

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS



EDISON MALCOLM MacQUARRIE, B.A.Sc., O.L.S., P.Eng.
1894-1964

One of Sault Ste. Marie's native sons in the person of Edison Malcolm MacQuarrie died on October 1, 1964. Son of Alan MacQuarrie, formerly of Kincardine, and Harriet (Smith), formerly of Springfield, Ohio, U.S.A., Edison was born in Sault Ste. Marie, on December 7, 1894. He attended primary and secondary schools in the Soo and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1924 with the degree of Bachelor of Applied Science.

Upon his discharge from the armed forces in 1919, in which he served with the 3rd Canadian Engineers in World War I, Edison's ambition was to become a surveyor and engineer. With his war gratuity money, which he had accumulated, he decided that he should first put himself through university and obtain his engineering degree.

Before and during his undergraduate years at university, he worked with the well known surveying and engineering firm of Lang and Ross of Sault Ste. Marie. Mr. MacQuarrie articulated with this firm and received his commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor on July 7, 1925. During this period he secured a treasure chest of experience in all types of surveying and engineering, such as township and base line surveys, mining and town surveys, surveys of transmission lines and highways, and the design and construction of dams and power plants.

When John Lang and Kenneth Ross retired from active work in the surveying field in the early thirties, Mr. MacQuarrie acquired their survey notes and records, which dated back to the latter part of the 19th century. Until his retirement from active practice in 1962-3,

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

Edison developed and carried on an extensive surveying and engineering practice in his native city, which lasted over 37 years. His work took him over the length and breadth of the District of Algoma, and he was very proud of the part in which he had played in the development of this vast territory as we know it to-day.

Busy as he was in his profession, Edison found time to offer his services in civic affairs in his native city. During his life he was an Alderman on the City Council for four years, Chairman of the Soo Bridge Committee, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Horticultural Society, Director of the Humane Society, Director of the Historical Society and member of the Sault Ste. Marie and Suburban Planning Board. As a member of this Board, he made an important contribution in the framing and execution of a by-law, by which the City Council acquired 75 acres of park land at Pointe des Chenê.

Mr. MacQuarrie also took an active interest in the affairs of our Association. In 1938 he gave a paper on the development of the Helen Mine at Wawa, Algoma, and served on the Council of Management for the years 1944-5-6. While he did not always agree with the action taken by Council in the management of the affairs of the Association, he was always quick to offer and give his support in matters which he considered were most important in the promotion and advancement of the surveying profession.

Mr. MacQuarrie was a member of the Soo Golf and Country Club, the Officers Mess of the 49th A.A. Battery, the A.F. and A.M. Algoma Lodge No. 469, and Branch No. 25 of the Canadian Legion. He attended St. Andrew's United Church in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. MacQuarrie is survived by his wife, Edna B. (Wallace), formerly of Ocean City, New Jersey, two sons, Edison Jr. of Santa Barbara, California, and Wallace Allan of South Bend, Indiana, two daughters, Mrs. O. T. Pringle (Catharine Joan) of Sault Ste. Marie and Nancy Jane, who is a registered nurse in the Royal Edward Chest Hospital at Ste. Agathe des Monts, P. Q. Edison is also survived by two grandsons, Thomas Edison Pringle and Scott MacQuarrie, and one granddaughter, Heather MacQuarrie.