

Ken McGuirl



The first person inducted into the North Sask. Bridge Hall of Fame is Ken McGuirl. It can truthfully be said Ken was the father of duplicate bridge in Saskatchewan.

Ken arrived in Saskatoon in the mid 1950's. An accomplished player he had been reading about the American Contract Bridge League. This generated a lot of discussion amongst local players. In Nov. of 1958 the Saskatoon bridge club voted to join the Manitoba Unit and become affiliated with the ACBL. Ken was elected the first president and the first ACBL tournament in Saskatchewan was held in April 1959 at the Memorial Union Building at the U of S.

In 1962 Ken was given the honor of Life Member by the Saskatoon Bridge Club. In 1965 Ken became Saskatchewan's first Life Master.

He was the first and only Canadian director to the Western Conference of ACBL for District 18. As Ken travelled the province for his business his enthusiasm led to the formation of clubs in Regina, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Swift Current,

Moose Jaw, Lloydminster, and others. In 1960 their growth led to the establishment of the Saskatchewan Unit of the ACBL. In 1966 continued growth allowed its splitting into the North Sask. Unit 575 and the South Sask. Unit 573. Ken served as president of the North Sask. Unit from its inception until he resigned in Dec. 1975.