

C. R. (CHARLIE) PIKE

Charles Ronald Pike was born in 1926 in Regina, Sask. to railroading parents. His father was employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway for forty years, retiring as a senior official in the Passenger Dept. His mother had been a stenographer with CP. Both were residents of Regina for over fifty years.

In 1946 Mr. Pike began work with CP Rail in Regina as a rodman and junior transitman. He subsequently moved to CP's regional headquarters in Winnipeg in 1953 where he served as Special Engineer and Division Engineer, in 1963 to Schreiber, Ont. as Division Engineer, in 1966 to Toronto as Asst. Engineer, Manager of Planning, and Superintendent, and in 1972 to system headquarters in Montreal as Asst. Chief Engineer, Chief Mechanical Officer, and Vice-President, Operation and Maintenance.

In 1982 Mr. Pike returned to Winnipeg as Vice-President of CP Rail's Prairie Region. He retired from this position in 1987. Because of his experience he was asked to continue work with CP Rail, under a personal services contract, as a Senior Management Consultant.

Throughout his long and distinguished railway career he was involved with many significant developments in railway transportation in Western Canada and in Saskatchewan. Initially the maintenance of facilities for steam locomotion was a tremendous challenge. Then, in the 1950s, conversion to diesel power called for massive reorganization.

Some of the major accomplishments with which Mr. Pike was closely associated included: conception of the improved Air Flow Method of train braking, ultimately leading to adaptation of end-of-train monitoring devices and removal of the caboose; implementation of important changes in railway operating and safety procedures following the Mississauga derailment; development of the Rogers Pass Tunnel strategy; introduction of new locomotives specifically designed for prairie branch line service; construction of new facilities and implementation of a number of improved procedures which directly assisted Saskatchewan's grain, potash and coal shippers.

Mr. Pike is a Professional Engineer, having graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1950. He was a Director of the Canada Grains Council, 1982-87, Director, Public Markets Ltd., 1982-87, Member, Senior Grain Transportation Committee, 1982-87, and has held senior positions with numerous other professional, business and community associations.

On his retirement Mr. Pike was informed by CP Rail's Chairman and CEO that his had been not only a distinguished career but also the most varied of any officer in CP Rail. There was no one else who could lay claim to having worked in a senior capacity in Engineering, Mechanical, Operations, and Planning and Administration in the course of one career.

Inducted into the
Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame
June 1991