

You Are Going to Charge the Prime Minister?

From P. 13

way. I really care about my readers. I don't always know who they are but I want them to be my friends.

Is political correctness becoming a problem in your profession?

Political correctness is just a fancy way of saying censorship.

How do you deal with it?

I try to just get by with common sense.

Maybe some cartoons should be politically offensive?

Maybe, I just kind of go with a gut instinct. It would be easy to get all wound up and that argument but it goes nowhere and serves no purpose.

Cartoons often feature politicians. What sort of feedback do you get from premiers, prime ministers and the likes elected to public office? Do you ever get any of

those people calling you afterwards and asking for the original art? What happens?

I've sold originals to many politicians. I never give them to them although more than a few have said through their gofer guys . . . 'YOU are going to CHARGE the Prime Minister for this cartoon?' I explain to them that even though I've known politicians for a long time I don't charge them any more than I charge anybody else.

Who is, or was your favourite character to feature?

All of them. I'm a fairly creative guy but I don't

know if I could have come up with characters as good as Chretien, Mulroney, Trudeau, or Ralph. Ralph laughed one time when I was called and said I was having a beer with one of my favorite cartoon characters.

How do cartoons rate in reader surveys at newspapers today?

The editorial cartoon always kills the rest of the editorial pages in any survey I've seen. Word people hate that. But what was the best part of the circus? The clowns of course!

Any serious problems with a cartoon you had published? (Some

people might be irate—how do you deal with them—or do you?)

I try to explain the point I was trying to make. If they continue yelling I suggest that they put it on paper and send it to the letters department.

Do the owners of the daily you work at suggest what you should or should not create? (In other words can you describe what sort of independence you enjoy when drawing?)

I do what I want. They

can pull it if they don't like it. That is extremely rare. And editors are always wrong.

Do you have a cartoon that is your favourite?

My favorite cartoon is always the one I'm working on.

You have printed a book on your works at one time?

Two: "A Brush with Irreverence" and "With Weapons Drawn".

Tell us a bit about your family.

I lucked out and mar-

ried Susan my patient wife of 25 years. She is a former figure skating champion and competed for Canada in the winter Olympics and toured with Ice Capades. We have two sons and two dogs.

What do you do to relax after hours?

We have a summer cabin in B.C. where we go to enjoy the mountains and the lake.

Thank you.

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From P. 14

square dancing at Provost, Macklin, Evesham, Kerrobert and even taking sessions into the United States on holidays.

In her spare time Margaret enjoyed knitting, crocheting and picking wild mushrooms with the rest of the family and often making saskatoon pies and her famous crepes for Sunday morning or Tuesday night suppers.

Margaret was often the navigator on boating trips including a skiing adventure down the South Thompson River where the boat was put in the water at Canoe, B.C. on the Shushwap Lakes and the family found their way to Kamloops with the boys skiing there and back. Another river trip was near the mouth of the Fraser River in B.C.



The Huck place atop Ferris's Hill.

member of the Alberta Pottery Association, an honorary member of the Medicine Hat Potter Club, a member of the Medicine Hat Art Club, Riverside Book Club, Rhyme and Reason Writers Club, earned an Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association award for writing "Going for the Beef" and was also a member both in Provost and Medicine Hat of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Not content to sit still, while in her 70s she and three other women friends took turns driving a car from Alberta across the rest of the country to New Brunswick and back. She also enjoyed trips out of Canada to places like Mexico, the United States and Spain. Other interests were gardening, growing large red poppies, enjoying annual trips with family to Waskesiu (northern Saskatchewan) and later to the Shuswap (near Salmon Arm, B.C.) and watching deer in her backyard.

While in the 'Hat she won awards for her art at the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede and was honoured by being invited to host a one-man art show in the Cultural Centre and was also invited to exhibit her art at the new downtown Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre.

After a brief illness this spring Margaret moved into Meadowlands Retirement Residence and sold her home. She passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2009. She leaves to cherish her memory four children, Georgia (Alfred) Symington of Cobble Hill, B.C., Ronald (Karen) Holmes of Medicine Hat, Roger (Phyllis) Holmes of Wainwright and Richard (Ruth) Holmes of Provost; 13 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, brother Fred

(Gladys) Ferris of Chilliwack, B.C. and sister-in-law, Vi Ferris of Hayter, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband George on March 2, 1987; one son, Rodney (stillborn); two brothers, Lorne Ferris and Jack (Betty) Ferris; two sisters, Jean (Burt) Baldrige and Kay (Rev. Bill) Elkin.

The funeral service was held in the Pattison Chapel on Friday, October 2, at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Dr. David Carter (former Speaker of the House for the Alberta Legislature) officiating. Interment followed in the Hillside Cemetery, Medicine Hat.

A reception for friends and relatives followed.

She will be remembered by her friends and family for her humility, humour, friendliness and easy-going manner.

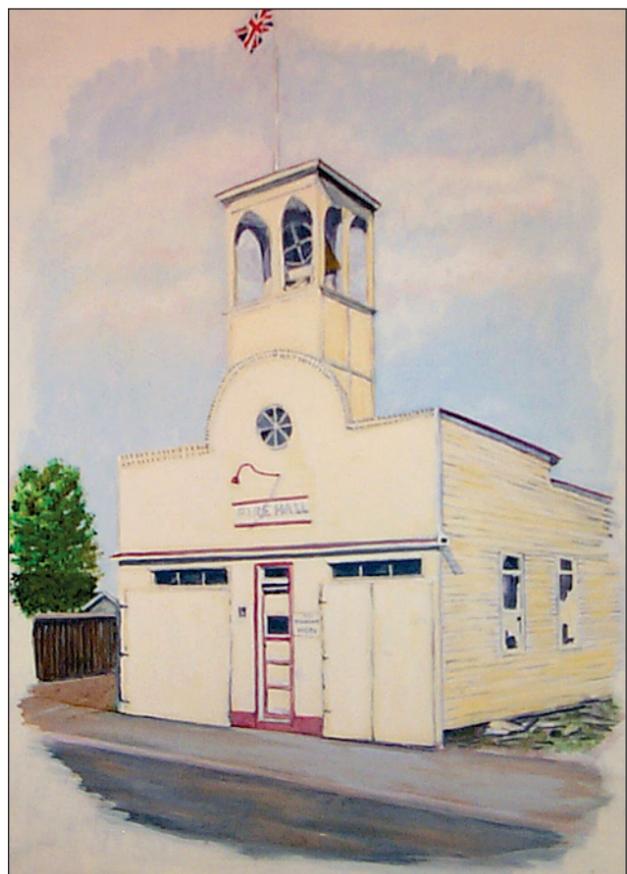


St. Paul's Anglican Church, Provost.

winding up on the Pacific Ocean and into the port of Victoria. The next day, after the boat (with its roof up) went through a dark green wave—instead of over it—the return trip was postponed several hours.

Margaret and George moved to Medicine Hat in 1970, quickly fitting into that growing community.

At Medicine Hat she took enough flying lessons on the right hand side in case she had to land the new family plane, taught pottery classes at Medicine Hat College and hosted—for a decade her various grandchildren who attended college over the years. Margaret was a charter



The fire hall near downtown Provost.