



*The History*  
1922 - 2001



*Dedicated to  
The Charter Members  
of The Probus Club of Calgary*

This information of the History compiled by...

Ernest L. Taylor for the years 1922 to 1972

and

Lloyd S. Traptow and Robert J. Kennedy for 1973 to 2001

Modern photos of Calgary on the cover courtesy -

Sid Helischauer, Photographer, Dynamic Images



## *Intoduction to the original history of the early years of the Probus Club*

1922 - 1972

Written and compiled by Ernest L. Taylor

The words "Golden Anniversary" cannot but help to stir the imagination and curiosity as to the story, which should be found within the confines of all those years.

Michael Lucas of Tomahawk Business Systems Ltd. was elected president of Probus for the year 1972, and at the onset of his term Mike became concerned upon discovering the lack of data relating to the history of the club. The situation presented an ideal project for 1972. A project to record some of the highlights which occurred during the life of the club from its inception in 1922 to the year 1972.

In allocating the various duties necessary in any organization, Mike placed this particular job in my hands. Why me? It's a matter hard to fathom, for the literary field is one I am a stranger in. On the other hand, maybe he chose me because of my business background, i.e., "Call Taylor for a Good Sign". A bit corny but not that bad a recommendation. With these qualifications the venture was undertaken, and I ask you to accept the result, with patience and understanding, plus a sense of humor.

I can say that many, many incidents should be contained herein, but due to lack of time for research they are missing.

I was apprehensive as to the approach to be taken and finally resolved the dilemma with the view that the Probus Club was part and parcel of some individuals in the process of building a better business climate, so bettering their own lot and at the same time contributing to the life and growth of the City of Calgary.

1922 was the year, and to some of the present membership that year has little significance, for it was before they were born; other members would have been children. The balance of the membership at that time would have been young or middle-aged businessmen. Of all the Charter Members of the Club only one is with us in 1972. I wouldn't want a misunderstanding at this juncture, for although this charter member, under normal aging conditions, should give the illusion of an old patriarch- -he does not! During the 30 years I have known him he has changed little. To Art West a tribute, for his many contributions to the Club throughout its 50 years. May he continue with us for years to come.

At this time I would like to thank Art for the assistance and information about the early years of the organization. It would only be right in passing, also to mention that Art held something of a club record, for he was president for three terms, 1931, 1933, and 1934.

These early thirties were critical years, depression years, years that required enduring patience and good faith. Had not Art stepped into the breach then, possibly we would not be celebrating this Fiftieth Year of Probus.

1922, just four years after World War I, soldiers all back home, rehabilitation schemes, and money for same having been spent; new people arriving, a restless period to say the least. The car was fast taking over horse and buggy era. Calgary was a city of about 65,000 people scattered over the area it presently occupies, with 450,000. Business was on the move; new ideas were being tried and old ones being discarded. Social and service organizations were coming into being.

The idea of a Business Leads Association arose and the formation of such a club seemed imminent. A spark to put it in motion was needed. A member of the 100% Clubs of America appeared on the scene and the aftermath of this visit was the formation of the 100% Club of Calgary. There was a Charter Membership of between 50 and 75.

Some here might ponder why the name 100% Club. It was possibly the creed of the organization that, they pat each other's back 100%. This principle was later to cause dissension and a poor image.

The Club in its formative years carried on its primary function as a leads club, and at the same time had a keen sense of awareness of some of the needs of the community.

As before mentioned the acceleration in the modes of transportation presented problems. One of these was that of winter driving. Up to this time in Calgary's history, once winter set in the roads became blocked with snow, hence little or no movement of vehicles outside of the City. The Club grasped the situation, generated funds, and employed a mechanized snowplow to clear the roads to High River and Strathmore. They went a step further and put up snow fences along these same roads. This effort activated the Government, and the snow clearing from that time forward became an accepted responsibility of the Province.

Swinging to another project, that of promoting Calgary as a convention center, the Club generated funds for this, to what success is a bit obscure, but it was a step in the right direction.

During the early years of the club, the social activities seemed limited to two or three stag parties a year. The one in early spring was used to introduce new

members into the club. The Christmas party was highlighted by the presence of Santa Claus (Art West) at his best.

The general motion of any organization centers around the leadership of its president, So we should know a little about these men.

Ernie McCullough, the first president was the Ford dealer for the city, his business was on the South East corner of First Street East and 15 Avenue, later he moved to First Street West and Eleventh Avenue. McCullough became interested in local politics and was an alderman for a number of years.

Lon Cavanaugh, our second president, was manager of Motor Car Supplies, then located in the three hundred block on Sixth Avenue West. I think Cavanaugh later became a president of the Chamber of Commerce.

1924 saw Dr. P.G. Atkinson, Dentist, in the chair. W.F.W. Rent, and Charlie Winemark shared the responsibilities in 1925. The British American Oil Company was a marketing company at that time and Charlie was their manager. The service station was being introduced to the public, and the B.A. was in on the action.

In 1926 the President was G. Armstrong, a funeral director. He sold his business, left Calgary for California; has visited Calgary since and paid his respects to his old club.

The 1927 president, Charles Marshall of the firm Marshall Knop was active in Club affairs along with his associate Jack Knop. Jack was a Charter Member and was with us all through his business career. He was a keen bowler and golfer.

A.B. Mackay, lawyer, became president in the year 1928. I am sorry to say I was unable to obtain information respecting his year in office.

1929 - In the fall of this year the depression set in and a very high and low year it was. However, one of the most esteemed members of the club was elected president. "Dad" Hilliker spent most of his years in Calgary as Circulation Manager of the Calgary Herald. He was tall and of very direct appearance, and just that way in voicing his opinions. He came to Canada from Michigan, a Spanish American War Veteran trying to recapture his health. He claimed it was mainly through eating near raw meat that his health problem was solved. It will be remembered that "Dad" was emphatic respecting the socializing of the Club, and I can remember his objections to suggestions for having "Ladies Nights".

1930 saw Howard Sevengal as president; Howard was manager of Burroughs Business Machines Ltd. It was while Howard Sevengal was president that serious trouble arose. Instead of adhering to the creed of the Club, dissension and distrust crept in. Certain members swayed from ethical business practices, losing their positions with their respective firms, and also the Probus memberships. There was a clique of members, which, along with the above-mentioned actions, put the Club in a very unhealthy position. The lid finally blew, and two factions emerged.

It is not clear who and how many secretaries the club had up to this point in its existence, however, one who stands out was George Watt. George was a Charter Member, a B.A. Oilman, and Assistant Manager under Charlie Winemark. He later became Manager, and was instrumental in locating the British American Oil Refinery in Calgary. In his promotional effort he enlisted some of the Probus Club members to use their influence to this end. I believe that George was also responsible for the introduction of the Chinese Pheasant to Alberta- -he was a keen sports-

man. On his retirement he purchased a small ranch, and when asked what he would be raising there, said "I'm going to raise hell"! I guess he tired of that crop, as he moved to Victoria. On occasional visits he would introduce himself as George Watt from the land of the living dead, Victoria, British Columbia. What a sense of humor.

Back to 1930 and the break-up of the Club. The name of the club when it began was the 100% Club, it changed to the Executives Club and also the Usadians cropped up, however, the name Probus Club was finally settled upon. It was an original name suggested by John Conway, a prominent member of that day. The word was coined from Pro "for", and Bus "business" hence Probus. This title has remained throughout the years.

It should be said at this point that the second faction of the club adopted the name Executives Club and I believe they are still in existence in this year of 1972. There has been no mention as to whether there has been any attempt throughout the years towards a reconciliation of the two. I suppose the Executives club has the right to claim as part of their history the events as they appear up to this point.

The Probus Club had been affiliated with the Executives Clubs of America and retained this connection.

1931 - A difficult task year if there ever was. Art West was elected President. He had the job of rebuilding under an economy that was sluggish to say the least. In short - the Club survived.

1932 - Chris Graburn was in the chair, and he was faced with similar problems to those which existed in 1931.

1933 - The stagnation of the economy and not fertile ground for growth, so the Club had difficulties in expanding. Art West was elected President for the second time. This position he held for two years. Asking Art about those years, he remarked that they were most difficult. While others in the Club dodged the Presidents position, Art did not run away from it. Had he, the Club might not have survived. I believe there is a story here, and possibly Art might relate it sometime.

1935 - R.A. James the founder of James Storage & Cartage company became President. The year was more encouraging and the economy seemed to be awakening. The membership began to grow. The activities remained the same. It could be said that clubs, especially the various service clubs were involved with projects relating to community service. Many of the Probus members became, or were already members of these clubs, and therefore, were anxious that the Probus remain a leads club.

Up to this point in the Club's history little has been said about the type of programs and leads producing efforts. Craft talks by members were frequent, and product demonstrations numerous. There were industry visitations on occasion. A miniature exhibition of products was staged with wives in attendance. A slight departure, but it was a way of acquainting the women with the products the various members had for sale. I don't recall this type of program ever being repeated.

1935 was a provincial election year. William Aberhart was pumping the Social Credit theory; the Townsend Plan and others were being tossed around. People were looking for solutions to speed up the economy. Through the efforts of Jim Zimmerman, Aberhart with Ernest Manning addressed one of our meetings.



Whether they influenced any votes is a question. We do know that they arrived too late to partake of the dinner and Jim was stuck with feeding them later.

Off track for a moment, I think Art Beckner was secretary about this time. Art was with Purity Flour Mills. He was a loyal member and was made an honorary member when he retired. Art passed away in the late 1960's.

1936 – Bill McCord, Remington Rand Typewriter Company was President, and there does not seem to be much to relate about his term in office.

1937 – This was Optometrist, K. Roy McLean's year as President, and at this writing November 1972, Roy is still active and keenly interested in Club affairs.

Roy gives first-hand information respecting the activities of the Club, for he not only held the position of President during 1937, but also Secretary for five years. During Roy's term as President five-pin bowling was introduced for the first time. The play took place in Gibson's upstairs and at times in the lower floor alleys on Seventh Avenue off Center Street. A large percentage of the Club participated. This action continued for twenty to twenty-five years.

Roy also states that during his year as President, golf outings commenced. We should go up a side street again and make mention of a few other members of the 1920's. Bill Lowther was a charter member, and a very enthusiastic one. Bill represented the Crown Lumber Company, and humorously introduced himself by adding "Knot Holes". Bill's personality and good humor radiated throughout the organization, and his death in the 1960's was keenly felt.

Reg Lewin, for many years manager of Campbell & Griffin Dairy Products, joined the Club in 1925. Reg was a regular attendee, and always could be relied upon to carry his share of any assignment. He was a keen bowler and a real gentleman. Reg is still around and has started a new life by his recent marriage.

Dr. Alex Fettes, our eye, ear and nose specialist joined the club in 1923, Alex was a man of few words, but his words were meaningful. He was liked by all and was truly a gentleman's gentleman.

The year 1938 saw the Clubs' investment broker E.L. (Ernie) Baker become President. Ernie joined the Club in 1933. He golfed, bowled and threw out barbed and humorous remarks, especially directed to Art West. Art's quick retorts were delightful. This by-play always added sparkle to the meetings. It has been said that it was about this time the Club started going out to Bill Ronn's ranch. This affair was to continue as an annual event for a number of years. Incidentally, Bill Ronn was our tire man from 1934 on. Roy McLean expressed it well by saying a book would be written about the antics that took place on these safaris. To say the least there were peaks of hilarity mixed with moments of near tragedy.

1939 – Johnny McLean, the Club's Sterling Shoe man chaired the Club. A very historical year to be president. The clouds of war were thickening. King George VI, and Queen Elizabeth paid Canada a visit and were welcomed guests in Calgary. A surge of patriotism was kindled. The surface was laced with social events and pleasantries; beneath this, however, impending uncertainties became defined. The members of the Probus Club as individuals, and as a group were alerted to the many facets of a country entering war. In September everyone had to meet the challenge. To some businesses it was very difficult for they were declared unessential; others prospered.

Throughout this period the social activities continued about the same, Johnnie McLean added a trophy for bowling. This was for the team winning the league. With the flurry of patriotism the Club opened its luncheon meetings with standing and singing "God save the King". Ernie Baker was at the piano.

Mention should be made respecting some of the members of the 1930-39 era. Sam Helman, K.C. became a member in 1933, and spent many years of his career in Calgary as a member of the Club. He came to be well remembered by his eloquent presentations relating to current affairs and the laws of the land. Jim Mahaffy, K.C. was Sam's associate in the Club and distinguished himself as a member. He became an Alderman, and later a member of the Provincial Legislature. Leaving public life he became President of Alberta Gas Trunk Line.

Charlie Addy was a representative of Marshall Wells Ltd. Charlie ran the gauntlet of the activities of the club, loved to golf and I believe he is still active and probably the oldest honorary member of the Club.

George Lomas the Canada Life man retired and moved to Lethbridge.

Ed Leibrock, an active member from 1934 onward, represented Dun and Bradstreet of Canada. He was added to the honorary member's list and we occasionally see him.

Don Kepler joined the Club in 1937 as the radio man. Don in his quiet but positive way expanded his business interests, by starting a flying school. This failed. He later sold the radio business to Keith Watt and Keith could not keep it on the road and it failed. It should be mentioned that Don made quite a name for himself as a car driver; for he drove a Ford car from Calgary to Portland, Oregon in something just over 15 hours. A record which stood for a long time. He left Calgary to reside in the Western States and has, on occasion visited Calgary and the Club.

Alf McInnis is another member of the 1930's and has spent the intervening years as Cy Holloway's associate in the funeral business. Alf came into the Club three years before Cy and he appears on occasions. Alf will be remembered by his activities behind the various games of chance at the evening stag parties. We see Alf in the 1970's.

Alex Lamont, what a character, arrived in the Probus Club in 1938. Alex, I believe, has had nearly every position there is in the Club, and has been active in all the programs and sports. Alex's main forte was peddling fertile dirt and since 1938 it would be hard to estimate how much he has turned over. Being more polite one should say he was a successful real estate man. Look around in 1972, and you will find Alex still with us, drinking, bowling, and golfing with the best.

Gordon McFarlane came into the Club in 1938; he was the sports equipment man. Well qualified he was too - spent many years as a professional hockey player. Gordon moved through the sports world and excelled at any sport he put his hand to. A good-humored cuss who could cuss out the best, and also he could bend his elbow that way too. It should be recalled here, that while the members of the Club were paying their respects to Bill Lowther in Holloway's establishment, Gordon, well fortified for the occasion, was a bit overcome by the warmth of the room, and he passed out. He was gently laid out, and the service continued. When all separated we were able to revive Gordon, and assist him in his escape from the clutches of McInnis and Holloway. He recovered and to this day has stayed clear of that outfit. 1972 sees Gordon around as an honorary member.

We will leave the 1930's by mentioning one other man, Bill Schaufele, who was



Bill Ronn's associate. Schaufele, despite being handicapped with the loss of one hand, could bowl with the best, and I'm sure an indispensable man in Bill Ronn's business. He acted on many committees and through his devoted attention to Club affairs will long be remembered. Bill was smitten down long before his time.

Into 1940 with Bill Rathbun in the chair. Bill represented MacCosham storage and Cartage Company. In the mid-forties he retired and went to Penticton. He could not remain inactive so bought a small truck line. Later he became mayor of that city and then put his hand to the real estate business. During Bill's office with the Probus club, Roy McLean was secretary.

In thinking back to those war years, Roy states, the Club sent many thousands of cigarettes to the boys overseas, a task requiring time and effort. War bond drives took place twice a year and Probus members took part.

Service personnel were coming and going through the training centers of Calgary, and the Probus had a number of representatives as members, particularly from the R.C.A.F.

Frank Hughes as president in 1941 kept the previous pattern going. Frank represented Electrical Contracting and Machinery Company Ltd. It will be recalled that this business was in a store west of the Lancaster building on Eighth Avenue. They moved to the 900 block on Ninth Avenue W., and spent some years there. Some might recall the huge fire they had. Eventually, the company expanded to new quarters on Tenth Avenue S.W. Frank took a keen interest in all Club activities from the time he joined in 1936 until his death in the late 1960's. Frank was the one who wired up various things at Bill Ronn's outings; quite shocking to say the least. He loved to bowl five pins and spent many years trying for a good score. One evening he had a relaxing snifter, broke his glasses, fell down, but couldn't make a mistake - so set a Club five-pin record which still stands. So proud was he of this feat that he presented the Club with a cup. The Cup, of course, was to go to the one who had made the highest single game of the season. This trophy has been misplaced. I am sure if Frank were alive, and with us today he would enjoy seeing his cup retrieved and put to use as part of our ten-pin bowling efforts.

W. F. Reid, Chartered Accountant, became a member of the Club in 1938, a real asset to any organization. Bill ran the gauntlet of Junior Chamber of Commerce, spent years on the School Board as Chairman. He became Probus President in 1942. As a community-minded man he devoted an endless amount of time promoting the establishment of a University in Calgary. At the height of his career his health broke, and he passed on. A loss to the city and to our Club.

Bill Dawson, I believe had to take over the reins from Bill Reid and he followed through as President in 1943. Bill was the representative of the Calgary Brewery from 1937 onward. He was not, however, the first man to represent that company. Jim Cross and others were before him. The Brewery provided many enjoyable luncheon and evening meetings in their tavern room. One of Dawson's most memorable facilities was an ability to rattle off the Probus Club Annual Financial Statement without once looking at it. His stories of prohibition days were enjoyable.

1944 - Bruce Morgan of the British American Oil Company became President, was a good member and took part in most of the Club activities; transferred to British Columbia but did not keep in touch.

1945 – The War was over, post-war activities were in progress, in Calgary the population was growing and the core of the city was filling up. Business on the whole was good; the Club was in a healthy state. Perc Powles was President. He had joined the Club in 1941 representing the general insurance category. His presence always radiated the personality he was. So much so, he was dubbed “The People’s Friend”. This tag is still with him in the year 1972.

The years 1940 to 1945 were years devoted to the war and immediate aftermath. The Probus Club played its part. The pattern of programs and activities varied little, i.e. two or three stag parties a year, golf days in the spring and fall, outings at Bill Ronn’s. If there was an addition it would have been a golf day at Banff.

In the 1946, Gordon Campbell blossomed out and became President. Gordon was a good member, nothing ‘seedy’ about him. He had to be for his father-in-law, Stan Wakeford was also a member. Stan was in business with John Conway of the firm Conway’s Limited, wholesale tobacco etc. Conways sold to the two Deli Brothers, Bill and Jack. These brothers continued the membership in the Club for a number of years. Gordon’s year saw a membership of between 70 and 80 with a wide range of firms involved.



PAST PRESIDENTS, THE PROBUS CLUB, CALGARY, CANADA, FEBRUARY 17, 1949.

Peter Hume became a member in 1928, when the Club was six years old. I suppose it could be said that Pete had a way with women. He was always trying to get to them with his appliances, i.e. washing machines, ironers, polishers, etc. Pete’s slogan was “They pay dividends in health and happiness”. 1947 was Pete’s term as President. It was time for a change anyway. Campbell looked a bit wilted, so why not chubby, cheerful Peter. It was at this time Art West turned over the Santa Claus job to Pete. After he was fortified against the cold of the night he would emerge at the Christmas Party and greet all the members with HO! HO! HO! etc. Recalling another event, Peter excelled in the trip to the Grey Cup in 1948, he was all decked out in a western outfit- -high boots and all. He looked like the



### **The Calgary Probus Club - February 17, 1949**

FRONT ROW - Left to Right - Bill Lowther, Stan Seggewick, Don Kepler, Bill Reid, Roy McLean, Bill Dawson, Dad Hilliker, Fraser Harrison, Bert Dyson, Pete Hulme, Gordon Campbell, Art West, Frank Hughes, Ernie Baker.

SECOND ROW - Left to Right - Jim Marsh, Ernie Stark, Harold Smith, Phil Bourque, Fred Evans, John Kletzky, Walter Weir, Art Buckner, Jack Parsons, Gordon Carter, Charlie Addy, Steve Peddlesden, Alex Lamont, E.D. (Don) McDonald.

THIRD ROW - Left to Right - Ernie Taylor, Geo. Lomas, Harry Flumerfelt, Albert Traunweiser, Bill Schaufele, Jack Maybin, Bill Ronn, Bert Cameron, Len Stokes, Jim Chisholm, Clayton Hicks, Malcom McCallum, Keith Mithchel.

BACK ROW - Left to Right - Archie Franks, Guy Austin, Harry Carr, Bob Thompson, Sam Helman, Cy Holloway, Ted Eustace, Ty Jackson, Gord McFarlane, Dr. Jim Zimmernam, Ed Miller, Jack Hardie, Hardy Turnbull, Keith Watt, Art Baines.

Sancho of the West. We all enjoyed Peter and his passing was a sad occurrence.

1948 saw a surge of activities in the lead club field. The International Executives' Association invited our Club to send a representative to a meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Bert Dyson, President of Probud for that year, was the man to go. He returned with a full array of leads Club material. Some of it was put to use and, I do believe, there was a little more exchange of information between clubs. Bert ran a battery and tune-up service on Fifth Avenue S.W., and later moved to the present site of the Herald on Sixth Avenue and First Street S.W. Alex Weisner was Bert's associate in the Club, and later bought out Bert's business. Alex and his two sons bowled with the organization for a number of years.

1949 - The Watch and Diamond merchant Fraser Harrison from Birks became President. Fraser had misgivings about his role but simmered down and did a fine job. Fraser has had more than his share of illness and has been confined to his home for a number of years. He is on the honorary membership list in 1972.

1950 - One of the firms having representation in the Club since the mid thirties and who were on the 'move' and 'carried weight', was MacCosham Storage

and Cartage Company. Believe it or not the Club took advantage of this organization and its slogan, and elected Art Baines their manager to the Presidency. Of course, 'moving was made easy' that year. Art was an aggressive citizen, a good man for his firm, for the Club, and for the City. He joined the Club in 1945 and with his associate Clayton Hicks continued to be active for many years. Art comes out to our meetings in 1972 and is also an honorary member.

To sum up the decade 1940 – 1950, the membership was at its highest and the general average attendance was very high. There seemed to be a spirit of enthusiasm. With the standard stock of events and social activities a new wrinkle was added. Phil Bourque will be remembered, along with Mike Hussey, these two with their interest in the square dancing craze, brought their dancers to a luncheon meeting during Stampede week. This was the point of change and it was an almost unanimous motion, that periodically the wives should be invited to the meetings.

Through the 1940 – 1950 period business was good and in most cases the members were content with leads production. Many new and younger members were coming into the Club. It could be said a decade of growth and goodwill.

Earlier it was mentioned that Roy McLean had his stint as President and in the late thirties and early forties he spent five years as secretary. A yeoman job he did to say the least. After Roy came Jim Marsh, Jim joined the Club in 1925, a very keen and devoted member. Any job Jim undertook he completed with dispatch. The assistance given by Jim in the preparation of material for this paper was invaluable. I do believe that Jim would hold some kind of a record on the bowling alleys, as the bowler closest to 100% attendance. Another ex-president, Fraser Harrison had a stint as secretary, I believe 1950 was the year.

After being in the club for over ten years and taking an active interest in all Club affairs, Jim Zimmerman, our genial dentist became President for the year of 1951. Jim distinguished himself in dental circles, becoming President of the Provincial and Canadian Dental Association. He filled his position with Probus admirably.

Bill Dawson took over the Secretary's position during the year Jim was President. A footnote- -during Jim's years with the Club his office was in the old Herald building- -later name was changed to the Greyhound building, and now in 1972 the building is being demolished. Jim was dislodged, and now occupies offices in the Palliser Square.

The pattern of the Club activities and programs varied little during the past few years, and the same was to continue through the period 1951 – 1956. The leads activity took cycles of pressure, and this produced leads programs and craft talks. The outside speakers would be fewer during these periods. The presidents who kept this even keel during this period were Keith Mitchell of the Canadian Western Natural Gas Light Heat & Power Company in 1952, Ty Jackson, of the Calgary Herald in 1953, and Ernie Taylor of Taylor Signs in 1954. Ty Jackson was a great sport- -an excellent bowler.

Taylor Signs, being the oldest sign shop in Calgary, started business in 1900 and is still very active in 1972. A record of 72 years of continuous service to Calgary.

Malcolm McCallum chaired the Club in 1955. Malcolm followed his boss 'Dad' Hilliker as Circulation Manager of the Calgary Herald. Some might recall

Malc as a paper boy who carried his papers to the outlying areas of the City with a two-wheeled cart pulled by a horse. Anyway he worked himself up and made a fine successor to 'Dad'. If one gazed at a mirror and it reflected the untarnished truth, or if one looked through a window and it shattered, the image of Steve Peddlesden would instantly emerge. It could be said that being the principal in Bennett Glass Company Steve revels in soldering solutions, diamond cutters and cast wire. He has lived near the Elbow River, but he has a 'bridge' mind and he hates to loose a trick. Yes, I wonder how corny I can get. I don't want to say another word about Steve, except that he was President of Probus in the year 1956; the Club suffered in silence.

The law stepped into the picture in 1957 in the person of Ivan L. Head. Ivan chaired the Club in his inimitable fashion. The boys were treated to rare readings of prose and verse and quotes. Ivan represented the firm of Helman, Barron & Head, Barristers and Solicitors, and was the associate member of Sam Helman. He left Calgary to enter the Canadian Government Diplomatic Service. Later, when Pierre Elliot Trudeau became Prime Minister Ivan was appointed special assistant to the Prime Minister. 1972 finds Ivan in Ottawa.

As before mentioned, in these last few years the Club was sailing on untroubled waters, and most of the members were content with the way things were. However, with time things are bound to change somewhat. A slight ripple did appear during G.F. "Pete" McAulay's year in the chair- -1958. Pete examined the constitution and the reasons for the Club's being, and stressed the point that as a leads Club we were treating the objectives indifferently. He wanted to be relentless and draw a tight line. "Produce or Pass" seemed to be his attitude. Well, it took Pete several months to get the feel of the men and he simmered down and the year was a success.

1959 -This was a year the Club was "assured" and the "beneficial plan" came through from the Group called Canada Life Assurance Company. They saw fit to place Graeme P. Smith among us and he was duly elected to lead the parade. A sincere spirit of goodwill and fellowship prevailed, and Graeme with his interests in many fields, expressed some of them to the Club. Curling once a year came into being. Graeme's Curling Leadership contributed greatly in obtaining Bonspiels Nationally & Internationally for Calgary. So we can say a 'Good Fellow', a good year, and a goodbye to 1959.

Ted Eustace leads the Club into the 1960's. Ted followed the pattern set out by Graeme Smith and the year was good. I think it was during Ted's year that Bill Dawson retired secretary and George Hinds took over. Ted had spent the major part of his career in Calgary, but had to leave for a position in the East.

It should be mentioned that the period 1950 to 1960 was a good business era. The Club was vigorous and healthy. Not, however, did we slide through this decade without something sour. The incident took place at a stag meeting when too much drinking and gambling raised tempers, and a bit of a fight occurred. It took a few days and apologies to iron things out. It was gratifying to all that the true core of those involved came through, and they acted the gentlemen that they really were.

Ron Thurston, representing the Turnbull Elevator Company, was an aggressive and enthusiastic member, and so was elected to chair the Club for 1961. Ron's main project for the year was the Ladies Day held in the Old Glencoe Club. He



prodded and badgered the members into a group project. The result was some remarkable stage backgrounds representing an Old Time Saloon. It was an effective way to bring the members together.

Times were changing and so the Club had to adjust somewhat. Some of the members had been reading Playboy and Esquire, and began to view life a little differently. The "Mod" atmosphere seemed to be breaking over. Men's Clothes became more flamboyant. In short, a new investment deal for 1962 had to be made and who better should appear in person than Decorative, Dapper, Doran. How well he draped the president's chair. I can't help thinking that the phrase, "We were Laughing", was coined then, and strangely enough it remains to this day when Ervie enters the room. We knew Ervie to be a bit sentimental and tears of joy and some of sadness were shed when his year ended. Nineteen hundred and sixty-two was the year Tom Floyd, and ex-banker, was appointed secretary, replacing George Hinds.

We have passed the 40-year point; many members have come and gone. There are charter members still around, with others of long standing.

Pushing into 1963 with Frank Fleming we knew our cause was in good hands. Frank, with his talents both in business and pleasure, won the respect of his fellow members. Many entertaining hours were enjoyed at the Ladies programs. Frank represented Helman, Fleming and Neve, Barristers and Solicitors. In 1972, Frank is still active in Club affairs. Here I take the liberty of quoting from his swan song, given on his last day as president. "I shall take leave, and in the very best Western tradition, ride off into the sunset." End of quote. Not the end of Frank, though, for he rode back and has remained with us ever since. Really he should have written this paper with such literary ability.

It might be well to state at this point that from the time of the Club's inception, each president was required to give a swan song, i.e. a summary of the year's activities during his term. These were duly filed, but I'm sorry to say that, with the frequent change in secretaries, all such records to 1963 have been mislaid.

Well, if Frank Fleming can do it why not I, so, 'twas the First Thursday noon in January, 1964 that the Probus Club hear "Hark, the Herald Angel Sings". What a rag! What an angel! What a Chivers! What a year that was, I "Chiver" to think about it. Fred did tame some of the cool out of the atmosphere by introducing the bar at our meetings. This proved popular and has remained as part of our noon activities since.

Geoff Jessup and Allen Nisbet shared the honor of being president in 1965; Geoff representing Turnbull Elevator Company, and Allen Nisbet representing General Supplies; both in the transportation business. Geoff was to take you up and down and Allan to move you back and forth. Geoff had to leave us for a new position in the States midway in the year. Allan gave a full account of the club activities in his year end report so I will not elaborate further.

We came into the year 1966 with Dan Johnson, the United trailer man, in the chair. Dan was young and full of beans. It would be right to say he was hotfooting it around Calgary and a hard man to keep up with. Dan was responsible for the introduction of the Children's Christmas party. It was held at the United Trailer Plant and Santa Claus was in attendance. During Dan's tenure in office the leads programs and other activities remained much the same as in previous years.



It should be recorded that in 1965 Andrew Fairman was appointed Secretary-Treasurer, and has held this position through the years to the time of writing.

Roly Moore of Palm Dairies became our 1967 President, his slogan, "The Cream of Them All." Well I must say he did his best to exemplify "The Milk of Human Kindness." Nothing "sour" occurred while Roly was around.

While on the subject of Liquid Refreshments, never in the history of the Club have these two words been better defined than in the year 1968. Stew Adams, from a Pioneer Calgary family, worked his way through life in a number of vocations;



**The Calgary Probosc Club at Bill Rons Ranch - 1942**

Professional Hockey Player, Coffee Grinder and Beverage Dispenser. To say 'Adam's Whiskey' should suffice. We had an enjoyable year with Stew as our President.

We were caught with a Webb that is Alf in 1969. What a character; what an example of energy and talent. Alf lead the Club through a year of social activities, which were most refreshing. He and his pal, Dick McCallum, could bring the house down with their musical renditions. The Club enjoyed an outing at Alf's Country home during the year and some of the antics will long be remembered. Alf saw to it, through his sound choice of Program Chairman, that the leads and business activities were not neglected. We had an exciting year in 1969.

John Richardson, the rug-cleaning man followed Alf in 1970. John, too, loved fun and was a good bowler. He also had a place in the Country and the idea of an outing there came about. This could be likened to the old days at Bill Ronn's ranch. An affair much enjoyed by all.

Ken Bond chaired the Club in 1971. The writer of this paper had the honor of installing him as president. This was due to our ever faithful Art West being out of the city. Art had installed more Probus Club presidents than anyone else in the Club. Ken had an active program committee and we had a wide variety of speakers. It was an election year in Calgary and so candidates for the office of Mayor spoke at our meetings.

Socializing during the year included a successful outing at Banff and the Diamond Cross Ranch. Alf Webb's Hoedown was also one to remember. Ken won't forget it, to say the least, for he was stung by a wasp. It could be said that as an architect Ken structured his year very well.

1972, well this is the 50<sup>th</sup> year. Our President will be giving a full report. I'm sure it will disclose all the activities of his term much better and in more detail than I am able to do. There is no doubt in my mind that, after reading this paper, important omissions will come to light. I would recommend that any member who would like to add items to this record should feel free to do so. In this manner a truer and more comprehensive history would result.

I have mentioned every President and many of the outstanding figures in the organization. I know I have not included many and I hope they will forgive me.

I would particularly like to mention Bill McGaw, Jim Marsh, Roy McLean and Art West for their help, as well as our Secretary, Andrew Fairman.

As a footnote, the future should easily be taken care of, if each President gives a comprehensive written report at the completion of his tenure in office. This, then, coupled with an attached roster for the year, should preserve the events of tomorrow when they take their place in the past.

Respectfully submitted by Ernest L. Taylor  
Probus member 1943 - 1972+

# *A continuation of the history of the Probus Club for the later years.*

1973 - 2001

Written and compiled by Lloyd S. Traptow and Robert J. Kennedy

It was at the suggestion of President Marlon Flaig in 1999 to Lloyd Traptow the present day (2001) keeper of the history of the Probus Club that got us started on this portion of the story of the Club.

Here we are in the next century, the year 2001, continuing on the 'History' of the Probus Club adding to the previous work of Ernie Taylor. 1922 - 1972.

The first history of Probus was written in 1972. During the past 28 years records have been lost and misplaced. Add to this the fact memories are not as reliable as we think and these are the reasons you may see some areas or years, where there is not as much information available as we would like to have presented to you.

The Probus Club has not been a community fundraiser such as other service clubs. It is a 'leads' networking club, working together and helping each other by dealing with each other whenever we can, also being a salesperson for each member by telling others of services and products that our members have to offer. Our meetings were at noon every Thursday at the Palliser.

Our Thursday meetings gave us the opportunity to talk to one another and to get to know each member on a more personal basis. Craft Talks give individual members an opportunity to inform us, in detail, about their business.

We also had the pleasure of hearing speakers from other business groups outside of Probus Club. All of the speakers we heard helped to enhance our business opportunities.

The Probus Club of Calgary, since its inception in 1922 until about 1993, maintained a male only membership.

The 1980's and 1990's saw a steady increase in the numbers of ladies undertaking not only ownership but also management roles in business. As a result the Probus Club opened its membership to include both men and women.

As well as our business meetings we enjoyed many social functions, such as Ladies Night and later Alumni Night dinner and dance, golf tournaments, curling, bowling and barbeques.

Every December we have our elections for President, Vice President and six Directors covering membership, attendance, programs, socials, sports and secretary-treasurer.

Following this preamble we will continue, year by year, into some detail about the Club and introduce our Presidents and Directors with whatever information we could glean from our weekly bulletins, memory and other sources.

1973 - Jim Smith was elected President. Jim Smith, the man from 'Texas', amiable and usually smiling, was with Electrical Contracting and Machinery on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. in the position of marketing manager. His father-in-law, Stu Adams, introduced him to



50th Anniversary Party - Long time friends and business associates enjoying themselves.



1995 Stampede Breakfast at Ralph and Carol Jorgensen's. Here we have the Chief Cooks Rolly Moore and Allan Nisbet.



1993 Stampede Breakfast at Frank and Terry Gathercole's. The Cooks are Lloyd Traptow, Jim Gathercole, Keith Traptow and Frank Gathercole



The  
Horseshoe  
Tournament  
1995  
Players and  
Winners



the Club.

1974 - President, Stan Kosman of Kosman Pump Service Ltd. took the helm. Located on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.E., Stan was a very active person and enjoyed the outdoors; spending all day at a rambling stream trying to catch that elusive fish or in winter on a ski hill in the mountains. Stan and his wife Carmel hosted several very successful, fun-filled functions during his tenure.

1975 - 'The Engineer' from Carswell Engineering Ltd., Harry Carswell, became President, having joined Probus in 1957. This was the year the executive increased the dues for 1976; \$60.00 for active, \$25.00 for associate memberships.

The Directors in 1975 were Bob Kennedy, Charles Priddy, Stan Sims, Bill Dustan, Bob Masslow, Jack Lee and Stam Kosman

Our 1976 President was Bob Kennedy of Kennedy & Company Adjusters Ltd., insurance adjusters. Bob joined in 1963 and was always the fun loving guy looking for a good laugh. Bob took a good hold on affairs of the Club and had a successful year along with directors Bob Masslow, Frank Gathercole, Ed Given, John Payne, Stan Sims and Joe Van der Roest.

The Club was in a good financial position and enjoyed many social and sporting events such as curling, spring and fall golf tournaments, BBQ at John Richardsons in Priddis where John had a large BBQ 'spit' on which was barbecued a whole pig along with beef roasts.

During these years we had approximately 60-65 members and functions such as the BBQ would draw up to 50 people and Ladies Night would host 80 or so.

Ladies night was held at the Kinsmen Centre. We also had an Honorary Members Luncheon and a Christmas luncheon with wives, friends and former members. Our member, Stu Adams, was accorded an honorary membership in the Probus Club and Lions International also recognized him as "Lion of the Half Century".

Two other members of long standing, Roy Maclean and Bill Ronn passed away.

The Club ended the year in good stead under the leadership of Bob Kennedy.

1977 - Ed Given came to the forefront.

The following is his year-end report.

The induction of Officers took place in the Palliser Hotel 'Corral' on Thursday, January 6. The President and Directors were initiated and Andrew Fairman (assisted by Lila Anderson) was confirmed as Secretary-Treasurer.

Several members and friends enjoyed bowling at the Silver Dollar Lanes during winter months (after work). Bob Kennedy, Stan Kosman, Mike Lucas, Lloyd Traptow, John and Alf Webb and Ed Given were regulars.

Curling at the North Calgary Club was well organized by Graeme Smith and enjoyed by more than thirty members and guests.

Guest speakers ran the gamut from Craft Talks by members to celebrities such as skater Lynn Nightingale and TV's Johnny Esau.

June 16 was a memorable luncheon hosted by Canadian Freightways. Members and guests were invited to view the pheasant conservatory grounds and nesting enclosures on the westward Canadian Freightway hillsides. The self-firing hawk/eagle trap net was appreciated as just one of the protection features.



July 2 was the annual Stampede Breakfast hosted by Frank and Terry Gathercole. Horseshoe pitching and other games kept the party going for hours. Terry, Frank and Rhonda were perfect hosts.

July 13 featured a joint Lions Club and Probus Club luncheon.

November 24, forty-seven couples attended Ladies Night at the Earl Grey Golf Club. As usual this seemed to be the highlight of our year! Again, corsages delighted the ladies.

The sun shone on our two golf tournaments...members and guests enjoying good scores and very generous prizes.

Business meetings, as usual for Probus, were lively with forthright airing of opinions and some (tall) story telling.

The Palliser Hotel hosted great meals in fine rooms, at a cost of \$4.75.

The Election of Officers for 1978 was held December 15 with Lloyd Traptow elected President.

Thanks for allowing me to be your 1977 President. W. Ed Given

1978 - Lloyd Traptow was elected President. Lloyd, a native Calgarian who joined the Club in 1968, represented Taylor Signs Ltd. as a partner of the firm. Taylor Signs commenced operation in 1900 under George Taylor and then under his son Ernie Taylor, who joined Probus in 1943. Lloyd enjoyed Probus and its members. Lloyd always viewed social functions such as 10 Pin Bowling as lots of fun and enjoyed the keen competition.

In this year Probus had 63 members including 15 Honorary. Directors for the year were Watson Anderson, Don Gray, Frank Myer, Pat Assoignon, Bob Lamb and Harvie Philips. This was an active year for the club as far as leads were concerned and socially as well, with 2 golf tournaments and a BBQ at John Owens on the Elbow River. There was a Stag Night and Stu Adams hosted a Cross Country Ski event in February on the Elbow River in the Rideau Park Area by Stu's home. In addition to a curling night, the sporting members ran a full season bowling league with our competitive President Lloyd giving the members a run for their money. Membership increased and overall 1978 was a good year for Probus.

On a sad note Stuart Adams, a former Chicago Blackhawk player in the NHL and long time representative of Adams Distillers, passed away in May of 1978. As well as Stu Adams passing, two other long time members Cy Holloway and Bill Magaw departed this life.

1979 - Probus Club moved smoothly into 1979 with our Pre-Pak meat man Frank "Rancid" Gathercole, a member since 1974, becoming president. The first meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> featured a special guest, Jack Rebandengo, retiring "Maitre D" for the Palliser.

There was a report from a group of members who took in New Years Eve at the Elkana Ranch at Bragg Creek. The directors this year who assisted Frank were Pat Assoignon, Bob Lamb, Harvey Phillips, Stan Kosman, Mike Lucas and Eric Roland.

In January, 88 year old Art West, the last remaining founding member of Probus was honored for his 70 years membership at Central United Church. On January 25<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Robbie Burns day.

A speaker in February, Dr. Gerald Hankins with the United Church mission to



### **The first of many cross country skiing outings during the 80s**

Back Row: Ray Woolgar, Visitor, Dianne & Ted Griffett, Eleanor Engman, Bob Kennedy  
 3rd Row: Sylvia Wood, Vi Traptow, Guest, Guest, Alice Sims, guest, guest, David Megaw  
 2nd Row: Dave Megaw, Standing, Rolf Heiligsetzer, Elizabeth Megaw & David Megaw Jr.  
 Front Row: Lloyd Traptow, Colleen Heiligsetzer, Stan Sims, Merv Wood, Ron Boschman

Nepal spoke on living conditions in that country. At another meeting we heard from our secretary Andrew Fairman who spoke on 'Life in Britain today'. These were two of many fine speakers in 1979.

Through the year we had our usual 'sports' events – 2 golf tournaments, curling, crib tournament, a fun mixed bowling night and our Season Bowling roll-off where Lloyd Traptow took the high 3 and high single of 208. In May we again honored Art West – 'The Art West Story' on his 57 years as a Probus member and one of the original founders. Ladies Night was an enjoyable success with 74 in attendance.

In 1980 the President was Harvey Philips and the directors were Roy Andrichuk, Bob Scott, Merv Wood, Pat Assoignon and Bob Lamb.

Harvey was a man of 'many hats' and at this time was in partnership with Jim Gathercole (the long suffering brother of Frank "Rancid" Gathercole). Harvey and Jim operated a RV service company known as Intertherm Ltd. where they provided excellent service to members owning RV Units.

Aside from the serious business of exchanging business leads between members and informing members of available business outside the Club, the social aspect for members and partners was maintained over the year beginning with a cross country ski weekend at Stan & Alice Sims "country estate" near Sundre. The stag events of the year included curling, golf and of course bowling. The hardworking program chairman

arranged a visit to Tri Media Film Studios at Happy Valley along with numerous other interesting luncheon programs. Not to be forgotten was the barbecue held at Past President Lloyd and his wife Vi Traptow's weekend retreat at Bowden.

1981 - The Travel Man, Roy Andrichuk of Inter-Nation Travel Ltd. 'sailed' into the dock of Presidency for the year 1981 with his crew, Bob Scott, Merv Wood, Eric Sumpter, Rolf Heiligsetzer and Ken Zablocki. Roy, the busy travel agent and bon vivant, ran the business with wife Gloria. The members were made aware of travel bargains as they came available. 1981 was a year of increased membership dues. Such a gnashing of teeth, but it was good for the Club, so we now had to pay \$100.00 for active members and \$60.00 for Associates.

The Secretaries Luncheon, held annually, as well as golf tournaments, Ladies Night and bowling were well supported. Highlights for the year included a trip to the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and of course the barbecue at Traptow's Bowden retreat. Pix a bottom of Page 23

1982 was the year of the 'English President', Merv Wood, who ran a tight ship, well assisted by his directors.

We had a most interesting trip to the new Calgary Herald building in North East Calgary, complementing numerous luncheon speakers over the year. Social functions were...a ladies evening at the Inter-Se Club, a ski weekend at Sims Sundre acreage, a bowling roll off where 'intrepid' Lloyd Traptow won it all - high 3 - 585, high single 219 and high average 164. Stampede breakfast was enjoyed by all, followed by a horseshoe tournament, members also enjoyed two golf tournaments and a barbecue at Traptow's 'croft' near Bowden.

In September we marked the retirement of Andrew Fairman who held the position beginning in 1965. He was presented with a tankard and a book from the Club. This Scot of the acid tongue was known to his Registered Industrial Accountant Students as T.B.F. (That Bastard Fairman). He had an astounding wit and introduced the grace used at numerous meetings:

Doon on your hunkers  
Up wi' your paws  
The Lord be Thank'd  
He gie'd you jaws



Andrew was our one and only paid Secretary. Many of the members will recall Lila Anderson who so capably filled in on many occasions during Andrew's tenure.

1983 was the year of Rolf Heiligsetzer 'The Body Rebuilder'. Rolf, who ran his own auto body company, Stampede Auto Body Ltd. in N.E. Calgary, joined the Probus Club in 1980 and was elected President in 1983. He retired from the business when it was sold in 1987 and went into the Auto Appraisal business, retiring from Probus in 1990.

Rolf was one of our very active members who supported all club social activities. His well-run business helped many members. No one can forget his enjoyable laughter and love of a good party. Another good year of speakers at our noon luncheons, social events and sports, all capably run by our Directors.

For 1984 we had as President, Jim Gathercole. Jim joined Probus in 1979 and operated Intertherm Services Ltd. in partnership with Harvie Phillips, Past President 1980. Jim was a staunch supporter of the Cavaliers Boys and Girls Marching Band as well as a volunteer with the Calgary Stampede and Exhibition.

In 1985 Ron Boschman was 'moved' into the President's chair 7 years after he joined Probus in 1978. He was manager of Bekins Moving and Storage. Ron was well organized and carried out his duties extremely well.

Directors were Larry Grant, Doug Hunt and Doug Dartnell.

This year members enjoyed the usual events of a ski weekend, curling, golf, BBQ and Stampede breakfast.

For 1986 Larry Grant – the man 'well suited' for president took the position. He was the owner of Mister Grants Menswear in Crowfoot Centre. He came to Probus in 1984 and left the Club in 1989. Larry was happy-go-lucky, enjoying golf and having a good time and always smiling. Larry was supported this year by directors Barry Mathews – Treasurer, Bob Scott – Sports, Lloyd Traptow – Entertainment, Stan Sims – Programs, Doug Dartnell – Membership, Doug Hunt – Leads and Attendance and Ted Griffett – Secretary.

We had a good selection of speakers such as...Lanny McDonald of the Flames, Ed Lukowitch – world champion curler, and Jack Tennant – reporter-journalist-author.

Social and sporting events included: cross-country skiing at Sims, N.W. of Sundre on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>; a curling bonspiel on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Springbank Curling Club; golf on May 26<sup>th</sup> at Shawnee which included supper; a fishing weekend at Bar XL Ranch west of Caroline (Tom Thompson's) on May 9 – 11; a BBQ at Traptow's east of Bowden on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>; a Stampede breakfast at Gathercoles on July 6<sup>th</sup>; golf on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Kananaskis and Ladies Night on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Winter Club.

Our 1987 President was Karl Elsner, partner at Buchanan Barry & Co., Chartered Accountants.

Directors for the year included Ron Sleno, Cy Young, Bob Smith, Stan Sims, Bob Scott and Barry Matthews.

Karl, our friendly accountant, kept the club running smoothly through 1987. Good luncheon programs and some field trips were an integral part of the year. Programs such as Brian Keating of the Calgary Zoo, Cam Innes – PR for Calgary Stampeders, Sidney Craig and Marty Way talked on the '88 Olympics, Karl Deline – Interfaith Food Bank, our own Ed Given gave his views on a trip to the Arctic through C.E.S.O. to assist the

natives in a business program. We went to High River and had a tour of Eamors Custom Saddlery – host, Harvey Phillips.

Socials – another cross-country ski trip at Stan and Alice Sims. Stampede Breakfast at Frank and Terry Gathercole's. BBQ at Traptow's Bowden acreage. There was also curling, golf, 'Gentlemen's Night' and a Christmas luncheon with invited guests. A good year was had by all.

In 1988 Lloyd Traptow took the gavel in hand again (previously President in 1978).

Directors – Lane Grant, Fred Lange, Dennis Heinzlmier, Cy Young and Bob Scott.

This was the "Olympic Year" for Calgary. Probus Club had to find meeting places other than the Palliser Hotel as it was taken over for the Olympics. The February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was held at Earl Grey, the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was at Eamors Saddlery for a tour and lunch at Pioneer Restaurant and on February 18<sup>th</sup> an evening open house was held at OK Tire with host Doug Hunt – a great evening of food and beverages. We went out for a scrumptious supper at SAIT on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Pandas were at the Calgary Zoo and the Club went for a morning show. February also saw an increase in membership fees to \$140.00, starter fees at \$25.00.

Our Thursday meetings always had a variety of speakers from our own members and also outside invited guests as exemplified by Betty Cooper from the CBC show 'The Eye Opener' speaking on the Power of Speech and Russ Tynan, President and C.E.O. of Jr. Achievement. Another speaker, Gladys Taylor, received many awards for her literary writings. Gladys started her own publishing business and helped develop the Rockyview News into a leading paper.

We enjoyed our annual curling bonspiel at the Springbank curling facility – great fun, food and prizes. Other events that year included golf, BBQ's at Traptow's acreage east of Bowden and Stampede breakfast at Gathercole's – Terry and Frank in Springbank.

Our member Doug Hunt spoke on his trip to Seoul, South Korea. October 29<sup>th</sup> was Ladies Night at the Winter Club. Elections were held December 15<sup>th</sup> for 1989.

The 1989 election produced the next President, Stan Sims, who had a lot of 'ups and downs' in the overhead door business. Stan was owner of Sims Garage Door Co., which he started in Calgary after coming here from Winnipeg. Stan joined the Club in 1973. Supporting Stan in 1989 were directors Ron Boschman, Werner Pauls, Eric Roland, Fred Lange, Ed Brigden and Dennis Heinzlmier. Sid Helischauer replaced Werner Pauls during the year.

Another year of interesting speakers...our own member Fred Lange gave a craft talk on how to have money when you retire. Larry Heinzlmier spoke on the essential qualities of leadership.

Social events included the annual cross country ski trip at Stan Sims' – Sundre acreage and on March 7<sup>th</sup> a Gourmet dinner at SAIT.

Stan wound up the year in December on a good note and closed the door on 1989.

The 1990's in Probus showed a decline in social and sport events, possibly getting into an era where interests of the membership changed. The annual event which carried on was Alumni night (formerly 'Ladies Night') which had always been the largest social event of the year as it was semi-formal with a lovely dinner and dancing to a live band. Attendance was 60 to 80 persons. The secretary's luncheon in spring and the Christmas



luncheon in December also had good turnouts with former Probus members and wives, friends and secretaries being invited.

Sporting socials such as golf kept going with usually one event a year instead of two. Billiards tournaments started about 1996.

Social and sport events dropped due to lack of interest were the fall barbecue and Stampede breakfast. Alumni night is still on the social list but has low attendance. These events were always good as members certainly got to know each other better. Our bowling group went for years from the 1940's to approximately '90-'91. The first years were 5 pin bowling upstairs at Gibsons north side of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. a couple of doors west of Centre Street and later on, after a couple of different locations, we then evolved into 10 pin bowling, taking place at Sisson's Silver Dollar Bowl.

The annual curling bonspiel's were held at North Hill Curling Club or Springbank with approximately 4 to 8 rinks competing. Curling was followed by supper, prizes and a lot of talking and good fun. By this time cross-country ski outings had stopped - they were a lot of fun, being held at places such as Kennedy's, out near Bottrel and also Sims N.W. of Sundre or Traptow's near Bowden. A Stampede breakfast was started by Frank and Terry Gathercole and held at their Springbank acreage on the last Sunday of Stampede. We started off with orange juice then coffee, lots of pancakes, sausage and bacon. This event was of course a mixed event of ladies and men. After the breakfast we held a horseshoe tournament with winners receiving trophies and an annual trophy passed on year after year.

While it may sound like the Club spent more time at sports and social events we still had our serious side and continued our Thursday meetings. For many years the meetings were held weekly at the Palliser Hotel - from the 1920's until the late 1980's. When we went to meetings every second week we left the Palliser Hotel and sampled other locations, settling at the Highlander Hotel (now Day's Inn) on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.W. in about 1997.

Our meetings were called to order with the traditional ringing of the 'Gong'. The gong was established in the later 1920's and it consisted of a 1<sup>st</sup> World War, very large caliber, 1912-H17 brass shell, mounted on a wooden stand. The shell is engraved with every President's name since the Probus Clubs inception.

The 1990's

1990 - Fred Lange of Fred Lange Assurance Ltd. was elected President for the year with directors Werner Pauls, Eric Roland, Ron Boschman, Bill Stemp, Ralph Jorgensen, Barry Mathews and Sid Helischauer.

The meticulous Fred Lange helped pull up the Club by pressing for a dress code (sports jack and tie). His business of insurance and financial planning helped many of the Club members during his 17 active years in the Club. Fred joined in 1980, is now retired and enjoys an Honorary Membership.

The year started off with a membership drive and it successfully produced an increase to the total membership. A sign of the changing times was noted when the annual curling bonspiel had to be cancelled as insufficient players were available, however, there was a very good spring golf tournament held by the Club and interest was showing for a pool tournament.

Craft talks replaced several outside speakers giving members an opportunity to let everyone know how their business could benefit the membership. Past President (1969)



Alf and Eve Webb hosted an exceptional Stampede barbecue at their Artist Viewpoint Acreage that overlooks Springbank.

1991 - This was the year when Dennis Heinzlmeir held the gavel. His executive was Vice President - Ron Boschman, Directors - Robert Laidlaw, Ralph Jorgensen, Walter Wagner, Bill Stemp and Bob Smith and Secretary-Treasurer - Sid Helischauer.

This was a very good year of high leads production, active membership participation in meetings and support of social functions. One of the highlights of the programs was a field trip to Byblos Bakery, North America's largest pita bread manufacturer.

Dennis was part owner of The Centre for Training and Development, which pioneered human resource development in Canada with their head office in Calgary.

1992 - Ron Boschman again 'moved' into the chair for this year having previously been President in 1985. Ron represented Bekins Canada Limited in the moving and storage category.

Vice President - Ralph Jorgensen

Directors - Bob Smith, Walter Wagner, Karl Elsner, Sid Helischauer, Larry Walsh

Secretary-Treasurer - Ed Brigden

Ron, astute, organized and on the ball, developed a sweet tooth. About mid year he moved to Lethbridge to establish a Bernard Callebaut Chocolaterie Ltd. store. Reports say he ended up with a thriving business, as would be expected.

Ralph Jorgensen moved to the presidency and grabbed the reins, finishing the year in his usual 'well engineered' style.

In 1992 the following article was written by Vern Simaluk, Freelance Columnist for The Calgary Herald.

#### **Thursday-go-to-meeting club is 70 years old, and counting**

**The Probus Club**, the granddaddy here of all business networking clubs - that is, if you accept at face value that members of community service clubs gather just to serve the community - celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this week at the Palliser Hotel.

That was appropriate because the luncheon club, open to business owners and senior management, has engaged in a cutlery clash there every Thursday noon since its inaugural meeting in 1922. Member **Rolly Moore**, retired from Palm Dairies (now Beatrice) and **Allan Nisbet**, formerly with GSL Chev City, marked their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the bash.

1993 - Ralph Jorgensen - Amiable, dry humor character of R. Plus Industries Ltd.: Insulation. Ralph the Design Engineer and part time farmer was a survivor. Directors for 1993 - Gunther Kruger, Walter Wagner, Karl Elsner, Sid Helischauer, Larry Walsh and Brad Monney.



**Allan Nisbet and Rolly Moore**  
cut their 40 year Anniversary cake.

### **A report from Ralph Jorgensen after serving 1 1/2 terms as President.**

As a vice president, life can be easy. (To get you to run for office, the nominating committee assures you that "the job is a snap." But then the President resigns and moves away. Life changes!!)

In my term, Probus was very much in transition. Numbers were dropping and members found themselves attending "because they felt an obligation to."

Three steps were undertaken to address the situation. - 1) Meetings were reduced from weekly to once every two weeks. (Faxes and phones had replaced the need for weekly gatherings.) 2) The dress code was altered from suit & tie to "clothes that you do business in". 3) Table Grace. - Probus is a secular club. To reflect the many faiths represented in business, table prayers were designed to express thanks to God for His many gifts.

After serving out Ron Boschman's term, my first full year as president was interrupted by an 8 week trip too New Zealand. Another Vice President, who was probably told that the "job is a snap" was called into service. Thank you Sid Helischauer.

I consider it an honour to have my name inscribed on the Probus W.W.I bullet - with two different spellings.

1994 - President, Sid Helischauer - originally from Toronto and a staunch Blue Jays fan. Sid, the Portrait Photographer who made many snap decisions.

### **Presidents Message - Probus 1994**

My focus for the Club for this year was of course membership, but I felt that to attract new Members we had to put some formality back into our meetings. Members' time was becoming more valuable, so I felt we needed provocative and interesting programming and an organized and time efficient meeting. I brought back some traditions from the past to bring up the professionalism and ensure the future existence of Probus. With our Country becoming more of a religious and cultural mosaic I also wrote and introduced our probus prayer still being used today in 2001.

1995 - President, Larry Walsh of Key Contacts Directories Ltd. Services - Business directories, mailing lists, direct mail consulting. Larry enjoyed motorcycling, which was a family affair.

1996 - President, Don Radford of Bannerman Insurance and golfing was his game.

1997 - President, Wayne Sinclair, Listowel Trophies (Calgary) Ltd. Wayne saw the light and left Saskatchewan for Calgary, the Sunshine City of the Foothills. He farmed and was very involved in hockey administration.

1998 - Probus set a mark prior to the millennium - we elected our first female member as President!! Perhaps the odd member rolled over in his grave, but the club flourished! President and First Lady - Becky Lindstedt - our flower child, manager of Bloomington's at the time and then she became the owner of her own store, Floral Options in Market Mall.

Vice President - Marlon Flaig; Directors - Greg Batty, Julia Paterson, Larry Walsh and John Hogan; Treasurer - Ed Brigden

President Becky focused on increasing membership by newspaper advertising as well as by member's assistance. She also concentrated on quality programs at meetings, receiving excellent help from John Hogan. Unfortunately personality conflicts (not with the president) resulted in the loss of two members. Regardless of this the Club had a 'very good year'.

1999 and 2000 - President - Marlon Flaig; Vice President - Julia (99) & Sid (00); Directors - 1999 Sid, Cindy, Ed, Dave Koop, John Hogay & Neil Bridge 0 2999 Dave Koop,

Cindy, Neal, Ed, Julia & Rod

Marlon Flaig, bearing up after two years in the chair (not electric) provided the following report.

### **Double Trouble**

Some say that timing is everything, if this is so, the timing for me as President of Probus was perfect.

A younger more pro-active board, open minded to change and possibilities made my role as President so very easy. An explosion in membership 1999-2000 is a great way to change the complexion of any club or organization. Nothing can & will change things like growth, the energy and ideas new members bring is the spark Probus has needed for some time. I think this may be part of the reason we see many of our senior members showing up regularly. That blend of elder and new members is something very special to Probus.

The board wrestled with many controversial issues. This did cost us membership, which is sad, but unfortunately this is business or life. The board looked at many issues; bylaws, classification, adjourning for the summer, meeting agenda, location and menu, social events, personality conflicts, just to name a few. In my opinion the board made the right call for the better of Probus every single time. We came out the other end a little leaner but a much better club, the thumb suckers and belly achers are gone.

Probus has never looked better, a good solid core, a good diversity in membership. Networking definitely is something most business people are buying into. As my year draws to an end I would ask all Probus members to look inward - How can I make Probus better? Sure we have board members to promote membership, speakers, social, etc. but it really is up to all of us. If you run across a good speaker or in your daily business affairs do business with someone top drawer, invite them out.

I believe that if Probus is running a good show, a potential member attending one of our meetings would find it difficult not to want to be part of our group.

Marlon Flaig

### **Presidents Message - Probus 2001**

My second time in the President's chair - my goal is to finally solve our membership dilemma. Priority one is work with my directors, have regular directors' meetings, and plan out each meeting to be professional and have structure. Our club has a lot of funds in the bank and it was time to spend it, more members' guarantees survival and more business for each member; having money in the bank does nothing. I have a goal to reach the 40-member mark by the end of 2002.

This year we also received back the right to our drink box; we have our own honor bar where a member can have a drink for \$2.00 and on birthdays buy a drink for the club. More a tradition than a need for a drink, it was nice to have this piece of history back. With the tragedy of September 11, something that of course that has touched us all forever, I decided to add some levity to the club with a couple of jokes each meeting and share a laugh to help the stress of each of our days. As my term of president comes to an end, I have to thank my board, which was excellent this year; Vice President Cindy Sorochan, and board members Al Gibson, Mike Dowling, Dave Koop, Roy Shannon, Past President Marlon Flaig, Secretary Nadyne Shafe, and of course, the best treasurer in the history of the club, Ed Brigden. Last thought: thanks to the tremendous effort by Lloyd Traptow, Bob Kennedy and Dave Koop in completing this book and putting up with me getting this insert done.

Thanks, Sid Helishauer



### **The Calgary Probus Club - 75th Anniversary Some of the recent Past Presidents - 1997**

BACK ROW - Left to Right - Sid Helischauer, Dennis Heinzlmeir, Frank gathercole, Robert Kennedy, Roy Andrichuk, Larry Walsh.

SECOND ROW - Left to Right - Ed Given, Rolly Moore, Fred Chivers, John Richardson, Larry Grant.

FRONT ROW - Left to Right - Ron Boschman, Fred Lange, Allan Nisbet, Lloyd Traptow, Karl Elsner, Ralph Jorgensen, Ken Bond, Stan Sims.

This report of the History of the Calgary Probus Club has been written to the best of our ability considering we did not have full records to work from during some months or even years. If we have missed any significant event or person we apologize.

After all is said and done, there is really only one...The Probus Club of Calgary.

We the Members of Probus, past and present, have had a very unique club, here in the City of Calgary. The aim of the Club is to provide a forum for the exchange of business leads and to facilitate networking among our members.

Since its inception in 1922, as the 100% Club and later on (approx. 1927) The Probus Club of Calgary, the members have enjoyed the comradeship of business people from our community supporting each other in their endeavours.

We have also had a lot of good times at our various social functions and have met and made many good friends through this association.

We wish the Probus Club and its members great success in its future.

**Lloyd Traptow and Bob Kennedy** your humble scribes

## PRESIDENTS 1922 - 2001

Year	President	Year	President
1922	Ernie McCullough	1963	Frank Fleming
1923	Lon A. Cavanaugh	1964	Fred J. Chivers
1924	Dr. P. G. Atkinson	1965	Geoff D. Jessup and Allan Nisbet
1925	W. F. W. Lent and C. Winemark	1966	Dan Johnson
1926	Guy Armstrong	1967	Rolly Moore
1927	Chas. Marshall	1968	Stewart Adams
1928	A. B. MacKay	1969	Alf Webb
1929	Dad Hilliker	1970	John R. Richardson
1930	Howard Swengal	1971	Ken Bond
1931	Art West	1972	Mike Lucas
1932	Chris Graburn	1973	Jim Smith
1933	Art West	1974	Stan Kosman
1934	Art West	1975	Harry Carswell
1935	R. A. James	1976	Bob Kennedy
1936	Bill McCord	1977	Ed Given
1937	K. Roy Mclean	1978	Lloyd Traptow
1938	Ernie Baker	1979	Frank Gathercole
1939	John McLean	1980	Harvey Phillips
1940	Bill Rathbun	1981	Roy Andrichuk
1941	Frank Hughes	1982	Merv Wood
1942	Bill Reid	1983	Rolf Heiligsetzer
1943	Bill Dawson	1984	Jim Gathercole
1944	Bruce Morgan	1985	Ron Boschman
1945	G. Perc Powles	1986	Larry Grant
1946	Gordon Cambell	1987	Karl Elsner
1947	Pete Hume	1988	Lloyd Traptow
1948	Bert Dyson	1989	Stan Sims
1949	Fraser Harrison	1990	Fred Lange
1950	Art Baines	1991	Dennis Heinzlmeir
1951	Jim Zimmerman	1992	Ron Boschman and Ralph Jorgensen
1952	Keith Mitchell		
1953	Ty Jackson	1993	Ralph Jorgensen
1954	Ernie Taylor	1994	Sid Helischauer
1955	Malc McCallum	1995	Larry Walsh
1956	Steve Peddlesdon	1996	Don Radford
1957	Ivan Head	1997	Wayne Sinclair
1958	G. F. "Pete" McAulay	1998	Becky Lindstedt
1959	Graeme Smith	1999	Marlon Flaig
1960	Ted Eustace	2000	Marlon Flaig
1961	Ron Thurston	2001	Sid Helischauer
1962	Ervie Doran		