

Message From
L.H. Scoop Lewry

Mayor of Moose Jaw



Official Obituary Tribute:

Louis Harrington "Scoop" Lewry was born in Moose Jaw on April 16, 1919 to Phillip E. and Mary Louisa Lewry. He had three brothers and one sister. He attended King George School and Central Collegiate. He began a journalism career with local radio station CHAB in 1938. From 1946 to 1949 he was employed with the Regina Leader Post news bureau. He also wrote a weekly column in the weekly advertising paper the Western Spotlight and worked for the Moose Jaw Times-Herald. While working at CHAB a colleague also named Louis gave "Scoop" his alias to end confusion in the office.

Lewry was elected alderman of the city of Moose Jaw in 1948. From 1950 to 1956 he was mayor, the youngest in Canada (age 31) and the first native born mayor in Moose Jaw's history. In 1956 he retired. In the 1957 federal election Lewry won the Moose Jaw Lake Centre seat for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) and served one year. From 1958 to 1964 he was appointed to the Local Government Board, the overseer of municipal government finance. In 1964 he won the mayoral election. In 1967 he ran in the Saskatchewan provincial election as the CCF-NDP candidate in Morse Constituency losing to Liberal Premier W. Ross Thatcher. In 1968 Lewry won the mayor's seat by acclamation. Two years later he was narrowly defeated by J. Ernest Pascoe. He then became an inspector with the Liquor Licensing Commission. In 1971 he returned to the Local Government Board and resigned in 1982 to run again (successfully) for mayor. He won again in 1985 and remained mayor until his retirement in October 1988.

On December 18, 1942 Louis H. Lewry married Jean Rosalthe Munro, a registered nurse. They had five children, Philip, Harold, Catherine, Janet and Mary. Jean passed away in 1986. In November 1987 he married Edith (Edie) Hill of Moose Jaw. They divorced in 1991.

Lewry was a member of and served on numerous committees and boards. He was a charter member of the Moose Jaw Kinsmen Club, a charter member and president of the Wild Animal Park Society, on the Celebrate Saskatchewan Committee, Canada Day Committee, Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Numismatic Association, the Canadian Wooden Money Society and director of The Moose Jaw Thing, a society to promote the name of Moose Jaw. He was president of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association. He served as a public school trustee from 1966 to 1971 and was board chairman from 1969 to 1971. In 1980 Lewry was named to the Order of Canada. That same year he was awarded the City of Moose Jaw Medal of Merit.

While he was mayor, the Carbon Filtration Plant at Buffalo Pound Lake was completed, the Saskatchewan Water Corporation head office was built, and a major renovation and expansion of the police station and city hall was begun.

Lewry's hobbies included coin collecting and woodworking.

He passed away in Moose Jaw on February 24, 1992 following many years of suffering with cancer.

**Collector
RECOLLECTIONS**

By John Regitko

**The most colourful
numismatic calendar – ever**

Louis "Scoop" Lewry's whole life revolved around two things; one was the City of Moose Jaw. He was born in Moose Jaw and earned his nickname "Scoop" when he was a reporter for a newspaper in Moose Jaw. He was elected as an alderman on the Moose Jaw city council in 1948 and served as their mayor from 1950-58, from 1965-70 and again from 1983-88. At the time, he was Canada's longest serving Mayor (until Hazel McCallion of Mississauga broke his record).

Lewry, who passed away on Feb. 25, 1992, also served as a Member of Parliament for Moose Jaw. He received the Order of Canada in 1980.

His other passion was numismatics. He not only attended most CNA conventions, but also took time to come to Toronto during my TIFC coin shows, where we got to know each other.



The calendar's cover.

I received an envelope from him through the mail in the fall of 1980, containing a 1981 calendar 11" wide x 8-1/2" high. Printed on glossy white paper, it had a colour illustration of a variety of Canadian coins and tokens on the cover. When you opened the calendar to its full size of 17" high, it contained equally colourful photographs on the

top and the monthly calendar on the bottom half. You had to be impressed with its sharp colour photos and overall quality.

It showed the name and address of a local Moose Jaw Credit Union and the national Credit Union logo.

In view of Lewry's history with Moose Jaw, I was not surprised with the contents of Lewry's handwritten note: "This is how we do things out West!" Why did I laugh when I read that?

**THE CREATION
OF THE CALENDAR**

In early 1980, Jack Veffler, then president of the Canadian Numismatic Association (CNA), told me that he had negotiated a deal with the Credit Union Central of Canada, whereby someone would provide numismatic objects in 12 specific fields (one for each month) to their photographer, as well as writing an appropriate summary of each topic.

He asked me if I was interested on the basis of an honorarium of \$2,000, of which I had to commit to donate half to the CNA. I accepted.

After a visit to the Credit Union's head office in Toronto to discuss details, I formulated my game plan.

I approached Dora de Pedery-Hunt to borrow her rough artwork of her \$100 Olympic gold coin design for the panel on gold coins.

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Calendar...

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I dug out my Hudson's Bay tokens and other early Canadian coinage.

I cut out the piece of card money from one of the Bank of Canada's publications on the history of early Canadian currency. Who could tell?

My collection also included reproductions of Spanish Pillar dollars and French coinage as well as a genuine wampum belt, which would fit right into the Credit Union Central's overview plans.

I obtained a selection of credit cards from Jack Veffler's collection.

I borrowed all of the gold and silver coins and most of the early Canadian tokens from Bill Cross of The Charlton Press, at the time located on Queen Street in downtown Toronto.

I turned everything over to the professional photographer hired by Credit Union Central.



The calendar's August page displays Dominion of Canada notes, while November proves to be a month of gold.



I asked Dan Bowyer, a schoolteacher and editor of a school board publication, to come up with the write-up based on the discussion I had with Credit Union Central. I knew Bowyer when we served on the executive of the Coin Irregularity Association of Canada and wrote a regular column on errors in the asso-

ciation's publication. I paid him a \$100 honorarium for his trouble.

Although I provided a list of the people who should receive credit for the loan of the material and for authoring the text, nobody received credit. It was, therefore, understandable that Scoop Lewry was not aware, to play on the words in his memo,

that is how we do things in the East.

They reprinted the calendar in 1987. Because the dates matched the days of the month of the original calendar, they didn't change a thing except the year, although they did change the design on the cover and removed the text from the back of the calendar.

I still have the calendar from Moose Jaw and Lewry's memo, as well as the same calendar from a Toronto credit union.

A few of the monthly sheets are included here for illustration. ♣

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IN MEMORIAM LOUIS "SCOOP" LEWRY (1919-1992) by Jérôme H. Remick III

Louis Harrington "Scoop" Lewry, eleven times Mayor of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, Member of the Order of Canada, recipient of the Royal Canadian Mint Award for numismatic education in 1982, and Past President of the Canadian Numismatic Association (1987-1989) died of a heart attack in a Moose Jaw hospital on February 24, 1992. He was 72 years of age, and could almost certainly be called one of Canada's most illustrious, colorful, and active numismatists.

Known to all his friends as "Scoop", a nickname he got during his early days gathering news for a local Moose Jaw radio station, he was also known to the citizens of his beloved Moose Jaw as "Mr. Moose Jaw".

From 1988 to 1991, he was in ill health and spent much of this time recovering his health in Arizona. Recover his health he did, and at the time of his death he was planning on re-entering the political scene in Moose Jaw.

A memorial round wood for "Scoop" is being made by 93 year old numismatist and friend of Scoop, Walter Loudon, 1498 Joy Road, Mascouche Heights, Quebec, Canada, J7L 2K3. Specimens will be available to Canadian residents for a self stamped addressed envelope, and for those living outside Canada for \$0.50.

"Scoop" Lewry was born April 16, 1919, in Moose Jaw, the fourth son in a family of four boys and a girl. "My mother, Louise, wanted a girl and I turned out wrong, but she named me Louis anyway", "Scoop" once informed me.

Lewry's first employment was at Radio Station CHAB in Moose Jaw where he started the first local radio news gathering service in Saskatchewan in 1938. He also worked with the Moose Jaw Times Herald and Regina Leader Post, daily newspapers, and at one time operated his own weekly newspaper "Western Spotlight". "I lost my shirt", was "Scoop's" only comment on this short-lived venture. He acquired his nickname "Scoop" for his years of association with the news media.

He was elected an Alderman of the City of Moose Jaw for 1948 and 1949, and served as the first native born and youngest Mayor in the City's history, as well as the longest term. His first term as Mayor started in 1950 at the age of 31, "Scoop" was eleven times Mayor of Moose Jaw, retiring at 60 in 1988. To "Scoop" one of his greatest accomplishments and an early one was open city council meetings. "Scoop" loved people and aided many in solving personal problems. "When you go down the street and little kids and old ladies call you "Scoop" that means something" Lewry once remarked.

"Scoop" served as Member of Canadian Parliament for Moose Jaw Lake Center (for the CCF Party) from 1957-1958 and lost the election when Diefenbaker and his Tories came to power in 1958.

Lewry was married to his first wife Jean for 45 years until her death in 1986. That marriage produced five children. In 1988, he married the former Edie Hill.

Scoop was a member of Moose Jaw Public Board of Education from 1966-1971, serving as Chairman 1969-1971. He also served as President of Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association in 1956 during his first term as Mayor, and as Vice-President in 1966-1970 during his second term.

"Scoop" Lewry was made a member of the Order of Canada in June 1980, and was honored by his native city in November 1980, when City Council presented him with their "Medal of Merit", which had been awarded to only four citizens previously. He was also named honorary president, Saskatchewan Command, Army, Navy and Airforce Veterans in Canada.

He was 1980 Chairman of The Celebrate Saskatchewan Committee for Moose Jaw, and was President of the Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park Society for 25 years.

In 1981, he was Chairman of the Moose Jaw Committee of the International Year of Disabled Persons.

He served 17 years as member of the Saskatchewan Local Government Board. This board is considered quasi-judicial in that it regulates the debt of municipalities, school boards, hospitals, and other local governing authorities in Saskatchewan.

In 1982 he was named Chairman of the Committee to mark the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Moose Jaw. The City was founded when the CP Rail reached there in 1882.

He was named to the Provincial Heritage Committee for 1985, and in 1985 was Chairman of the Moose Jaw local committee for Saskatchewan Heritage.

A great honor to "Scoop" was that he was re-elected for his 11th and last term as Mayor of Moose Jaw in October 1985 by acclamation.

During the 1980's "Scoop" served on 35 local community committees. "Scoop" put Moose Jaw on the map. He was often outspoken and even at times during his early days as Mayor "hot-headed", but he got things done for the good of the people of Moose Jaw.

Scoop's hobbies were woodworking and numismatics. He gave very generously of his time as a guest speaker to numerous Coin Clubs throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Lewry had held memberships in the following numismatic organizations: Token and Medal Society, Canadian Paper Money Society, American Numismatic Association, Association of Personalized Medal Issuers—Association des émetteurs de médailles personnalisées, and four Wooden Money Collector Associations. Until it was disbanded in July 1989, he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Cents Club and Editor of the Journal.



He was President of the Canadian Numismatic Association from 1987-1989. As well, Lewry was Chairman of Coin Week Canada from 1980-1983, and in 1982, he founded Coin Week North America which later evolved into World Coin Week. He issued letter paper each year for World Coins Week and did his best to promote this event in a number of countries having coin collectors associations.

Lewry's list of numismatic accomplishments is enormous, considering he did not start collecting coins and tokens until 1968. He told me that he did not put them in any order for about 10 years, when finally he purchased albums and two by two's and really got into the hobby. He collected woods, Canadian Proof Sets, some U.S.A. and foreign coins, lapel pins, post cards, hats, tokens, and as he once told me "almost everything".

Since 1978, he has issued over 70 different wooden nickels, a few of them flats. Typical of "Scoop" was his kind habit of pressing his current issue of woods into the palm of the hand of almost anybody he met, collector or non-collector. He always had woods in his pocket to give out--sometimes several issues.

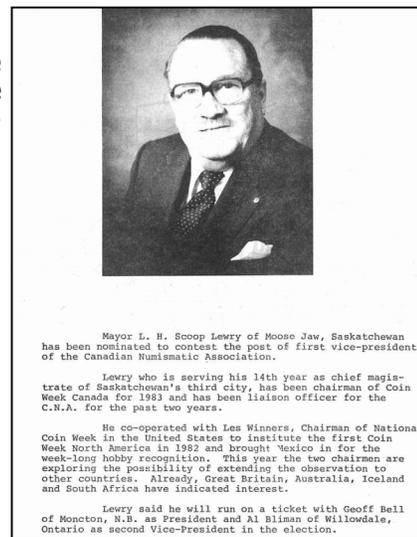
In 1982, Lewry issued a bronze medal made in Taiwan, the same size as a large Canadian cent. His portrait is on the obverse side. The Canadian Large Cents Club and Coin Week, two institutions that were so dear to him, are mentioned on the reverse side. About 200 specimens were struck.

In the summer of 1985, "Scoop" issued a 38 mm personal medal with the new logo of the Canadian Cents Club (designed by myself) on the obverse side. His personal reverse die with his name, address and "CO-ORDINATOR WORLD COIN WEEK" are on the reverse side. A total of 100 specimens of the 38 mm medal (made by Pressed Metal Products) were issued on antiqued blanks of copper, gold plated copper and silver plated copper. About 100 specimens were struck.

In 1988, he issued his last 38 mm personalized medal showing the C.N.A. Members logo on one side and his name, address, and "PRESIDENT C.N.A. 1987-1989" on the reverse side. One hundred specimens were struck as follows on antiqued blanks: 34 silver plated copper, 33 gold plated copper, and 33 copper. Pressed Metal Products of Vancouver, Canada struck the medal.

In 1982, he issued scrip for Moose Jaw's Centennial, and in 1983 another issue of scrip for Coin Week. "Scoop" also designed three flat wood trade pieces in two die varieties or denominations 25 cent, 50 cent and \$1, for the 1982 Moose Jaw Centennial. They were valid in Moose Jaw and are on thick wood. "Scoop" also helped organize Moose Jaw's 1982 Trade Dollar Program and encouraged the City's Chamber of Commerce for several years to continue with their issue of Moose Jaw Trade Dollars.

"Scoop" Lewry was a 20th Century Man of the People who was loved and respected by his fellow men. During his lifetime, "Scoop" did a great deal to promote and popularize Moose Jaw and the hobby of coin collecting. Unfortunately, he leaves no single replacement behind. We must all carry on his enthusiasm for the hobby and his promotion of it.



Mayor L. H. Scoop Lewry of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan has been nominated to contest the post of first vice-president of the Canadian Numismatic Association.

Lewry who is serving his 14th year as chief magistrate of Saskatchewan's third city, has been chairman of Coin Week Canada for 1983 and has been liaison officer for the C.N.A. for the past two years.

He co-operated with Les Winners, Chairman of National Coin Week in the United States to institute the first Coin Week North America in 1982 and brought Mexico in for the week-long hobby recognition. This year the two chairmen are exploring the possibility of extending the observation to other countries. Already, Great Britain, Australia, Iceland and South Africa have indicated interest.

Lewry said he will run on a ticket with Geoff Bell of Moncton, N.B. as President and Al Biman of Willowdale, Ontario as second Vice-President in the election.

Bank note cards available
 Two souvenir bank note cards are ready for distribution through World Coin Week 1986 co-ordinator L.H. Scoop Lewry, P.O. Box 1982, Moose Jaw, SK, S6H 7N7. The new issue follows the issues of 1983 and 1984. There were none issued in 1985. The 1986 bank note cards feature two early Canadian bank notes. The first is the \$5

Niagara District Bank Note of 1872, issued prior to the merger of that bank with the Imperial Bank of Canada in 1875. The second is the 1920 note of the Imperial Bank of Canada, which merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1961. Souvenir cards are available at \$2.50 each or \$5 for the pair plus \$1 for postage and packaging.

