



**Sidney John Glenn Bird, M.Sc., O.L.S., P.Eng.
1933 - 1989**

Sidney John Glenn Bird, President of Bird and Hale Limited, Consulting Engineers and Teaching Master at Seneca College died on February 10, 1989, after a 3 year battle with cancer. He leaves his mother Mrs. Helen M. Bird (nee Glenn), his wife Susan Scott (nee Duggan), daughters Andrea and Stephanie and grandson Liam, a host of old friends and many professional and business associates who will miss him dearly.

Glenn was born in New Liskeard, Ontario on September 2, 1933. His father was Vice President of McNamara Construction Company. His father's work brought the family to Toronto in 1945 where he attended the University of Toronto Schools during his years of secondary education. Glenn was a tough competitor on the basketball court and on Barry Gray's football teams. He attended the University of Toronto where he received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering in 1954, articulated to B.J. Haynes, B.Sc., O.L.S., and earned his Commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor. He formed a private firm with Charles F. Riley, B.Sc., O.L.S., which endured until he joined the teaching staff at the University of Toronto in 1961 as a lecturer in Plane Surveying and Air Photo Interpretation in association with O.J. Marshall, Basil Haynes and Harold Macklin.

In 1959 he obtained his M.A.Sc., from the University of Toronto in Civil Engineering. His thesis provided research on the Vineland Project involving photogrammetric methods of integrating Cadastral Surveys. The next year, extending his interest in air photo interpretation, Glenn attended a post-graduate course in Air Photo Interpretation and Remote Sensing given at Purdue University. In 1961, he began a teaching career with the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Toronto at the graduate and undergraduate level. His love of teaching and involvement with students was discovered at this time and he later joined the staff of Seneca College in 1976, where he taught until the week of his death. During his career at the University of Toronto he did research into the applications of black and white and colour photography as well as infra red remote sensing in the Arctic and tundra regions of Canada. He

was an active participant in the joint Arctic Summer School hosted by the University of Alberta in Inuvik, Northwest Territories 1970.

In the mid 1960's Glenn was one of the founders of Airphoto analysis Associates with Robert Tress, B.Sc., Gary Hunter, B.Sc., and Ian Hale, M.Sc., (now with Bird and Hale Limited and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute). Airphoto Analysis Associates was a firm of Consulting Engineers which specialized in the acquisition and interpretation of multi spectral photography.

In 1970 he formed a partnership with Ian Hale which later became Bird and Hale Limited, Consulting Engineers and Biologists. Under Glenn's direction, the firm developed a solid reputation in the field of engineering terrain analysis and environmental investigations. He recognized the importance of the engineering/biology interface and developed expertise and many investigative techniques some of which became industry standards. An important component of the information used in decision making was invariably derived from airphoto interpretation and selective field investigation. He loved the outdoors and took every opportunity to carry out his own ground truthing, the more remote the site the better. Glenn was equally at home in a bush camp and a board room.

All through his private and professional life Glenn made many close and long term ties with students in his classes, colleagues in the professions and acquaintances. He kept his old friends made in the earliest days and will be remembered for his patience, fairness and his practical and humorous approach to life. He was an active member of St. Johns Church, York Mills, home and school associations, his ratepayers group, his University of Toronto fraternity and Rosedale Golf Club, Toronto.

He contributed to his professional community through his involvement with the Canadian Advisory Committee on Remote Sensing and past presidency of the Ontario Association of Remote Sensing.

Glenn was co-author of two books: "AIRPHOTO INTERPRETATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT" and "SURVEYING", both of which have been adopted at post secondary institutions.

Glenn provided for his many friends and associates an example of living which inspired independence of thought, loyalty, enthusiasm, competitiveness and fairness. He was a great teacher, a superb engineer and a good friend.