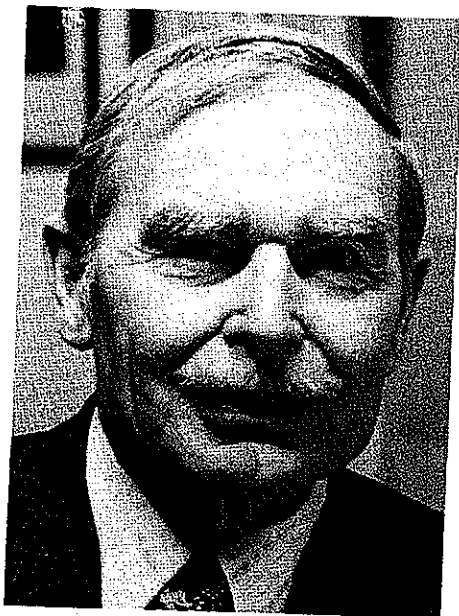


BIOGRAPHIES



H.W.WEST O.L.S.

H. William (Bill) West was born at Thornton Heath in the County of Surrey, England on February 4th, 1912.

He attended elementary schools in Thornton Heath and by the time he was 14 years old was working in one of his father's butcher shops.

The adventurous spark in his spirit was attracted to a 1929 advertisement by the Canadian Government offering passage in return for working on an Ontario farm. Shortly thereafter he left for Canada and worked on farms in the Guelph, London and Paris areas.

After a brief return to England in 1931, during which he rejected ownership of one of his father's shops, he returned to Canada and spent the next seven years in Northern Ontario. He and a friend staked and cleared some 40 acres near Matheson and constructed a log cabin. For a few years they did seasonal work, cutting logs and working in the pulp mills in the winter and driving timber up the Black River to the Iroquois Falls paper mills in the spring.

Bill gravitated to Timmins and got a job at the MacIntyre-Porkupine mines and was later sent on a prospecting trip to the Malarctic area in Northern Quebec. He had two years in Quebec, worked both underground and on the surface during which time a producing gold mine was completed. Later he returned to Timmins and worked at shaft sinking, often drilling and blasting 1,500 feet down through solid rock.

With the advent of the Second World War, Bill headed for the recruiting office and soon found himself in England doing basic training with the Canadian Army. The Royal Canadian Engineers were setting up a specialist

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Tunnelling Company; this was tailor-made for Bill who quickly joined and found himself shipped to Gibraltar. During his two years there the subterranean Gort Hospital, which runs from the east to the west face of the Rock, was completed, utilizing Canadian mining methods, particularly diamond drilling. As a mark of distinction for their work, members of the Tunnelling Company received a silver medal from General A. G. L. McNaughton. Bill also served in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany.

In 1944, he married the former Patricia Walsh at Croydon, Surrey and with the termination of hostilities he returned to Canada. His wife followed one year later.

He had become interested in surveying both during his mining and army experience and in 1946 he became the articled pupil of the late Shirley King of Brantford. He was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor in 1951 and spent the next 12 years in association with Mr. King. In 1963 he established his own business and during the next 14 years he was busily engaged during an era of great growth in Brantford and the surrounding counties of Haldimand, Norfolk, Wellington and Brant. Just a few short months before his death in July 1977, he became president of West and Ruuska Ltd., Ontario Land Surveyors.

Bill was a long time member of the Canadian Institute of Surveying and was an early member of the Hamilton & District Group when it was formed in 1961. He and Pat were regulars at the social functions of the Group and counted many friends among the members.

Bill was also an active member of the Brantford Rifle and Revolver Club and won a gold medal in 1962 as All Canadian Indoor Rifle Champion. He was also a keen supporter and past patron of Theatre Brantford.

Death came to Bill after a long illness, on July 11th, 1977 and he was buried in the Veteran's Section of Mount Hope Cemetery, Brantford.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter, Julia (Mrs. Bruce Jacobson) and son, Brian, both of Brantford.