

## *The Development of Barrett Lumber*

Between the years of 1931 and 1933, while Barrett Lumber began to flourish, Harold built a home beside the mill. By 1938, gas and kerosene engines were introduced at the mill. A year later a planing mill was installed.

Harold's oldest son Keith, began working at the mill in 1940 to save money to buy himself a new bicycle. After he bought the bike, Keith stopped working at the mill and continued with his schooling. Harold converted his mill over to a diesel engine in 1948, the same year that his second oldest son David, began working at the mill.

Two years later, Harold had a cookhouse built and opened so that his workers could have a warm meal each day for lunch. This cookhouse was closed in 1993. Hugh, Harold's third son joined his brother David at the mill in 1959, and by 1960, David had taken over the management portion of the mill.

On the morning of Monday August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1962, Barrett Lumber was destroyed due to fire. During that year, Harold worked very hard to quickly re-build his mill and during the process, he also converted the mill to electric power.

In 1974, Barrett Lumber reached an out port of three million feet and Harold's oldest son Keith, re-joined the mill.

By the early 1980's Harold's three sons, Keith, David and Hugh, were managing the company. Under their direction, the company purchased its first boom truck and a building materials line was added.

In 2011, the company celebrated its eighty-fifth year of business.



## *A Community Builder*

Mr. Barrett played a large part in helping bring telephones to Beaver Bank and helped develop the Beaver Bank Rural Telephone Company. This company lasted from 1911 to 1951, when the company was sold to Maritime Telegraph and Telegraph Co. on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1951.

Harold persuaded Nova Scotia Light and Power Co. to extend power lines to the Beaver Bank area. Working within a small group, Harold along with others made a financial investment that was required by the company. With this investment, the group was able to bring electric power to the whole district.

Between 1974 and 1975, Harold faced the greatest crisis of his later life. The Halifax Metropolitan Area Planning Commission had decided that they would seize three hundred and fifty acres of Harold's timberland for a regional sanitary landfill. Harold decided to lodge a formal appeal with the Nova Scotia Planning Appeal Board. The proposal was defeated after the Sackville and Beaver Bank communities took up the fight alongside Harold against the commission.

Harold T. Barrett passed away peacefully at his home on December 26, 1982. His funeral was attended by hundreds (see picture below) and was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd. The local press published some of the eulogies, which described Harold as being known as "Mr. Beaver Bank" and that he would be "a legend" for years to come in Beaver Bank. He was also described as the "...best-liked, most respected and most experienced businessman."



# **HAROLD T. BARRETT: "MR. BEAVER BANK"**



PICTURED ABOVE IS HAROLD T. BARRETT

**FULTZ  
HOUSE  
MUSEUM**



## MEET MR. BEAVER BANK... HAROLD T. BARRETT

### *A Beaver Bank Upbringing*

Born on March 8<sup>th</sup> 1902, Harold Thomas Barrett was the beloved son of Francis (Frank) Maynard Barrett and Anne Laura Barrett.

He grew up on a farm and had many chores to complete. He attended school in a one-room school, which was located about half a mile from his home. The one-room school taught nine different school grades.

Calling Beaver Bank his home for all of his life, the longest Harold was ever gone was for twenty-one days in the 1960s. This was after he had suffered a broken leg and he went to visit an old childhood friend, Bill Yeates who lived in the United States of America.



Harold T. Barrett is pictured sitting above.

The picture to the right is a painting donated to the Fultz House Museum of Barrett Lumber Mill, painted by Frances Doherty Arnold.

### *The Halifax Explosion*

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1917, a devastating explosion rocked the city of Halifax. The explosion was caused after two container ships collided in the Halifax Harbor.

At fifteen, Harold T. Barrett had saved enough money to buy himself a brand new suit. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1917, Harold decided to wear this suit to go visit family in Halifax. It was not long after he arrived, when the Halifax Explosion occurred.

Harold was hospitalized and could not be identified. He was stripped of his new suit because of the blood and debris that had ruined it. He was in a hospital for three days, and had no way to contact his family. Harold's father, Frank, journeyed to Halifax after the explosion in hopes of finding his son, but with no luck.

While his family presumed the worst, Harold was released from the hospital and set out for home. Unfortunately, after boarding a train, he learned that the train was not going to stop in Beaver Bank. Harold came across a friend, Bill Peverill, on the train who invited him to stay the night with him in Bedford. After that, Harold returned home on the Monday following the explosion to his family's relief.



### *The Beginnings of a Career*

Harold left school at the end of grade eight and joined his father to work at Dominion Atlantic Railway. As Harold grew up, he began to work on other farms and on some of the railway tracks. By 1918, Harold had taken up an interest in carpentry. He worked as a carpenter and also sold firewood while hauling other goods by horse team from local mills. In 1924, Harold bought his first truck (see picture below) which was incidentally also the first truck in the Beaver Bank community. He was able to combine trucking and logging during the cold winter months and in the summer months, Harold would work on the family farm and also in trucking.

In 1926, Harold borrowed \$6000 and used the money to buy a water powered lumber and lath mill from Thomas Dean. This mill could only run when the water table was high, which meant that he was able to work at the mill during the spring and fall. Harold also moved from his parent's home and instead made a campsite at his new business.

Mr. Barrett gained a reputation for being a hard worker and even at the age of eighty, he would still venture out to his lumberyard at seven in the morning.

