

M EX COMPANION JAMES J BARRATT BIOGRAPHY



M Ex Comp James J Barratt was born in Edinburgh Scotland on November 18, 1934. He joined Bruce Peebles Electric (in the transformer industry) at a young age, as an Electrical Apprentice. Following his service in the RAF Regiment Signal Corps in Jordan, Cypress and Iraq, he rejoined Bruce Peebles becoming their youngest Foreman and youngest General Forman.

In April 1967, he moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba working for Federal Pioneer Electric with who he remained until 1993. He then worked for Dominion Tanners as the head of Human Resources until his retirement. For the next six years he performed Human resources services for two plastics companies.

Jim married Nona Soules in November 1972 and moved into the Waverley Heights area for twenty-three years before retiring to a comfortable apartment complex. Although they have no children of their own, dogs have always played a large part in their lives, as do several wonderful children fondly referred to as their "Rent-A-Kids".

In October 1960 Jim was initiated into Masonry with Roman Eagle #160 in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1972 he affiliated with Starbuck Lodge #160, becoming Master in 1980, 1999 and 2000. He served as Secretary for several years, served as District Deputy Grand Master in 1982, and now serves as Chaplain at Starbuck Lodge #160. He is a life member of the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, where he served as Chairman of Masonic Enhancement and Education Committees.

Jim joined Red River Valley Chapter #21 in 1983, serving as Ex Companion "Z" in 1986 and 1991. He was installed as Grand Superintendent in 1992. He was elected to Grand Third Principal of the Grand Chapter of Manitoba in 1993; elected to Grand Second Principal in 1994; and elected to Grand First Principal in 1995 where his theme for the year was "Bridge the Gap" between Craft Lodge and Royal Arch Masons. He dedicated his year as Grand First Principal to the late Brother Norman Hind who encouraged him into Masonry at Starbuck Lodge #160.

In 2008 he was elected Grand Scribe "E". He is the Grand Representative to Scotland. Jim became a member of the High Priesthood of Manitoba, serving as President in 2002-2003. As a member of Cyrus Council #2 Cryptic Rite, he served as TIM in 2002 and Grand Inspector General in 2006. He is a member of the Silver Trowel. In 2003 he was elected Commander Noah of the Royal Ark Mainers, Lake Winnipeg #3. As a member of the Red Cross of Constantine Selkirk Conclave #6, he served as MPS in 2002.

Jim is an active volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba Division. He dedicates much of his spare retirement time to help other seniors in the complex where he lives. Jim has been president of his five-pin bowling league for the past five years.