

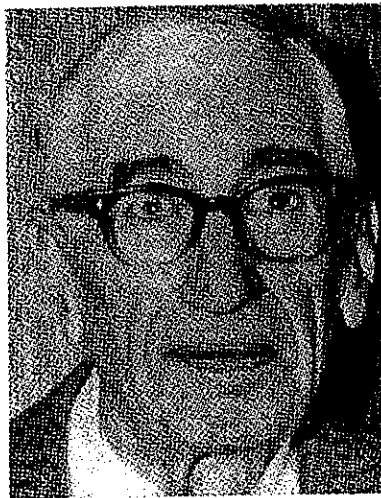
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

He gave up private practice in 1967 and once again was employed by the City of Hamilton in its Survey Department, an association that continued until his death on July 18, 1970.

Al was an avid golfer and had been a member of the Mount Hope Golf and Curling Club for many years prior to his death. He was also a member of the United Church of Canada and the Hamilton and District Group of Ontario Land Surveyors.

He is survived by his wife, the former Marion Vollick, whom he married in Hamilton in 1945, and one daughter, Janis Lynn.

Al's funeral, attended by many of his fellow surveyors and friends, took place on July 21st and he was buried in Woodland Cemetery.



EDWIN PERCY ARGALL PHILLIPS, B.Sc., O.L.S., D.L.S.,
P.Eng., M.E.I.C.

1884-1970

by P. R. Milton and T. L. Wilson

"Perc" Phillips was born in Oshawa on March 12, 1884. After completing his public and high school education in that city, he attended the University of Toronto, S.P.S., from where he graduated with a B.Sc. in 1906. His surveying career commenced that same year when he was employed by the late L. V. Rourke who later became Surveyor-General of Ontario. In 1907 he was Town Engineer of Bracebridge, but surveying had become his main interest, and the following year he was back "running line" on Township surveys for W. Galbraith, O.L.S. in Bracebridge. Later the same year, he had the opportunity of working for the late C. H. Fullerton, O.L.S., also a later Surveyor-General, at that time practising in New Liskeard, to

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whom Mr. Phillips articulated. His apprenticeship was completed in 1910 at which time he was commissioned to practise as an Ontario Land Surveyor.

In 1911, "Perc" joined with J. W. Pierce, O.L.S., D.L.S. of later "Manitoba-Ontario Boundary" fame, to form a partnership in the bustling mining camp of Golden City in the Porcupine area, and it was here the same year that he miraculously survived the famous Porcupine forest fire which claimed ninety lives. He and his crew were surveying mining claims when the fire overtook them and they were only saved by Perc's quick thinking in getting them into a swamp and digging themselves into the muck until the fire had passed. Although his two companions came through it with only minor burns, Perc's legs were severely burnt and he was evacuated south where he spent three months in treatment of his injuries.

After convalescence, he joined the firm of J. J. MacKay, O.L.S. in Hamilton where he worked from 1912 into 1913, but the lure of the North was too strong and he returned in 1913 as City Surveyor of the City of Port Arthur. The same year, he formed a partnership with the late J. K. Benner, O.L.S., which was to last for thirty-eight years until Mr. Benner's retirement in 1951 when a new partnership with J. W. Gavin, O.L.S. was formed. On Gavin's retirement in 1967, Perc's final partnership when he was in his 83rd year was entered into with T. L. Wilson, O.L.S. and P. R. Milton, O.L.S., and from then until three months before his death on November 26th, 1970 at age 86 in Port Arthur General Hospital, he had still put in a productive full day's work in the office every day.

Mr. Phillips held Charter memberships in the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, the Northwestern Group of Ontario Land Surveyors, Life Memberships in the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, the Canadian Institute of Surveying (he received his Dominion Land Surveyors Commission in 1916), Masonic Lodge No. 287, A.F. & A.M., and was also a member of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

In 1963, in his 50th active year in business in Port Arthur, Mr. Phillips was honoured by the Mayor and Council by being presented with the traditional Gold Key to the City at which time the Mayor made an apt summation of Perc's career when he said "There are few men who have played such an extensive part in the development of Northwestern Ontario".

Mr. Phillips was predeceased in 1925 by his wife Luna B. Nacey whom he married in 1917. They had no children.

A quiet man with a dry humour and a vivid memory of details of work he had performed from his very beginning as a surveyor right up to the end, Perc Phillips' wise counsel will be sorely missed by his contemporaries and all others who were associated with him.