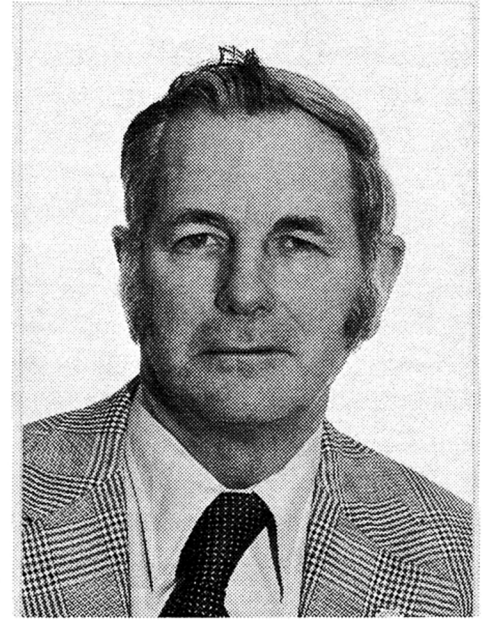


SYNOPSIS OF NEW C.B.F.  
PRESIDENT

Jack Murphy is a thirty-four year veteran locomotive engineer with C.P. Rail. He operates "Robot" Trains west of Calgary via Banff, Lake Louise, spiral tunnels on the "Big Hill" in the Kicking-Horse Pass to Field, B.C.

Thirteen years ago bridge became a hobby with this affable Irishman who became a Life Master in 1966. He has been an executive member of the Calgary Unit #390 for twelve years and was recently appointed Canadian Co-Chairman ACBL Goodwill Committee.

Other interests include ex R.C.A.F., member of #2 Army, Navy Airforce Veterans, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, member of Canadian Martyrs Church, member of Locomotive Engineers. A family man - five daughters and three sons, Jack's interest in bridge is ably supported by wife, Lil, who is also an avid bridge enthusiast.



**Jack Murphy**

Notes on Writer:

Jack was recently elected President of the Canadian Bridge Federation. He has served 5 years as Director for Zone 5 of the CBF.

Excerpts from Canadian Bridge Federation Bridge Digest

June 1974 and August 1974

# THE CALGARY & DISTRICT

## CONTRACT DUPLICATE

## BRIDGE DIGEST



### A SALUTE TO JACK MURPHY on his retirement from the C.B.F.



Enthusiasm, imagination, innovation and hard work — this has been Jack Murphy's contribution to Duplicate Bridge over the past two decades.

In 1963, just two years after his introduction to Duplicate, he was elected to Unit 390 where he was active for 9 years. During that time he was appointed District 18 delegate for Alberta and served as Tournament Director of two Regionals in Calgary — the 1967 Centennial and the 1970 White Hat. Since 1971 Jack has been on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Bridge Federation, serving as President in 1975, 1976 and 1977.

In 1972 he became the first Canadian to be appointed Assistant Chairman of the ACBL Goodwill Committee, a position he held for eight years.

Jack has twice enjoyed the honour of being the Canadian delegate to the Board of Governors meeting of the World Bridge Federation — 1976 at Monte Carlo and 1980 at Valkenburg, Holland. Highlighting these events for Jack and his wife, Lil, were meeting Prince Ranier and Princess Grace of Monaco, and on occasion walking to and from sessions with Omar Sharif.

At various tournaments Jack was instrumental in bestowing upon noted bridge players, Sammy Kehela, Eric Murray and Oswald Jacoby, the title of Honourary Chiefs of the Blackfoot Nation. He also enjoyed the pleasure of playing Bridge with each of these living legends.

Although he's retiring this year from the Canadian Bridge Federation, Jack's initial enthusiasm has not waned. We expect he'll now have more time to demonstrate, to the local Clubs, the playing ability which earned him his Life Master Status in 1966.

## SO LONG, JACK

Jack Murphy is my kind of man. He worked to promote this greatest of social games, and enjoyed it to the fullest extent. His legacy to bridge, and its Canadian autonomy as the Canadian Bridge Federation, will always remain in the history of bridge.

I have a few tales called "Jack at the Table".

Jack, (in his first duplicate game) is asked by his partner: "have you played Stayman?" He replies, "Is he North-South, or East-West?"

In a National at Montreal, RHO calls "Un Coeur", and Jack, seeing the waitress, adds "Two cokes"! Major pandemonium occurs. A bilingual director creates a moment of calm, whereupon Jack says, "Buy a round of cokes for the table!"

Jack, with his sense of humor, always had the appropriate answer for opponents.

Myself in action:

(Jack) P	P	(me) 1 NT	P
2C	P	P	"What does that mean?"

(Jack) "I guess he doesn't know Stayman"

At the Seattle Nationals in the late 70's, Jack looked over the field in his section and told his partner, "Don't move your face or say word today." Jack, a non-smoker, got some cigars, a friendly Kibitzer, and 25 one dollar bills. At each table, the kibitzer would light his cigar with a dollar bill, then toss the bill over his shoulder.

The gallery grew and the opponents showed great respect. Jack came third and said, "With \$5.00 bills I could have won it!"

Bridge is a game of skill, a true "bridge" of ethnic and social barriers, and a venue which will always be known as The Best Game In Town. Jack played for the fun of it. That, I believe, is the essence of our great game. If there is a great bridge game in the sky, Jack will be a player.

Thanks, Jack - we'll carry on, and pass it on.

Charley

ed. note. The Unit thanks Charley Liegerot for sharing these wonderful stories about Jack, who passed away March 9, 1992. Jack was one of the founding fathers of the CBF, and served as its President for some time. Jack will always be remembered for his wonderful stories, his outstanding table manners, his quick wit and the quality of his bridge. He was an honourable man, and was universally liked and respected.

We pass on our deepest sympathy to Lil and the family.

from the April 1992 Kibitzer

## ‘Good Luck Fellows: Good Skills Partner’

John (‘Jack’) Terence Murphy, one of the most influential leaders of Calgary’s post WWII bridge scene, was born in Medicine Hat August 10, 1920. Jack was a CPR Locomotive Engineer for 45 years. Before and after marriage to Lil, bridge was a key hobby. The family relocated to Calgary in 1957 and Jack quickly became immersed in the bridge community, playing at the Martinique Bridge Studio and the other clubs of that era.

Jack liked to be in charge and served on the Unit 390 Board from 1963 to 1972, including a term as President. He was a powerful force behind first Regionals in Alberta, serving as Tournament Chairperson for Calgary in 1967, 1970, and 1973. He was the Alberta Representative on the ACBL District 18 Board; Zone V Representative to the Canadian Bridge Federation (1971 – 1980) and CBF President (1974 – 1976). On behalf of the CBF (as President), Jack (with Lil) attended the 5<sup>th</sup> (1976) World Bridge Olympiad in Monte Carlo and (as Representative) the 6<sup>th</sup> (1980) World Bridge Olympiad in Valkenburg, Holland. Jack was a good public speaker, often announcing winners at tournaments. He provided the encouragement for Msgr. Le Fort to create the Canmar Bridge Club in Calgary. Jack was an avid non smoker and may have provided early leadership in that area.



Looking at Jack’s book collection, one bridge guide must have been an extremely well thumbed A. Sheinwold’s: 5 Weeks to Winning Bridge, 1960. At the age of 46 Jack achieved Life Master in 1966. Lil achieved Life Master in September of 1991 and was a respected bridge teacher. A memorable trait was Jack’s advice following a lead and while tabling the dummy: ‘Good luck, fellows; Good skills partner’. Jack tended to never get averages, just tops or bottoms. A frequent comment was “just 2 more successful finesses and we’ll make this contract.”

Jack was a very sincere person. He cared about the bridge, about the game, and about the people who played the game. He gave bridge his all. At the same time he was a mischievous person with a great sense of humor, very much liking to entertain by telling jokes. He was a member of the Burlington Liars’ Club. (A favorite story was to recall a trip on a fishing boat off coast of Ireland with some cousins; ‘embellishing’ to include that he was sick and was advised to go to back of boat to discharge over the side, returning without his false teeth reporting that the teeth went overboard in one of his spasms. Back at the dock as fish were being unloaded, Jack secretly placed his false teeth into the mouth of one of the caught fish and when the fish with the toothy mouth was noticed, Jack went over, popped out the dentures and refitted his own mouth, claiming the fish must have picked them up when the teeth went overboard).

Amongst the many stories told by Jack to entertain passengers (including Pat Smolensky) in the car ride back from the 1973 Regina Red Coat Regional was being matched with a Southern Colonel through the partnership desk. Playing against a Regina couple, the female of which had a significant and ample cleavage, the Colonel said ‘I’ll have the trey’. Jack, while distracted, passed the Colonel the ashtray. The Colonel sternly replied with ‘it’s the trey of spades I want; keep your eye on the cawds boy’.

Jack and Lil had 3 sons and 5 daughters, and many play bridge. As kids, some were given math assignments to work out table movements in that pre-computer era. Most of the kids helped set up and take down tables at tournaments, and a few of the younger kids served as caddies.

Jack was an amateur archaeologist and made many trips to Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump to look for artifacts long before it was declared a Heritage Site. He also had a strong interest in native culture, especially the Blackfoot Nation, and it may have been Jack’s idea to organize induction of Charles Goren, Oswald

Jacoby, Eric Murray and Sami Kehela into the Blackfoot Nation when they were invited guests and participants in early Calgary Regionals. Jack served as Honor Guard for Pope Paul II in 1984. In about 1989 Jack was co-winner of a 649 lottery, sharing \$2 million win with about 30 others (Jack purchased a banjo for himself and donated the remainder).

Jack died in Calgary March 9, 1992. At that time he was a Silver Life Master with 1714.70 Masterpoints. Lil Murphy died 3 years later in 1995, by then holding 446.96 Masterpoints.

--- September 2008 ---

Ken Scott