



***Harold T. Barrett***  
**(1902 – 1982)**

Harold Thomas Barrett was born on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1902 in Beaver Bank, Nova Scotia. He was the son of Francis (Frank) Maynard Barrett and Anne Laura Barrett.

When he was fifteen years old, Harold was visiting some family in Halifax when the Halifax Explosion occurred. Due to his injuries, Harold was hospitalized and could not be identified. For three days he remained in a hospital in Halifax. During this time his father, Frank, journeyed to Halifax in search of his son but could not find him. While his family presumed the worst, Harold was released from the hospital and began his voyage home. Unfortunately, the train that he boarded was not going to stop in Beaver Bank, but rather headed straight for Truro. On the train with Harold was a friend, Bill Peverill, who invited Harold to spend the night with him at his home in Bedford. On the fourth day following the explosion, Harold returned home to his family.

In 1926, Harold borrowed \$6000 and used the money to purchase a water powered lumber and lath mill from Thomas Dean. This mill only ran when the water tables were high. Harold built a campsite next to his mill so that he was never far away in case of emergency. Between the years of 1931 and 1933, Harold built a home beside his mill for his wife and eventually their children. During this time, Barrett Lumber, as the mill became known, began to flourish.

In 1948, Harold converted the mill over to a diesel engine and during that same year, his second oldest son, David, began working at the mill. Harold's third son Hugh, joined the mill in 1959.

On the morning of August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1962, Barrett Lumber was destroyed due to a fire. During that year, Harold and his sons worked diligently to reconstruct the mill. During the reconstruction, the mill was converted to electric power. Harold's oldest son Keith, re-joined the mill in 1974 once the mill reached an output of three million feet. Before this time, Keith had only worked at the mill to save money for a new bicycle.



Between 1974 and 1975, Harold faced a great crisis. The Halifax Metropolitan Area Planning Commission had decided that they would seize three hundred and fifty acres of Harold's timberland to make room for a regional sanitary landfill. Harold lodged a formal appeal with the Nova Scotia Planning Appeal, and in case the appeal failed, hired a lawyer to take the case to the Supreme Court. As he suspected, the appeal fell through and so Harold took the issue to court and to the press to protest displeasure. The proposal was eventually defeated once the Sackville and Beaver Bank communities joined Harold in his protest.

On December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1982, Harold Thomas Barrett passed away peacefully at his home in Beaver Bank. He was eighty years old.

His funeral was attended by hundreds (see picture below) and was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd. The local press published some of the eulogies, which described Harold as being known as "Mr. Beaver Bank" and that he would be "a legend" for years to come in

Beaver Bank. He was also described as the "...best-liked, most respected and most experienced businessman."



In 1985, the first junior high school in Beaver Bank was named after Mr. Barrett, known today as Harold T. Barrett Junior High School.