

On the Front Cover

by Arthur Harvey

Our new Master Treasurer, Robert H. Guile, Q.C. assumes the highest office in our Society after almost thirty years of practice with Russell & DuMoulin. He brings to the office a wealth of experience as counsel in our courts, as a Bencher since 1979 during which he has served conscientiously as a member and chairman of a number of committees, among them Rules and Discipline, and as an author of numerous learned articles published in legal journals. He has lectured at the law school and for Continuing Legal Education on topics ranging from practice in Chambers to professional negligence. Bob is eminently qualified for this honoured position and will serve us well.

Apart from his activities related to law and the profession, Bob has a notable record of achievement in community service for charitable organizations such as Gordon House and The Alexandra Trust Foundation and involvement for many years in the federal political scene (he is a staunch Liberal). At one time he was an avid skier and lodge-owner at Whistler Mountain. His principal hobby now is collecting vintage cars (his latest a Rolls), a love which probably originated with his father's 1937 Buick Touring Car which Bob, when still a teenager, was allowed to drive on special occasions.

Perhaps Bob's greatest fame — some may suggest notoriety — stems from his irrepressible Irish wit and peculiar sense of humour, often laced with splashes of eccentric or mildly outrageous behaviour, which have endeared him to many and, at times, caused gastric constrictions in others. He is a founder of S.M.A.L.L., the midget lawyers association, which includes in its ranks both lawyers and judges of a similar whimsical bent. He has been a poet and a writer and enthusiastic performer of entertaining songs and skits at bar conventions and elsewhere for years. Time may have mellowed Bob but his year as Treasurer will surely not be dull.

Bob was born in Prince George in 1932, the third of six children in the crowded Guile household. His mother, sister of former Chief Justice The Honourable J. O. Wilson, was the daughter of the legendary P. E. ("Pete") Wilson who was City Solicitor in Prince George for 42 years. Bob has written a warm and illuminating book of reminiscences about his uncle Jack's career and times entitled "JUST SO STORIES" and subtitled "Just So They Are Not Forgotten" which illustrates both his family history and his own wit and style. Bob received all of his early education in Prince George where he excelled as a student and at the same time established the reputation as a bit of a prankster and rebel that would characterize his later years. He graduated from UBC in Arts in 1955, in Law in 1958 and then articulated with Russell & DuMoulin. He was called to the bar in 1959 and has remained with Russell & DuMoulin for the rest of his legal career.

Bob was married in 1960 to the gentle natured and ever-patient Barbara who has given him three children: Brenton, Gregory and Virginia. He became a Queen's Counsel in 1983.

Bob Guile's greying hair and grey flannel suiting gives him the proper aura for a Master Treasurer and he will project that aura with style and grace. Let us hope during his year of office that we will see the occasional flash of the humour we have come to expect from him.