

Harvey J. McFarland

McFarland success story traced

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- PICTON - Mayor of the town of Picton for 20 years, the late Harvey J. McFarland left school when he was just 12 years old and went to work on his father's farm in Roblin. When he died in January, 1974 he was a self-made millionaire who was on a first-name basis with United States president Richard Nixon and other key political figures.

The story of his rise from obscurity to a place in the pages of Who's Who in Canada has been recounted in the book "Everybody Called Him Harvey," just released by the Mika Publishing Company of Belleville. The 150-page hardcover publication was written by Alan Capon, a resident of Picton and author of "His Faults Lie Gently" a biography of Sir Sam Hughes.

In describing McFarland's success story Capon says that Picton's former mayor was faced with so many obstacles between himself and a bright future that it seemed unlikely he would make his mark in the world.

"Yet within a few years, through his own exertions he rose to a place of eminence in the construction business in Ontario and was to mingle with the great in the land."

"Although he was a self-made millionaire,

McFarland's proudest achievement was his 20 years service as mayor of Picton," Capon says.

The book, which is heavily illustrated with photographs of the highlights of McFarland's career, features numerous colorful anecdotes contributed by those who knew him best.

His son, Harvey Jr. recalls that "Dad had a temper but it was generally short-lived. He could turn it off easily. He could stop a tirade to take a telephone call, speaking quite normally and then turn it back on again. But he always believed in giving a fellow another chance."

Everybody Called Him Harvey traces the development of the Lake Ontario Cement Company Ltd. and outlines McFarland's role in bringing this major industry to Prince Edward. Also recalled are McFarland's involvement in the Harmsworth Trophy Races, his pride in hockey player Bobby Hull, whom he named an honorary citizen of the town and the famed Belleville McFarlands hockey team.

The book carries a foreword written by Clare Westcott, executive director, office of the premier. In it, he says that McFarland had a real desire to make life a little better for people.

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