

Accounting Hall of Fame

Testimonial to Calvin Arthur Rice

Given by Professor John R.E. Parker, Associate Dean of Management, Dalhousie University.

Inducted November 23, 1990.

Calvin Arthur Rice was born in Boston, Massachusetts, but spent his formative years and virtually his entire professional career in Nova Scotia. After one year at Dalhousie, Cal moved on to Queen's University where he received his commerce degree in 1949. Cal qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1952, having trained with Clarkson Gordon in Toronto. Ontario's loss became Nova Scotia's gain when Cal decided to make his career in Halifax and Dartmouth. The late Harvey R. Doane, an astute judge of potential talent, hired Cal, and the rest is now history. Cal Rice became a partner of H.R. Doane & Company in 1955, he served as executive partner from 1963 to 1987, and retired on October 1, 1989.

It is indeed an understatement to describe Cal Rice as a practitioner. Adding the adjective "enlightened" comes closer, but also falls short given the magnitude of Cal's accomplishments within his firm, his profession, and the communities in which he has lived and worked.

As managing partner, Cal Rice played a leading role in establishing Dartmouth as one of his firm's most successful offices. That office now has more partners than the total partnership of H.R. Doane & Company when Cal joined the firm. During Cal's 24 years as executive partner, the firm's number of partners increased from 14 to 129, and, more importantly Doane Raymond emerged as a strong, independent, national firm--with offices in 8 provinces and in Quebec by the way of association. Cal Rice played a major role in establishing an association of Doane Raymond with Raymond, Chabot, Martin, Pare & Associates, then the largest CA firm in Quebec. This unique arrangement has been described as an alliance without domination - a model of sovereignty association that should perhaps be commended to our politicians! At some risk of oversimplification, the continuing growth and success of Doane Raymond may be attributed to key personnel policies fought for and instituted by Cal Rice as essential to the development of the firm's young professionals.

Cal Rice has always been a firm believer in the truism that a professional firm is only as strong as the people it can attract and retain. Cal's commitment to the importance of education is very evident in his activities within the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Provinces Association of Chartered Accountants, now the Atlantic School of Chartered Accountancy.

Without demeaning the current crisis in accounting education, it pales when compared with the plight of CA programs in Atlantic Canada in the 1960's. UFE results were significantly below the national average - pass rates below 40% were not uncommon - both the old Queen's course was being phased out, and, most importantly, the best and brightest university graduates from Atlantic Canada were opting for CA training in Toronto and Montreal. At the time, and as a joke in other parts of Canada it was common to ask if the recipient of the Harry G. Hoben Prize for the highest UFE marks in Atlantic Canada had passed or failed!

The formation of the Atlantic Provinces Education Committee in 1964 provided a forum to address the region's crises in CA education. The more specific concept of APACA developed in 1965-66 when Ken Mader, now Chairman of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, served as President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia. At the time, Cal Rice was a member of Council and later served as Chairman of APACA in 1969 and 1970 - the years when the education program really got off the ground. APACA, now the ASCA, is an outstanding example of interprovincial co-operation at its best. Although it took some time, UFE results in Atlantic Canada now consistently exceed the national average, and, more importantly, the best and brightest university graduates now covet positions in the local and regional offices of CA firms. The brain drain has reversed!

Cal Rice was also instrumental in establishing the Special Student Trainee Program within his firm. This program sought out very good high school graduates who perhaps otherwise might not have been able to attend university. After one year of full-time employment, the firm financed their education and provided summer employment. The partnership ranks of Doane Raymond now include several members who are beneficiaries of the SST program. This enlightened program has since been displaced by the co-operative education programs that now exist in more than 75 of Canada's colleges and universities.

Cal Rice served as President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia in 1970-71. He also endured 3 frustrating years as Nova Scotia's representative on the Interprovincial Education Committee of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Only those who have served on IPEC can truly understand the frustration; for the rest of you, no explanation can do it justice.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia inaugurated the fellowship designation in 1975. Cal Rice received his FCA in 1977, at which time only 12 members had been accorded this recognition.

Cal Rice has always been an active participant in community affairs in Halifax, in Dartmouth and now in Chester. While resident in Dartmouth, Cal served as President of the Kiwanis Club and was a very active participant in the Chamber of Commerce. In retirement, Cal lives in Chester Basin and, take warning, he is actively involved in fund raising for the expansion of the Chester Golf Club. Cal Rice is a firm believer in the proposition that active participation in community affairs is important for the image of the accounting profession, and also a very rewarding experience for the participant.

Cal Rice is the father of 4 daughters, one of whom is a CA CPA practising with Coopers & Lybrand in San Francisco. Another daughter is a lawyer in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario.

At this point it is my pleasure to present Calvin Arthur Rice as the first practitioner-inductee in the Accounting Hall of Fame at St. Mary's University. I trust I have portrayed Cal Rice as a truly remarkable professional accountant who richly deserves to be the first practitioner inducted into St. Mary's Accounting Hall of Fame. As an academic accountant, I am proud to recognize Cal Rice as a key builder of the very successful delivery system for professional accounting education in Atlantic Canada; his lasting contributions to accounting education provide a stimulating challenge for those of us in academe. From Chester Basin, Nova Scotia, and Vergo Beach, Florida, I present Calvin Arthur Rice, FCA. His wife Kaye, step-daughter Jackie Cuning and husband Ken, and Bea Katsouris, Cal's secretary for 15 years, and husband Jerry, are here to share this happy occasion.

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