



CLARENCE DANIEL COX
(1910-1983)

Clare Cox was a friendly man and he liked to tell stories, mostly about his own experiences, and he could tell them in three languages: English, Cree and Ojibway. Much of his survey work was on the boundaries of the Indian Reserves of the Cree and Ojibway Nations, and it is a measure of his friendly attitude toward everyone that he made a real effort to learn their languages. He stocked his library with books on Indian history and legend, and such gifts from his Indian friends as a feathered headdress and a war club. At his retirement party in 1975, he was given several more beautiful pieces of Indian handicraft - a peace pipe, a tomahawk, and a braided headband, with appropriately embellished stories (devised by other famous storytellers) to go with each.

Clare was born in Port Arthur (Thunder Bay) Ontario, where he attended public and high schools. His father, William S. Cox, operated a corner confectionery store. While attending high school and during summer holidays, Clare demonstrated enterprise and self-reliance by working at such jobs as theatre usher, assistant movie projectionist, labourer on a CNR gang, deckhand on a Great Lakes steamer, and part of his fund of stories concerned these boyhood adventures.

After graduation from high school, he worked with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, and later with the provincial Department of Highways, as a field draftsman in several locations in Ontario.

In June 1940 he married Miriam Karioja, had an idyllic summer honeymoon, and enlisted in the RCAF on Friday

the 13th of September 1940, certain that he would be sent overseas immediately and perish over Berlin. But his luck held, he remained in Canada, and before the end of the war they had a daughter, Catherine, and a son, William.

After basic training, he was posted to the Aircraft Repair Base at Winnipeg, where he worked as a draftsman, and discovered the joys of the Sergeants' Mess. In 1943 he was posted to Ottawa, and attached to the Department of Mines and Resources, where he worked on the Canada Air Pilot and trimetrogon photography in the Legal Surveys and Aeronautical Charts Division, and met many of the people who became his friends and associates in later years.

Following the war, he was employed by Phillips and Benner, Ontario Land Surveyors in Port Arthur, and was apprenticed to J.K. Benner. He was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor in June 1949, and continued working for the firm. His surveys during this period included mining claims, city subdivisions, summer resort locations, a meridian line north of Lake Nipigon, and setting flood line contours for timber companies wishing to control water levels. He became familiar with much of Northwestern Ontario.

Clare joined the staff of the Legal Surveys Division, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources on May 1, 1956, and in the succeeding ten years became yet more familiar with Northwestern Ontario. From 1956 to 1966 he supervised field parties in that area, chiefly subdividing and surveying the boundaries of Indian Reserves. He worked around Lake of the Woods, Kenora, Fort William, Fort Frances, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, Lake Nipigon, Wabigon and points North. He looked back on that period of his life with fondness, remembering each frustrating search for ancient evidence as a challenge, and each monument found from such wisps of evidence as blazed trees, rotting fences and illegible field notes, as successes.

Except for a single field season in 1968, Clare spent the years from 1966 until his retirement in 1975 as a supervisor in the Plans Examination Section of Legal Surveys Division, where he searched for errors in other people's survey plans, and wistfully wished that he was still making field errors of his own.

Clare was Secretary-Treasurer of the Eastern Regional Group of Ontario Land Surveyors from 1968 to 1973, and did a fine job of quietly arranging dinners, meetings and programs for the group in Ottawa,

Brockville and Smiths Falls. For ten years, also in this period, he was Legal Surveys Division Steward for the Engineers and Land Surveyors Group of the Professional Institute of the Public Service. He was a member of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, the Canadian Institute of Surveying, the Masonic Order, and of St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Ottawa.

He had been ill during most of his retirement and, although he continued to watch football, baseball and hockey on television, he never did make much use of the fine pair of binoculars presented to him on his retirement. It was a sad conclusion to the life of a man who greatly loved the outdoors.

He is survived by his widow, Miriam, daughter Catherine (Price), his son William, and by four grandchildren.