

Jean M. Martin

1962-65 Secretary-Treasurer

AS I REFLECT ON THE FORMATIVE years of the Mathematics Council, the names Len Pallesen, Fred Tarlton, Tom Atkinson, Eva Jagoe, Olive Jagoe, Joan Kirkpatrick, Mel Sillito, Don Massey, Ted Rempel, Dr. Bruce, Dr. Gibb and Sid Lindstedt come to mind. These enthusiastic, dedicated teachers gave freely of their time and talents to assure the success of MCATA and to improve mathematics teaching in Alberta schools.

During my term as secretary-treasurer of the Council (1962-65), funds were meagre so carpooling was a necessity. Professional development days were unheard of in most areas, and there were no government grants for inservice education. Our

executive meetings were held on weekends in Edmonton or Calgary. Whoever drove left one city and collected members en route to the other city. Mileage was paid to the driver at four cents a mile, and return trips were made as soon as our meetings ended, regardless of the hour.

A highlight of those early years was a trip to an NCTM conference held at the Hotel Vancouver. One of the publishing companies treated us to a meal at the Japanese Gardens. How we enjoyed the outing!

I recall riding in a tightly packed elevator at the Hotel Vancouver when we noticed the sign, "No dancing in the elevator." Joan Kirkpatrick grinned and said, "May I have the next dance?"

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Great teachers never strive to explain their vision, they simply invite you to stand beside them to see for yourself.

Reverend R. Inman

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Ted Rempel

1964-65 Vice President

1965-66 President and General Chair of 1966 Calgary NCTM Meeting

1966-67 Past President and CAMT Representative

MY ASSOCIATION WITH MCATA started at the local level, the Edmonton chapter. As a relatively new teacher in Edmonton, I was concentrating my efforts on providing an arena for my students where they could learn how to learn, and what better discipline to do that in than mathematics? One day, a colleague invited me to a meeting of mathematics teachers. Thinking that

I would be able to rub shoulders with experienced and willing-to-share persons, I agreed to attend the next meeting. Little did I realize that it was a setup, and before I left that meeting, I had been elected (rail-roaded?) president of the local chapter. From there, my life in the circle of mathematics teachers expanded.

As a local president, I was invited to attend the provincial executive meetings. Being one who had

difficulty saying no, I was soon vice president (and president-elect) of the provincial executive. During my tenure on the provincial executive, from local representative through past president, I experienced a whirlwind of meetings, conferences and social events at the national and North American levels. I would like to address some of my recollections of these events. (This should not be interpreted that the activities of the local members and the services that MCATA provided and continues to provide to teachers throughout the province are of lesser importance.)

In 1966, MCATA was privileged to host the Northwest Regional meeting of the NCTM. Much of the work of Council and many of the meetings we attended were in preparation for that conference in Calgary. That conference was the joint effort of many educators throughout the province, with the assistance of NCTM executive members. It was a privilege to chair the committee that organized the conference and then to chair the conference itself. In preparation for it, we were invited to Denver for a leadership conference sponsored by NCTM. We also attended leadership sessions at Banff conducted by the ATA. And the B.C. Teachers of Mathematics hosted a regional conference at the University of British Columbia in 1965, so we

went there to participate and learn. The Canadian representative to NCTM, also from Alberta, assisted with many of the conference details. The program included local speakers and speakers from the United States and abroad. Registrations came in from all over the world. It was a tremendous experience for our local teachers. One incident that comes to mind involved a tour to the mountains. It was reported that one of the conference participants went back to wherever he or she came from thinking that the local parks maintenance crew annually drained the lakes and painted the lake beds the beautiful emerald green. I also have a vague memory of a debriefing session in a hotel room; however, I am told that before it was over, I fell asleep in the corner. Be that as it may, the conference was well received, and I am pleased that MCATA has continued its association with NCTM and hosted more regional conferences over the years.

Also as a result of our association with the NCTM, I was able to attend national NCTM conferences in New York and Las Vegas. To be in the company of 6,000+ mathematics teachers was at times overwhelming, but that, along with all the other opportunities and experiences and wonderful people in MCATA, will be cherished forever.

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 The will to win
 is not nearly as
 important as
 the will to
 prepare to win.

Bobby Knight
