

Northerners
of
Renown

Kinette Club of Yellowknife, N.W.T.
July, 1963

The Kinette Club of Yellowknife are pleased to have obtained the signatures of a few "Northerners of Renown", and to record them on our quilt which we hope to raffle on August 5th, 1963.

In this folder we have assembled short histories of the Northerners involved, building up such reports based on reticent information from the contributors as "I came to the Territories in 1920" period.

We sent away squares to more than fifty people, and were disappointed that some very well-known old-timers did not respond - our quilt would have been somewhat larger!

The proceeds from this quilt will go to the Retarded Children Fund. We hope whoever wins will cherish our quilt of "Northerners of Renown".

KINETTE CLUB OF YELLOWKNIFE

July, 1963.

PETER BAKER

Peter Baker first arrived in the Northwest Territories at the end of May, 1921 and opened a store in partnership with the late John Morie at Fort Smith. Since that time Mr. Baker has lived in the North and has in the past travelled by dog team trading from camp to camp as well as at various times establishing small trading posts. In 1957 he opened a small general store and cafe at Rae and has recently returned to ~~Sarnia~~, his native land.
LEARNON.

ARCHIE McMULLEN

Archie McMullen, a well-known old time Northern pilot commenced flying in the north with Commercial Airways in December, 1929. Commercial Airways Limited was the first company to have the airmail contract for the Mackenzie District and the first flight into Yellowknife was in the summer of 1931. Mr. McMullen camped on the southwest side of Latham Island on that trip and again in 1932 while en route to Great Bear Lake. His northern flying ranged from Herschel Island in the west to Churchill east, from the Arctic islands to civilization south. He is at present on the Edmonton - Whitehorse route. Mr. McMullen makes his home in Edmonton, Alberta.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JOHN PARKER

The Honourable Mr. Justice John Parker, Judge of the Territorial Court of the Yukon, was born in England and emigrated to the United States in 1920, and was educated at St. Andrew's College in Toronto. He graduated from Queen's University in 1934 with a B.A. and obtained his law degree from Osgoode Hall in 1937. After practicing in Kirkland Lake from 1937 to 1940, he served four years in the Royal Canadian Air Force and then practiced law in Yellowknife, for a time in partnership with his brother, Peter B. Parker, who is now Police Magistrate for the Northwest Territories. He is Judge ex-officio of the Northwest Territories and member of the Courts of Appeal for the Yukon and Northwest Territories. While in Yellowknife he was member of the Public School Board, Board of Trade, Solicitor for the Municipal District and Crown Prosecutor. He was a member of the Northwest Territories Council from 1954 to 1958 and was appointed Judge in June, 1958. He resides with his wife Claire and their two daughters and one son in Whitehorse, Yukon.

DR. OLIVER LAWSON STANTON

Dr. Oliver Lawson Stanton was Yellowknife's first doctor, and is fondly remembered as answering each and every night call, regardless of the hour or weather. "Dr. Ollie" arrived with his bride as physician and surgeon with the Con Mine in 1937 and left to retire on Salt Spring Island in April, 1960. During his many years of service in the community, "Dr. Ollie" acted as Coroner, Medical Health Officer and was a member of the Town Council, also a member of the Vestry of Holy Trinity Church. After his departure the local hospital was re-named in his honour as the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Dr. Ollie and Ruth have one daughter, Paula, now married and living in England. He and Ruth are looking forward to meeting their new grandson this summer.

R. J. "Jack" STEVENS

R. J. "Jack" Stevens was born in London, England, and his family emigrated to Canada when he was eleven years old. He came north, arriving at Fort Smith in 1921. Mr. Stevens staked the Ptarmigan Mine and the Beta Claims of Rayrock Mines Ltd. Jack and his wife Betty and their two daughters and one son of their family of five make their home in Yellowknife.

A. J. "BERT" BOXER

A. J. "Bert" Boxer came from Welland, Ontario, to Hay River as an Engineer with the Anglican Mission in 1928. After three years in Winnipeg, he returned north to Aklavik, again as Engineer with the Anglican Church. He later trapped and had a trading post. Bert, his wife Marjory and family came to Yellowknife in 1953 when Bert was Game Warden. In 1955 he was one of six first Northern Service Officers. He was with the Department of Northern Affairs construction of the Western Section of the Dew Line, Alaska to Boothia Peninsula. Returned to Yellowknife at the opening of the Akaitcho Hall as Superintendent, a position he still holds. Married, has two sons attending school in Yellowknife.

GORDON INGRAM

Gordon Ingram was a soldier in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and was transferred to Yellowknife on 26 June, 1938, arriving as a passenger on the Northern Prospector. Gordon was a morse code operator until 1941 when he was appointed W. O. in charge of the Radio Station and continued in that capacity until 1948 when he was posted to Ottawa where he became a commissioned officer in 1952 and visited Yellowknife several times in that capacity. Mrs. Ingram is the former Eugenia Redpath who nursed at the old Con Mine Hospital. The Ingrams were married in Holy Trinity Church in the Old Town and their daughter Candace was born in 1948 in the Red Cross Hospital shortly after its opening. Captain and Mrs. Ingram and Gandy make their home in Edmonton.

HENRY H. BUSSE

Henry H. Busse came to Canada from Germany in 1927, and first came north in June, 1947 and set up shop as a photographer in Yellowknife, first in the old News of the North building and then later in the old Bank of Commerce Building in the Old Town. In 1958 he moved his shop to the new townsite. Mr. Busse has been listed among the top fifty Photographers and his work has appeared in publications all over the world. His work has also been shown on television in England and other countries. Mr. Busse was lost in a plane piloted by the well-known northern pilot, Ken Stockall in September, 1962.

Mr. Leigh Brintnell first started bush flying in 1924 with the Ontario Provincial Air Service in connection with the detection and suppression of fires from Ramsey Lake at Sudbury, Ontario.

In 1927 he joined Western Canada Airways, covering Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec in connection with mining exploration. In 1928 Mr. Brintnell made the first flight from Winnipeg to La Pas, McMurray and Fort Simpson, with a side trip all around Great Bear Lake. This was the first commercial flight into this area. He then proceeded to Aklavik and flew Mr. O.S. Finney, Director of the Northwest Territories, from Aklavik to Dawson City. He carried mail and this was the first flight that had ever been made between these two points. He and his party then flew to Whitehorse over the Chilkoot Pass and down the coast to Prince Rupert. After re-fueling they then flew to Winnipeg by way of Prince George, Edmonton, and thence on to Winnipeg.

In August, 1928, Mr. Brintnell made the first multi-engine flight between Winnipeg and Vancouver, picking out prospective air strips enroute. These later were developed by the Department of Transport and are today the air mail route from Winnipeg to Vancouver.

In 1932 Mr. Brintnell started Mackenzie Air Service Limited flying from Edmonton, Alberta, to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and to all parts of the Territories covering practically the same routes which are now covered by Pacific Western Airlines.

W. LEIGH BRINTNELL

W. Leigh Brintnell first flew into the Northwest Territories from Winnipeg, Manitoba by way of The Pas and McMurray in August, 1929. He was General Manager of Western Canada Airways at the time and was making an inspection trip. He had on board Gilbert LaBine and Dr. Bannerman. At one point in his flying career he was storm bound at Aklavik for six days. When the weather cleared he, together with passengers, C. S. Finnie (then Director of the Northwest Territories) and Gerry Murphy flew non-stop from Aklavik to Dawson City. This was the first trip ever made between these two places by air. Just before Christmas in 1932 he flew a load of fresh fruit and vegetables to Eldorado at Great Bear Lake with the first plane belonging to Mackenzie Air Services Ltd. Mackenzie Air Services Ltd. expanded very rapidly covering the whole of the Territories with bases at Edmonton and Yellowknife. He flew Lockie Burwash into Yellowknife in 1933 and Burwash staked one of the first group of claims on the south shore of Yellowknife Bay. Mr. Brintnell and his wife make their home in Edmonton where Mr. Brintnell is President of L. B. Oil Ltd. He still makes the occasional visit to the north.

GEORGE PINSKY

Mr. Pinsky left Fort McMurray in December, 1918 by dog team, buying muskrats all the way down to Fort Fitzgerald. In the spring of 1919 he left Peace River with a trading outfit in two scows, left one scow at Fitzgerald with his brother Bill in charge and proceeded to Fort Resolution. His intentions at that time was to proceed to Aklavik but there was so much ice on the lake that friends persuaded him to stay at Fort Resolution, and there he has remained ever since. Mr. Pinsky and his wife Mary have bought property in Ponticton where they spend some time each year. Their daughter Bernice and son George Jr. have married and left the North Country.

ARTHUR UMBACH

Arthur Umbach was Yellowknife's first and only Postmaster, arriving here in 1937. Elsie and son Russell followed him in 1938 and have made their home here ever since. Another son, Terry later joined the family and is now attending University of Alberta. Mr. Umbach is active in the Elks Lodge and is a past exalted Ruler of the Yellowknife Lodge.

ERNEST BOFFA

While Ernie Boffa may not be a Northerner of long standing by general standards, he has flown countless northern miles since his honourable discharge from the Royal Canadian Air Force in February, 1943. Ernie and Nettie lived in the North for several years. Their eldest daughter Kay was married in Yellowknife to Gordon Hornby in April, 1950. Joan has also married and Joe is still at home in Los Angeles, California. Ernie still has interests in Yellowknife and comes "home" occasionally.

NORMAN W. BYRNE, P. Eng.

Norman W. Byrne, P.Eng., of Norman W. Byrne Limited, first came north in 1932 when a student of Queen's University and worked in the Great Bear Lake area. He spent some years in Goldfields, Saskatchewan until 1939, and with his family lived at Outpost Island for two years. In 1943 and 1944 he was connected with a firm of engineers on the Canal Project in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and has lived in Yellowknife since 1944. Mr. Byrne was honoured by Pope John XXIII with a Papal Medal of Merit in the Community. He has been Chairman of the Separate School Board for many years. Among other interests he is also Consulting Engineer for Consolidated Discovery Yellowknife Mines Ltd. and Taurcanis Mines Ltd. He lives in Yellowknife with his wife Rose and five children. His eldest daughter Barbara is married to Bill Knutsen, formerly of Yellowknife. His eldest son Donald is expected home for a visit this summer.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE J. H. SISSONS

The Honourable Mr. Justice J. H. Sissons was appointed District Court Judge for Southern Alberta District in 1946 and four years later was made Chief Judge of the same District Court. On September 16th, 1955, he was appointed first Judge of the Territorial Court and arrived to make his headquarters in Yellowknife on October 15th of the same year. Judge Sissons has travelled by airplane throughout the entire Territories administering justice. He has been as far north as Ellesmere Island in the Arctic, east as far as Eaffin Island and west to Old Crow in the Yukon. He is Judge ex-officio of the Yukon Territorial Court and member of the Courts of Appeal of the Northwest Territories and Yukon. Judge Sissons has a most colourful collection of Eskimo carvings depicting many alleged Eskimo crimes which have been the subject of trials before him. He is an ardent gardener and his rock gardens are the envy of many. Mr. Justice Sissons and Mrs. Sissons make their home in Yellowknife.

J. MURRAY "JOCK" McMEEKAN

J. Murray "Jock" McMeekan is a prospector and newspaper publisher. "Jock" came north in 1935 and prospected in the Great Slave Lake area, eventually settling on Latham Island in Yellowknife with his wife, the former Miss Mildred Hall an early northern school teacher, in 1939. He published "The Blade" for some years, then moved to Uranium City in northern Saskatchewan for several years. After another brief stay in Yellowknife, "Jock" left in 1953 to make his home in Hay River where he is associated with Mackenzie Publishers Ltd.

G. GORDON LATHAM

G. Gordon Latham and the late Pete Racine built the first hotel in Yellowknife on Latham Island and later moved the "Corona Inn" to the mainland. Gordon later learned to fly and has for the past twenty years been a pilot for Eldorado Mining & Refining Ltd. He makes his home in Edmonton, Alberta.