

HANS JUERGEN KOESTER 1913 - 1996

by John Verhaegen, OLS

Hans J. Koester was born in the town of Forkenbeck in the former Pomerania on the Baltic Sea and completed his secondary education in the City of Rostock.

Having left East Germany without much resources and having abandoned his family possessions and records, he came to Toronto. After some time he found employment with Marshall Macklin Monaghan Ontario Land Surveyors in the early days of that firm.

During his first years with Marshall Macklin Monaghan he enjoyed some of the assignments in Northern Ontario and often returned there later to spend vacation time at one of the lodges on the French River.

Hans served his articles under Les Wilks and obtained his licence in April 1961. During his years with Marshall Macklin Monaghan, Hans worked on many cadastral surveys, residential and commercial developments in the Don Mills area and land acquisitions for the Bloor Line Subway. He later managed one of the main branch offices for the firm and remained with Marshall Macklin Monaghan until the end of 1968.

Although he had some health warnings due to his heart, Hans decided, at age 55, to strike out on his own. He opened an office in Etobicoke, H.J. Koester Ltd. (June 1970), and a partnership in Windsor, Koester and Verhaegen (March 1970), which incorporated in May of 1971.

Hans was a hard worker, a quick thinker and a very outgoing personality -- qualities which served him well as a business person.

Every year he would love to take a rest and travel to Pompano Beach in Florida, here he finally retired in the late 1970's. His business in Etobicoke was carried on by Bennett & Norgrove Limited [Koester, Bennett, Norgrove Limited—1978] and the business in Windsor by Verhaegen & Bezaire Ltd. Hans would only return to Ontario from time to time for visiting. He passed away on May 8, 1996.

Hans certainly loved very much his survey profession and always cherished meeting with his confreres.

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