

RALPH CLINTON PURSER

Ralph Clinton Purser was born in Windsor, Ontario, on April 7th, 1886, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Purser. After his graduation from Windsor Collegiate Institute, he attended the University of Toronto where he obtained his Bachelor of Applied Science degree, and went on to study mineralogy for one year. During the summer months he worked in Northern Ontario on township surveys under the late J. J. Newman, O.L.S., of Windsor.



Following his graduation from university in 1907, he was engaged as an instrument man by the New York Central Railway for work on the Detroit River tunnel, linking his home town with Detroit. In 1910 Mr. Purser was commissioned as a Dominion Land Surveyor and for the following 14 years worked extensively in the western provinces. On May 21, 1921, he qualified as an Ontario Land Surveyor. In 1924 Mr. Purser joined the administrative staff of the Topographical Surveys Branch of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa. Here he remained until his retirement from the Civil Service in 1932.

During his lifetime Mr. Purser achieved prominence as a free lance journalist. He often wrote articles about his colorful outdoor life for such nationally known magazines as "Sports Afield" and "Outdoor Life". In 1922 he helped found the Canadian Surveyor published by the Canadian Institute of Surveying and Photogrammetry. He also wrote on technical subjects for trade publications, and in 1954 he was made a life member of the Engineering Institute of Canada in recognition of his work in writing on scientific subjects for the layman. Recognized as an agricultural expert he contributed to farm magazines and for a short time served as farm editor for the Ottawa Journal.

After a lengthy illness Mr. Purser died in hospital on September 9th, 1959. He is survived by two sons, Jack W. of Ottawa, and Ralph B. of Montreal, and one sister, Mrs. Carl Pickard of Kingsville, Ontario. His wife, the former Marie Wilson of Lisle, Ontario, died in 1941.