

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY



ARCHIBALD GILLIES, B.A.Sc., O.L.S., M.R.A.I.C., P.Eng.  
1885 - 1964

By Sidney W. Woods, O.L.S.

Archie Gillies was born in the County of Essex on January 14, 1885, his parents being Margaret Brown Gillies and Zachariah Gillies. He attended the primary and secondary schools at St. Thomas, and later, the University of Toronto where he graduated from the School of Practical Science in the class of 1907, later obtaining a degree of B.A.Sc. in the year 1909. His O.L.S. apprenticeship was served with George A. McCubbin, engineer and surveyor, of Chatham, and he received his commission to practise during the year 1920.

With the usual enthusiasm of the youth of the First War period, Archie enlisted, and served as a Lieutenant, with the Seventh Canadian Railway Troops in France and Belgium.

After the war, he spent several years with the firm of Sutcliffe and Neelands at New Liskeard, Ontario.

During the year 1923, he opened up a private practice in the Town of Timmins, Ontario, and thereafter spent the rest of his life in surveying, engineering and architectural activities in that area. Because of his considerable experience in the field of architecture, he was granted registration as a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada thereby becoming that rare anomaly, a surveyor, engineer and architect.

While a greater part of his activity was spent in the survey of mining properties and claims in all areas of Ontario, he also engaged in many engineering activities such as the design of bridges, power plants, water works and many phases of municipal engineering.

## ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

The writer was associated with the firm during the years 1935-1940, which was a period of great activity in the Porcupine Camp, with many new mines coming into existence, and tremendous expansion by the older Hollinger, McIntyre and Dome Mines.

Possibly, because of ancestry, his sole sporting activity was golf and in common with members of that fraternity, he appreciated a good story or anecdote.

He took part in many communal activities, being a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and Canadian Legion and member and Past-President of the Timmins Kiwanis Club. He was for many years President of the Victorian Order of Nurses Branch in the Town of Timmins and later provincial representative of the Timmins Branch. He was an active member of the Masonic Order, serving as P.M. Masonic Lodge and P.Z. Masonic Chapter.

His religious affiliations were with the Timmins First United Church where he served as a member of the various boards and session, later becoming Secretary to the Official Board and eventually a Trustee.

Mr. Gillies was married on two occasions, firstly to Irene Eedy of St. Mary's, Ontario who died on December 8, 1953. His second wife was Muriel Griffin of North Bay, Ontario, who survived him.

After a lengthy illness, he passed away at the Toronto General Hospital on June 16, 1964. Interment was at St. Mary's, Ontario.

The late Archie Gillies was a courteous and affable gentleman and a careful and conscientious workman in the many phases of his 40 years consulting practice in the Timmins area. He had an irrepressible good humour and because of his many years experience in the mining area of Ontario, had acquired a remarkable fund of stories and legends which he enjoyed narrating, concerning the events and incidents which had happened during his lifetime of experience.

Mr. Gillies was on the Council of Management of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors for the years 1950, 51 and 52 and President of the Association in the year 1953.