

IN TRIBUTE TO ROSS

We have lost a good and true friend. We will miss him keenly, as will all those who knew him.

ROBERT ROSS HERIOT of Vancouver, B.C., known to us as Ross, for decades a stalwart supporter of the Pacific Northwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, made what he would have termed himself, his 'last run' on September 18, 1976, after a lengthy illness.

It is difficult to say goodbye to Ross in an adequate way, for he was a man of unique characteristics, and men of his stature are few. He was loved by a host of friends, and respected even by the few who were not and only had themselves to blame for their impoverishment, for he had a deep affection for people. He had, too, a strong interest in model railroading, extending from his own Dominion Steel Railroad to all aspects of the hobby and those associated with it. How much he did in his unadvertised way to give assistance to those in the hobby, and to those not in it, is impossible to estimate, but it is certain that he enriched all he contacted, because of his sincere and always ready desire to contribute to their welfare. Ross's absence from functions of the 7th Division and the PNR will be hard to accept, for he was an integral part, attending all affairs religiously. His cheerful wit and the cigar that was almost a trademark will be sorely missed.

All of us in the PNR are deep in debt to Ross for what he accomplished. Although not a Scot by birth, he inherited admirable Celtic traits by ancestry in that he was tenacious to his ideals, and determined in approaching objectives, resulting in him getting things done to the benefit of the Region at all levels. In all his activities he was forthright and honest.

He was diligent in the formation of the 7th Division's Standing Committee of which he was a charter member. (The first meeting of the committee was held at his home in December, 1959). For many years he was a guiding factor in the Vancouver HO Model Railroad Club operating in the Canadian National Railways' station, holding various offices; served as Vice-President of the 7th Division; was for a record number of terms President of the PNR, receiving the Region's highest recognition for contribution, the PNR Man of the Year Award; served as Vice-President, Western Area, NMRA, and was a Vice-chairman of the 1965 NMRA Totemland Convention held in Vancouver that year. Ross was, in many other ways, constantly active in fields of our hobby, such as being mailing agent of 'The Dispatcher', published by the 7th Division for over five years (1960-65). Even though he will no longer be with us, his name will remain legend in the Pacific Northwest Region, and far beyond it, as it has been for many, many years.

His wife, Sylvia, asks that the army of friends who expressed their good wishes during his illness with cards, letters, gifts, and visits, receive her gratitude, and also those who attended the 1976 PNR Convention in Seattle and were concerned with the special cards and other items sent to Ross, accept her appreciation of their thoughtfulness.

Members of the 7th Division and the PNR extend their sympathy to Sylvia and her family, and to Ross' relatives, offering assurance that he will not be forgotten.

In his editorial column in the October 1976 issue of the 7th Division 'Bulletin Board' newsletter the editor of the day - the late Art Jones wrote:

"It is with regret that we realize our esteemed member, Ross Heriot, has been taken away from us. Our sincerest condolences are with Ross's wife, Sylvia and her family, from the standing committee and all the membership. Spike Brown has graciously consented to put our thoughts in writing, which is included in this issue of the Bulletin Board."