

## JOHN ALEXANDER MCKAY, B.S.A., O.L.S.

by D. Fred Fleming, M.A., Office Manager, Archibald, Gray & McKay

John Alexander (Jack) McKay was born at London, Ontario, 6th May, 1913, the eldest of the four sons and daughter of John Alexander McKay and Annie Laura Doan.



Following his graduation from South Collegiate, London, Ontario, Jack entered Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, where he specialized in Animal Husbandry, graduating with the Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1935. From then until his enlistment in 1940 he worked principally with Dominion Stores Limited. He served five years in England with the R.C.A.F. (Radar). During his stay in England he made many friends and at the close of hostilities seriously considered remaining in England.

On his return to Canada he joined the staff of Ontario Agriculture College, Guelph, where under the able guidance of Professor F. L. Ferguson, the then head of the Drainage Department, he pursued answers to drainage problems that had interested him since his farm boyhood. He remained with that department, in first a teaching and later a field capacity, laying out private farm drainage systems until March, 1951, when he sought and was granted a

leave of absence to further his drainage studies and to serve articles under S. W. Archibald, P.Eng., O.L.S.

Subsequently, he elected to remain with S. W. Archibald, and was duly commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor on 27th May, 1955. On 1st January, 1958, the partnership of Samuel Wallace Archibald, John Gray, and John Alexander McKay was formed under the firm name of Archibald, Gray & McKay.

His keen interest in drainage continued, and latterly he devoted most of his time to work under The Municipal Drainage Act. He was widely known in drainage circles in spite of his relatively brief career, and his impartial judgment and opinion were highly respected.

He was related through his paternal grandmother to J. J. MacKay, O.L.S., and the late E. G. MacKay, O.L.S. of MacKay and MacKay, Hamilton, Ontario.

Widely known in Masonic circles both here and in England, he was a Past Master of Delaware Valley Lodge No. 358, A.F. & A.M., G.R.C., where at the time of his death he held the office of treasurer. Also active in the Order of the Eastern Star, he was a Past Patron of Silver Jubilee Chapter No. 217, O.E.S., Delaware, Ontario. He was a member of Delaware United Church, Delaware, Ontario.

An avid gardener, he devoted much time to growing 6000 to 8000

## BIOGRAPHIES

gladioli annually together with hundreds of other flowers and plants. This hobby was in some respects a means to an end, as the blooms, in turn, were delivered to his many friends and provided excuses for many pleasant hours of friendly chit-chat and a mutual interchange of fraternal feeling and affection.

Recovered from a two weeks bout with pneumonia, he had worked in the office most of the day and was preparing to deliver some flowers to a friend in hospital when he was stricken with a coronary on the evening of 3rd March, 1960. He was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital, London, where he died shortly after 1 a.m., 4th March, 1960.

Jack never married. He is survived by his mother, Annie Laura Lipsit, his step-father, Harry Lipsit, his eldest brother, G. Frank McKay, his brother Clifford Lipsit, all of Delaware, Ontario, and his sister Mrs. Verna (Lipsit) Corsaut, of Glencoe, Ontario.

## REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Women's Auxiliary to the Ontario Land Surveyors' Association, under the able leadership of Mrs. Wm. McIntosh, has completed another enjoyable year. There were three regular meetings, two executive meetings, the May Bridge and Tea, the November Card Party, and the Convention activities. The March Annual Meeting was held at the home of Mrs. F. W. Beatty. In October, Mrs. H. L. Macklin was our hostess for a very interesting evening on flower arranging, given by the Yorkton Florists. Mrs. A. L. S. Nash graciously opened her home for the January meeting. The first executive meeting was held in April at the Department of Mines Board Room in the Parliament Buildings, and the second meeting in September at the home of Mrs. F. C. McKergow.

Two social gatherings took place during the year. The May Bridge and Tea was held at the Thornhill Golf Club where an enjoyable time was had. In November the Annual Card Party was held at Clarendon Hall, where the surveyors and their wives met for an enjoyable evening of Bridge and Court Whist.

With the O.L.S. Convention being held in Hamilton this year, your committee once again had a relaxing change of pace. Mrs. Peters of Hamilton and our President worked together to make a most pleasant event for us all, and for those of us who were able to attend, it was a most happy occasion.

This year the Auxiliary, as their project, sent money from the proceeds of the May Bridge to the Thornhaven School for Retarded Children, and we also looked after a Gift Booth at the Bazaar held at Thornhaven School, and the proceeds were given to the school.

We look forward with anticipation to another year of friendships, old and new, and the pleasures we enjoy together as an auxiliary to the Ontario Land Surveyors' Association.

(Mrs.) Sidney I. Richardson,  
Secretary