

## DYKE COBB

In the Mid-Summer issue, we mentioned that the President of the Toronto Marine Historical Society, Dyke Cobb, was ill. It is now our sad duty to report that Dyke died at his residence in Toronto on the evening of Monday, September 12th, 1988.

It was during February that Dyke learned that he had contracted a type of fibrosis of the lungs, a very serious disease of undetermined origin. Despite his illness, he was able to preside at our May dinner meeting, but his condition deteriorated rather rapidly thereafter. He was virtually confined to his home during the summer months, and finally succumbed to a sudden onset of respiratory and cardiac arrest. At the time of his passing, Dyke was only 48 years of age, and he was only a few days short of his next birthday.

A funeral service was held on Friday, September 16th, at St. David's Anglican Church, and many T.M.H.S. members had paid their respects. T.M.H.S. Executive Committee members Roger Chapman and Jay Bascom served as two of the pallbearers. Interment was at Resthaven Memorial Gardens, Scarborough.

Dyke Armand Cobb had been a faithful friend and ardent supporter of the Toronto Marine Historical Society for many years, having joined T.M.H.S. almost at its inception. He was our third President, having accepted that position after the retirement of Bruce Smith in 1986. Dyke was not a public speaker, and under his presidency, the job of meeting chairman was shared by the various Board Members. Nevertheless, Dyke was strong in his leadership of the Society, and in his upholding of its purpose and ideals. Indeed, even during his illness, he was searching for projects which he might be able to accomplish which would benefit the Society and its members.

Dyke was an expert photographer and darkroom artist, and our members were treated to frequent glimpses of his work at our meetings. He had a particular talent for photographic composition, and much of his work was of professional display quality. Dyke had a true and long-standing love of ships, and of historic things and places in general.

In addition to his hobby, Dyke worked for 25 years for the Ontario Research Foundation, participating in many interesting projects. As well, he was a devoted member of the Anglican Church and was a true pillar of support in his parish. He was active as a Lay Reader, and was a serious student of liturgical music.

But above all, Dyke Cobb was a gentle man, honest and forthright in all of his dealings, and a faithful friend to all of us who were privileged to know him personally. He had an infectious sense of humour which lay beneath his apparently retiring exterior. He was one of the most generous persons we have ever known, and he shared with his many friends not only his collection of marine photographs and memorabilia but also the products of his darkroom. He also shared with us his enthusiasm for the promotion of our mutual marine interests.

We of the Toronto Marine Historical Society shall miss Dyke and his cheerful camaraderie. We extend our most sincere sympathy to his loving wife, Dorothy, who also took a great interest in our Society. Our thoughts are also with Dorothy's sister, Martha, and with Dyke's mother, Eve, and his stepfather, Earl Damude.

May Dyke rest in Peace, and may we cherish his memory forever. Ave atque Vale, Dear Friend.