

J.W. (JACK) McCAIG

1905 - 1981

John Waters McCaig was born in Thornhill, Scotland. In 1919 the McCaig family emigrated to Canada, settling in Ogema, Sask.

Mr. McCaig had many jobs over the next few years. In 1928, he began delivering coal with a horse and wagon in Moose Jaw, Sask.

In 1930 Mr. McCaig bought his first truck and began Regina Beach Transfer. In 1931-32 he sold this business and established McCaig Cartage Co. in Moose Jaw with two second hand trucks and a semi trailer he constructed himself. He delivered wooden sheds and petroleum storage tanks, followed by gravel hauling and road construction. Ten years after starting with a horse and wagon, he owned five trucks. In 1941 he sold his thriving business to enlist in the army, serving until 1944 when he returned home and reactivated McCaig Cartage.

In 1945 Mr. McCaig formed MACCAM Ltd. with Al Cameron. The company name was derived from their nicknames. In the same year the partnership secured the Moose Jaw Ford-Lincoln-Mercury dealership. MACCAM became two companies — MACCAM Ltd. which sold cars and MACCAM Transport which was the trucking business.

Two other endeavours soon developed, MACCAM Construction Ltd., and Dominion Auto Carriers which resulted in the first over-the-road hauling of new automobiles from Eastern to Western Canada.

In 1952 MACCAM was split, with Mr. McCaig retaining the trucking and construction companies. He had always encouraged his sons to be part of the business and, in 1960, a holding company, Trimac Limited for the three McCaig boys, was formed.

In 1960 Trimac acquired H. M. Trimble & Sons, operating in Alberta and B.C., to compliment MACCAM's business in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Further expansion brought routes into Eastern Canada, and ICC authority was secured for operations into the U.S.A.

In 1967 the trucking companies began operating as Trimac Transportation, which name served to identify the two original companies MACCAM and Trimble. Trimac is headquartered in Calgary, with Mr. McCaig's son J. R. (Bud) McCaig as Chairman of the Board, and Bud's son Jeff, President and CEO.

Mr. McCaig strived to advance the trucking industry. He served as President, Saskatchewan Motor Transport Association, 1947-1952, and President, Canadian Trucking Association, 1952-1953. He believed his drivers were "Knights of the Road", courteous, safe, and always ready to assist motorists with vehicle difficulty. He insisted on clean trucks and premises, and introduced driving awards and safe driving pay bonuses.

Mr. McCaig devoted a great deal of time to public service. In 1960 he was Vice-President, Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce, and Saskatchewan Director, Canadian Chamber of Commerce. In 1964 he became a founding director of the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corp. and, in 1965, led the Saskatchewan Diamond Jubilee and Centennial Corp. to mark the Province's sixtieth anniversary. He chaired the corporate gifts division of the Moose Jaw YM-YWCA to build a new community sports centre.

Inducted into the
Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame
June 1996