

Presidential Recall



Clifford Thompson
1986 - 1987



This month I am pleased to supply for the Chapter History a little information on one of our Past Presidents Mr. Cliff Thompson. Cliff Thompson was born October 7, 1928, he was the oldest of three children, his parents were both school teachers in Ottawa. He attended Glebe Collegiate graduating in 1946. At this time Cliff advised, it was near impossible to be accepted at university unless you were a returning veteran or had a scholarship, of which he had neither. Although, as luck would have it, some one didn't show up and Cliff was accepted at Carleton. He spent two years there, and then went on to Queens for two

years, where he graduated in May of 1950 with a BSc. in Civil Engineering.

Cliff's first engineering job was a Location Surveyor with the department of Highways. He worked on surveying, through virgin bush on several highways, one stretch was on the Trans Canada from Chapleau to north of White River, however, one winter in Northern Ontario, was enough. Thinking of getting married Cliff made some decisions which did not include working in the bush, so on December 23, 1953 he joined Minneapolis Honeywell's Commercial Division, as an Application Engineer.

In May 1956 he transferred to the sales department calling on Consulting Engineers, aiding them in the selection of equipment for schools, universities, and high rise office buildings.

In 1970 he became manager of Toronto Branch, responsible for sales installation and service, until 1979 when he transferred to head office marketing in Toronto, this where he continued to work and be responsible for various aspects of controls in the commercial construction market. On December 23, 1989 Cliff retired from Honeywell.

Mr. Thompson first joined ASRE in 1957, when they used to meet at the Town & Country. Although not very active in Society and Chapter he remembered the great steak dinners and deserts that were all part of the meetings.

After the merger to ASHRAE he became active on the publicity committee, as the News letter editor. At that time it was one page 8 1/2 x 11" on news print paper.

Cliff was elected to the Board of Governors where he was liaison with several committees, and served as Chapter auditor into the 1960's.

In the 70's he served on several committees, and in the 80's he was chosen to serve on the Board of Governors. He went through the chairs and the executive and was president of the Toronto Chapter 1986 / 1987.

After this Cliff assisted John Fox with the Regional History and then became Region II Historian until 1999. In 1994 Cliff was appointed to Society's Historical Committee, and served for three years, and then on the Charter and Bylaws Committee for three years.

One of the biggest technical changes from a control point of view was the advent of Digital Electronics, this change led to BacNet.

Cliff is married to his wonderful wife Joan, and they have one son Reid.

Mr. Thompson indicated the great number of people that both he and his wife have met over the years were all friendly and most accommodating. They still reminisce of the great times they had at ASHRAE functions from Chapter Dinner Dances to Society's 100th Anniversary bash in Chicago.

Cliff's attitude as I hope all of our ASHRAE members is to encourage any one he meets to join ASHRAE, become involved on committees, and bring your spouse any time you can, it will benefit both of you.

