NORMAN BARRY MACRostIE

Long one of Canada’s leading surveyors and consulting engineers, Norman Barry MacRostie died at his home, 712 Echo Drive, Ottawa, on October 4th, 1950.

Born at Metcalfe, Ontario, January 14th, 1885, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John MacRostie, he received his early education at Springhill public school, and Metcalfe High School, after which he attended Morrisburg Model School. In 1907 he registered in Science at Queen’s University, graduating in Civil Engineering in 1911, and Arts in 1913.

Before going overseas as a Lieutenant with the Canadian Engineers in World War 1, Mr. MacRostie worked with the Engineering Department of the City of Ottawa as Engineer of Special

laceburg (Ontario) area. Next he joined the Highways Department of the Ontario Government as a resident engineer, first at Port Hope and later at Toronto. Then, on May 1st, 1929, he joined the engineering and sales staff of the Canada Cement Company as sales engineer. This position he continuously held to the time of his death covering the “Maritimes” for his company. To this position he brought great experience and a likeable disposition which spelled pleasure in his work and profitable business for his employer.

Prior to his death, he had been for a period in indifferent health though able to carry on his duties, but succeeding an operation in Kingston, Ontario, where was his home, his death occurred unexpectedly on June 8th, 1950. He was buried in the beautiful and historic Cataraqui Cemetery there.

In 1915 he married Florence Edna Freeman who mourns his untimely death along with two sons; Harold M. Lumb of Portage du Fort, Quebec, and Jack E. Lumb of Kingston. He was an active member of the United Church of Canada and of the Masonic Order. He was an ardent golfer, fisherman, and hunter, in all of which he actively engaged as long as health permitted.

A picture of the man may be seen from a letter to the Cement Company from a Maritime customer:

“We received the very sad news of the passing of Bill Lumb. We will miss him as will his many, many friends in the Maritimes. He was part of our construction life down this way and all knew Bill from the humble storekeeper in the village to the members of our big companies.

“Your company has received a grievous loss. He was a true representative and always brought something of interest and help to us all.”

COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

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ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

Works, and the Imperial Ministry of Munitions. On his return at the end of the war, he went into private practice with J. B. Lewis, O.L.S., and later opened his own office, which remained in his name until the time of his death.

Always keenly interested in his work, and in the engineering profession as a whole, Mr. MacRostie was very active in many phases of various engineering organizations. He was Past President of the Ottawa Branch of the Engineering Institute, and in 1926 was President of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, and served, always willingly, on many committees to further the work of, and recognition for, engineers in this country. In addition to his private practice, he was Engineer for the Townships of Gloucester and Nepean, and when the Great Ottawa scheme recently came into effect, and portions of these two townships were brought into the city, his long experience, and soundness of judgment made a valuable contribution to the consummation of the project. A member of the Planning Board, the Suburban Roads Commission, and the Planning Area Board, the welfare of Ottawa, and the vision of its growth and its needs were always of prime concern to him.

In addition to his City and Suburban Area work, Mr. MacRostie had a wide experience in Municipal Drainage in Eastern Ontario, and as a drainage consultant throughout the Province. His experience in valuations and arbitrations in war-time expropriations assisted him well in making assessments under the Municipal Drainage Act. In the Sudbury Drainage Scheme a total assessment of $359,000.00, made largely on his advice, went through the Courts without a single change in any one of the hundreds of individual assessments.

Mr. MacRostie was appointed to the Ottawa Hydro Electric Commission as the Ontario Government's representative, following the retirement from that position of the late P. D. Ross, retaining this appointment until his death. With his experience as a professional engineer, he brought a vast amount of knowledge which was most helpful to the Commission. He was outstanding both in his integrity and his ability.

As a citizen of Ottawa, he served during his life-time as Chair-
man of the Carnegie Library Board, as a member of the public School Board, as a President of Kiwanis Club of which organization he was a member for more than twenty-five years. He also served as Vice-Chairman of the Community Chest, was a member of the Board of Trade, and for several years acted on the council of that body. In 1945, he was chosen as the Ottawa West Progressive Conservative candidate in the Federal Elections.

Retaining always his interest in his university, Mr. MacRostie was an enthusiastic and loyal graduate of Queen’s, and besides serving as President of the General Alumni Association, he had been President of the Ottawa Branch. He was also a member of the University Council, and member of the Board of Trustees.

An active member of Doric Lodge, Mr. MacRostie was also a 33 degree Mason, being a member of the Supreme Council for the Scottish Rite for the Dominion of Canada.

He was a prominent member of Southminster United Church, where he played an active part as a member of Session, and Chairman of the Building Committee. Dr. Charles Donald, who conducted the funeral service from the Church, referred to him as one of those men who set the tone of the congregation, as well as that of many civic and national activities.

Married in 1914 to the former Annie Callander of North Gower, Ontario, who survives, Mr. MacRostie also leaves one daughter, Norma (Mrs. R. N. Dobson) of Hamilton, and two granddaughters, as well as two brothers, Dr. Gordon MacRostie of Guelph, and J. E. MacRostie of Toronto.

Burial took place in Springhill Cemetery, in the immediate vicinity where Mr. MacRostie spent his boyhood.

Norman was admitted to practice as an O.L.S. on Feb. 11th, 1914. Little did the examiners of that day realize that the brilliant student was to become one of the Association’s outstanding members and one of the profession’s leaders. His life was one of service: to his country; his alma mater; the many public bodies to whom he gave of his time, experience, and advice; and to his well loved O.L.S. Association.

And so we of the Association will remember him for his regular attendance at our meetings, and for his advice and guidance in the problems we there considered. Not soon shall his helpfulness be forgotten nor his gentlemanly consideration of others in debate. Truly he was a man who one was happy and helped to know.

ALFRED P AVERLEY WALKER
O.L.S., M.E.I.C., D.L.S.

One of the courtliest gentlemen who ever graced our Association was the above who, born December 9th, 1860 in the seaside