Bowen Park was established by the club in 1963 under president Ian MacLeod in celebration of Billy's centenary. It also recognized his lifelong interest in gardening. A sundial cairn was unveiled in 1968 in a ceremony led by club president Alex McKeachie and Archdeacon Harry Greenhalgh.

The story of Billy's 100th birthday and the establishment of the rose garden in his honour was written up in *The Rotarian* in August of 1963.

By living to the remarkable age of 104, almost 105, Billy Lewis became quite a local celebrity; a legend in his own time. The club frequently feted him on his birthday with a special birthday cake. His happy disposition endeared him to all who knew him, for he possessed a ready wit with a fund of humorous stories. When asked at his 103rd birthday if he expected to be present a year hence, he replied, "Oh yes, not many people die at 104, you know." Billy remained active and alert until the end.

## **N. E. (NAT) MARTIN**

**1902 - 1988**

Classification: Groceries Retail

Joined Rotary in 1950 at Trail, B.C., before moving to Nanaimo in 1952 and joining our club. Served as Director 1954-1955, Treasurer 1975 to 1978, Rotary Pioneer, made a Life Member in 1986. Nat took a very active part in the Bowen Park development during the 1950's when this

was the major club project. He organized Radio Auctions to raise funds for that project.

Born in Vancouver in 1902, Nat was sent to England for his education at Blundell's School in Devon. Upon his return he worked for about three years with the Royal Bank, where he met his future wife, Kay.

Nat decided to follow his father in the grocery trade, working for Kelly Douglas from 1926 until 1952. He spent three years in Trail as buyer for the company, moving to Nanaimo in 1952 to take over the business of Speller and MacRae on the corner of Townsite and Millstone. The business grew and expanded, but competition from larger stores eventually forced Nat to close the business, and he sold real estate with H.J.W. Evans Ltd. until he retired.

Nat participated actively in the community; serving on the Nanaimo District School Board from 1956 to 1959, at which time he represented the board on the City Planning Commission. He was president of the Nanaimo Symphony Society in 1968, inaugurating the very successful annual Symphony Ball. Nat was an active Mason and Shriner, and after twenty years association with Homemakers he retired in 1983.

His sporting interests were curling and yachting. Nat first owned a sailing yacht, but switched to a cruiser. He was an enthusiastic yachtsman in the Nanaimo Yacht Club, and during his retirement years he and Kay have travelled extensively all over the world.

Nat and Kay had two sons and a daughter.

**THOMAS B. (TOM) McARRAVY**

**1900 - 1979**

Classification: Architecture

Joined Rotary in 1951, made an Honorary Member in 1979 after moving to Vancouver.

Born in Glasgow, Tom came with his family to Vancouver in 1911 and moved to Nanaimo in 1934 and started his own architect firm. He eventually joined up with Les Barley, another local architect.

Tom rose to some prominence as an architect during his forty years in Nanaimo, designing such buildings as Nanaimo City Hall, Nanaimo Senior Secondary School, Branch 10 Legion, the Addison Building and the Lutheran Church in Harewood.

He served for many years on the Nanaimo Planning Commission, was a former president of the Nanaimo Symphony Society and played violin with the symphony for many years. Tom also belonged to St. Andrew's United Church.

Tom and his wife Gwen had one daughter, who resides in Vancouver.

**A. D. (ARNOLD) McGILLVRAVY**

**1903 - 1987**

Classification: Power Supply

Joined Rotary in Port Alberni in 1949, and our club in 1957 until he moved to Victoria where he remained until his retirement in 1968. Arnold returned to Nanaimo and to our club at that time and remained a member until his death at age 84 in 1987. He had been a Rotarian for 38 years. He was made a Life Member of our club in 1986.

Arnold first came to Canada in 1913 and the family settled in Port Alberni where he attended school, graduating at age 16. After the death of his step-father, his mother moved back to Scotland and Arnold joined the Bamfield Lifeboat Crew.

In 1920 Arnold went back to Scotland and took eight years of electrical engineering, returning to Canada in 1928 to form his own business as an electrical contractor. Two years later he joined the City of Port Alberni, and shortly thereafter the B.C. Electric Co. bought out the city's electrical system and Arnold stayed on.

The Province formed the B.C. Power Commission in 1943 and took over local electrical companies, and Arnold became manager for the power commission in Port Alberni, and in 1957 he was made manager of Nanaimo. Promoted in 1962 to become regional manager for Vancouver Island, Arnold held that position until 1965 when he became regional manager for British Columbia.

His community service included eight years as city alderman in Port Alberni, president of the Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Red Cross and United Appeal for two years. He was an ardent golfer and an enthusiastic boater, building his own meticulously crafted cruiser.

Arnold married Helen in 1935 and they had two children; Rod, a doctor, and Margot, a school teacher. In 1985 Arnold and Helen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

**A. G. (ALEX) McKEACHIE**

**1913 - 1988**

Classification: Stevadoring

Joined Rotary in 1962. Club President 1967-68; Rotary Pioneer 1982; Director 1964-65. Rotarian for 26 years.

Born in Victoria on September 3, 1913, Alex was a member of an athletic family, and he was talented in both bowling and softball. Perhaps best known for his many roles in Victoria basketball, Alex played on two national championship teams of the 1930's; the Victoria Blue Ribbons and the Victoria Dominos.

He was manager of Empire Stevadoring in Nanaimo for many years, and served on the Nanaimo Harbour Commission from 1980 to 1985.

**George Sharratt Pearson**

**1880 - 1966**

Classification: Groceries Wholesale

George Pearson must be remembered as the man who organized and founded the Rotary Club of Nanaimo, and was the first president from April 30, 1920 to June 30, 1922, the only President who served two terms. During a long and successful political career in the Provincial Legislature he retained his interest in the Nanaimo Rotary Club. He eventually resigned from the club in September 1950, for health reasons at age 70.

He became Minister of Labour in 1933, originating much of the early labour legislation in the Province. After 1941 he was the first Minister of Health and Welfare when he set up the framework for public health insurance. He also held portfolios as Minister of Mines and Railways, Commissioner of Fisheries, and was Provincial Secretary.

In 1951, "in recognition and sincere appreciation of his public service as a Minister of the Crown and as a private citizen" he was made a Freeman of the City of Nanaimo, the second citizen to be so honoured.

He resigned from politics in 1952 and lived to 86 years of age.

**W. H. (BILL) POWER**

**1902 - 1990**

Classification: Chartered Accountant

Joined Rotary in 1950. Club auditor for 17 years, Rotary Pioneer in 1970, and was made an Honorary Life Member in December, 1986.

As a young man, Bill Power showed promise as a professional hockey player, only to have that goal cut short when, working on the railway one summer when he was at university, Bill experienced an accident which resulted in the loss of his left leg. Bill retained his life long interest in hockey, and was extremely proud when his brother was named to the Canadian Hockey Hall of Fame.

After the Second World War, despite his disability, Bill was a founding member of the Nanaimo Flying Club and flew his own plane regularly, earning the admiration of ex-RCAF pilots like Pete Hanna.

He established himself in business in Nanaimo as a chartered accountant in a partnership of Pickard, Power and Lane.

**A. W. J. (JACK) RATHLEF**

**1883 - 1944**

Classification: Electrical  
Supplies Distributing

Joined Rotary December 7, 1934, member No. 100. Was vice president in 1942-43. Jack served on the Nanaimo Hospital Board for 23 years, with three years as president. He was a member of Ashlar Masonic Lodge and Omaha Lodge 288, as well as a member of the Elks Lodge B.P.O.E. #26. He also served on the Nanaimo Board of School Trustees from 1940 to 1944, and had filed nomination papers to run again when, as the December 15, 1944 edition of COGS put it, ". . . he received a sudden and unexpected call to the 'Great Beyond' and has laid aside his working tools and entered into the land of Rest and Light." He was 61.

Jack's son Bob joined Rotary in 1948 with the same classification and has been a member for 47 years, now senior active with excused attendance due to ill health. A third generation Rathlef, Bill, was a member of our club for a time, but left to

pursue an interest with Nanaimo Emergencies Services.

### **FRANK ROWBOTTOM**

**1905 - 1979**

Classification: Auto Courts

Joined Rotary in 1958. A native son of Nanaimo, Frank was a Rotary Pioneer with 20 years perfect attendance. He was a popular cashier on the reception desk at the weekly luncheon meetings, taking the job over from Joe Kneen in 1967 and sharing the reception desk with Percy Cowman and Jim Scales.

Frank was a member of the Nanaimo Regional Hospital board for 11 years and served on the Court of Revision of Property Assessment. He was a member of Ashlar Lodge No. 3 AF & AM and served as Worshipful Master and District Grand Master.

Frank worked for many years for Mayo Singh, founder of Mayo Mills at Paldi, as a forestry consultant. After that he managed Evergreen Auto Court on Esplanade with his wife Susan.

### **JAMES JARVIS (JIM) SCALES**

**1896 - 1993**

Classification: Periodicals

Joined Rotary in 1940 in Port Alberni, sponsored by Arnold Hanna. Jim was president of our club in the 50th year of Rotary International, 1954-55, and was made a Paul Harris Fellow by this club in February, 1980, on the 75th anniversary of R.I. He was active in Rotary for 39 years, and had 30 years of perfect attendance. When Jim was presented with his Paul Harris award he said, "I've waited a long time for this." Jim was songleader for almost all of his years in our Rotary club.

Jim was born in Scotland and first went to work in a fish curing plant at age 14. In

1912, at age 16, he apprenticed in the steel works in Colville. When war broke out Jim joined the army at Hamilton barracks, trained at Rippon, and eventually found himself in France in 1916. He served with the Black Watch, the Gordon Highlanders, and the 51st Highland Division (the Ladies from Hadies). Wounded in the arm at Vimy Ridge, he received the Military Medal for his part in the action, and was invalided back to England. Back in France in 1918. Jim was more seriously wounded at Arras, this time he convalesced at an Edinburgh hospital.

In 1919, after the war, his regiment was sent to Glasgow to quell a strike, and while there Jim contracted pleurisy and subsequently received his discharge with 100% pension disability. He returned to Montrose and the fish curing plant.

Jim was advised to get outdoors for his health, so in 1922, with his bride Minnie, he emigrated to Canada and established a chicken farm on the soldiers settlement at Hilliers. The venture proved unsuccessful and, after a couple of years, the couple returned to Scotland. In 1925 he and Minnie returned to Canada, this time to Nanaimo. They bought a corner grocery business from Joe Lindsay and settled down for 14 successful years.

At the outbreak of World War II, Jim joined the Canadian Legion War Services, trained at Gordon Head, and went to Port Alberni with the first troops when the military established a camp there, providing entertainment and programs for the troops. Minnie continued to run the business in Nanaimo until 1942 when they sold it.

In 1946 Jim left Port Alberni to return to Gordon Head to help rehabilitate prisoners of war returning from the Far East. A year later Jim and Minnie returned to Nanaimo and bought the Nanaimo News Stand from Ernie Illott. On March 28th, 1947, Jim joined the Rotary Club of Nanaimo, sponsored by his good friend Andrew Dunsmore.

Jim was organist and choirmaster in St. Andrew's United Church, and sang in the choir. He sang in church choirs for over 50 years and also competed in many Upper Island Music Festivals as a baritone soloist and in quartets, where he won many awards for his Scottish folk songs. Over the years Jim brought many fine choirs and musical programs to the Rotary luncheon meetings.

Jim and Minnie lived on the old Sloan property on Stewart Avenue. He was an avid gardener, winning the Rotary Garden Trophy several years in succession for the best all-around garden. Tommy Gould, Rotarian and nurseryman, put up the trophy, and Herb Bate and Dave Jenkins were two other keen Rotarian competitors. Jim also enjoyed golf, and was a member of the first Nanaimo Golf Club.

After 44 years of happy marriage Minnie passed away in 1966, and Jim remarried in 1967 to Jessie, a widow and long-time family friend. They lived quietly on Victoria Road, continuing to be active in their church and in Rotary.

Jim was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for over 50 years, and marched with the veterans in most Armistice Day parades, unless prevented by ill-health, regardless of weather. For years Jim provided our club with suitable Remembrance Day programs, and sold poppies at the club luncheon every year.

Jim devoted his life in service to his country, to his church, his community, his old comrades, to Rotary and to his fellow man. His record is a tribute to "Service Above Self." Jim passed away January 20th, 1993, at the age of 96 years.

## **JOHN SHAW**

**1863 - 1933**

Classification: Education - Secondary

Joined Rotary, Charter Member #9, in 1920, and was a Rotarian for 13 years.

John Shaw had a distinguished career as a civic politician and as an educator. He was elected to serve seven times as a city alderman, and was mayor in 1912-13. He taught school for 27 years, and was principal of the Central High School on Selby Street. It was later renamed John Shaw High School in his honour.

For 52 years John Shaw was prominent in education circles in this province, spending 15 years as Chairman of Schools in British Columbia. He died July 4th, 1933, on his 70th birthday.

## **E. G. (TED) STROYAN**

**1917 - 1991**

Classification: Pulp Manufacturing

Joined Rotary in 1954 in Port Alberni and was president of that club. Ted joined our club in 1964, and was Chairman of two District Conference Committees, 1974 and 1979. In 1979 he was made a Paul Harris Fellow by this club, and in 1990 Ted was made a Life Member of the Rotary Club of Nanaimo.

Ted obtained his university degree as an education administrator. He was a teacher, a principal and an administrator before accepting a position with MacMillan Bloedel as public relations officer for all of Vancouver Island. After moving to Nanaimo, Ted served a full term on the Board of Malaspina College with Rotarian Carl Opgaard, first college president. In 1991 a scholarship was established in his memory. Ted also served for a term on the Nanaimo Harbour Commission, was a staunch supporter of the Chamber of Commerce and served as its president. He

also was named Vice-President of the Vancouver Island Chamber of Commerce.

In 1974, when his friend Cliff Laver of Courtenay was District Governor and Bill Crellin was our club president, Ted became chairman of the District Conference Committee for our club. He did such an outstanding job that five years later he was again asked by District Governor D. P. Dean Peggs of the Victoria Rotary Club to chair the 1979 District Conference. Ted agreed, provided all those who had served with him on the 1974 conference would serve again. They did. The conference was an outstanding success, setting an attendance record, and Ted was made a Paul Harris Fellow by President Bob McDougall and a grateful Rotary Club of Nanaimo.

### **EARLE CATHERS WESTWOOD**

**1909 - 1980**

Classification: Funeral Parlours

Joined Rotary in 1945. Resigned in 1956 when he was elected to the provincial legislative assembly. He was reinstated immediately as an Honorary Member of our club, and re-elected annually. He was again reinstated as a Rotarian in 1964, but again had to resign when he was appointed Agent-General for the province to London, England. He returned to Canada in 1968 and was again reinstated into the club as Senior Active - Funeral Parlours and remained a member until 1973 when he resigned due to ill health.

Earle had a remarkable record of political service to the City of Nanaimo and the Province which inevitably interfered with his membership in Rotary, and it was to his credit that he consistently persevered to maintain his membership through the years. During his term in the provincial cabinet, Earle was the first appointed Minister of Recreation and Conservation, at which time he gave the Westwood Lake property to the city to be used as a park.

He was a charter member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Kinsmen club, and was a member and chairman of both the school board and the hospital board. He served as city alderman and was elected mayor 1950 - 52, and during his term the new city hall on Wallace Street was opened. With Pete Maffeo as campaign chairman, Earle promoted the Nanaimo District Senior Citizens Housing Development.

In 1958 Earle was made a Freeman of the City of Nanaimo, along with John Barsby and George Muir, also former mayors and Rotarians.

*In this, our seventy-fifth year of Rotary service to our community and the world, there are many members of our club that we remember who have "laid down their working tools and entered into the land of Rest and Light." Space does not permit recording all of their service to club and community, but they are remembered by their fellow Rotarians for their untiring efforts and dedication to the Rotary creed, "Service Above Self." –EDITORS*