

WILLIAM HAMILTON CARR

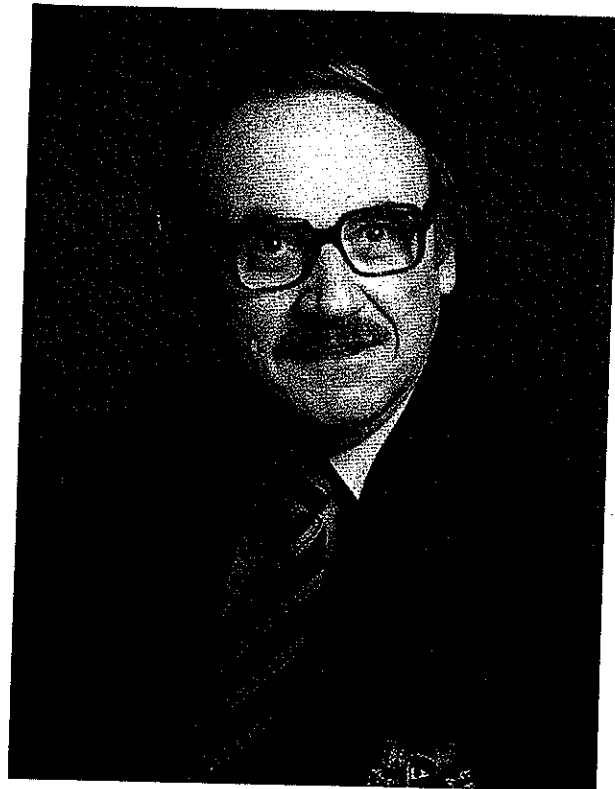
1920 - 1998

edited by Peter G. Moreton, OLS, CLS
from the eulogy by Barry R. Carr

It was in 1967 that I first met this man Bill, me as an Engineering student at the University of Guelph and Bill as the professor. Bill instructed and taught with authority and soon won the respect of all. I remember his constant reminder about how some of us continuously "slaughtered the Queen's language". Bill was, by my recollection, a quiet man who always had time amid his busy schedule for this young articling student. In the late 60s and early 70s, his hours were long, often not leaving the office in the evening until 11 o'clock. Bill would remind me not to follow in his footsteps and that is another story.

His surveying knowledge and calculating skills were impeccable. Bill was a stickler for accuracy and in doing the job right at any cost. Those early fundamental skills will stay with me and I am sure others until the day we meet Bill again.

William Hamilton Carr was born on July 3, 1920 in Midland, Ontario, the first of four children to Courtney LeRoy Carr and Kathleen. Bill's mother was a petite Irish girl born in Dublin, Ireland in 1892 and his father was a brawny Canadian Boy born in South River in 1884. Together with sister Colleen and brothers Roy and Dennis, Bill grew up and attended school in the small northern community of New Liskeard. Life in the pre-war depression era was lean by today's standards. It was a good foundation for Bill and his siblings to build solid values—initiative, integrity, a sense of civility, fair play, work ethic and the value of a dollar just to name a few.



Bill had a keen interest in airplanes and when WWII came along, he enlisted in the RCAF (Oct. 1940) to become a fighter pilot. Unfortunately, His Majesty's recruiters recognized his aptitude for mathematics and sent him off for training as a navigator. It was a decision which was instrumental (no pun intended) in establishing the path his career would eventually follow. During the last six months of his service overseas in Africa, Bill was assigned the duties of Chief Ground Navigation Instructor. This was another decision which would influence his future. Bill spent three years and 5 months overseas, walking away from three crashes, swimming away from one and parachuting from another.

In November 1944, Bill returned from the war with his new bride Irene and a few months later enrolled in Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto, graduated in the spring of 1949 and started a family along the way. As a post grad, Bill stayed on at U of T teaching surveying while completing his qualifications for Ontario Land Surveyor. It was then off to the business world with a brief partnership with Horton, Carr and Haines before striking out on his own to settle in Georgetown (Halton Hills) which was just starting to be developed in the mid-50s. While operating his own surveying and engineering business, Bill also assumed the role of town engineer for several years, became an active member in the Georgetown Rotary Club and served on the local School Board. Bill also returned to teaching part-time at the University of Guelph in the early 60s. Following a heart attack in 1971, Bill left the rigors of business and turned once again to teaching, this time at Algonquin College in Ottawa as Department Head of Technology and Trades, where he remained until his retirement in 1985. Bill was not one to sit idle in his spare time. He became an avid sailor and also enjoyed tennis, cross-country skiing, and became a bridge enthusiast.

Unfortunately, in 1987, two years after his retirement, Bill suffered a disabling stroke which severely curtailed his physical activities. But that didn't hold him back mentally as Bill continued to actively pursue his technical interests. Bill married Margaret in 1990 and gained a supportive second family.

One of the personal traits about Bill that clearly stands out in his oldest son Barry's mind was his insatiable curiosity and thirst for knowledge. Barry recalls that when he (Barry) was a young boy, his dad constantly read ... books, magazines, and newspapers. Bill would arrive home from work at around 5:10 and proceed to read the *Toronto Star* from front to back and then quickly complete the crossword puzzle before they sat down to dinner.

Bill loved astronomy and the family spent many a summer evening with a theodolite set up on the front lawn gazing at the planets and constellations while discussing the mysteries of the universe. Bill had a keen mind for mathematics. His university chum George Bird related a story to Barry, how Bill and his classmates would watch Bill complete tough exams in half the normal time scoring marks in the 90s. As George said, "He had a photographic memory". It was positively scary how easily Bill absorbed mathematical concepts.

Bill loved the outdoors and especially enjoyed their cottage on Crystal Lake. David Carr, Bill's youngest son, related an event that occurred there one summer evening. Dave suggested having a game of Trivial Pursuit and offered his dad the first roll of the dice. Bill gladly obliged, answered the first question, then continued to roll and answer until completing the entire game without anyone else having a chance to take their turn.

Bill's T.V. viewing was somewhat unique as he rarely watched a single complete program, preferring to watch three or four at the same time. Watching just one program, Bill said, was too boring. With the couch commandeered, remote in hand, Bill could follow CNN, the Weather Channel, A&E, and Discovery Channel with time to also check up on Nikki and Victor on the Y&R.

Bill had a strong interest in computers which started with the first basic desktop machines in his survey business. In recent years Bill regularly surfed the net and enjoyed sending e-mail to friends and family. He particularly enjoyed corresponding with his grandchildren. With the help of step-son Grant, Bill had just recently upgraded his equipment to a Pentium-based system and was quickly teaching himself the how and why of Windows 95.

Bill's need to challenge himself throughout his life is what kept him going for the last ten years following his stroke. Despite his physical restrictions, Bill constantly strived to keep his mind active, taking great interest in all of the family activities.

Bill passed away on January 3, 1998.

Bill will be missed by so many colleagues, close friends and family. For those of us that had the privilege to know Bill personally, his memory will live on.

JOHN FRANCIS (FRANK) DALEY

1911 - 1997

by T. Spence Foreman, OLS (Ret)

Mr. Frank Daley was born in Barrie, Ontario, on November 13, 1911. He served his articles with Mr. Harold Stewart Howden and was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor on March 25, 1959. On September 20, 1937 he joined the Surveys Branch of the Department of Highways of Ontario and rendered loyal service for 35 years until his retirement on November 30, 1972. At the time of his retirement Frank was a Field Supervisor in the Central Region of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, formerly the Department of Highways.

During World War II Frank served his country as an Officer with the Royal Canadian Artillery for four and a half years. Also during this period in his life he met his wife, the former Miss Mary Eleanor Thibideau and they were married on October 3, 1945 in Bathurst, New Brunswick.

After his military service he returned to the Department of Highways at which time the Surveys Branch was expanding rapidly to meet the ever increasing need for new and improved highways. At this critical time Frank provided a very valuable service in helping to train and supervise many of the new employees.

