

BIOGRAPHIES



AUVO OLAVI (OLIVER) ESTE
(1909 - 1979)

Of Finnish ancestry, Oliver was born in Houghton, Michigan on August 5, 1909, but his parents, Andrew and Elizabeth Este, moved their family to Port Arthur, Ontario the same year. He completed his secondary school education and two years of mining engineering at Sudbury Mining and Technical School, graduating in 1929.

In 1931, he was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor but worked as a chemist in the Copper Refining Division of International Nickel Company (INCO) in Copper Cliff. In 1940, he became Chief Field Engineer for the Department of Geological Research.

It wasn't until 1945 that he entered private practice, purchasing the Sudbury firm of R. W. DeMorest, O.L.S. Oliver combined his experience as a pilot and photographer with an interest in retracement of original surveys; has camera-equipped Fleet Canuck also proved useful in summer resort surveys. The familiar, red and black floatplane and its sociable pilot were warmly welcomed in remote northern areas.

An active amateur radio operator (HAM), Oliver operated his own short-wave station, VE3BEK, and served as communications officer with the Sudbury Emergency Measures Organization.

An attempt to retire in 1965 soon failed; by 1968 he was active in construction and legal surveys for a Florida firm, Bailey, Glass and Post Inc. In 1972, he accepted a teaching position with the Technology Division of Confederation College, Thunder Bay and became co-ordinator of the survey technician program. The construction of a 36-foot ferroceement power cruiser of his own design filled every spare minute.

Oliver Este died suddenly on June 18, 1979 at the Thunder Bay Yacht Club, a few months before he hoped to launch his boat. He is survived by his wife, Bertha, by his son, Grant Este, M.Sc. of Ottawa, by his daughter, Dr. Patricia Tones of Saskatoon, by his brother, J. Este, OLS of Timmins and his sister, Mrs. J. C. Bell of North Bay.