

## On The Front Cover

Robert W. Bonner, Q.C.

Robert William Bonner, Q.C., B.A., L.L.B., C.D., a native son of Vancouver, British Columbia, has distinguished himself in a varied and interesting career.

His early education took place at Hastings School, Templeton Junior High School and he later attended Britannia High School and the University of British Columbia. While at University, he became an accomplished debater and won the McGown Cup, returning it to the University after a lapse of many years.

After his graduation in Arts, he enlisted with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and during World War II served in the campaigns of North Africa, Sicily and Italy, retiring as Major. His qualities of discipline and order served him well as Commanding Officer of the University of British Columbia's Military Training Corps where he served with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel from 1945-53 and was awarded the C.D.

After the war, "Bob", as he is known to his many friends and colleagues, returned to U.B.C. and attended the first year of law that was taught there. He read law with Clark, Wilson, White, Clark and Maguire from 1945-1948 and was called to the Bar in July, 1948. He practised until 1952 and was created a Q.C. on August 1, 1952. While practising law, he was persuaded by the late Premier W. A. C. Bennett to become the first Attorney-General of the Social Credit Party and was elected to office six times, serving from 1952-1968, the only Attorney-General in B.C. to hold this office for 16 years.

During his period of office, he held additional portfolios at various times, serving as Minister of Education, Minister of Industrial Development, Minister of Trade and Commerce and Minister of Commercial Transport.

As Minister of Commercial Transport, he was responsible for putting together and seeing constructed the Port of Roberts Bank which enable the major export of Crows Nest coal to Japan.

Bob was also closely associated with the government's energy policy. He was the legal architect for the takeover of the B.C. Electric and the subsequent founding and organization of the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority. He was one of the chief negotiators of the Columbia River Treaty and was closely associated with the development of the Peace River Dam and the period which saw the Columbia River Treaty Dams constructed by B.C. Hydro on the Columbia River. He was also one of the early proponents of B.C.'s Two River Policy of Hydro development.

As Attorney-General the issue which held his attention the longest was the problem of Doukhobor truancy, terrorism and arson. We no longer read daily accounts in the press of Doukhobor problems and Bob's unswerving policies were instrumental in putting an end to 50 years of arson and terrorism in the West Kootenays.

Bob left public office in 1968 to join MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. as Senior Vice-President and progressed to Executive Vice-President, Vice-Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board.

In 1976, he was appointed Chairman of B.C. Hydro and held that position until 1985. During this time, he was involved with the corporation's explosive period of expansion. The most recent project with which he was associated was the Revelstoke Dam, which is the key factor in the province's successful export program with the United States.

At present, Bob is a partner of Robertson, Ward, Suderman and Bowes.

Truly, this is an impressive list of accomplishments and it is doubtful that anyone in our province can look back on having held three of its most prestigious positions and having been responsible for so many important decisions.

As a member for 12 years of the Trilateral Commission, a "think tank" organized by David Rockefeller, Bob travelled to many remote parts of the world and associated with many notable personalities such as President Carter, Henry Kissinger, Zig Brezinski and Cap Weinberger.

An avid reader, Bob immerses himself totally in the literature of his current profession or interest. He enjoys his hobby of photography and one is lucky if they can fall heir to one of his discarded cameras. He enjoys the beauty of his province when spending his few leisurely hours boating. He is married to the former Barbara Newman, whom he met as a freshman at U.B.C. He has three children, Robert, Barbara-Carolyn and Elizabeth Louise.

Bob has great wit and a wonderful sense of humour. His booming laugh can often be heard above the hum of voices at a cocktail party or reception. His cool manner and calm presence render him unflappable and he appears to be in perfect control at all times, especially when he is dealing with the media.

He is currently a Director of Montreal Trust Company, SCOR Reinsurance Company of Canada, Terramar Resource Corporation and the Salvation Army Grace Hospital. He is a member of the Federal Government's Energy Supplies Allocation Board, Canadian Bar Association, Law Society of British Columbia (Life Bencher), Men's Canadian Club, Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies and the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

We hope we can look forward to Bob writing his memoirs one day. He has played an important role in the development of the Social Credit Party in British Columbia, has associated with many political figures locally, federally and in many parts of the world. He has participated in many important legal and business negotiations in our province and could enlighten us with a wealth of information that would make fascinating reading.

Arthur Fouks, Q.C.

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