

R. J. (REG) LEWIS

Reginald John Lewis was born into a transportation family in Moose Jaw, Sask. His grandfather ran a hansom cab company in London at the turn of the century. His father was a contract carrier for the Post Office in Moose Jaw, first with a horse and buggy and then truck. In 1932 the senior Lewis moved to Saskatoon and began Lewis and Sons Transport.

The business required total family input and Reg's responsibilities grew from washing trucks to driving. During high school he often drove a truck at night, arriving home in time for breakfast and then classes. He worked holidays and off hours, accumulating considerable highway miles and experience

With the coming of war, Reg joined the Canadian Navy and served three years in North Atlantic convoy escort duty. On his discharge in 1945 he joined his brothers Les and Bert in Lewis and Sons Transport. He soon accepted more responsibility and his father turned management of the company over to him. Lewis and Sons expanded to cover the Province intra and extra provincially.

In 1958 Canadian Motorways purchased Lewis and Sons. Reg, Les, and Bert were retained to operate as Soo-Security Motorways. Reg's initial responsibilities were as Regional Manager for Northern Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta, followed by Saskatchewan and Alberta, serving in Saskatoon and Regina. He then moved to Winnipeg as Director of Marketing, General Manager and, finally, as President and General Manager in 1975. During his tenure as President and GM the company purchased Skingle Transport, Ball Cartage, McArthur and Sons, and Chapman and Carson Northern. New and larger terminals were built, and innovations such as triple trains were developed with Saskatchewan Government co-operation.

In 1980 Mr. Lewis was appointed Senior Vice President, Canadian Motorways, and in 1982 he assumed the position of Senior Consultant and retained that position until his retirement in 1987.

Mr. Lewis had forty years of association and trade activity at both the provincial and federal levels. Following is a partial history of his service and achievements:

Saskatchewan Trucking Association — Director 1952-73, and President three terms. Gross weight limits raised from 48,000 lbs. to 72,000 lbs; Canadian Trucking Association — Director 1952-82, President three terms, and Special Consultant 1981-87; Chairman, National Energy Committee; Federal Grain Committee; Transport Canada Highways Transportation Research and Development Board; Senior Grain Transportation Committee; Roads and Transportation Association of Canada; Canadian Metric Commission; Chairman, Human Resources Development Committee, Canada Manpower and Immigration.

Mr. Lewis received Trailmobile's Man of the Year award in 1964 and again in 1983; he served on the Saskatchewan Government's Advisory Council on Transportation from 1958-64, and was a member of the Saskatchewan Highway Traffic Board from 1964-74, the first non civil servant appointed to this Board.

Mr. Lewis attributes the success that he may have had in the freight business to good honest competition, a dedicated staff, and the understanding and participation of a family which permitted him to devote many hours to the various interests involved in highway transportation.

Inducted into the
Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame
June 1998